January, of course, is named for the Roman god Janus. Janus was most famous for having two heads -- one facing backwards and one facing forward.

Like Janus, we should all look back with pride at all that we have achieved in 2012, and forward to an even brighter 2013. In 2012, the MCBA established the Montgomery County Bar Foundation to support our Volunteer Lawyer Program (VLP), earned our first two grants for that Foundation, designated three additional revenue streams to fund it (along with a full-time Executive Director), initiated a Hall of Fame, and began a Women’s Law Section. The MCBA expanded our CLEs, increased the number of our social events, named our Annual Volunteer Lawyer-of-the-Year award after Tom Methvin, chose our first Attorney-of-the-Year, presented a great Annual Fundraiser, an even better MCBA Christmas Party, and our first-ever Children’s Christmas Party for abused/under-privileged boys and girls. The MCBA played a key role in the selection of our two new Municipal Judges, appointed our first member to the Pre-Trial Diversion Committee, expanded and diversified our Board, recruited a significant number of new and returning members, commissioned a portrait of our Courthouse, and won approval from the Montgomery County Commission to start raising the necessary monies for a new portrait to honor our Presiding Judge Charles Price.

Please review the attached brochure to learn the details of this last item. On behalf of our members, I need to thank Cowin Knowles, Melissa Isaak, Steve Searcy, Chief Deputy Derrick Cunningham, and our Officers and Board for all that they did for the MCBA Children’s Christmas Party.

Sadly, the MCBA lost many good and valued members this past year. All will be missed. Just recently, “Red” Bell passed away. Red was always a character and always a gentleman. He practiced law, both here and internationally, for about as long as any attorney in Montgomery’s history.

For the future, I am excited by the potential that the MCBA has to do even more next year with David Martin as President, Ben Schoettker as Vice-President, Cowin Knowles as our new Secretary-Treasurer, and our returning and new Board Members.

Mike Winter, President
Montgomery County Bar Association
Annual Meeting
January 24, 2013

Voting 11:30-12:15
Luncheon/Meeting 12:00
Cost $20.00 per person
Reservations are required for luncheon.
Call 265-4793 or email dotrobinson@mc-ala.org
By January 18th.

Election of Board Members

Honoring Joseph Lloyd Fine, Jr., and Thomas Seay Lawson, Jr., and David Coleman Yarbrough
for 50 years of legal practice

Memorial Honors for 17 deceased attorneys

You may vote at the MCBA Office on Jan. 22-23 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. if you do not plan to attend the meeting.
Beasley Allen Conference Draws More Than 1,400 Lawyers

Beasley Allen Law Firm hosted its sixth annual Legal Conference & Expo at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center beginning Thursday, Dec. 6, and continuing through Friday, Dec. 7. The event provides continuing legal education (CLE) credits and is open to all Alabama lawyers in private practice. The conference has grown steadily each year, from about 400 lawyers in 2007 to more than 1,400 who attended this year.

“Nationally acclaimed law firm Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis and Miles, P.C. continues to support the local community while showcasing the city they so heavily invest in,” said Dawn Hathcock, Vice President of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitor Bureau. “Each year their Legal Conference, the largest of its kind within the state of Alabama, creates a huge boost to the River Region, contributing roughly a million dollars in economic impact. Events of this stature are extremely important, as we continue to market Montgomery as a true meeting destination.”

A highlight of the conference is the presentation of the Beasley Allen Pro Bono Award and Grant. Established in 2009, this award recognizes the outstanding work of volunteer lawyer programs throughout the state. Volunteer lawyers donate their time to provide legal services to those who would not otherwise be able to afford a lawyer. The award is accompanied by a grant of $10,000 to help support and enhance volunteer lawyer programs. Past recipients are the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program, Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Program and the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program.

This year’s award and grant was presented to the Montgomery County Bar Association. MCBA President Mike Winters was on hand to accept the award. ( pictured below with Tom Methvin)

Practice areas addressed at the conference included Product Liability, Mass Torts and Fraud. Special programs include the topic of Legal Ethics. The meeting featured speakers including Beasley Allen Founding Shareholder Jere L. Beasley; Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange; Dr. David G. Bronner, Chief Executive Officer, RSA; Judge Joel F. Dubina, United States Court of Appeals; Judge Charles Price; Phillip McCallum, President, Alabama State Bar; Clay Hornsby, President, Alabama Association for Justice; and Mark Moody, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama State Bar. Bryan Kelly from Common Ground Montgomery Ministry was the guest speaker at the prayer breakfast Friday morning.

An important part of the conference is the Legal Services Expo, where vendors provide demonstrations of products and answer questions about how attorneys can best enhance their practice. Event platinum sponsors were

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Candidates for MCBA Board of Directors

Meggan M. Huggins, B.S., J.D.

Meggan Huggins began her career with 10 years experience as an Environmental Scientist and Risk Officer before completing law school in 2009. Since that time, Meggan has worked as Assistant Regional Counsel to the US EPA Region 4 and of Counsel to the Beasley Allen Law Firm for issues pertaining to the BP Oil Spill.

Meggan received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Alabama in 2000 and her Juris Doctor from the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in 2009. Meggan is admitted to practice law in the state of Alabama, as well as the United State Federal Courts, Northern District of Florida and the Middle District of Alabama. She is a member of the Alabama State Bar, Environmental Section, and the Montgomery County Bar Association.

Meggan currently has her own practice, The Huggins Law Firm, LLC, which is located directly across the street from the Montgomery County Courthouse. Her practice currently focuses on family law, criminal defense, and civil matters. Meggan is the mother of two children, Haleigh & Cameron. Meggan spends the majority of her free time discussing SEC (and Florida State) football. Meggan is also a member of Montgomery's WAKA championship kickball team.

Rhon Jones

Rhon Jones manages the Toxic Torts Section of Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C. He has also maintained a consumer/insurance business litigation and class action practice. He has been practicing law with the Beasley Allen law firm since 1994. He has played a major role in several of the most significant environmental cases in the United States. Rhon holds an AV rating from Martindale Hubbell. He has been selected to Alabama Super Lawyers 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012, and has been selected for inclusion on the 2011 and 2012 Best Lawyers in America lists, published by U.S. News and World Report. Additionally, he was named the Best Lawyers’ 2012 Montgomery Litigation-Environmental Lawyer of the Year. Only a single lawyer in each specialty in each community is being honored as “Lawyer of the Year.” Rhon serves as Chair of the Gulf Coast Oil Spill Litigation Group of the American Association for Justice, and serves as Chair of the Litigation Section of the Alabama State Bar. He is also Treasurer of the Environmental Law Section of the Alabama State Bar.

Rhon obtained his B.A. from Auburn University and his J.D. from the University of Alabama. Rhon is a member of First Baptist Church in Montgomery where he teaches Sunday School. He is married to Deanne Jones and they have four children. Rhon has served on the MCBA Board of Directors for two years.

Tamika R. Miller

Tamika R. Miller is a native of Orlando, Florida. She is an honor graduate of Florida A&M University with a B.A. degree in Political Science and is a 2010 graduate of Faulkner University, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law. Tamika R. Miller was admitted into the Alabama State Bar in 2010. Upon graduation from law school, Ms. Miller served as the clerk to the Honorable Judge Charles Price, Presiding Judge for the Montgomery County Circuit Court-15th Judicial Circuit while serving pro bono clients through the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program. Ms. Miller was previously employed with the law firm of Vonda K. Bonham in Selma, Alabama and C.F. Brock & Associates in Austell, Georgia. While in law school Ms. Miller clerked for A. Kelli Wise for the Alabama Criminal Court of Appeals, served as the Editor-in-chief for the Jones Corner, a monthly article in the Docket – a publication from the Montgomery County Bar Association, and as the President of the Ernestine S. Sapp chapter of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and many other roles within the organization. Ms. Miller is a partner with Relf Miller, LLC and works primarily in the practice areas of criminal defense, civil litigation, worker’s compensation, bankruptcy and estate planning.

Ms. Miller serves as a board member for the March of Dimes-Central Chapter along with serving clients through the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program.
MCBA Board of Directors Candidates continued

**Connie Murray**

Connie Murray is a native of Madison, Alabama, where she graduated from Bob Jones High School as a member of the class of 1997. She attended college at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, majoring in Philosophy. Connie received her law degree from Thomas Goode Jones School of Law. While attending law school, she participated in several trial competitions and was a member the Black Law Student Association as well as the American Constitution Society.

Connie began her legal career as an associate with the Gaines Law Firm, LLC, where she gained invaluable experience there as an intern, while still a student. She left the Gaines Law Firm to fulfill her goal of establishing a law practice. Connie is the managing member of The Murray Law Group, LLC, which is committed to small business development, criminal defense, federal and state appeals.

When she is not working diligently for her clients Connie enjoys spending time with her husband and their three girls.

**Frank Snowden**

Frank Snowden was born and raised in Greenville, AL and after college moved to Montgomery in 1987, where he began employment with The Retirement Systems of Alabama while pursuing an MBA at Auburn University of Montgomery. In 1991, he married the former Melissa Bridgers and in 1993 began Law School at Jones School of Law. He graduated from Law School in 1996 and was admitted to the State Bar in April, 1997 after which time he left The Retirement Systems and began private practice in Montgomery and has done so since 1997. His primary practice focus has been criminal and domestic law.

Frank has been married to Melissa for nearly 22 years and they have three daughters, Madison, age 19, Savannah, age 14 and Isabella, age 12. They attend Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church where he has been an active member and served on the Board of Stewards and Frank has served for 7 years as the President of Sturbridge Homeowners Association, he and his family volunteer for community, church, YMCA and local outreach programs.

**Barr Younker**

Barr Younker is a retired Air Force Colonel, having retired from active service in 2008. He served as a judge advocate for the final 16 years of his 29-year career, mostly as a prosecutor, supervisor of prosecutors, and as a Special Assistant United States Attorney. His military assignments took him to such diverse places as Afghanistan and North Dakota, and at one time he was the Staff Judge Advocate of Air University at Maxwell AFB.

Barr teaches legal studies and criminal justice courses at AUM, serves on the Academic Advisory Board of the Command and Staff College of the Montgomery Police Department, and serves on the Board of Directors of Central Alabama CrimeStoppers. As his teaching/advising schedule permits, he represents mainly indigent clients in criminal and family law matters in Montgomery.

He obtained his law degree from Oklahoma City University in 1991. He also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy, a Master of Science Degree from Troy University, and a Master of Strategic Studies Degree from Air University.
Cowan Knowles Only Candidate Vying for Secretary-Treasurer of MCBA

Cowan Knowles has been a member of the Montgomery County Bar Association since 1985 when he clerked for Judge Joseph Phelps. Since graduating from the University of Alabama Law School in 1985 he has worked with Ball, Ball, Matthews, & Novak, P.A. where his practice has focused on worker’s compensation, trucking litigation, and general civil litigation. He is a member of the Alabama and American Bar Associations, the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association, DRI, Alabama Trucking Association, Trucking Insurance Defense Association, Transportation Law Association, and former member of the American Inns of Court. In previous years he was on the Board of the MCBA Young Lawyers Division. He has served on the MCBA Board of Directors since January 2011.

VLP CORNER

BY TIM GALLAGHER, VLP CHAIRMAN

As we enter into a new year, I would like to take this time to thank every attorney who has volunteered their time and energy to take pro bono cases over the past year. In particular, due to the efforts of many local lawyers, the monthly Pro Bono Civil Clinic has grown and flourished. Dozens of lawyers have volunteered at the Clinic and assisted numerous clients in a wide variety of cases. Many of these cases have involved life changing matters for the clients seeking legal aid. The story below is just one example of how the pro bono services offered through the Clinic can provide much needed assistance to the less privileged in our community.

In November of 2012, a group of low income individuals who were long term residents of a large Montgomery inn came to the Pro Bono Civil Clinic. The individuals had been living at the inn for multiple years and were being evicted with only two weeks’ notice. Due to the timing of the eviction and the lack of notice the residents were unable to save enough money to find new housing in such a short amount of time. As a result, the residents were facing the prospect of losing their homes right before the holiday season.

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Women’s Section Update

The Women’s Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association was asked by our Bar President Mike Winter to assist with the party held at the Family Justice Center on Saturday, December 22nd by wrapping the gifts to be given to the children who were participating. This effort was spearheaded by Dot Robinson who sorted the gifts and matched the gifts with the child by gender as well as age. Without her able assistance this effort would have been much more difficult and time consuming. Also, a number of our membership stopped by the Family Justice Center to assist with the wrapping, and this was much appreciated.

By way of reminder, when you renew your annual dues for the Montgomery County Bar Association there is an additional fee of $30.00 to be a member and involved in the Women’s Section. Due to the Annual Meeting scheduled for January 24, 2013, it has been requested that there by no meeting of the Women’s Section for the month of January. Therefore, we will see you for our next event scheduled in February, 2013.

I hope each and every one of you has a great and wonderful New Year.

Roianne H. Conner, Women’s Section President
2012 Holiday Gala Memories

1. Judge Robert Bailey and Jerry Bloodsworth enjoy the buffet.
2. John Camp helps load the toys collected at the party.
3. Kim and Marty Fehl, Stacy Reed, and Jason Paulk
4. Mr./Mrs. Royce Wadsworth and Mr./Mrs. Barr Younker
5. MCRA Vice President David Martin with wife Angie
Young Lawyers Section Swings into 2013

It’s time to kick the tires and light the fires! If you’re feeling the need, the need for speed, we have just the thing for you. On January 16th, the Young Lawyers will awaken from their Winter hibernation with a HUGE social at the new Aviator Bar located at 166 Commerce Street in Downtown Montgomery. By my recollection, this will be the first YLS social not held at Pine Bar since Tom Cruise’s stunning performance in Vanilla Sky. I included the address so people could actually find the place. If you run into either of the new social chairs, Brannan Reeves or Jesse Anderson, please congratulate him for his willingness to think outside of the box . . . and pick another establishment with the last name “Bar.”

While not required, in honor of the opening of Aviator Bar and of the greatest aviation movie and Navy recruiting film of all time, any person wearing or bringing Top Gun-related paraphernalia (e.g., flight suit, wingman shirt, Kelly McGillis wig, Iceman buzzcut, beach volleyball gear, etc.) will be entered into a drawing. Former YLS President, Louis Calligas, has promised to reunite with his a cappella team, the “A Cappellants,” (get it? Yeah- they think it’s hilarious . . .) and serenade the lucky Top Gun-clad winner with a stirring rendition of “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feeling.” (And no, Kyle Weidman, you cannot wear your “Pensacola Wings of Gold” t-shirt or bring the box set to be entered. You’re the only one that watched that show.)

So request a fly by and get ready to buzz the tower—this promises to be a target rich Young Lawyer environment. See you on the Highway to the Dangerzone!

Allen Sheehan, YLS President

VLP CORNER continued from page 3

While the residents of the inn were unaware of their rights, they came to the Clinic in the hope of finding a legal means of postponing the eviction. Two Montgomery lawyers met with the clients and volunteered to take the case on a pro bono basis to attempt to get these individuals additional time to find new housing before having to move out of the inn. The lawyers researched the potential claims of the clients and determined that they should be treated as tenants under Alabama law and therefore the clients were in fact entitled to additional notice prior to eviction.

Although the representatives for the inn were initially hostile to the idea of allowing the tenants additional time to find new housing, the volunteer lawyers argued that the inn was violating the tenants’ legal rights by evicting them on such short notice. After substantial negotiations the inn ultimately agreed to allow the tenants to stay an additional 3 weeks rent free. This period of rent free housing allowed the tenants to save up money and find new housing, and ultimately prevented many of the clients from being homeless for a period of time. While the clients were initially only looking for additional time to find housing, the rent free nature of the additional time obtained through the Clinic’s volunteer lawyers allowed several of the clients to obtain better-quality housing.

Stories like this illustrate the importance of the pro bono services offered through the Clinic and the Volunteer Lawyers Program generally. Thanks again to all of you that have volunteered in the past, and if anyone would like to start please do not hesitate to contact me at tgallagher@sasserlawfirm.com.

Happy New Year to everyone!

Tim
Beasley Allen Continued from page 3

Jackson Thornton Valuation & Litigation Consulting Group, LexisNexis; Carr, Riggs & Ingram; and Freedom Court Reporting.

Legal and community groups including the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyer Program, Alabama State Bar Lawyer Referral Program, Alabama Law Foundation, Alabama Civil Justice Foundation, Alabama Association for Justice, and Jones School of Law also had representatives present.

“We are extremely pleased to be able to offer this conference as a service for lawyers throughout the state of Alabama,” said Beasley Allen Managing Shareholder Tom Methvin. “This is a valuable opportunity for continuing education, as well as providing the chance for networking with other attorneys.”

For Rent

The Alabama Civil Justice Foundation is moving and has space available for sublease in the Bailey Building, 400 South Union Street. The office suite includes four (4) offices with lots of windows, a work room, and a nice size reception area. The total rentable space is 1,605 square feet. There is even potential for expanding the space on both sides of the ACJF office. The space comes with the use of a very nice conference room that is available to all tenants. There is ample parking space with easy access to the building. The Bailey Building is conveniently located to the Interstate, downtown, and county, state and federal courthouses. Rent is very reasonable. Please contact Sue McInnish at 334-263-3003 (office), 334-221-2852 (cell) or sue@acjf.org, if you are interested.

Are you using technology to work smarter, not harder?
The MCBA and Freedom Court Reporting are offering a CLE “iPad Use for Lawyers”
8:30-9:00 Registration
9:00-12:00 Seminar (3 hr. credit)
COURTROOM 3-A
Bring your ipads, notebooks, etc. for hands-on learning and practical tips
Instructor: Rick Stawarz, owner and lead trainer at The Mac Instructor, which specializes in teaching individuals and small businesses across Alabama how to get the most of their Apple technology
You need to preregister due to limited seating. There is no fee.
Call 265-4793 or email dotrobinson@mc-ala.org by Jan. 22.