Building on a Good Foundation

By David Martin, President

As we begin this year I first want to thank you for the privilege of serving as your County Bar President. I also want to congratulate Meggan Huggins, Rhon Jones and Tamika Miller on their election to the Board and to Frank Snowden for his appointment to the Board. Frank came in a very close fourth in the voting and was unanimously appointed to fill Cowin Knowles’ seat, which was vacated due to Cowin’s election as Secretary/Treasurer.

Looking back over the past year, I want to thank our outgoing President, Mike Winter, for all of his hard work. Of many accomplishments, the most significant was the establishment of the Montgomery County Bar Foundation, a goal of several past administrations. Not only was the Foundation formed this year, but initial funding has been obtained in order to help get the Foundation started. Through the Foundation, we will be able to more adequately provide pro bono legal services to those in our community who need our help the most.

As we look ahead to the coming year, my goals are quite simple:

1. Continue operating the MCBA as an organization that goes where you, our members, want it to go. I want our Bar Association to continue to be responsive to the needs of its members.

2. Make sure that you view your membership in the MCBA as a valuable asset. To do so we will continue to provide numerous free CLEs to our members, CLEs which we hope you will find educational and beneficial to your practice. We will also continue to offer social events where you can mingle and network with your colleagues in the Bar.

3. Not only do I want our Bar Association to be an organization that goes where you want it to go, but I also want our Association to be an organization that takes us to where we need to be. And that brings us back to the Montgomery County Bar Foundation.

I want to get the Bar Foundation off to a solid start. The Board of the Foundation will soon move forward with hiring an Executive Director to run the day-to-day operations of the Foundation. In fact, the Foundation is currently seeking applicants for the Executive Director’s position. The position will pay $40,000.00 per year, and more details can be found in Tim Gallagher’s Pro Bono Corner article.

Once the Executive Director is hired, it will be up to us, collectively as a Bar Association, to ensure the success of the Foundation. We will be asking you to sign up for the Volunteer Lawyer Program, to encourage your colleagues to do the same, and to support the Foundation financially by attending our annual Charity Fundraiser which this year will benefit the Foundation.

I trust that you will join me in enthusiastically supporting the work of the Foundation and in maintaining the strength and integrity of our Montgomery County Bar Association.

David (martin@copelandfranco.com)
Young Lawyers Take Flight in 2013
By Allen Sheehan, YLS President

On January 16th the Young Lawyers held their first social of the year at the relatively newly opened Aviator Bar. In keeping with the Top Gun/American theme, Freedom Court Reporting sponsored the event. Freedom gave away “Freedom coozies,” and Aviator Bar gave out dog tags. (See picture). There was a good turn out for the social and some people even dressed up for the event- as demonstrated by the attached picture of Will Cunningham in his flight suit as seen in Halloweens circa 2003, 2004, 2007, and 2010 as Ghostbuster, Pilot, Garbageman, and Ghostbuster (from Ghostbusters II) respectively. Also in the picture is Allen Sheehan, doing his best Brannan Reeves impersonation with the camelhair coat. There were some new faces from first year attorneys at the event as well. The Young Lawyers have a great year planned, so please keep your eyes open for more events and socials this spring.

(Allen Sheehan was@chlaw.com)

Pictured right: Will Cunningham and Allen Sheehan, YLS President

Women’s Section
By Roianne H. Conner, Women's Section President

On Thursday, January 24th the Women’s Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association participated in the Breakfast with the Female Judiciary held at the RSA Activity Center. There was a very good turnout from our section and a total of approximately fifty women, including the Judges, attended. Also, the Women’s Section assisted with the seating of the families of the deceased members at the Montgomery County Bar Association meeting and luncheon that same day.

The membership has now grown to over thirty members who have paid their section fees to be a participant in this new section of our bar. The initial Board of Directors of the Women’s Section includes Ashley Penhale, LaShandra Warren, Kelly McTear, as well as the Executive Committee consisting of Laura Eubank, Connie Murray and myself. The Board of Directors will be meeting during the month of February and will announce the next upcoming event for the membership in March. If you are NOT a member of this section I would encourage you to pay your section fee of $30.00 and join us.

Roianne
mrsrhconner@yahoo.com
Job Announcement for Bar Foundation

Tim Gallagher, President Montgomery County Bar Foundation

I am pleased to announce that the Montgomery County Bar Foundation (“MCBF”) is hiring a program director (“Director”) for its Volunteer Lawyers Program. This will be a full time position with a starting salary of $40,000.00 per year. The Director will initiate and manage all components in support of the MCBF Volunteer Lawyers Program’s mission to provide quality Pro Bono legal services in civil cases for qualifying low-income residents of Montgomery County. The Director’s primary job responsibilities will include:

1. Substantially increasing the number of clients served by the MCBF VLP. The Director will actively promote and publicize the MCBF VLP in the Montgomery community by maintaining existing referral sources and by developing new ones.
2. Significantly expanding the number of volunteer lawyers in the MCBF VLP, with a particular emphasis on new attorneys and with expertise in family law and debt collection.
3. Recruiting multiple revenue streams to achieve financial stability for the MCBF VLP.

The Director must have a college degree, or its equivalent. The Director should be skilled in the following areas: planning, management, fundraising, and interpersonal relationships. Experience with legal and/or non-profit organizations is preferred. The Director should also exhibit excellent written and verbal communication skills. Most importantly, the Director must be passionate about providing legal services to those who would otherwise be at a severe disadvantage because they lack the resources to obtain such services. For a full job description and additional information regarding this position please do not hesitate to contact me or Suzanne Duffey at (334)265-4793.

Anyone interested in this position should email their resume and cover letter to tgallagher@sasserlawfirm.com or mail them to Tim Gallagher, Montgomery County Bar Foundation, P.O. Box 72, Montgomery, AL 36101. The cover letter should explain why you are interested in this position and include any ideas you have to further the mission of the MCBF’s Volunteer Lawyer program. Resumes with cover letters are due no later than February 28, 2013.

The MCBF is excited to grow the Pro Bono services and opportunities offered in Montgomery County and we are looking forward to hiring a director that shares our excitement. If you know of anyone that may be interested in this position please share this information with them.

Tim Gallagher, MCBF President

FEBRUARY CLE OPPORTUNITY

2/22/12  “Alabama’s New Interlock Ignition Statute” by Patrick Mahaney
12:00-1:00
Jury Assembly Room, Third Floor, Main County Courthouse Building
Pre-register by email: dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or call 265-4793.

MCBA dues must be paid in order to attend at no charge. Otherwise $50/hr. will be charged.
The Montgomery County Bar Association’s 2013 Annual Meeting was on January 24th at the RSA Alabama Activity Center on Dexter Avenue. Voting for new Board members and Secretary/Treasurer were done prior to the sumptuous buffet luncheon.

2012 President, Mike Winter, called the meeting to order and Patrick Sefton offered the Invocation. Mike Winter then recognized the attorneys who passed away in 2012, presenting a memorial plaque to each family present at the meeting. Those honored in memoriam were: Hon. Reneau Pearson Almon; Maurice Solomon “Red” Bell; Joseph Ray Crosby, III; Sam Ingram Diamond; Don J Gilbert; James Hamlett; Karen Neal Knight; Jeanne Marie Leslie; Donald Blair Little; John Crook McInnish; Wendell W. Mitchell; Jobe Thomas “Jay” Ott; James Thomas Pons, Sr.; Jock Michael Smith; Robert Dinning Thorton, Hon. John C. Tyson, III; and Luther Hill Waller, Jr.

Joe Espy was given the Award for Service and Achievement by incoming President, David Martin. Bobby Segall introduced the attorneys who are celebrating 50 years of practicing law in 2013: Joseph Lloyd Fine, Jr.; Thomas Seay Lawson, Jr.; and David Coleman Yarbrough.

Cowin Knowles was elected to be the MCBA Secretary/Treasurer, and Tamika Miller, Meggan Huggins, and Rhon Jones were elected to serve on the MCBA Board of Directors. Since Cowin Knowles had been serving on the Board of Directors, his election left a vacancy on the Board, which the Board members offered to Frank Snowden. The Board of Directors is planning a very busy and meaningful year. Each member is urged to be involved through your time, energy, ideas, and financial support of charity fundraising.

Pictured above, Mike Winter accepting a framed painting from incoming President, David Martin. Pictured right, Bobby Segall honoring 50 year attorneys.
MCBA membership dues were due January 31. If you have not paid your dues, please do so immediately. If your dues are not paid by February 15, your listing on the website will be deleted, and you will be charged $50.00/hr. for CLE credits until your dues are paid. If you did not get an invoice by mail, call Dot Robinson 265-4793. If you have paid your dues, we thank you for your timely remittance.

Presentation of the MCBA Charity Event proceeds to Jackie Buck, Central AL Red Cross

Pictured, Allen Sheehan, David Martin, Suzanne Duffey, Felicia Long, Mike Winter, and Jackie Buck

SAVE THE DATE!!

Friday, April 26, 2013

MCBA’S
BENCH AND BAR
CONFERENCE AND
GOLF TOURNAMENT

DETAILS TBA– WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENT SOON
MCBA MEMBER NEWS

The Montgomery County Bar Association welcomes these recently added members:

Evan Allen—Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
Kelli Alfreds—Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
Michael Bunn—of counsel, Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
Joseph C. Campbell—The Law Offices of Richard Dean
Grant Cofer—Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
David Dearing—Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
Michael Dean—Office of the Attorney General
Charles James—Cochran, Cherry, Givens, & Smith
Lloria James—Municipal Judge, City of Montgomery
Jake Jeter—Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
Vanzetta Penn McPherson—Retired Judge
Laury Morgan—AL Court of Civil Appeals
Patrick Murphy—The Law Offices of Judy Barganier
Michael Perry—James and Associates
Preston Presley—The Law Offices of Roianne H. Conner
Alan Polson—The Law Offices of Richard Dean
Kasey Maria Robinson—The Law Offices of Roianne H. Conner
Lauren Simpson—Office of the Attorney General
Minjae Song—Gilpin Givhan

Congratulations to Ellenann Yelverton and her husband, Von, upon the birth of a daughter, Sophia Malone, born September 17.

Capell & Howard, P.C. is pleased to announce that W. Allen Sheehan, William R. Cunningham, and Richard F. Calhoun, Jr. have been admitted as shareholders of the firm, effective January 1, 2013, and that Clinton A. Richardson and Allison Marshall Wright have joined the firm as associates. (Allen Sheehan is President of the MCBA Young Lawyers Section, and William Cunningham is the YLS Secretary/Treasurer.)
How to Be More Involved in Your Professional Organization

1. Attend the membership meetings and vote for your leaders.
2. Offer suggestions to the Officers and Board members for activities you would like to see MCBA offer.
3. Volunteer to help with events; set-up, take-down, securing financial sponsors, soliciting door prizes or auction items, etc.
4. Offer CLE ideas that would be meaningful and helpful to your practice (Contact Dot Robinson 265-4793 or dotrobinson@mc-ala.org), Royal Dumas, or Mike Winter.
5. Be involved in the Women’s Section and/or Young Lawyers Section, if applicable.
6. Offer financial support for fundraising efforts.
7. Run for the Board of Directors or Office for MCBA.
8. Volunteer your time and service through the Volunteer Lawyer Program. Our MCBA pro bono clinic is held monthly.

You are important. There are no insignificant members.

How to volunteer or get more information:

President, David Martin      martin@copelandfranco.com      420-2958
Vice-President, Ben Schoettker    bes@barfootschoettker.com    834-3444
Sec./Treas., Cowin Knowles      cknowles@ball-ball.com        388-7680
Past President, Mike Winter    mikewinter@winterlegal.net    263-5787
Women’s Section President,    mrsrhconner@yahoo.com          215-1988
Roianne Conner
Young Lawyers President,
Allen Sheehan      was@chlaw.com      241-8049
Royal Dumas (CLE)    rdumas@hillhillcarter.com      834-7600
Felicia Long (Charity Event)   fal@hsy.com      265-8573
Tim Gallagher (Pro Bono, VLP)   tgallagher@sasserlawfirm.com     532-3400