Bench and Bar a Success

by David Martin, President

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Bench and Bar CLE and Golf Scramble a success. Vice President Ben Shoettker and MCBA Board Member Frank Snowden led the group that put together the event. The day got off to a great start with a breakfast provided by Central Restaurant and sponsored by Beasley Allen. The CLE portion of the program boasted a high-profile cast of speakers from the bench. Chief Judge Joel Dubina, Chief Justice Roy Moore and Presiding Judge Charles Price were our speakers. Each speaker provided an entertaining and informative presentation.

The weather was fantastic for an afternoon golf scramble held at Arrowhead Golf Club. Thanks to many freebies donated by the MCBA and our sponsors, every golfer could at least claim they were a winner. We greatly appreciate John Sadie and Arrowhead Country Club for hosting our event and helping to ensure it was memorable for those who participated.

Ultimately, the prestigious silver cup and the grand prize went to the team of Cowin Knowles, Richard Ball, John Marsh and Chris Waller, pictured below. The best net score belonged to the team of James Eubank and Frank Snowden. Following the golf scramble, a social for all members was held at the Arrowhead club house.

Looking ahead to May, be aware that we have scheduled our Spring Social for May 23rd. I hope you will make plans to join your colleagues that evening at the Pine Bar.

I recently had the privilege of representing the MCBA at an event commemorating Judge Price’s thirty years as a circuit court judge in Montgomery County. In recognition of Judge Price’s thirty years of service, the MCBA presented him with a specially marked, numbered and framed print of the Phelps-Price Justice Center. Congratulations again to Judge Price for 30 years of service.

As a final thought, the nomination deadline for the MCBA Award for Service and Achievement is approaching. The MCBA Award for Service and Achievement annually recognizes a Montgomery attorney who has distinguished himself through service to the bar and the community. The Award honors a lawyer who demonstrates the highest standard of professionalism and is respected by his or her peers for their outstanding legal ability. We are blessed to have many outstanding attorneys in our Bar who meet this criteria. If you are interested in nominating one of them, please contact Suzanne Duffey at the Bar office.

2013 MCBA Bench & Bar Golf Scramble Winning Team from Ball, Ball, Matthews and Novak, P.A.
LOOKING BACK AT THE BENCH AND BAR EVENTS

Above, Bench and Bar CLE participants listen to one of the guest speakers.

Right, Judge Joel Dubina, U.S. 11th Circuit of Appeals, speaks at the CLE.

Above, “Team Purple” Larry Golston, Joe Howard, and Kendall Dunson enjoy the golfers’ luncheon at Arrowhead before hitting the links.

Above, Stevi Sandstead from Freedom Court Reporting and Meggan Huggins, MCBA Board Member, drove the beverage cart around the golf course.

Left, Judge Charles Price and Mike Martin claim their trophies at the social following the golf scramble.
Women’s Section On the Go

by Roianne H. Conner, Pres. WSL

The Women’s Section has had a very busy but productive April. On April 2, 2013, the Women’s Section cosponsored, along with the Women’s Lawyer Section of the Alabama State Bar, an event held at Faulkner University’s Thomas Goode Jones School of Law entitled Chocolate, Coffee, Counsel and Conversation. This event featured a panel of female attorneys: Alice Ann Byrne, Felicia Long, Karen Laneaux, and Elizabeth Carter. This impressive panel was created through the efforts of Sherrie L. Phillips, Vice Chairperson of the Alabama Bar Association’s Women’s Section. Also in attendance were some of the female law students from Jones School of Law as well as members of the Women’s Section of the Alabama State Bar. There was a spirited discussion between the panel and the participants regarding everything from proper court attire to maternity policies and being the lone female in an all male law firm. Those in attendance were approved for 1.5 hours of CLE credit thanks to the efforts of Dot Robinson.

On April 9, 2013, thanks to a private sponsor, the members of the Board of Directors attended the IMPACT: Celebrating Alabama Women event at the Capital City Club here in Montgomery. This event, sponsored by the Alabama Women’s Commission, honored women from Alabama making an impact on their communities, state and the nation. This year’s honorees were the current and former female members of the Alabama Legislature. This was a chance for our Board to network with other female organizations. Also in attendance were the Officers of the Women’s Section of the Alabama State Bar, as well as members from Jones School of Law.

On April 26th, several members of the group were in attendance at the Bench and Bar Event held at 129 Coosa as well the golf event and after golf social at Arrowhead Country Club. This event featured Judge Charles Price, Presiding Judge of the 15th Judicial Circuit; Chief Justice Roy Moore, as well as Judge Joel Dubina, the Chief Judge for the 11th Circuit.

On June 11th the Section will be cosponsoring along with MALS the Coffee with the Judge’s event. This event will be held in the 3rd floor Jury Assembly Room in the Price-Phelps Courthouse from 7:30-8:30 a.m. This event is usually well attended by our Judges and allows everyone time to socialize with our Judges in an informal setting.

Also, on June 22nd there will be a family BBQ held from 2pm-5pm at my home. There will be swimming, inflatables for the children and a chance for the Women’s Section members and their families to come to know each other. We encourage all of our members to consider participating and being a part of this exciting event.

In September, the Jere Beasley family, thanks to Julia Beasley, has graciously volunteered their home for the site of our first general membership meeting. It will be at this meeting that the officers will be elected for the next year. As soon as a date is established you will be notified both in the upcoming events on the MCBA website as well as on the Women’s Section Facebook page. If you are interested in running for one of the positions, contact Suzanne Duffey at the Bar Association Office.

Also, if you have not checked out the MCBA website, the Women’s Section now has its own pages which contain the photographs as well as bios of the Officers and Board members. Also, the application for membership is also included online at the Women’s Section pages.

Again, thanks to Connie Murray, the Secretary-Treasurer of our organization for setting up our Facebook page. This page is a great source of information regarding upcoming events. Go to Women Section, MCBA on Facebook and thank Connie for all her efforts in furthering our organization.

Until next time, Roianne

See Women’s Section Events photos on p. 5
If you are anything like me (an attorney, good looking, punctual, well read, polite, and humble), and I hope you are, then I know you have been waiting with bated breath for the email notification that there is another Docket Article for you to consume.

As promised, in this month’s article the YLS is going to unveil its much anticipated HUGE summer event. The YLS hasn’t thrown anything this large since 2011. You are right, back by popular demand and contractual obligation, the YLS bi-annual Braves trip. On a Thursday afternoon you can ride a bus to Atlanta, cross a time zone and state boundary (in that order) attend a Braves baseball game, then travel in that same bus across a time zone and state boundary (in reverse order) and make it home in time to get in bed to wake up early and call in sick for work the next day. All of this will offered for a low cost.

If you have not ever gone on this trip, go ahead and pre-order your tickets through Jesse Anderson, because you are not going to want to miss it. Who can forget that time the bus tried to fit into the Wendy’s drive through on the way home, but could not (it was hilarious—maybe you had to be there), or that time when that clerk had one too many “cokes” at the game and tried to tell dirty jokes on the ride home, or when (Name omitted by Dot because he is no longer a member of the County Bar) had one too many “hotdogs” and got sick on the bus on the way home. We are still working out the details, but it will probably be July 11th or August 12th. We will announce the actual date in next month’s Docket (I have to keep you coming back somehow).

To get your YLS fix before then, we will be teaming up with the Capri Theatre on June 20th (go ahead and put it on your calendar) for a social/event for the showing of My Cousin Vinny. If you remember seeing it for the first time in the theatre, you are probably not a YLS member, but technically we cannot prevent you from coming and might even be able to get you a discounted ticket.

I know you are asking yourself what you are going to do until June 20th. I suggest gearing up for the summer YLS activities by attending the Big Bar events in April and May.

Craig Sager (left and center) not to be confused with the equally well-dressed handsome Allen Sheehan.

Save the date…

JUNE 20
The Capri Theatre
Sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section
Of the Montgomery County Bar Association
Women’s Section Photos

Chocolates, Coffee, Counsel and Conversation seminar at Faulkner University Jones School of Law

Sherrie Phillips (left), Vice-Chairperson of Alabama State Bar Women’s Section and Kimberly Waldrop.

IMPACT: Celebrating Alabama Women event honoring female legislators, past and present
First, allow me to say that I am humbled by my selection as the first Executive Director of the Montgomery County Bar Foundation Volunteer Lawyers Program (MCBF-VLP), and honored by the opportunity to work with many of you as we begin the process of expanding the program to serve the civil legal needs of a greater number of Montgomery’s low-income residents.

Many of you already know the inherent reward that comes from pro bono service. For young lawyers, the opportunity to expand your experience in areas you might not ordinarily face in your daily practice is invaluable. For more veteran lawyers, our monthly clinics and outreach activities provide a chance to both mentor younger lawyers and fulfill the intent of Rule 6.1 of the Alabama Code of Professional Conduct that states, “A lawyer should render public interest legal service.”

During April, our program conducted, in conjunction with the state bar VLP, the regular first Tuesday Law Clinic at the Montgomery County Community Action building at 1100 Adams Avenue. Thanks are due to participating lawyers Rebecca Chambliss, Baron Coleman, Tim Gallagher and Laurel Farrar (LSA). Upcoming clinics will be on May 7 and June 4, from 3-5:30 p.m., and I welcome any who are willing to serve to call me at the VLP office, (334) 265-0222. Please check your calendar and see if you can spare a few hours to help qualifying residents struggling with troublesome civil matters. I promise you won’t regret it.

We also participated once again in the annual River Region Connects Resource Fair, held on April 13 at St. Jude and sponsored by the Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless. Along with a variety of basic needs services offered during the Fair, members of the MCBA provided legal advice and consultation to those in need. Special thanks are in order for those attorneys who agreed to give of their Saturday time: James Lampkin II, Mike Winter, Alison Hawthorne, Ray Hawthorne, Jr. and Tim Gallagher. Partnering with us in this venture were the ASB VLP staff, Legal Services Alabama and a dedicated group of third-year students from Jones School of Law, who handled initial intake.

Again, thank you for your continued support and willingness to give of your time and expertise. I will be calling on many of you in the weeks and months ahead, and I am confident that your response will be a favorable one. Please feel free to call me anytime to volunteer or with your ideas on how we can improve our outreach to our intended client base. Together we can make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

Mike Martin, Executive Director
Montgomery County Bar Foundation

Mike Winter, volunteering at the River Region Connects Resource Fair on April 13th, advises a fair participant.
Welcome to new members: C. Redding Pitt (Farris, Riley, & Pitt, LLC) and Zackery Burr (The Law Office of Zackery L. Burr, LLC), and Elliott Lipinsky.

Congratulations to these members:

Alexia Borden has been made a partner at Balch & Bingham.

Allen Sheehan, Will Cunningham, and Richard Calhoun are now shareholders at Capell & Howard.

Michael Bunn is now an associate at Fuller Hampton, LLC in Troy.

Rebecca Chambliss is now an associate with Holtsford, Gilliland, Higginon, Hitson, and Howard, P.C.

Kelly McTear will be joining the faculty at Thomas Goode Jones School of Law June 1 as a visiting professor of law and Acting Director of the Family Violence Clinic. Kelly has previously served at the One Place Family Justice Center with Legal Services of AL.

Frank J. Stakely has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in America. He is a partner in the firm of Rushton, Stakely, Johnston, Garrett, P.A. and has been practicing law in Montgomery for 26 years.

Notice to MCBA Members:

The small conference room in the Law Library is no longer available for use by attorneys. This is now the Montgomery County Bar Foundation office. The large conference room is available by appointment on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve this room, call 265-4793 or email us. This room can be reserved months in advance.

VLP Corner continued

Husband and wife, Raymond and Alison Hawthorne, volunteered at the River Region Connects legal services booth.

State VLP Director, Linda Lund, and Attorney James Lampkin, II advise a participant at the River Region Connects Resource Fair.
SAVE THE DATE!

MCBA Spring Social

May 23, 2013   5:00-7:00 p.m.

@ The Pine Bar—501 Cloverdale Rd.

Thanks to our sponsor for this event!

The Docket

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334-265-4893
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Executive Director

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