MCBA Charity Event a Huge Success

By David Martin, MCBA President

October was an event-filled month. We began with a ceremony unveiling the portraits of the late Judge Joseph Phelps and Judge Charles Price. The lawyers who chaired the fundraising efforts for both honorees (Phil Butler for Judge Phelps and LaBarron Boone for Judge Price) shared their perspectives on these two jurists while Judge McCooey reminisced about her experiences appearing before Judge Phelps and serving with Judge Price. (When she retires, Judge McCooey has a very successful career ahead of her as a eulogist.) The portraits are great reflections of the men they honor and now grace the wall of the jury assembly room. If you did not have an opportunity to attend the ceremony, you should drop by and see them the next time you are in the courthouse. They are a fitting tribute to these men who have each given much to our profession and our community.

We ended the month with our annual charity fundraiser. A packed house turned out for a roast of Bobby Segall. Highlights included Virgil Ford’s impersonation of Bobby, Judge Hobbs’ not-so-subtle jabs at his former partner and Joe Espy’s gifts from various witnesses who had the misfortune of being cross-examined by Bobby. Flynn Mozingo was also recognized as the 2013 recipient of the Tom Methvin Volunteer Lawyer of the Year Award.

While we shared many laughs, the important thing is that we raised over $22,000 to support Montgomery’s Volunteer Lawyer Program. Most of the larger law firms and many individual attorneys graciously sponsored this year’s event and as a result, it was one of the most successful fundraisers in recent memory.

I especially want to thank Bobby for allowing us to raise money at his expense. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Felicia Long, who once again dedicated an enormous amount of her time planning, promoting and organizing the event. We are also grateful to our in-kind sponsors: Baker Realtime Reporting and Video Services, Inc. (video services), Discover E Partners (printing), American Tent & Rental Company (rentals), and Rosemont Gardens (floral design). Please return the favor and support these local businesses whenever possible.

As we now look ahead to November and Thanksgiving, take time to express your appreciation to those who make life better for you and others. I am thankful to our outstanding MCBA staff – Suzanne Duffey and Dot Robinson – as well as lawyers like Bobby Segall, Felicia Long and Flynn Mozingo who give of their time to enhance our profession and assist others.

David
VLP is 2013 Charity Event Beneficiary

By Mike Martin, Director of Montgomery County Bar Foundation

As I write this, we are still basking in the glow of a wonderful evening called “The Distinguishable Lawyer Roast,” the 9th annual MCBA Charity Event. It was particularly gratifying for us to see the tremendous response to this event as the Volunteer Lawyers Program was the beneficiary of the night’s activities. We are grateful to the MCBA for designating the VLP as this year’s charity and to those who came out to partake of the merriment. Thank you one and all!

As a result of several recent favorable decisions regarding grant funding, as well as the support generated from the MCBA, we are able to move forward with the expansion of our program. We have just brought on staff an intake specialist/administrative assistant in the person of Barbara Ann Symington. She is a well-qualified addition to our office and will enable us to reach out to the community and let them know of our program and the tremendous service you provide. You may well be hearing from or meeting Barbara Ann in the coming days and weeks, so please take the time to welcome her onboard and assist her whenever possible.

There is so much need in our community and the willingness of our volunteers to give of their time and talent to offer free legal service to those who would be denied access to justice is heartwarming. If you haven’t enrolled in the VLP, please give us a call or drop me an email at mikem36111@yahoo.com and I’ll be happy to get an enrollment form to you. We ask only that you agree to take up to two (2) civil cases a year in the area(s) of your choosing. Then, when a case that fits that description comes up, you may be contacted to see if you are able to accept the referral. In many cases, the time commitment is five (5) hours or less, but the benefit of helping those less fortunate is immense. Of course, we can always use your help as a volunteer lawyer at our monthly advice and counsel clinic or with other projects. If you’re a senior partner in your firm, make the suggestion at the next partners’ meeting that your associates be encouraged to participate. It will make them better lawyers and fulfill their responsibility to render public service. Give us a call – let us help you serve our community.

Speaking of our monthly clinic, a special thanks is in order for those attorneys who helped our walk-up clients in October: Melissa Bowen, of Legal Services Alabama; Clinton Richardson, of Capell & Howard; Heath Loftin, of Reynolds, Reynolds & Little; and Ashley Penhale and Joel Caldwell, both of Copeland, Franco, Screws & Gill. Without them, our clinics wouldn’t be possible.

Again, thank you for all you do. Our program depends on your willingness to give of your time and expertise, and we are most grateful to those who step forward to help the less fortunate in Montgomery County with their civil legal needs.

Mike

Melissa Bowen, Clinton Richardson, Heath Loftin, Ashley Penhale, Joel Caldwell
SCENES FROM THE DISTINGUISHABLE LAWYER ROAST AND CHARITY AUCTION

PICTURED RIGHT:
Roast Honoree, Bobby Segall, thanks everyone for their enthusiastic support of the event while David Martin, MCBA President looks on.

PICTURE LEFT:
Judge Jimmy Pool drums up bids for the live auction items.

PICTURED RIGHT:
The capacity crowd listens as Bobby Segall gives remarks after the roast. He was limited to 90 seconds for his comments!
Thank you to the sponsors of
The MCBA Charity Fundraiser

Signature Sponsors:
McPhillips Shinbaum, LLP
Alabama Education Association

Gold Sponsor:
Copeland Franco Screws & Gill, P.A.

Silver Sponsor:
Tom Coker & Associates

Bronze Sponsors:
Ball, Ball, Mathews & Novak, P.A.
Capell & Howard, PC
Frank Wilson
Macon Co. Greyhound Park, Inc.
Rushton, Stakely, Johnston & Garrett

Supporters:
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP
Haskell, Slaughter, Young, & Gallion
Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole & Black, P.C.
Holtsford Gilliland Higgins Hitson & Howard, P.C.
RAYCOM Media
Sasser, Sefton, Brown, Tipton & Davis, P.C.
Sandra Lewis and Karen Laneaux

Friends of VLP:
Delores Boyd
Doug McElvy

In-kind Donors:
Discover-e Partners (copying and signs)
American Tent & Rental (rentals)
Baker & Baker Reporting and Video Services, Inc. (videography)
Women’s Legal Section Begins Second Year

By Roianne Conner, WLS President

On September 30, 2013, the general membership meeting of the Women’s Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association was held at my law offices to elect officers for the 2013-2014 year. I was graciously re-elected President for the upcoming year. Laura Eubank will again serve as Vice President of our organization with Connie Murray serving as the Secretary-Treasurer. The Board will consist of Kelly McTear, Ashley Penhale, and LaShandra Warren. We currently have one place on the Board that is vacant and after the announcement at the general membership meeting have had two candidates, Brittney Bucak and Kasey Robinson, submit their Notice of Intent to run for the vacancy. After discussions among the Board as well as discussions with Suzanne Duffey, it has been decided that we will hold the election on December 2-4. Any member of the Women’s Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association can come by the office to vote and also can email Suzanne (suzanneduffey@mc-ala.org) with your selection. The new Board member will be announced on December 5th via email.

The Women’s Section was very busy during September and October assisting Felicia Long in obtaining the silent auction donations for the Montgomery Bar Association Charity Event. Our members not only made calls, and picked up items, but also assisted in the setting up of the auction and helping check out auction purchases at the event. The event was very well attended not only by members of the Montgomery County Bar Association but by members of the public as well. I would like to thank Felicia for all of her hard work making this event a wonderful success.

During the month of November we are looking forward to hosting another Networking and Necklaces event in which we all can make our Christmas Wish Lists to give our spouse or significant other. Also, we have again been asked to co-host the Coffee with the Judges event with the MALS. On October 31, 2013, the Officers as well as the Board of Directors have been invited to attend an event hosted by the Alabama Women’s Network Exchange at the Business Council of Alabama. We are also looking forward to planning our second St. Patrick’s Day social in 2014 at the Irish Bred Pub as well as other events for our membership throughout the year.

I would also like to thank the membership as well as the other officers and Board for their gracious support last year as well as their continued support. I was surprised and very appreciative of the wonderful award presented to me by Laura Eubank on behalf of the membership and pledge that I will be working with our membership and Board to make this upcoming year as successful as the last.

Again, thank you for all of your support!

Roianne
Young Lawyers Go Bowl

Allen Sheehan, YLS President

The Young Lawyer’s Section has been growing leaps and bounds as a result of our summer fundraiser and end of summer shrimp boil. Since the end of August, Brian Thomas Robbins, Suzannah Renee Moorer, Wells Robinson, Virgil Ford, Garret Saucer, Effie Moore, John Naramore, Joel Caldwell, Brad Chynoweth, Charlie Hawthorne, Matthew Massey, and Rory McKean have all joined the YLS (how is that for name dropping and filling space in an article?). I can only attribute this late year jump in membership to the strong leadership of the YLS (I don’t care what you say Kyle Weidman, it has nothing to do with the new bar admissions). If you see your name above, or if you are one of the many people I’m sure I left off this list, make sure to wear your best bowling attire to your introduction to YLS Society at our upcoming BOWLING PARTY!!!*

*Details to be provided at a later date due to the fact we have not set the date.

Win a prize for the best “Big Lebowski” bowling shirt!

Pictured is an example of a really cool bowling shirt!

The capacity crowd gathers to look over the silent auction items and place their bids at the 2013 Charity Event at Wynlakes Country Club.
Notice to Montgomery County Bar Members

Intent to Run for MCBA Officer or Board of Directors

Any member of the Montgomery County Bar Association who plans to run for Secretary/Treasurer or for the 3 positions on the Board of Directors for the 2013 term must submit a letter of intent to run on or prior to December 6, 2013. Any candidate for Secretary/Treasurer must first have served on the Board of Directors.

The letter should be addressed to:

Cowin Knowles, MCBA Sec./Treas.
Ball, Ball, Matthews, & Novak, P.A.
P.O. Box 2148
Montgomery, AL 36102

A copy of the letter of intent to run and a short biography and photograph must be sent to:

Suzanne B. Duffey, Executive Director
Montgomery County Bar Association
P.O. Box 72
Montgomery, AL 36101-0072

For further information, call Suzanne Duffey at 265-4793.

Picture left, Philip Butler speaks during the portrait unveiling while LaBarron Boone and MCBA President David Martin look on.

Pictured right, Artist Jie Ruan stands with Judge and Mrs. Price in front of his portrait.
Portraits of Judges Phelps and Price Hung

On October 9th, portraits of the late Judge Joseph Phelps and of presiding Judge Charles Price were ceremoniously unveiled. Hung “in a place of honor in the courthouse” by resolution from the Montgomery County Commission, the portraits are displayed in the Jury Assembly Room of the Phelps-Price Courthouse. The oil portraits were painted by artist, Jie Ruan, of Leon Loard; Mr. Ruan unveiled them during the ceremony witnessed by an overflow crowd. Judge Tracy McCooey was the Mistress of Ceremony; Portrait Committee co-chairmen, Philip Butler and LaBarron Boone each spoke about the judges and their impact on their lives.

Attorney Mike Winter read an original poem he wrote to honor Judge Price. The families of Judge Phelps (top photo) and Judge Price (lower photo) were present. A reception was held at the offices of Haskell, Young, Slaughter, & Gallion.

Listen my colleagues, and you shall hear;

Of the legendary achievements of the man that we honor here.

Given my limited time, I must be concise;

Which is almost impossible, with Presiding Judge Charles N. Price.

Buildings and streets have been named; both portraits now hung;

For Judge Price, whose service started when he was still quite young.

Assistant AG, Green Beret;

Alabama’s first-ever African-American DA.

Private practice, Municipal judge;

Charles Price’s principles do not budge.

Finally then, Montgomery’s Circuit Court;

Our Price-Phelps Justice Center is Lady Justice’s fort.
MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to our new MCBA members:

Joel T. Caldwell—Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, P.A.
Garrett Saucer—The Law Office of Garrett J. Saucer
John Naramore—Balch & Bingham, LLP
Matthew Massey—Matthew Massey, Esq.
Charles E. Hawthorne—McPhillips Shinbaum, LLP
Effie Moore—The Law Office of Jeffery Duffey
Brad Chynoweth—Federal Courts, Judge Fuller
Maria J. Patterson—Maria Patterson, Esq.
Rory M. McKean—J. Wells Robinson, PC

In Memoriam: Our sympathies go to the family of Thomas Richard DeBray, Sr., who passed away Oct. 6, 2013.

Congratulations to Tripp Vickers and his wife upon the recent birth of a daughter, Anne Varner.

MCBA is well-represented in the Alabama State Bar Young Lawyers Section. Chris Waller of Ball, Ball, Matthews & Novak, P.A. has been installed as the 2013-2014 President of the Alabama State Bar Young Lawyers Section. Montgomery attorneys recently elected to the State Bar Young Lawyers Executive Committee are Evan Allen (Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C.) and Jesse Anderson (Jackson, Anderson, & Patty, P.C.). Congratulations to all of these young men!

Congratulations to Frank J. Stakely for recently being inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. The college is composed of the best of the trial bar from the U.S. and Canada. Also, J.C. Love, III has joined Rushton Stakely Johnston and Garrett, P. A. as an associate, primarily focusing on defending physicians and hospitals in medical malpractice suits. He previously practiced law in Decatur, GA.

CLE Opportunities – Call 265-4793 to register!

Bankruptcy 101
Led by Michael Fritz
November 8th
10:30-12:00 (1.5 hr.)
Jury Assembly Room
3rd floor Courthouse

The Ethics of Client Communications Through Non-secured E-mail Accounts
Led by Royal Dumas
December 20th
11:00-12:00 (1.0 hr.)
Jury Assembly Room

The above CLEs have been approved for the stated credit hours by the Mandatory Legal Education Commission of AL.