Our profession suffered a tremendous loss this past month with the passing of Mr. Oakley Melton, Jr. Mr. Melton was a true “lawyer’s lawyer” and a leader in his profession, church and community. Mr. Melton served his country, was President of the SGA at Alabama and later served as President of both the MCBA and the Alabama State Bar.

A large crowd of Mr. Melton’s friends, colleagues and admirers gathered at First United Methodist to extend their condolences to Mr. Melton’s family and to celebrate a life well-lived. While Mr. Melton’s impressive professional accomplishments were mentioned, the service focused on the legacy that he left behind, a legacy that extended well beyond his many accomplishments and positions held.

Instead, the legacy of a man of Mr. Melton’s stature is best captured through the words of those whose lives he touched, including the younger lawyers with whom he worked and for whom he always had the time to mentor and assist. The echoes of his legacy could also be heard through the words of the staff members at Melton, Espy & Williams. They shared that despite the many demands on his schedule, Mr. Melton took the time to attend their child’s wedding or share a consoling word when they had a loved one pass.

The most moving example to me was the story told by one of his sons-in-law. He shared that at a family gathering many years ago, one of Mr. Melton’s grandchildren asked “Daddy, why is it that Granddaddy cries every year when we get together for Thanksgiving and Christmas?” Knowing Mr. Melton well, his son-in-law responded: “Because he understands how blessed he is.”

The legacy of a truly great man like Oakley Melton is found not in the accolades earned during life, but in the love those he leaves behind feel for him because he was always willing to give of himself.
Volunteer Lawyer Program by Mike Martin

It’s the holiday season, a time when most of us take a few moments to reflect on the year’s accomplishments and give thanks for the many blessings we’ve enjoyed. We here at the Montgomery VLP have much for which to give thanks, not the least of which is all of you who have so generously given of your time in service to those less fortunate in our community. We wish for each of you the most joyous of holidays.

Unfortunately, there are many in our community who will not have the holiday season that many of us enjoy. For them, the specter of facing a legal challenge without assistance puts a tremendous damper on any thoughts of holiday celebration. For them, the Montgomery VLP represents their last best hope to face their adversaries on equal footing, a chance to address their challenge and enter the new year with renewed hope.

We receive calls every day from eligible clients seeking help and advice, and we are thankful that so many of you respond to the call without hesitation. So, too, are we thankful for the financial support we receive from you. Final numbers still aren’t in, but current figures show the recent MCBA charity fundraiser, of which we were the designated recipient, was the most successful ever. Thank you for your participation.

During the just concluded Beasley Allen Legal Conference we received a $10,000 Pro Bono Award presented by the Beasley Allen firm. This is our second year to receive this award, and we are very appreciative of the continuing recognition from this firm. Of course, we would welcome like assistance from other firms in Montgomery, and are available to come and give an update on our program.

As many of you know, we conduct a monthly advice and counsel clinic on the first Tuesday of every month. And, several weeks ago, we held a special clinic to assist clients at the Montgomery Salvation Army shelter. Of course, our clinics would not be possible without the willingness of our volunteers to give of their time. We appreciate this service and give thanks to our November clinic volunteers: Leigh Haynie, Laurel Crawford, Kelly McTear, Ashley Penhale and Joel Caldwell. Those present at the Salvation Army: Tim Gallagher, Karen Laneaux, Mike Winter, Preston Presley, and Laurel Crawford. Hats off to our volunteers.

You’re welcome to join us at any of our monthly clinics, or to volunteer to take a case or two during 2014. Simply give us a call at 265-0222 and let us know what you would like to do. At this time of year, when an emphasis is placed on giving, give the gift of your time and expertise to someone who may otherwise be denied access to justice. Happy Holidays!
M.CBA 2013
Holiday Gala
Thursday, December 12th
6:30-9:30 p.m.
Wynlakes Country Club
You must RSVP by 9 a.m. Dec. 10th. Each MCBA member receives 2 free
tickets. Additional tickets may be purchased for $25.00 each.

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy or
gift for children or youth for the
U.S. Marines’ Toys for Tots Collection.

MALS will be there holding their silent auction in support of education. There
will be more than 50 items to choose from, so bring your checkbooks and cash!

Wishing you a wonderful
holiday season and
happy new year
from the
Young Lawyers Section

New events will be posted in the
January Docket.
MCBA Member News

Welcome new member, J.W. Godwin, The Law Offices of Troy King.

In Memoriam: Our condolences go to the family and friends of Oakley W. Melton, Jr., who passed away November 10, 2013.

CONGRATULATIONS:


Additionally, Bradley Arant is pleased to announce that one of their Montgomery firm members, Philip Butler, has been selected as a “litigation star” in the 2014 edition of the Benchmark Litigation Guide to America’s Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys.

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP has more than 440 attorneys in seven offices and is one of the largest law firms in the Southeast.

This is the inaugural issue of the U.S. News—Best Lawyers, a highly anticipated national analysis which will be compiled annually by U.S. News — Best Lawyers.

Pictured left:
Phil Butler (Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP)

Pictured right:
Jere Beasley (Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C.)

Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C. has also been selected for inclusion in the U.S. News 2014 “Best Law Firms” ranking. Their firm was given a Metropolitan Tier 1 ranking in Litigation-Environmental and Labor & Employment sections, as well as Personal Injury Litigation and Product Liability Litigation-plaintiffs section. Beasley Allen was also given a Metropolitan Tier 2 designation in the Commercial Litigation, Corporate Law, and Health Care Law sections.

Seventeen Beasley Allen attorneys were selected for inclusion in the 2014 Best Lawyers in America: Jere Beasley, Greg Allen, Mike Crow, Tom Methvin, Cole Portis, Dee Miles, Andy Birchfield, Rhon Jones, Benjamin Baker, Julia Beasley, LaBarron Boone, David Byrne, Graham Esdale, Leigh O’Dell, Roman Shaul, Roger Smith, and Gibson Vance.
Beasley Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C., hosted its seventh annual Legal Conference & Expo at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center beginning Thursday, Nov. 21 through Friday, Nov. 22. The event provided continuing legal education (CLE) credits and was open to all Alabama lawyers in private practice. The conference has grown steadily each year, from about 400 lawyers in 2007 to more than 2,000 registered to attend this year. It is one of the top five legal conferences in the United States.

“With its annual Legal Conference, the Beasley Allen Law Firm brings in lawyers from all over the state, providing them an opportunity to see everything Montgomery has to offer as a meeting destination,” said Dawn Hathcock, Vice President of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitor Bureau. “This is the largest conference of its kind within the state of Alabama and not only showcases the city, but provides a huge economic impact in the River Region of roughly a million dollars. Events of this stature are extremely important, as we continue to market Montgomery as a true meeting destination.”

Practice areas addressed at the conference include Product Liability, Mass Torts and Fraud. Special programs included the topic of Legal Ethics. The meeting featured speakers including Beasley Allen Founding Shareholder Jere L. Beasley; Governor Robert Bentley; Dr. David G. Bronner, Chief Executive Officer, RSA; Chief Justice Roy Moore, Senator Cam Ward, Alabama District 14; Judge Charles Price; Rich Raleigh, Jr., President-Elect, Alabama State Bar; Jeff Rickard, President, Alabama Association for Justice; and Jeremy McIntire, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama State Bar. Jay Wolf, Pastor, First Baptist Church was the guest speaker at the prayer breakfast Friday morning.

At the Legal Services Expo, vendors provided demonstrations of products and answered questions about how attorneys can best enhance their practice. Event platinum sponsors were Jackson Thornton Valuation & Litigation Consulting Group, LexisNexis; Freedom Court Reporting and Baker Reporting Services.

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 were present.

The 2013 Beasley Allen Pro Bono award was given to the Montgomery County Bar Foundation. Mike Martin is the Executive Director of the MCBF.
Women’s Section Board Election and Holiday Event
Planned by Roianne Conner, WLS President

As I write this article, we are entering the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. I hope that each and every one of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving as well as a great and safe Christmas and New Year. As my husband and I are going to Ireland and scratch one thing off our bucket list this Christmas, Laura Eubank, our Vice President, has graciously agreed to author the article for our section for the January Docket. I would like to thank Laura for undertaking this responsibility.

Before we can enjoy all that the season allows, the Women’s Section has some business to attend, as well as a function to attend. As previously announced, we currently have one place on the Board that is vacant and after the announcement at the general membership meeting Kasey Robinson and Brittany Bucak submitted their Notice of Intent to run for the vacancy. The election will be held on December 2-4, 2013 and any member of the Women’s Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association can come by the MCBA office to vote or email Suzanne (Suzanneduffey@mc-alabama.org) with her selection. The new Board member will be announced via email and at our December event which will be held on Thursday, December 5th.

On December 5th from 5:30 to 7:30, the membership has been invited to Harold’s Fine Jewelry located at 2801 Zelda Road for the Networking and Necklaces event in which all can make their Christmas Wish List for the spouse or significant other. This event was well attended last year and we appreciate Harold’s Fine Jewelry for agreeing to sponsor this event for us.

Also, we have many exciting upcoming events which include our involvement with Coffee with the Judges event with the MALS, our St. Patrick’s Day event as well as our family barbeque event.

This year, in addition to again growing our membership the Board has made a commitment to increase and actively participate in our mentoring program. To that extent, we would like our members who would like to mentor a new female lawyer as well as those you would like to be mentored by a more seasoned female attorney to notify any member of our Board of your desire to be involved in this program. Current Board members are Kelly McTear, LaShandra Warren, and Ashley Penhale.

Also, during this current year we will be inviting members and Officers of the other county Women’s Sections throughout Alabama to join us at some of our events in order to learn of their involvement in the programs in their particular counties as well as members and Officers of the Alabama Bar’s Women’s Section.

Again, I would like to thank the membership as well as the other officers and Board for their gracious continued support for our fledging organization. I hope that you all have a safe Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Roianne
The Women’s Legal Section of the MCBA
Invites the Women Members to

Networking and Necklaces
At
Harold’s Fine Jewelry
2801 Zelda Road
Thursday, December 5th
5:30-7:30
Come select your wish list items to share with your significant other.
Refreshments and fellowship included.

Women’s Legal Section
Election for 1 Position on Board of Directors

Members of the MCBA Women’s Legal Section may cast their votes on Monday, Dec. 2 and Tuesday, Dec. 3 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the MCBA office on the fourth floor of the Phelps-Price courthouse or by email to suzanneduffey@mc-ala.org. The winner will be announced via email and at the Networking and Necklaces event on Dec. 5.

Candidates:
Brittany Bucak– Assistant District Attorney
Kasey Robinson– Tuskegee University, Office of Governmental Affairs
Time is running out! Do you have your ethics CLE credits for this year?

SIGN UP TODAY FOR

The Ethics of Client Communications Through Non-Secured E-mail Accounts

Friday, December 20th  11:00-12:00

Courtroom 4-C, 4th floor of Courthouse

Preregister by email to dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or call 265-4793.

This CLE has been approved for 1.0 hour credit by the Mandatory Legal Education Commission.

Warmest holiday wishes to each of you from your MCBA staff

Suzanne and Dot
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 5:00 p.m. December 11, 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MCBA MEMBERS

Please take note that at the upcoming Annual Meeting to be held on January 23rd, a vote will be held on the proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Montgomery County Bar Association. A redlined and clean version of the Amended and Restated Bylaws can be found on the MCBA website.

MCBA 2014 dues invoices have been mailed. If you or your firm has not received an invoice for the 2014 dues by December 10, please call Dot Robinson at 265-4793. Dues are to be paid by January 31, 2014.

If you have had a change of workplace, address, email, or phone number this year, please be sure we have your current information by emailing it to dotrobinson@mc-ala.org. We would not want you to miss out on any of our events.
Can you believe the end’s in sight? The “luckiest” year (13) of the 21st Century has come, and is almost gone. Sure, on the surface turmoil and disruption ran rampant. From the federal government’s problems with Benghazi, Tea Party targeting, unwarranted snooping, and the Obamacare roll out, to the State’s use of public education money to enrich non-public schools, its playful attempt to nullify all federal gun control laws, and its sad, but successful, effort to exclude thousands from health insurance, some say 2013 has been a year only (radio talk show host) Mark Montiel could love. And, that’s not considering Syria, Travon Martin, sequestration, the shutdown of the federal government, the still looming battle over the debt ceiling, and having to share the planet with Ted Cruz.

Even in Montgomery, 2013 was in some ways tumultuous. Perhaps most traumatic, at least for senior partners, Michael Jordan and Charles Barkley turned 50, Judge Price, because of age, could not announce a reelection bid, and baby-faced Judges Dubina and Thompson assumed Senior (i.e., old) status.

But through all the clouds, stars still twinkled. “Boston Strong” became the watchword of a nation. To Beasley’s delight, that strong and good city survived the bombing of its Marathon to win a glorious World Series. And, second only to Big Papi, one star shone most brightly – a beacon of hope for all woman – and man – kind. Montgomery lawyers and our Bar continued to look and be, in the words of Billy Crystal, “Simply Fabulous”! Throughout 2013, we remained optimistic and enthusiastic, and our actions showed it. We, for example, hired a great pro bono leader in Mike Martin (despite that his sharing of a surname with President David Martin could lead to a forensic audit). We partied from January to December while raising money for the needy (excluding needy young lawyers). We continued to excel both in, and outside, the courtroom. And, best of all, Montgomery lawyers, no matter their political and other persuasions, remained entirely and unabashedly Distinguishable, two breathtakingly so.

For 2013, our first Most Distinguishable Lawyer is James Anderson. And, despite James’ otherwise extravagantly impressive career – and year – his recognition arises from a singular achievement. Put complexly, James has opened new frontiers in our Bar’s perpetual quest for that magical, yet elusive, quality of Jury Appeal. While many lawyers believe they have it, James has proved his allure beyond any rational reservation. So taken was one juror with James’ trial performance, and general aura, that she called him to discuss the case, and the discussion never ended. In 2013, James and his admiring juror married – one another. And apparently, the mutual adoration continues unabated. According to their friends, James and Karen are beyond happy. Because of that happiness, and for finding love in the oddest of all places, James richly deserves, and is hereby granted, recognition as one of 2013’s two Most Distinguishable Lawyers.

Our second honoree, Judge Charles Price, is beyond distinguishable. He is historical – and even hysterical (in his more humorous moments). Judge has more firsts than Michael Phelps – from Alabama’s first black Assistant DA to Montgomery’s first black Municipal and Circuit Court judge, to the first black – or White – Montgomery judge to be rhapsodized with a poem (hurriedly) written to, and in, his honor. If you haven’t noticed, the man has received a (Kennedy) “Profiles in Courage” Award and has had an entire Courthouse named for him
a – the one where you work. And now, in the penultimate year of his judicial career, Judge is blazing a glorious farewell. Just this year, he was the moving force in starting a Montgomery County public defender program, his portrait was hung in the Jury Assembly Room, his 30 years on the bench were lovingly celebrated, and the United States minted a coin (and cuff links) bearing his likeness (or I think it was the United States). But perhaps most impressive, and most distinguishable, Judge has named his own successor – and no one will, or should, quarrel. For all of this, and for a lifetime of so much more, Judge Charles Price, is 2013’s Co-Most Distinguishable Lawyer.

Now, relax. Forget the world’s troubles. Consider meditation. Dream of taking a Carnival cruise, of drinking cheap wine and listening to the singing astronaut’s version of David Bowie’s “Space Oddity”. Then wake up joyously, remembering that you are a Montgomery lawyer, drink a (lot of) beer and recognize those among us who, for the year 2013, have become blessedly Distinguishable.

1. “It’s a Wonderful Life” Award - - Judge Jimmy Pool, Karen Smith, Jimmy Williams, David Martin, Mays Jemison, Frank Hawthorne, Corky Hawthorne, Judge Les Hayes, Rhon Jones, Joel Connally, Joe Seawell Moore, Charlie Hawthorne, Gunter Guy, Clay Crenshaw, Cole Portis, Buster Russell, Stephanie Galloway Shirley, Bobby Poundstone, Sim Penton, Jessica Pitts, John Searcy, Matt Bledsoe, Robert Pittman, Tripp Vickers, Jacob Fuller, Mark Moody, and Frank Hawthorne, III (After a miserable 2012, these Auburn fans moved from having only Jason Dufner to celebrate to vivid dreams of a national football championship.)

2. “Simon & Garfunkel Sounds of Silence” Award - - Joe, Ben and Bill Espy (Something one never hears when any of the Espys are in the room)

3. “Vince Vaughn’s The Delivery (Wo)Man” Award - - Felicia Long (She absolutely always comes through when needed – which is all the time.)

4. “Billy Joel’s Uptown Boy” Award - - Judge Joel Dubina (Judge received the prestigious Lewis F. Powell Award for Professionalism and Ethics from the American Inns of Court at a ceremony emceed by US S.Ct Justice Clarence Thomas.)

5. “Great Expectations” Award - - Judge Joel Dubina, Congresswoman Martha Roby, and Plain O’le Lawyer Riley Roby (At the awards dinner honoring Judge Dubina, Justice Thomas ate at the Dubina family table, and lived up to expectations by asking no questions.)

6. “Great Aspirations” Award - - Judge Terry Moorer, Judge Wallace Capel, Judge Susan Russ Walker, Judge Truman Hobbs, Jr., Karen Laneaux, Emily Marks, Monet Gaines, Mark Englehart, Mark Sabel, James Long, Jerusha Adams, Susan Redmond (Montgomery judges and lawyers being considered as possible successors to Judge Myron Thompson and/or Judge Joel Dubina)

7. “The Mamas & The Papas It Never Rains In Southern California” Award - - Kenny Thomas
(This is how Kenny, as general Counsel of Ala. State Univ., explained why ASU sued the forensic auditing company in Los Angeles.)

8. “The 21 Principles of Persuasion” Award - - Judge Charles Price (He says he had to use all 21 to get his wife to marry him.)

9. “The Truman Show” Award - - Judge Truman Hobbs, Sr. (This truly great man and his wife Joyce, were this year’s recipients of The Tocqueville Society Award honoring them for their philanthropy and their dedication, compassion, and lifetime of service to the community.)


12. “2013 Peyton Manning Comeback (Lawyer) Player of the Year” Award – Ron Wise (Ron came back from a serious, prolonged illness to resume his sparkling legal career.)

13. “2014 Comeback (Lawyer) Player of the Year” Award - - Tony McLain (Tony’s ton of friends are praying he will be next year’s winner – he’s making strides in his fight against cancer.)

14. “Lou Gehrig-Cal Ripkin” Award - - Shap Ashley (Shap just completed his 29th year of presiding over the Montgomery Debutante Assembly – he comes ready to play at every ball.)

15. “Ziegfeld” Award - - Morris Dees (As founder and president of the Cloverdale Playhouse, he comes ready to ball at every play.)

16. “70 is the New 69” Award - - Judge Bill Gordon and Tommy Gallion (These long time pals and former law partners turned 70 this year, but still have the vigor of 69 year olds.)
17. (Wo)Man For All Seasons” Award - - Anita Archie (Having previously served in senior leadership roles for the Ala. Development Office, the Mtgy Housing Authority, and the Business Council of Ala., Anita was a great choice to become the Mayor’s executive assistant.)

18. “Chick Magnet” Award - - Mitch Henry, Von Memory and Julian McPhillips (They are lay preachers – everyone knows how women love preachers.)

19. “Bay of Pigs” Award - - Lee Copeland (Under the guise of a good will trip undertaken for the Ala. State Bar, the CIA sent Lee and other undercover Bar people to Cuba to undermine the Castro regime.)

20. “Fidel Castro” Award - - Jeff Duffey, Bill Blanchard, David Bronner, Boyd Campbell, Steve Dodd, Richard Keith, Jay Lewis, Patrick MaHaney, and Joe Saloom (These mostly older men, who in their youth dreamed of wild sex with sensual partners, now meet at Havana Dreamin’ to dream, like Fidel, of Havana cigars.)


22. “On the Shoulders of Giants” Award - - Judges Myron Thompson and Joel Dubina (They are the Giants upon whose shoulders their successors will stand.)

23. “Dr. Kevorkian Political Suicide” Award - - Paul Beckman (As a term limits advocate, Paul has announced the termination of his political life – after just one more term in the Legislature.)

24. “King Solomon” Award - - Judge Bob Bailey (It takes a lot of wisdom to be named Alabama Family Court Judge of the Year, and he was.)

25. “Cutest Couple of (Married) Lawyers” Award - - Elizabeth and Allen Sheehan, Samarria and Kendall Dunson, Quin and Joshua Segall, Judge Lloria and Chuck James, Amy and Joel Connally, Monet and J.R. Gaines, Alyce and Billy Addison, Elizabeth Bern and Jacob Dubin, Dee and Chris Worshek, and Rhonda and John Garman

26. “Cutest Prosecutors” Award - - Steve Feaga, Amanda Senn, Azzi Taylor, Daryl Bailey, Katie Langer, Kenney Gibbs, Michelle Smith, Brittney Bucak, Louis Franklin, Gray Borden, Tony McLain, Jeremy McIntire, Don Valeska, Stephanie Billingslea, Michael Duffy, Peter Smyczek and, of course, George Beck, Luther Strange, Ellen Brooks and Joe Borg.


29. “Cutest Solicitor General” Award - - John Neiman (The competition was not stiff.)

30. “Cutest Judges” Award - - Judges Myron Thompson, Mark Fuller, Joel Dubina, Terry Moorer, Calvin Williams, Gene Reese, Tracy McCooey, Johnny Hardwick, Billy Shashy, Truman Hobbs, Jr., Pam Higgins, Darren Hendley and Les Hayes (Really, they’re all cute when they rule with you.)

31. “Cutest Lawyer Married To a Judge (Who’s Not a Lawyer)” Award - - Tamika Reed (She’s married to Probate Judge Steven Reed who’s also kinda cute.)


33. “Lawyer with Cutest Girlfriend” Award - - Greg Davis

34. “Cutest Future Lawyer” Award - - E.B. Segall, (Little) Joe Espy, Adams Hill, Wright and Hale Borden, Alden and Grady Pate, Alyssa Kaplan, and Caroline Barnes.

35. “Cover Girl” Award - - Juraldine Battle-Hodge (Juraldine’s quick reaction to stroke symptoms in late 2011 likely saved her life, avoided residual effects and, this year, landed her on the cover of “About Health”, a publication of Baptist Health.)

36. “(Back) Cover Girl” Award – Joana Ellis and Erika Tatum (Joana, Exec. Dir. of the Ala. Defense Lawyers Assn, and her good friend, star defense lawyer Erika, graced the back cover of The Assn's Journal.)
37. “Playgirl” Award - - Judge Ed Carnes (When Judge Carnes became Chief Judge of the 11th Circuit this year, his photograph adorned the front cover of the “Alabama Lawyer” – “Playgirl” would have been more interesting.)

38. “Michael Vick Dog Fighting” Award - - Don Valeska (After 40+ years of pit-bull aggressive prosecuting, Don moved from the AG’s office to reunite with George Beck as a prosecutor in the US Attorney’s office.)

39. “Don Rickles Mr. Warmth” Award - - Bruce Lieberman (At Don Valeska’s State retirement reception, Bruce said criminals weren’t the only ones to dislike Don – “about 50 percent of the judges became apoplectic at the mention of Don’s name.”)

40. “Fruit” Award – Judge Bill Gordon (His nickname is Kiwi – although it’s based on the Kiwi shoe polish he’s been using since his days at Marion Military Institute.)

41. “Potato” Award – Spud Seale (Actually he is a previous recipient of the Potato Glue award.)

42. “Snack” Award – Chip Nix and Chip Bankston (The Chips)

43. “Vegetable” Award - - Scott Green and Norris Green (The Greens)

44. “Cow Feed” Award - - Al Scott, Angela Cooner, Jeff Bradwell, and Sid Belcher (They work for Alfa – which is short for Alfalfa.)

45. “Best Beverage” Award – (Mike) Beers

46. “Meat for an Actor (or Recording Star)” Award - - Ham (Wilson)

47. “State Employees’ Favorite Word” Award - - (Shannon) Holliday

48. “Animal” Award - - (Peck) Fox

49. “A Bushel” Award - - Peck (Fox)

50. “Fish Part” Award - - (Richard, Nelson, Katya and William) Gill

51. “Nut” Award – Tommy Gallion (But in a totally good way)

52. “Desert” Award - - Pam Cook(ie)

53. “Carry Nation Temperance ” Award - - (Katy) Sipper
54. “Kinda Rude (Lawyer)” Award - - Rudy (Hill)
55. “Simon & Garfunkel I am a Rock” Award - - Alan Rothfeder (“Rocky” is his nickname.)
56. “Simon & Garfunkel I am a Rock (Star)” Award - - Morris Dees and Jere Beasley
57. “Rock of Ages” Award – Justice Hugh Maddox, George Azar, Walter Byars, and John Bowman (They rock, no matter what ages they are.)
58. “Cher Bono Fan Club” Award - - Tim Gallagher (As Chair of the Mtgy Bar’s Pro Bono Foundation, Tim is Pro (Cher) Bono).
59. “Lawless” Award - - Will Parker, Jim Davis, Margaret Fleming and Al Agricola (They make good arguments even when they have no law to support their positions.)
60. “For Richer or Poorer” Award - - Elizabeth Utley and Allen Sheehan (They got married this year, and given their abilities, I suspect their future will be richer rather than poorer.)
61. “Obama” Award - - David Martin (As president of our Bar, David’s effort to require Bar staff to purchase health insurance fell prey to a Mike Winter filibuster.)
62. “Dale Carnegie” Award - - Judge Vanzetta McPherson (In writing of the downfall of Mtgy’s Sup. of Education, Judge quoted Teddy Roosevelt: “The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people.”)
63. “Amelia Earhart” Award - - Kim Fehl (First woman City Atty in the history of Montgomery)
64. “And They Too Also Served” Award - - Walter Byars, Randall Morgan, Bernie Brannan, Gunter Guy, Buster Russell, Dennis Nabors, Hugh Evans, Tim McCollum, Thomas Tankersley, and Al Scott (Former City Attorneys for the City of Montgomery)
65. “Adam Sandler’s Mr. Deeds” Award - - Joe Espy (First man, or woman, to receive our Bar’s Award for Service and Achievement.)
66. “Anything You Can Do” Award - - Pat Harris and Richard F. Allen (i.e., the elder) (When the Lt. Gov. hired Richard to advise her on Senate Rules, Pat, as Secty of the Senate, said, among other less printable things, “that’s my job”!)
67. “All the King’s Men” Award - - David Perry and David Byrne (The Davids are the Gov’s Chief of Staff and Legal Advisor respectively.)
68. “Prince of Wales” Award - - J.R. Gaines (As Prince Charles is heir apparent to the throne of Queen Elizabeth of England, J.R. is heir apparent to the throne of King Charles of Montgomery.)

69. “Home Grown” Award - - Ashley Penhale, Katie Langer, Joseph VanZandt, Clint Richardson, Ben Robinson, Mary Alexander-Oliver, Kimberly Waldrop, Laura Eubank, Elizabeth Utley Sheehan, Chris Worshek, Brittney Bucak, Michael Brymer, Lindsay Ronilo, Nick Hines, Effie Moore, Tray Richardson, Jason Isbell, Jacquelyn Tomlinson, Nick Wallace, Beau Womack, Stephanie Shirley and Stephen Frisby (Young lawyers who learned the law in Montgomery at the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law and are making strides in their profession)

70. “Dear John” Award - - Greg Graves (As Associate Exec. Secty of AEA, Greg criticized Mtgy Public Schools for sending “Dear John” letters, laying off 33 employees in order to finance a new office building.)

71. “Good Heart” Award - - Randy Thomas (Always known for his good heart during his 20 years as a Montgomery Co. Cir. Court Judge, Randy improved his heart this year by replacing a valve.)

72. “Bridge Over Troubled Water” Award - - Lee Copeland, Judge Randy Thomas, Randy James, Jim Rives, Phil Butler, Judge Bill Gordon, Judge Frank McFadden, Robert Ward, Bill Brittain, Jimmy Garrett, James Anderson, and Bill Coleman (Mediators who lead opposing parties across troubled waters to common ground.)

73. “Houdini” Award - - Russ Duraski (Although he could barely ask questions in client’s criminal trial without opening the door to defendant’s damning proffer, Russ nevertheless received a judgment of acquittal at the end of the Govt’s case.)

74. “David Copperfield” Award - - Judge Keith Watkins (Our Chief Judge for the Middle District turned a sow’s ear, i.e., a speech on the State of the Court, into silky, enjoyable entertainment.)

75. “Michael Douglas War of the Roses” Award - - Tommy Mancuso and Tommy Gallion (The marriage of these two outstanding and colorful, but vocally volatile, lawyers ended this year with Mancuso leaving Gallion’s firm.)

76. “Once Upon A Time” Award - - Frank Stakely (His fantasy had a story book ending when his daughter, Staci, won the Jimmy Hitchcock Award.)

77. “Bustin at the Seams” Award - - Rebecca and Jud Bryan and Jerome Dees (Their daughters were nominated for the Jimmy Hitchcock Award – a great honor.)
78. “Lost and Found (again)” Award - Julian McPhillips (As a founder of Christ the Redeemer Church who watched sadly as it closed 6 years ago over the issue of gay bishops, Julian led its successful reopening this year.)

79. “Best Thank You Note” Award - Allen Sheehan (Wrote hilarious notes thanking people for wedding gifts: “I use only your goblet to drink wine – because it’s the only one from which I have so far removed the sticker.”)

80. “Diversity” Award - Dickie Ball, Cowin Knowles, John Marsh and Chris Waller (This age diverse group of Ball, Ball lawyers won the Silver Cup for the overall low score at the Montgomery Bar’s golf tournament.)

81. “ADA” Award - Frank Snowden and James Eubank (Their sad handicap resulted in their winning the Montgomery Bar’s golf tournament – they had the net low score.)

82. “Field of Dreams” Award - Trish Shaner (As General Counsel for the Board of Medical Examiners, Trish gets to tell doctors what to do – a dream job for most lawyers.)

83. “Breaking-Up Is Hard to Do” Award - Baron Coleman and Mark Montiel (Baron until recently substituted for Mark on his radio show, but they had an unhappy breakup.)

84. “Richie Incognito Bully” Award - Joe Hubbard (Joe says the Governor bullied him by wrongly threatening him with an Ethics complaint if he was vocal in opposing a bill – for a Gulf State Park hotel – the Governor supported.)

85. “You’re No Jack Kennedy” Award - Judge Vanzetta McPherson (In her column, Judge said Gov. Bentley is not the bold visionary leader Ala. needs – he is, she says, a reactor and not a leader.)

86. “Duck Dynasty” Award – Beau Cooper, David Martin, JR Gaines, Larry Sasser, Pete Cobb, Joe Seawell Moore, Gunter Guy, Judge Joel Dubina, Phil Butler, Jimmy Garrett, Matt Ellis, James Anderson, Jesse Anderson, Chad Stewart, Doyle Fuller, Jacob Fuller, Richard Keith, Richard Gill, Nelson Gill, and Michael Strickland (They are avid hunters.)

87. “Hey Diddle Diddle, the Cat and the Fiddle” Award – Mike Winter (While not quite Robert Frost, Mike wrote and delivered a very entertaining poem at the hanging of Judges Price and Phelps portraits.)

88. “Gov. George Wallace” Award - Jerri Katzerman (As SPLC deputy legal director, Jerri is fighting the Legislature’s current effort - similar to what Gov. Wallace did in reaction to Brown v. Bd of Education - to use public funds for private school education.)
89. “The Pick-Up Artist” Award - - Shannon Holliday, Flynn Mozingo, David Martin, Mark Englehart, Barbara Wells, and Will Webster (They are good at picking up, and handling well, the appeal of cases they did not handle below.)

90. “Ready to Rumble” Award - - Tommy Gallion and Frank Hawthorne (Folks who have seen Tommy and Frank in trials against one another in Elmore and Montgomery Counties say they appear ready to rumble – with each other.)

91. “The Great Pretender” Award - - Jay Hinton (Did a great impersonation of Robert E Lee – wore his uniform and everything – when he spoke at the First White House of the Confederacy’s celebration of the birthday of Jefferson Davis)

92. “Sound Barrier” Award - - Felicia Long (Received a winning decision from the 11th Circuit just 2 days after her oral argument)

93. “Best First Impression” Award - - Ashley Penhale and John Henig (They won a case of first impression dealing with domestic relations law in the Ala. Court of Civil Appeals.)

94. “Office Romance” Award - - Rudy Hill (Well, not exactly the same office – Rudy, who is in Bradley Arant’s Montgomery office, is married to Ann Phelps who is in Bradley’s B’ham office.)

95. “Cass Elliotts’ The Mamas and the Papas” Award - - Brooke Reid, Katya and Nelson Gill, Laura and James Eubank, Rebecca Gilliland, Sally Corley, William Ashley, Joe Seawell Moore, Leslie and Pit Pitman (twins), Trip Vickers; Garrett Saucer, and Kayla and Steve Frisby (They became mamas and papas this year.)

96. “Neil Diamond’s Sweet Caroline” Award - - Dennis Nabors and Brent Rosen (Brought together by Dennis’ daughter and Brent’s wife, Sweet Caroline, they now practice together at Baker Donelson’s new Montgomery office.)

97. “Animal House” Award - - Lewis Gillis, Greg Graves and Judge Charles Price (These Frat brothers, in the prestigious Phi Boule chapter of the Sigma Pi Phi fraternity, partied at Fred Gray’s Lake house in celebration of their Chapter’s 75th anniversary of leadership and scholarship.)

98. “WW III” Award - - Wayne Sabel (In challenging a bill to restrict legal abortions in Alabama, Wayne said the bill is part of the Legislature’s never ending War on Women.)

99. “Junkyard Dog” Award - - Kathy Brown (“Bad, Bad Kathy Brown is president of the Board of the Family Sunshine Center and President of the Hugh Maddox Chapter of the Inns of Court.)

100. “Stormy Weather” Award - - Ellen Brooks and Daryl Bailey (Although they are big supporters of the Family Sunshine Center, their aim is to put folks who engage in domestic violence where the Sun don’t shine.)
101. “Xylocaine” Award - - Bryan Stevenson (EJI’s study of slavery, including slavery in Montgomery, and its screening of “12 Years a Slave” are all so graphic and revealing, they’ll make your teeth hurt – even Xylocaine won’t help.)

102. “New Kids on the Block” Award - - Kenny Gibbs and Chandler Combest (Kenny came from the Macon County DA’s office to join Ellen Brooks’ staff of crack prosecutors, and Chandler moved from Bradley Arant’s B’ham office to its Montgomery office.)

103. “Friends” Award - - Stan Gregory (Beautifully eulogized his friend Wendell Cauley)

104. “College Boy” Award - - Judge Jimmy Pool (Honored by the Alabama Judicial College for attending 300 hours of CLE during his 4 year term – sounds different from the devotion with which Judge attended class while at Auburn.)

105. “Mirror Mirror On the Wall” Award - - Judges Charles Price, Gene Reese, Tracy McCooey, Johnny Hardwick, Billy Shashy, Truman Hobbs, Jr., Anita Kelly, Calvin Williams, Bob Bailey, Pam Higgins, Jimmy Pool and Troy Massey (They’re the Fairest of them all.)

106. “Most Fair Lawyer” Award - - Chris East (As president of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery, Chris helped organize our State Fair.)

107. “C’mon Man!” Award - - Gunter Guy (As Ala. Conservation Commissioner, Gunter was accused by an intellectually challenged State Senator of running an illegal lottery to determine who receives leave to hunt alligators.)

108. “The Cowsills’ Hair, Long Beautiful Hair” Award - - Mark Sabel (Mark continued this year his uphill battle to require the State to permit Native American inmates to have long hair for religious reasons.)

109. “Battle of the Sexes” Award - - Brooke Reid and Ron Wise (In a match reminiscent of Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King – or perhaps Raphael Nadal and Serena Williams, the youthful as a Spring flower, Brooke, fought Ron to a draw in a ferocious tennis match.)

110. “Steven Spielberg” Award - - Ben Espy (Ben produced and filmed the Reid-Wise unwise tennis match for all posterity to watch in writhing agony.)

111. “Murder She Wrote” Award - - Ellen Brooks (Because of the unusually high number of murders in Montgomery this year, Ellen asked the County Commission to approve her hiring another prosecutor.)

112. “Charlie’s (or Ed’s) Angels” Award - - Ed Parish (Coached his daughter’s 10 and under Dixie Angels softball team to a state championship and then to victory in the national World Series)

113. “The Woman in Black (Robes)” Award - - Judges Delores Boyd and Vanzetta McPherson (These former judges continued to judge this year as members of Congresswoman Sewell’s federal judicial screening committee.)
114. “Hart of my Hart” Award - Luther Strange (Luther appears to be in love with Deputy AG Matt Hart who’s in charge of prosecuting alleged public corruption.)

115. “Barnum and Bailey” Award - Chris Weller and Ham Wilson (Representing the defendants in Joe Hubbard’s bid rigging case against the Speaker and the Legislature, Chris and Ham were accused by Joe of turning a hearing into “a political sideshow”.)

116. “The Greatest Show on Earth” Award - Tom Methvin and Gibson Vance (Tom’s the impresario who, with Gibson’s great help, organized the Beasley Allen Legal conference and Expo attended by 2000 lawyers this year.)

117. “Village People” Award - Jesse Anderson (Jesse served this year as Chair of the Boys Work Committee of the Y.M.C.A. – he’s singing that favorite old tune of the Anderson family.)

118. “Drum Major” Award - Judge Delores Boyd (As one of the first people to integrate Lanier High School, Delores said on the death of her friend Arlam Carr, Jr., the named plaintiff in the Mtgy Public School desegregation case, : “In a quite literal sense, he was a child of the civil rights movement.”)

119. “Good Samaritan” Award - Flynn Mozingo, Ashley Penhale and Archie Grubb (All three, as finalists for this year’s MCBA Volunteer Lawyer of the Year, are winners, but the winner’s plaque went to Flynn - Ashley was MCBA Volunteer Woman Lawyer of the Year.)

120. “Love, Honor & Protect” Award - JC Love (JC’s Wife is a doctor, so he joined Rushton Stakely, the number one firm for protecting doctors against med mal claims – not that she needs protecting.)

121. “And the Beat Goes On” Award - Spud Seale, Jayne Williams, and Liz Carter (School superintendents and students come and go, but their representation of Mtgy Public Schools goes on and on.)

122. “Chemical Warfare” Award - Allen Shehan and Jesse Anderson (In chastising Jesse at a Young Lawyers party for discussing Syria, Allen said the only chemical Jesse should focus on is alcohol.)

123. “Bookends” Award - Carrie McCollum and David Byrne, Amanda Carter and Mark Wilkerson, Susan James and Jeff Duffey, and Susan Copeland and Doyle Fuller (They work so much together, they can finish each others’ sentences – although not necessarily in the way the original speaker would have done – but still.)

124. “The Butler” Award - Phil Butler (Although he’s never been the President’s butler, he’s still “the” Butler.)
125. “Billy Graham” Award - - Judge Tracy McCooey (She gave a beautiful, from the heart, talk about Judges Phelps and Price at the hanging of their portraits in the Jury Assembly Room of the courthouse.)

126. “Leak Memory” Award - - Inge Hill (Minutes after Judge McCooey’s talk about Judges Price and Phelps, Inge said “I want Judge McCooey giving the eulogy at my funeral”.)

127. “Liberal Arts” Award - - Mark Sabel, Richard Cohen and Randall Marshall (Randall, who is ACLU of Ala’s new legal director, joins Richard and Mark in practicing the art of handling liberal minded cases.)

128. “Uneasy Peace” Award - - Lister Hubbard and Chris Weller (It couldn’t have been comfortable for these long time law partners when Chris, representing House Spkr Mike Hubbard, accused Lister’s son, Joe, of bringing a frivolous lawsuit.)

129. “Mid-Life Crisis” Award – Chuck Stewart and John Henig (Chuck bought a big motorcycle, and John bought a convertible – John’s too late for a mid-life crisis, and Chuck is on the cusp.)

130. “Jason Bateman and Ryan Reynolds’ The Change Up” Award - - Ben Robinson and Amanda Seals-Bersinger (They swapped jobs – Ben clerked for Judge Dubina this year and has changed to Judge Watkins, while it is vice versa for Amanda.)

131. “Monica Lewinsky Governmental Affairs” Award - - Jeremy Walker (Jeremy left Haskell Slaughter to become Director of Governmental Affairs for the Ala. Realtors Assn’.)

132. “Forrest Gump Stupid is as Stupid Says” Award - - Leon Capouano (Leon’s letter to the Editor appropriately criticized an Advertiser columnist for saying “Americans cannot love [both] America and Obamacare” – Leon says that’s dumb.)

133. “James Taylor Your Smiling Face” Award - - Virgil Ford (Virgil, who opened his own office this year, will do great on the basis of his talent and his always smiling face.)

134. “Sweet Baby James” Award – James Anderson (After all these years, James still has a sweet baby face.)

135. “The Company You Keep” Award - - Joel Caldwell (Having just begun work at Copeland Franco, this great young lawyer’s judgment is being questioned based on the company he now keeps.)

136. “John Kerry Peace Accord” Award - - Susan Copeland and Spud Seale (It wasn’t quite as tense as the Iran nuclear capability negotiation, but Susan for Pike Rd and Spud for the Mtgy Co School Bd painstakingly negotiated a Separation Agreement freeing up Pike Rd to begin its own school system.)
137. “Dan Abrams Best Legal Analyst” Award - Gibson Vance (Star of TV’s “Ask The Attorney”.)

138. “Most Appealing Emerging Media Stars” Award - Charlanna Spencer and Baron Coleman (They are stars of the new TV show “Voice of Alabama Politics” – now showing in B’ham and Tuscaloosa and coming soon to Mtgy.)

139. “A Woman Under the Influence” Award - Amanda Senn (As a young lawyer, Amanda treasures the opportunity to work under the supervision of grizzled prosecution veteran Steve Feaga.)

140. “Women and Men Under the Influence” Award - Tommy Kirk and Pat Mahaney (A good part of their practices is devoted to representing men and women caught driving under the influence.)

141. “Barry Sanders” Award - Kent Brunson (After the announcement of his retirement, this outstanding, long time Assistant US Atty, like NFL great Barry Sanders, issued a statement but declined to comment on his retirement to the news media.)

142. “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” Award - Evans Brittain (Once upon a time, Evans fell into a deep sleep and dreamed of becoming a king, and when he awoke, he was King of Harlequins, and his real-life daughter was a princess.)

143. “Reversal of Fortune” Award - William Hanes (William’s son was a star on the Montgomery Academy football team that went from 0-10 in 2010 to 10-2 this year – and he’s also a star person.)

144. “Big Foot” Award - Ben Schoettker (When Ben becomes president of our Bar next year, he will have big shoes to fill – figuratively and literally, David Martin is like a size 13 – or he oughta be.)

145. “A Thousand Words” Award - Phil Butler and LaBarron Boone (Speaking beautifully at the hanging of the portraits of Judges Price and Phelps, Phil and LaBarron recognized that the portraits themselves are worth a thousand words.)

146. “Hazing” Award - Joel Caldwell, Garrett Saucer, John Naramore, Matthew Massey, Lonnie Washington, Charlie Hawthorne, Effie Moore, Brad Chynoweth, Maria Patterson, and Rory McKeen (Although they all joined our Bar only this year, President Martin says no hazing will be tolerated.)

147. “Elton Dean” Award - LaBarron Boone, Lee Copeland, Jeff Duffey, Monet Gaines, Flynn Mozingo, George Parker, Les Pittman, and Cole Portis (They don’t serve on the County Commission, but they are Montgomery County’s State Bar Commissioners.)
148. “The Grass is Always Greener” Award - - Joseph Fitzpatrick (This excellent litigator is said to want to be a transactional lawyer.)

149. “Best Value (For a Lawyer)” Award - - Donnie Bethel, Nicole Ramos, Steve Ganter, Aylia McKee, William McGauchy and Christine Freeman (Federal Defender lawyers in Mtgy who in their last 6 criminal verdicts received 4 acquittals - and did a great job in the other two.)

150. “Hilary Clinton” Award - - Lee Copeland and Cole Portis (Like Hilary, they are presumptive favorites to be President one day – for them it’s the Ala. State Bar.)

151. “Penny Wise and Pound Wiser” Award - - Justice Jean Brown, Sharon Ficquette, Kim Dobbs, Bo Offord and Tammy Hudson-Adams (They negotiated a National Voting Registration Act settlement agreement favorable to the State, thus averting a lawsuit and saving the State tons of money.)

152. “Oligarchy” Award - - Roianne Conner, Laura Eubank, Connie Murray, Ashley Penhale, Kelly McTear and LaShandra Warren (These officers and Bd members of the Women’s Section of our Bar somehow maintained their positions and power through another election cycle.)

153. “Lawyer Know it All” Award - - Michael Fritz, Royal Dumas, Pat Sefton, Pat Mahaney, Aimee Smith, Sherrie Phillips, Andrew Skier, and Laura Callaway (Thankfully, they know all of a particular legal subject and taught it to the rest of us in Mtgy Co. Bar seminars this year.)

154. “What to Expect When You’re Expecting” Award - - Schyuler and Bill Espy, Dee and Chris Worshek, and Angela and Allen Howell. (They should expect a Baby!)

155. “Too Big To Fail” Award - - Jason Isbell (Head of legal and governmental affairs for the Alabama Bankers Association, i.e., for all the big banks)

156. “Ma Barker” Award - - Robert Sasser (Robert’s wife Carolyn was described in the newspaper as so ardent an Auburn fan that, like Ma Barker, you really don’t want to trifle with her.)

157. “Big Papi” Award - - Chris Waller, Evan Allen, Jesse Anderson, Brooke Reid, and Jeff Duffey (With Chris as President of the Ala State Bar Young Lawyers Section, with Evan and Jesse on Chris’ executive committee, with Brooke as president of the young lawyers section of the Ala. Defense Lawyers Assn, and with Jeff as President of the Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Assn, these folks are heavy hitters – like Big Papi).

158. “War and Peace” Award - - Daryl Bailey (Following the conviction of a man charged with attempted murder and robbery in a home invasion, Daryl said the state would seek to have the judge throw the (really long) book at the defendant – 2 consecutive life sentences.)

159. “Ben Franklin” Award – Ellen Brooks, Bob Bradford, Austin Huffaker, Warren Matthews, John Pickens,
alumni who say “he may not be Ben, but Coach Franklin, who has led Vanderbilt to three consecutive winning seasons, is a Great American.”

160. “Whoopi Golberg Sister (or Brother) Act” Award - - Ben and Bill Espy (Used a high energy, spirited defense to win an acquittal of the Washington County Sheriff on charges in federal court in Mobile - in a difficult case.)

161. “Star Bright” Award - - Charlie Stakely (Charlie is only the 2nd recipient of the Lowder Star from the Alabama Shakespeare Festival - - for his “extraordinary star qualities of commitment, leadership, imagination, generosity and playfulness”.)

162. “Billy Joel’s Piano Man” Award - - Justice Tommy Bryan (His daughter is a beautiful singer, and he sometimes accompanies her on the piano.)

163. “Nathan Hale” Award - - Mark Kennedy (Traveling the State for Democrats after revolting against entrenched powers in the Democratic Party, Mark regrets that he has “but one life to give for his party.”)

164. “What Women Want” Award - - Frank Snowden (Frank’s wife wants to coach basketball with her husband – so they coached, together, an Upward Basketball team of first and second grade girls.)

165. “Pitch Perfect” Award - - David Martin, Ben Schoettker, Cowin Knowles, Roianne Conner, Allen Sheehan, Royal Dumas, James Eubank, Larry Golston, Meggan Huggins, Rhon Jones, Felicia Long, Tamika Miller, Karen Phillips, Frank Snowden and Mike Winter (They ran our Bar this year perfectly in tune with the desires and needs of our members.)

166. “Christopher Columbus” Award - - James Anderson (He discovered love in America.)

167. “Billy Crystal” Award - - Kim Fehl (In connection with an illness, Kim cut her hair, and, in the words of Billy Crystal, she looks simply fabulous!)

168. “(Judicial) Elections Matter ” Award - - Dean Hartzog, David Sawyer, Eric Anderson and Nathan Wilson (These good lawyers for the Administrative Office of Cts were fired by the new head of the AOC, who was appointed by the newly elected Chief Justice.)

169. “Soul Survivors” Award - - Eric Locke and Bob Maddox (Having survived the purge, they remain lawyers for the AOC.)

170. “Fools (thankfully) Rush In” Award - - Ben Schoettker (Recognized this year for tackling his client who had jumped an armed Bailiff in the courtroom–probably saved his client’s life, although not likely his freedom.)
171. “Kenneth Starr” Award - - Richard H. Allen (the younger), James Ward and Susan Crowther (Richard was hired by the State Dept. of Education to lead James and Susan in an independent investigation of grade changing in Montgomery Public Schools.)

172. “Most Confusing Father-Son Names” Award - - Richard F. Allen and Richard H. Allen (All that distinguishes them is a middle initial— in the future, if you are going to call your son by the same first name as yours, please make him a Junior.)

173. “Mensch” Award - - Kim Thomas (In an order ruling against the Department of Corrections, Judge Myron Thompson nevertheless said our prison commissioner “has shown a clear commitment to bringing the ADOC into compliance with federal law.”)

174. “Billy Joel’s Keeping the Faith” Award - - Judge Charles Price (He has been persistent in his efforts—which now look successful—to establish a public defender program for Mtgy County.)

175. “The Grand Bargain” Award - - Spud Seale, Jayne Williams, Tyrone Means & Lewis Gillis (Spud and Jane for the School Bd and Tyrone and Lewis for Mtgy’s superintendent, negotiated a resignation bargain that spared the parties unpleasant litigation that could have divided the City.)

176. “The Usual Suspects” Award - - Al Agricola, Will Parker, Margaret Fleming, Jim Davis, Misty Messick, James Anderson, Bill Patty, Clint Daughtrey, and Theron Stokes (Deception by the usual legislative suspects resulted in litigation among these lawyers over the school tax credit bill’s diversion of public education money to private schools.)

177. “Alphabet” Award - - John Bolton and Charlanna Spencer (They joined the Espys in fighting successfully before the ABC Bd for Victory Land’s application for a liquor license.)

178. “Royal Pains” Award - - Sonny Reagan (Sonny told the ABC Board he plans to be a pain in a lower area of the body to all gambling establishments that seek a liquor license.)

179. “Sardines” Award - - Bill Patty, James Anderson, Dorman Walker and Jim Davis (Bill and James challenged, and Dorman and Jim defended, the Legislature’s Redistricting legislation which allegedly packed black voters all into the same districts.)

180. “Billy Joel’s An Innocent Man” Award - - David Vickers, Richard White and Emmett Hampton (Jury found David’s and Richard’s client Not Guilty of murder in one trial, and Emmett’s not guilty of another murder.)

181. “Death Becomes Him” Award - - Cameron McEwen (Among his other duties for the AG, Cameron represents the Alabama Funeral Board.)
182. “The Beatles Come Together” Award - - William Gill and Larry Gardella (Their dueling letters to the Editor showed they couldn’t come together on whether Ala. should expand its Medicaid program using largely federal dollars.)

183. “Gallo Brothers” Award - - Terry Luck and Judge Darron Hendley (Terry represented, and Judge decided in favor of, a Mtgy School Bd member who was charged with making harassing calls to a woman who, at Bd meetings, did more whining than the Gallo brothers.)

184. “American History X” Award - - Susan James, Aimee Cobb Smith, Verne Speirs and Mark Elliott (Susan and Aimee represent, and Verne and Mark are prosecuting, typecast bad men from movies like “American History X” - “Mighty Whitey”, an alleged Aryan Brotherhood drug kingpin, and Mighty’s brother “Wild Bill” are charged with conspiracy to distribute meth.)

185. “Carole King’s You’ve Got a Friend” Award - - Billy Young, Tommy Payne, Joe Espy and Jere Beasley (These long time friends of Judge Price shared their reflections on his career at a program celebrating his 30 years on the bench.)

186. “Clint Eastwood Hang’em High” Award - - J. Taylor and Bill Azar (After the judge threw out a murder for hire charge, they got a hung jury for the alleged trigger man in the Critter Man murder trial.)

187. “A Life (thankfully) Less Ordinary” Award - - Susan James, Jeff Duffey and Mike Perry (Their client first lost his medical license for defrauding patients and then, this year, was convicted of hiring someone to murder the former boyfriend of his girlfriend.)

188. “Magic Mike” Award - - Mike Martin (In just his first full year as the head of the Montgomery County Bar Foundation, Mike has made great strides both raising money and in providing pro bono services.)

189. “Jere Beasley” Award - - Luther Strange (Luther has apparently become a plaintiffs’ trial lawyer – in addition to BP, he sued the Poarch Band of Creek Indians alleging their casino is a public nuisance.)

190. “Evel Knievel” Award - - Andrew Brasher (Andrew made an Evel Knievel sized leap in logic in arguing that the Creek Indians, by removing the State’s case against them to federal court admitted that federal law gives the State a claim against them.)

191. “Paul Bunyan” Award - - Tommy Gallion (Tommy retired from his position as the biggest lumber jack in the world, i.e., as Chair of the Board of Woodmen of the World, the insurance-investment firm.)
192. “Best Memory” Award - - Julian McPhillips (Nancy Sewell helped Julian in his 1978 race for AG, and he’s been helping her and supporting her daughter, Congresswoman Terri Sewell, ever since.)

193. “In His Father’s Shoes” Award - - Frank Stakely (Frank joined his father Charlie this year as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers – they are Montgomery’s only father-son fellows.)

194. “John Grisham’s The Confession” Award - - Don Bechel (Despite the officer’s testimony that Don’s client had confessed to a constructive possession of drugs, Don received a “not guilty” verdict.)

195. “No Mas” Award - - Carrie Gray (The defendant was so intimidated by Carrie that he pled guilty to raping 5 women with no plea agreement – life sentence.)

196. “Women About Town” Award - - Felicia Long, Kelli Pate, Charlanna Spencer, Laura Eubank, Kelly McTear, Ashley Penhale, Kathy Brown, Quin Segall, Debra Spain, Roianne Conner, Betty Bobbit Byrne, Alison Hawthorne, Jo Parr, and Brooke Reid (Women who are very active in the community and/or in legal activities in our town.)

197. “Best Rapport (between Lawyers)” Award - - Susan James and Jeff Duffey (Susan and Jeff work well together because they share a lot in common, including the birth this year of Susan’s first grandchild and Jeff’s and Suzanne’s third.)

198. “Gentle Ben” Award – Ben Baker, Ben Espy, Ben Farrow, Ben Schaefer and Ben Wilson (They are tough litigators, but have gentle souls.)

199. “Wild Bill” Award – Bill Blanchard, Bill Espy, Bill Garrett, Billy Carter (Their souls may be gentle, but (I’m told) they can be, on occasion, wild and crazy guys.)

200. “Ralph Nader” Award - - Jere Beasley, Cole Portis, Graham Esdale and Ben Baker (After receiving big jury verdict in Oklahoma City against Toyota, the Beasley crew is becoming to all car manufacturers what Ralph Nader was to GM.)

201. “A Room with a View” Award - - Stan Gregory, Phil Butler, Chuck Stewart, George Parker, Bill McGowin, Bobby Poundstone, Quin Segall, Chandler Combrest, Rudy Hill, Tabor Novak, Ham Wilson, Winston Sheehan, Richard Broughton, Bill Brittain, Cowin Knowles, Evans Brittain, Emily Marks, Gerald Swann, and Brooke Reid (And all other Bradley Arant and Ball Ball Lawyers who have beautiful new offices in the old Supreme Court building)

202. “Spring For The Check” Award - - Bill Newton (Like Governor Riley, in a pinch Gov. Bentley picked up the Bill, i.e., Bill Newton, to serve as Acting Finance Director.)
203. “Allen’s Alley” Award – Greg Allen (Great trial lawyer developed and owns a good portion of Alley Station in downtown Montgomery.)

204. “Network” Award – Laura Calloway (That’s what she teaches solo practitioners to do – among many other things)

205. “Purple Heart” Award – Ray Hawthorne (As president of the Pike Road Board of Education, Ray either has earned, or will earn, a purple heart.)

206. “Prime Time Players” Award – Jere Beasley, Phil Butler, Jim Byram, Bill Coleman, Gerald Hartley, Hank Hutchinson, Kyle Johnson, David Martin, William Martin, Tom Methvin, Floyd Minor Jack Mooresmith, Tabor Novak, and Frank Stakely (According to the “Best Lawyers” publication, they are each Montgomery Lawyer of the Year for 2014 in a designated category.)

207. “Lifetime Achievement” Award – Oakley Melton (Despite Oakley’s death, “Best Lawyers” named Oakley Montgomery’s 2014 Appellate Lawyer of the Year.)

208. “Oscar” Award – Christine Freeman, Steve Ganter, Laronda Martin and Jerusha Adams (Christine, Steve and Laronda defended, and Jerusha prosecuted, an ex/prison spvr charged with fatally beating an inmate in the first case of its kind in the Middle District, and all performed their roles in an Oscar caliber fashion.)

209. “Adam and Steve” Award – Leah Nelson (Arguing for same gender marriage in a newspaper letter, Leah asked if marriage is a uniquely religious institution, how could she, as a Jewish woman, lawfully marry a Catholic with a judge officiating.)

210. “I Told You So” Award – Morris Dees, Joe Levin and Richard Cohen (Upon the settlement of the Immigration lawsuit, a SPLC lawyer pointed out: “We warned Legislators that if they passed this draconian law, we would sue in court and win.”)

211. “Man on a Ledge” Award – Tim Gallagher (He’s engaged to be married – thankfully to a wonderful woman.)

212. “Remember the Maine” Award – Jim Edwards, Judge Frank McFadden, Judge Gene Reese, Ted Hosp, Pat Harris, Julie Beasley, Phillip Kinney, Richard Broughton, Justice Sue Bell Cobb, Stuart Vance, Gibson Vance, Frank Stakely, Phil Butler, Bill Coleman, Carl Bartlett, Jeff Blitz, Cindy Torbert, Sam Adams, Alex Holtsford, and Clay Torbert (They all remember, and support, MANE and its therapeutic horseback riding program which, unlike the doomed battleship, is flourishing.)

213. “Georgia Peach” Award – Chris Glover and Kendall Dunson (The jury verdict of $4.6 million they received from a Georgia jury in a seatbelt products case was as sweet as a Georgia Peach.)
214. “Steve Martin Father of the Bride” Award - - Robin Laurie and other Montgomery lawyers who walked their daughters down the aisle this year.

215. “Father of the Groom” Award - - Reyn Norman and other Montgomery lawyers whose sons waited at the altar this year while someone else’s daughter walked down the aisle.

216. “Stale Bread” Award - - John Garner (As Chief ALJ and executive director of the PSC, Judge Garner said the Commission declined to reconsider its changes to Ala. Power Company rates because the request simply rehearsed old arguments.)

217. “Pool of Knowledge” Award - - Ben Pool and Greg Pool (As law partners, these smart father-son lawyers pool their knowledge to win a lot of cases.)

218. “Hail to the Chief” Award - - Win Johnson (Named the new director of the AOC legal staff.)

219. “Kenny Rogers The Gambler” Award - - John Kachelman (Left Ellen Brooks and joined AG to work, among other things, with Sonny Reagan on gambling matters.)

220. “Oops” Award - - J. Taylor (J. got two rape convictions overturned in Pike County because the prosecution failed to disclose a victim’s statement that was inconsistent with her trial testimony.)

221. “Chutzpah” Award - - Aimee Cobb Smith (Her client admits she persuaded her boyfriend to hire folks to kill the father of her child, and then she testified against her boyfriend.)

222. “The Avengers” Award - - Kenny Gibbs, Michelle Smith and Michael Caddell (They avenged the Critter Man’s death through guilty pleas and the conviction of the doctor accused of hiring the killer.)

223. “School Daze” Award – Caren Short (So. Pov. Law Ctr lawyer implied in an Ala. Voices column that school principals appear dazed when it comes to complying with the immigration law prohibition on asking for children’s Social Security numbers.)

224. “Like Mother, Like Daughter” Award -- Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb (Her daughter was selected for National Girls State where she was, or should have been, elected Chief Justice.)

225. “Like Father, Like Daughter” Award - - Kent Garrett (The middle name of Kent’s daughter, who was Queen of Harlequins this year, is “Kent”)

226. “Yellow Brick Road” Award - - Lilla and Trey Granger (Their daughter, who this year was elected Lt. Gov of Girls State, may have embarked on the long winding path of politics – G-d bless them all.)
227. “It’s Not What You Know” Award - - Susan James and Jeff Duffey (It’s who you know, and they know Greg Craig, former lawyer for Presidents Clinton and Obama and their new co-counsel on a Motion for New Trial for Don Siegelman.)

228. “Daddy Warbucks” Award - - Michelle Smith (In her close, this Deputy DA argued that the doctor defendant in the Critter Man trials spent a lot of money on his girlfriend and “ultimately paid for the murder of the father of her child”.)

229. “Alex Shunnarah Best Advertisement” Award – Kenny Shinbaum, Joe Guillot, Aaron Luck, James Bodin, Chris Worshek and Julian McPhillips (Their law firm has the best advertising song.)

230. “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” Award - - Jadine Johnson and Jerri Katzerman (SPLC lawyers successfully sued the Mobile School System challenging lengthy suspensions of students for minor infractions – of the Ferris Bueller variety – the goal being to reduce drop-out rates.)

231. “The Color of Money” Award - - Will Sellers (Will, who serves as campaign treasurer for Kay Ivey’s Lt. Gov re-election effort, says its Republican Red.)

232. “Bernard Hopkins” Award - - Fred Gray, Sr. (Fred’s response to the S.Ct’s gutting of the Voting Rights Act was – like Hopkins, the 50 year old Lt. Heavy Weight boxing champion – “we will keep fighting”.)

233. “Charm Offensive” Award - - Terry Brown (In a letter to the editor, Terry said the Frank Leu building proposed for Commerce Street has all the charm of a communist-era apartment block in East Berlin.)

234. “League of Gentle (Wo)men” Award - - Ashley White, Felicia Long, Kelly McTear, Justice Kelli Wise, Wynn Dee Allen, Ashley Penhale, Elizabeth Lyerly, and Carly Wilkins (Ashley White, Felicia, Kelly, Justice Wise and Wynn Dee are leaders of the Junior League this year, and Ashley Penhale, Elizabeth and Carly are provisional members.)

235. “Equal Opportunity (in a bad way)” Award - - Bryan Stevenson (Bryan’s Equal Justice Initiative reported last year that correctional officers were sexually and physically abusing female inmates; this year EJI reported that the abuse extends to male inmates.)

236. “Lone Ranger and Tonto” Award - - Mike Brock and Chad Morriss (Mike is the best lawyer for a national law firm and Chad is his trusted second – and they both still live in Montgomery.)

237. “Showtime” Award - - Michael Kidd and Troy Teague (With shadowing students in the audience, Michael and Troy put on the kind of show that resulted in the acquittal of their separate clients - who had been charged with robbery.)
238. “I Second that Emotion” Award - Judge Joel Dubina and Mark Montiel (At oral argument of Ala. State University’s appeal of a sexual harassment judgment, Judge Dubina so thoroughly ripped the appellant lawyer that Mark essentially seconded the Judge’s position and wisely sat down.)

239. “Dr. McDreamy” Award - Anne Pearson (Anne’s daughter dreamed of going to Medical School, and now she is.)

240. “Forgiveness is Divine” Award - Stephanie Azar (Our Medicaid Comm’r this year urged the Inspector General of Health and Human Services not to seek reimbursement of the $88 million HHS says it overpaid our program in 2009 and 2010.)

241. “Little Miss Sunshine” Award - Shay Farley (This Appleseed lawyer may be looking at the sunny side when she says the payday lenders’ lawsuit challenging the Banking Dept’s new loan database is just a delaying tactic.)

242. “Let the Sun Shine In” Award - Justices Greg Shaw and Tom Parker (By dissenting in the Open Meeting Act case involving the firing of Alabama Public Television executives, they tried in vain to let in the sun.)

243. “Cold Comfort” Award - Jim Sumner (Our Alabama Ethics Commissioner says the public official most likely to use public money for his or her personal benefit is one in his 3rd or later term who begins to feel too comfortable.)

244. “We Didn’t Start the Fire” Award - Mike Beers (Mike’s an expert in defending insurance companies whose insureds claim they didn’t start the intentional fire that destroyed their homes.)

245. “Anger Management” Award - Tim Tyler (Assist DA in charge of prosecuting juveniles says almost all the juvenile killings he’s seen have been brutal eruptions of anger, often triggered by the trivial.)

246. “The Guilt Trip” Award - George Beck and Ellen Brooks (Our US Attorney and District Attorney love their legal journeys to lead to a finding of Guilt.)

247. “Nepotism” Award - Ben Robinson (Ben gets an extra award because his mother, Dot Robinson, works for our Bar and helps with this column.)

248. “Duh!” Award - Marcus Ermine (This federal defender argued logically to the 11th Circuit that it should recuse from considering the habeas petition of the man convicted of murdering 11th Cir Judge Robert Vance and of sending a bomb to the 11th Circuit.)

249. “Johnny Cash Ring of Fire” Award - Bobo Gilpin (Bobo was appointed to the Bd of Alabama State University at a time of some upheaval.)
250. “Masters of Their Universe” Award - - Sim Penton and James Anderson (Circuit Judges appointed them Special Masters this year in complicated civil cases.)

251. “No Spin Zone” Award - - Gerald Jones (General Counsel of Faulkner University – which was visited this year by the number one occupant of the “No Spin Zone”, Bill O’Reilly)

252. “She Got Game” Award - - Martha Roby (Martha has made friends with the leadership of the House, has proven to be an effective legislator, and is a rising star in Congress.)

253. “Spike Lee Do the Right Thing” Award - - Patricia Kemp, Steve Ganter and Steve Cooper (Just because it’s the right thing to do, Patricia teaches interviewing skills at Ala. State Univ. and Jones Law School, while her Federal Defender colleagues, the Steves, give monthly talks to the Re-Entry class at Kilby Prison.)

254. “Home Court Advantage” Award - - Judges Les Hayes, Lloria James, Milton Westry and Darron Hendley (These judges have the advantage of presiding over our home court, i.e., our Municipal Court.)

255. “Dustin Hoffman” Award - - Scott Pierce and Joseph Vanzandt (By finishing in the top 50 – out of 837 – in Montgomery’s Half Marathon, Scott and Joseph together have become our Bar’s “Marathon Man” – Joseph also ran a full marathon this year.)

256. “The Little (or big) Train That Could” Award - - Frank Hawthorne and Randy Myers (For 9 years they persistently pursued a lawsuit involving the purchase of property for the Hyundai plant before this year trying the case to a big jury verdict.)

257. “Who’s On First” Award - - Jennifer Tompkins and Spence Singleton (On an unrelated prior charge, Jennifer reps a former Tallassee assistant police chief now accused of evidence tampering and coercing a confession from a child rapist, so that over 100 counts had to be dismissed, and Spence reps the alleged child rapist against whom 6 new charges have been filled – unclear who represents the former cop on the current charges.)

258. “The Week That Was” Award - - Stacy Reed (She gave an excellent, and successful, oral argument for the City in the 11th Circuit and within 7 days tried a less successful jury trial for the City.)

259. “Jury Nullification” Award - - Dick Lawrence and Scott Johnson (Even though their clients essentially admitted in court having trespassed at a Reproductive Services Clinic, the jury acquitted them on the trespass charge.)

260. “Nicest Lawyer (I Ever Met)” Award - - Wendell Cauley (Tragically passed away in August)

261. “Best All-Around Lawyer (I Ever Met)” Award - - Oakley Melton (Passed away this year)
262. “Best Personality For a Lawyer (I Ever Met)” Award - - Red Bell (Passed away late Dec. 2012)

263. “Elvis Has Left the Building” Award - - Don Jones (Don had great times before he left this Earth.)

264. “Gee We’re Going to Miss You” Award * - - Red Bell, Wendell Cauley, Phillip Chancey, Isaac Cohen, Tom Debray, Cecily Huffaker, Don Jones, Oakley Melton, Sam Partridge, Ted Rinehart, Mary Roemer, Lucian Smith, Mary Lee Stapp, Leon Tasheiko, Tommy Thagard, Maulsby Waller, Stanley Weissman, and Darrell Westmoreland.

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*The title of this award comes from a song memorializing Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper written shortly after their deaths in a plane crash in 1959. The song is about their transformation into three new stars in the sky. The principal lyric in the song is “Gee we’re going to miss you. Everybody sends their love.”