Looking back at 2013 by David Martin, President

As we all look forward to what 2014 has in store, I wanted to take a moment to thank each of you and take a brief look back at 2013.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you this past year as President of the MCBA. The good news for all of us is that we have an excellent staff in Suzanne Duffey and Dot Robinson, who each made sure I did not mess things up too badly.

Looking back, the main point of emphasis in 2013 was getting the Montgomery County Bar Foundation off to a solid start. By the first of the year, the Foundation Board selected Tim Gallagher as Chairman and by Spring, an Executive Director was hired. With the hiring of Mike Martin, the work of the Bar Foundation began to accelerate. Mike has worked tirelessly spreading the word about our volunteer lawyer program, recruiting more lawyer volunteers and accessing additional funding sources. By the Fall, the Foundation was in need of and was able to hire a full-time intake specialist. The result has been increased participation in our monthly pro bono clinics as well as growth in the number of clients served. It is exciting to see how far the Foundation has come this year.

Of course, the progress that has been achieved would not have been possible without the collective support of our MCBA. Each of you financially supported the work of the Foundation through an increase in your membership dues. Many of you provided further financial assistance by sponsoring, attending or purchasing items at this year’s Charity Event which benefitted the Foundation. You have also answered the call to serve, volunteering of your time and talents to accept the assignment of a case from the Foundation.

If you are still looking for a good New Year’s Resolution, let me suggest signing up to serve in our volunteer lawyer program. If you will flip over a few pages, you will find a form for volunteering. You can also contact Mike Martin directly at 265-0222 and let him know you are willing to use your talents to help someone who is less fortunate in our community.

As the curtain comes down on 2013, I again say thanks to each of you and urge you to continue your support of and participation in the activities of our MCBA. I also want to congratulate Ben Schoettker as he begins his year as President.

David
As I write this, we at your MVLP are preparing for the holidays. Always a good time of year. People are generally in a festive mood, thinking about gifts they’re going to give and receive, and making resolutions about the wonderful changes they plan to make in their lives. Unfortunately, there are many among us who are not going to have a festive holiday nor are they going to have much to look forward to in the new year. They are the reason we are here, and I encourage you to include among your resolutions an enrollment in our Volunteer Lawyers Program and help those in need in 2014. Elsewhere here in The Docket you’ll find an enrollment form. If you are not currently enrolled, not sure if you’re enrolled, or just want to make certain we have you on our roster, please take the time to complete the form and either mail it to us or email it to me at mikem36111@yahoo.com.

We have exciting plans for 2014, including the development of a district court help desk, the introduction of several family law-specific clinics, and continued progress toward becoming the sole program offering pro bono legal service to low-income Montgomery County residents. In order for us to achieve these goals, however, we need your support and involvement. If you are not enrolled, please consider doing so. If you have a couple of hours in the afternoon on the first Tuesday of the month, please consider calling the office and volunteering to help staff our monthly clinic. And, when you receive a call from our office about the possible referral of a case, please say yes.

Alabama State Bar members will soon be receiving your Client Security Fund assessments. This year it will include an opportunity to help support the Volunteer Lawyers Program. The Alabama State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners has authorized a $50 voluntary contribution to the Alabama Law Foundation. Your tax-deductible contribution will help the Foundation meet the ever increasing need for legal aid and Kids’ Chance scholarships during a time of decreased revenues from IOLTA. Overall grant funds available were down 20% when the foundation board awarded 2014 grants in December. Funds received will be distributed to the foundation’s grantees including the state’s five Volunteer Lawyers Programs and Legal Services Alabama in the spring. Hopefully they will make up the difference in 2013 and 2014 grants. A portion of the funds will be awarded to Kids’ Chance Scholarship winners for the 2014-15 school year. Please encourage your firm (or yourself) to make the $50 contribution to the ALF. Your support is graciously appreciated.

As we begin the new year, we want to thank you for your continuing involvement with the MVLP. Without you, many fellow Montgomery County citizens will face legal obstacles alone. Your willingness to render pro bono legal service will make a difference in many lives. Join with us and together we will make our community a better place.
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION
VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM
ENROLLMENT FORM

NAME __________________________________________________________________________

YEAR ADMITTED TO BAR __________________________________________________________________________

FIRM/EMPLOYER __________________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS (Street, P. O. Box, City, State, ZIP) __________________________________________________________________________

TELEPHONE (Office/Cell) __________________________________________________________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS __________________________________________________________________________

SIGNATURE __________________________________________________________________________

DATE __________________________________________________________________________

I will accept two (2) civil cases through the VLP in the area(s) of law indicated below:

BANKRUPTCY
   ___ Chapter 7
   ___ Chapter 13

REAL PROPERTY
   ___ Deed
   ___ Mortgage foreclosures
   ___ Ejectment/Evictions

CONSUMER
   ___ Credit problems
   ___ Contract & Warranty issues
   ___ Tort Defense

HOUSING - LANDLORD/TENANT

FAMILY LAW
   ___ Divorce Uncontested
   ___ Divorce Contested
   ___ Divorce Involving Spousal Abuse
   ___ Uncontested Custody/Visitation
   ___ Contested Custody
   ___ Contested Visitation
   ___ Child Support Modification

GUARDIANSHIPS, CONSERVATORSHIPS

NON-PROFIT ASSISTANCE
   ___ Applying/Maintaining 501(c)(3) status
   ___ Contract Assistance
   ___ Real Estate Matters

ADOPTION/LEGITIMATIONS

I am fluent in and willing to assist clients who speak the following languages:

__________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your willingness to serve and for your interest in the
Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program

MONTGOMERY VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM
251 S. Lawrence St., Montgomery, AL 36104   P. O. Box 644, Montgomery, AL 36101
Telephone (334) 265-0222
Candidates for MCBA Board of Directors

Larry Golston

Larry Golston is a shareholder and trial attorney in Beasley Allen’s Fraud section where he has devoted his career to seeking justice on behalf of those who have been negligently or intentionally harmed by others. His clients include individuals and small businesses.

A native of Birmingham, Larry graduated from the University of Alabama in 1995 obtaining a bachelor of arts degree in Criminal Justice. He received the Trial Advocacy and Law School Foundation Scholarship, and graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in Alabama, Florida, and the District of Columbia.

Larry’s career has included clerking for Hon. James P. Smith in Madison County, AL, and Hon. Sue Bell Cobb, Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals. Larry joined Beasley Allen in 2000 and worked in the Business Litigation and the Environmental & Toxic Torts sections prior to working in the Fraud section.

Larry serves on the Board of Directors for the Montgomery YMCA Bell Road Branch and regularly serves as a volunteer coach for youth football and basketball with the YMCA. When not engaged in the practice of law, he speaks to students about the law and the importance of getting a good education. He is married to Danielle, and they have two children. Their family attends Northview Christian Church-Safe Harbor.

Frank Snowden

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

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

Ashley Penhale practices with Copeland, Franco, Screws and Gill, PA. Ashley is a graduate of Troy University and Thomas Goode Jones School of Law. Ashley’s practice includes primarily civil litigation at both the trial and appellate level and covers a variety of areas of law. Ashley is a member of the American Bar Association, Alabama State Bar and the MCBA, where she regularly volunteers her time by attending the MCBA monthly pro bono counsel and advice clinic. Ashley was named a finalist for the 2013 MCBA Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year. She is also actively involved with the Women’s Section of the MCBA as well as the Hugh Maddox Chapter of the American Inns of Court. In the community, Ashley serves as a member of the Junior Executive Board of the American Cancer Society and is a member of the Junior League of Montgomery. Ashley has enjoyed working with the leadership of the MCBA and looks forward to further serving the MCBA membership.

Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

Royal Dumas

Royal Dumas practices law with Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole, and Black, PC. Royal works with commercial and business litigation on behalf of plaintiffs and defendants (including class actions and derivative suits); general products liability; extra-contractual insurance and securities fraud litigation; and appellate work. He is licensed to practice before all state and federal courts in Alabama, and he is licensed in Mississippi. Royal has been a member of the State Bar’s Pro Bono Task Force for 2009-2010. He is also the chair of the Montgomery County Bar Association’s Pro Bono Committee and the recipient of the 2010 Montgomery County Bar Volunteer Lawyer of the Year Award. He is a 1999 graduate of Hartt School of Music, West Hartford, CT; Southern Methodist University in 2002, and the University of Alabama School of Law in 2007. Royal is a member of the American Bar Association, Alabama State Bar, and Alabama Defense Lawyers Association. He is married and has two children.

Note: Voting for candidates may be done in the MCBA office January 27-29, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m or at the Annual Meeting site on January 30, 11:30-12:15.
2013 MCBA HOLIDAY GALA

Pictured top left: JR and Monet Gaines

Pictured center left: Bill and Louise Blanchard and MCBA Executive Director, Suzanne Duffey with husband, Jeffrey Duffey.

Pictured lower left: Attorneys Connie Murray and Karen Laneaux (center) with their husbands.

Picture above: Outgoing 2013 MCBA President, David Martin and his wife, Angie.
December 12, 2013 was a memorable evening for those who attended the MCBA Holiday Gala at Wynlakes Country Club. With a very strong attendance of over 200, there were plenty of chances for catching up with old friends and making new ones. The musical entertainment was provided by The Goat Hill String Band which included Jones School of Law professor, John Garman, and special return performance by Elmore County Deputy District Attorney Mandy Johnson, and District Judge Adrian Johnson. Sgt. Mike Predrosa was present to accept the 200+ gifts for the Marine Corps’ Toys for Tots Collection.

Pictured above: Incoming 2014 MCBA President Ben Schoettker and his wife Kimberly.

Pictured right top: The Goat Hill String Band, with vocals by Mandy Johnson and guitar by Judge Adrian Johnson.

Pictured right center: Tim Tyler and Karen Jackson with Marine Sgt. Pedrosa.

Pictured Bottom right: The generosity of MCBA members for Toys for Tots accepted by Sgt. Pedrosa, USMC.
Left: Attorney sisters, Llorria Munnerlyn James and Samarria Munnerlyn Dunson at the Holiday Gala

Pictured above: John and Barbara Davis. Barbara is the artist who drew the Price-Phelps Courthouse limited edition prints for MCBA.

Pictured left center: John Camp and Paula Reynolds

Pictured left: Montgomery Bar Foundation Executive Director, Mike Martin and his wife, Shonie.

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334-265-4793
Suzanne B. Duffey
Executive Director

2013 MCBA Officers
David Martin, President
Ben Schoettker, Vice-President
Cowin Knowles, Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Winter, Past President
Roianne H. Conner, Women’s Section President
Allen Sheehan, Young Lawyers Section President

2013 Board of Directors
Royal Dumas
James Eubank
Larry Golston
Meggan Huggins
Rhon Jones
Felicia Long
Tamika Miller
Karen Phillips
Frank Snowden

Dot Robinson
Editor, The Docket
The Montgomery County Bar Association

2014 Annual Meeting
Thursday, January 30th

11:30-12:15 voting  11:45-1:00 lunch/meeting

Cost $20 per person for lunch/Reservations required

RSA Alabama Activity Center
205 Dexter Avenue

*Voting for Board of Directors And Secretary-Treasurer
*Induction of 2014 MCBA President, Ben Schoettker
*Voting on Amendments to By-laws
*Recognition of 50-year members
*Remembrance of Deceased Attorneys

Proposed amendments to the MCBA By-laws may be viewed
on our website, www.mcbar.org.

Members of the MCBA Women’s Section enjoyed the Wine and Shine event at Harold’s Fine Jewelry in December.
A New Year Calls for New Resolutions

By Laura Eubank, WLS Vice President

2013 was an amazing first year for the Women’s Section! We owe so much to our fearless leader, Roianne Conner, who served as our President for 2013, and who was elected to serve for one more year as this organization gets its feet off the ground. We appreciate all of her efforts in 2013 and are ecstatic to have her help us forge ahead into 2014. Now, with our first year behind us, we are officially looking ahead to the New Year full of fresh ideas and goals for the MCBA Women’s Section. We start by welcoming our newest Board member, Brittany Bucak, who will be filling the last vacancy on our Board for 2014. We are all excited for Brittany to join our group and help us to grow as an organization!

One of our main New Year’s resolutions for 2014 is to develop our mentoring program amongst our members. Our membership continues to grow each month, and we want to encourage all of our members to sign up for this program. While we have several of our newer lady lawyers that have expressed an interest in having a mentor, we still need some of our more experienced members to volunteer their time and wisdom to help guide our mentees. As all of us know, there are so many things that they just do not teach in law school that you do not want to make the mistake of learning the hard way. Please help us to provide the support these ladies need as they start their careers here in Montgomery and the surrounding counties. Contact any of our Board members—Roianne Conner, Laura Eubank, Connie Murray, Kelly McTear, LaShandra Warren, Ashley Penhale, and Brittney Bucak—to get involved with this program!

Another Women’s Section resolution for 2014 is to get more involved with the community. We are working out the details of hopefully partnering with a new local program that will help provide work attire to women from lower income areas around the county and help them to prepare before they are sent out on job interviews. More information will be provided on how our members can get involved as the details are worked out. This is a wonderful cause, and we truly hope that all of the MCBA will get involved to help support this organization.

Finally, our last resolution is to continue to provide networking and social events to our membership. We had a magnificent time at our December Wine and Shine event hosted by Harold’s Fine Jewelry on Zelda Road, and sponsored by Freedom Court Reporting. (See photo on p. 9) We welcomed new members and enjoyed fellowship time together with current members while browsing beautiful jewelry, art, crystal and silver pieces. Members were able to shop for Christmas gifts and make wish lists for themselves! The Women’s Section sincerely appreciates the support of both Harold’s Fine Jewelry and Freedom Court Reporting. Keep a watchful eye on your email as we are planning some exciting events for this Spring and Summer. We have some great ideas and are hopeful to plan a spa day with discounts and refreshments for our members, coffee with the judges, a movie night at the Capri, a lunch CLE, a St. Patrick’s Day event, as well as another fun filled family BBQ! It’s going to be a great year, and if you haven’t joined already, you are missing out! Pick up a membership form at the MCBA office or contact any of our Board members to get involved today. Dues for current members ($30) are due now to the MCBA office. We hope to see you all at our next event!

Note: Make checks for Women’s Section dues separately from MCBA dues; make them to MCBA Women’s Section.
View the proposed amendments to the MCBA By-laws by going to www.mcbar.org. These will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Member News

2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE BY JANUARY 31. CALL 265-4793 IF YOU DID NOT GET AN INVOICE BY MAIL.

Welcome to our new members:

- **Carroll, Mary Margaret** – Fine Geddie & Associates
- **Feaga, Steve** – AL Securities Commission
- **Ford, Sam** – Montgomery County D.A. Office
- **Hammett, Pamela** – Jones School of Law student
- **Hampton, Leon** – Jones School of Law student
- **Holtsford, Alex III** – Holtsford Gilliland
- **Love, J.C., III** – Rushton Stakely
- **Odom, Andrew** – Jones School of Law student
- **Proctor, Shana** – AL Securities Commission
- **Ward, Matthew** – Jones School of Law student

Welcome back to MCBA, **Doug Howard**. He is now with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Montgomery.

**Joe L. Hubbard, Charles James, and Gerald Brooks** have formed a new firm, **Brooks, Hubbard & James**. Mr. Brooks practices in the Birmingham office.

**Capell & Howard** is pleased to announce the admission of three new shareholders: **David B. Hughes, Patricia R. Osuch, and April D. Wise**. David Hughes has joined the firm after practicing law in Montgomery for more than 15 years, focusing primarily on commercial and residential real estate, as well as bankruptcy and foreclosure issues. April and Trisha both began their careers as associates with the firm in 2008. Trisha practices in the areas of unemployment law and general civil litigation, while April focuses on estate and tax planning and trust administration.

**Capell & Howard** has been recognized as a “Best Law Firm” by U.S. News and Best Lawyers for the fourth consecutive year. “Best Firms” are recognized for professional excellence with persistently impressive ratings from clients and peers.

January CLE Opportunity

You may know 50 ways to lose your lover, but do you know

**TEN WAYS TO LOSE AN APPEAL?**

Come hear John Davis, January 16th, 11:00-12:00 in the Jury Assembly Room

*This has been approved for 1 hr. credit by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission of Alabama.*