The year 2013 was an outstanding year for the Montgomery County Bar. The leadership our president, David Martin, provided was second to none. Under David’s leadership we accomplished much. We expanded the Montgomery County Bar Foundation (MCBF) to new heights by providing free legal services to nearly 200 men and women of Montgomery. Tim Gallagher honorably served as the MCBF president and guided our way. Others that served with distinction on the MCBF were: Tom Methvin, Ted Hosp, Mike Winter, Karen Laneaux, Laurel Crawford, Allen Sheehan, Kelly McTear and our Executive Director Mike Martin. In 2013 we were fortunate to hire Barbara Ann Symington as an assistant to Mike Martin.

We are privileged to have a group of exceptional individuals to serve as officers and board members at MCBA. I would be remiss if I did not mention Felicia Long’s effort again this year in organizing an outstanding fundraiser. The roast of Bobby Segall was a wonderful night of entertainment and raised $24,000.00 dollars for the MCBF. These funds will help ensure a strong financial future for the MCBF.

Frank Snowden was instrumental in planning our bench and bar conference, by moving our golf tournament last year to Arrowhead Country Club. We had one of the most memorable events in some time. Cowin Knowles did a fabulous job in planning events to drive membership, including a day of baseball at the Biscuits stadium, socials, and CLEs. Roianne Conner and Allen Sheehan both served fabulously as president of the Women’s section and the young lawyers section, respectively.

You, the members of MCBA, are the ones that make this organization a success. With your participation in our annual charity event, we raised money needed for a worthy organization such as the MCBF. Due to your involvement in the social events provided by MCBA, Montgomery County is a more cordial place to practice law. Your membership in the MCBA has allowed us to provide free CLE’s to the lawyers of Montgomery County. Our members are certainly our greatest asset.

In 2014, I am honored to follow in the footsteps of many great past MCBA presidents. I am also excited to serve a membership that participates in all that our organization has to provide. I want to encourage you to help me grow your organization in 2014. Our numbers are strong; however, there are many lawyers that have not joined. Renewing recruitment efforts will permit the MCBA to contribute even more in the community and to increase the services provided to our members. The MCBA is your organization and I am trusting that together we will grow and strengthen what others have established in 2014, making the MCBA even better.

Ben (bes@barfootschoettker.com)
VLP CORNER

Mike Martin, Executive Director
Montgomery Bar Foundation

Since the article for the January Docket was written before Christmas, I’m considering this the first true article of the new year. Thus, I think it the appropriate time to recognize those attorneys who gave of their time during 2013 and, in many cases, continuing into 2014, to render legal assistance to the less fortunate citizens of Montgomery County. Below is a list of all those who accepted case referrals from the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program since we began in June 2013. In several instances, some of these attorneys have accepted multiple referrals in the last six months. I have previously (each month) recognized those lawyers who have volunteered at our monthly counsel and advice clinics, and many of them also appear here.

We salute these individuals for their willingness to take on pro bono representation of our clients. Without them, these clients would be forced to enter court or otherwise face their legal adversaries alone, at an extreme disadvantage, and with little or no personal knowledge of how to proceed. As you see those on the list below, take the time to thank them for their service to our profession and our community. And if you haven’t already enrolled in the VLP, please give us a call (265-0222) and we’ll be happy to email you an enrollment form. All we ask is that you consider taking up to two (2) civil cases per year in subject area(s) you choose. It may be drafting a simple will, providing advice to a pro se client, drafting the paperwork for an uncontested divorce, or preparing a letter for a client in a landlord/tenant or contract dispute. It’s as simple as that, yet can have a dramatic impact on a client’s life.

It was a cold and dreary day on January 7, as temperatures dropped to record or near record levels during that week, forcing the closure of many area schools and agencies. Such nasty conditions did not deter your fellow attorneys, however, who braved the weather to volunteer for our monthly legal clinic. Equally impressive were those clients who came in search of counsel. They were greeted and assisted by our volunteers, LaKesha Shahid, Clinton Richardson, Kelly McTear, Brett Hargett, and Robert Stroud. A big thank-you is in order for these men and women. You are welcome to join us as well: Every first Tuesday of every month, from 3:00-5:30 p.m. Call the office and volunteer. We can use the help!

Mike
Save the date!

May 2, 2014

Don’t miss it!

The MCBA Annual Bench & Bar Conference and Golf Tournament

8:00-11:30 Breakfast Buffet and Conference at 129 Coosa St.

Local, state, and federal judges speaking

1:00-5:00 Golf Tournament at Arrowhead Country Club

Get your four-man team together now!

Watch for details in emails and future Dockets.
YLS Corner—Who says lawyers are not fun?  
By Allen Sheehan, YLS Pres.

As each new year dawns, any group that wants to stay relevant has to adapt with the times and evolve. With that in mind, the Montgomery County YLS recently started a “Facebook™ page.” If you are unfamiliar with Facebook™, then ask your kids, because it is all the rage amongst teens and ‘tweens. It’s as hot as Justin Bieber right now! I know it sounds crazy, but according to The Wall Street Journal (December 17, 2007, evening edition), “social media is the wave of the future.” Since we are the Young Lawyers, we are up on the times and ready for anything that 2008 has to throw at us! Please log on to your Facebook™ Homepage and then follow, friend, Tebow, like, Instagram, poke, Farmville, status update, whatever us. We are ready for it! Next step? Who knows! The Board might all get Blackberries to stay in touch or try out one of those newfangled telephone facsimile machines.

The YLS kicked off 2014 with a brisk winter social at The Pinebar on January 23rd. The attendance at the event was great, but I refuse to admit or deny that the crowd you see in the pictures was not bolstered by a “birthday party” which happened to be taking place at the same bar, at the same time... Coincidence? Highly unlikely. Ever since the YLS started its “Facebook™ page” (see above), everyone has been trying to crash our events. Follow us on Facebook to make sure you crash the next one.

Allen

Pictured right: Jim Beck, Allen Sheehan, and Barbi McCormick at the January social.

Pictured left, Royal Dumas and James Eubank at The Pinebar.
Women’s Section Community Oriented

By Roianne Conner, President WLS

First, I want to thank Laura Eubank, WLS Vice-President, for authoring the Women’s Section article for the January, 2014 Docket, while I was out of the country. I also want to welcome Brittany Bucak to the Board of Directors.

As Laura pointed out in her article, the Board has set forth three areas where we are concentrating our efforts during the 2014 year: mentoring; community service; as well as the continuing effort for networking opportunities by attending the social and educational events for our membership.

The successful practice of law is predicated upon the quality of relationships that the practitioner has with other attorneys, judges, and clients. The mentoring program that we are continuing pairs a more experienced attorney with a new, not necessarily younger, attorney. The mentor would guide her protégé, not only by being a sounding board for her regarding legal procedures, pleadings and the like, but also by introducing her to others within our profession who would be of assistance and guidance. As in any organization, it is the responsibility for the more experienced ones to pave the way for the newer members. I encourage our more established members to please consider becoming a mentor by contacting any member of the Board of Directors.

This year, the WLS is also going to be more involved in the community by assisting women within the lower income bracket with appropriate clothing for job interviews as well as helping them prepare for job interviews. As we understand, this is a need within our community that is not being fully met, and we look forward to assisting with this community need.

In keeping with the commitment to provide our members with networking opportunities, our next event will be our St. Patrick’s Day event at the Irish Bred Pub. Last year this event was very well attended and was successful. I encourage all of our female bar members to attend. We also have been asked to attend the 20th anniversary celebration of the Birmingham Bar Association Women’s Section. We are looking forward to the “road trip” and will keep our membership informed as to the date, time and location. This is a great opportunity to network with not only other female attorneys from the Birmingham area but I understand that the other Women’s Sections from across Alabama have been invited to share in this celebration.

Finally, if you have not renewed your membership for the 2014 year or would like to become a member, please send your dues for the WLS ($30) to The Law Offices of Roianne H. Conner, P.O. Box 240458, Montgomery, AL 36124, and make them payable to MCBA Women’s Section. Membership forms are available online at www.mcbar.org.

Until next time,
Roianne

WLS Officers: Pres. Roianne Conner; Vice-Pres. Laura Eubank, Sec/Treas.
Connie Murray

Board of Directors: Brittany Bucak, Kelly McTear, Ashley Penhale, LaShandra Warren
Member News

NEW MEMBERS: We are pleased to welcome these new members to the MCBA.

Tia Nicole Alexander—Barfoot & Schoettker
H. Chandler Combest—Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP
William Keith Maddox—AL Dept. of Revenue
Mary Martin Majors—AL Dept. of Revenue
Miland Frederick Simpler—Ball, Ball, Matthews, & Novak, P.A.
Stuart Memory—Student member (Memory & Day)

Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole & Black is pleased to announce the admission of Royal C. Dumas as a shareholder. Royal moved to the firm six years ago, and his practice focuses primarily on commercial litigation and first party insurance defense, as well as aviation and gaming law.

Susan Tudor Crowther wrote an article, “Seeking Counsel: The Trouble with Texting Teachers”, that is published in the February 2014 American School Journal. Susan is an associate general counsel and assistant attorney general in the Alabama Department of Education and is a member of the National School Board Association’s Council of School Attorneys.

Terrina S. Moon was admitted to the Supreme Court Bar on December 2, 2013. Tina said she had the pleasure of listening to oral arguments for a case in which the State of Alabama had filed an amicus brief.

Sasser, Sefton, Brown, Tipton, & Davis, P.C. proudly announces that Timothy J. Gallagher has been named a shareholder of the firm effective January 1, 2014. Tim joined the firm in 2007 after graduating from the University of Alabama School of Law. He is a member of the Litigation, Creditor Rights and Bankruptcy, and Financial Services practice groups in the firm.

CLE OPPORTUNITIES
FREE FOR MCBA MEMBERS—$50 per hour for non-members

Feb. 6 11:00-12:00 Take Charge: Fighting Back Against Identity Theft Micah S. Adkins 1.0
Mar. 27 11:00-12:00 Ethics Tripp Vickers 1.0
Apr. 17 11:00-12:00 Discrimination in the Workplace Emily Marks 1.0

Please pre-register by email to dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or call 265-4793 prior to the CLE date.

All of the above programs have been approved for credit by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission of Alabama. Watch for details for a 7 hr. CLE at Auburn Montgomery Sept. 10th.

We welcome your ideas for CLE programs. Please call or email our office if you have suggestions.