The Spirit of Law Day by Ben Schoettker, President

Last month one of our members, Robert C. Ward, Jr., passed away. On behalf of all the members I would like to express our deepest sympathies to Robert’s family and those who worked with him at Rushton, Stakely, Johnston & Garrett, P.A. Robert will be missed by all that knew and loved him. Clifford Cleveland also passed away last month unexpectedly. Our condolences go out to Chip Cleveland and the rest of the family at this time.

In May we take time out to celebrate Law Day and hopefully find a way to give back to our community through service in the legal field. Some of you may not be familiar with the Montgomery County Bar Foundation Volunteer Lawyer Program (MCBF VLP) and its formation. The MCBF VLP was formed in 2013 to allow the Alabama State Bar the opportunity to allocate more of its resources to other smaller counties that cannot support an independent volunteer lawyers program, and also to allow the Montgomery VLP to provide exclusive attention to the civil legal needs of the low income residents of Montgomery County. The Montgomery VLP has taken over full responsibility as of April 2014 for the provision of pro bono legal services in Montgomery County, including taking over all phone intake responsibilities, and independently running the monthly pro bono civil legal clinics.

In 2013 the Montgomery VLP handled 172 legal clients and anticipates handling over 300 clients in 2014. The types of cases handled by the Montgomery VLP include: Collections, Uncontested Divorce, Landlord/Tenant, Contract disputes, Bankruptcy (Chapter 7), Adoption, Power of Attorney and others. I want to encourage you this month to consider becoming more involved with the Montgomery VLP by volunteering to serve at a monthly clinic, taking on your first pro bono client, or by directing indigent clients to call the Montgomery VLP if you or your firm are unable to provide the legal representation they need. Please call Mike Martin (265-0222) if you have any questions about the program and how you can help.

This month we will continue to offer more CLE opportunities. On May 15th Micah S. Adkins will present “Take Charge: Fighting Back Against Identity Theft”. Please contact Dot Robinson at 265-4793 or dotrobinson@mc-ala.org to pre-register.

Ben
Women’s Section Involved in Community

By Roianne H. Conner, President, WLS

The Women’s Section is busy preparing for the many activities that are scheduled for the end of April and the month of May, 2014. The Women’s Section is working to fulfill the Alabama State Bar motto of “lawyers render service” by participating in the Joy to Life Foundation’s Walk of Life on April 26th. We will soon conclude our clothing drive to assist the applicants with the upcoming Job Fair. The spring quarter meeting of the Board of Directors will be on May 12th. We will participate with MALS (Montgomery Association of Legal Secretaries) to host the Coffee with the Judges on May 13th in the Jury Assembly Room on the third floor of the Montgomery County Courthouse, Phelps-Price Justice Center.

Currently, the Women’s Section Team for the Joy to Life Foundation’s Walk of Life consists of nineteen members including some male members of the Montgomery County Bar Association. Our team Captain, Kelly McTear, enrolled our team on the Joy to Life website, and currently we have $760.00 of our goal of $1,000.00. We are listed as the MCBA Women’s Section; I encourage each one of you to assist us in this worthy cause by making a donation. All of the funds raised provide free mammograms for underserved women in our area. Please join us by submitting your donations to the Joy to Life website walkoflife@joytolife.org.

We will conclude the clothing drive on April 30th which will assist the participants of the Job Fair in acquiring appropriate clothing for job interviews. The response so far has been quite generous. The Job Fair Orientation is scheduled for May 15th at the Freewill Missionary Baptist Church from 9am to 1:30 PM with the actual Job Fair being held on May 16th at the Armory located on Madison Avenue from 9am to 1pm. There are speakers scheduled at the Orientation to address the participants on the topics of health, budgeting, interviewing tips, and job retention. There are thirty-five local employers scheduled to attend the Job Fair in search of potential employees. This effort is being spearheaded by LaShandra Warren, a member of the board and also Judicial Assistant to Presiding Judge Charles Price. If you know of someone who would like to participate in the Job Fair as a participant or as a potential employer please contact LaShandra at lashandra.warren@alacourt.gov.

The Coffee with Judges will be held on May 13th. Last year this event had a record turnout, and we anticipate that the attendance for this year will be even better. This is an opportunity for the members of the Montgomery County Bar Association to network with our Judges in an informal setting and to also meet some of the newest members of our organization. I encourage you to put this event on your calendars.

Again, if you have not joined our organization or not renewed your membership for this year, I encourage you to do so to avail yourself of the networking opportunities that are presented and to become involved in rendering service in your community.

Until next time,

ROIANNE
Montgomery County Bar Association

Annual Bench and Bar Conference

Friday, May 2nd

@ 129 Coosa Street

7:30-11:30 a.m.

7:30-8:30  Breakfast Buffet

8:30-11:30  Conference

Speakers:
Federal Court: Hon. Keith Watkins, Chief District Judge, Middle District of AL; Hon. William R. Sawyer, Chief Bankruptcy Judge; Hon. Terry Moorer, Federal Magistrate Judge
State Appellate Courts: Justice Greg Shaw, AL Supreme Court; Presiding Judge William C. Thompson, AL Court of Civil Appeals; Judge Scott Donaldson, AL Court of Civil Appeals; Hon. Julia Weller, Clerk of the Supreme Court of AL
Montgomery Circuit Court Domestic Judges: Hon. Anita L. Kelly, Circuit Judge; Hon. Calvin L. Williams, Circuit Judge; Hon. Robert Bailey, Circuit Judge; Montgomery County Probate Judge Steven Reed.

Cost per person: $75.00  3 hrs. CLE credit
REGISTRATION FORM

Name_________________
Firm_________________
Address_________________
City_________________
Email_________________

Breakfast & Conference:
$75_________

MCBA Golf Scramble & Social:
$75_________

TEAM PLAYERS
1._______________
2._______________
3._______________
4._______________

Make checks payable
To MCBA. Mail check and registration form to: MCBA
P.O. BOX 72
Montgomery, AL
36101

2014 MCBA Bench & Bar Conference

Annual Bench and Bar Conference
May 2, 2014

Come Have Breakfast and Meet with the Judges

7:30-8:30 Breakfast Buffet, 129 Coosa Street
8:30-11:30 Conference 3 Hours of CLE Credit

SPEAKERS


State Appellate Courts: Justice Greg Shaw, AL Supreme Court; Presiding Judge William C. Thompson, AL Court of Civil Appeals; Hon. Julia Weller, Clerk of the Supreme Court of AL.

Local Judges: Hon. Anita L. Kelly, Circuit Judge; Hon. Calvin Williams, Circuit Judge; Hon. Robert Bailey, Circuit Judge; Stephen L. Reed, Judge of Probate, Montgomery County
Thank you, 2014
Bench & Bar Sponsors!

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ROGER COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY NO ONE WOULD BE HIS PARTNER MORE THAN ONCE.
The VLP Corner by Mike Martin, Executive Director, MVLP

Your Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program (MVLP) is growing every day, and we invite you to be a part of the excitement! So far this year we have opened over 100 cases, representing low income, Montgomery-area clients in matters involving family law, adoption, collection issues and probate, among others. With your participation, we can help even more. Call the MVLP today to enroll as a volunteer and experience the satisfaction that comes from rendering pro bono service to those in need.

If you are presented with clients who have a civil issue that doesn’t quite fit your practice area, and you believe they might qualify for our program, please consider recommending they call the MVLP at 265-0222, ext. 2. Our intake specialist, Barbara Ann Symington, will interview them to determine if their needs fit our services and, if qualified, will attempt to place them with one of our volunteers.

A large percentage of the clients we serve are looking for legal assistance with an uncontested divorce. If you’d like to help but aren’t certain your domestic skills are up to the task, or you just need a refresher course, we have scheduled a CLE program just for you: “Foundations of Pro Bono Practice: Family Law.” On May 16, from 7:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, at the Jones School of Law, Room 114, an outstanding panel of presenters will offer a maximum of 3.5 hours of MCLE credit, including one hour of ethics. Breakfast and lunch will be served, for the low cost of $25. As a bonus, the fee will be waived for law students, April 2014 ASB admittees, and practicing attorneys who accept a family law case referral from the MVLP. Such a deal! For more information, contact Kelly McTear at kmctear@faulkner.edu, and see the ad elsewhere in this issue of The Docket.

We want to express our appreciation for those MVLP volunteers who assist us every month at our Counsel and Advice Clinic, held the first Tuesday of every month in the offices of the Montgomery Community Action Agency at 1100 Adams Avenue. For April, our clients were seen by Royal Dumas (Hill Hill Carter Franco Cole & Black), Joe Seawell Moore (Balch & Bingham), Joel Caldwell (Copeland Franco Screws & Gill), Karen Laneaux (Law Office of Sandra Lewis), and Maceo Kirkland (Legal Services Alabama). If you can give a couple of hours, please call our office and let us know what month you’d like to volunteer.

See page 7 for lists of attorneys who have accepted and closed pro bono cases through the VLP this year. We want to give a heartfelt thank you to these volunteer lawyers.

Mike

MCBA NIGHT AT THE BISCUITS, THURSDAY, JUNE 5th

Once again, the Biscuits will host the MCBA on Thursday, June 5, 2014. Order your tickets now by going to the Biscuits link on the blast emails sent out by the MCBA office and on the MCBAR.ORG website. Just “click and go.” It is very easy to order your tickets, and you can have them mailed to your home or pick them up at the “will call” window. It is a “Thirsty Thursday” so beer specials are available. Make plans now to attend the game. Again, click on the Biscuits link in the email and order your tickets.
The Following Attorneys Have Accepted Cases for MVLP in 2014

Ashley Penhale Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, P.A.
David Martin (2) Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, P.A.
Joel Caldwell Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, P.A.
Tamika Miller Reif Miller, LLC
Virgil Ford (3) Law Office of Virgil Cornelius Ford
Karen Laneaux (2) The Law Office of Sandra Lewis, P.C. and Karen Mastin Laneaux
Paul Carver Bartley, Jr. The Law Office of Paul C. Bartley
John Craft (4) Faulkner University - Jones School of Law
William Messer Varley & Messer LLP
Melissa Lee Isaak Law Office of Melissa L. Isaak
Kelly McTear (3) Faulkner University - Jones School of Law
Robert Beno Law Office of Robert M. Beno
Preston Presley Law Offices of Roianne Houlton Conner, PC
Priscilla Black Duncan Law Office of Priscilla Duncan
Paul Roy Cooper Cooper & Cooper
Vania Hosea Shahid & Hosea, LLC
Mike Winter (2) Winter Legal Strategies, LLC
Riley W Roby (2) Balch & Bingham, LLP
Peck Fox Maynard Cooper & Gale, PC
William Clay Teague William Clay Teague, Attorney at Law

The Following Attorneys Have Closed MVLP Cases in 2014

Ashley Penhale (2) Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, P.A.
David Martin Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, P.A.
Joel Caldwell Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, P.A.
Tamika Miller Reif Miller, LLC
John Craft (4) Faulkner University - Jones School of Law
Kelly McTear (3) Faulkner University - Jones School of Law
Garrett Jackson Saucer Law Office of Garrett Saucer
Mike Winter Winter Legal Strategies, LLC
Guy Holton (2) The Law Office of Guy Holton
Mickey J.G. McDermott The Law Office of Mickey J.G. McDermott
Stephen McKay NeSmith (2) Riggs & NeSmith
Jeffery C. Duffey Law Office of Jeffery Duffey
Effie Moore Law Office of Jeffery Duffey
Kendall Cornelius Dunson Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles, PC
LaConya 'Connie' Danyell Murray The Murray Law Group, LLC
Peck Fox Maynard Cooper & Gale, PC

Thank you for serving your community!
Young Lawyers: Baseball and Clay Shoot
Events on the Horizon  
by Allen Sheehan, YLS President

On April 17th the YLS held a social at SandBar. Even though the weather was a little on the dreary side (despite a beautiful day earlier), everyone seemed to have a great time. If you have the chance, please give a special thanks to Haslip, Ragan, Green, Starkie & Watson who sponsored the social.

The highpoint of the event was when the awards for first place and second place in the 2014 YLS March Madness Bracket Contest were awarded. The YLS Treasurer, Will Cunningham, of Sasser Sefton & Brown, awarded these prizes to Brent Hargett and Tim Gallagher, both of whom are also attorneys at Sasser… James Eubank has been appointed as Special Prosecutor to look into this “amazing coincidence” (Will’s words…).

The YLS has two exciting events coming up!

First- the YLS just finalized the details of a social with Birmingham’s Young Lawyer section. The YLS is going to Birmingham to a Biscuits v. Barrons game at the recently opened (OK it was last year, but I haven’t been yet) Regions Field. The YLS will be taking a bus from Montgomery after work on Wednesday June 11th to Birmingham. Freedom Court Reporting is sponsoring the event and providing 50 tickets, a couple of kegs and “homerun punch” (I don’t know what that is, but I assume it is a children’s drink?). Please come join us and encourage every young lawyer you know to attend. It should be a lot of fun and a great way to network with friends in Birmingham.

Second, the Montgomery YLS is having a Charity Sporting Clay Shoot at the Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club to benefit the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyer Foundation. The event is open to the public, and we are encouraging local firms and businesses to sign up. We are still working on the details, but believe it will be on the afternoon of Friday June 27th. What is better than drinking and shooting? Well… hopefully not in that order. Be on the lookout for more details.

Allen

Ma’am, It’s a Clay Shoot, not Shoot Clay!

CLAY SHOOT –JUNE 27– WOMEN INVITED!

Save the date! June 11th
Join us at the Biscuits Game!!!

Thursday, June 5th, 2014
The Montgomery County Bar Association would like to invite you to Riverwalk Stadium for a night of fun, memories, and great Montgomery Biscuits baseball action!!

Who: Montgomery County Bar Association

What: Montgomery Biscuits vs. Pensacola Blue Wahoos

Where: Montgomery’s Riverwalk Stadium

When: Thursday, June 5th, 2014

RSVP: Go to the link below to purchase your tickets!


Join us for the fun and GO BISCUITS!
Foundations of Pro Bono Practice: Family Law

Presented by the Montgomery County Volunteer Lawyers Program

This course or a portion thereof has been approved by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission of Alabama for a maximum of 3.5 hours of credit, including 1 hour of ethics.

Faulkner University Jones School of Law Room 114
May 16, 2014

7:30       Registration and breakfast
8:00-8:05  Welcome
8:05-8:35  Pro Bono Practice: The Judicial Perspective
          Judge Bob T.R. Bailey, Montgomery County Circuit Court, Family Court Division
8:35-9:30  The Ins and Outs of Family Law Issues for Indigent Clients
          Mr. Mickey J.G. McDermott, The Law Offices of Mickey McDermott
9:30-9:45  Break
9:45-10:50 Drafting and Forms for Uncontested Divorces
          Mr. Mickey J.G. McDermott, The Law Offices of Mickey McDermott
10:50-11:00 Break
11:00-12:00 Conflicts, Client Management, Professional Responsibility, and Safety Planning in
             Pro Bono Family Law Cases
             Professor Kelly F. McTear, Asst. Clinical Professor of Law, Director Jones School of Law Family Violence Clinic
             Ms. Laurel M. Crawford, Law Office of Laurel Crawford, L.L.C.
12:00      Lunch and Dismissal

Cost: $25  Waived for law students, April 2014 ASB admittees, and practicing attorneys who commit to accept a family law case referral from the MCVLP in 2014.

To register, submit the following to Kelly McTear (kmctear@faulkner.edu):
Name, firm name, e-mail address, phone number. Registration fee may be paid at the door.
Make checks payable to MCBF.
*Pre-registration is requested for meal planning, but not required to attend.*
Our deepest sympathies are extended to the families and friends of these attorneys:

Clifford Cleveland (Cleveland and Colley, PC in Prattville), deceased March 28, 2014

Robert Ward (Rushton, Stakely, Johnston, and Garrett, PA), deceased April 8, 2014

You’re invited to have

Coffee with the Judges

Tuesday, May 13

7:30-8:30

Jury Assembly Room

3rd floor

Phelps-Price Justice Center

MCBA 10th Annual Charity Fundraiser Event

The Distinguishable Judge Roast

Honoree: Honorable Charles Price

November 14, 2014

Renaissance Hotel & Spa

SAVE THE DATE!

Help Needed!

Our fortuneteller retired, and we have no way of knowing your changes in information without your help. Please be sure to notify the MCBA office when you change employment, address, email, etc. Call 265-4793 or email dotrobinson@mc-ala.org.
MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to our newest members:

Jeremy Cobb—Chambless, Math, & Carr, PC
Jerome Dees—Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office
Elka Graham—Student, Jones School of Law

Charlie Hawthorne is now affiliated with the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office.

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP is pleased to announce that partner Charles “Chuck” Stewart (pictured left) has been listed in The International Who’s Who of Product Defense Lawyers 2014. Nominees are selected for Who’s Who referral guides through independent surveys of general counsel and other private practice lawyers worldwide. Chuck has extensive experience defending national and international corporations in product liability, employment, toxic tort, commercial and intellectual property disputes, and large personal injury cases.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

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<td>Super Conference at Auburn University Montgomery—details TBA No charge</td>
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All of the above CLEs have been approved for credit by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission of Alabama.

To register for a CLE, contact Dot Robinson 265-4793 or dotrobinson@mc-ala.org.