December A Time of Celebration and Giving by Ben Schoettker, President

As I sit down to write to you this month my family has already begun to prepare for the exciting day of Christmas. The Christmas tree has been set up and my wife and children are hanging the ornaments. My three children have also begun making out their Christmas lists. Christmas is about celebration and giving. Each year our organization celebrates Christmas with a Holiday Gala, and this year we will do so on December 4 at the Montgomery Country Club. This is a great opportunity not only to get together with your colleagues, but also to give to children in our community by bringing an unwrapped toy for the U.S. Marines’ Toys for Tots program. This year the music will be provided by the Goat Hill String Band. Pick up your two complimentary tickets by contacting Suzanne Duffey or Dot Robinson at the MCBA office.

As you know, we held our annual charity event this past month. I can report that it was the best attended charity event ever by our organization. We raised more money for charity than in any year past. I hope to report the final numbers to you in January. I want to thank all those who sponsored and participated in this year’s event. Judge Price was honored to be the focus of the night and wanted to extend his appreciation to all of you that made the night possible. This month will be our last with Judge Price as our presiding judge. At the roast of Judge Price it was clear that Judge Price has given of himself to many. He has impacted the lives of judges, government officials, lawyers, judicial clerks and most importantly his family. Judge Price, thank you for all that you have given over the years to our Bar and our community. We will truly miss having you preside over the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Finally, in recognizing those that give of themselves, the Tom Methvin Volunteer Lawyer of the Year award was presented to Tim Gallagher. Tim is currently the president of the Montgomery County Bar Foundation and is a worthy recipient of this year’s award. (continued page 7).
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR MCBA’S 9TH ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT

Presenting Sponsors

Beasley Allen
BEASLEY, ALLEN, CROW, METHVIN, PORTIS & MILES, P.C.
Attorneys at law
Celebrating 35 years of helping those who need it most

The Law Offices of
Rochelle Houlton Conner

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STIVERS
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Felicia Long, Chairman
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   Suzanne Duffey
   Kendall Dunson
   Samarria Dunson
   Barb Hanley
   Laura Eubank
   Virgil Ford
   Effie Moore
   Linda Poole
   Dot Robinson
   Matthew Ward
   LaShandra Warren
   Debbie Whitman
   Billy Young

Video/Presentation Team: Cornelia Baker, Joey Watson, Joyce Preston, Kelly Allen, Antwan Harris, & Jeb Bracker
Memories from the Distinguishable Judge’s Roast 2014

Left: Milton McGregor and Tom Methvin discuss silent auction items. Right: Guests make their silent auction bids.

Above: Judge Price and Bobby Segall, the Emcee for the Roast
Above right: Lee Copeland and Judge Price coax the bidders to go higher for the Auburn Football displayed by Samarria Dunson.
Right: Event Chairwoman Felicia Long and Co-chair Ashley Penhale with Judge Price
More memories from the Charity Roast

Roasting Judge Charles Price were: Bill Baxley, former Lt. Governor; Chuck Price, Judge Price’s son; Lewis Gillis; Jimmy Evans, former District Attorney; Tommy Gallion; Jere Beasley.

Additional photos online at www.mcbar.org
December a Time of Celebration –continued from page 1

He has tirelessly given of his time and efforts to ensure those that can’t afford a lawyer receive representation. You will find his name as well as those of the past recipients on a plaque that is prominently displayed in the county courthouse.

**Ben Schoettker**
MCBA President

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**Important Notice to MCBA Members**

Invoices for 2015 membership dues will be mailed in early December. If you/your office has not received an invoice by December 10, please call Dot Robinson at 265-4793. We appreciate those members who have sent us updates for addresses during the year. If you have moved and not notified the MCBA office of the change, please email Dot at dotrobinson@mc-ala.org today. Due date for payment is January 31.

We look forward to serving you in the new year.

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**Make your plans to attend the**

**MCBA Holiday Gala**

**December 4, 2014**

**6:30–9:30 p.m.**

*New venue—The Montgomery Country Club*

**RSVP by December 1!**

**Entertainment by the Goat Hill String Band**

**MCBA members may have 2 free tickets. Additional tickets may be purchased for $25.00 each. Tickets will be available for pick-up after November 14. Call the MCBA office for ticket orders (265–4793).**
A Look Back at the VLP in 2014

by Mike Martin

Tis the holiday season – a favorite time of year for me – and a good time to look back at the past year and extend season’s greetings to all. And particularly to give thanks to those who helped make 2014 a great year for your Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program.

It was a year of growth for us, as we achieved a remarkable 58% increase in the number of clients served. This is a testament to those of you willing to give of your time to render service to indigent clients with civil legal needs. We look forward to an even better year moving forward, as we expand our service to include a District Court Help Desk to support self-represented litigants by answering questions, assisting with completion of needed forms and giving guidance to help them achieve their best possible result when going to court. Special thanks to Circuit Court Presiding Judge Charles Price, District Court Presiding Judge Pamela Higgins and Circuit Clerk Tiffany McCord for ensuring that this new addition to our services will go smoothly and make access to justice for low-income residents a reality.

Thanks to the support of you, the members of the Montgomery County Bar Association, we received an excellent financial boost as one of the recipients of the proceeds of the recent Distinguishable Judge Roast fundraiser. As Judge Price would say, ‘You brought in the “Big Dog” to raise big bucks,’ and you delivered. We are most appreciative of your continuing support.

Congratulations are in order as well for our hard-working Montgomery County Bar Foundation President Tim Gallagher, this year’s recipient of the MCBA’s Tom Methvin Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award. Tim is a most-deserving recipient, and our program is fortunate to have him leading the way.

As always, we are grateful for the volunteers who help make our monthly Advice and Counsel Clinic the success it has become. For November, I want to recognize Kelly McTear (Faulkner Law), Victoria Relf (Relf Law Firm), Maceo Kirkland (Legal Services Alabama) and Matthew Ward for their service to our clients this month.

Going forward, we will be needing volunteers for the District Court Help Desk – a couple of hours on the second Monday of each month – and welcome your positive response when contacted, or by calling us at 265-0222 and offering to help. And, of course, we can use your service at our regular monthly clinic as well.

Again, thank you for a successful year at MVLP and best wishes for the holiday season and the year ahead.

Mike Martin, Executive Director MVLP
THANK YOU FOR LIGHTING UP THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY VLP!

The following attorneys accepted cases in November:

James Lampkin  Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles, PC
Timothy Wyatt  Campbell & Campbell, PC
Victoria Relf  The Relf Law Firm, LLC
Matthew Ward  Matthew Ward, Attorney at Law
Amanda B. Cook  Amanda Beshears Cook, Attorney at Law
Joana Ellis  Holtsford Gilliland Higgins Hitson & Howard, PC
Kelly McTear (3)  Faulkner University, Jones School of Law
Mike Winter  Winter Legal Strategies
Brandon C. Stone  Stone & Britt, LLC

The following attorneys closed cases in November:

Joel Caldwell (3)  Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, P.A.
Kimberly Clenney  Clenney and Palmer, LLC
John Craft (3)  Faulkner University, Jones School of Law
Virgil Ford  Law Office of Virgil Cornelius Ford, Attorney at Law LLC
Gregory Carr  Law Office of Gregory A. Carr
Women’s Section Update by Laura Eubank, Pres.

Several of the MCBA Women’s Section officers and board members were able to attend the annual Alabama Women’s Commission Panel Discussion and Luncheon on October 23, 2014, at the Capitol City Club due to the generosity of The Law Office of Roianne Conner, who sponsored a table for our section. The topic of discussion this year was financial literacy, and the luncheon presentation honored Betty Sims and Patricia “Sister” Schubert Barnes. The event was attended by several hundred women from around the state. The panel discussion and the presentation were eye-opening and very informative as to the problems many women and young people in Alabama face due to their lack of financial education and literacy. The MCBA Women’s Section is planning to find a way to incorporate what we have learned from this event into our events and educational courses for 2015.

With the holidays fast approaching, everyone is gearing up for the annual charity events. The MCBA Women’s Section would like to encourage all members of the MCBA to start donating now. The needs of our local shelters and charitable facilities are constant. The Family Sunshine Center is currently in need of the following new or like new items: towels, washcloths, blankets, standard pillow protectors, and car seats and booster seats for children. You can drop off any of these items to any of our officers or board members, or you can contact us at MCBAwomen@gmail.com, and we will have someone come to you to pick up your donations. If you do not have time to pick up any of these items, we will also be accepting monetary donations to purchase these items for the facility. Please open your hearts early this year, and donate to help our local families in need. We will be accepting donations for this drive until December 15, 2014.

Our annual holiday event is tentatively set for Tuesday, December 9, 2014. We are working on putting together an evening of fun and fellowship for our members. Watch your emails for more details coming soon! Please remember that all legal assistants and paralegals are welcomed and encouraged to join the MCBA Women’s Section! The membership form is available on the MCBA website, or you can email or contact any of our officers or board members to get more details on how to join.

Laura Eubank, WLS President

The Family Sunshine Center
Is in need of the following:
- Towels
- Washcloths
- Standard Pillow Protectors
- Car Seats
- Booster Seats
Contact MCBAwomen@gmail.com for more information & drop-off locations.
MCBA Women’s Section
Christmas Event
Come deck the halls
and have a ball!

December 15, 2014
5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Antique Galleries
1711 Mulberry St.
Montgomery, AL 36106
(Across from Shasy’s Bakery)

Please remember to bring any donations you have for the Family Sunshine Center! This will be our last day to collect these items.
The Montgomery County Young Lawyers had a social after work on November 20th at Baumhower's Wings restaurant downtown. The social was well attended and a good time was had by all. If you missed it, you missed a good time; be sure to make the next one. The highlights of the event included a thousand handshakes, a bunch of lawyer talk, and a generous sponsorship from ServisFirst Bank. A special thanks to Charlie Davis and the folks at ServisFirst for helping sponsor the social. For our next event/social, I think we are targeting mid-to-late January. It will be some sort of a “winter warmer” social right after work on a Thursday...the venue and exact date will be determined soon.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend the Montgomery County Bar Association Holiday Gala on December 4th. It is going to be held at the Montgomery Country Club and attendance is free for all MCBA members. You are only required to bring an unwrapped toy, which goes to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. The event will be a good opportunity to catch up with your local lawyer friends, as well as make new ones, all while benefitting a great cause.

Happy Holidays,

Jesse

Thank you for sponsoring the Young Lawyers’ social!

Servis1st Bank

Office Space for Rent

Located in Old Alabama Town. Rent includes receptionist, utilities, telephones, internet, copier, and conference room facilities.

Contact Donna at 334.263.2560 or donna@frankmwilsonpc.com for more information.
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 2015 term must submit a letter of intent to run on or prior to December 15, 2014. Any candidate for Secretary/Treasurer must first have served on the Board of Directors.

The letter should be addressed to:
Royal Dumas, MCBA Sec./Treas.
Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole, and Black
P.O. Box 116
Montgomery, AL 36101

A copy of the letter of intent to run and a short biography and photograph must be sent to:
Suzanne B. Duffey, Executive Director , P.O. Box 72, Montgomery, AL 36101

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

Save the date!

MCBA Annual Membership Meeting
January 22, 2015
Alabama Activity Center– Dexter Avenue
11:30-1:00

Voting for new Secretary/Treasurer and Board Members

If you plan to run for an office or Board Seat, submit your letter of intention by Dec. 15.
MCBA Member News

Welcome to our new members!

**Brian Thomas Bird**—Law Offices of Judy H. Barganier, PC

**Andrew Cooper**—Cooper and Cooper, Attorneys at Law (Auburn)

Congratulations to **Thomas J. Methvin**, principal and managing attorney of Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, PC, who was awarded the 2014 Harold Albritton Pro Bono Leadership Award by the Alabama State Bar. “Tom has an intense commitment to the fundamental principles of equal protection and equal justice,” said Alabama State Bar President Rich Raleigh.

Congratulations to Capell & Howard for being recognized as a “Best Law Firm” by the *U.S. News and Best Lawyers* for the fifth consecutive year beginning with the inception of the award. This recognition is for professional excellence with persistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. In addition, seventeen of the firm’s lawyers were selection for inclusion in the 2015 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*: **Bruce Downey**, **Henry Hutchinson**, **K. Palmer Smith**, **Debra Spain**, **William Coleman**, **Frank McFadden**, **Henry C. Barnett**, **James Scott**, **Robert Meadows**, **Kyle Johnson**, **Shap Ashley**, **Robert Northcutt**, **Lister Hubbard**, **James Walter**, **Brooke Lawson**, **Barbara Wells**, and **Courtney Williams**. Additionally, Bruce Downey, Henry Hutchinson, Palmer Smith, and Debra Spain were named as “Montgomery Lawyers of the Year.”

*Sincere Condolences to the family and friends of Joseph R. Campbell, II who passed away on November 10th*

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**Last CLE of the Year!**

**Dec. 4 11:00-12:00**  IT Security and Forensics  Dorsey Morrow  1 hr.

Montgomery County Courthouse Jury Assembly Room, 3rd floor

*Please pre-register: dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or 265-4793.*

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Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah from The MCBA Staff
Oops, there goes another year of your Lord—this one 2014! It’s already escaping our grasps and slipping our challenged attention spans. But, some things, we’ll remember—primarily that our country’s executive and legislative branches could agree on nothing, not even what to call this (and foreseeable) years’ greatest enemy. In this current version of “you say tomato, and I say tomato”, the Congress says ISIS while the Administration says ISIL. (Montgomery lawyers say “a skunk by any other name would smell as bad”.) Deciding how best to fight (and avoid) Ebola also eluded consensus, as did everything else from Ferguson, Missouri to same sex marriage to gun rights to immigration to voting (lack of) rights and to the color of purple.

Alabama was different. The executive and legislative branches agreed on almost everything—to the detriment of almost everyone. But, our hearts were most moved by Montgomery’s upheaval in top judicial and law enforcement positions. The namesake of our Courthouse (Judge Charles Price for you Ambien bingers) sadly served his last full year, receiving more accolades than Derek Jeter. In contrast, health concerns forced our beloved Circuit Court Judge Tracey McCooey to resign (sort of) suddenly and without deserved fanfare. Although DA Ellen Brooks surprised everyone (but successor Daryl Bailey) with her resignation, no one was surprised that the One Place Justice Center was (appropriately) named for her.

Alabama’s Supreme Court mostly stayed blessedly judicial. Only the Chief strayed, but it wasn’t his fault. The Devil made him do it. And, all he did was write every Governor asking that each seek an amendment to the US Constitution requiring that no marriage, other than heterosexual, be acknowledged.

Don’t even ask about federal court. Although the Middle District is always exciting, no one expected quite the soap opera drama of 2014. “Days of Our Lives” is mild in comparison.

But for real entertainment, you need only observe Montgomery’s lawyers. They are exhilarating. With President Ben Schoettker leading the way, Montgomery lawyers did all the right things. They blew away pro bono participation records, raised money for great causes, supported their local and state (professional and social) Bars, served Montgomery’s broader community, and, Lord, they had fun. Best of all, Montgomery lawyers remained entirely, and even wildly, Distinguishable, two—or three—particularly so.

Our first Most Distinguishable Lawyer Award is shared by The Tommy Guns—Gallion and Mancuso. When they joined forces several years ago at the Montgomery office of Haskell Slaughter, conventional wisdom posited “this is not a marriage made in heaven”. Conventional wisdom was decidedly understated. Not even hell is hot enough for the sparks emanating from this union. Both Tommys have a history of expressing themselves colorfully. Both are also noted for their often entertaining tirades. Mancuso is a tax and transactional lawyer who will venture into court when the moon is full and his spirits high. He approaches all legal occasions, even tax discussions, in the manner of a bantam rooster with Floyd Mayweather tendencies. “Judas Priest” is one of his favorite exclamations, but his range of epithets is legion. Gallion is better known—largely because he has sued the NCAA, Hank Williams, Jr. and probably Yo Mama! He’s also pals with Paul Finebaum and does not necessarily limit his epithets to off-air discussions. He has, on occasion, offered to whip his opponent’s Tuckus.

The Mancuso-Gallion marriage dissolved not long ago, less than amicably, and no one sang Auld Lang Syne at their accidental Montgomery Country Club reunion in October. The Tommy Guns exchanged rapid cross-fire, including warm and fuzzy expressions such as MF, Chicken waste and tuckus. Then came the real fun. Mancuso complained about Gallion in a letter to the president of the Montgomery Country Club accusing him of assault and of disturbing club members by calling Mancuso unkind names in an absurdly loud and screaming voice. Mancuso said he “turned the other cheek”. In his response, Gallion, less than
apologetically, added more substance to his list of derogatory names, including such favorites as “slob”, “low life”, “amoeba-shaped squid”, and limaceous cretin”. Within days, the Tommy-Gun letters had been distributed to lawyers throughout Montgomery and Birmingham and, predictably, have now gone viral.

Because together the Tommy Guns—both 70 or so years old—have demonstrated great energy, passion, and an imaginative use of language, and because, despite their differences, both remain - under most circumstances—charming and very entertaining, and because they have proved what we all suspected—that making up is hard to do, they richly deserve their shared recognition as the Montgomery Bar’s 2014 Co-Most Distinguishable Lawyer.

Our second honoree is Kelly Pate, a delightful person and an outstanding lawyer with Balch & Bingham. Kelly is a woman for all seasons. She graduated magna from Cumberland Law School and clerked on the 11th Circuit for Martha Roby’s dad, Joel. Her work as a partner at Balch has been notable. Since 2013, she’s been recognized as a Super Lawyer “Rising Star”, and she handles cases well both at the trial and appellate levels. She also does all the things expected of a professional. She was selected for the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum, and currently is president of the Middle District’s Federal Bar Association and an active volunteer in several community and professional organizations. And, by the way, she’s also the mother of twins—almost 4 years old.

But these attributes (other than the twins) describe many of the Montgomery Bar’s elite women lawyers, and none are enough to make Kelly this year’s Co-Most Distinguishable Lawyer. She is recognized instead because she moonlights as a genuine super hero—a combination of Superwoman and the (Kelly) Green Hornet.

This summer, Kelly’s children took swimming lessons with several other 3 year olds. For each session, Kelly rushed from work still dressed in her professional attire. At the last session—after all children were out of the water and were packing to leave with parents—one precious child fell into the pool thoroughly wrapped in a big towel. Maybe someone else saw the child and would have reacted. We’ll never know because, blessedly, Kelly responded instantly. Without changing into her Superwoman outfit—or even removing her high heels—Kelly dove into the pool and brought the child safely to his stunned mother. Without fanfare, Kelly then dried and dressed her own children and faded into the sunset—just like Superwoman or Gary Cooper or someone like that. For all that she is, therefore, and for her quick thinking and quick acting and, yes, for her heroism, Kelly richly deserves recognition as the Montgomery Bar’s Co-Most Distinguishable Lawyer.

Now, sit back with a Dos Equis and think about the most interesting people in the World. Admit it—they are all lawyers—Montgomery lawyers. Now, drink your Dos Equis. And, drink one more while saluting the most distinguishable lawyers among us for the year 2014.

2014 AWARDS

1. “Left Wing Bleeding Heart Liberal” Award - - Chief Justice Roy Moore (Pointing to the unfairness of our criminal justice system, the Chief said—correctly—that “the habitual felony law has been misused to add extremely long sentences that are unjustified.”)

2. “Hilary” Award - - Lee Copeland (Like Hilary, when the present president’s term expires, Lee will become President—in his case, of the State Bar.)

3. “Best Sentencing By a Judge” Award - - Judge Vanzetta McPherson (In her column criticizing Artur Davis’ possible candidacy for Mayor of Montgomery, this retired judge strung together the most artful sentences written by anyone this year.)
4. “Marilyn Monroe Bombshell” Award - - Ellen Brooks, Daryl Bailey and Azzie Taylor (Ellen resigned suddenly, and Darryl was appointed DA and Azzie Chief Deputy on the same day.)

5. “Sidney Crosby” Award - - Judges Gene Reese, Johnny Hardwick, Jimmy Pool, and Bob Bailey (Like the great skating hockey player, these judges skated through their re-election efforts without opposition in the primary or general elections.)

6. “Eyes on the Prize” Award - - Luther Strange (Now that Big Luther has been safely re-elected, the only question is on what prize he has his eyes—Governor or U.S. Senate.)

7. “Coup d’état” Award - - David Byrne (His behind the scenes work for the Governor helped remove two trustees from control of, and membership on, the Ala State Univ Bd of Trustees.)

8. “Obama” Award - - Ben Schoettker (Ben presided wonderfully as our president this year, and got (infinitely) more through his Board than President Obama got through Congress—sadly, though, Ben failed to accept responsibility for ObamaCare.)

9. “Elvis” Award - - Judge Charles Price (Like the “King” would have, Judge Price drew a huge crowd to his “Distinguishable Judge Roast” and raised record dollars for charity.)

10. “Old McDonald” Award - - Bobby Bright (Our former mayor and congressman is now a farmer—E-I-E-I-O.)

11. “Jesus Christ Superstar” Award - - Bryan Stevenson (Referred to as “America’s Mandella” by Bishop Desmond Tutu and as the most courageous fighter for justice since Atticus Finch by John Grisham, and having received 14 honorary doctorate degrees and a MacArthur “Genius” award, Bryan has now written a best-selling autobiography, “Just Mercy”.)

12. “Mad Men” Award - - Tommy Mancuso and Tommy Gallion (Conventional wisdom is that they are actually mad at each other.)

13. “Family Feud” Award - - Kevin Turner and Matt Hart (From some news reports, it appears Kevin, as Chief Deputy AG, was unhappy with the way Matt was running his division of the AG’s office and tried, apparently unsuccessfully, to get rid of him.)

14. “A Life of Crime” Award - - Aylia McKee, Linda Braye, Trina Williams, Christopher East, Patricia Kemp, Ann Borelli, Kacey Keeton, and Stephen Cooper (By working as public defenders for a county or federal program they have dedicated their lives to defending those accused of crime.)

15. “The Book of Espy” Award - - Joe Espy, Ben Espy and Bill Espy (Like in the “Book of Manning”, the Espys include two sons who followed in their father’s footsteps—and are destined to break all his records.)

16. “Bartender” Award - - Dave Boyd (Dave received this year the President’s Award from the State Bar for providing great service to the Bar—and to the profession.)

17. “They Love Me, They Love Me Not” Award - - Judge Billy Shashy (Picking petals off a daisy may be as good a way as any to determine whether to run for re-election.)

18. “Breaking Bad” Award - - Jim Sumner (Within the last 12 months, this former Ethics Comm’n Director went from receiving an award for “significant contributions to Ethics Reform” to abandoning—through retirement—our State’s ethical practices altogether.)
19. “Dexter” Award - - Mark Montiel (He’ll cut you up on his radio show.)

20 “The Avengers” Award - - Azzie Taylor, Scott Green, Brittney Bucak, Michele Davidson, Kenny Gibbs, Charlie Hawthorne, Katie Langer, Michael Brymer, Jerome Dees, Seth Gowan, and Michael Caddell (And other Assistant District Attorneys who avenge victims of crime.)

21. “Most Insubordinate” Award - - Neah Mitchell and David Bronner (Neah spoke against a bill that would have given David, her boss, “total unilateral control” over RSA investments—only the First Amendment saved her job. Actually, David agreed.)

22. “Charlie Brown” Award - - Kim Thomas (As the beleaguered Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Corrections, Kim asks “Why’s everybody always pickin’ on me.”)

23. “Lady in Waiting” Award - - Ann Adams Hill (If Kim Thomas tells the Governor to “take this job and shove it”, Ann could become the 3rd straight lawyer, and the first woman, offered the job of Commissioner of Corrections—I would respectfully decline.)

24. “Gone Girl” Award - - Liz Carter, Shawn Cole, Reed Coleman, Laura Crum, Felicia Long, Pam Slate, Charlnna Spencer, Erika Tatum and Jayne Harrell Williams (With these powerhouse lawyers in the firm, Hill Hill has gone girl.)

25. “Girl Gone” Award - - Amanda Bersinger (After clerking a year for Judge Dubina and another for Judge Watkins, Amanda has now joined an Atlanta law firm.)

26. “Woman Gone” Award - - Barbara Montoya (After 30 years, Barbara retired as Director of the Montgomery County Personnel Department.)

27. “Philip Seymour Hoffman A Man (or Woman) Most Wanted” Award - - Joe Espy, Christine Freeman and Ron Wise (criminal defense); Mike Brock, Tabor Novak and Tommy Keene (civil defense); Jere Beasley, Greg Allen and Cole Portis (pltff civ litigation); Scott Green, Azzie Taylor, Louis Franklin and Steve Feaga (prosecutors); Morris Dees and Richard Cohen (civil rights); Alan Rothfeder and Hank Hutchinson (tax); Floyd Minor and John Henig (domestic); Lee Copeland and Randy James (mediation); Inge Hill, Jeff Blitz, Jim Edwards, Palmer Smith, and William Martin (real estate); Lanier Branch (home closings); Von Memory and Michael Fritz (bankruptcy); and Jo Parr, Rick McKenzie and Helen Wells (estate planning) (They are all highly sought after as top lawyers in their specialties.)

28. “Donald Trump Man of the Year” Award - - Chief Justice Roy Moore (The Chief wrote a 50 page dissent saying Alabama’s Secty of State was required to determine whether President Obama—the then serving President of the US—was born in the US and was qualified to be on the state ballot in 2012.)

29. “Best Performance (by a Prosecutor) in a Winning Role” Award - - Azzie Taylor, Scott Green and Michele Davidson (They prosecuted and convicted a home invader on 11 counts of Robbery, and Judge Reese gave a sentence of 11 consecutive life sentences.)

30. “Best Performance (by a prosecutor) in a Losing Role” Award - - Sean McTear (Did a remarkably good job with very bad facts in prosecuting 7 people who, while inside the State Capitol, protested the Governor’s failure to expand Medicaid.)

31. “Judge Lynwood Smith Longest Opinion” Award - - Judge Myron Thompson (Although not approaching Judge Smith’s 700 page opinion of a few years back, Judge Thompson’s opinion in the abortion clinic case this year was 172 pages long.)
32. “The Fellowship of the Ring” Award - - Luther Strange, Inge Hill and Mike Brock (They received a ring this year, i.e., a telephone call, informing them of their induction as Fellows of the Alabama Law Foundation.)

33. “College Boy” Award - - Ham Wilson (Ham was inducted this year into the American College of Trial Lawyers.)

34. “Born Again” Award - - Susan James and Jeff Duffey (After their client was convicted of hiring someone to murder the Critter Man, he was born again following Susan and Jeff’s successful effort to have his conviction set aside.)

35. “Love Will Keep us Together” Award - - J.C. Love (JC should be a mediator.)

36. “Simon and Garfunkel’s Bridge Over Troubled Waters” Award - - Kenny Thomas, Ramadanan Jones and Joi Scott (With all of ASU’s troubled waters, these in-house lawyers can be the bridge to a brighter future.)

37. “(Not) The Normal Heart” Award - - Ashley Penhale, Kelly McTear, Clint Richardson, Brent Hargett, Maceo Kirkland, Laurel Crawford, Evan Allen, Mathew Ward, Delesha Garrett, Joel Caldwell, Matt Mathews, Royal Dumas, Jesse Anderson, Virgil Ford, Robert Stroud, Joe Seawell Moore, Karen Laneaux, David Martin, Jim Smith, Victoria Relf, Tim Gallagher, Matt Munson, John Charles, Mike Winter, Leigh Haynie, Heath Loftin, Stephanie Monplaisir, Melissa Bowen, Vania Hosea, Preston Presley, Cowin Knowles, LaKesha Shahid, Laura Eubank and Laurel Farrar (By volunteering at the Mtgy VLP Counsel and Advice Clinic and the River Region Resource Fair, these lawyers have shown an unusually big heart for those who cannot afford the cost of necessary legal services.)

38. “NRA” Award - - Clint Graves, Mike Solomon, Don Clayton, and David Starnes (For shooting innocent clay pigeons and winning first place in the Young Lawyers Skeet Shooting Fund Raiser)

39. “Most Eloquent Decision” Award - - Judge Troy Massey (In explaining his acquittal of 7 people accused of criminal trespass for protesting the Governor’s failure to expand Medicaid, Judge Massey said that without protest he never would have become a judge.)

40. “Most Entertaining Writing by a (Montgomery) Lawyer” Award - - Allen Sheehan (His president’s reports for our Young Lawyers Section have been refreshingly amusing.)

41. “A Dab Will Do You” Award - - Marcus Ermine and Christine Freeman (They defended a former hospital nurse indicted for diluting patients’ medicines.)

42. “Seinfeld” Award - - Judge Keith Watkins (Judge Watkins did what—for a federal judge—qualifies as a stand-up comedy routine in talking to school kids on Law Day.)

43. “One Direction” Award - - Martha Roby (With her service on the House Appropriations Committee and the Select Committee on Benghazi, and with her outspoken focus on the VA Health System, her political stock is headed in one direction—up.)

44. “The Operation was a Success” Award - - Matt Hart and Michael Duffy (But the patient died—in the perjury case against State Legislator Barry Moore, Matt and Michael successfully argued that the perjury statute was constitutional, but the jury returned a “not guilty” verdict.)

45. “Meryl Streep Sophie’s Choice” Award - - Margaret Fleming, Andrew Brasher, Will Parker, Wayne Sabel and Randall Marshall (The issue of choice motivated Wayne and Randall to challenge the State’s (cont. next page)
restrictions on facilities and doctors involved with abortions, and motivated the State, through Margaret, Andrew and Will, to defend the restrictions.)

46. “Let My People Go” Award - - Sam Brooke, Sara Zampierin and Mitch McGuire (They sued the city alleging that it jailed folks who could not afford to pay their municipal court fines.)

47. “Beyonce Knowles” Award - - Felicia Long (She’s the hardest working woman in show business.)

48. “Communist Swim Club” Award - - Alexia and Gray Borden, Ann Adams Hill, Jarred Kaplan, Kelly Pate, Quin and Joshua Segall, Mary Pat O’Connor, McDowell Crook and Trip Vickers (They collectively hired a swimming coach to teach their young children, in a group, to swim—further lessons may be required.)

49. “It's Not What You Know” Award-- Gibson Vance (Using his vast political connections, Gibson helped his son get a Senate position with (then) Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid—and get Teddy Kennedy, the late Senator’s grandson, for a roommate.)

50. “James Taylor’s Sweet Baby James” Award - - James Anderson and Jesse Anderson (As Sweet Baby James turned 60 this year, his son Jesse had a surprise birthday party for him.)

51. “Show Me the Money” Award - - Tim Gallagher, Mike Winter, Kelly McTear, Laurel Crawford, Vania Hosea, Ted Hosp, Cowin Knowles, Karen Laneaux, Tom Methvn, Ashley Penhale, Ben Schoettker, and Allen Sheehan (With Tim as president, they are officers and board members of the Montgomery Bar Foundation, which raises money for the Volunteer Lawyers Program.)

52. “Dean Martin Roast” Award - - Jere Beasley, Jimmy Evans, Lewis Gillis and Tommy Gallion (Along with Bill Baxley and Crown Prince Chuck Price, they all roasted Judge Price at the Montgomery Bar charity event.)

53. “Turnabout is Fair Play” Award - - Mary Oliver, Samarria Dunson, James Eubank, Billy Young, Tamika Miller, Jason Paulk, Rob Johnston, Aigner Kolom, and Elizabeth Hendrix (These one-time Judge Price law clerks did a very funny video roasting him at the Bar’s Distinguishable Judge Roast—so did his amazing judicial assistant LaShandra Warren.)

54. “Baryshnikov” Award -- Evans Bailey (He danced in an Alabama Dance Theatre production of Dracula.)

55. “Cutest Couple of (Married) Lawyers” Award - - Wynn Dee and Richard Allen, Ali and Ray Hawthorne, Kelly and Sean McTear, Megan and Thomas McCarthy, Michele and Kevin Davidson, Sabrina Comer and Clint Daughtrey, Pam Slate and Matthew Shaddrix, Cindy and Clay Torbert, and Martha and Riley Roby.

56. “Cutest Couple of (not yet, or may never be, Married) Lawyers” Award - - Effie Moore and Charlie Hawthorne, and Suzie Edwards and Austin Huffaker.

57. “Cutest Couple of (Married) Judge-Lawyers” Award - - Judge Johnny and Tommie Hardwick, Justice Kelli Wise and Arthur Ray, Judge Susan and Dorman Walker, and Judge Steven and Tamika Reed (Tamika is so cute, she makes up for Judge Reed not being a lawyer.)


59. “Cutest Lawyers Who Married (Cute) Non-Lawyers This Year” Award - - Ted Hosp, Tim Gallagher, and Michael Brymer.
60. “Cutest Lawyer About to Marry a (Cute) Out of Town Lawyer” Award - - Jenna Day

61. “Cutest Lawyers Who Commute to Work in Montgomery” Award - - Shannon Holliday, Marion Chartoff, Jeremy McIntire, Kevin Turner, and Jim Davis.


63. “Lou Gehrig/Cal Ripken” Award - - Louis Calligas and John Marsh (Louis holds the longevity record for service as an officer or board member of the Young Lawyers Section—8 consecutive years, while John has never, during his entire time as a lawyer, missed a YLS social event.)

64. “Hank Williams, Jr.’s All My Rowdy Friends” Award - - Jesse Anderson, Ali Hawthorne, Brannan Reaves, Will Cunningham, Beau Darley, Eliott Lipinsky, Landon Eley and Charlie Hawthorne (With Jesse replacing Allen Sheehan as president, and with these other fun-loving officers and board members, the rowdy times at Young Lawyer Section gatherings are sure to continue.)

65. “Animal Party” Award - - Wayne Sabel, Scarlette Tuley, and Bill Coleman (They are big supporters of the zoo and its wild party, Zoobilation.)

66. “We Shall Overcome” Award - - Justice Tom Parker (Justice Parker, it is said, feels he must overcome Roe v. Wade, and, according to ProPublica, the “personhood” arguments he works into his court opinions are the key to doing so.)

67. “I Don’t Believe I’da Told That” Award - - Julian McPhillips, Kenny Shinbaum, and Charlie Anderson (Charlie represented a preacher who confessed during his sermon to being HIV-positive and to having had sex in the church building with members, and Julian and Kenny represented Deacons who successfully asked Judge Price to order the preacher to turn in his keys and leave.)

68. “Gangster Squad” Award - - Mark Chambless, Bunny Carr, John Holloway, Leo Math, Richard Moxley, Charles Byrom, Brandy Chamblee, and Kristen Abbott (These Creditor rights lawyers will legally—and figuratively—“break your leg” if you fail to pay your debt.)

69. “True Blood” Award - - Randall Morgan and Reed Coleman, and Susan James and Garrett Saucer (Despite the differing last names, father Randall and mother Susan now work in the same firms with their respective children-lawyers.)

70. “(Not so) True Blood” Award - - Joe Hubbard (Joe ran a good race for Attorney General, but sharing a last name with Mike probably didn’t help.)

71. “How to Get Away with Murder” Award - - Michael Kidd, J. Taylor, Ron Wise, Tommy Goggans, Richard Keith, Jeff Duffey, Bill Blanchard, Richard White, Lewis Gillis, Susan James, Russ Duraski, Virgil Ford, and David Vickers (Hire one of these criminal defense lawyers.)

72. “The Kill Team” Award - - Jere Beasley, Cole Portis, Graham Esdale and Ben Baker (As a result of their murdering Toyota last year in an unintended acceleration case, they became finalists this year for the Public Justice Trial Lawyer of the Year Award.)

73. “Let’s Talk Turkey” Award - - Gunter Guy, David Martin, Nelson Gill, Beau Cooper, Judge JR Gaines, Monet Gaines, Elizabeth Lyerly, Larry Sasser, Pete Cobb, Joe Seawell Moore, Judge Joel Dubina, Phil (cont. next page)
Butler, Jimmy Garrett, John Henig, Matt Ellis, James Anderson, Jesse Anderson, Doyle Fuller, Jacob Fuller, Richard Keith, Richard Gill, Michael Strickland and Winston Edwards (They shoot turkey.)

74. “Let’s Eat Turkey” Award - - Judge Truman Hobbs, Jr., Joshua Segall, Judge Myron Thompson, Jo Parr, Mark Sabel, Kenny Thomas, Stan Gregory, Judge Billy Shashy, Richard Shinbaum, Shannon Holliday, and Ben Schaefer (I’m guessing they do not shoot turkey—they eat turkey.)

75. “Sleepy Hollow” Award - - Jeff Patterson, Alan Rothfeder, Kyle Johnson, Stan Gregory, Gerald Hartley, Jo Parr, Laura Crum, Ted Jackson, Tommy Mancuso, Davis Smith, John Weiss, Rick McKenzie, Rick McBride, Bobo Gilpin, Debra Spain, Robert Ritchey, David Wills, Warren Matthews, Roy Goldfinger, Lee Russell, Chris Simmons, Holt Speir, Helen Wells, Courtney Williams, Michael Dalton, Brian Robbins and Hank Hutchinson (Sometimes even great tax lawyers have trouble staying awake.)

76. “For the Right” Award - - Chris Weller, Will Sellers, Baron Coleman, Al Agricola, Mark Montiel, and Dorman Walker (They generally represent, or help in campaigns of, conservative Republicans.)

77. “For the Correct” Award - - Joe Espy, Shannon Holliday, Bill Patty, Lewis Gillis, Tyrone Means, Richard Cohen, Walter Turner, and Clint Daughtrey (They generally represent, or help in the campaigns of, Democrats.)

78. “James Taylor’s You’ve Got a Friend” Award - - Bryan Stevenson (The women in Julia Tutwiler prison have a friend in Bryan whose Equal Justice Initiative has focused on making life there more tolerable and livable.)

79. “Regime Change” Award - - Judge Tracy McCooey and Judge Charles Price (After many years of service, two of the best circuit court judges in Montgomery County’s history have stepped, or are stepping, down in a peaceful regime change.)

80. “Lawyer Know it All” Award - - Jeff Patterson, Dorsey Morrow, John J. Davis, Bill Abell, Tripp Vickers, Emily Marks, Patrick Mahaney, and Joe Borg (Because they know it all, they did a great job teaching CLE courses to our Bar this year.)

81. “Mission Impossible” Award - - Judges J.R. Gaines and James Anderson (It’s not possible to replace Judges Price and McCooey, but J.R. and James are great people to succeed them.)

82. “Horse and Carriage” Award - - Tia Alexander and Andrew Turpen, and Shana Bowen and Nick Wallace (“Go together like Love and Marriage”—these lawyers married one another this year.)

83. “Eva Mendes’ Girl in Progress” Award - - Kelly McTear, Stephanie Shirley, Kimberly Waldrop, Parker Miller, James Rutter, and Ben Robinson (They, or their non-lawyer wives, are progressing toward child birth—likely along with several others who don’t know it, or aren’t telling.)

84. “Masters of Sex” Award - - Schuyler and Bill Espy, Tray Richardson, Chris Worshek, Sally Corley, Allen Howell, Sam McLure and J.W. Godwin (They all masterfully utilized sex to produce babies this year.)

85. “Who’s On First” Award - - Joseph Fitzpatrick and Donald Jackson (Joseph represents ASU’s former athletic director who says he was wrongly fired for wanting to fire ASU’s football coach, and who thought he was returning as athletic director, but is not; and Donald represents the football coach, who got a contract extension to induce him to stay, but has now been asked to resign, but says he’s staying—and everyone’s going to Court.)

86. “Spike Lee Do the Right Thing” Award - - Samarria Dunson (She’s the head of compliance, i.e., doing the right thing, for the State Dept of Public Health.)
87. “Money Can’t Buy Me Love” Award - - Joe, Ben and Bill Espy, Joe Borg, Steve Feaga, and Amanda Senn (But it might buy you freedom—the Espys settled all criminal (and civil) charges against their Canadian client for $22 million.)

88. “Tina Fey’s Mean Girls” Award - - Shannon Holliday, Alice Ann Byrne, Susan James, Charlanna Spencer, Leigh O’Dell, Pam Slate, Susan Kennedy, Vernetta Perkins, Erika Tatum, Emily Marks, Quin Segall, Leura Canary, Ashley Penhale, Azzie Taylor, Clark Morris, Mary Pat Connor, Felicia Long, Jamie Kidd, Liz Carter, Misha Whitman, Carrie McCollum, Margaret Fleming, Misty Messick and Barbara Wells (If you want to speak to a mean woman lawyer, these folks might be good choices.)

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90. “King and Queen of Mean” Award - - Richard Gill and Judy Barganier (If you want a particularly mean lawyer, try Richard or Judy.)

91. “Prime Time Players” Award - - Greg Allen, Andy Birchfield, Dave Boyd, Jim Byram, Bruce Downey, Joe Espy, William Haynes, Hank Hutchinson, Ted Jackson, Tom Methvin, Tabor Novak, Bobby Segall, Palmer Smith, Debra Spain, Chuck Stewart, Fred Tyson, and Mark Wilkerson (According to the “Best Lawyers” publication, they are each Montgomery Lawyer of the Year for 2015 in a designated category.)

92. “Best Verdict in a Criminal Defense Case” Award - - J. Taylor (J. received a “not guilty” verdict on charges of capital murder, attempted murder and robbery despite both eye witness and co-defendant testimony against J’s client.)

93. “Against All Odds” Award - - Richard White (Richard received a not guilty verdict in a custodial sexual abuse case against a Tutwiler correctional officer who had confessed and recanted.)

94. “ICU” Award - - Maria Morris, Ebony Howard, Valentina Restrepo, and Latasha McCravy (Because, according to Maria, “lives literally hang in the balance”, these Southern Poverty Law Center lawyers sued the prison system this year over medical and mental-health treatment.)

95. “Handy Man” Award - - Richard Broughton (The versatile Richard not only performed well as a lawyer this year, but also starred in a political ad for a legislator seeking re-election.)

96. “Timex” Award - - Bill McGowin (Bill chose the perfect time to shoot a hole-in-one—it was at a Charity Golf event where his great shot won him a brand new Mercedes SUV.)

97. “Gameboy” Award - - Joshua Segall (His company creates great computer games.)

98. “Russell Crowe’s Master and Commander” Award - - Pat Mahaney and Tommy Kirk (Pat, who this year taught an advanced DUI seminar at Faulkner Law, commands great respect for his DUI defense expertise, but Tommy is still the Master.)
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“Nate Silver Election Analyst” Award - - Cowin Knowles and Royal Dumas (My rigid statistical analysis leads me to the conclusion that Cowin will be elected president of our Bar, and Royal vice president, and both will begin serving in January 2015.)

“Hell on Wheels” Award - - Judge Gene Reese, Kim Fehl, Jason Paulk, Stacy Reed, David Vickers, and Dave Boyd (They are NASCAR junkies.)

“Stand Your Ground (Even if it’s not your ground)” Award - - Quin and Joshua Segall (Ct of Crim Appeals held that even a felon in (illegal) possession of a firearm can use the firearm for self-defense and stand his ground—even in the front yard of the alleged victim’s house.)

“Woody Guthrie This Land is My Land” Award - - Matt Hart and Sonny Reagan (That’s what Sonny told Birmingham based Matt when Matt decided he needed some of Sonny’s office space in the AG’s Montgomery office.)

“A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words” Award - - Joana Ellis and Erika Tatum (As executive director of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Assn, Joana used every one of them in telling her friend Erika how to photograph ADLA’s annual meeting—Joana, of course, was Erika’s favorite photographic subject—as she should have been!)

“Hail to the Chief” Award - - Judge Ed Carnes (Our 11th Circuit Chief Judge was presented this year the Alabama Bar’s highest honor for a judge, the Judicial Award of Merit.)

“Channing Tatum’s Magic Mike” Award - - Mike Beers, Mike Duffy, Mike Eley, Mike Jackson, Mike Crow, Mike Martin, Mike Cohan, Mike Perry, Mike White, Mike Strickland, Michael Robinson, and Michael Braun (These guys have had some magical moments practicing law, but generally—and thankfully—with their clothes on.)

“Cigarette” Award - - Winston Sheehan, Winston Durant, and Winston Edwards (Despite their name, they are all straight forward, good lawyers who do not blow smoke.)

“James Bond Goldeneye” Award - - Inge Hill (In addition to being an outstanding lawyer, he has an eye for a good business deal.)

“Harry Truman’s If You Can’t Stand the Heat” Award - - Peyton Faulk (She’ll sue anybody—and isn’t about to get out of the kitchen.)

“Surgeon General Rand Paul” Award - - Donnie Bethel (Although Donnie agrees with the Surgeon General that smoking is hazardous, he argued at a City Council committee meeting—as Rand Paul would—that Govt should not ban smoking in enclosed commercial spaces—rather, each business should decide for itself.)

“Mel Gibson’s Edge of Darkness” Award - - Tommy Kirk (Even the best sometimes lose, as Tommy did in connection with a manslaughter charge for an allegedly drunk driver in Autauga County, and when it happens, it can be depressing.)

is the first year Alabama played at Auburn.)

112. “Half-a-Hundred” Award - - Ray Warren and Richard Jordan (They celebrated this year the 50th anniversary of their admissions to the Alabama Bar.)

113. “What to Expect When You Are Expecting” Award - - Ben Robinson (Ben ought to know—he and his wife are expecting their 4th child.)

114. “Expedia” Award - - Greg Davis (Because almost all his work involves multi-district litigation, he has become well acquainted with Expedia.)

115. “Discretion” Award - - Mickey McDermott (Is the better part of valor—Mickey represented Wetumpka’s Deputy Police Chief who could accept a demotion or fight his termination—he accepted the demotion.)

116. “Consumer Reports” Award - - Cole Portis (As the chair of the Beasley Allen products liability section, Cole follows defective products more closely than “Consumer Reports”.)

117. “Double Big Boots” Award - - Jim Sumner and Judge John Carroll (The successor to Jim Sumner and Judge Carroll, the presently acting Director of the Alabama Ethics Commission, will have huge boots to fill.)

118. “John Carroll” Award - - Dean Matt Vega (He’s the very promising new dean of Faulkner Law.)

119. “The Jeffersons Movin On Up” Award - - April Wise, Trisha Osuch, Royal Dumas, Tim Gallagher, Tom McCarthy, Chip Bankston, JW Godwin, Grant Sexton, Joe Seawell Moore, Terri Biggs, and Kyle Weidman (And others who became partners or otherwise got a piece of the pie this year)

120. “Charles Barkley” Award - - Lee Copeland, Kyle Johnson, Kathy Brown, John Henig, Quin Segall and Dorman Walker (Like Charles Barkley, they were all Chairs of the Board—in their cases of community and charitable organizations.)

121. “Judge Charles Price Most Honored Lawyer of the Year (Not Counting Judge Price)” Award - - Tom Methvin (Tom was named the River Region March of Dimes Citizen of the Year; he received the State Bar’s Harold Albritton Pro Bono Leadership Award; and the Montgomery Bar’s Pro Bono Award is named for him.)

122. “Dos Equis” Award - - Julian McPhillips (He’s had the most interesting group of clients in the world this year—including among others (1) A former death row inmate who is now serving “life without” rather than life because of what Julian contends is an ex post facto statute; (2) an Auburn student who was arrested for running on the field during the Iron Bowl and then was allegedly beaten by police upset because Alabama was losing; (3) a man who sued police for striking him with a vehicle and later was arrested on charges related to the same incident; and (4) himself when a check he wrote to Don Siegelman was cashed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, but not credited to Siegelman’s account.)

123. “The Good Wife” Award - - Joi Montiel (She withstands the rigors of being married to Mark.)

124. “I’m a Bud Man and a Daryl Bailey Fan” Award - - Daryl Bailey (He made the smartest campaign move this year by providing fans at the Alabama State Fair on very hot days.)

125. “Safari” Award - - George Beck (Our U.S. Attorney is prosecuting folks who (allegedly) sold fraudulent rhino hunting trips.)
126. “Duck!” Award - - Morris Dees (When Morris in on the attack, as he was in criticizing Phil Robertson of Duck Dynasty for saying Blacks were happy during the pre-civil rights era, the best policy is to just duck.)

127. “Billy Joel’s The Longest Time” Award - - Susan James, Jeff Duffey and Garrett Saucer (Their client was convicted of killing 2 former Auburn football players—but the jury recommended the longest time possible to serve—life without parole—instead of death.)

128. “Good News – Bad News” Award - - Judge Vanzetta McPherson (The good news is that Vanzetta was named a senior “of achievement” by the Montgomery Area Council on Aging; the bad news is that Vanzetta was named a “senior” of achievement.)

129. “Rookies” Award - - Steve Feaga, Mary Margaret Carroll, Sam Ford, Troy Holtsford, JC Love, Shana Proctor, Tia Alexander Turpen, Keith Maddox, Miland Simpler, Chandler Combest, Mary Martin Majors, Jeremy Cobb, Jerome Dees, Linda Braye, Chase Estes, Ralph Clements, Reed Coleman, Theresa Johnston, Cassie Taylor, Carter Weeks, Deborah Whitman (They joined our Bar Association this year—finally Feaga!!)

130. “Chain Link” Award - - Robert Black (His daughter has been offered college scholarships for, and is Olympic caliber at, fencing.)

131. “Damn Yankees” Award - - Philip Davis and Judge Mark Anderson (Both spoke at celebration of Robert E. Lee’s birthday with Philip disclosing that reports of a Union victory at Gettysburg are wrong—it was, Philip says, a draw.)

132. “Henry VIII” Award - - Sam Adams (Sam has a house full of queens—one daughter was this year’s Queen of Athenians, and another was Queen of the Blue & Gray Ball.)

133. “Dale Evans” Award - - Julie Beasley (Julie has become a famous “Cowgirl”, standing out as a champion cutting horse competitor.)

134. “War Eagle” Award - - Juraldine Battle-Hodge (Her husband, Smokey Hodge, was an outstanding linebacker on Auburn’s 1988 SEC championship football team.)

135. “Billy Joel’s Careless Talk” Award - - Susan Crowther (This State Dept of Education lawyer wrote an article explaining the dangerous consequences that can arise when teachers text with students.)

136. “Careless Talk - Exhibit A” Award - - Richard White (Richard represents a High School teacher/coach accused of having sex with a student—the coach probably should have taken Susan’s advice.)

137. “Jonah Hill Jump Street” Award - - Felicia Long (Felicia jumped from her original team and, in the words of Lebron James, took her (considerable) talents one street over—to Hill, Hill.)

138. “The Company Men” Award - - Andrew Brasher (As is true of both of his predecessors, Alabama’s new Solicitor General has a Bradley Arant connection.)

139. “Pals” Award - - William Martin (As Capell & Howard’s managing attorney, William told the Montgomery Business Journal that the firm’s longevity is based on the camaraderie of its members.)

140. “Orange is the New Black” Award - - Chris Glover (And “fatigue” is the new “alcohol”—Chris settled a wrongful death case this year involving driving while fatigued.)
141. “I Gotta Be Me” Award - - Alva Lambert (But not at the Sunrise Rotary Club event, where Alva did impressions of former Alabama Governors, Presidents of the US, and of Bear Bryant.)

142. “The Shirelles’ Will You Love Me Tomorrow” Award - - Leale McCall (That’s what Leale asked Hill Hill when he left to work with Julie Weller as a staff atty for the S Ct and its clerk’s office.)

143. “Tammy Wynette Stand By Your Man” Award - - Win Johnson (Win stood up for his boss, Chief Justice Moore, when Vanzetta McPherson opined that the Chief had violated Judicial Canons by urging Governors to seek a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman.)

144. “A Career Well Worked” Award - - Ellen Brooks (Before her retirement this year, Ellen was an excellent Assistant DA, Chief Deputy DA, and DA for many, many years.)

145. “Saved By the (Jury’s) Bell” Award - - Joshua Segall and Anwar Taylor (With the jury out in an armed robbery case, Joshua’s client was seconds from accepting a plea agreement when the jury came back with a not guilty verdict for both Joshua’s and Anwar’s clients.)

146. “Love Child” Award - - Jim Hampton and Gail Hampton (They may be divorced from one another, but their marriage produced Janie Hampton, this year’s Jimmy Hitchcock Award winner.)

147. “Can’t We All Get Along?” Award - - Judge Bill Gordon, Bill Coleman, Pete Cobb, and Ken Dunham (They are all on the Ala Supreme Ct Commission on Dispute Resolution, with Judge Gordon being Co-Chair.)

148. “Ralph Nader” Award - - Cole Portis, Mike Andrews, Rick Morrison (and other Beasley Allen lawyers who are challenging the safety of GM cars almost as fervently as Ralph Nader once did.)

149. “Sweat Equity” Award - - Kelly McTear, Roianne Connor, Ashley Penhale, Felicia Long, Laura Eubank, Jo Parr, Connie Murray, Brittney Bucak, Megan Huggins, LaShandra Warren, Dot Robinson, and Preston Presley (By walking—and sweating—in the Joy to Life Foundation’s Walk of Life, these members of the Women’s Section, along with Preston, earned an ownership interest in our community.)

150. “Judicial Cornucopia” Award - - Judges Keith Watkins, William Sawyer, Terry Moorer, Bill Thompson, Scott Donaldson, Anita Kelly, Calvin Williams, Bob Bailey, Justice Greg Shaw and S Ct Clerk Julie Weller (They all spoke at the Montgomery Bar’s Annual Bench and Bar Conference.)

151. “The In-Laws” Award - - Debbie Hackett and Phillip Sellers (Debbie’s daughter and Phillip’s son got married—to each other.)

152. “Journey’s Don’t Stop Believin” Award- - Bobo Gilpin (Bobo was appointed this year to the troubled board of Ala. State Univ, but he won’t stop believing that he can help lead the University to better times.)

153. “Double Agent” Award - - Dennis Bailey (Because Dennis’ client had delivered Ala State Univ records directly to the Gov’s forensic accounting firm, rather than to the Governor, the Open Records Act request by Dennis’ other client, the Advertiser, to get copies of the records was ineffective.)

154. “Bad, Bad Leroy Brown” Award - - Jerry Blevins (Got a big verdict against a bad Georgia lawyer who violated Alabama’s Rules of Professional Conduct in his representation of an Alabama murder defendant.)

155. Amy Poehler’s Parks and Recreation” Award - - Gunter Guy (The Governor’s re-election should give Gunter four more years—as Conservation Director—to take care of Alabama’s parks and recreation.)
156. “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” Award - - Clint Daughtrey (In addition to his day job as legal counsel at AEA, Clint serves as Associate Justice on the Poarch Band of Creek Indians’ Tribal Supreme Court.)

157. “Jimmy the Greek” Award - - Brent Hargett and Tim Gallagher (Finished first and second respectively in the 2014 YLS March Madness Bracket Contest)

158. “Guardians of the Galaxy” Award - - Judge Truman Hobbs, Sr., Morris Dees, Jere Beasley, Charlie Stakely, Inge Hill, Judge Gene Reese, Sam Adams, Greg Allen, Tommy Keene, and Forrest McConnell (The contributions made to United Way by these Tocqueville Society members help a lot of people.)

159. “Sizzler” Award - - Cole Portis and Dee Miles (They were featured in the 2014 Plaintiff’s Hot List publication for “exemplary, cutting edge work on the plaintiffs’ side.”)

160. “John Denver’s Leaving on a Jet Plane” Award - - Chuck Stewart and Joe Espy (Both have received prestigious international recognitions.)

161. “Steve Carell’s The Office” Award - - Kim Fehl, Mickey McInnish, Stephanie Smithee, Jason Paulk and Stacy Reed (City Attorney Kim Fehl has as many interesting characters in her office as Steve Carell had in his.)

162. “Snoop Dogg” Award - - Gray Borden (This Assistant US Atty moved from drug crimes, where he became an expert on snooping, i.e., wiretapping, to white-collar crime where his expertise may still come in handy.)

163. “Toilet Talk” Award - - Richard Allen, the Elder (What Richard says he cherishes most from his time in the service is “doing my duty to the best of my ability, whether it was cleaning the latrine as a cadet, supplying ammunition in Vietnam, or commanding a brigade as a general officer...”)

164. “War of the Roses (or Vances)” Award - - Gibson Vance and Stewart Vance (The Vance cousins fought for top honors in the Montgomery Advertiser’s Reader’s Choice Award for Montgomery’s favorite law firm—Stewart’s firm edged Gibson’s for first place.)

165. “Amigo” Award - - Tamika Reed, Tamika Miller and Tamika Watkins (According to the urban dictionary, people with the name “Tamika” are classy, compassionate and genuine friends.)

166. “All the President’s Men” Award - - Cowin Knowles, Royal Dumas, David Martin, Allen Sheehan, James Ebubank, Larry Golston, Rhon Jones and Frank Snowden (They served on our president, Ben Schoettler’s, board of directors.)

167. “All the President’s Women” Award - - Roianne Conner, Meggan Huggins, Felicia Long, Tamika Miller, Ashley Penhale and Karen Phillips (They also served on our president, Ben Schoettler’s, board of directors.)

168. “Billy Joel’s She’s Always a Woman” Award - - Roianne Conner (She was president of the Women’s Section for the last two years and, according to the new president, “has been a role model for all of us lady lawyers.”)

169. “Anarchy” Award - -Laura Eubank, Kelly McTear, Connie Murray, Lashandra Warren, Azzie Taylor, Brittney Bucak, Shirley Howell and Effie Moore (With Laura as president, these 2015 officers and directors of the Women’s Section have usurped Roianne’s 2 years of absolute control.)
170. “Best Quote of a Quote” Award - - Mike Martin (To inspire our members to participate in the Volunteer Lawyers Program, Mike quoted Martin Luther King, Jr. in saying “The time is always right to do what’s right.”)

171. “Selma Lord Selma” Award - - Richard Cohen and Walter Turner (Richard and the SPLC are making plans to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic Selma to Montgomery march, the ultimate judicial approval for which came from Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. for whom Walter was the then law clerk.)

172. “Double Dipping” Award - - Jayne Harrell Williams (Jayne has become General Counsel and Director of Legal Advocacy for the Ala Assn of School Boards – while remaining “of counsel” with Hill, Hill.)

173. “Denzel Washington’s Training Day” Award - - Evans Bailey and Ellenann Yelverton (They were selected to participate this year in the State Bar’s prestigious Leadership Forum program.)

174. “Spring Forward” Award - - Joe Hubbard and Arthur St. (Having each lost his last political race, these two political talents are considering a fallback race for Mayor of Montgomery.)

175. “Come on Baby Light my Fire” Award - - Danielle Ward Mason (This Beasley Allen lawyer made the “Lawyers of Color Hot List”)

176. “Jim Croce’s You Don’t Mess Around with Jim” Award - - Jimmy Walter (Jimmy’s dogged approach to pro bono mediation has settled many foreclosure disputes and has resulted in his receiving the State Bar’s Pro Bono Mediation Award.)

177. “Old Man” Award - - Richard Garrett (He’s a “Senior Fellow”—at the Alabama Policy Institute.)

178. “Fatal Attraction” Award - - Matt Hart, Bill Lisenby, and the Espys (Matt and Bill were so attracted to the idea of appealing a pretrial evidentiary ruling in their prosecution of Espy client, former Senate President Pro Tem Lowell Barron, that they represented that losing the appeal would be fatal to their case—and when they lost, they had to dismiss.)

179. “Legacy” Award - - Judge Truman Hobbs, Sr., Judge Charles Price, Morris Dees, Ellen Brooks, Judge Harold Albritton, Tom Methvin, Greg Allen, Tony McLain, Jere Beasley, Charlie Stakely, and Julian McPhillips (Lawyers with something—as opposed to somebody—named for them)

180. “Duh!?” Award - - Tony McLain (Tony, this year, received the Alabama State Bar Professionalism Award – I would have thought the award would have his picture on it.)

181. “Snow Queen” Award - - Judge Tracy McCooey (She moved to South Dakota in hopes that the very cold weather will help improve her health.)

182. “Native American Anti-Defamation League” Award - - Joe Hubbard (After receiving huge political support from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Joe argues strenuously that the Washington Redskins team must change its name.)

183. “The Bo Jackson Bo Knows” Award - - Clay and Cindy Torbert (Their son, Bo, knows how to play tennis—he won mixed doubles at the USTA State Closed tennis tournament.)

184. “AARP” Award - - Phil Butler, Jimmy Garrett, Wade Hope, William Martin, Ben Pool and Chuck Volz (They finally reached 50—not in age, but in years since high school graduation.)
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199. “Now I Lay me Down to Sleep” Award - - David Martin, Judge Randy Thomas, Leigh O’Dell, Jim Edwards, Tom Kotouc, Justice Tom Parker, Jenna Day, Rodney Bledsoe, Chief Justice Roy Moore (you think?) (Most religious lawyers)

200. “Hell No, He Won’t Go!” Award - - Donald Jackson (When his client, Ala State coach Reggie Barlow, was asked to resign mid-season, that was Donald’s Vietnam era response.)

201. “Stephen Hawking The Theory of Everything” Award - - Tabor Novak (He has it all figured out.)

202. “An Affair to Remember” Award - - Tom Methvin and Judge Charles Price (They were both honored at beautiful affairs this year.)

203. “Another Affair to Remember” Award - - Judge Tracy McCooey (The Montgomery Bar’s love affair with our now retired Circuit Court judge.)

204. “Until Death Do Us Part” Award - - John Henig, Cole Portis, Alan Rothfeder, Jere Beasley, Spud Seale, Bill Coleman, and Kenny Shinbaum (Lawyers with great marriages that have stood the test of time)

205. “Best Husband” Award - - Julian McPhillips (He and his wife, Leslie, do so much together, they were named “Couple of the Year” by “The Pride of Montgomery” magazine.)

206. “Fifty Shades of Grey” Award - - Shirley Howell, Joi Montiel, Charles Campbell, Rachel Miller, Allen Howell, Gerald Jones, Kelly McTear, Marci Johns, Ashley Hamlett and Dean Matt Vega (These law professors and administrators at Faulkner Law know that many legal issues are 50 shades of gray)

207. “The Leftovers” Award - - John Kachelman (After Sonny Reagan departed the AG’s office—hopefully temporarily—John was left to take over the gambling related litigation Sonny had directed.)

208. “Outlander” Award - - Lee Copeland and Joe Espy (They were the only outsiders to present legal topics at the Beasley Allen 2 day seminar this year.)

209. “Enemies of the State” Award - - Roianne Conner, Winston Durant, Wallace Mills, Michael Kidd, Trina Williams, Russell Duraski, Mary Oliver, Paul Copeland, Bill Davis, Frank Snowden, Jennifer Holton, William Turner, David Vickers, Juraldine Battle-Hodge, Wiley Hartley, and Richard White (As contract public defenders in criminal cases, these lawyers are considered by state prosecutors to be enemies of the State.)

210. “Full Employment Act” Award - - David Byrne, Carrie McCollum, Frank Johnson, and Elizabeth Hardwich (The Governor’s re-election keeps the lawyers in the Governor’s legal office fully employed.)

211. “Best Boss” Award - - Alan Rothfeder (He and his legal assistant, Peggy Bazzell, have been together just shy of 50 years.)

212. “Al Pacino Stand Up Guys” Award - - Judges Les Hayes, Lloria James, Darron Hendley, and Milton Westry (These Municipal Court judges are committed to enforcing City law while safeguarding the rights of all parties.)

213. “Great Expectations” Award - - Felicia Long and Ashley Penhale (Their incredible service to the Bar has led to great expectations for their futures.)
214. “The Great Debate” Award - - Christine Freeman, Louis Franklin and Gray Borden (Gray moderated a debate on whether the US Atty should consider family consequences when deciding whether, and how, to prosecute—Christine won.)

215. “You’re Welcome” Award - - Ben Pool and Dennis Bailey (Copeland Franco trained two great legal assistants, Peggy Kelly and Linda Teague, who left and have been ever since with Dennis and Ben respectively for over 25 years.)

216. “That’s Entertainment” Award - - Chuck James and Robert Black (Chuck, as president this year of the Montgomery Association of Justice, and Robert, as president of Inns of Court, have been very entertaining in presiding over meetings.)

217. “Twin Peaks” Award - - Greg Davis and Dan Taliaferro (They have practiced together for over 20 year and have grown together into outstanding lawyers.)

218. “President Ronald Reagan” Award - - Judge Harold Albritton, Chip Nix, Alex Holtsford, and Pat Sefton (Like Ronald Reagan, they are former presidents—but of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Ass’n.)

219. “Silver Linings Playbook” Award - - Ashley Penhale (Even though the jury rejected her position, Ashley did a great job in her first jury trial as lead counsel.)

220. “As Close as Brothers” Award - - Richard and Kenny Shinbaum, Jim and Beau Cooper, Matt and Clay Teague, Ben and Bill Espy, Lee and Paul Copeland, Billy and Bowen Hill, John and Jim Scott, Jim and Kent Garrett, and James and Charlie Anderson (They are, in fact, brothers as are several other pairs of Montgomery lawyers.)

221. “Human Resources” Award - - Tim Gallagher and Ashley Penhale (As lawyers with a lot of human resources, they were finalists for our Bar’s Tom Methvin Volunteer Lawyer of the Year Award—Tim won.)

222. “Good Luck” Award - - Terry Luck and Aaron Luck (These Lucks are good lawyers.)

223. “James Brown Get on Up” Award - - David Martin (He rose from being last year’s president of our Bar to becoming this year one of our State Bar Commissioners.)

224. “Men Need Not Apply” Award - - Carrie McCollum and Anita Archie (They represented their bosses, the Governor and the Mayor, at a reception for ASU’s new president given by her Sorority—apparently men were not invited.)

225. “Home Sweet Home” Award - - Katie Langer and Sam Ford (Successfully prosecuted a home invasion case—guilty plea on the day of trial.)

226. “The Big Bang Theory” Award - - Daryl Bailey (Daryl is seeking heavy weight support for his election as DA, and Judge Price, who carries the biggest bang of all, is “110%” for Daryl.)

227. “Battle Cry” Award - - Juraldine Battle-Hodge (Having survived a stroke, Ms. Battle-Hodge now battles to educate our community about the symptoms and treatment of strokes.)

228. “Along for the (long) Ride” Award - - Bill Coleman and Bob Northcutt (Their wives, Dee and Karen, just celebrated their 15th anniversary as co-chairs of the Vintage Affair, the second largest gala per capita in the nation for the American Cancer Society.)
229. “Vintage Lawyers” Award - - Charlie Stakely, Jeff Blitz, Justice Kelli Wise, Marvin Campbell, John Holloway, Allison Ingram, John Henig (They were among the many lawyers supporting the Vintage Affair.)

230. “I’m a Bud Man and a Justice Fan” Award - - Navan Ward (Navan won an award from the American Assn for Justice for his commitment to the principles of the civil justice system.)

231. “Berry Brazelton Best Parenting” Award - - William Hanes (William’s son is a great student-athlete now at Princeton, and his daughter was Queen of MOR.)

232. “The Beatles I Want to Hold Your Hand” Award - - Joe Hubbard and Chuck James (In the event the Attorney General effort did not work out, Joe formed a new law firm with the talented Chuck James and a good Birmingham lawyer.)

233. “Man of the People” Award - - Joe Borg (Joe prepared legislation, and got a sponsor, for “crowd funding” where start up small businesses can seek financing from the masses—it passed.)

234. “Shia LaBeouf Lawless” Award - - Michael Strickland, Frank Wilson and Zachary Collins (They represented people injured and killed by shootings at the Centennial Hill Bar & Grill.)

235. “Les Miserables” Award - - Judge Vanzetta McPherson (Vanzetta wrote in her column that the lack of any active black federal judges in Alabama is a miserable and indefensible circumstance.)

236. “The Last Picture Show” Award - - Joe McCorkle (Joe was for part of the year president of the Capri Community Film Society—Montgomery’s oldest, still operating picture show.)

237. “Broadway Joe” Award - - Dorman Walker (He’s not Joe Namath, but he did promote live theater this year - as Chair of the Board of the Cloverdale Playhouse — and he does stay at Holiday Inn Express.)


239. “Hulk Hogan” Award - - Ken Nixon (Ken, a former wrestling champion, now officiates high school wrestling matches.)

240. “The (not) Long (enough) Goodbye” Award - - Quin and Joshua Segall (They’ve announced they are moving to Quin’s hometown, Nashville, but not until their house sells, which—I’m told—the grandparents have, so far, effectively sabotaged.)

241. “Gee, We’re Going to Miss You” Award - - Howard Alexander, Walter Byars, Joey Campbell, Rick Heinzman, Donald Letford, Pat Murphy, Euel Screws, Bill Stephens, Chad Stewart, Robert Ward, Calvin White-sell, Bill Younger, Conley Morrow and Cliff Cleveland.1

1 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.”