Make Your December Plans in June

On December 10 and 11, MCBA will host its Bench & Bar seminar. Twelve hours of CLE will be offered, including one hour of ethics. Speakers are being lined up. Plans call for eight hours of CLE on Thursday, December 10, with the MCBA Holiday Party to follow that night. Then, on Friday, December 11, four more hours of CLE will be offered. If you tend to put off getting your required CLE hours until the end of the year, then this event was tailor-made just for you. Go ahead and mark December 10 and 11 on your calendar today and make your plans in June to knock out all of your CLE hours in December.

MCBA recently entered into a partnership with Faulkner University Jones School of Law to offer mentors to Second Year students. We have 104 new student members as a result of this partnership. Be watching for more details about this opportunity to give future attorneys some guidance and shadowing opportunities. Bryan Morgan, the new Director of Career Services, has been working to make this a reality.

A special thank you goes to the sponsors of the Coffee with the Judges that was held May 12th. Baker Realtime Reporting and Video Services, MALS, and the MCBA Women’s Section outdid themselves with the sumptuous array of pastries offered with the coffee. We had approximately 100 in attendance.

Don’t forget to mark December 10-11 on your calendar for the big CLE!
VLP CORNER  By Mike Martin, Executive Director

The façade of the United States Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. includes the phrase, “Equal Justice Under Law.” That is the premise upon which our American legal system is built, the foundation that guarantees to all citizens the protection of the courts as they face their legal adversaries. Yet, for many poor residents of Montgomery County with civil legal problems, the financial inability to secure adequate representation means their judicial result will likely be neither equal nor justice.

We are blessed in Montgomery County with tremendous participation by the Bar in our Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program. Through this program we are able to help ‘level the playing field’ for indigent citizens facing civil legal issues or seeking relief from devastating legal problems. Our attorneys have given and continue to give countless pro bono hours in service to our community’s less fortunate. To each of them we say a hearty “Thank You.”

One of the means by which we serve is our monthly Advice and Counsel Clinic. Beginning in July, we are expanding to twice a month, on the first and third Tuesday, from 3:00-5:30 p.m. The clinics are held with the cooperation of the Montgomery Community Action Agency, in their offices located at 1100 Adams Avenue. At these clinics, we assist clients with issues including domestic relations, landlord/tenant, probate and consumer debt.

MVLP recently joined other social service agencies, most notably the United Way, to come together as a Foreclosure Prevention Partnership, designed to assist individuals facing foreclosure and eviction. Through this partnership, clients are referred to different programs able to address their particular need and, when possible, render assistance in dealing with this most distressing issue. In April, we held a clinic designed specifically for those facing foreclosure/eviction and had a tremendous turnout.

Participation at a clinic does not necessarily mean that our volunteers agree to take on extended representation of the clients with whom they meet. Often, the issue can be resolved that day with advice; others through extended representation that MVLP can refer. If you’re not currently an MVLP volunteer, or if you are and would like to participate in a clinic, please let us know at 265-0222. We’d love to have you join us!

Special thanks this month to our clinic and District Court help desk volunteers: Tim Gallagher and Brent Hargett (Sasser, Sefton & Brown), Cowin Knowles (Ball, Ball, Matthews & Novak), and Evan Allen, Beau Darley, Andrew Brasher and Grant Cofer (Beasley Allen). We also want to thank those volunteers, listed elsewhere in The Docket, who accepted new case referrals and/or closed existing cases during May.

Equal Justice Under Law. MVLP clients can realize the promise of that tenet through the pro bono service rendered by our volunteer attorneys. Come join us and experience the powerful feeling that comes from helping a fellow citizen through the gift of volunteer service.

MVLP client Marcus Dervin recently spoke during a "Community Conversation on Civil Legal Aid," expressing his gratitude to the program for helping him through a civil legal problem he could not resolve on his own. The gathering brought together local social service agencies and grant-funding organizations to learn about the dramatic social return on investment realized through civil legal aid.
Thanks a bunch to our Volunteer Lawyers!

The following attorneys accepted cases in May 2015:
Rosemari C. Hopson The Anderson Firm, LLC
William B. Sellers Balch & Bingham, LLP
Ashley Penhale (2) Copeland, Franco, Screws & Gill, P.A.
John Craft Faulkner University Jones School of Law
Effie M. Hawthorne The Law Office of Jeffrey C. Duffey
Virginia Lucci Lucci Law Firm
Roianne H. Conner Law Office of Roianne Houlton Conner
Brent Hargett Sasser, Sefton, & Brown, P.C.

The following attorneys closed cases in May 2015:
James B. Brannan, Jr. The Brannan Law Firm, PC
Ashley Penhale (2) Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, P.A.
David Martin (2) Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, P.A.
Tamika Miller (4) Miller Smith, LLC
Robert Beno Robert M. Beno, Attorney at Law

There’s a familiar face and a new crowd in Alabama.

Retired Judge Kenneth O. Simon, Esq., has opened a new office in Birmingham for Denver-based Judicial Arbiter Group, Inc.

Judge Simon, a former partner at Christian & Small LLP for 11 years is opening the JAG office to further his dispute resolution practice in Birmingham. He has more than 30 years' experience, as a judge and litigator. In 1984, he was selected as a White House Fellow and Special Assistant to Attorney General William French Smith. Later, as Assistant Director and Branch Chief of the S.E.C.’s Division of Enforcement in Washington, D.C., Ken supervised federal securities law investigations. Ken has multi-state experience as a mediator and arbitrator in securities, tort, and business litigation, and has handled many complex cases as a special master. Ken has been recognized in "Best Lawyers in America" and Alabama Super Lawyers®.

Judicial Arbiter Group, Inc. was founded over a quarter of a century ago, and today JAG is composed exclusively of former trial and appellate judges performing services such as mediation, arbitration, mock juries, discovery management and focus groups. Over 2,000 cases annually make JAG Arbiters some of the most experienced Mediators and Arbitrators in the Country.
Women’s Section Update by Laura Eubank, Pres.

On May 12th, 2015, the Jury Assembly Room was the place to be as we hosted Coffee with the Judges. We are so appreciative to Judge Reese for allowing us to use the Jury Assembly Room for this event, and to all of the judges that came out early that morning to socialize with our local attorneys. We also owe a special “thank you” to Baker Realtime Worldwide Court Reporting and Video and MALS for their support in sponsoring this wonderful event. This event grows each year, and we appreciate all of the MCBA members that joined us for Coffee with the Judges.

It’s almost time for the annual MCBA Women’s Section family BBQ! We all look forward to this event every year. On June 13th, once again, Roianne Conner is allowing us to take over her home and pool for an afternoon full of fun. There will, of course, be a bouncy house and waterslide for all of our members’ children (and some of our brave members) to enjoy. You don’t want to miss this opportunity to get out and have some fun! Details are in the flyer below, and will also be posted on our Facebook page and sent out via email. Thank you to our awesome sponsor, Baker Realtime Worldwide Court Reporting and Video for sponsoring this fun event!

We are also currently working on getting another spa day set up for August. We are looking at August 15, 2015, for that event. More details will be sent out soon. Please also tentatively mark your calendar for September 1st for our annual meeting at the Capitol City Club. Lastly, the Court Referral Job Fair is June 11th. The Women’s Section is helping to gather gently used professional attire of all sizes to give to the participants of the Job Fair. If any MCBA members have items in their closets that they would like to donate, please contact any of our board members or email us at mcbawomen@gmail.com. We would like to have everything gathered together for the organizers of the event by June 4th. As usual, keep an eye on your email for details on upcoming events!

Laura Eubank

We thank Cornelia Baker/Baker Realtime Court Reporting for being a sponsor of the Womens’ Section Barbecue.
You’re invited to the
MCBA Women’s Section
Family Barbecue
Saturday, June 13th
2:00-5:00 p.m.
At Roianne Conner’s home
Food, fellowship, swimming, fun!

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS TO 895
KERINGTON LANE, PIKE ROAD
From Montgomery – take Interstate 85 North towards Atlanta and exit at the Exit 11 onto Chantilly Parkway/Alabama 110 East. Travel towards Vaughn Road which is approximately 2.7 miles from the Exit. Turn left on Vaughn Road and travel approximately .5 of a mile to the first intersection which is Pike Road, turn right onto Pike Road. Travel approximately 5.3 miles to Old Pike Road and turn left. (There will be a sign at the intersection that states Bartlett International Airport). Travel then 2.9 miles to Mathews Road where you turn left onto Mathews Road. Travel approximately one mile and the Kerington Subdivision is on the right. Turn into the subdivision on Kerington Lane and travel approximately one mile staying on Kerington Lane to 895.

Rsvp to Roianne by 6/10
215-1988 or email
mrsrhconner@yahoo.com
If you are reading this and have not signed up for the Young Lawyers Clay Shoot, stop reading and do it now (See the flyer below. Registration forms are available online www.mcbar.org.) The shoot is THIS FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH at 2PM, at the Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club. We raised over $4,000 last year, and we are expecting an even bigger event this year. All of the proceeds go to the Montgomery County Volunteer Lawyers Program. After the shoot, there will be food and refreshments provided by Midtown Pizza Kitchen and Pine Bar; it’s a great setting to exchange excuses as to why you shot so poorly. I hope you all will join us. Contact me or Ali Hawthorne (Alison.Hawthorne@beasleallen.com) if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Jesse

(JAnderson@hillhillcarter.com)
Coffee with the Judges
Welcome, New Members!

Bledsoe, J. Matt—The Office of the Attorney General
Brown, Terry—retired
Day, Jenna—Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C.
Jordan, Audrey—The Office of the Attorney General
Perkins, Vernetta—Montgomery County Public Schools
Smith, George—retired
Strickland, Michael—Stickland and Kendall
Vickrey, James—retired

The Alabama Department of Public Health’s Office of General Counsel announces that Bethany Bolger, formerly of Rushton, Stakely, Johnston, and Garrett, has joined their office as assistant general counsel.

Faulkner University Jones School of Law announces that Bryan E. Morgan has been named Director of Career Services.

CLE OPPORTUNITY

Looking Out for Number 1
(Who’s taking care of you while you take care of your clients?)

July 10th
10:00-11:30 a.m.
Presented by Brittany Wiggins (MHA) and Robert Thornhill (ASB)
Montgomery County Courthouse 3rd floor
Preregister: dotrobinson@mc-ala.org
Member News

The annual publication *Alabama Super Lawyers* recently selected for inclusion in the 2015 issue six attorneys from Capell & Howard, P.C. Candidates are evaluated on twelve indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement, and not more than 5% of all attorneys in the state are selected. They are:

Richard H. Allen and J. Lister Hubbard (Construction Litigation); Bruce J. Downey (Employment and Labor); Henry H. Hutchinson (Mergers & Acquisitions); and William D. Coleman and James N. Walter (Alternative Dispute Resolution).

Capell & Howard is also delighted to welcome Carla Cole Gilmore (pictured below), who recently joined the firm as a shareholder. Carla has been practicing law in Montgomery for 20 years and focuses her practice primarily in the areas of labor and employment law, commercial litigation, probate and estate litigation, and administrative law.

Two lawyers from Sasser, Sefton, and Brown, P.C.—Bowdy J. Brown (Creditor/Debtor Rights) and Patrick L.W. Sefton (Banking)—were included in the *Alabama Super Lawyers* 2015 publication.

Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C. has been selected for inclusion on the *National Law Journal’s* Midsize Hot List which identifies the most successful firms with 51 to 150 attorneys who excel at deal making, litigation, counseling and other legal services. The magazine will spotlight the firm for its reputation in handling some of the nation’s most prominent cases. Two areas mentioned were the Fraud section’s continued success in Medicaid Fraud litigation on behalf of the state of Mississippi. The firm helped the state secure an award of $17.8 million against drug makers who have been found to have defrauded state Medicaid programs. The *National Law Journal* also mentioned the firm’s leadership role in the $9.2 billion settlement with BP PLC for economic damages stemming from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The firm of Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C., as well as Principal & Founder Jere L. Beasley; Principal & Lead Products Liability Attorney J. Greg Allen; and Principal & Mass Torts Section Head Andy D. Birchfield were ranked in Band 2 in the Litigation practice area in the *Chambers USA* list of best lawyers in America.

Please submit your firm’s news to us by the 20th of each month for publication in the next month’s issue of *The Docket*.

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