Ordinarily, that statement is not true in the practice of law. But, there is an exception, and that exception is this year’s Bench & Bar seminar at Wynlakes on December 10 and 11. If you put off getting your 12 hours of CLE, then this is just for you. If you have not gotten that one hour of ethics that might not have been covered in other CLE’s you attended this year, then this is just for you. If you want the opportunity to talk with local judges in a non-courtroom setting, then this is just for you. Come hear Judge Keith Watkins, Judge J. R. Gaines, Judge Pam Higgins, Judge Anita Kelly, and Judge Adrian Johnson. Tripp Vickers from the Alabama State Bar will make a one-hour ethics presentation. For the unbeatable price of $75, you can get all of your required 12 hours of CLE.

You can pick up 8 hours of CLE on Thursday, December 10, and then hang around for the Holiday Party that starts at 6:30 p.m. Return on Friday morning, December 11, for the last 4 hours, and in one fell swoop you will get all of your required CLE hours. If you have put off getting your CLE, then in this case it pays to wait until the last second and attend the Bench and Bar Seminar. But don’t wait until the last second to register! Seating is limited. The registration form is included on page 15 so make your plans to attend now. And don’t forget to RSVP for the Holiday Gala which will be on the 10th of December.

There are not adequate words to fully thank Ashley Penhale and Felicia Long for the planning and execution of the most lavish MCBA affair ever. Our Centennial Celebration was elegantly decorated, and the program was full of laughter and warm memories. Thank you to those attorneys and judges who shared some of their more memorable (and hilarious) “war stories” during the program and on video. The committee led by Ashley and Felicia deserve our thanks. Also, Ashley Penhale was named Volunteer Lawyer of the Year. Congratulations, Ashley!
Volunteer Lawyers Reason to Give Thanks
By Mike Martin, VLP Executive Director

We have just finished celebrating Pro Bono Month in Alabama, and Montgomery County distinguished itself once again with the participation of local lawyers. From our monthly Counsel and Advice Clinics, a special MCBA-sponsored Lowndes County clinic in Hayneville, and the statewide Pro Bono Kick-off Celebration to the Poverty Simulation in Montgomery to close out the month, it has been a true testament to the commitment and dedication of the Montgomery Bar to the provision of civil legal aid to the economically challenged. Thank you one and all for your willingness to give of your time and talents.

And what a better way to start off the month than with the MCBA Centennial Gala, celebrating the Bar’s 100th year, held October 1 at the Capital City Club. Your Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program was this year’s beneficiary of the annual fundraising event of MCBA, and the overwhelming response of sponsoring firms and individual attorneys will help make it possible to continue to grow our program. A special thank you to each of those who participated, both financially and by their attendance at the Gala.

While October is the month during which we celebrate Pro Bono Month each year, I want to take this opportunity to applaud the efforts of the local Bar to participate as volunteers with the MVLP each and every month. That dedication to rendering service to the less fortunate has enabled us to recently expand our Counsel and Advice Clinics to twice a month, to establish a Child Support Help Desk in the courthouse during days of child support hearings, and to take an ever-increasing number of requests for assistance through direct contact with our office. To date, attendance at our monthly clinics has doubled, the number of cases opened as increased substantially as have the number of cases closed, and the partnerships we have forged with local advocacy agencies have tripled. All of this is made possible through your commitment to the notion that everyone, regardless of their economic standing, is entitled to access to justice.

Recently a long-time friend was in the courthouse and happened to stop by the MVLP office to say hello. While here, he asked what he could do to help. I suggested that he could volunteer to take a case and asked with which areas of law he was most comfortable. He said most any civil area, with the exception of domestic law. We were able to make a referral of a client with a consumer complaint on the spot. It is that disposition to help that is a win-win for everyone. The client gains competent legal assistance, the attorney has the satisfaction that comes from giving back, and the program has another volunteer to add to the roster. If you are not already enrolled, please consider contacting MVLP at 265-0222 and offering your services.

Thanks this month to those lawyers who helped staff our monthly clinics, including Royce Wadsworth, Stephanie Monplaisir, Evan Allen, Joana Ellis, Bill Messer, Aigner Kolom, Nicole Bean and Maceo Kirkland. A special thank you to those Montgomery attorneys who took time to journey down to Hayneville for a special legal clinic, including Royal Dumas, Tim Gallagher, Ashley Penhale, Mickey McDermott, Ashley Smith and Matthew Ward.

It is nice to take a month every year to focus on the Bar’s pro bono efforts. I’m thankful and proud that we have a local Bar that shows its commitment every month. Without you, many indigent citizens would be left to fend for themselves in a judicial jungle with overwhelming odds against them. During this month of Thanksgiving, give thanks to your fellow Bar members who answer the call to render service.
The following attorneys accepted cases in October 2015:

Gary Backus  Backus Law Group
Aigner Kolom  Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
Stephanie Monplaisir  Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
Royal C. Dumas  Gilpin Givhan, PC
John Craft  Faulkner University Jones School of Law
Gregory A. Carr  The Law Office of Gregory A. Carr

The following attorneys closed cases in October 2015:

Stephanie Monplaisir  Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
John Craft (3)  Faulkner University Jones School of Law
Timothy Gallagher  Sasser Sefton & Brown, PC

Volunteers At
October clinics:
Left:
Attorney Nicole
Bean and law student Valynda Jerome-Williams

Right:
Attorney Royce
Wadsworth
Outreach VLP Clinic in Lowndes County

Pictured left: Matthew Ward, staff attorney Legal Services of AL; Mike Martin, Montgomery VLP Director; Ashley Smith, attorney; Ashley Penhale, attorney; Royal Dumas, event organizer; Tim Gallagher, MVLP Board Pres.; Mickey McDermott, attorney; District Judge Adrian Johnson; Circuit Judge Terri B. Lovell

Pictured right: Rutha Davis-Bonner, the librarian at the Lowndes/Hayneville public library, who graciously opened the library space for the clinic and served as the greeter.

SAVE THE DATE!

The MCBA Annual Meeting
January 20, 2016 at noon
Alabama Activity Center, Dexter Avenue
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 a position on the Board of Directors for the 2016 term must submit a letter of intent to run on or prior to December 15, 2015. Any candidate for Secretary/Treasurer must have first served on the Board of Directors.

The letter should be addressed to:
Rhon Jones, MCBA Sec./Treas.
Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
P.O. Box 4160
Montgomery, AL  36103-4160

A copy of the letter and short biography and digital photograph must be sent to Suzanne Duffey at suzanneduffey@mc-ala.org. Biography and photo will be published in the January 2016 Docket.

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

CLE OPPORTUNITIES

Nov. 5  8:45-4:45  The Cutting Edge CLE sponsored by Auburn Montgomery College Of Public Policy and Justice– State Capitol Auditorium-FREE
6 hrs MCLE credit/1 hr. Ethics– Must preregister by Nov. 2nd-dotrobinson@mc-ala.org

Nov. 19  1:00-4:00  The Young Lawyers Section of Alabama State Bar and MCBA are hosting The Iron Bowl CLE at the Montgomery County Courthouse. Contact Jesse Anderson for details 834-7600.

Dec. 1  8:00-5:00  Second Annual Construction Law Summit by the Construction Law Section of the Alabama State Bar at the Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel, Birmingham. Contact www.alabar.org for fees and info

Dec. 10-11  8:00-5:00  MCBA 12 Hours of CLE at Wynlakes– see page15 for registration form and information—$75 for members
Happy 100th Birthday, MCBA!

The past Presidents of the Montgomery County Bar Association were honored at the Centennial Gala on October 1st at the Capital City Club in Montgomery. Lavish floral arrangements of white roses and lilies gave the event an elegant touch. Under the leadership of Ashley Penhale and Felicia Long, the night was replete with special moments that are sure to be treasured memories. From the toast offered by Hon. Eugene Reese to the hilarious stories shared by various members, it was a special evening for all in attendance. The annual Montgomery Volunteer Lawyer Award was presented to Ashley Penhale who gives of her time and expertise generously to help those who cannot afford legal representation and counsel. Others nominated for the award were Robert Beno, Royce Wadsworth, Matt Matthews, and John Charles.
Ashley Penhale, Chairwoman of the Centennial Gala and Felicia Long, Co-Chair.

Hon. Joel Dubina and attorney Phil Butler shared a story that would make an award-winning movie.

The elegant setting at the Capital City Club

Ashley Penhale was awarded the MCBA Volunteer Lawyer of the Year award in recognition of her many hours of service to through the MVLP. The award was presented by Pres. Cowin Knowles.
Centennial Gala continued

Felicia Long shared the history of MCBA.

Joe Espy was the emcee for the Centennial Gala program.

Judge Eugene Reese raises a glass to toast the MCBA.

To view photos from bygone years of MCBA members and events, go to the MCBA Facebook page. These photos were shown on slides throughout the dinner.
Thank you, 2015 Charity Sponsors!

Presidential Sponsor

Beasley Allen
BEASLEY, ALLEN, CROW, METHVIN, PORTIS & MILES, P.C.
Attorneys at law

Celebrating 35 years of helping those who need it most

Signature Sponsor

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River Region Living Magazine
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Mooty and Associates
Pittman Law Firm
Warren Averett

Friends of the MCBA:
Barfoot and Schoettker, LLC
Sean and Kelly McTear
Goodwyn Mills & Cawood, Inc.
Memory and Day
New Members

We welcome these new members to the MCBA:

Blakely W. Barnes—Strickland and Kendall, PC
Nicole Bean—E. Nicole Bean, LLC
Alyssa Hawkins—E. Nicole Bean, LLC
Norman Hurst—Norman Hurst, Jr., Attorney
Maceo Kirkland—Legal Services of Alabama

Rushton, Stakely, Johnston, & Garrett, P.A. , a firm which began in Montgomery in 1890, is thrilled to announce the opening of their first branch office in Birmingham. For 125 years, the lawyers of Rushton Stakely have delivered the highest levels of service and quality to our clients throughout the country. “We are driven by a strong commitment to client success, and we believe that our presence in Birmingham will enhance the service to our clients. We look forward to working with our existing clients and furthering our relationships with the legal community in Birmingham,” said Tommy Keene, president of Rushton Stakely.

Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C. has been selected as a finalist for The National Law Journal’s Elite Trial Lawyers award for accomplishments in Motor Vehicle litigation. The awards recognize law firms nationwide that have secured the largest awards for their plaintiff clients. ALM’s The National Law Journal will honor the 50 law firms who accomplished the largest awards for their plaintiff clients in 2015 at an awards ceremony Nov. 5.

Beasley Allen has been also been selected for inclusion on the Law 360 Most Feared Plaintiffs Firm list for accomplishments in the past year. The list identifies law firms nationwide that have secured the largest awards for their plaintiff clients. Eleven firms were selected for the list this year; each of those firms pulled in big victories in complex cases that have a wide impact on the law and legal business.

For Sale!

MCBA Centennial T-shirts in Limited Quantity
$12 each

The chest pocket shirts are dark navy blue with white imprinting.

Contact Ashley Penhale to purchase your shirt. Penhale@copelandfranco.com or call 834-1180.
It’s coming! Don’t miss it!

The MCBA Holiday Gala
December 10th, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
At Wynlakes Country Club

Please RSVP by Dec. 1st. Each member may make reservations for 2 at no charge. Additional reservations cost $25.00 each.

Call 265-4793 or email dotrobinson@mc-ala.org to RSVP.

Please bring a new unwrapped toy to donate to the Toys for Tots.

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MCBA Social
Nov. 5th 5:00-7:00
In the RSA Building
@ 201 S. Union Street

No reservations needed, just show up!

Specials until 6:30 p.m.

Domestic draft 10 oz. $0.99
Domestic draft 25 oz. $2.99
Wells (+1 call, +2 premium) $1.99

Imported and Craft Draft 10 oz. $2.99
Imported and Craft Draft 25 oz. $4.99
50% off Bottles of Wine

Plus Wings and more
The Montgomery County Bar Association
Award for Service and Achievement

The MCBA Award for Service and Achievement annually recognizes a Montgomery Lawyer who has distinguished himself or herself through service to the bar and the community. The Award honors a lawyer who demonstrates the highest standard of professionalism and is respected by his or her peers for their outstanding legal ability.

Nominee: ______________________________________________________

Nominating Attorney: ____________________________________________

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Please explain why you are nominating this person. Attach additional pages if needed.


Award to be presented at the MCBA Annual Meeting in January 2016.

Mail Nominations to: Suzanne Duffey
c/o Montgomery County Bar Association
P.O Box 72
Montgomery, AL 36101
Thanks AND Giving  by Kelly McTear, President  
MCBA Women’s  Section

A good time was had by all at our Wicked Witches’ Bash at The Tavern. We enjoyed spending
time with everyone who was able to attend and look forward to more celebrating throughout the
year.

Our next event is coming up fast. On November 19, 2015, from 5:30 to 7:00, we will take over
The Shoppes of My Kids Attic for a special members-only time to shop and socialize. There will be
food and (per usual) drinks! We will also be conducting a baby-item drive as our holiday charity
event, running through early December. Look for more details in your monthly MCBA Women’s Sec-
tion e-mail.

Female lawyers in Montgomery are doing great things! Recently, Aylia McKee, Lindsay Roni-
lo, and Brittnay Bucak all spoke to various student groups and classes at Faulkner Law, encourag-
ing and educating future attorneys. If you’ve been doing good work too, let us know about your ac-
complishments, so we can congratulate you on Facebook, in our e-newsletter, and here in The Docket.
Don’t hesitate to brag on your friends or co-workers, either!

So THANKS for your support thus far. We look forward to GIVING you a lot more excitement
going forward. If you’re interested in joining the Women’s Section, want to get on the e-newsletter
list, or just have news to share, e-mail us at mcbawomen@gmail.com. We’d love to hear from you.

Kelly McTear

ABOVE: Head Witches In Charge: Effie Hawthorne, Han-
nah Kennedy, Brittnay Bucak, Connie Murray, LaShandra
Warren, Roianne Conner

RIGHT: Azzie Taylor and Scott Green discuss the best DA
scare tactics.

RIGHT: Our littlest WLS Member and honorary witch, Evelyne
Frith, Roianne Conner’s granddaughter
Young Lawyers Section News

By Jesse Anderson, YLS President

The Young Lawyers held a social on October 15th at The Pine Bar. A special thanks to Eagle Court Reporting for sponsoring the event. They provided food and refreshments, and even gave away a pair of football tickets! Chris Waller, obviously a man who is living right, won tickets to the Tennessee vs. Alabama game. You can contact the good folks with Eagle at (334) 244-8000, or check out their website at www.eaglecourtreporting.com.

The State Young Lawyers Iron Bowl CLE on NOVEMBER 19TH: It is open to all lawyers. The cost is $100. Each attendee will receive 3.0 hours of CLE credit, 1.0 of which will be an ethics credit. It will be held on November 19th from 1PM-4PM in the jury assembly room at the Montgomery County Courthouse. And...most importantly... a pair of Iron Bowl tickets will be given away to an attendee at the end! More details will be coming out soon through email. In the meantime, feel free to contact me or Evan Allen with questions or to get signed up.

Alabama State Bar Young Lawyers’
Iron Bowl CLE
Nov. 19th
1:00-4:00 pm
$100.00
Jury Assembly Room, Third Floor
Montgomery County Courthouse
3 hours CLE (1 hr. ethics)
The Montgomery County Bar Association proudly presents

**THE 12 CLE HOURS OF THE HOLIDAYS**

**December 10th and 11th at Wynlakes Country Club**

**Thursday, December 10th  8:00-5:00 (lunch included)**

**Friday, December 11th  8:00-12:00**

**Presenters**


**Includes 1 hr. of Ethics, Dispute Resolution, Settlement Tax Liability, Occupation Stress and more—watch your email!**

For more information, contact Royal Dumas rdumas@gilpingivhan.com

**Limited Seating- Preregistration is necessary!**

Name _____________________________________ email ____________________________

Firm or agency ______________________________________________________________

MCBA members $75.00 Non-members $150.00

Payment: ___Cash  ____ Check

____ Credit Card (must call or see Suzanne Duffey to make payment on card)

*Mail registration form and payment to MCBA, P.O. Box 72, Montgomery, AL 36101.*