I have hijacked the President’s page this month so that I could share some information that I found digging through the older editions of the MCBA Docket. The first issue of the Docket was published in January of 1979. I am hopeful to get all of the issues of the Docket online by the beginning of next year. There is a plethora of very interesting information and events concerning the Montgomery County Bar Association and all who practice law here in the tri-county area would find browsing through the issues enjoyable.

As I was clicking the editions for 1986 and giving each a cursory read, “When what to my wondering eyes should appear”, the first issue of the “Distinguishable Lawyers”, in December written by none other than the infamous Robert David Segall better known to the legal community as “Bobby”.

I have had the privilege during the 13 years here at the MCBA of being one of the first people to read Bobby’s annual “Distinguishable Lawyers” awards before they are officially published in the December issue of the MCBA Docket. I usually settle back in my cozy, floorganized office here on the fourth floor in the corner of the Montgomery County Courthouse with my feet on the desk and chuckle, guffaw and laugh out loud (sometimes accompanied by a snort) at the year in review of the “legal eagles” residing in Montgomery as seen through Mr. Segall’s irreverent perspective.

I do have to admit that I would like to see the genius at work on the yearly edition of the “Distinguishable Lawyer Awards”. Questions abound: 1. How does he collect the information on the nominees?; 2. Where does he store the collection of info during the year?; and 3. What qualifies you as prey or fodder for an award? I suspect that there is a pile of cocktail napkins, credit card receipts and business cards on which are scribbled hieroglyphics that later can only be decoded during the month of November by Bobby. If someone has a picture of this pile please send it to the MCBA office. Your anonymity will be protected. You will need protection—or else be the victim of a Distinguishable Lawyer Award for next year.

Thank you, Della Bryan, for all those many hours spent helping to decipher the code, editing and rewriting, and making calls to the MCBA office to ask for an extension to the deadline for the December Docket! Yes, folks the December edition of the Docket is late some years because Bobby has one, or two, or more awards he just remembered. Hang in there, Della! I think we might make the 3rd try at the deadline this year.

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Now, I invite you to sit back with a beverage of choice and your feet up as you read the 30th edition of the “Distinguishable Lawyer Awards”. Thanks Bobby, for helping celebrate the profession by giving the legal community the opportunity to NOT take ourselves so seriously.

P.S. I have included the first edition of the “Distinguishable Lawyers” which contained only 19 awards. My, oh, my, how it has evolved! And my personal award is “My Awards are as Sharp as My Moustache” Award—Bobby Segall.

Suzanne Duffey
Executive Director, MCBA
This is the first Distinguishable Lawyers column Bobby published in 1986. The 2015 Distinguishable Lawyers list begins on page 12 and has 230 awards. - Editor
As I write this, Thanksgiving is upon us, marking the beginning of what is traditionally considered the ‘holiday season’. It’s one of my favorite times of the year. It means family togetherness, great food and fellowship, and optimistic anticipation of the coming year. It is also a time of reflection on what has transpired during the previous 12 months.

The past year has been a good one for your Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program. We have received more than double the requests for assistance in a year-over comparison. This also meant a substantial increase in the number of opened cases, as well as cases closed with successful resolution for our clients. These increases are a direct result of the continued support of our volunteer lawyers. By helping staff our twice-monthly counsel and advice clinics, by accepting direct case referrals from our office, or by being available for any of the various needs that pop up every day, our volunteers are making a difference in the lives of Montgomery-area indigent residents in need of civil legal aid.

We are also blessed with the financial support of MCBA members, both through the dues supplement approved several years ago, as well as your continued generosity from MCBA fundraisers, from which we have received significant grant assistance. For both the time and expertise as well as the funding help, we say ‘Thank You’ and we look forward to working together in the coming year. If you are not an active volunteer at present, please consider taking at least one case referral from MVLP in 2016. I promise you will change not only the life of your client, but experience the satisfaction that comes from serving others in their time of need. Please call us at 265-0222 to make sure we have up-to-date information on the type of case(s) for which you would like to volunteer.

A big part of our program is the service rendered during our counsel and advice clinics, walk-in opportunities for clients to meet with an attorney, held the first and third Tuesday afternoons of each month. As I do each month, I want to salute those attorneys who gave of their time to assist at a clinic: John Charles (The Anderson Law Firm), Matt Munson (Beasley Allen), Jenna Faulk (Beasley Allen), Kelly McTear (Jones School of Law), Bill Messer (Varley & Messer), Katie O’Maillia, Bea Sellers (Beasley Allen), and Nicole Bean.

Enjoy the holidays. Be thankful for the bounty with which you have been blessed. And, when you sit down to consider your resolutions for 2016, think about including the MVLP as an outlet for your talents. The satisfaction that comes from volunteering will last you all year long.

Cole Portis, partner at Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C., presents the 2015 Beasley Allen Pro Bono Award to Mike Martin, executive director of the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program. Beasley Allen is and has been a strong supporter of the MVLP, both financially and by providing volunteers for MVLP Advice and Counsel Clinics and for direct referral of clients. MVLP wishes to thank Beasley Allen for their generous support.
Our Volunteers Put Joy in Clients’ Lives

The following attorneys accepted cases in November of 2015:

Nicole Bean  E. Nicole Bean, LLC
Katie C. O’Mailia  Law Office of Katie Cameron O’Mailia
Joel T. Caldwell  Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, P.A.
Kelly McTear  Faulkner University Jones School of Law

The following attorneys closed cases in November of 2015:

Matthew E. Munson  Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
John Craft  Faulkner University Jones School of Law
Kelly McTear  Faulkner University Jones School of Law

MCBA MEMBER NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Katie C. O’Mailia—Katie C. O’Mailia, Esq.  Clay Phillips—District Attorney’s Office

Congratulations to Public Defender Aylia McKee upon the birth of a daughter, Eva.

Cleveland, Riddle, & Atchison announces that Raymond J. (Ray) Hawthorne, Jr. has the joined the firm as a trial attorney in the Montgomery office.

Two of our MCBA members have been selected for induction to the American Board of Trial Advocates—Gibson Vance of the Beasley Allen firm, and Peyton Chapman of Rushton Stakely. Congratulations, Gibson and Peyton!

Bradley Arant has been named to the U.S. News-Best Lawyers 2016 “Best Law Firms” Tier 1 national ranking for its Construction Law and Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions-Defendants practice areas. Additionally, the firm received Tier 1 metropolitan rankings for the Montgomery office in five practice areas: Commercial Litigation; Litigation-Labor & Employment; Product Liability Litigation-Defendants; Public Finance Law; and Tax Law.

Chris Glover, a Principal with Beasley Allen, has written a primer for attorneys interested in pursuing 18-wheeler and other heavy truck litigation. The book, Introduction to Truck Accident Claims: A Guide to Getting Started, covers topics including the basics of trucking regulations and requirements, how to prepare your case, and much more.
The Montgomery County Bar Association
2016 Annual Meeting
January 20
at the Alabama Activity Center, 205 Dexter Ave.

Voting for 3 Board Members and Sec./Treas.
Voting opens at 11:30 - Luncheon Meeting at 12:00
You must have a reservation for lunch.
Lunch $20.00 per person
Email dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or call 265-4793.

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.
“All I can tell you today is what I have learned. What I have discovered as a person in this world. And that is this: you can’t do it alone. As you navigate through the rest of your life, be open to collaboration. Other people and other people’s ideas are often better than your own. Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life.”

-Amy Poehler, actress

As I was considering this month’s article, I recalled this quote. It seemed so appropriate in the context of our Women’s Section and its goals. Not only does our section provide an opportunity to have fun, vent the day’s frustrations, and make new friends; it also gives us wonderful opportunities to collaborate on various legal and non-legal projects. I’m constantly amazed at how many lady lawyers I see sitting on boards, participating in community organizations, and otherwise stepping outside themselves to improve our profession and our community.

But I shouldn’t be surprised. Women in Montgomery have long been advocates for social change, community improvement, and service to others. That’s why the MCBA Women’s Section has dedicated itself to 3 goals: celebration, education, and recognition. We acknowledge that it takes a lot to keep the interest of our busy, busy members, but we are committed to meeting that goal.

Since September, we’ve already instituted a monthly newsletter, including events and news about our members and their projects, had two socials, and we are in the midst of our Holiday Fundraiser as we speak. We are working to provide diverse opportunities to network, learn, and contribute to projects and initiatives our members are passionate about.

As you consider your bar membership for next year, I encourage you to join us in 2016. You won’t regret it for a second.

If you have questions about activities or membership, or suggestions for future projects, e-mail mcbawomen@gmail.com.

MCBA Women’s Section 2015 Holiday Fundraiser
Who: Gift of Life Foundation’s Healthy Start Program (www.golfound.com)
What: NB and Size 1 diapers baby wipes blankets/small developmental toys
Why: GoL’s Healthy Start Program works with low-income mothers to provide education on early child care, health, and nutrition.
When: Drop off to MCBA Women’s Section Board member or e-mail the board (mcbawomen@gmail.com) to schedule pick up by December 18, 2015.

MCBA Women’s Section Members celebrate and shop for special gifts at our Holiday Social at The Shoppes at My Kids’ Attic.
MCBA Attorneys Help with AL Youth Judicial

Approximately 664 high school students in grades 9-12 from across the state of Alabama participated in the YMCA Youth Judicial competition November 7-9, 2015 in Montgomery, Alabama. This three day mock trial competition provides an opportunity for students to try an entire case from opening to close and work with attorneys as team coaches who help them understand the judicial system. The YMCA appreciates the support of the local bar association each year, including the following attorneys who helped this year: Deanie Allen, Clay Barnett, Kyle Beckman, Robert Black, Christopher Boutwell, Lanier Branch, Rebecca Chambliss, Laurel Crawford, Richard Dean, Thomas Govan, Tommie Hardwick, Tony Higgins, Rick Hill, Megan Kirkpatrick, Felicia Long, Sarah Osborne, Beth Poe, Cole Portis, Joe Rech, Wells Robinson, Grant Sexton, Charlanna Skaggs, Will Sellers, Clay Teague, Jacquelyn Tomlinson, and Ben Wilson. Below is a picture of several of the attorneys at the final trial at the Montgomery Performing Arts Centre.

Pictured from left to right: Kyle Beckman, Megan Kirkpatrick, Sarah Osborne, Felicia Long, and Clay Barnett.

MCBA Holiday Gala

December 10 at Wynlakes Country Club
6:30-9:30 p.m. Free to MCBA Members
You must RSVP by December 4th.
We will collect new toys for Toys for Tots.
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

$75.00 per member/$150 for non-members

Thursday Agenda:

8:15 State District Court Panel– Hon. Adrian Johnson, Hon. Pamela Higgins
9:15 Appellate Court Panel – Julia Weller, Clerk to AL Supreme Court and an appellate judge TBA
10:15 Break
11:45 Lunch and Address from AL State Bar President, Lee Copeland
1:00 Break
1:15 Judge Steven Reed, Judge of Probate, Montgomery County
2:15 State Circuit Court– Hon. J.R. Gaines
3:15 Break
3:30 Domestic/Family Law—Speaker TBA
4:30 Ethics—Mark Moody, AL State Bar

Happy Hour at 5:30-6:30 for CLE participants

Friday Agenda:

8:00 Legal Services of Alabama—Maceo Kirkland “Tax Ramification of Settlement”
9:00 Emily Marks
10:00 Break
10:15 Alternative Dispute Resolution—Judy Keegan, Alabama State Bar ADR
11:15 Panel Discussion—Flynn Mozingo, Chris Waller, Royal Dumas

To attend, you must complete a registration form and send payment prior to Dec. 3. Checks must be made payable to MCBA.

Name_____________________________________    email _______________________________

Payment by ____ check   ____ cash   ____ credit card (phone 265-4793)
Ten Tips on Dealing with Your Lawyer  by Allen Trapp

1. Drop by the lawyer's office frequently "just to check up on things". Don't bother to make an appointment; a lawyer's day is dull and monotonous and he will appreciate the break in routine. Be sure to call back several times within the next hour with small details that you "just forgot to mention". Your lawyer needs to hear your voice as often as possible to develop that warm attorney-client bond.

2. Be sure to bring all the documents pertinent to your case in a wadded-up paper bag along with your grocery list, old credit card slips, and your child's report cards from last year. Shove things across the lawyer's desk at random, without explanation, whenever he asks a question. You never know what seemingly irrelevant scrap of paper may be the key to your whole case.

3. Be sure to be indignant when your lawyer is not available the moment you call or drop in. You're a busy person, and he has no right to be in court or seeing other clients when you need to let him know again how unfair your situation is and how upset you are. If you absolutely must leave a message, be sure to leave a number you know you won't be at later. Leave your old phone number, the one that's just been disconnected. Or better yet, don't pay your monthly telephone bill and have your phone service turned off. Don't bother to set up a voice mail system so your lawyer can't leave you any messages. That way, you can complain to your family and friends that your lawyer "never returns your phone calls."

4. Frequently call your lawyer at home at dinnertime. His family will surely appreciate it. Besides, cold dinners are better for the digestion. And after his spouse leaves with the children because your lawyer has no time for family, your lawyer will have much more time to devote to your case.

5. When you call, don't bother to identify yourself. Your lawyer and his staff should recognize your voice immediately, and you have every right to be upset when they don't. The staff should be on their toes enough to immediately know the answer when you call and say only, "Hey. Them papers ready yet?"

6. If your call is taken by a receptionist or secretary, be sure to tell them your entire story, even if all they ask for is your name and phone number. Do not be afraid to start with the day you were born. Do not be deterred by the sound of other lines ringing in the background; they'll wait while you pour out your heart to the receptionist. It will be good practice for when you have to tell the whole story over again to your lawyer.

7. When your lawyer gives you a legal opinion or suggests a settlement of your case, be sure to argue vehemently with him. Lawyers love to argue, and besides, what is his training and experience compared to what you've heard from your Aunt Louise? Any bad news should be answered with accusations that the lawyer is taking money from the other side to sell you out. This will change your lawyer's assessment of the situation to something more pleasing to you.

8. It's very helpful to have your closest friend, your mother, and your uncle who used to be a cop twenty years ago call your lawyer frequently with advice on how he should be handling your case. Your lawyer is sure to appreciate the input.

9. Your lawyer will do a better job without a lot of negative information cluttering his mind. Therefore, you should not give your lawyer any information about your case which you think might harm your chances. Besides, lawyers love surprises, especially when they happen in court. You'll enjoy the look on your lawyer's face when your wife's attorney shows the judge the credit card receipts for the trip to Bermuda you took with your girlfriend that you "forgot" to tell your lawyer about, or when the D.A. tells the judge about the seven out of state DUI's which you "didn't think were important" because "they was all lies anyway."
10. Don’t bother to pay your legal fees and be sure to complain loudly about them, paid or not. Your lawyer should recognize that you are trying to correct a miscarriage of justice and be satisfied with the knowledge that he is doing good works. His staff will also accept that warm glow of satisfaction in lieu of payment, as will the banks holding the mortgage on his home and office. Lawyers make too much money anyway, a fact which they’re always glad to hear about.

(Some of you may recognize past and present clients who have “dealt” with you in such a manner. In the name of propriety and professionalism, we won’t list tips for lawyers on How To Deal with Clients!)

Wishing you the gifts of peace and joy now and in the coming year

Your MCBA Staff
Suzanne Duffey           Dot Robinson
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:

_________________________________________________________________

Name Phone Number

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
2015 has been the Year of the Donald. Every other Republican presidential candidate has been trumped. Neither the Apprentice, nor Trump Tower (nor Trump anything else) ever produced the notoriety received this year by the best the Repubs (so far) have to offer. Only collapsing stock markets and Ashley Madison have caused Republicans to fear as much for their futures. Democrats, though, aren’t smiling – ISIL is a problem. And, Hillary could be hurting. Although Martha Roby’s Benghazi Committee may (but probably won’t) be one reason, the real culprit is email. J. Edgar Hoover, in a career of trying every day, never entrapped as many people as email entraps in a half second. The result is that Tommy Gallion (I mean Donald Trump) may face off in next year’s general election against a (self-declared) Socialist (only Wayne Sabel might believe is too conservative). It could be deeply divisive. But, don’t worry. All our citizens will unite behind whoever is elected - - you think?!

Mercifully, there’s one place of escape – and it’s our own Bar, our gracefully evolved Bar. Just think. Fifteen years of the “new” century – of the new millennium - have rocketed into history. A decade and a half gone! And, those fleeting years transformed our Bar. Baby lawyers became grizzled vets. Grizzled vets launched second childhoods or, sadly, reaped their just rewards. Judge Price accepted immortality and then retired - - now only Judges Reese and Shashy are of another Century – and we’ll have Shashy to push (us) around for only one more year. Our Bar has grown both in membership (from a fair number in 2000 to a lot more today) and, thankfully, in diversity. Great young lawyers and judges (of every race, gender, and other description) have emerged, and the future of our Bar appears bright. Yes, a new era has dawned. Yet, throughout these transformative years, one immutable reality (aka the Suzanne/Dot principle) has remained inviolate. Montgomery lawyers are – to their cores – invariably and consistently distinguishable, and five are this year’s Most Distinguishable.

Actually, “Most Distinguishable” does not sufficiently capture the heights to which our first honoree, Bryan Stevenson, has ascended this year. Not even the iconic Morris Dees and Jere Beasley have reached such Everest-like pinnacles. I mean, Serena wrote the man’s profile for Time Magazine. We’re talking probably the greatest women’s tennis player who ever drew a breath – the greatest in our planet’s history (and, I’m guessing, in any planet’s history) – and Bryan is her hero! Alright, he wasn’t on the cover of Time (by himself), as Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., our “Montgomery lawyer” forbearer, once was, but the category of his recognition is Bunyanesque. Bryan, this year, was recognized by Time as one of the 100 Most Influential People – I think in the World! In the event you’ve not googled it recently, the World encompasses a ton of folks, and Time’s appreciation of Bryan’s inspirational character and world-wide impact not only splendidly qualifies him for, but mandates, his recognition as our Bar’s Most Distinguishable Lawyer.

Our second honorees have no hearts. That’s because they’ve given them to all of us and to those far less fortunate. Felicia Long and Ashley Penhale are outstanding lawyers who have chosen to make an impact beyond their (income producing) legal work. And, they often do it together. Felicia, whose tolerant nature evolved in equal parts from good genes and daily law practice exposure to the Tommy Guns (Gallow and Mancuso), has often led the effort. She has chaired the Bar’s major charity event for two (or three) years. Ashley, whose ability to get along with absolutely anyone evolved from socializing with Ben and Bill (Espy), was Felicia’s chief deputy on each occasion. This year, Ashley chaired the Bar’s charity fundraiser – and Felicia was her chief deputy. Each has done more for others than you have (well, than I have). As a consequence of the pro bono legal services she provides, Ashley is this year’s Tom Methvin Volunteer Lawyer of the Year. Felicia has led the YMCA’s Youth Judicial Program – on which Ashly has worked each year – and has been voted YMCA Person of the Year. Both have walked against cancer and both volunteer for Junior League and whatever other worthy organizations need help. And, they spend real time doing it – they work nights and weekends doing it. And, they do it not for themselves and not to be recognized, but because – as Christy Crow once said – they have servants’ hearts, and for that, we should all be grateful. Felicia and Ashley have well-earned this year’s recognition as our Bar’s Co-Most Distinguishable Lawyers.
Our next co-honorees have accomplished something for our Bar that I believe (without having done anything to check) no other career long members of Montgomery’s Bar have ever before achieved. Lee Copeland and Cole Portis have been elected, and presently serve, as President and President-Elect of the Alabama State Bar. Put another way, our Bar is dominating State Bar politics. We are a dynasty! For the next two years, you have license to talk smack to lawyers from Huntsville to Mobile, and from Tuscaloosa to wherever you like. And, as a kind of bonus, Lee and Cole are doing a wondrously good job. Lee has instituted quarterly (should be monthly) internet Fireside chats in which he (charmingly) tells us more about what’s happening (than we actually care to know). He’s also spoken to every group that will listen and has solved more problems than the Bar likely has. Cole has concentrated on supporting Lee and preparing for next year (by winning enough jury verdicts to allow him next year to devote full time to his Bar duties). The good part is that they are both likable, easily approachable, delightful people - and we all know them. (So call them with whatever complaint you may have.) For the honor they’ve brought to our Bar, they richly deserve recognition as this year’s Co-Most Distinguishable Lawyers.

Now, sit back, relax, play a computer game created (or at least marketed) by Joshua Segall’s company, and rejoice in those among us who, for the year 2015, have earned recognition as our Bar’s Distinguishable Lawyers.

AWARDS

1. “Separated at Birth” Award - - Tommy Gallion (Tommy’s personality is so much like Donald Trump’s that it’s obvious they share common parentage.)

2. “Game of Thrones” Award - - Judge Billy Shashy, James Anderson, Frank Snowden, and Joe Hubbard (Judge Shashy surprisingly decided not to seek re-election, and Joe withdrew his qualifying papers, leaving James and Frank competing for Shashy’s throne.)

3. “Merrill Lynch” Award - - Judge Greg Griffin and Judge J.R. Gaines (Our two new Circuit Court judges were “invested” in January of this year.)

4. “Most Likely to Be Associated (in cases before Judges Griffin and Gaines)” Award - - Troy King, Shawn Cole, Ben Shoetteker and Navan Ward (Troy emceed Judge Griffin’s investiture, and Shawn, Ben and Navan, in addition to Judge Reese, spoke at Judge Gaines’ investiture.)

5. “Jimbo Fisher” Award - - Judge Gene Reese (He replaced a legend as Presiding Judge, but, like Jimbo and unlike Ray Perkins, he’s already proved himself a worthy successor.)

6. “The Amazing Spider Man” Award - - Al Agricola (Al was – somewhat unfairly–called a Cirque du Soleil contortionist by Josh Moon for his explanation of why the same sex decision of a federal judge applied only to the parties then before the Court.)

7. “Victim of Circumstance” Award - - Roman Shaul (Although no one appears to oppose Roman’s replacement of Judge Mark Fuller, until all other Alabama federal judicial vacancies are agreed upon, none apparently will be filled.)

8. “Don King” Award - - Don Jackson, Kenny Thomas and Ramadanah Jones (In a former coach’s suit against ASU, their clients – who in a deposition barely avoided a physical fight–made them feel more like the famous fight promoter than like modern day Clarence Darrow.)

9. “Party Crasher” Award - - Artur Davis, Bryan Taylor, James Anderson and Judge Truman Hobbs, Jr. (After the Democratic Party told Artur he could not run for County Commissioner as a democrat, Bryan sued to crash the party, and with James defending, Judge Hobbs held “it’s a private party” – Artur has appealed.)

10. “Host with the Most” Award - - Joe Espy (With great flair and aplomb, Joe hosted our Bar’s 100th Anniversary Gala.)
11. “Hold the Fries” Award - - Kenney Gibbs, Katie Langer and Richard White (Kenney and Katie convicted Richard’s client of murder where the killing arose from a fight - possibly about spilled French fries.)

12. “Wendy Williams’ Death by Gossip” Award - - David Byrne (Political enemies sought to bury the Governor – David’s full time client – with gossip, but with David’s great help, the Governor appears to have weathered the storm.)

13. “Pardon the Interruption” Award - - Matt Hart and Mike Duffey (In a hearing in Matt and Mike’s prosecution of Speaker Mike Hubbard, when Matt told a contentious, testifying witness “I’m not going to speak over you”, the witness responded “that will be different from our [last] phone call”.)

14. “Say it Ain’t So, Joe” Award - - Keith Norman (While still going strong in a wonderful career, Keith announced that he will retire as Executive Director of the Alabama State Bar in 2017.)

15. “Renoir” Award - - Ben Schoettker and Wes Shaw (Ben argued that his murder defendant had been framed – like a Renoir – and although Wes strenuously disagreed, the jury hung – just like a Renoir.)

16. “Cream of the (Great) Crop” Award - - Judge Gray Borden, Kelly Pate, Emily Marks, Will Parker, and Jerusha Adams (These great youngish lawyers were the finalists for United States Magistrate Judge – a ton of other excellent lawyers applied.)

17. “Jail Bait” Award - - Charlanna (Spencer) Skaggs (This is Charlanna’s first year of marriage to a young man – a very young man.)

18. “I Want To Be Like Mike” Award - - Judges Billy Shashy and Greg Griffin (Artur says he wants to be treated like Judges Shashy and Griffin who were allowed to run as Democrats even though they once were Republicans.)

19. “Jimmy Hoffa” Award - - Judge Jimmy Pool (Judge Pool became a big union boss this year when he assumed the presidency of the Alabama District Judges Association.)

20. “Kevin McCarthy Nonpartisanship” Award - - Congresswoman Martha Roby (The Republican House Majority Leader inadvertently disclosed that the Benghazi Committee – on which Martha serves in good faith – was designed from the outset to target Hillary Clinton.)

21. “Rep. Kevin McCarthy Best Speaker” Award - - Tony McLain (Unlike the U.S. House Majority Leader, Tony speaks very well, and he does so very often in the service of the State Bar and its members.)

22. “Jackie Robinson Pioneers” Award - - Peyton Faulk and Micki Beth Stiller (As the first two members of the Montgomery Bar to wed a same-sex partner – not each other – they are pioneers like Jackie was in baseball.)

23. “Muhammad Ali Sting Like a Bee” Award - - Jere Beasley and Alva Lambert (Alva moderated as Jere and Bill Baxley, 2 of the famous 3 B’s - Albert Brewer was the 3rd - very entertainingly discussed “Tales From Goat Hill” at a Capital City Club event.)

24. “Vampire” Award - - Andy Birchfield (Andy is co-lead counsel in Multi-District Litigation surrounding Xarelto, a drug that– like a vampire–thins your blood.)
25. “The Vampire Hunter” Award - - Sam Brooke (Sam filed a JIC complaint against a judge who suggested folks give blood as an alternative to jail for unpaid traffic ticket debts.)

26. “Premature Ejaculation?” Award - - Jeff Duffey and Susan James (They represent a young woman charged with murdering her live-in boyfriend shortly after having been intimate in the shower – the sex obviously was less than satisfying.)

27. “Masters of Sex” Award - - Laura and James Eubank, Kelly and Sean McTear, Les Pittman, Aylia McKee, Rebecca Gilliland, Allen and Elizabeth Sheehan, Rachel Miller, Charlanna (Spencer) Skaggs, Parker Miller, Carly Wilkins and Brook Reid (And others who have mastered the reproductive benefits of sex by having a baby this year.)

28. “Neal Armstrong” Award - - Jerry Blevins (Some believe – I’m sure erroneously – that like Neal, Jerry is an escapee from the Moon.)

29. “Horrible Bosses” Award - - Suzi Edwards (Suzi lobbies for all Alabama District and Circuit Court judges – folks who don’t like excuses – but thankfully Suzi is doing a great job.)

30. “The Amazing Race” Award - - Royce Royce Wadsworth, Matt Mathews, John Charles and Bob Beno (They were Ashley Penhale’s strongest competitors in the race for Volunteer Lawyer of the Year.)

31. “Exhibit A” Award - - Joe Espy (The Governor’s hiring Joe this year to handle personal issues is Exhibit “A” in the proof that the Governor really does have good judgment.)

32. “Cutest Couple of (Married) Lawyers” Award - - Carrie and Tim McCollum, Carrie and Wes Shaw, Dee and Chris Worshel, Anne and Bill McGowin, Ann and Chuck Stewart, Samarria and Kendall Dunson, Lloria and Chuck James, Valerie and Russ Russell, Katie and Chris Richard; Julie and Chris Weller, Elizabeth and Allen Sheehan, Jenny and Bill Garrett, Kayla and Stephen Frisby, and Shana and Nick Wallace

33. “Cutest International Couple of (Married) Lawyers” Award - - Katya and Nelson Gill.

34. “Cutest Couple of (Married) Judge-Lawyers” Award - - Judge Gray and Alexia Borden; Judge J.R. and Monet Gaines; Judge Mary and Steve Windom.


36. “Cutest Uncle and Cousin of Cutest Married Couple (of Lawyers)” Award - - Frank and Jimmy Hawthorne (Uncle and Cousin of Effie and Charlie)

37. “Cutest Couple of (Lawyer) Sisters” Award - - Lloria James and Samarria Dunson

38. “Cutest Couple of (Lawyer) Brothers” Award - - Jim and Beau Cooper; Charlie and James Anderson; Matt and Clay Teague; and John and Jeff Bradwell.


40. “Cutest Couple of (Lawyer) Brothers-in-Law” Award - - Chuck Stewart and Judge Billy Shashy; and Chuck James and Kendall Dunson.

42. “Cutest Couple of (Lawyer) Sister-Brother” Award - Dixie and Clay Torbert; and Sally Corley and Wells Robinson.

43. “Cutest Couple of Ought to Be (Lawyer) Sisters” Award - Judges Delores Boyd and Vanzetta McPherson (No explanation required)

44. “Cutest Couple of Ought to Be (Lawyer) Brothers” Award - Phil Butler and Jimmy Garrett (They have been best friends since before either of them can remember – not that there is much of anything they do remember.)

45. “Cutest Couple of Ought to Be, And Are (Lawyer) Brothers” Award - Ben and Bill Espy.

46. “Cutest Couple of Ought to Be (Judge) Brothers” Award - Chief Justice Roy Moore and Justice Tom Parker (They think so much alike, they should share blood.)

47. “Cutest Law Partners” Award - Cowin Knowles and John Marsh; Shawn Cole, Erika Tatum and Felicia Long; and Misha Whitman and whoever her law partner is or may ever be – including Scott Mc Ardle.

48. “Cutest Mentor-Mentee” Award - Shannon Holliday, mentor, and Joel Caldwell, mentee.

49. “Cutest Unmarried Couple (of Lawyers)” Award - Carla Gilmore and Sim Penton.

50. “Cutest Couple of Just Friends” Award - Ashley Penhale and Beau Womack

51. “Cutest Judge – Daughter Couple (of Lawyers)” Award - Judge Terry and Suzanah Moorer.

52. “Cutest In-House Lawyers” Award - Leura Canary, Trish Shaner, Chris Smith, Keith Miller, Angela Cooner, Billy Addison, Anne Adams Hill, and Jimmy McLemore.

53. “Cutest Former College Football Players” Award - Joel Caldwell, Chalankis Brown, Jeff Blitz, Mike Brock, Gerald Swann and Jeremy Walker.

54. “Cutest Other Lawyer” Award - David Martin, Joana Ellis, George Beck, Lee Copeland, Jamie Kidd, David Chancellor, Azzie Taylor, Joe Espy, Mary Margaret Carroll, Mike Jackson, Megan McCarthy, Mitch Henry, Allison Ingram, Jacob Fuller, Hannah Torbert Kennedy, Bill Brittain, Judge Les Hayes, Laurel Crawford, Brett Garrett, Brook Reid, Peyton Chapman, Wallace Mills, Brittney Bucak; Joseph Van Zandt, Tessa Ross, Evan Allen, Landon Eley, Randall Morgan, Winston Sheehan, Kristen Gillis, Beau Darley, Rebecca Chambliss, Jake Jeter, Clark Morris, Miland Simpler, Kimberly Waldrop, Chip Nix, Chris Waller, Mary Ann Henderson, Ben McGough, Virginia Broughton Reeves and Mark Bain.

55. “Carly Fiorina” Award--Felicia Long (She’s run everything in sight and now she’s running to be 2017’s president of our Bar – I like her chances more than Carly’s)

56. “Paul Simon’s Still Crazy After All These Years” Award - Julian Mc Phillips (Despite the likelihood of enduring epic ridicule, Julian crazily–but forthrightly–appeared on John Stewart’s “The Daily Show” to argue the legitimacy of his representing the fetus in abortion cases.)

57. “Plagiarism” Award - Joe Espy (In naming our Bar’s Centennial Gala awards for his family, Joe plagiarized from ESPN – “The Espys”.)
58. “Cheaper By the Dozen” Award - - Cole Portis (Received an “Espy” because Joe believes Cole’s beautiful family needs to be enlarged by 3 children.)

59. “Marathon Man” Award - - James Anderson – Received and “Espy” because Joe says although James has run for office a marathon’s worth of miles, he is about to cross the finish line as the winner of a coveted judgeship.

60. “American Sniper” Award - - Vicky Toles and Gwen Kennedy Green (They’re trying to pick off Judges Greg Griffin and Calvin Williams respectively in challenging these incumbents for their judgeships.)

61. “Jock Smith Memorial Best Dressed” Award - - Joanna Ellis, John Henig, Danielle Mason, Bill Espy, Kelly Pate, Will Sellers, Navan Ward, David Martin, Samarria Dunson, Ashley Penhale, Azzie Taylor, Ali Hawthorne, Judy Barganier, Roianne Conner, and Kendall Dunson (They dress well.)

62. “I Fought the Law, and the Law Won” Award - - Chief Justice Roy Moore and Justice Tom Parker (They have struggled to come up with a viable theory to overcome the unconstitutionality of denying marriage licenses to same sex couples.)

63. “I Married the Law” Award - - Judy Barganier and Dana Billingsley (Judy is married to a higher up in the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, and Dana is married to the Chief of the Wetumpka Police Department.)

64. “Dion’s Abraham, Martin and John” Award - - Morris Dees, Bryan Stevenson and Jere Beasley (Like Dion’s classic song, our Bar has three legends in our midst.)

65. “The Guilt Trip” Award - - Daryl Bailey, Azzie Taylor, Ben McGough, Scott Green, Wes Shaw, Kenney Gibbs, Brittny Bucak, Chris Moore, Hannah Torbert Kennedy, Michele Davidson, Sheri Mazur, Shelley Corley, and Sam Ford (Daryl and his crack prosecutors generally take criminal defendants on a trip leading to a guilty verdict.)

66. “Snoopy” Award - - Morris Dees, Richard Cohen, Joe Levin, Rhonda Brownstein, Sam Brooke, Sara Zampierin and other SPLC lawyers (Like Snoopy in pursuit of the Red Baron, these lawyers keep a more careful watch on judges than the AOC – they filed at least 3 JIC complaints this year against judges.)

67. “Some Kind of Wonderful” Award - - Kim Thomas (That’s how Kim felt after retiring from State service, and giving up responsibility for running the Dept. of Corrections without sufficient funds.)

68. “Don Rickles Mr. Charming” Award - - Frank Stakely (Frank was in fact charming in his excellent and humorous introduction of Judge Randall Cole, selected as Judge of the Year by the Ala. Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.)

69. “The Maze Runner” Award - - Richard Gill, Tabor Novak, the Espys, Tommy Keene, Fred Tyson, Von Memory, Mark Franco, Alan Rothfeder, Jo Parr, William Martin, Inge Hill, Jeff Blitz, Tommy Mancuso, Kyle Johnson, Hank Hutchinson, Scott Pierce, Courtney Williams, Ted Jackson, Dan Lindsey, Mike Fritz, Chris Simmons, Bobo Gilpin, Robert Ritchey, John Weiss, Bobby Rives, Palmer Smith, Rick McBride, Helen Wells and Will Sellers. (They handle complex cases and/or transactions.)

70. “Most Versatile” Award - - Judge Charles Price (Serves as Senior Adviser to the Mayor, is of counsel to Tommy Gallion’s law firm, and is campaigning for his son Chuck who’s running for Judge in Jefferson County.)

71. “Kenny Rogers” Award - - Judge Vanzetta McPherson (Judge was this year’s honoree of the Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club and, for charity, was roasted as thoroughly as Kenny Rogers used to roast chickens.)
72. “Curb Your Enthusiasm” Award - - Judge Troy Massey and Milton Davis (In roasting Judge McPherson at the Sunrise Rotary Club event, they did not curb their enthusiasm and were as funny as Larry David.)

73. “Jim Croce’s You Don’t Mess Around with Jim—or Alice” Award - - Alice Ann Byrne and Alice Martin (These are two Alices on whose wrong side you had best not find yourself.)

74. “Nathaniel Hawthorne’s The Scarlet Letter” Award - - Chief Justice Roy Moore (Following a federal district court ruling that Alabama’s law on same sex marriage was unconstitutional, Justice Moore proclaimed in a letter to the Governor that Probate Judges who issue marriage licenses would be “in defiance of state law and the Constitution of Alabama.”)

75. “Elvis is in the House” Award - - George Beck, Christine Freeman, Ron Wise, Joe Espy, Mike Brock, Tabor Novak, Tommy Keene, Ben Espy, Jere Beasley, Greg Allen, Kendall Dunson, Cole Portis, Scott Green, Azzie Taylor, Louis Franklin, Steve Feaga, Morris Dees, Richard Cohen, Alan Rothfeder, Hank Hutchinson; Floyd Minor, John Henig, Lee Copeland, Randy James, Inge Hill, Jeff Blitz, Jim Edwards, Palmer Smith, William Martin, Lanier Branch, Von Memory, Michael Fritz, Jo Parr, Rick McKenzie, and Helen Wells (They are stars in their respective areas of practice.)

76. “Loophole” Award - - Sim Penton and Jimmy Williams (Since Sim went in-house with Jimmy’s client, Baptist Hospital, whenever these two good friends go out for a drink, Jimmy can deduct the expense.)

77. “The Supremes Baby Love” Award - - Richard White (Richard represented an Elmore County teacher accused of having sex with a student” – charged with a felony, but convicted only of a misdemeanor.)

78. “Alphabet” Award - - Dee (Miles), Jay (Taylor), Kay (Dansby)

79. “Most Outstanding (Lawyer) Staff Member” Award - - Rebecca Miller (Rebecca came in second at Faulkner Law in voting for Outstanding Staff member, but she lost to the fellow who runs the hotdog stand, so she IS the most outstanding lawyer staff member.)

80. “Under the Influence” Award - - Judge Johnny Hardwick (He was honored by the Faulkner Law Black Law Students Association for the great influence he has had over the years on its members.)

81. “Key Club” Award - - Tamika Miller (Tamika was one of several Montgomery lawyers who gave keynote speeches this year – hers was for the Faulkner Law Black Law Students Association event honoring Judge Johnny Hardwick.)

82. “George Bush Mission Accomplished” Award - - Sonny Reagan and Matt Hart (Sonny testified at a hearing in the Mike Hubbard case that Matt said he would ruin Hubbard politically – mission accomplished.)

83. “Sandra Bullock’s Our Brand is Crisis” Award - - Sherrie Phillips, Roianne Conner, Kelly McTear, and Connie Murray (Crisis Management is how they explained to a room full of students the way women lawyers balance work and family.)

84. “The Generals Aren’t Worth a Damn” Award - - Doyle Fuller and Richard Garrett (Celebrated their 50th year reunion from Lee High School, about which Lanier students once sang “Robert E. Lee was a mighty, mighty man, but the Generals aren’t worth a damn.”)

85. “The Pen is Mightier than the Sword” Award - - Judge Joel Dubina, Hank Hutchinson, Winston Sheehan, Jim Goodwyn, Steve Kermish, Karolyn Payne Elliott and Jack Mooresmith (Celebrated their 50th year reunion from Sidney Lanier High School – the Poets were the more cerebral of the then archival schools, Lee and Lanier.
86. “Will Durant” Award - - Jim Vickrey (Durant’s “The Story of Civilization” has nothing on Jim’s history of Lee High School.)

87. “See No Evil” Award - - Don Bethel, Verne Speirs, Jon Ross, and Judge Wallace Capel (Although Don’s client said he wanted to lock two women in a hotel room, shave their heads Nazi style, carve “whore” into their scalps, and pour ink into the cuts, Don said that was not an actual threat – Prosecutors Verne and Jon and Judge Capel disagreed.)

88. “Suddenly Royal” Award - - Judge Gray Borden (He was appointed United States Magistrate Judge and will have a wonderful future in the federal judiciary.)

89. “Always Royal” Award - - Royal Dumas (And deservedly so – I fully support his (unopposed) candidacy for president of our Bar in 2016.)

90. “Matt Damon’s The Adjustment Bureau” Award - - Tom Albritton (Tom, this year, became Director of the Ethics Commission, the bureau designed to adjust the behavior of public officials.)

91. “State of the Union” Award - - Tabor Novak (Between this outstanding lawyer and his long, long time wife, the State of the Union is strong – Caroline was inducted this year into the Alabama Academy of Honor, and Tabor could not be more proud.)

92. “Richard and Oracene” Award - - Clay and Cindy Torbert (Like the parents of Venus and Serena, Cindy and Clay are the parents of two tennis stars - Bo was named Metro Player of the Year.)

93. “Mary and Bill Gates, Sr.” Award - - Julie and Chris Weller (Like the parents of Bill Gates, Jr., they have a son who is a Tech prodigy and who founded his own successful business at an early age.)

94. “Thomas Paine Common Sense” Award - - Clark Morris (In prosecuting a woman who left a threatening message on the voicemail of a witness against her son, Clark said “If you are going to threaten a witness, not a good idea to do it on their voicemail” – hmmm, makes sense!)

95. “Mad Man” Award - - Win Johnson (This chief lawyer for the Administrative Office of Courts must have been mad when he wrote a letter angrily urging public officials not to follow the U.S. S.Ct. decision on same sex marriage, implying it was tyrannical.)

96. “A Star is Born” Award - - Lee Copeland (He gave a hilarious speech in accepting the presidency of the Ala. State Bar at its annual meeting.)

97. “Most Creative Defense” Award - - Jay Taylor and Bill Azar (On a murder charge against a slightly retarded defendant, Jay and Bill’s defense was that their client “thought” he was shooting in self-defense.)

98. “Governor Bentley Fan Club” Award - - Donald Watkins (His very critical blog featured the Governor most days this year.)

99. “Master of Illusion” Award - - Rosa Davis (Rosa retired from State service, but continued to work for the Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission.)

100. “David Bronner” Award - - Margaret Fleming (Margaret actually did retire from State service this year – after a great career.)

101. “Murder Incorporated” Award - - Daryl Bailey (At least 13 of his staff attorneys prosecuted murder cases this year.)
102. “Birth of a Nation” Award - - Judge Charles Price, Judge Gene Reese, Judge Truman Hobbs, Jr., Judge Joel Dubina, Joe Espy, Felicia Long, Ashley Penhale, Phil Butler, Les Pittman, Kendal Dunson, David Martin, Tom Methvin, George Azar, and Cowin Knowles (They all planned, or spoke at, the Gala celebrating the Birth of our Bar.)

103. “Best Dog Gone Story” Award - - Judge Joel Dubina, Phil Butler, and Jim Garrett (At the gala, Judge and Phil recounted the painful time they borrowed Jim’s bird dog who mysteriously died in their custody – resulting in a hilarious pretend lawsuit.)

104. “Arm Candy” Award - - Mickey McInnish, Jeff Duffey, Ben Baker, and Arthur Ray (Their wives, Sue, Suzanne, Kimberly, and (Judge) Kelli, run (or are about to begin running) big organizations at whose events Mickey, Jeff, Ben and Arthur serve as arm candy.)

105. “What to Expect When you are Expecting” Award - - Ali and Ray Hawthorne and Stephanie Monplasir (They are expecting a baby).

106. “Narc” Award - - Chris Weller, (As attorney for the Elmore County commission, Chris reported one of his bosses, a Commissioner, to the Ethics Commission.)

107. “Vin Diesel’s The Last Witch Hunter” Award - - Jim Zeigler (When Jim, our State Auditor, was criticized by the So. Pov. Law Ctr for speaking to a group on the Center’s hate list, he said the Center was witch hunting and should be called “The Southern Political Correctness Law Center.”)

108. “Politically Correct” Award - - Dixie (Torbert) (“Dixie” might not be the best “politically correct” choice as a nickname).

109. “Inn Love” Award - - Terrie Biggs and Bryan Morgan (They met and fell in love as members of Inn of Court)

110. “Seinfeld” Award - - Beau Womack (He does stand-up comedy.)

111. “Selma Lord Selma” Award - - Walter Turner, James Anderson and Bill Patty (The voting wars highlighted by the Selma to Montgomery march still live as these lawyers won a redistricting case in the U.S. S.Ct. based on racial gerrymandering.)

112. “Back to the Future” Award - - Judge Myron Thompson (Led a panel discussion on Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. after whom our federal courthouse is named and to whom Judge Thompson is often compared.)

113. “Judge Myron Thompson” Award - - Jerry Wood (Like Judge Thompson whose case load increased after he took Senior Status, Jerry is very busy in his semi-retirement, serving both on the Ala. Ethics Commission and as an Administrative Law Judge.)

114. “John Wilkes Booth” Award - - Dennis Bailey (Dennis, who has been called the John Wilkes Booth, i.e., the assassin, of Privacy, filed a motion in the Governor’s divorce case to unseal the record.)

115. “Abraham Lincoln Best President” Award - - Cowin Knowles (Cowin has been the best president imaginable this year.)

116. “Linbergh Kidnapping” Award - - Quin and Joshua SegSegall and Ben (Dot’s son) Robinson (They all moved out of Montgomery – taking the grandchildren with them.)
117. “Dennis Quaid’s At Any Price” Award - - Morris Dees (Morris was honored for “Courageous Advocacy” by the American Board of Trial Advocates for his firm commitment to the rule of law, even at great risk to personal freedom and safety.)

118. “Great Expectations” Award - - Joe Levin (As the retiring co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, Joe can be satisfied that all of his great expectations for the Center and his own career have been realized.)

119. “Donald Trump’s The Art of the Deal” Award - - Jenna Day Fulk (Jenna married a Birmingham lawyer this year, but continues to work in Montgomery while he works in Birmingham – they worked out a deal to live in between.)

120. “Jimmy the Greek Long Shot” Award – Wayne Sabel, Faith Cooper, and Randall Marshall (My guess, without knowing, is that they support Bernie Sanders for president – Ralf Nader has a better chance of carrying Alabama.)

121. “Nelson Mandella Freedom Fighters” Award - - Ron Wise, Christine Freeman, Jeff Duffey, Susan James, Brad Griffin, Richard White, David Vickers, Ben Shoetteker, Andrew Skier, Jay Taylor, Michael Kidd, Virgil Ford, Ashley Smith, Chad Mason, Tommy Goggans, Richard Keith, Bill Blanchard, Lewis Gillis, Russ Duraski, Terry Luck, Aimee Cobb Smith, Bill Azar, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Troy Teague, Emmett Hampton, and, of course, the Espy boys (They fight for the freedom of their criminal defense clients.)

122. “Music Man” Award - - Richard Gill (He’s president elect of the Montgomery Symphony.)

123. “Most Likely to Succeed” Award - - Amanda Senn (She’s general counsel of the Ala Securities Commission and will likely one day become its Director.)

124. “(Stephen) Curry Rules” Award - - Jerry Beasley (There are no rules that can stop either Curry or Jere from ruling in (or on) the courts.)

125. “Ziegfeld” Award - - Anne Pearson (On every – single – occasion of note in the office of Judge Liles Burke, where Anne is staff attorney, she organizes an elaborate, theme dress up day – an example is dressing like one of the Clampetts on ‘Beverly Hillbillies’.)

126. “Donald Trump” Award - - Jo Parr and Katie Britt (Their significant others were professional football “Offensive” linemen.)

127. “Cooperstown” Award - - Judge Myron Thompson and Judge Vanzetta Penn McPherson (They were inducted this year into the Alabama Lawyers Association Hall of Fame.)

128. “The Secret Lives of Bees” Award - - Aylia McKee, Linda Braye, Debra Bush, Alex Caudell, Bill Davis, Adolph Dean, Chris East, Peyton Faulk, Phylicia Hill, Nick Hines, Terri Mayweather-Jones, Jamiel Peterson, Trey Richardson, Tessa Ross, Nicholas Wallace, Trina Williams (Having opened for business in January, our Montgomery County Public Defenders will have handled 3000 cases this year – Busy as Bees.)

129. “Benedict Arnold” Award - - Sherri Mazur (This highly touted, young trial lawyer started with Montgomery County’s Public Defender program, but quickly changed sides and now works for the District Attorney.)

130. “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall” Award - - Judges Reese, Hardwick, Hobbs, Gaines, Griffin, Shashy, Higgins, Pool, Massey, Kelly, Williams and Bailey (Montgomery County Judges are the fairest of them all.)
131. “Murder in the First Degree” Award - - Phillip Davis (Phillip made clear at a Robert E. Lee celebration that political correctness is killing our country.)

132. “The Beatles With a Little Help From My (rock star) Friends” Award - - Judge Greg Griffin (Judge’s best friends spoke at his investiture—Jeh Johnson, present Secretary of Homeland Security, and Howie Hodgess, top exec with Times Warner and son in law of former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson)

133. “Prince Charles of England” Award - - Bob Hill (Like Prince Charles someday will, Bob became a King late in life – he is King Montala of the Phantom Host Ball.)

134. “Billy Joel’s I’m an Innocent Man” Award - - Bryan Stevenson (The director of the Equal Justice Initiative called for the creation of an agency to review plausible claims of innocence by inmates – and the Mtgy. Advertiser agreed.)

135. “Charlie Rose” Award - -Forrest McConnell, III (In his capacity as Chair of the Nat'l Automobile Dealers Assn presiding over the NADA Convention in San Francisco, Forrest interviewed Jeb Bush shortly before Bush announced he would run for president.)

136. “Carl Sagan” Award - - John Henig (After serving as Copeland Franco Managing Attorney for “billions and billions” of years, John has decided to let someone else deal with management minutiae.)

137. “Jessica Chastain’s Crimson Peak” Award - - Joe Espy (Joe has reached the highest point in the Crimson Tide hierarchy as he leads the University’s Board of Trustees – in practice if not in title.)

138. “Kristen Bell’s Safety Not Guaranteed” Award - - Greg Davis and Dan Taliaferro (They have sued two pharmaceutical companies, alleging that the use of a "very dangerous" drug – whose safety was not guaranteed – caused the death of Alabama’s then Athletic Director Mal Moore.)

139. “The Jeffersons’ Piece of the Pie” Award - - David Dearing, James Lampkin, Brent Hargett, Danielle Mason, Megan McCarthy, Matt Teague, Heath Loftin, Ladd Davis, Stephen Dees and Will Cunningham (And others who became partners, or the equivalent, in their law firms this year.)

140. “Chasing Liberty” Award - - Kelly Pate (Kelly chaired a state-wide Law Day poster contest celebrating the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, a document that inspired the focus on liberty included in our own country’s constitution.)

141. “Fools Rush In” Award - - Alfie Norris (In testifying against a proposed Freedom of Religion in Marriage Act, Alfie asked legislators to move slowly, cautioning that the bill was worded so poorly that it would “open the door for all sorts of discrimination”)

142. “Roadrunner” Award - - Katie Langer and Charlie Hawthorne (These prosecutors won a conviction in a robbery case after a 35 minute deliberation.)

143. “Father of the Groom” Award - - Corky Hawthorne and others whose sons got married this year.

144. “Father of the Debutante” Award - - Thomas Tankersley, Judge Truman Hobbs, Jr., Bart Crum, Bill McGowin, and Frank Stakely (Thomas’ daughter was Queen of Harlequins this year, and the daughters of each other of our honorees were in her court.)

145. “Father of the New Lawyer” Award - - Dee Miles (Dee’s daughter, Lauren, was just admitted to the Bar, but chose Birmingham over Montgomery as her place to practice.)
146. “de Soto” Award - - Mark Wilkerson and Reverend Andrew Rowell (Mark was the lead explorer for the Christ Church Search Committee that discovered Reverend Rowell, a formerly practicing lawyer with a JD from Virginia Law School.)

147. “OK Corral” Award - - (now Judge) Gray Borden and Jon Ross (They got a guilty verdict against a man who was selling Smith and Wesson (fast draw) handguns illegally.)

148. “Jason Segel’s The Five Year Engagement” Award - - Joseph Fitzpatrick, Nancy Perry, Theron Stokes, Kenny Thomas and Ramadanah Jones (Joseph, Nancy and Theron won a wrongful termination suit for ASU’s former athletic director, but ASU has appealed, and by its end, I predict this combat engagement will have lasted 5 years.)

149. “Nightmare on Elm Street” Award - - Joe Hubbard (Every mother’s nightmare – Joe sued a day care center where 86 kids apparently ate bad food and developed a Staph Infection.)

150. “The Big One That Got Away” Award - - Dan Harris and Artur Davis (Two Montgomery lawyers ran for Mayor, but neither prevailed.)

151. “The One That Didn’t Get Away” Award - - Fred Bell and Brantley Lyons (Two of us now serve on Montgomery’s City Council.)

152. “Out (of) House” Award - - Keith Miller and Jimmy McLemore (They moved out of their respective law firm homes this year into in-house lawyer jobs.)

153. “Never on Sunday” Award - - Beau Cooper (Beau got a not guilty verdict for a client accused of being the inside man on the robbery of a Church’s Chicken – the jury just didn’t believe anyone would rob a Church in which he worked.)

154. “Bad Bad Leroy Brown” Award - - Graham Esdale (Graham was named among the 2014-15 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America – not sure what a Lawdragon is, but it sounds like a bad, bad man.)

155. “Elvis’ Can’t Help Falling in Love” Award - - Mark Bain and Christine Freeman (They can’t help falling in love with the foster children they help raise.)

156. “ Tom Cruise Top Gun” Award - - Angela Cooner (Angela has achieved top gun status – having been promoted to Sr. VP, general counsel and secretary at Alfa Insurance.)

157. “Viola Davis’ How to Get Away with Murder” Award - - Richard Keith and Chad Mason (Hire Richard and Chad who won a not guilty verdict in a difficult murder case this year outside Montgomery County.)

158. “(I Wasn’t) Born Yesterday” Award - - Spud Seale and Doug McElvy (Upon this year’s passing of the truly great Judge Truman Hobbs, Sr., either Spud or Doug became the oldest past State Bar president who is a member of our Montgomery County Bar.)

159. “Family Law” Award - - Jim Garrett, Kent Garrett, Cliff Heard, Fred Simpler and Miland Simpler (These lawyers, by blood or marriage, are all part of the great Garrett family of lawyers.)

160. “All is (not) Well on the Home Front” Award - - Mickey McDermott, Luther Strange and Matt Hart (Mickey represents an investigator in the AG’s office who was fired for negative comments about the Mike Hubbard investigation – AG office internal strife surrounds the case.)
161. “Imitation of Life” Award - - Kenney Gibbs, Ben McGough, Brittney Bucak, Wes Shaw, and Terry Luck (At trial, Wes had the Terry’s client, who claimed self-defense, reenact the scene with Wes playing the victim – good acting, but the jury hung in the first trial, and the conviction in the second is on appeal.)

162. “Biggest GM Fan” Award - - Elizabeth and Allen Sheehan and Winston Sheehan (The younger Sheehans named their precious new born Ford – Grandpa Winston will have to give up driving his unFord.)

163. “New Beginnings” Award - - John Albritton, John Cates, Henry Chappell Richard Gill, Reggie Hammer, Bill McKnight, Alan Rothfeder, and Walter Turner (They have this year started their second 50 years in the law.)

164. “Thirty Years a Slave” Award - - Jerusha Adams (As an Assistant United States Attorney Jerusha is assigned to prosecute human sexual trafficking cases – one victim had been a sex slave for 30 years.)

165. “Rebel Yell” Award - - Richard Garrett (As the featured speaker in a White House of the Confederacy celebration of Jefferson Davis’ 207th birthday, Richard extolled Davis as a kind, competent and gentle man who served his state and both countries with character and distinction.)

166. “Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals” Award - - David Martin and Joe Seawell Moore (Without injuring even one pigeon, they won our Bar’s clay pigeon shooting contest.)

167. “Home Invasion” Award - - Doyle Fuller, Jacob Fuller, Randy McNeil, Jamie Kidd, and Judge Charles Coody (Doyle and Jacob sued Elmore County deputies for shooting a man in his own home, but Randy and Jamie argued qualified immunity, and Judge Coody agreed – the Fullers appealed.)

168. “Global Growth Industry” Award - - Joe Borg (Speaking at the World Elder Abuse Awareness Program, Joe said “elder abuse – especially the financial variety – is exploding.”)

169. “Just Say No” Award - - Virgil Ford (In speaking at a NAACP event, Virgil said the public needs to fight payday lenders by refusing to borrow money from them.)

170. “Pay Day” Award - - Lee Copeland, David Martin, Joel Caldwell, Joe McCorkle and Joe Seawell Moore (They earned their pay on the day the Alabama S.Ct. agreed with their position upholding a payday loan statute designed to track such loans.)

171. “Mickey Mouse” Award - - Scott McArdle (As Chair of the Board of Make a Wish Alabama, Scott joined with Hyundai to send a little boy with cancer to Disney World.)

172. “Sex and the (Big) City” Award - - Martha Roby, who spends a lot of time in DC, was voted Alabama’s most sexy member of Congress – Bradley Byrne was heartbroken.)

173. “The Beatles’ Ticket to Ride” - - Royal Dumas, Tim Gallagher and Chris Waller (They participated this year in the highly selective Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum – which is their ticket for future State Bar leadership.)

174. “Sarah Jessica Parker’s I Don’t Know How She Does It” Award - - Danielle Ward Mason (In addition to her busy legal work, Danielle was recognized this year for giving unselfishly of her time to make a difference in her community.)

175. “Shooting Star” Award - - James Anderson (In James, Copeland Franco added a star to its team, but that star is shooting toward a Circuit Court judgeship.)
176. “Samson” Award - - Mark Sabel (Despite Mark’s long fight, the 11th Circuit ruled that native American inmates have no right to wear long hair in accordance with their religious beliefs even though, like Samson, they might feel their strength will be sapped by having to cut their hair.)

177. “Life Begins at Forty” Award - - Clint Richardson (The National Black Lawyers Association included Clint in its Top 40 Alabama Black Lawyers Under 40 – just think of what Clint will achieve once his life actually begins.)

178. “Journey’s Don’t Stop Believin’” Award - - Scott Green, Kenney Gibbs, Chris Moore, Susan James and Jeff Duffey (After Scott, Kenney and Chris successfully prosecuted the Critter Man murder case, Susan said “the fight is not over”.)

179. “Robert E. Lee” Award - - Patrick Mahaney, Jim Ippolito and Jere Beasley (These Southern gentlemen had daughters, and in Jere’s case his granddaughter, presented as debutantes at the Southern Debutante Cotillion.)

180. “Bad Blood” Award - - LaBarron Boone, Gibson Vance and Cole Portis (Although there is no bad blood among them, they received a $4 million verdict against the seller of blood that infected their client with HIV.)

181. “Disaster Preparedness” Award - - Judge Gene Reese, Tiffany McCord, Daryl Bailey, Scott Green and Aylia McKee (During the height of the Budget scare, this group met to determine how our court system might function with a clerk’s office reduced from 22 people to two.)

182. “American Ultra” Award - - Delores Boyd and Donald Watkins (They spoke movingly at the funeral of Solomon Seay, a great American hero.)

183. “Horseshoes” Award - - Michael Kidd, Scott Green, Chris Morris and Ben McGough (A charge of murder resulted in a manslaughter conviction – sometimes both sides consider coming close a win – even when it’s not horseshoes.)

184. “Rihanna’s Take a Bow” Award - - Bowen Hill, George Azar, Tommy Lawson, Richard Jordan, Henry Chappell, David Byrne, Spud Seale, Larry Kloess, Ed Livingston, Wanda Devereaux, John Pappanastos, Floyd Minor, Cliff Heard, Jim Williams, Dorothy Norwood, Lee Copeland, Tom Methvin, Bill Blanchard, Mike Jackson, Laura Crum, Terry Brown, Kent Garrett, Cole Portis, Jeff Duffey, Judge Jimmy Pool, Gibson Vance, Les Pittman, Alex Holtsford, Pat Sefton, Kendall Dunson, Mike Winter, David Martin, Ben Schoettker, and Cowin Knowles (Our Bar’s past presidents who continue to live or work in Montgomery County were honored at the Centennial Gala.)

185. “Right Guard” Award - - Kim Fehl, Anita Archie, Judge Charles Price, Michael Brymer, Mickey McInnish, Stacy Reed and Stephanie Smithee (These outstanding lawyers who work for the City did not sweat the mayoral election – they were confident their boss, Mayor Todd Strange, would prevail.)

186. “Wynonna Judd’s No one Else on Earth” Award - - Richard Cohen (Alvin Benn wrote in his column that when it comes to teaching civil rights history, Richard’s in a class by himself.)

187. “Best Come Back By a Lawyer” Award - - Tyrone Means (Illness has had Tyrone down, but he’s come back strong this year.)

188. “Eddie Murphy’s Trading Places” Award - - Luther Strange (Our Attorney General had a role reversal when his deposition was taken in the Mike Hubbard criminal prosecution case.)
189. “Medici” Award - - Will Sellers (As a board member of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, a grant awarding board, Will has become, like the Medicis, a great sponsor of the arts.)

190. “Spike Lee’s (they) Do the Right Thing” Award - - Sean Cole and Debby Spain (They are always doing the right thing for, or on behalf of, someone or some charitable organization.)

191. “Billy Joel’s She’s Always a Woman” Award - - Kelly McTear, Brittney Bucak, Effie Hawthorne, Lashandra Warren, Connie Murray, Roianne Conner, Ali Hawthorne, and Hannah Kennedy (With Kelly, Brittney and Effie as president, vice president and secretary/treasurer respectively, they are the new officers and directors of the Women’s Section – notice how each office holder seems always to be a Woman.)

192. “Ryan O’Neal’s Love Story” Award - - Paul James, Tommy Keene, Eddie Raymon, Charlie Stakely, Ben Espy, Bill Espy (As lovers of Alabama basketball, they were thrilled, at Joe Espy’s invitation, to eat lunch with Avery Johnson, Alabama’s new, rock star (for now) basketball coach.)

193. “Robert Osborne” Award - - Dennis Bailey (Like the host of Turner Classic Movies, Dennis loves movies – he’s president of the Capri Film Society.

194. “Jeff Bridges’ The Last Picture Show” Award - - Leura Canary, Bill Messer, Laura Calloway, Bill Coleman, Susan DePaola, Bill Blanchard and other big supporters of the Capri, the last independent movie theatre in Montgomery.)

195. “Break a Leg” Award - - Mickey McInnish (This Assistant City Attorney has produced and directed a program to collect past due business taxes, and the great performance of the program has nothing to do with breaking legs.)

196. “Mark Twain’s Reports of My Death Are Greatly Exaggerated” Award - - David Bronner and Leura Canary (They told Legislators that “the State pensions are in better shape than you think.”)

197. “Best Oral Argument” Award - - Andrew Brasher and Bryan Stevenson (No one in the country could have argued more eloquently than each of them did before the Alabama Supreme Court on a constitutional retroactivity issue.)

198. “Bleeding Heart” Award - - Steve Ganter and John Geer (At a sentencing hearing, Federal Defender Steve argued that although his convicted client controlled whether he committed the drugs and firearm possession crime, he could not control his abusive father – John, the prosecutor disagreed, but the judge gave a measured sentence.)

199. “Golden Goose” Award - - Lee Copeland (In welcoming the bar’s newest members our State Bar president told the inductees they were joining the best profession in the world, and one of their duties was “to keep it that way”, i.e., don’t kill the golden goose.)

200. “Hillary Duff’s Someone’s Watching Over Me” Award - - David Martin, John Henig, John Marsh, Charlanna Spencer Skaggs, Judge Truman Hobbs, Jr., Judge Gene Reese, Mike Crowe, Jerusha Adams, Jacob Fuller and Jamie Kidd (They are sufficiently tall to watch over most people.)

202. “Jack Kerouac’s On the Road” Award - - Chris Glover (Chris wrote a book on litigating truck accident claims.)

203. “Dancing with the Stars” Award - - Amanda Senn, Joe Borg, and Steve Feaga (Amanda teaches ballroom dancing on the side, and her best and worst students, Joe and Steve – you guess which is which – are litigation stars.)

204. “Wayne Flynt” Award - - Bill Eskridge (Like the great Auburn University historian, Bill is into history, having represented the Historic Prattville Redevelopment Authority in its effort to restore Daniel Pratt’s cotton gin factory.)

205. “Diaspora” Award - - James Anderson, Mike Jackson, Jeff Smith, Bill Patty, Brannan Reaves, Jesse Anderson, and Hilary Parks (After many years together, they each joined other law firms or agencies.)

206. “But Enough About Me” Award - - Julian McPhillips (Julian is writing a second update of the book he wrote about his life as “The People’s Lawyer”.)

207. “Two Women and a Lawyer” Award - - Rob Reynolds (Rob cheerleads and provides moral support to his wife and daughter who have created jobs in Haiti by starting a business there.)

208. “Matt Damon’s The Martian” Award - - Jere Beasley, Greg Allen, Cole Portis, Kendall Dunson, La Barron Boone and other Beasley Allen lawyers whose results this year have been other worldly.

209. “Carole King’s Way Over Yonder” Award - - Katie Langer and Kevin Davidson (Mirroring the path earlier taken by Kevin, Katie this year moved from the District Attorney’s office way over yonder to the U.S. Attorney’s office.)

210. “Road Rage on Steroids” Award - - Ben McGough, Sam Ford and Branch Kloess (Ben and Sam convicted Branch’s client of capital murder for shooting into a car following a traffic accident with the victim’s car.)

211. “Steven Spielberg” Award - - Richard Cohen (Richard co-wrote and was Exec. Producer of "Selma: the Bridge to the Ballot", a well-received documentary about unsung heroes of the voting rights movement.)

212. “Tom Cruise’s Minority Report” Award - - Randall Marshall (As legal director of the ACLU of Alabama, Randall often represents and speaks for minorities.)


214. “Rookie of the Year” Award - - Troy King (This former AG, this year, both organized Judge Griffin’s investiture and grew his private practice.)
215. “School Daze” Award - - Vernetta Perkins (As in-house lawyer for Montgomery Public Schools, Vernetta is so busy her days sometimes transform into a daze.)

216. “Kevin Spacey’s House of Cards” Award - - Jere Beasley and Kendall Dunson (They received a huge verdict against an apartment complex which, because its balcony collapsed, they contended was a House of Cards.)

217. “Cake” Award - - Donald Jackson (Don argued that allowing Home Schoolers to play public school sports is like allowing them to eat their cake and still have it–not to mention opening the door to those in private school to play public school sports.)

218. “In with the Inn Crowd” Award - - Bryan Morgan, Justice Hugh Maddox, Chris Weller, Robert Black and Eileen Harris (Bryan as president, Justice Maddox as founder and inspirational leader, Chris as Treasurer, Robert as past president and Eileen as long time Administrator, lead the Hugh Maddox Inn of Court.)

219. “The (very) Long Goodbye” Award - - Bill Coleman (Bill announced that he has begun a glide pattern into a supposed retirement–he’s going “of counsel” with his firm and in-house part time with an engineering firm, while continuing occasional service as an arbitrator/mediator.)

220. “James Taylor’s Handy Man” Award - - Greg Allen, Kendall Dunson, Mike Andrews and Stephanie Monplaisir (They won a huge verdict against a truck sales company who, for lack of a good handy man, negligently repaired a truck resulting in the paralysis of the truck driver.)

221. “Come All Ye Faithful” Award - - Judge Keith Watkins, Judge Susan Walker, Judge Gray Borden, Judge J.R. Gaines, Judge Steven Reed, Judge Pam Higgins, Judge Adrian Johnson, Lee Copeland, Julie Weller, Emily Marks, Maceo Kirkland, Judy Keegan, Flynn Mozingo, Chris Waller, Royal Dumas and Mark Moody (It doesn’t take much faith to know you’ll learn a lot from these presenters if you come to the Holiday CLE given by our Bar.)

222. “Solo Practitioner” Award - - Sean McTear (When one goes solo, he is supposed to hang out a shingle – not get the Shingles – so Sean didn’t go solo this year.)

223. “Sheryl Crow’s If It Makes You Happy” Award - - Terrie Biggs, Casey Biggs, and Greg Biggs (Casey’s parents, Terrie and Greg, gave their blessing for her run for District Attorney against her former boss, Randall Houston.)

224. “Amazing Grace” Award - - Julian McPhillips (His daughter Grace, a very busy actor, director and producer, is about to produce her first child and Julian’s third grandchild.)

225. “Paul Ryan Bill of Goods” Award - - Martha Roby (The new Speaker of the House said on a Sunday talk show that Martha’s flex-time” bill had all good stuff for women – and men – employees and their families.)

226. “Love and Marriage” Award - - Scott and Mary Martin Mitchell, Elizabeth Lyerly Brasher, and Charlie Hudson (“Go Together Like a Horse and Carriage” – Elizabeth and the Mitchells got married this year, and Charlie is next up.)

227. “Stack of Bibles” Award - - Richard Cohen (Richard testified under oath before a Congressional Committee that a bill to limit birth right citizenship would create a new class of second class citizens.)

228. “Johnny Carson’s Carnac the Magnificent” Award - - Suzanne Duffey and Dot Robinson (Our Bar’s great staff answers your questions before you ask them.)
229. “James Taylor’s You’ve Got a Friend” Award - - Jesse Anderson, John Bradley, Steve Dodd, Chris East, Jenna Fulk, Rebecca Gilliland, Leon Hampton, Ali Hawthorne, Rick Hill, Allen Howell, Jason Isbell, Jarred Kaplan, Layne Keele, Elliot Lipinsky, Allen Mendenhall, Rachel Miller, Suzanah Moorer, Elyce Morris, John Palombi, Clint Richardson, Cecilia Vaca, Joseph VanZandt, and Beau Womack (These youngish, or newish, members of the Justice Hugh Maddox Inn of Court have a friend in Justice Maddox from whom they can learn a lot not taught in law school or even in practice.)

230. “Gee, We’re Going to Miss You”¹ Award - - Jerry Cruse, Floyd Gilliland, Jim Grant, Patrick Hale, Henry Harper, Judge Truman Hobbs, Sr., Garrett Hooper, Ally Howell, George Howell, Wyndall Ivey, Mays Jemison, Alan Koch, Rod Nachman, Jamie Pettigrew, Calvin Pryor, Solomon Seay, Jr., and Brenda Vann.

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 is “Gee we’re going to miss you. Everybody sends their love.”