I am honored to serve as President of our county bar association as we head into the Association’s second century, and thank you for the opportunity. I am truly proud to be a member of an organization which serves the community in so many needed ways. The ABA’s recognition of the Montgomery County Bar Association as a first place award winner during the ABA Day of Service recognition, is a small indication of the valued work the Association offers.

I have to give a special thanks to my law partners at Gilpin Givhan P.C. and former law partners at Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole & Black, PC for their support and encouragement through the years I have served as a Board Member and now President.

During my time as a volunteer, Board Member, and Executive Committee Member I have seen the Association grow through its offering of pro bono services, CLE opportunities, and a forum for great social activities – everyone loves hanging out with a group of lawyers! These efforts have improved the lives of those in our community and for us, the lawyers of Montgomery County.

I am excited to work this year with the Board, the Executive Committee, and all of you. I would be remiss if I did not note the amazing staff of our Association. Suzanne and Dot are key in making the trains arrive on time and all of the Association’s efforts depend on their efforts and expertise.

During the past year, the Association continued some of its ambitious initiatives and embarked on something new. In conjunction with our partner the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program, through the hard work of its President Tim Gallagher and Executive Director Mike Martin, the Association continued offering its semi-monthly clinic for our low-income residents of Montgomery County facing legal issues. This clinic meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. If you wish to volunteer, and I encourage you to, please contact Mike Martin.

Last year, we reformatted the Association’s traditional Bench and Bar away from the golf tournament to a 12-Hour CLE which took place in December and that was held in conjunction with our holiday party. This CLE featured presentations from 10 judges or justices, and numerous presentations from fellow members of our Association. Based on last year’s success, we plan on having the same two-day format this year – date to come soon. As always, the Association will have free CLEs offered throughout the year. (continued p.2)
Continued from page 1

My goals for this year are the same as they have been as a Board Member, to continue expanding the services discussed above and to build on the Association’s foundation of service. One of these goals is to expand the amount of pro bono volunteers from our membership. Our goal this year is to have 50% participation. If you are a member, thank you. If you are not, please consider registering. The registration takes less than 5 minutes.

The Board and the Executive Committee appreciate your support, and we welcome your comments and ideas. Feel free to attend a Board meeting to address any concerns you may have or just send any of us an email and we will attempt to promptly address your concerns. Again, thank you for the opportunity, and I look forward to serving you. I feel privileged to be a member of the MCBA, and I hope you do, as well.

rdumas@gilpingivhan.com

2016 MCBA Annual Meeting

The Montgomery County Bar Association held the 2016 Annual Meeting of the membership on January 20 at the RSA Activity Center. Members elected Felicia Long as the new Secretary/Treasurer. New Board members are: Tim McCollum, Peyton Faulk, and Bryan Morgan. Wallace Mills was re-elected to the board. Royal Dumas was installed as 2016 President and Rhon Jones (pictured on p.3 presenting fifty-year awards) is the new Vice-president. Incoming President, Royal Dumas, presented 2015 President Cowin Knowles with a plaque of appreciation. Ashley Penhale, Chairperson of the MCBA Centennial Gala Fundraiser recognized the two top sponsors, the Beasley Allen firm, and Roianne Conner. Pictured below right are Ashley Penhale, Roianne Conner, and her associate, Preston Presley.

Pictured left, Ashley Penhale (far left) and representatives from Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C. who was the Presidential Sponsor of the MCBA Centennial Gala Fundraiser. Pictured are Beasley Allen attorneys Gibson Vance, Rhon Jones (MCBA Vice-_pres.), Greg Allen, Mike Crow, Larry Golston (MCBA Board Member), and Tom Methvin. Royal Dumas, 2016 President, and Cowin Knowles, 2015 President, are on the far right.
MCBA Annual Meeting Honored 50-year Attorneys

These gentlemen were presented with commemorative paper weights in honor of being attorneys for fifty years. Bobby Segall spoke about each of the honorees and their careers. Rhon Jones presented the gifts.

Pictured L-R:
Top: Jimmy Evans, James Sizemore, Frederick Enslen
Middle: Robert J. Russell; Hon. Craig Miller, Thomas McGregor
Bottom: Barry Leavell, George Beck, David Byrne

50-year attorneys not present: Rufus Hagood Craig, Joseph J. Levin, Jr., and Jack Franklin Norton
2016 MCBA Service and Achievement Award
Honors Lawrence Kloess

Following is the speech that Branch Kloess gave in recognition of the Service and Achievement Award being presented to his father, Lawrence Kloess, a worthy recipient who has helped build MCBA over the years. The nomination and selection was a total surprise to Larry. It was a moving tribute.

I am, particularly, honored to present this award today. The Montgomery County Bar Association presents this award for Service and Achievement each year to one lawyer who has distinguished him or herself through service to the Bar and the community. It is intended to honor a lawyer who demonstrates the highest standard of professionalism and service and who is respected by their peers for their outstanding legal ability.

This year’s winner has not only distinguished himself through his very long and successful legal career, but has been extremely active in community affairs as well as in his church family, Frazer. He tried to join the military by forging his birth certificate at 16 but was caught and sent home with orders to wait a year and bring back a parent, which he did at the very young age of 17 and served in the Navy Amphibious Forces in the South Pacific in WWII and continued that career through active service and eventually retired in 1986 as a Full Bird Colonel at the Air University Judge Advocate General’s Office and the 908th Airlift Wing at Maxwell. He was licensed to practice law in 1956 (60 yrs ago) and has been a member of the local bar since 1968. He was also Chief Legal Counsel for the Veterans Administration for over 30 years retiring in 1991. To this day I receive phone calls from attorneys from all over the State seeking out his knowledge.

As a member of the MCBA he saw a need to somehow create a better mechanism to establish some type of communication between members of the Bar and legal community. So in 1979 he created “The Docket”. He also saw this creation as a way to grow the MCBA’s membership and was extremely successful in that endeavor. He helped edit, publish, he wrote articles and sold ads to help defray the costs of production. Due to his efforts “The Docket” was recognized by the American Bar Assn as an “outstanding publication” at its National Conference in Hawaii.

He served as President of the MCBA in 1981 and created the first comprehensive Law Day USA program for the Bar and served as the first Law Day Chairman. At the time he was President of the MCBA, the Bar only met once a year. He pushed the MCBA to meet more regularly than once a year and as a result the MCBA began meeting monthly. He also served as President of the Federal Bar in 1984.

He spearheaded a campaign to recognize the past presidents of the MCBA and of all past Montgomery Municipal Court Judges. As a result the historical pictorial composite was created, both of which still hang in their respective Court Houses.

It’s important to note that he had great partnerships with many members of the Bar, some of which are no longer with us. Each of these were instrumental in helping him pursue all of the mentioned activities. He could not have done any of them without their help and dedication.

While he would shy away from any type of recognition for his efforts he’s certainly worthy to be recognized for his works done for the MCBA and community. Please join me in recognizing the 2015 winner of the Award for Service and Achievement, my Father, Larry Kloess!!

Pictured at right, Cowin Knowles, Branch Kloess, and award recipient Lawrence Kloess.
The VLP Corner

by Mike Martin, Executive Director,
Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers program

Pro bono publico. Latin, For the public good. The designation given to the free legal work done by an attorney for indigent clients and religious, charitable and other non-profit entities.

Rule 6.1 of the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct states, “A lawyer should render public interest legal service. A lawyer may discharge this responsibility by providing professional services at no fee or a reduced fee to persons of limited means or to a public service or charitable groups or organizations, by service in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession, and by financial support for organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means.”

The commentary to this Rule notes “the basic responsibility for providing legal services for those unable to pay ultimately rests upon the individual lawyer, and personal involvement in the problems of the disadvantaged can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a lawyer. Every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, should find time to participate in or otherwise support the provision of legal services to the disadvantaged.”

In Montgomery, that need is being addressed through the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program. While we are blessed with over 440 local attorneys who have indicated a willingness to accept a referral from the VLP, there remains a significant number of lawyers who have not yet signed on as a volunteer. And, there are volunteers who have not accepted a referral in some time. The need, unfortunately, hasn’t subsided. In fact, with alarming regularity, the number of Montgomery residents who fall below the qualifying federal poverty guidelines continues to grow with each passing year.

We continue to grow in order to meet the need through expansion of our program offerings and the dedicated corps of attorneys who step up to help face the challenge. Our twice monthly Advice and Counsel Clinics have seen considerable increases in the number of clients assisted. Direct intake continues to grow, as more and more eligible clients learn of our program. In our first year, 2013, we served a total of 172 clients. In 2015, we received 742 requests for assistance, resulting in 448 clients served through opened case files. We couldn’t handle the demand were it not for our volunteer lawyers, and we are very appreciative of their commitment to rendering service, for the public good.

You know all the reasons why you should volunteer more often – it benefits others, just plain feels good, and helps you bank good karma – but if those aren’t giving you the motivation you need, try these: Volunteering just one day a month will give your life a greater sense of purpose and will make you feel more connected to your community, finds new research from Duke University and the National University of Singapore.

Turns out there’s a significant correlation between social well-being and volunteer work. Those who volunteered also experienced a lasting boost in “eudemonic” well-being, or feelings that your life has purpose, the study finds. Why? Volunteering makes you feel good about yourself, and helps you form new relationships with the people in your neighborhood, explains study author Joonmo Son, PhD, a sociologist at the National University of Singapore.

Think you’re too busy? It’s not about how much time you give, Son says, it’s about forming an identity as a volunteer. That means you have to give back regularly enough to consider the activity part of who you are, Son says. In his team’s study, that required just 3 to 4 hours of volunteering each month, but it could take even less for you.

Come join us… you can be a winner, too. Call the MVLP at 265-0222 to volunteer. Take a referral or give us a couple of hours on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at our walk-in legal clinics. Who knows? 2016 can be the year you decide to make a difference – in your self-identity and in your community. Do it... for the public good.
Thank you! Presidential Sponsor 2015

We are proud to support the Montgomery County Bar Association

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No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.
This month, I’m happy to announce many of the events the Women’s Section will be sponsoring over the coming months. Members can find details in our monthly e-newsletter and on our Facebook page. Several of these events will be open to the general MCBA membership, and we hope everyone will join us!

**Late February:** CLE with ASB Women’s Section and Faulkner Law Women’s Legal Society, free for Women’s Section members

**March:** 4th Annual St. Paddy’s Day Social, open to Women’s Section members and guests

**Late March-Early April:** Community Service Day, open to everyone

**April:** Family Night at the Biscuits, open to Women’s Section members and families

**May:** Coffee with the Judges, open to everyone

I also get to celebrate some exciting news:

**Ali Hawthorne** and her husband **Ray** welcomed Jackson James Hawthorne into the world on January 11, 2016. Aunt **Effie** and Uncle **Charlie Hawthorne** are smitten, and we can’t wait to meet this sweet little guy!

At the recent MCBA Annual Meeting, **Felicia Long** was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the MCBA and **Peyton Faulk** was elected to the Board of Directors. We couldn’t be prouder to know these two active ladies and look forward to their years of service to the MCBA Board and membership!

Dues notices were sent out in January. Please ensure that your $30 dues payment is sent to MCBA Women’s Section, c/o Effie Hawthorne, Treasurer, 600 S. McDonough St., Montgomery, AL 36104. If you are interested in joining and would like an application, didn’t receive an invoice, or have news or events to announce, please e-mail us at mcbawomen@gmail.com.

Be on the lookout for our e-newsletter with more dates and details, coming to your inbox this week!
MEMBER NEWS

We are happy to welcome these new members to MCBA!

Bradley Bodiford—U.S. Attorney’s Office
Douglas Bryant—clerk, Alabama Supreme Court
Benjamin Gibbons—Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office
Jacob Harper—Balch and Bingham, LLP
Shanitra Jackson—Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office
Hugh Maddox—retired
Jared Morris—Retirement Systems of Alabama
Robert Prescott—Alabama Department of Transportation
Virginia Reeves—Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP
Misha M. Whitman—McArdle and Whitman, PC
Joshua Willis—Webb & Eley, P.C.

Congratulations to Ray and Ali Hawthorne, the proud new parents of Jackson James Hawthorne, born January 11. Beaming grandparents are Corky and Cathy Hawthorne.

Katie Cameron O’Mailia is pleased to announce the opening of her new law firm O’Mailia Law, PLLC at 312 Scott Street. Her practice will concentrate on Family Law and Estate Planning.

Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole, & Black, PC announces that James (Jim) E. Beck, III has been named a shareholder with the firm. The firm also announces the opening of two new offices— one in Louisville, KY and one in Birmingham, AL.
Everything You Need to Know to Hang Your Shingle (a nuts and bolts CLE for setting up a practice)

Instructors: Laura Calloway and Aimee Smith

Thursday, March 3rd
8:30-10:00 a.m.
Jury Assembly Room, 3rd floor
Montgomery County Courthouse
Free for MCBA members
$25 for non-members
Register at dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or call 265-4793.
Approved for 1.5 hr. credit by MCLEC of Alabama

MANDATORY CLE
For Criminal Defense Attorneys, Public Defenders, & District Attorneys
By order of Hon. Eugene Reese, Presiding Judge, 15th Circuit
2015 AL Justice Reinvestment Act
Wednesday, Feb. 3rd
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Jury Assembly Room
Montgomery County Courthouse
Speaker: Bennett Wright, AL Sentencing Commission
Registrations and questions:
Lashandra Warren, Court Administrator 334-832-1357

JOB OPENING Administrative Asst.
The Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) non-profit that sits in the Alabama State Bar, is looking for an administrative assistant.

Description: The administrative assistant position is a highly responsible administrative position which reports directly to the executive director. The Center is responsible for the registration and roster of neutrals for the state, for training requirements for neutrals and approval of training in-state, for administration of programs under grants, for being the administrative arm of the Alabama Supreme Court Commission non Dispute Resolution, for answering attorney, judicial and public questions regarding mediation, arbitration and private judging. The work of the Center is located fully at www.alabamaadr.org for the candidate’s review.
Responsibilities will include in addition to others:
Working closely with the executive director on all projects and grant administration
Responding to telephone calls and e-mails
Processing new member applications and data entry in database and at website
Competency in Quick Books, Excel, Word, Graphs
Reconciliation of check books and other financials
Set up and registration for training, Commission meetings, and other CLEs

Education and skill set: Bachelor’s degree preferred. History of work in legal profession or non-profit preferred. Knowledge of information technology, software, social media, word processing, spreadsheet, databases, websites, e-mail. Ability to relate professionally to judges, attorneys and the public and colleagues at the Alabama State Bar. Ability to write and speak grammatically. This position is 4 days a week, non-government.

Resume with letter of introduction to your skills and why you are interested in this position to:
Judith M. Keegan, Esq.
Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution, Inc.
P.O. Box 671
Montgomery, AL 36101
More Images from the Annual Meeting

2015 President, Royal Dumas with His wife, Patricia

Bobby Segall introduced each of the 50-year honorees at the meeting.

Young Lawyers President, Jesse Anderson

Above right: Mike Martin, Executive Director of the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program, and Tim Gallagher, President of the Montgomery County Bar Foundation, accept the check for $25,000 raised at the MCBA Centennial Gala. Presenting the check (center and right) are Royal Dumas, Ashley Penhale, Centennial Gala Chairwoman, and Cowin Knowles.

F.Y.I. 15th Circuit Petit Jury Dates

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