The Wall Street Journal recently published an article on its law blog which discussed whether law schools are “indoctrinating students with a social justice morality.” The premise of the article is that many law schools’ financial support of public interest programs and pro bono initiatives “inculcate law students with a responsibility of social justice that reflects the morality of the faculty and administration.” The article, at least to me, was thought-provoking, and I welcome you to read it at http://on.wsj.com/1Vq6PKc. On its face, the article merely highlights the long-standing argument that post-secondary education systems frequently use their institutions to indoctrinate students with certain political and ideological beliefs and whether this is proper. This debate has been waged longer than Humanities professors have worn tweed jackets with leather elbow pads, and honestly why not -- those jackets are amazing!

What the article failed to mention is the structural integrity of our legal system and the need for representation of those who cannot afford it. You need only go as far as Rule 6.1 of the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct to understand that this maxim is not only a good idea but a responsibility we all share. The rule states: “A lawyer should render public interest legal service.” This is not a left or right issue, it is merely a function of what we do as a profession: to promote the public good or, stated in Latin, pro bono publico. For this to happen within our legal system there must be -- as is written above the entrance to the US Supreme Court building -- equal justice under the law. This does not mean justice in the universal sense but the opportunity for the legal system to resolve cases and controversies in accordance with the law. To fully and fairly resolve these cases, there must be competent advocacy on both sides of a controversy. Public interest and pro bono initiatives, as a whole, are not aimed to foster a liberal agenda. Instead, they are there to ensure the proper functioning of our legal system.

With that said, and whether you agree or disagree with the above, we need “Lawyers, Guns, and Money” for the 3rd Annual Young Lawyers Charity Clay Shoot. The event will support the Montgomery County Volunteer Lawyers Program and take place on the 3rd of June at 2 PM at the Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club. I look forward to seeing everyone at the shoot and to socialize after.

As a final note, I invite everyone out to Bud’s on May 12th at 5:30 for our monthly MCBA social. Bud has graciously agreed to donate hors d'oeuvres.
I had a surprise telephone call recently from a friend who said he was just calling to say “Thank You” for the work we do at MVLP. While that in itself is a rewarding message to receive, he went on to label me a ‘hero’ for providing assistance to our low-income clients who turn to the VLP when they are in need of civil legal aid. I explained to him that the real ‘heroes’ are the volunteer lawyers who give freely of their time and expertise to help our clients.

Most people, myself included, are uncomfortable with descriptions like ‘heroic’ to classify the work they do, but in this case I must agree with him. Those of you who are active volunteers in our program are, according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary definition of a hero, “to be greatly admired.” Ask any of our clients and they will tell you that without the pro bono assistance they receive through MVLP they would likely fail in resolving their legal dispute. And with few exceptions, they openly express their gratitude for the help given to them by their volunteer attorney.

Since the first of the year through March 31, we have received 247 requests for assistance, resulting in 103 opened cases. These cases include divorces, probate matters, foreclosure, landlord/tenant issues, contract disputes, and debt collection. We daily receive telephone inquiries, referrals from the bench and area law firms, and referrals from local advocacy agencies/groups serving the low-income population of Montgomery County. In addition, we see an increasing number of clients needing help at our twice-monthly Advice and Counsel Clinics.

You can be a ‘hero’ by joining with your fellow Bar members and volunteering a few hours a month to assist the less fortunate who face civil legal problems with nowhere else to turn for help. You can make a real difference in their lives by agreeing to take just one case per quarter, or by volunteering to spend two hours in a walk-up clinic environment, without any commitment to take a case on an extended representation basis – although that would elevate you to ‘Big Hero’ status!

Special thanks is due to those volunteers who have helped at recent Advice and Counsel Clinics: John Charles, Karen Laneaux, Joana Ellis, Lee Russell, Ashley Penhale, Tim Gallagher, Matthew Ward, Joel Caldwell, Hannah Kennedy, Aigner Kolom, Cowin Knowles, Evan Allen, Heath Loftin, Kelly McTear, Liz Eiland, and Royce Wadsworth.

We currently have a need for volunteer lawyers willing to handle one of several guardianship requests we have on file. If you are able to take one of these referrals, please contact Barbara Ann at 265-0222, ext. 2. Thank you for your consideration.

Please consider the opportunity to render service to your community through the provision of pro bono legal assistance. Call me or Barbara Ann at 265-0222 and let us know you are willing to help. We need more ‘heroes among us’ and will be happy to work with you in a manner that best fits your schedule. And for those who already volunteer with MVLP, I gladly share my “Thank You” for the work you do.
Valynda Jerome-Williams was inducted recently into the Faulkner Law Public Interest Society and named the Distinguished Public Interest Fellow. She is pictured here with MCBA President Royal Dumas during the induction ceremony. Valynda has served this year as the law student representative to Montgomery County Bar Foundation Board of Directors.

The Following Attorneys Recently Accepted MVLP Pro Bono Cases

Lee H. Copeland       Copeland Franco Screws & Gill, PA
Joel T. Caldwell      Copeland Franco Screws & Gill, PA
Kelly F. McTear       Faulkner University - Jones School of Law
LaKesha B. Shahid     Shahid & Hosea LLC
Lee M. Rusell, Jr.    Capell & Howard, PC
Allen Sheehan         Capell & Howard, PC
J. Lenn Ryals         Ryals Donaldson & Agricola, PC
Tim Gallagher         Sasser Sefton & Brown, PC
Mark E. Smith         Law Office of Mark Edward Smith, LLC
J. Heath Loftin       Reynolds Reynolds & Little, LLC

The Following Attorneys Recently Closed MVLP Pro Bono Cases

Lee M. Rusell Jr.     Capell & Howard, PC
Allen Sheehan         Capell & Howard, PC
John Craft (5)        Faulkner University - Jones School of Law
In 1971, Helen Reddy released an anthem. Who of us hasn’t found herself in the shower, car, or bar, shouting “I am strong. I am invincible. I am WOMAAAAN!!!!” And, slowly but surely, we’re making that true.

The ABA’s Commission on Women in the Profession recently (April 2016) reported that women represent roughly half of law students in America, and more than half in many law schools. Women are increasingly finding partnership positions in firms and general counsel positions in Fortune 500 companies, just over the past two years. The current ABA President, President-Elect, and Chair of the House of Delegates are all women. The legal profession stands on the cusp of a shift, as technology, practice models, and representation strategies change to meet the demands of the public and as a new generation of lawyers, more of them women than ever before, enters the fray.

With increasing numbers comes an increased responsibility to both the community and the bar, and our Women’s Section is working hard to make sure that our members have the resources to fulfill that responsibility.

In April, in conjunction with the ASB Women’s Section, we held a “Grit and Growth Mindset” CLE. Over 50 women attended, and our panel of speakers included attorneys from various legal backgrounds and personal experiences. We are grateful to Judge Sharon Yates, Danielle Mason, Brittney Bucak, and Salem Afangideh for sharing their motivation, passion, and advice. We talked about work-life balance, career ambition, community involvement, and professionalism. It was an inspirational and thought-provoking time, and the Women’s Section board will seek to provide more such experiences for our members in the future.

*I also want to take a brief aside to congratulate Judge Yates on being selected as the recipient of the Alabama State Bar Women’s Section’s Maude McLure Kelly Award, a prestigious honor which is so well deserved, given Judge Yates’s historic accomplishments and career of service.*

Next month, on May 19, in the 3rd Floor Jury Assembly Room, we will host Coffee with Judges, an exciting opportunity to network with our Montgomery County judges and other attorneys, and we invite everyone to attend.

All work and no play makes Kelly tired, though, so we are also working on the final details of a family night at the Biscuits, with drinks, food, and plenty of open space for the kids to wear themselves out. Keep an eye out for e-mails with more details.

As ever, membership in the Women’s Section is always open, so if you haven’t joined yet, there’s no better time than now. E-mail your interest to MCBAWomen@gmail.com and let us hear you ROAR!
The GRIT and GROWTH MINDSET CLE

The Distinguished Panel speaking at the CLE:
Christina Crowe, Hon. Sharon Yates, Danielle Mason, Brittney Bucak.

The CLE was held at Faulkner University Jones School of Law. It was well-attended.

The MCBA Women’s Section and MALS have partnered to bring you

Coffee with Judges

Thursday, May 19, 2016
3rd Floor Jury Assembly Room,
Phelps-Price Justice Center
7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
2016 Alabama Young Lawyers Orange Beach CLE

May 19-21
Registration $300  ($250 for First Year ASB Admittees)
Contact Robert Shreve for registration forms  251-694-9393 or rshreve@lchclaw.com

FOR ACCOMMODATIONS:
Book by phone: 888-607-7020, Group Code: “ASB Young Lawyers  CLE”
Book online: http://www.caribe-resort.net/ law.html

Why You Should Attend:
• Interesting & informative speakers focused on topics/issues facing young lawyers
• Networking opportunities
• Practical tips and lessons
• Face-time with Alabama judges
• Social events and sunshine!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

CHARITY CLAY SHOOT

Friday, June 3, 2016 at 2:00pm

LOWER WETUMPKA SHOTGUN SPORTS CLUB
4758 LOWER WETUMPKA ROAD
MONTGOMERY, AL  36110

• Cost is $75 per shooter*
• Register individually or as a team of 4
• For further registration or sponsorship information, contact Alison Hawthorne at alison.hawthorne@beasleyallen.com

*All proceeds from this charity clay shoot will benefit the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyer's Program and their efforts to provide free legal services to low-income Alabamians in civil matters.
Montgomery County Bar Association Young Lawyers Charity Clay Shoot

Team Sponsor
$500
Includes:
* Complimentary team of 4 shooters with 100 clays per shooter
* Corporate signage at a designated clay shoot station
* Sponsor recognition at awards ceremony

Station Sponsor
$250
Includes:
* Corporate signage at a designated clay shoot station
* Option to have corporate representative at designated station
* Sponsor recognition at awards ceremony

Ceremony Sponsor
Contribution
Includes:
* Corporate signage at the pavilion during the awards ceremony and social
* Sponsor recognition at awards ceremony

Name/Company: ____________________________________________

Level of Sponsorship:

If Ceremony Sponsor, please provide a description of the donation (i.e. beverages, food, coozies, goody-bags, etc.)
__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Email: ____________________________________ Phone: ________________

Payment: (select payment type)  □ Cash    □ Check

Please make checks payable to Montgomery County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section. Please remit payment to Brannan Reaves at PO Box 239, Montgomery, AL 36101 on or before May 20, 2016.
YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION NEWS

By Jesse Anderson, YLS President

The Young Lawyers Section had a great turnout on April 14th at the Spring Social. The estimated attendance was 50+. Not bad, not bad at all. Thanks again to Ellis Pilgreen of National Land Realty for sponsoring.

Next up, one of our biggest events, the Young Lawyers Charity Clay Shoot. It will be held on Friday, June 3rd at 2PM, at the Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club. As always, the shoot is conveniently scheduled so that you can justify taking off at lunch on Friday. All of the proceeds from the event go to benefit the Montgomery County Volunteer Lawyers Program. Last year, the event raised over $5,000. We hope to exceed that number this year.

The round of shooting takes roughly 3 hours and is followed by a social. Midtown Pizza Kitchen and The Pine Bar are once again providing food and refreshments for the social after the shoot. There will be prizes, and good ones at that, for the top shooters and top teams. So, call your “ringers” and let them know (Jeff Smith is off limits).

The deadline to sign up is May 20, 2016. Contact Ali Hawthorne, or any of the YLS officers and board members, for details or to sign up for the event. The attached flyers have any and all information needed. There are different sponsorship/shooter options available, all of which are very affordable and cheap compared to other charity clay shoots. If you are not a shooter, that’s okay. We still welcome you to sponsor the event and come to the social to meet, greet, etc.

One last thing: the annual Orange Beach CLE is put on every year by the Young Lawyers Section of the Alabama State Bar. This year, it will be held on May 19-21. See the attached registration and information flyers. I have gone to this CLE for the last 4 years, and so have many (well, maybe just some) of you. It is a great way to meet young lawyers from all over the state. I can truly say that my practice has benefitted from the friendships that I have made as a result of this annual event. Also, you get to earn 6 hours of CLE credit (including 1 hour of ethics) by attending. There is a great line-up of presenters for this year; specifically, our own Judge Gene Reese, Lee Copeland, and Jeremy McIntire will be there. We need to have a strong Montgomery presence, so if you are a young lawyer, please consider attending. Give me a call at 334-834-7600 and I will be glad to talk with you should you have any questions. More information about this is on page 6.
Building Great Legal Minds

Faulkner Law presents

Professional Legal Research Strategies & Tactics

**Featuring:** Secondary source research, including treatises, practice manuals, handbooks and form books; statutory and legislative history research; administrative law research; Alabama-specific research; research ethics and free internet legal research

Where: Faulkner University’s Jones School of Law

When: May 6th, 8:45—12:30

Cost: $150 (FREE TO ALUMNI)

Approved by the Alabama State Bar for 3.0 CLE hours, including 1.0 hour of ethics

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Ready to unwind after a long day at work?

Join us at **Bud’s** for your favorite libation and free hors d’oeuvres on **May 12th**!

A social offered by The Montgomery County Bar Association

Bud’s is located at 1018 Fairview Avenue in Cloverdale.
MCBA Member News

Welcome to our newest members!
David Folmar  Alabama Department of Revenue
Bryant Hitson  Holtsford, Gilliland, Higgins, Hitson, & Howard, PC

Webster, Henry, Lyons, Bradwell, Cohan, & Black, P.C. is pleased to announce a name change of the firm to Webster, Henry, Lyons, Bradwell, Cohan, and Speagle, P.C.

Danielle Ward Mason and J. Parker Miller, shareholders in Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C., have been included in the 2016 Law 360 Rising Stars rankings. Law 360’s Rising Stars profiles the top legal talent younger than 40. The winners are comprised of top litigators and dealmakers practicing at a level usually seen from veteran attorneys.

Jere L. Beasley, Principal and Founder of Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C., has been selected as one of the 2016 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America. This year marks the fourth time he has been named to this prestigious list. Being a member of the Lawdragon 500 is one of the most elite honors in the law profession. Recipients of this honor are determined by a combination of editorial research by Lawdragon staff, submissions from law firms and on online nomination form.

DATE TIME TOPIC/SPEAKER
May 6 10:30-12:00 Key Elements in Supervising Mental Health Clients in a Community Corrections Program/ Paul Brown (1.5 hr. credit)
July 21 8:00-1:30 Domestic Law and Elder Law Super CLE—more info TBA
Aug. 4 10:00-11:00 Uninsured Motorist Coverage— What You Need to Know/ Ron Davenport (1.0 hr. credit)

Theses CLE programs have been approved for the stated number of credits by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission of Alabama.

Pre-register via email to dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or call 265-4793.