Collegiality Important for Professionals

By Royal Dumas, MCBA President

It is difficult practicing law. It is difficult just having to deal with lawyers jokes. The MCBA understands this, and it is one of the reasons I enjoy being involved. Sure, our organization does many wonderful things that give back to our profession and our community. We have the Charity Clay Shoot coming up on June 3rd, which I know you all will attend. We have CLEs, the next one entitled “All in the Family: Domestic Law and Elder Law Updates” on July 21st at the Phelps-Price Justice Center. We have the Annual Charity Event, details coming next month, and many other endeavors. But wait . . . there’s more!

What the MCBA understands, and I thank my friend and former President Cowin Knowles for helping me learn, is that we as a collective and as individuals need time away from the adversarial lives we lead. I know we all strike a delicate balance between family, spirituality, work, and more, but the MCBA gives us opportunities to spend time with the same individuals that merely hours before were adversaries and the cause of our stress and tensions – I’m looking at you David Martin – through our monthly socials.

This focus has been invaluable for helping not only develop a collegial understanding with lawyers on the other side of the v, on the other side of the M or A (in MCBA), or on the other side of a dirt deal. In turn, these encounters help us re-enter the fray with a better understanding of the people we, in essence, spend our days with.

Along these lines, we had a wonderful afternoon at Bud’s last month where we had a mixture of lawyers from the private and public sector, including Montgomery County DAs and Public Defenders. I can only surmise that free food and drinks is a draw to both because they are so underpaid. We may have even had a future judge make an appearance. I would like to thank our sponsors: Bud’s, Baker Realtime, Sasser, Sefton & Brown, and Gilpin Givhan for their generous donations and support for the social.

This tradition continues next month when the MCBA will host a social at Pine Bar, 501 Cloverdale Rd., on June 9th at 5:30. There’s a wonderful advertisement on page 7 that you can put on your office wall as a reminder. I hope to see you all there, especially Jarred Kaplan, who was just made a partner at Holtsford Gilliland Higgins Hitson & Howard. I assumed that was a typo when I first read it, but I have been informed that it actually happened. Congrats!
The Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program is excited to invite you to an upcoming free CLE workshop focused on foreclosure and how volunteer attorneys can help Montgomery residents at risk of foreclosure on their most precious possession, their home. The training will be conducted by the National Consumer Law Center and is being offered under a new foreclosure prevention grant program funded through the Alabama Law Foundation and the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation. Topics covered will include identifying the players in today’s mortgage market, the role of mortgage services, how to tell what type of loan you have, servicing rules, new CFPB rules, the HAMP program and phase-out, successor issues, loss mitigation and bankruptcy, tax issues related to settlements and the role of mediators.

As you can see, it is a program chock-full of information and, as noted, is being offered at no cost to MCBA members. Lunch will be served, so we ask that you register early, as space will be limited. The Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program is participating in a statewide foreclosure prevention project and is pleased to be providing this training to potential volunteer lawyers willing to assist area residents facing foreclosure.

Make your plans to attend this valuable training, and pick up some CLE credit as well. Please click the link below to register today:

https://alabamalawfoundation.formstack.com/forms/foreclosure_cle

**FORECLOSURE TRAINING**

Thursday, June 2, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wynlakes Golf & Country Club
7900 Wynlakes Blvd.

As always, we are most appreciative of our volunteer lawyers who assist in our twice-monthly Advice and Counsel Clinics. We want to thank the following attorneys who were present during our May clinics: Evan Allen (Beasley Allen), Joana Ellis, Karen Laneaux, Royce Wadsworth (Wadsworth Law), John Charles (The Anderson Law Firm), Bryant Hitson (Holtsford Gilliland), Kelly McTear (Jones School of Law), and Bill Messer (Varley & Messer).

You are welcome to join the ranks of our Montgomery attorneys who serve as volunteers helping low-income Montgomery residents with civil legal issues. Whether it is by giving of a couple of hours on a Tuesday afternoon to render advice and counsel at a clinic or by taking a case referral, you can make a difference in the life of a client with nowhere else to turn. Please give this your consideration and then give us a call at 265-0222 to volunteer.

Mike Martin
I didn’t have a clue what I would write about when Kelly McTear, president of the MCBA Women’s Section, asked if I still planned on writing this month’s Docket article. I jokingly accepted the task in a Facebook post. How in the world did I not think she wouldn’t hold me to my end of the bargain? Lawyers!

The more I thought about a topic, the word “thankful” came to mind. On May 19, 2016, we experienced another successful Coffee with the Judges. This event has been one that lawyers and other members of the legal community have looked forward to attending yearly. I remember attending my first Coffee with the Judges many years ago when it was held in courtroom 4-C, Judge Price’s old courtroom. Judge Price always liked the idea of lawyers being able to fellowship with one another, contrary to what people believed. He would laughingly say, “LaShandra, y’all have too many parties and celebrations around here.” I can honestly say that it has been wonderful to watch this event grow, thanks to the ladies of MALS (Montgomery Association of Legal Secretaries). They have faithfully ensured its longevity. The MCBA Women’s Section is honored to have been able to co-sponsor for the past four years.

One of the most thankful moments during this event was being able to see Judge Randy Thomas, Judge Peggy Givhan, and Judge Charles Price (all of which are retired). It is truly a blessing to be able to reach out to these legal giants and have them graciously accept our invitation. They have truly left a wonderful, long-lasting impact on the courthouse where they worked tirelessly to ensure that the citizens of Montgomery had their day in court.

I want all of you to know that no function or event sponsored by any section of the Montgomery County Bar Association would be a success without you. Yes, you! I am personally thankful for our Women’s Section Board, members, past presidents, current president, members of the Montgomery County Bar, Baker Realtime Reporting, all past and present sponsors, and everyone who has ever taken the time out of their busy schedules to attend or help in any capacity.

In closing, there are times that we get so busy living that we take life and people for granted. Please don’t allow yourself to get so wrapped up in things that you let life’s “thankful” moments pass you by.

LaShandra Warren
MCBA Women’s Section Board Member
Court Administrator, 15th Judicial Circuit
Coffee with the Judges  

Pictured:  
Presiding Judge Gene Reese,  
Former Presiding Judge Charles Price,  
Roianne Conner,  
Court Administrator Lashandra Warren, and  
Tamika Miller.

Above, the crowd enjoyed the breakfast buffet. (Connie Murray, right side)

Left, Attorneys enjoy the time mingling. Shown Tom Methvin, Roianne Conner, and Kelly McTear, MCBA Women’s Section President.  
Above, Lashandra Warren, Charlie Kendall, Julia Beasley
Social at Bud’s was a great success

On May 19 the MCBA held a social at Bud’s in Old Cloverdale. It was a very enjoyable time with a relaxed atmosphere, billiard tables, refreshing beverages and delicious hors d’oeuvres provided by Bud’s. Thanks again to our sponsors, Baker Realtime Reporting & Video, Gilpin Givhan, P.C., Bud’s, and Sasser, Sefton, & Brown, P.C.

Left top: Carrie Shaw and Shanitra Jackson, Pool Sharks by night, Assistant District Attorneys by Day

Top right: Baker Realtime Team: Cornelia Baker, Candace Abel, Greta Duckett, Patrick Miller, Jayne Berry

Lower left: Sign acknowledging our sponsors on buffet table

Lower right: Past MCBA Presidents David Martin and Cowin Knowles
Don’t forget the Charity Clay Shoot on June 3rd!

**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.*
UNWIND AT THE PINE BAR...
JOIN US FOR THE MCBA SOCIAL

THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH
5:30–7:30 P.M. AT

PINE BAR
OLD CLOVERDALE MONTGOMERY, AL

MCBA appreciates our sponsor for this event!

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## New Members

Welcome to these new members:

- **Patrick Dean**—Law Office of John Forster Tyra, PC, Tuscaloosa
- **Allen Mendenhall**—Office of the Attorney General, State of Alabama

Barfoot & Schoettker, LLC are pleased to announce a new associate, **K. Ashley Granger**. Ashley is a recent graduate of Jones School of Law.

Holtsford Gilliland Higgins Hitson & Howard PC announces that **Jarred E. Kaplan** is now a partner in their central Alabama office. Congratulations to Jarred!

Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C. was selected by Law360 as one of the top 10 Best Law Firms for Black Attorneys in the U.S. The firm was recognized as having the highest percentage of African-American partners of any of the firms included on the list.

Two MCBA members have articles in this month’s *Alabama Lawyer*. New member, **Dr. Allen Mendenhall**, wrote “The Power of Dissent”. **Kelly McTear**, Women’s Section President and Assistant Professor of Clinical Law at Faulkner University Jones School of Law wrote “A Practical Primer on the Protection from Abuse Law”.

## CLE OPPORTUNITIES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>8:00-1:30</td>
<td>All in the Family: Domestic Law and Elder Law Updates</td>
<td>5.0 hr</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Elder Law Update – John Craft and Mark E. Smith (2 hr.)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Domestic Violence Laws Update – Shelley Corley (1 hr.)</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Child Custody Laws Update – Karen Phillips (1 hr.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Break—light lunch provided for those who pre-register</td>
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<td>12:30</td>
<td>Child Support Law – Loretta Pierce, D.A. staff (1 hr.)</td>
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You may register for any or all of the hours provided on July 21. You will need to pre-register.

Aug. 4   | 9:00-10:00 | **D.U.I Law Update**—Tommy Kirk and Matt Alfreds                     | 1.0 hr       |
Aug. 4   | 10:00-11:00 | **Uninsured Motorist Coverage—What You Need to Know**—Ron Davenport | 1.0 hr       |

Watch for more CLE topics to be presented in the coming months.

The above CLEs are FREE to MCBA Members. Non-members are charged $50.00 per CLE hour.

*The above programs have been approved for the stated number of hours of credit by the Mandatory Commission on Continuing Legal Education in Alabama.*

Preregistration is easy! Email dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or call the MCBA office 265-4793.