TAILGATE 2016– BE THERE!

The MCBA’s Annual Charity Event is upon us. Join us Thursday, November 10th, at the Alley Warehouse for a tailgating party to benefit the Volunteer Lawyers Program. This tailgate will have it all – Vintage Year food, ABC beverages, Americana music (Willie Sugarcapps), and perhaps some football in the background.

On top of all that, come participate in the raffle of Iron Bowl tickets and Alabama and Auburn merchandise. We hope to see you next Thursday night to enjoy some good entertainment, good food, and good friends.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.mcbar.org or www.montgomeryvlp.org.

Royal Dumas
MCBA President 2016

Willie Sugarcapps

http://williesugarcapps.com
Join us for our 11th Annual Charity Event, the “MCBA Tailgate”
Featuring Great Food, Local Craft Beers, and Live Music!

ENTERTAINMENT BY
WILLIE SUGARCAPPS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2016, 6:00-10:00 P.M.
THE WAREHOUSE AT ALLEY STATION
130 COMMERCE STREET, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
CASUAL ATTIRE

TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.MCBAR.ORG

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
MONTGOMERY VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Beasley Allen
Thank you, Sponsors!

As of the time of publication, these firms/persons have contributed as sponsors.

**PRESENTING SPONSORS**

Beasley Allen

**SIGNATURE SPONSORS**

**SILVER SPONSORS**

Rushton, Stakely, Johnston, & Garrett, P.A.  
Sasser, Sefton, & Brown, P.C.

Sterling Bank  
Melton, Espy, & Williams, P.C.

*Additional Sponsors listed on page 5*
October was Pro Bono Month in Alabama and your MVLP marked the celebration by hosting the inaugural MVLP Pro Bono Awards Luncheon honoring our local volunteers, conducting two Advice and Counsel Clinics, partnering with Faulkner-Jones Law School in holding a Legal Assistance Clinic for Veterans, and joining the Alabama Access to Justice Commission in recognizing the state’s Pro Bono Exemplars at a mid-month reception at the state Judicial Building.

The MVLP Pro Bono Awards Luncheon was a fantastic event honoring this year’s volunteer attorneys and firms, and featured remarks from Judge W. Harold Albritton, a strong proponent of pro bono service who was president of the Alabama State Bar when the state VLP was organized. Elsewhere in this Docket is a listing of the firms and attorneys feted during the luncheon. The civil legal aid provided by these firms and attorneys has made ours the fastest growing program in the state. Thank you to all of them.

The Montgomery Exemplars recognized during the Alabama ATJ reception included Tim Gallagher, Mike Winter, Joana Ellis, Kelly McTear, Ashley Penhale, John Charles, James Lampkin, Mickey McDermott, Evan Allen, Mandy Baker, Laurel Crawford, Stephanie Montplaisir, Royce Wadsworth and Matt Matthews. You don’t have to wait for Pro Bono Month to join the fun. Let us know you’re available to take a case referral or volunteer at a clinic and you can be a part of next year’s festivities – as well as knowing you helped to provide civil legal aid to a local citizen in need.

Of course, this column would not be complete without some serious self-promotion. The MCBA Tailgate Charity Event is set for Thursday, November 10, with the proceeds to benefit the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program. It’s in the Warehouse at Alley Station, 6:00-10:00 p.m., with great food, live music by Willie Sugarcapps, and complimentary libations. Get your tickets today at www.mcba.org or www.montgomeryvlp.org and join us for a lively evening of merriment benefiting a great cause.

We are fast approaching the 1,000 mark in requests for assistance, with 953 as of October 20. Thus far this year we have opened 307 cases, closed 278, with 101 resulting in extended representation. We have seen 231 clients at our twice-monthly clinics. So, you can see we’ve been very busy this year serving the low-income population, and we couldn’t have done this without the dedication of our volunteers. A special thanks to all of them.

Speaking of our regular clinics, a special thank you is in order for those selfless volunteers who helped clients at clinics during October: Aigner Kolom, Ashley Penhale, John Charles, Liz Eiland, Joel Caldwell and Mike Winter. You are always welcome to join us from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 1100 Adams Avenue (Montgomery Community Action Agency). If you haven’t taken the opportunity to be a part of one of our clinics, you don’t know what you’re missing. Give us a call at 265-0222 and let us know you want to be a part of this dynamic group of volunteers.

See you November 10 at the MCBA Tailgate!

Mike Martin
Executive Director
Montgomery Volunteer Lawyer Program
We appreciate our volunteer lawyers!

The following attorneys recently accepted pro bono cases through the MVLP:

- Ashley Penhale, Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, P.A.
- Evan Allen, Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
- Liz Eiland, Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
- John Charles (2), The Anderson Law Firm, LLC
- John Craft, Faulkner University—Jones School of Law
- Kelly McTear (2), Faulkner University—Jones School of Law
- Royce Wadsworth, Wadsworth Law Office, LLC
- Mike Winter, Winter Legal Strategies, LLC

The following attorneys recently closed cases through the MVLP:

- Joana Ellis, Holtsford, Gilliland, Higgins, Hitson, & Howard, P.C.
- Royce Wadsworth, Wadsworth Law Office, LLC
- Kelly McTear (2), Faulkner University—Jones School of Law
- Mike Winter, Winter Legal Strategies, LLC

SPONSORS OF THE MCBA CHARITY TAILGATE (continued from page 3)

BRONZE SPONSORS

- Ball, Ball, Matthews, & Novak, P.A.
- Copeland, Franco, Screws & Gill, P.A.
- ServisFirst Bank
- Balch & Bingham, LLP
- Maynard Cooper & Gale PC Charitable Foundation
- Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole, & Black, P.C.
- Capell & Howard, P.C.
- Webster, Henry, Lyons, Bradwell, Cohan, & Speagle, PC

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- Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, LLC
- MAX Wealth Management
- Mooty & Associates, P.C.
- Eagle Court Reporting
- Discover E Partners, LLC
- Rhon and Deanne Jones Charitable Foundation
- Royal and Patricia Dumas
- Hawthorne & Myers, LLC

We greatly appreciate the support of all of our sponsors and supporters.
Montgomery County Bar Foundation Recognizes Volunteers and Supporting Firms

The Inaugural Pro Bono Awards Luncheon for the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers was October 25 at 129 Coosa St. The guest speaker was U.S. District Judge W. Harold Albritton. Awards were presented to individual attorneys and to firms who have given exemplary support of the VLP. Those receiving awards are:

**Gold Medallion Firms**
The Anderson Law Firm
Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles, PC
Faulkner Law Legal Clinics

**Silver Medallion Firms**
Copeland, Franco, Screws, & Gill, PA
Sasser, Sefton & Brown, PC

**Bronze Medallion Firms**
Capell & Howard, PC
Miller Smith LLC
Shahid & Hosea, LLC

**Medal of the Samaritan**
Evan Allen
John Charles
Joana Ellis
Aigner Kolom
Royce Wadsworth
Nicole Bean
Liz Eiland
Tim Gallagher
Kelly McTear

Pictured, L-R: Judge Harold Albritton, Tim Gallagher, Laurel Crawford, Kelly McTear, and Tom Methvin

Additional photos on page 19
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 one of three positions on the Board of Directors or Secretary/Treasurer* must submit a letter of intent to run on or prior to December 16, 2016. The letter should be addressed to:

Felicia Long
Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole, and Black, P.C.
P.O. Box 116
Montgomery, AL 36101-0116

A copy of the letter, plus a short biography/resume, and digital photograph must be sent to Suzanne Duffey at suzanneduffey@mc-ala.org by December 19, 2016. Biography and photo will be published in the January 2017 Docket.

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

* “Any member who wishes to be a candidate for Secretary/Treasurer must have first served on the Board of Directors.” (MCBA By-laws)

Save the date!
MCBA Annual Holiday Gala
Thursday, December 15th
At Wynlakes Country Club
6:30—9:30 p.m.
RSVP BY DECEMBER 9TH—265-4793 OR email
dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or suzanneduffey@mc-ala.org
Please bring a new unwrapped toy or gift card for Toys for Tots.
Members of the U.S. Marine Corps will be on hand to accept your gifts.
Women’s Section Reaches Out to Community

The Women’s Section Board would like to thank the members of the MCBA who came out for our Second Annual Halloween Social at Railyard Brewing Company, as well as our gracious sponsor Baker Realtime Reporting. We had a great time catching up with all of you! We’ll see you all again next year!

Fall weather is finally here and with it comes all of the nostalgia of fall traditions, namely Thanksgiving. I have fond childhood memories of sitting around my grandparents’ dinner table, diving into turkey, dressing, sweet potato casserole and of course, pumpkin pie. This year, the Women’s Section is participating in Inner City Evangelism’s Family 2 Family Thanksgiving Event. The event connects us with 10 families in Montgomery’s inner city community for whom we will be providing an uncooked Thanksgiving meal. The idea behind this event is to let low income families create the same kind of experiences and memories that we all hold dear. There are two ways you can participate in this event.

First, you can give a monetary donation that will be used to buy the ingredients for the meals. Or, second, you can donate the actual food that will be provided to these families. Details on the food needed are at the bottom of this article. This is a great opportunity for your firm to provide an entire family with a Thanksgiving meal! Our board members will be happy to pick up any donations from your office. Please email us at mcbawomen@gmail.com to schedule a pick-up. You can also mail any monetary donations to our Secretary/Treasurer Kelly McTear at the address below. All donations must be made by November 16th. The Women’s Section thanks you in advance for your generosity during this holiday season and for helping us spread love in our community. For more information on Inner City Evangelism, visit their website at www.innercityevangelism.com.

Family 2 Family Thanksgiving Meal Details:
Each family will receive an uncooked Thanksgiving meal consisting of the following:
- Frozen turkey with a disposable cooking pan
- Ingredients for 2-3 uncooked side dishes for 4-6 people (examples: boxed dressing mix, canned vegetables, canned cranberry sauce, boxed mashed potatoes, etc)
- Bread
- Dessert

Address for Monetary Donations (please make your checks out to MCBA Women’s Section):
MCBAWS
c/o Kelly McTear
Faulkner Legal Clinics
5345 Atlanta Hwy.
Montgomery, AL 36109
Spook-tacular Fun at the WLS Halloween Social

WLS President Effie Hawthorne and Board Member Katie Richard welcomed members to the party.
Small Alabama law firm with offices in Montgomery and Tuscaloosa focused on estate planning, elder law, Medicaid, probate, and civil litigation

We are seeking a full-time, entry-level associate attorney to work in our Montgomery office.

The right candidate will possess good analytical skills, a strong eye for detail, strong proofreading and editing skills with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail, and excellent interpersonal communication skills, both on the phone and in person. Should have 2-5 years of comparable practice experience.

Our practice also handles Guardianships, Conservatorships, Medicaid qualification, and the probating of wills. We routinely deal with all aspects of planning for aging, illness, and incapacity. This practice area requires a practitioner to be particularly sensitive to legal issues impacting older clients.

Must have a J.D. degree from an ABA-approved law school and be an active member in good standing of the Alabama Bar.

Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume, in PDF format, to alyssa.resumes@gmail.com.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
CHAPTER 13 STANDING TRUSTEE
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

The United States Bankruptcy Administrator for the Middle District of Alabama invites applications from highly qualified applicants for appointment as Chapter 13 Standing Trustee for the Middle District of Alabama with an official duty station in Montgomery, Alabama. The applicant must submit electronically to Ch13Trustee_Position@almba.uscourts.gov a cover letter and resume. Annual compensation is determined based upon the applicant’s experience and qualifications and the provisions of the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990 and Bankruptcy Judges, United States Trustees, and Family Farmer Bankruptcy Act of 1986. A complete description of the duties and qualifications for the Chapter 13 Standing Trustee can be found at www.almba.uscourts.gov. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. CDT on November 23, 2016.
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 email

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
It is an exciting time for the Young Lawyers Section. We have newly elected Officers and Board Members who are eager to serve. The Young Lawyers Section has a lot of fun and exciting events ahead of us and we look forward to getting started. First things first, it is with great pleasure that I introduce to you the newly elected 2016-2018 Young Lawyers Section Officers and Board Members:

**President**  
Ali Hawthorne (Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C.)

**Vice President**  
Brannan Reaves (Webster, Henry, Lyons, Bradwell, Cohan & Speagle, P.C.)

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Elliott Lipinsky (Hobbs & Hain, P.C.)

**Board Members**  
Beau Darley (Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C.)  
Landon Eley (Webb & Eley)  
Charlie Hawthorne (Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office)  
Stephen McCormick (Deputy Attorney General at AL Department of Labor)  
Chalankis Brown (Ball, Ball, Matthews & Novak, P.A.)
Over the years, the Young Lawyers Section has been able to carry out some good work and we have had a lot of fun doing it. I know our newly elected Officers and Board Members will continue the good work of the Young Lawyers Section and achieve even better things in the next two years. So what’s in store for the Young Lawyers Section?

**Service and Fundraising:** As lawyers, we have a duty to our community to be servant leaders. Over the next two years, the Young Lawyers Section is committed to creating new and exciting ways to serve members of our community. A lawyer’s most important contribution to the legal profession is the ability to help people and make a difference. So, be on the lookout because our Officers and Board of Directors will be calling on our members to get involved and help us carry out the good work that we have in store!

**Socials:** We will be hosting plenty of socials where we can all kick back, relax, and network with our fellow lawyers. We value the opportunity to see old friends and make new friends, so please JOIN US! If you aren't receiving the YLS social invitations, please contact elliottlipinsky@gmail.com. For more information about our next social, see below.

**Membership:** We want you! If you are already a member of the Young Lawyers Section, this is your time to get more involved. If you are not a member, please join! Our membership is free through the MCBA and all you have to do is email elliottlipinsky@gmail.com to get signed up. Our goal over the next few years is to increase our membership and member participation. Please let us know if you have any interest in serving on a YLS committee. That means you!

I challenge all young lawyers to get involved, help us serve our community, and be an ambassador for our legal profession. I am very excited to serve as the President of the Young Lawyers Section and I look forward to the years ahead.

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**JOIN US FOR A YLS HAPPY HOUR**

**When:** November 17, 2016 from 5:30pm-7:00pm

**Where:** A&P Social

**Why:** Because everyone needs a Happy Hour

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On behalf of the Young Lawyers Section, I want to congratulate all new members of the Alabama State Bar who were sworn in on October 13, 2016. Congratulations to you all and welcome to the profession. Join us on November 17, 2016 to celebrate as you embark on your long and successful career.

Sincerely,

Ali Hawthorne  
President
On Oct. 21, Faulkner University Jones School of Law and MCBA partnered for the Don Garner Charity Golf Classic which benefitted the Faulkner Law Student Disaster Relief Fund. There were 72 participants.

L-R: Prof. Elyce Morris, Prof. Layne Keele, Assistant Dean of Students Jennifer DeBoer, Assoc. Dean of Academic Affairs Charles Campbell

L-R: Prof. Elyce Morris, Prof. John Craft, Assoc. Dean Robert McFarland, Prof. Joi Montiel

L-R: Assoc. Dean Charles Campbell, Prof. Don Garner, Prof. Layne Keele

SPECIAL THANKS TO JACKIE PARHAM AND FREEDOM COURT REPORTING FOR SPONSORING THE BEVERAGE CART FOR THE TOURNAMENT!
INTRODUCING
THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA’S
PRO SE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Pro se pleadings present a number of challenges for litigants, defending lawyers and the Court. For example, pro se litigants typically have a difficult time drafting initial pleadings. Also, interpreting and responding to their complaints is often a tough task for lawyers who are defending against a pro se litigant’s claim. And, for the Court, pro se filings may necessitate an early status conference or rulings on motions that might not otherwise be required if all litigants had counsel.

In the Middle District of Alabama, pro se civil litigants filed 101 cases in 2015. Many of these litigants had no help at all in filing the complaint. Now, the Middle District has a program that is providing assistance to these pro se litigants, the defense bar, and the Court. The Pro Se Assistance Program (“PSAP”), a project of the MD AL Federal Bar Center, was modeled after a successful program in the Northern District of New York. Lawyers involved in the Montgomery Chapter of the Federal Bar Association founded the MD AL Federal Bar Center to operate the PSAP. The program works with pro se litigants to help them better understand and navigate the initial stages of litigation in federal court, and assists the Middle District in the administration of justice.

THE LITIGATION DIVISION

As litigators know, cases often rise and fall on the facts—the stories told by the litigants. A poorly framed or incomplete story can lead to an unfavorable outcome. A pro se litigant may have trouble conveying his or her side of the story. First impressions are significant, even for pro se litigants. When it comes to brief writing, this is particularly true; as legal writing expert Bryan A. Garner suggests, quoting Justice Antonin Scalia, “If you see someone who has written a sloppy brief, I’m inclined to think that person is a sloppy thinker.” Bryan A. Garner, The Psychology of Credibility First Impressions Endure, Even in Brief Writing, ABA Journal, May 2015, at 24. Although a pro se litigant’s initial complaint may not have the same persuasive effect as a brief, the impression it makes cannot be ignored. A sloppy complaint may inadvertently suggest that the claim is not well supported.

The PSAP director and coordinators help the litigants combat what might be a negative first impression by improving the story’s presentation. The PSAP litigation division does this by editing the litigant’s second pleading attempt, an amended complaint. The division has a team of lawyer and student coordinators who work with pro se litigants to edit and file amended complaints. The student coordinators are selected second- and third-year students from Faulkner University Thomas Goode Jones School of Law.

The PSAP director and the PSAP coordinators do not provide legal advice to the litigant, and the director and coordinators do not serve as the litigant’s lawyers. Instead, they listen to the litigant’s story, make suggestions about organizing the timeline or gathering documents, and assist the litigant with editing the story (i.e., the amended complaint). For example, the coordinators may help correct grammatical errors, clarify factual statements, or replace pronouns with the names of the appropriate parties or witnesses.

The PSAP process includes telephone communication with the pro se litigant and one in-person meeting. The PSAP editing process begins with two telephone calls between the pro se litigant and (1) the director to introduce the program, hear the litigant’s story, and direct the litigant to draft his amended (cont.
complaint and being gathering appropriate documents; (2) the lawyer or student coordinator to rein-
force the editing plan and to schedule an in-person meeting at which the editing will take place.

The in-person meeting is held in a secure environment with the tools necessary to the editing process. Have you ever visited the Frank M. Johnson U.S. Courthouse Complex and found yourself wandering into the room identified as the Attorneys’ Lounge? Now that room has an additional purpose. After the litigant has draft-
ed his amended complaint (or gathered the materials to facilitate drafting), the coordinators meet with the liti-
gant at the Courthouse Complex in the Attorneys’ Lounge, which is equipped with a computer and printer to facilitate the editing process. During the in-person meeting, the coordinators (usually one lawyer and one stu-
dent) help edit the amended complaint, which the litigant has drafted.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the litigant visits the Clerk’s Office and files the amended complaint. The PSAP team’s involvement with the litigation division ends after the amended complaint is filed. No other meetings are held. As a result of the services of the PSAP’s litigation division, the litigant files a more precisely tailored pleading, the federal civil defense bar is better able to respond to that pleading, and the judges of the Middle District are better able to administer justice effectively and efficiently for the parties. In the process, the student coordinators also gain valuable experience with complaints.

The Mediation Division

The PSAP director and coordinators also serve as mediators for pro se litigants who wish to mediate their cases through the Middle District’s Court Annexed Mediation Program. When a pro se litigant takes ad-
vantage of this program, the Court appoints a PSAP director or coordinator to serve as the pro se litigant’s attor-
ney for the limited purpose of mediation. After the lawyer has confirmed that the anticipated mediation sched-
ule is agreeable and the lawyer is free of any conflict, the Court is notified and an order of appointment is en-
tered. The lawyer helps the pro se litigant prepare and submit a mediation statement, attends mediation, and drafts a settlement agreement if the matter successfully mediates. Successful mediation is much more likely when all parties are represented by counsel. At the conclusion of the mediation, the Court enters an order con-
cluding the limited appointment.

Join the Effort

Pro se litigants who have participated in the litigation division are pleased to have had help getting their cases started in an unfamiliar and intimidating venue. Those who have successfully mediated through the pro-
gram are delighted to have achieved closure through the guidance of their appointed lawyers. And lawyers de-
fending pro se cases appreciate the secondary benefit they get from the services the PSAP offers the litigants. The PSAP is also great for the lawyer volunteers who gain federal court experience.

The PSAP has only one problem: the program does not have enough coordinators. We need more volun-
tees to help us provide this important service. Since the program began with a pilot phase in July 2014, the PSAP has had to turn away multiple cases because the program did not have a lawyer who was free of conflicts to whom the case could be assigned. If you are interested in joining the PSAP team serving the Middle District, please contact Kelly Pate, kpate@balch.com. The time commitment is manageable, and the service is meaning-
ful. We need you to get involved in this good work.

By: Chief Magistrate Judge Susan Russ Walker

Kelly F. Pate
Farewell and Congratulations to Judge William Shashy!

Judge Shashy retired after 20 years on the Bench. A retirement reception was held for him Oct. 13th at the Montgomery County Courthouse. A large crowd was present to celebrate with the judge and offer him good wishes. Presiding Circuit Judge Eugene Reese, Joe Espy, Jamie Johnston, Peck Fox, and Randy James shared memories, both personal and professional.

Pictured with Judge Shashy is Rich Hobson, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts of Alabama as he presented Judge Shashy with a plaque congratulating him for his years of service.

We especially want to recognize Tosha Parker at Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole, and Black, P.C. for organizing the beautiful reception.

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**CLE OPPORTUNITIES**

Dec. 7  8:00-5:00  
3rd Annual Construction Law Summit by the Alabama State Bar  7.3 hr
At the Wynfrey Hotel, Birmingham - call 251-300-9804 to register  1 ethics

Dec. 8 9:00-10:00  
Disruptive Technologies: The Future of the Legal Profession v. the Unauthorized Practice of Law– Mark Moody– Montgomery Courthouse  1 ethics
Registration: dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or 265-4793.
(the impact of Legal Zoom and other online services offering legal forms, etc.)

**BENCH AND BAR CLE– DECEMBER 15-16 @ THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE**

MCBA and the Federal Bar are co-sponsoring the Bench and Bar. More details will be forthcoming.
December 15th—4 hrs in the afternoon  
Federal Judges speaking  
Watch your email for full details soon.

December 16th—8 hrs, lunch included  
State Circuit and Appellate Judges speaking
MCBF President Tim Gallagher presents award to Tom Methvin for the Beasley Allen firm.

Judge Jimmy Pool, back center, is a valued supporter of the Volunteer Lawyer Program. He was seated with some of the award recipients.

The planning committee—Ashley Penhale, Laurel Crawford, and Kelly McTear—did an outstanding job in planning and decorating for the event.

Left: Attorneys network and share volunteer stories over lunch.
Balch & Bingham has been named a “highly recommended” firm in Alabama in the 2017 edition of Benchmark Litigation, the definitive guide to America’s leading litigation firms and attorneys. This is the fifth consecutive year that Balch has been recognized by Benchmark Litigation. Benchmark Litigation is the only attorney ranking publication in the United States to focus exclusively on litigation.

In addition, 13 Balch attorneys were recognized by Benchmark Litigation, including two partners in the Montgomery office:

- **Lane Knight** — Top Litigator Under 40
- **Kelly Pate** — Top Litigator Under 40

**NEW MEMBERS**

Please welcome our newest members:

- **Jennifer Emmel**— Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C.
- **Stephen McCormick**— Alabama Department of Labor
- **Sarah Osborne**— Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP
- **Rachel Ferguson**— Rachel Ferguson Law

**Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of**

*Daniel Gary Hamm*
   
   October 8, 2016

**Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of**

*Curtis Cleveland “Cleve” Reding, Jr.*
   
   October 9, 2016
By Les Pittman

In an effort to keep our bar members informed, you will hear from one of your bar commissioners listed below each month.

At our most recent Board of Bar Commissioners meeting, which was held on October 28, 2016, some changes were made that I would like to make you aware of. First, the Board made a change to the Rules for Mandatory Continuing Legal Education. Amendment 3.9 allows lawyers to earn one hour of CLE credit for every six hours of pro bono work completed for a maximum of three CLE credits in a twelve month period running from October 1 through September 30. If less than six hours of pro bono work is completed in this time period then no CLE credit shall be awarded. In addition, the pro bono legal assistance must be provided through an Approved Pro Bono Provider which has been approved by the Alabama State Bar as set forth in Rule 6.6 of the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct.

Second, the Board slightly altered the selection process for at-large Commissioners. The Board is responsible for the selection of nine at-large members to the Board of Bar Commissioners and shall, to the fullest extent possible, select candidates who reflect the racial, ethnic, gender, and age diversity, as well as the geographical diversity, of the members of the Alabama State Bar.

Applicants provided to the Board shall be split into two categories: 1) Qualified diverse applicants, and 2) Other applicants who apply but fail to enhance the diversity of the Board. All applicants will be provided to the Board, however, the recommended name shall come from the list of qualified diverse applicants only.

On a personal note, I am winding up my 5th year of coaching a YMCA football team. I often ask myself, how do I measure my success as a coach? Certainly wins and losses are important, however, I have come to realize that the life lessons these boys learn from playing the game are most important. Teamwork; commitment; perseverance and hard work to name a few. These are the things they will take away from the game that will eventually help them in life, whatever career path they choose.

As I am often reminded when reading the Dr Seuss classic “O The Places You Will Go” to my kids, life is a great balancing act. So as we try to master the difficult task of balancing our time between church, family, practice of law, hobbies, and community service, remember, “Lawyers Render Service!”

Please let us know if you need anything.
### Your Bar Commissioners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Martin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:martin@copelandfranco.com">martin@copelandfranco.com</a></td>
<td>334-420-2958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Pittman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:les@lespittman.com">les@lespittman.com</a></td>
<td>334-819-4730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Parker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gparker@babc.com">gparker@babc.com</a></td>
<td>334-956-7607</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gibson Vance</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gibson.vance@beasleyallen.com">gibson.vance@beasleyallen.com</a></td>
<td>334-269-2343</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Duffey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcduffey@aol.com">jcduffey@aol.com</a></td>
<td>334-834-4100</td>
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<td>Karen Laneaux</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kmastin@bellsouth.net">kmastin@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>334-269-5930</td>
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**War Eagle!**

**Roll Tide!**

The turkey and dressing are gone.  
The desserts have all been eaten.  
All that’s left to be done  
Is to see which team will be beaten.  
May your favorite team be victors;  
Be proud of their game and cheer!  
But if your team doesn’t win,  
Remember, there’s always NEXT YEAR!  

**BY Dot**
MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Bar Commissioners

FROM: Keith B. Norman, Executive Director

RE: Board of Bar Commissioners Meeting Notes
   Friday, October 28, 2016

DATE: November 2, 2016

1. Approval of Minutes - Minutes of the September 16, 2016 Board of Commissioners’ meeting were approved.

2. Reprimands – John Stanley Morgan, Gadsden, received a public reprimand with general publication for violating Rule 1.15(a) and (e) of the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct.

3. President’s Report – President Portis thanked the local bar presidents in attendance and expressed his appreciation for the work of the Local Bar Task Force in planning the local bar retreat. The president mentioned speaking in Tuskegee at a ceremony to honor Fred Gray as well as at the Opening of Court ceremony. He also mentioned meeting with the Supreme Court to discuss the bar’s assistance with the legislature on several issues including court funding. President Portis briefly reported on the executive director search and highlighted ongoing committee work including Lawyer University, member benefits, and minority participation. He concluded by noting that the state bar officers would be meeting with law school deans in November and that the 2017 annual meeting was scheduled for Point Clear at the Grand Hotel, July 12-15.


5. Local Bar Task Force Report – Commissioners Gibson Vance and Bob Methvin reported on the success of the local bar retreat which was attended by 30 local bar presidents. Commissioner Methvin reported that several concerns were expressed during the conference including the cost of health insurance, lawyer advertising, professionalism, mentoring and getting millennial lawyers involved with the local bar. Local bar presidents at the meeting and commissioners were encouraged to arrange for bar speakers at their local bar meetings.

6. Service Programs Report – Service Programs Director Laura Calloway reported on the Membership Benefits Task Force and that two new membership benefit proposals would be ready for consideration at the next meeting. She also explained that the task force continues to meet to discuss additional new benefits. Ms. Calloway concluded by suggesting that commissioners and local bar presidents help schedule roadshows for local bar meeting.

7. Digital Communications Report – Director of Digital Communications Eric Anderson discussed a website survey in November and asked the commissioners to encourage local lawyers to respond to the survey. He also discussed the consolidated fee invoice, noting that 46 percent of payments so far
had been online and roughly six percent by the voucher process. He stated that roughly 15,000 members had purchased their license or paid special membership dues.

8. **Lawyer Assistance Program Report** – Director Robert Thornhill reported on the planning for the third annual retreat at Camp Sumatanga scheduled for April 7-8, 2017. He stated that it would be a time of training and comradery. He also said that several articles on lawyer assistance issues had been prepared by the program for publication in an upcoming issue of *The Alabama Lawyer*.

9. **Pro Bono Update** – Former commissioner Christy Crow provided a report on the impressive number of activities and events scheduled during the month of October to celebrate pro bono month. She specifically thanked several individuals including Linda Lund and the bar’s sections that took part in this year’s celebration. Next, Commissioner Taze Shepard who organized the Bankruptcy Summit reported on the program that was held at the state bar and featured judges and personnel from the bankruptcy courts as well as the local volunteer lawyer programs. Finally, Commissioner Skinner updated the commission on the Avoid Foreclosure Program for Alabama. She stated that the Alabama Law Foundation, the Volunteer Lawyer Programs, Civil Justice Foundation and the Center for Dispute Resolution as well as stakeholders are working together to implement this new program. She distributed a brochure describing the program.

10. **Louisiana Flood Project Update** – Parker Miller, President of the Young Lawyers’ Section, gave an overview of the project including the number of supplies and the significant sum of money collected for the victims of the Louisiana flooding.

11. **Revised Bylaws for the Leadership Forum Section** – The proposed bylaw changes would change the name of the section to the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum Alumni Section. It would also eliminate the positions of secretary and treasurer and add two additional director positions. The changes were approved.

12. **Rule III Applications** – Six individuals had requested admission by motion pursuant to Rule III of the *Rules Governing Admission to the Alabama State Bar*. They were Adam Christopher Cobb (IN), Jennifer Lynn Foutch (IL), Donald E. Knapp, Jr. (MS), Raven Delene Perry-Beach (TN), Joshua Jerome Wendell (TX) and Benn Charles Wilson (GA). They were approved.

13. **Amendments to the Rules Governing Admission to the Alabama State Bar** – Five substantive rule changes were proposed: (1) increasing the fee from $50 to $100 for postponing the bar exam; (2) allowing the bar exam fee to be carried forward for one examination only; (3) increasing the “shelf life” of the Multi-State Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) to 25 months; (4) permitting a forfeiture of a bar exam fee if a candidate is turned down by Character & Fitness Committee and is unsuccessful or chooses not to appeal an adverse character and fitness determination and (5) removing the requirement that a reciprocity candidate certify his or her intention to conduct at least 75 percent of their practice in Alabama and have an office in the state under Rule III (reciprocity). Proposed amendments 1thru 4 were approved. Item 5 was not approved.

14. **Financial Management Policy for Sections** – A new policy for sections that formalized previous rules and practices and includes electronic point of sales guidelines as well as additional guidelines for opt-out sections, was approved.
15. **Leadership Forum Class 13** – Thirty candidates and four alternates were approved. They were:

Adams, Cassandra W.
Avery, C. Jason
Barlotta, Rachel V.
Baxley, Charlie G.
Brown, Valerie J.
Chawla, Pooja
Chesnut, R. Patrick
Cornelius, Maggie J.
Drummond, Krystal L.
Espy, Wm M. 'Bill'
Geer, Ill, John J.
Han, Susan N.
Hawthorne, Alison D.
Hicks, J. Bradford
Hill, Jonathan C. 'Rudy'
Huff, Michael P.
Isbell, Jason S.
Marshall, Amy C.
Oswalt, Cheryl H.
Penhale, Ashley N.
Pickett, Kandice E.
Pittard, Leanna B.
Pruet, Daniel F.
Robertson, Brandy L.
Sanders, Adam L.
Sheehan, W. Allen
Sullivan, Kristin W.
Talley, Annie Donaldson
Tompkins, Jason B.
Williams, J. Reed

Alternates
Yang, Soo Seok
Payne, Joshua K.
Head, Mary Katherine
Parrish, Russell N.

16. **Approval of Nominees for the Alabama Board of Court Reporting** – David Rains of Tuscaloosa and Commissioners Leslie Barineau and Jeff Duffey were approved as nominees. Their names will be submitted to the Lt. Governor for her to appoint one of them to the Alabama Board of Court Reporting.
18. **CLE Credit for Pro Bono Work** – Modification of the CLE rules was approved so that 3.0 CLE credit can be awarded for pro bono service (1.0 of CLE credit for each 6.0 hours of pro bono service rendered through a VLP).

19. **Budget Request FY2017-2018** – The amount of $6,970,000 was approved as the FY2018 budget. This was a 1.75 percent increase over the FY2017 budget request.

KBN/dl