MCBA Forms Government Lawyers Section

By Rhon Jones, MCBA President

I am pleased to announce that the MCBA has approved the formation of a Government Lawyers Section. I will be speaking with lawyers from multiple state and federal government departments and agencies to tell them more about this exciting development. Given that we practice in the state capital, we are surrounded by many talented government lawyers. I believe these lawyers have much to add to the Montgomery County Bar Association and that many have been looking for opportunities to serve in a more meaningful way. This will also allow the government lawyers to network with other government lawyers and to share common experiences. Another advantage will be CLE programs more geared to issues that government lawyers face on a regular basis. Feedback I have received thus far has been very positive. Please help me spread the word about the Government Lawyers Section.

Our annual fundraiser will be held November 9, 2017 at the Train Shed. It will feature live music and again have a “Tailgate” theme. Vintage Year will again be a primary sponsor, and we appreciate their generosity. Proceeds will go to the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP). I hope your firm will participate in helping us make this event a success.

If you have any suggestions on how we can be more effective, please let me know. I have heard from several members, and hope to hear from more during the remainder of the year.

Rhon Jones
On July 19, 2017, the Young Lawyers Section was honored to donate $7,595.34 to the selfless men and women at Mercy House who work to provide the comforts of home to people throughout our community in need of care and support. As a ministry of Common Ground, Mercy House provides a safe home, nutritious food, and donated clothes to needy families. It was an amazing feeling to be able to present this check to Mercy House and see firsthand how our donation will help so many people.

Pictured: (Top) YLS President Ali Hawthorne and Secretary/Treasurer Elliott Lipinsky presenting the YLS donation to Pastor Ken Austin with Common Ground; (Bottom) Officers and Board Members Charlie Hawthorne, Stephen McCormick, Ali Hawthorne, Chalankis Brown, Beau Darley, Jesse Anderson, and Elliott Lipinsky with Ken Austin.
After the check presentation, YLS Officers and members of the Board of Directors stayed a while to work alongside the Mercy House volunteers, packing food, organizing clothes, and talking with the children. It was a great day for the Young Lawyers Section and our hearts were full after we left.

We want to thank Mercy House for allowing us to be a part of their ministry and inviting us into the lives of those they help every day.

Pictured: (Top Right) Beau Darley carrying bottled water donated to Mercy House by the YLS; (Bottom Left) Jesse Anderson helping members of the community find clothes and necessities; (Bottom Right) Ali Hawthorne speaking with WSFA about the incredible work of Mercy House and the YLS donation to help further their cause.

The donated money was raised during the Young Lawyers’ Fourth Annual Charity Clay Shoot where 29 local businesses and a lot of generous men and women came out to participate and help us raise more than we ever have. We are grateful for the support of our sponsors and shooters that came to the charity clay shoot.
The Young Lawyers Section would like to give special recognition to the following sponsors of the 2017 charity clay shoot that made this donation to Mercy House possible:

[List of sponsors]

If you would like to learn more about Common Ground’s Mercy House ministry, visit [http://cgm.life/community-ministries/](http://cgm.life/community-ministries/). Mercy House is an amazing ministry right here in our own community and the Young Lawyers Section was honored to have been able to raise money to further their tremendous efforts.

For those of you not receiving our Young Lawyers Section emails or if you are wanting to become a member of the Young Lawyers Section, please contact our Secretary/Treasurer at elliottlipinsky@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ali Hawthorne
President
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

August 10th
9:00-10:00 CLE “Recent Trends in Dispute Resolution” by Jimmy Walter
Jury Assembly Room, Montgomery County Courthouse
Pre-register with Suzanneduffey@mc-ala.org or call 265-4793
No charge to MCBA members

Sept. 7th
10:00-11:00 CLE “Five Steps to Build a Whistleblower Case” - by Eileen Leslie
Jury Assembly Room, Montgomery County Courthouse
Pre-register with Suzanneduffey@mc-ala.org or call 265-4793
No charge to MCBA members

Sept. 28-30
2nd Annual Mockingbird Challenge—National Mock Trial Competition. Judges are needed for mock trials. Also other volunteer opportunities. This is an amazing trial team competition with 20 schools from across the nation participating. To volunteer, complete the online application at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0448afa923a5ff2-mockngbird or email JLester@Faulkner.edu.

Oct. 27th
4-hour CLE at Jones School of Law—More details TBA—lunch included

Nov. 9th
MCBA Annual Charity Fundraiser—”Tailgate at The Train Shed” details TBA

Nov. 3-Dec. 1
MCBA and Federal Bar Bench and Bar Conference at the Federal Courthouse Details TBA

Dec. 7th
MCBA Holiday Gala at Wynlakes Country Club/Toys for Tots Toy Collection
6:30-9:30 p.m. RSVP to Suzanneduffey@mc-ala.org or call 265-4793.
No charge to MCBA members—Each member may bring one guest free.

THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF:
Position: Municipal Court Judge
Salary: $101,649.60 - $163,779.20 Annually
OPENING DATE: 07/19/17 CLOSING DATE: 08/02/17 at 06:00 PM CST
Click the link below for more information and to apply:
http://www.huntsvilleal.gov/government/jobs/job-openings/
An Equal Opportunity Employer
“Aim high.” “If you have to do it, you can do it.” “Stay encouraged.” “Be okay with who you are.” “Pay it forward.” “Be a mentor.” “Work for the future that you want.” These are a few of the tidbits of wisdom that our CLE speakers and panelists shared. One of the biggest things that I took to heart was from Monet Gaines, the past Vice President and current bar commissioner for the Alabama State Bar. She explained what it was like to run for bar commissioner early in her legal career and how difficult it is, not only for female attorneys, but young female attorneys to work toward leadership roles in the legal community. It is so important for young lawyers to be involved not only in the community, but also with their county and state bar associations. As several of our speakers mentioned, it is important to foster a community or network with fellow attorneys that you can rely on for the rest of your career. As Judge Beth Kellum of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals said, it is important for women not to fear rejection and if you lose one election, however big or small, do not be afraid of running again.

Thanks to those of you who came out to our CLE event on July 27th at Jones School of Law. We had a wonderful response and turnout from our members and other attorneys in the community. Chief Justice Lyn Stuart was our opening speaker and shared lots of wit and wisdom with us. Our “Women in Practice” panel consisted of local attorneys Erika Tatum of Hill Hill Carter, Azzie Taylor with the Attorney General’s Office, Ellennann Yelverton of Raycom Media, Inc., and Vania Hosea of Shahid & Hosea. These women gave our attendees a look at their specific practices and what challenges they have faced, and also shared advice for new and experienced attorneys alike. Suzanne Huffaker, Legislative Counsel for the Alabama State Bar, spoke about the importance of attorney involvement in the legislature. Our second panel, “Women in Power” consisted of Judge Beth Kellum of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, Monet McCorvey Gaines, past Vice-President of the Alabama State Bar and current Bar Commissioner, LaShandra Warren-Barnes, Montgomery County Court Administrator, and Lyn Head, Associate Board Member for the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles. These women shared frank stories and advice about their careers that were timely and insightful given our current political climate. Following the CLE, we hosted a social at The Gin for all members and attendees. Thanks to those of you who joined us and many thanks to our speakers and our sponsor, Hill Hill Carter!

MEMBERS IN ACTION
The Women’s Section is participating in our summer service project on August 3rd. We are volunteering for the Montgomery Public School and Halcyon Elementary to help the teachers get their school ready for the upcoming school year. Our volunteers will be helping teachers prepare their bulletin boards, getting their rooms decorated and ready for learning, organizing books in the library, and anything else the teachers need. We welcome volunteers from the Women’s Section, the MCBA, and the community.

Service Project Details:
Where: Halcyon Elementary, 1501 Parkview Drive S, Montgomery, AL 36117
When: August 3rd from 5:00-8:00 PM

ANNUAL MEETING
Our annual meeting will be September 7th at 5:30 PM, hosted by Bradley Arant. We will be electing our new officers and board, as well as voting on some proposed amendments to our section bylaws. The amendments will be distributed to our members prior to the annual meeting. If you are a member of the Women’s Section and would like to run for President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, or our Board of Directors, please send your notice of intent to mcbawomen@gmail.com by September 1st. Non-members can join at our annual meeting for a discounted rate of $15. Thanks to our sponsor for this event, Beasley Allen!

Make sure to follow our Facebook page at MCBA Women’s Section to keep up with our news and events. As always, be kind.

Effie Hawthorne, President

Pictured left: Opening Speaker, Hon. Lyn Stuart, Chief Justice Alabama Supreme Court

Pictured left: CLE participants

Pictured below: Moderator Effie Hawthorne with Women in Practice Panel: (L-R) Azzie Taylor, Ellanann Yelverton, Erika Tatum, and Vania Hosea.
Women in Law CLE continued

Left: Suzanne Huffaker, Keynote Speaker

Left: Women in Power Panel: Judge Beth Kellum, Lyn Head, Monet Gaines, LaShandra Warren-Barnes

Pictured right: Women’s Section President Effie Hawthorne; WLS Board member LaShandra Warren-Barnes; Susan Crowther; Juliana Dean; Judge Beth Kellum; Monet Gaines
VLP CORNER  - by Mike Martin

It’s summertime, and the living is easy. Except, for many indigent residents in the Montgomery area, it isn’t. Our clients face civil legal issues every day, and without the commitment of our volunteer lawyers, they would be behind the proverbial eight ball, left to deal with landlord-tenant problems, family law issues, consumer credit matters and a host of other difficulties on their own. Whether they come to one of our Advice and Counsel Clinics or contact the MVLP directly, they do so knowing that, if qualified, they will not be alone in addressing their issues. We are blessed with many Montgomery attorneys who are willing to assist these individuals, pro bono, and for that we are thankful.

While the rewards for volunteerism are generally intangible in nature, thanks to the recent adoption of a new Alabama State Bar rule, MVLP volunteers are now eligible to earn MCLE credit for the hours they spend performing pro bono legal service. Under the provisions of Rule 3.9, MVLP volunteers can earn one (1) hour of MCLE credit for every six (6) hours of volunteer service, up to a maximum of three (3) hours of MCLE credit. The reporting period for this credit is from October 1 to September 30, so in order to earn this credit for the current year, one must have completed their service prior to September 30, 2017. There’s still time left, so give us a call at 265-0222, ext. 2, and ask about volunteer opportunities, including assisting at our regular Tuesday clinics.

Elsewhere in this issue of The Docket you’ll find the announcement of the search for a new Executive Director for MVLP. Please check it out and, if interested for yourself or someone else, submit your application packet to Montgomery County Bar Foundation President Kelly McTear.

Kudos and thank yous are in order for our clinic volunteers for the past couple of months. As previously noted, we have served hundreds of individuals at our regularly scheduled Advice and Counsel Clinics, held each first and third Tuesday from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at 1100 Adams Avenue (Montgomery Community Action Agency). Come join us and experience the satisfaction that comes from helping others with your legal expertise. We just ask that you give us a call and let us know you’re coming. Among our recent volunteers: Kaasha Benjamin, Royce Wadsworth, Clint Richardson, Shapard Ashley, John Bradley, Liz Eiland, Brannon Booth, April Wise, Dennis Bailey, Joana Ellis, John Charles, Kia Scott, Beau Darley, Aigner Kolom, Tim Gallagher, Kelly McTear.

Mike Martin, Executive Director MVLP

Thanks to these attorneys who recently accepted Pro Bono Cases through MVLP

John Charles  The Anderson Firm, LLC
Beau Darley  Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
Matt Munson  Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.
April Wise  Capell & Howard, P.C.
Clint Richardson  Capell & Howard, P.C.
Kelly McTear  Faulkner University– Jones School of Law
Marvin H. Campbell  Law Office of Marvin Campbell
Kia Scott  The Law Office of Kia Scott
Joana Ellis  Holtsford, Gilliland, Higgins, Hitson, & Howard, P.C.
Royce Wadsworth  Wadsworth Law Office, LLC
Mike Winter  Winter Legal Strategies, LLC
POSITION OPENING: Executive Director

The Search

The Montgomery County Bar Foundation (the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program), a nonprofit organization providing pro bono civil legal assistance to low-income residents of Montgomery County, is seeking a seasoned attorney, administrator and community leader to become its next Executive Director.

In many situations, access to justice is a meaningless concept without access to an attorney. Since the MVLP’s founding in 2013, its pro bono legal services have helped hundreds preserve their housing, financial security and family stability.

Reporting to a 15-person Board of Directors, the new Executive Director will provide overall leadership and be responsible for all aspects of MVLP’s operations. The organization is funded by grants, donations, and an apportionment of MCBA member dues. It is staffed by the Executive Director, two contracted mortgage foreclosure assistance attorneys and a full-time legal assistant/intake specialist.

Heightening the organization’s impact, promoting and sustaining collaboration with partners and strengthening its funding base are key priorities for the new Executive Director. The position requires the discipline to oversee multiple projects simultaneously and the temperament, skills, and ability to work in effective collaboration with colleagues inside and outside the organization.

The Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program

Some of MVLP’s current projects include:

- **Full Representation in Civil Matters**: Volunteers assist clients with a variety of civil legal matters, including housing, family law, garnishment, employment, and insurance matters.
- **Bi-Weekly Counsel and Advice Clinic at Montgomery Community Action**: Volunteers provide counsel and advice to clients and refer cases to the MVLP for full representation, as appropriate. The MVLP provides training and on-site backup.
- **Mortgage Foreclosure Assistance**: The MVLP represents clients at risk of losing their homes due to foreclosure.
- **Other Community Clinics**: Volunteers provide legal counsel and advice to clients at public libraries, community resource events, and VA events.
- **Pro Bono Leadership Corps**: The MVLP provides training, case experience, and mentorship, along with a small stipend, to young local attorneys with a demonstrated commitment to service and pro bono assistance.
- **Continuing Education**: The MVLP strives to provide at least 4 opportunities each year for its participating volunteers to attend training on common pro bono legal issues.
- **Volunteer Recognition Luncheon**: The MVLP celebrates its members each October and presents awards for service by firms and individuals.

The Role of the Executive Director

The new Executive Director is a full-time employee and will be expected to work closely with the Board and staff to provide the vital momentum to take the MVLP to its next level of reach and effectiveness. The Executive Director will provide overall leadership and be responsible for all aspects of MVLP’s operations.

- Thoughtfully and creatively embrace the vision of VLP and inspire volunteers and staff to achieve its mission.
- Solidify and diversify funding. The new Executive Director will play a leading role in the MVLP’s fundraising, carefully stewarding the organization’s relationship with the Legal Services Corporation and intentionally monitoring and pursuing new avenues for revenue generation.
Serve as the MVLP’s primary ambassador, representing it in local and national legal communities. Manage its communications activities, including the development of the annual report, the website and newsletters, and serve as its primary spokesperson.

Strengthen partnerships and strategic alliances. Reinforce, strengthen and expand external relationships, including those with Legal Services Corporation, the Bar, regional partners and the courts.

Stay current with legal, social and legislative issues relevant to MVLP’s work and participate actively in the activities of the legal community.

Work closely with the Board President and all committee chairs to ensure effective and timely communications between the Board and staff.

Ensure that the resources of the organization are managed effectively. Be responsible for fiscal health of the organization. Present annual budgets to the board, monitor revenues and expenses, supervise financial controls and ensure compliance with all grant requirements.

Qualifications and Experience

The MVLP seeks a leader who is deeply and demonstrably committed to improving the lives of low income individuals through pro bono civil legal services, has a strong leadership presence and can work collaboratively with national and community organizations.

The successful candidate will bring many of the following professional qualifications and attributes:

- A J.D. and active current membership in the Alabama State Bar.
- Demonstrated commitment to providing access to legal representation for low-income people.
- Strong management, operations and program development skills. Senior level experience successfully managing budgets and staff and presiding over a changing organization.
- Demonstrated ability to increase the organization’s positive reputation, visibility and impact.
- Excellent intellectual and strategic abilities and the capacity to translate ideas and ideals into strategies and action.
- Demonstrated fundraising ability and enthusiasm.
- Effectiveness at motivating staff and furthering their professional development. Skills in team building and inclusive staff leadership. Discipline and focus in setting realistic priorities, and meeting or surpassing goals.
- Experience building partnerships.
- Outstanding written and oral communication skills with an appreciation of, and experience with, news media, social networking and information and communications technologies.
- Commitment to and knowledge of how to maximize both volunteer and staff diversity.
- Outstanding interpersonal skills. Tenacity, pragmatism, high energy, patience and calm in the face of difficulties. A sense of humor and ability to enjoy oneself and one’s colleagues.

Compensation

Compensation range is $45k-$65, DOE, and includes salary and a healthcare allowance.

Benefits include:

- Paid State holidays.
- Personal leave accruing at an initial rate of 1.5 days per month worked (18 days annually).
- MVLP pays ASB and MCBA dues, as applicable.
- Paid training and travel.

**Applications are accepted beginning now, until the position is filled. Anticipated start date is between September 16 and October 1, 2017.**

For More Information or To Apply:


All inquiries, nominations and applications (cover letter, references, and resume) may be directed in confidence to Board President Kelly McTear at: kmctear@faulkner.edu.

The MVLP is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applicants of diverse backgrounds to apply.
Twenty of the top advocacy law schools in the country are coming to Montgomery to compete in the 2nd Annual Mockingbird Challenge National Trial Competition. We need attorneys and judges to volunteer to watch the trials, score the trials, and provide feedback.

Schools participating: University of Georgia, University of South Carolina, University of Florida, University of South Dakota, University of California-Davis, Denver, Houston, Brooklyn, Michigan State, Fordham, Campbell, Chapman, University of Missouri-Kansas City, South Texas, Pacific McGeorge, Georgia State, Charleston, Nova Southeastern, Drexel, and American University.

The preliminary rounds will be at the Frank M. Johnson Federal Courthouse:

**Round 1:** Thursday, September 28, 8:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.  
**Round 2:** Thursday, September 28, 1:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.  
**Round 3:** Friday, September 29, 8:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.  
**Round 4:** Friday, September 29, 1:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

The advanced rounds will be at Faulkner University's, Jones School of Law:

**Semi-finals:** Saturday, September 30, 9:00 a.m. – noon  
**Finals:** Saturday, September 30, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer you can sign-up using this link:

[http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0448afa923a5ff2-mockingbird](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0448afa923a5ff2-mockingbird)

OR

You can email JLester@Faulkner.edu

You can judge up to four rounds!
MEMBER NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!
Catherine Jordan Jenkins—Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole, & Black, P.C.
John D. Piazza—The Anderson Firm
Jase Sayre—Barfoot & Schoettker, LLC
Todd Strohmeyer—Strohmeyer, LLC, Oneonta, AL

CONGRATULATIONS
William Sellers was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Justice Lyn Stuart after she was named Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

Kent Garrett has opened his own firm, Kent Garrett Law Firm, 200 S. Lawrence Street.

Christopher Richard, formerly Assistant General Counsel with Alabama Medicaid Agency, is now with Gilpin Givhan’s Health Care Practice Group.

Danielle Mason, principal with Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C., has been included for the second consecutive year in the Law360 Rising Stars rankings. Law 360’s Rising Stars profiles top legal talent younger than 40 nationwide.

Sherri Lee Mazur and Clay Phillips, former Assistant District Attorneys for Montgomery County, have formed a new firm with former Assistant Attorney General, Jon Moody. Mazur, Phillips, & Moody, LLC is located at 1784 Taliaferro Trail, Ste. B.

Frank Woodson was inducted as the President of the Alabama Association for Justice at the organization’s annual meeting June 16. Frank is an attorney in the Mass Torts Section of Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C.

Andrew Brashier, Principal at Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, P.C., was selected as a 2017 recipient of the American Association for Justice Wiedemann & Wysocki Award. This award is presented annually to lawyers who demonstrate a deep commitment to the highest standards and who are passionately committed to the principles of the civil justice system and mission of AAJ—“to promote a fair and effective justice system and to support the work of attorneys in their efforts to ensure that any person who is injured by the misconduct or negligence of others can obtain justice in America’s courtrooms, even when taking on the most powerful interests.”

Left: Christopher Richard
Danielle Mason

If you (or your firm) have news to share, please send it to Suzanneduffey@mc-ala.org by the 20th of September and November for the next two issues of The Docket.