The Montgomery County Bar Association

2018 Annual Meeting
Thursday, January 18

11:30-12:15 voting
11:45-1pm lunch/meeting

Cost $20 per person for lunch: Reservations required
RSA Alabama Activity Center
205 Dexter Avenue

*Voting for Board of Directors and Secretary/Treasurer
*Induction of 2018 MCBA President
*Voting on Amendments to By-laws
*Recognition of 50-year members
*Remembrance of deceased attorneys

Proposed amendments to the MCBA By-laws may be viewed on our website, www.mcbar.org.

The MCBA is sending out announcements and reminders via electronic newsletter from mcba.executivedirector@gmail.com. Please make sure to whitelist this new e-mail address so it does not get caught in your spam filter and you can stay current on all MCBA news.
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 him 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 __________________________

Description of Nominee’s Qualifications for Award:

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Deadline for Nominations: January 10, 2018

Mail Nominations to: Suzanne Duffey
c/o Montgomery County Bar Association
P.O Box 72
Montgomery, AL 36104
Candidates for Office

Alex Caudell was born and raised in Alpharetta, Georgia. Alex moved to Alabama in 2006 to attend the University of Alabama where he earned his degree in Business Management. Alex attended Jones School of Law in Montgomery. After passing the bar examination, Alex clerked for Judge William Shasy. In 2015, Alex began working for the Public Defender’s Office for the 15th Judicial Circuit, representing indigent clients in criminal matters. Presently, Alex is a staff attorney for Judge Scott Donaldson on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals. Alex and his wife, Autumn, who also practices law, have a daughter, Maddox, and enjoy spending their free time outdoors or traveling to see family.

Timothy J. F. Gallagher is a shareholder with the firm of Sasser, Sefton & Brown, P.C. where he has practiced since 2007. Tim has been active with the Montgomery County Bar Association for many years, including serving on the Board of Directors for the past three years and serving as chairman of the MCBA’s annual charity event in 2016 and 2017. Tim also served as President of the Board of the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program from 2013-2016. He is an active volunteer attorney and has been awarded the MCBA Volunteer Lawyer of the Year Award, the Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Exemplar Award, and the Montgomery VLP Medal of the Samaritan. Tim is a graduate of Class 11 of the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum and currently serves on the Leadership Forum Selection Committee. He is also active in the Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Celebration Task Force and will serve as Chairman of the Task Force in 2018. Tim graduated cum laude from Rollins College in 2003 with a degree in philosophy. While there, he was President of the Inter-fraternity Council and played varsity soccer. In 2007, Tim received his Juris Doctorate cum laude from the University of Alabama. Tim and his wife, Rachael, are members of First United Methodist Church. They have one daughter, Kate, and their second baby is due in March of 2018.

Bryan Morgan is the Director of Career Development at Faulker University Jones School of Law and previously served as the Senior Judge Advocate for the Alabama National Guard with 24 years of military service. He is originally from Birmingham and graduated from the University of Alabama, Cumberland School of Law, and the Army and Air Force War Colleges. He previously worked as a Legal Advisor to the Governor, as Executive Director of the Alabama District Attorneys Association as an Assistant District Attorney in the 12th Judicial Circuit, and at the Pentagon. Bryan is President of the Hugh Maddox Inns of Court, and is active in the Alabama State Bar Initiative to establish Veterans’ Treatment Courts statewide. He and his wife, Terrie (a shareholder with Capell & Howard, P.C.) attend East Memorial Baptist Church in Prattville. He is a member of the Prattville Lions Club, Montgomery Quarterback Club, American Legion Post 122, and the Military Officers Association.
Candidates for Office

Allen Sheehan is the former vice-president and president of the Young Lawyer’s Section of the County Bar. He has served one three year term as a Board member and is the immediate past president of the local Federal Bar Association. He was a member of the State Bar’s Leadership Forum class 13. Allen is the current editor of The Docket, so you can blame him for the new format and bad jokes.

William Clay Teague was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 2010. Clay began his career as an associate attorney for the late Maurice Solomon “Red” Bell, where he practiced criminal defense and personal injury law. At the same time, Clay assumed the duties and responsibility of the law practice of his late father, Barry Elvin Teague, a practicing attorney in Montgomery for approximately thirty-four (34) years until his passing in 2006. In 2012, Mr. Teague merged the law practices of his late father and the late Mr. Bell into one firm, The Teague Law Firm, LLC, now located in The Miller Building at 138 Adams Avenue. The firm is a general practice with experience in most legal arenas, but focusing primarily on the areas of State and Federal criminal defense, personal injury, domestic, juvenile, probate, and civil rights law. Clay is admitted to practice in the State of Alabama, The Middle and Southern Districts, and The Eleventh Circuit, and has served outside of the State in Georgia and Louisiana. He proudly serves on the Volunteer Lawyers’ Program, taking on pro bono cases and assisting with the legal clinics. Clay is active in his community as well as his profession. He is a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, where he will begin his second term as a deacon in 2018. He also serves on the board for a local ministry/organization in Montgomery, Family Promise, which assists homeless families find jobs, housing, and become self-sustaining. Clay is active with the YMCA, serving as a coach for a YMCA Youth Judicial team and on the Jimmy Hitchcock Award Committee. Clay will also begin serving on the Board of the Britton YMCA in 2018. Clay is married to his beautiful wife, Jayme Mills Teague, who works for Family Promise, and they are blessed with two children, Olivia (15) and William (5). Olivia is a sophomore at Loveless Academic Magnet Program and William is in Kindergarten at Trinity Presbyterian School. In his time away from work, he enjoys serving his Church, spending time with his family, hunting, working around his home, and watching Alabama football. Roll Tide!!
Matthew Ward is an Assistant Attorney General & Assistant General Counsel for the Alabama Medicaid Agency. A native of Montgomery, Matthew started down his legal path at Melton, Espy & Williams, P.C., while pursuing his undergraduate degree. He then went on to intern for the Alabama Attorney General, the Alabama Supreme Court, and the State Health Planning & Development Agency. Before his time at Medicaid, he was a Staff Attorney with the Montgomery office of Legal Services Alabama, representing victims of domestic violence and clients with landlord-tenant issues.

Matthew is an active member of the Alabama State Bar and the Montgomery County Bar Association, where he has regularly volunteered with the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers’ Program. In 2014, he was recognized for his commitment to public service by being named the Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Award recipient in the Law Student category by the Alabama State Bar Public Service and Pro Bono Task Force, as well as a Merit of Pro Bono Achievement and an Ellen Brooks Merit for Public Service by the Jones School of Law’s Public Interest Law Society. He currently serves as a member of the Alabama State Bar 2017-2018 Pro Bono Committee.

Matthew is a magna cum laude and Distinguished Honors graduate of Auburn Montgomery and top-ten, cum laude graduate of Thomas Goode Jones School of Law. While at Jones, he was the best brief recipient and national quarter-finalist at the 2013-2014 National Health Law Moot Court Competition. He also served as President of the Jones Public Interest Law Foundation, Vice-President of the Student Bar Association, Clerk for Phi Alpha Delta, and Editor of the Faulkner Law Review. He currently serves as Clerk for the Central Alabama Alumni Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta.
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2017 has blown by like streaked lightning! And, oh, how I do long for the good ole’ days! No, not those from my childhood – or even from my adult youth. All I ask, dear G-d, is for a return to the halcyon days of January 1 – January 20, 2017 – the pre-Trump days – the boring days; the days when we had a president – who wasn’t so exciting, or volatile, or Russian; the days before Jeff Sessions learned that a contentious Senate beats (the H out of) the tortured purgatory of Trump’s Justice Department; the days before Vladimir Putin carried more juice with our president than the senate majority leader and the speaker of the house; the days before our state’s attorney general made (what many misperceived as) a Faustian bargain and opened the door for a twice deposed former chief justice to steal his party’s nomination for Sessions’ seat; the days before our governor, midterm, returned to practicing medicine – as part of his community service; the days before Mo Brooks gave the national press another Alabamian to (justifiably) ridicule; the days before we learned of Harvey Weinstein, Matt Lauer, et al., and the days before the fellow who stole Luther’s nomination was revealed to be (at best) a hypocrite.

Yes, Alabama has suffered this year at the hands of Roy Moore. Not only are there allegations about his (once upon a time) sexual (age) preferences and his long-ago affinity for malls, but also he reportedly co-authored a 2011 textbook which in one chapter (that our arbiter of moral law did not write) instructs that women should not be permitted to run for elected office, and if they (immorally) do so, people have a moral obligation not to vote for them.

But as is true with many bad experiences, good has emerged. It came only gradually. First, we came to understand why Roy Moore has over the years so doggedly insisted on placing the Ten Commandments in close proximity to his workplace – so he wouldn’t forget them!1

Secondly, and blessedly, and epically, and incredibly, Moore lost! And let the congregation cry out in unison – Amen, Amen, and Amen! Only Mississippi was disappointed. Its celebration of Alabama’s 2017 screeched to a halt.

Upon this I believe we all can agree: What a difference a day makes. For our state, that day was December 12, 2017. Initial returns were foreboding, but as the night wore on, our personal day of impending doom and infamy transformed into sunlight and roses. And, no matter your political affiliation – or your religious beliefs – or your professional goals – or whether you even know it – that light shined on you. Yes, a Democrat won, but that victory likely is fleeting. What’s more important is that we elected someone whose election we do not have to explain to the world or to our children and grandchildren.

So, don’t worry. Be happy – not only about the newest Christmas miracle, but also about yourselves.

Though hard to believe, there is other good news. Amidst all the turmoil, and despite the unsettling excitement, and despite the lows and highs of our year, one critical pillar of our humbled and rejuvenated community has remained blessedly steadfast and vibrant and true to its principles – Montgomery County lawyers. Once again, our Bar and its members have been entirely distinguishable – one member exceptionally so.

Our honoree this year is Effie Hawthorne – not only because she is an outstanding lawyer, but also because she is an angry as hell victim who’s not going to take it anymore. Yes, some thugs dragged Effie from her car, threw her to the ground, and drove away – in her car. Effie was shaken, but did what any victim ought to do – organize a self-defense class. Effie is reputed to have taken out her frustration on the

1 This understanding was brought home to me by my good friend and former Montgomery resident, Nathan Segall
other participants. She was said to be such a bad-____, no one wanted to pair with her. She’s become a real-life “Rambo” – and can’t wait for the next would-be carjacker to appear.

But Effie is this year’s most distinguishable lawyer for other reasons as well. Heartbreakingly, she left her employment with long time mentor and friend Jeff Duffey. Although she and Jeff had worked together since Effie was in high school, Effie cold-heartedly abandoned Jeff in a time for him of great need – that’s TOTALLY NOT TRUE (my inner-Trump got the better of me). There was no abandonment, and Jeff is not in need. But, although Effie’s parting – to join the legal staff of the State Department of Pardons and Paroles – was sad for both the Hawthornes and Duffeys, Effie remains family to Jeff and Suzanne.

Especially noteworthy, in the midst of her professional and personal (carjacking) upheaval, Effie has served our Bar with distinction, having just begun her second term as president of the Women’s Section. And, the Women’s Section, under Effie’s leadership, has had a year of many activities and accomplishments. In this Trump-Moore era of disrespect for women, one was particularly fitting – a CLE on Women in Law, including remarks from our (woman) chief justice and a panel of “women in power”, including women who have, and will, (morally) run for public office.

So, Effie’s year has been in equal parts traumatic and dramatic, and she has handled it all with fortitude, grace, and aplomb. She is, therefore, fully deserving of recognition as 2017’s Most Distinguishable Lawyer. Now, sit back with your mind altering (preferably liquid) substance of choice, forget about the untoward antics of our governmental and moral leadership, and pay homage to those among us who in 2017 became Most Distinguishable.

**Awards**

1. “Robert J. Sawyer’s End of an Era” Award – Judge Gene Reese (Judge Reese was a great judge for a long time, and his service to our Bar and our state will be deeply missed.)
2. “Ben Affleck’s Mallrats” Award – Roy Moore (Our former, former chief justice allegedly used to hang out a lot at the Gadsden Mall.)
3. “Governor Kay Ivey Honesty” Award – Justice Greg Shaw, Judge Harold Albritton, Doug McElvy, David Martin, Austin Huffaker, Flynn Mozingo, Bill Espy, Tom Albritton, Hugh Evans, former Judge Vanzetta McPherson, Debbie Hackett, Larry Menefee, Judge Myron Thompson, Ted Hosp, Judge Keith Watkins, Jay Hinton, Steve Herndon, Martha Roby, David Byrne, III, Kelly McTear, Marvin Campbell, former Judge Delores Boyd, Jim Davis, Susan Copeland, Tim Gallagher, Ashley Penhale, David Byrne, Jr., and Tabor Novak (The Governor, who admits believing the women and still voting for Moore, is at least honest, and like these lawyers and judges - and many more in our Bar - you can take her at her word.)
4. “One for the Money” Award – Joe Espy (He knows how to set a fee.)
5. “Two for the Show” Award – Terrie and Bryan Morgan (They were the entire show at the Chilton Co. Veterans’ Day Program with Terrie singing the National Anthem and Bryan being the featured speaker.)
6. “Three to Get Ready” Award – Ben, Bill, and Joe Espy (The Espy boys often get ready, and try cases, together.)
7. “Now Go Cat Go!” Award – Roy Moore (And, please do not come back to run for governor.)
8. “The Beatles’ You Really Got a Hold on Me” Award – Ben Locklar, Tom Azar, Roianne Conner, and Mickey McDermott (These former law enforcement officers know how to use handcuffs.)
9. “Trump University” Award – Kelly Pate and Flynn Mozingo (In a brazen challenge to Trump University, the Alabama Bar, led by Kelly and Flynn, has started Lawyer University, which provides skills needed to thrive in a changing legal climate.)

10. “Chuck Berry’s Roll Over Beethoven” Award – Ron Wise, Ashley Penhale, Christine Freeman, David Byrne, Jr., John Palombi, George Beck, Jeff Duffey, Susan James, Brad Griffin, Richard White, David Vickers, Ben Shoetteker, Andrew Skier, Jay Taylor, Michael Kidd, Virgil Ford, Ashley Smith, Tommy Goggans, Richard Keith, Steve Ganter, Wallace Mills, Bill Blanchard, Lewis Gillis, Russ Duraski, Anne Borelli, Terry Luck, Aimee Cobb Smith, Bill Azar, Troy Teague, Leslie Smith, Emmett Hampton, Keisha Stokes-Hough, and, of course, the Espy boys (Good, experienced criminal lawyers like these have represented clients whose best option was to roll over on a co-defendant.)

11. “Most Novel Argument” Award – Donnie Bethel, Curtis Ivy, Jr., and Judge Harold Albritton (Donnie argued that probation for an addicted person should not be revoked on the basis that he got high – Curtis disagreed, as did Judge Albritton.)

12. “William Hurt’s The Big Chill” Award – Ben Pool (Ben spoke beautifully at the funeral of his junior high school, and forever after, friend, Chuck Volz, who along with Ben founded Lanier’s JABOB club – “Just a Bunch of Bastards.”)

13. “Sonny & Cher’s The Beat Goes On” Award – Morris Dees and Jere Beasley (Neither of these Montgomery legends has missed a beat.)

14. “Adele’s Chasing Pavements” Award – Jonathan Ross, Patricia Osuch, Ham Wilson, Kelly McTear, Ben Espy, John Bell, Judge Susan Walker, Joel Caldwell, Amanda Senn, Ben Gibbons, Erica Tatum, Matt Ellis, David Henderson, Karen Laneaux, Larry Menefee, and Joseph VanZandt (Most of these lawyers, and many others, run or walk, while Ham rides his bicycle, falls, and gets hurt.)

15. “Benedict Arnold Turncoat” Award – Steve Feaga (After serving both his county, his country and his state as a prosecutor for 35 years, Steve entered private practice to start a white collar criminal defense practice at Balch & Bingham.)

16. “Best Actor in a Supporting Role” Award – Amanda Senn (Upon Steve Feaga’s departure, Amanda was named Acting Deputy Director of the Alabama Securities Commission.”)

17. “Best Director in a Major Production” Award – Bryan Stevenson and Christine Freeman (Directors respectively of the multifaceted Equal Justice Initiative and Federal Defender Program.)

18. “Best Producer” Award – Tommy Keene (He has been producing a lot of business for his law firm for a long time.)

19. “Best (Actual) Producer” Award – Richard Cohen (Richard is president of the Southern Poverty Law Center which has produced at least two Academy Award winning films.)

20. “Broadway’s Tony” Award – Andrew Brasher (He has Tony McLain level professionalism.)

22. “B.J. Thomas’ Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song” Award – Kenny Mendelsohn, Lee Copeland, Chris Sanspree, Tyrone Means, Scott McArdle, Mark Englehart, Misha Whitman, Jay Aughtman, David Allred, Chip Cleveland, Stewart Vance, Joel Caldwell, Laura Eubank, Wesley Pitters, Joe Hubbard, Grif Sikes, Greg Davis, Dan Talliaferro, Craig Allred, Chuck James, Frank Hawthorne, Randy Myers, Frank Wilson, Will Barfoot, Terry Luck, Lewis Gillis, Wallace Mills, Walter McGowan, Valerie Russell, Christy Crow, Ben Schoettker, Steve Floyd, Kenneth Shinbaum, William Gill, and Mike White, Connie Murray (These very good non-Beasley lawyers also sue folks claiming they’ve done somebody wrong.)

23. “Nobody Done Nobody Wrong Song” Award – Dennis Bailey (That’s what Dennis says – he was elected president of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association this year.)

24. “Freddie Highmore’s The Good Doctor” Award – Beau Cooper, Frank Stakely, Grant Sexton, Jimmy Williams, and Mark Bain (As foreman of the jury in a medical malpractice case, Beau found that Frank’s and Grant’s client was a good doctor and that the hospital, represented by Jimmy and Mark, was a good place for the doctor to work.)

25. “Charlie Pride’s You Can’t Sit Still” Award – Samarria Dunson (At a town hall meeting, Samarria said “I have never been active in politics . . .but based on the things I’ve been seeing since [Trump’s] election, I just can’t sit still.”)

26. “Sean Connery’s League of Extraordinary Gentleman” Award – Judges Charles Price, Billy Shashy, Gene Reese, Randy Thomas, Bill Gordon and Justice Hugh Maddox (There’s a lot of wisdom among these retired Montgomery Co. Circuit Judges and Supreme Court Justice.)

27. “Will Smith’s Six Degrees of Separation” Award – Joshua Pendergrass (Or maybe only one degree - Joshua, who was chief counsel for Roy Moore’s Foundation for Moral Law, is Gov. Ivey’s Communications Director.)

28. “Jason Segel’s The Five-Year Engagement” Award – Kenny Thomas and Ramadanah Jones (They were engaged 5 years defending ASU in an investigation precipitated by a former, very short-term president – this year it mercifully ended - no charges brought.)

29. “An Even Longer Engagement” Award – Jonathan Ross (It only seems like this Assist. U.S. Attorney’s engagement has lasted forever – get married already Jonathan!)

30. “Best Portrait” Award – Judge Greg Griffin (There is a large, very good portrait of Judge in his courtroom.)

31. “Sterling K. Brown’s This is Us” Award – Rhon Jones, Felicia Long, Frank Snowden, Royal Dumas, Effie Hawthorne, Ali Hawthorne, Peyton Faulk, Tim Gallagher, Larry Golston, Tim McCollum, Wallace Mills, Bryan Morgan, Ashley Penhale, Allen Sheehan, and Chris Waller (These officers and directors of our Bar, led wonderfully by Rhon, are truly “us”, and their efforts this year have made us all look good – or at least distinguishable.)

32. “Nocturnal Animals” Award – Ali Hawthorne (president), Elliott Lipinsky, Beau Darley, Charlie Hawthorne, Stephen McCormick, Chalankis Brown, Jesse Anderson, Brannan Reeves, and Landon Eley (In the prime of life, these officers and directors of the Young Lawyers Section of our Bar party well into the night.)
33. “Nocturnal Snoozers” Award – George Beck, David Byrne, Jr., Rufus Craig, Fred Enslen, Jimmy Evans, Barry Leavell, Joe Levin, Tom McGregor, and Jack Norton (These lawyers, who this year celebrated the 50th anniversary of their admission to the Alabama Bar, generally do not party late into the night.)

34. “Trump Tax Reform or Bust” Award – Alan Rothfeder, Jo Parr, Helen Wells, Tommy Mancuso, Daniel Lindsey, Jr., Kyle Johnson, Stan Gregory, Laura Crum, Ted Jackson, Rick McKenzie, Bobo Gilpin, Debra Spain, Robert Ritchey, Russ Russell, Chris Simmons, and Hank Hutchinson (Republicans in Congress may Bust if they do not pass Tax Reform, but if they do, and eliminate the estate tax, these excellent estate planning lawyers will lose lots of income.)

35. “Donald Trump Miss Universe Contest” Award – Steve Marshall and Troy King (These two good-looking guys - both running for the Republican nomination for AG – are pretty similar on most issues – so the race could be another Trump beauty contest.)

36. “Robert Mueller Best Prosecutor” Award – Louis Franklin, Matt Hart, Mike Duffey, Kenny Gibbs, Stephanie Billingslea, Daryl Bailey, Lloria James, Scott Green, Ben McGough, Michele Davidson, Carrie Shaw, James Eubank, Sean McTear, and Buster Russell (Montgomery’s best prosecutors at the federal, state, and local levels.)

37. “Jay Baruchel’s Man Seeking (young) Woman” Award – Roy Moore

38. “Billy Joel’s Scenes from an Italian Restaurant” Award – John Henig, Ellen Brooks, Hank Hutchinson, Buster Russell, Bob Northcutt, Tommy Mancuso, Robert Sasser, Richard Keith, Jimmy Hawthorne (And other lawyers who frequent Corsino’s on Court Street.)

39. “Big Game Hunting” Award – Ellen Brooks (Ellen came out of retirement to pursue an investigation targeting the governor – the second governor she has prosecuted.)

40. “Huey Long Man of the People” Award – Stewart Vance (The Tiger this year – again – won the Montgomery Advertiser Readers’ Choice Award as the Best of the Best.)

41. “To Be or Not To Be (a Judge)” Award – Justice Will Sellers (Justice Sellers had an option of running the state as Gov. Ivey’s principal advisor, or telling everyone in the state what to do as a Justice on the Ala. S. Ct. – he chose the latter.)

42. “The Beatles’ Eight Days a Week” Award – Alexia Borden (As Alabama Power Company’s new general counsel, as the wife of a Montgomery-based federal judge, and as a mother, Alexia will definitely be working 8 days a week.)

43. “Atticus Finch” Award – Ben Schaeffer (This Equal Justice Initiative lawyer this year practically lived with a client who had been in prison over 30 years – to help him re-enter society.)

44. “Billy Joel’s She’s Always a Woman” Award – Effie Hawthorne (president), Virginia Reeves (veep), Aigner Kolom (secty-treasurer), Morgan Booker, Ali Hawthorne, Jordan Jenkins, Madelyn Mauldin, Kelly McTear, and Sarah Osborne (The officers and board members of our Bar’s Women’s Section have so far always been women.)

45. “BB King’s The Thrill is Gone” Award – Hugh Evans and Mike Martin (Both Hugh, long time, excellent general counsel of the Ethics Commission, and Mike, a wonderful Executive Director for the Montgomery’s VLP, decided to retire.)
46. “Bobby Lee Cook ‘He Needed Killing’” Award – Susan James, Ben McGough, and Mike Caddell (Ben and Mike prosecuted a man accused of killing his uncle in revenge for the uncle having killed the defendant’s mother – Susan used the Bobby Lee Cook implicit defense that the victim “needed killing”, and received a “not guilty” verdict!)

47. “Chris Pine’s Hell or High Water” Award – Jere Beasley and Ted Meadows (Because they have wreaked hell – or at least havoc – on defendants, they are now floating on top of High Water – Ted was elected to the 2017 Lawdragons 500 Leading Lawyers in America, and Jere was selected for the Lawdragon Hall of Fame.)

48. “Donald Trump Peaceful Transition of Power” Award – Judy Keegan and Eileen Harris (After a stellar career as director of the Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution, Judy retired and handed the keys to the kingdom to Eileen, her worthy successor.)


51. “Most Popular Father-Sons (plural) Combo” Award – Joe, Ben, and Bill Espy, and George, Bill, and Zac Azar.

52. “Most Popular Father–Daughter Combo” Award – Judge Charles Coody and (shortly to be) Judge Emily Marks, Judge Joel Dubina and Congresswoman Martha Roby, and Jere and Julie Beasley.

53. “Most Popular (seems like a) Lawyer” Award – LaShandra Warren-Barnes and Suzanne Duffey (Our court administrator and our executive director participate in, and contribute greatly to, numerous lawyer activities and events.)

54. “Best All-Around Lawyers” Award – Robert Sasser and Mark Wilkerson (They both litigate and do transactional work.)

55. “Special Best All-Around Lawyer” Award – Bill Brittain (Practices great law – and smokes!)

56. “Best (not) Friends” Award – The Tommy Guns – Gallion and Mancuso (Still not friends after all these years.)

57. Samantha Bee’s Full Frontal” Award – Roy Moore

58. “Julia Dreyfus’ Veep” Award – Clay Crenshaw (This long time chief of the Capital Litigation Division of the AG’s office this year became Chief Deputy Attorney General – 2nd in command to the AG.)
59. “Moby Dick” Award – Andy Birchfield (He bought a whale of a fishing retreat – 200 acres, including the Presidents’ Lake fished by the Bush Presidents – from the Bass Man Ray Scott.)


61. “WWJD” Award – John Wible (In a Mtgy Advertiser ‘Alabama Voices’ column, this former general counsel for the Alabama Department of Public health said Jesus, who in Matthew and Luke commended the taking-in of the stranger, would have supported immigration.)

62. “Lawyers’ Lawyer” Award – Kent Garrett (Started his own firm this year and is representing a lot of lawyers before the Alabama Bar.)

63. “Judge’s Lawyer” Award – Laura Wright, Lisa Harden, Marion Chartoff, Cindy Torbert, Alex Gerogiannis, Corrie Long, James Carter, Rachel Miller, and Morgan Sport (They are staff attorneys for federal judges in the Middle District of Alabama)

64. “Best Woman-Man Combo of Lawyers” Award – Misha Whitman and Scott McArdle, Susan Copeland and Doyle Fuller, and Connie Walker and Tommy Gallion.

65. “Teddy Roosevelt’s Man (and Woman) in the Arena” Award – Sue Bell Cobb, Troy King, Steve Marshall, Elliott Lipinsky, Tiffany McCord, Fred Bell, Will Barfoot, Brantley Lyons, and Deborah Anthony (They just did run, or are running, for public office.)

66. “Superman to the Rescue” Award – Doug McElvy (After Tony McLain’s tragic death, Doug, as he always does, came to the State Bar’s rescue by agreeing to serve as interim general counsel.)

67. “Most Colorful Language by a Judge” Award – Judge Truman Hobbs, Jr. (With respect to a criminally accused state employee seeking an immediate personnel board hearing, the Judge said “the only person getting screwed here is [the state employee].”)

68. “Jessica Chastain’s The Zookeepers Wife (or Husband)” Award – Jeff Duffey (His wife, Suzanne, as Director of the Montgomery County Bar, is responsible for a lot of wild people.)

69. “Nepotism” Award – Charles Edmondson (Obviously because he is a direct descendant of Alabama’s first governor, Charles was appointed to the Board of Friends of the Alabama Governor’s Mansion.)

70. “Spike Lee’s Do the Right Thing” Award – Tom Albritton, Hugh Evans, and Cynthia Raulston (Tom, as Director, and Cynthia and Hugh as incoming and outgoing general counsel, of the Ethics Commission, argued that Gov. Bentley did not get Spike Lee’s message.)

71. “Power Grid” Award – Richard F. Allen (This advisor to Gov. Ivey seemingly is asked to serve whoever the governor happens to be – he’s always on the power grid.)

72. “Amazing Grace” Award – (Congresswoman) Martha Roby (Martha handles herself beautifully in the halls of power, having this year been selected by Speaker Paul Ryan for a congressional trip geared toward strengthening relations with NATO allies.)
73. “Lena Horne’s Stormy Weather” Award – Alice Ann Byrne, Leura Canary, Juliana Dean, James Ward, Michael Robinson (Even in-house lawyers–no matter how good–can’t always avoid stormy weather.)

74. “Law of Unintended Consequences” Award – Jenny Garrett, Rosa Davis and Bill Gunter (They advocated for removing Roy Moore from his judgeship likely without intending that he – almost - become a United States Senator.)

75. “Kris Kristofferson’s A Star is Born” Award – Kelly Pate, Ali and Ray Hawthorne, J.C. Love, Sheri Mazur, Beau Darley, Autumn and Alex Caudell, Charlanna Skaggs, and Virginia Reeves (The children of these lawyers cannot help but be stars.)

76. “Mad Men” Award – Dorman Walker (Dorman’s not a Mad Man, he’s a Map Man – when it comes to drawing voting lines in redistricting cases, Dorman is master of the maps.)

77. “Kerry Washington’s Scandal” Award – Charlie and Judge James Anderson (According to the Mtgy Advertiser, James is the father of this year’s Jimmy Hitchcock Award winner – a young man who grew up in Charlie’s household thinking, as we all did, that he is Charlie’s son – so far, no retraction has been demanded.)

78. “Octavia Spencer’s Hidden Figures” Award – Vernon Barnett (Appointed Alabama’s Revenue Commissioner this year, Vernon will likely use audits to recoup all the hidden income on which no taxes have yet been paid.)

79. “Judge Charles Price” Award – Judge Ben Pool (It’s not the entire Courthouse like Judge Price, but Ben has served almost 40 years as Municipal Ct. Judge for Millbrook, and the Courtroom is named for him.)

80. “Mozart” Award – Richard Gill, Stan Gregory and Charlie Stakely (They are three of the driving forces behind the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra – Richard is this year’s president, Stan has been a musician, a lawyer, and about everything else, and Charlie practically founded the symphony.)

81. “If I Should Die Before I Wake, Feed Jake” Award – Darron Hendley (Darron, who loves dogs and is a Shooting Dog enthusiast, attended the competition at Sedgefields in Union Springs this year.)

82. “Donald Trump Branding” Award – Ted Jackson (Like the Donald, Ted has had a building named for him – in Ted’s case, his longtime client, PowerSouth, did it.)

83. “Pampers” Award – Susan James and Jeff Duffey (Jeff and Susan’s client was charged with murdering her husband in a fight about who was going to change a dirty diaper – conviction was for the lesser included manslaughter.)

84. “Viola Davis’ How To Get Away with Murder” Award – Sherri Mazur, Clay Phillips, and Jon Moody (These former DA and AG prosecutors–who this year formed a private practice law firm – should know as well as anyone.)

85. “Jack Armstrong, All-American Boy” Award – Dean Mooty (In college at Marion Military Institute, Dean was a star football, baseball, and basketball player, and today he’s still an All-American boy – presently serving as Chair of the Marion Board of Trustees.)

86. “The Beatles’ Till There was You” Award – Andrew Brasher and Andrew Brashier (“Until there was you, no one got my name confused with anyone else’s name” – two outstanding lawyers, so if you have to be confused with someone, you could do worse.)

87. “Elvis Presley’s Jail House Rock” Award – Maria Morris, Latasha McCrary, CJ Sandley, Brooke Menschel, Natalie Lyons, and Jackie Aranda (Maria and other So. Pov. Law Ctr. lawyers have rocked
the prison system with their lawsuit challenging prison medical conditions, including mental health conditions – for which they obtained a judgment this year.)

88. “Best (worst) Sense of Humor” Award – Ben Dupre’ (This staff attorney for Justice Tom Parker, and Roy Moore spokesperson, attempted – during a Moore speech – to remove a comic plant from the Jimmy Kimmel TV show.)

89. “Meghan Markle Suddenly Royal” Award – Royal Dumas (Can someone please explain how “Roy Clay Dumas” became known as “Royal”?)

90. “Jim Broadbent’s London Spy” Award – Michael Dalton (Prior to attending law school, Michael worked as a research assistant for a Member of the British Parliament – obviously as an undercover American spy in London.)

91. “Jimmy Jones’ Handyman – You Need Timing” Award – Luther Strange (If the allegations against Roy Moore had surfaced 3 months earlier, our U.S Senator today would be called Landslide Luther.)

92. “Rolling in Dough” Award – Laurel Crawford (Laurel makes incredible cakes and other sweets almost too pretty to eat – but not quite.)

93. “Cutest (State Court) Judge” Award – Judges Johnny Hardwick, Truman Hobbs, Jr., J.R. Gaines, James Anderson, Greg Griffin, Roman Shaul, Bob Bailey, Calvin Williams, Pam Higgins, Troy Massey, and Jimmy Pool (It’s a tie!)

94. “Best Direction (by a Lawyer)” Award – Chris East

95. “Pole Workers” Award – Samarria Dunson, Chuck James, Kelli Day, Faith Cooper, Kristin Gillis, Jack Owen, and others (I thought poll workers were employed by AT&T, but these and other lawyers helped our county run Special Elections for U.S. and State Senate seats.)

96. “Bruce Springsteen’s Hungry Heart” Award – Will Parker, Felicia Long, Jerusha Adams, Kelly Pate, Barbara Wells, Stephen Doyle, Ashley Penhale, and many others. (These young lawyers and others are admirably ambitious.)

97. “B.J. Thomas’ Raindrops Keep Fallin’” Award – Artur Davis (Since serving as a congressman, Artur has continued—so far unsuccessfully—to find the right fit for his many talents.)


99. “Roy Moore Child Welfare” Award – Justice Kelli Wise and Mike Caddell (This Assistant District Attorney specializes in prosecuting crimes with children victims, and Justice Wise has always been committed to helping at-risk children.)

100. “Here Comes the Judge” Award – Judge Emily Marks (Appointed United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama)
114. “Kim Bassinger’s Bless the Child” Award – Joe Hubbard (Joe argued to a legislative committee that even church-owned day care centers should be required to be licensed.)

115. “Jalen Hurts So Good” Award – Joe Espy, Mark Bains, Judge Truman Hobbs, Jr., Gerald Swan, Jeff Blitz, Larry Golston, Jeremy Walker, Mike Brock, John Marsh, Frank Wilson, Paul James, Cowan Knowles, Joel Caldwell, Lee Copeland, Miland Simpler, Chuck James, Richard Broughton, and Tommy Keene, (Despite losing to Auburn, the Tide again made the College Playoffs, and the collective sigh of relief from these Alabama fans could be heard in Tuscaloosa and beyond.)

116. “Shooting Star” Award – Judge Jimmy Pool, Jimmy Williams, David Martin, Frank Hawthorne, John Henig, Corky Hawthorne, Judge Les Hayes, Rhon Jones, Joel Connally, Joe Seawell Moore, Charlie Hawthorne, Gunter Guy, Clay Crenshaw, Cole Portis, Buster Russell, Stephanie Galloway Shirley, Jere Beasley, Bobby Poundstone, Sim Penton, Jessica Pitts Trotman, John Searcy,Matt Bledsoe, Les Pittman, Tripp Vickers, Jesse Anderson, Mark Moody, Beau Darley, Parker Miller, and Frank Hawthorne, III (These Auburn fans were treated to star performances against Georgia and Alabama before Auburn’s shooting star flamed out in the SEC Championship game.)

117. “Mr. Big Stuff” Award – Judge Keith Watkins, Ashley Penhale, Gibson Vance, Charles Hudson, Justice Tommy Bryan, Stephanie Monpliasir, Kimberly Waldrop, Christi Davis, JW Godwin, Mitch McGuire, Bill Abell, Liz Carter, Matt Ellis, Mickey McDermott, Steve Floyd, and Andy Donaldson (Troy’s football team proved to these fans and alumni that it can play with, and defeat, the big boys – specifically, LSU at its homecoming – while becoming Sunbelt Champions.)

118. “Michael Keaton’s Desperate Measures” Award – John Palombi (This federal defender tried everything to avoid his client’s execution including challenging the method of execution – the execution was in May of this year.)

119. “Bipolar” Award – Julian McPhillips (Julian, who often sues law enforcement for alleged abuse of citizens, successfully defended a correctional officer accused of abusing an inmate.)

120. “Jennifer Lawrence Leading Lady” Award – Danielle Mason (As an outstanding alumna, Danielle was named the 2017 “Leading Ladies” recipient by the Girl Scouts.)

121. “The Jeffersons’ Piece of the Pie” Award – Jesse Anderson, Brad Everhardt, Tom McCarthy, Brannan Reaves, Andrew Brashier (And others who made partner or the equivalent in their law firms this year.)

122. “Musical Chairs” Award – Judges Johnny Hardwick, James Anderson, Roman Shaul, and Greg Griffin (Because of fully understandable recusals, the music stopped at Judge Griffin who took on a case against a police officer charged with murder for shooting a Montgomery resident.)

123. “Bruno Mars’ Count on Me” Award – Leigh O’Dell (As co-lead counsel in the multi-district talcum powder litigation, injured plaintiffs can count on Leigh to always do the right thing.)

124. “Better Call Saul” Award – Mickey McDermott and Roianne Conner (Mickey and Roianne represent the police officer and will need all the help they can get.)

125. “Better Call The Entire Montgomery Criminal Law Bar” Award – Terry Luck (Terry represents a man charged with the capital murder of a beloved Prattville woman who worked with the historic Prattville Redevelopment Authority – Terry also needs all the help he can get.)

126. “Elton John’s Get Back Copycat” Award – LaWanda Dian Ross and Frank Hawthorne, III (Their names were plagiarized from others.)
127. “Donald Trump Hyperbole” Award – Judge Vanzetta McPherson (She wrote in her column that contrary to popular exaggeration, the nation is NOT more divided than ever – the largest division was “the systemic racial and ethnic schism that characterized America’s first three and a half centuries”.)

128. “Mount Rushmore” Award – Felicia Long (Already serving as president of Montgomery’s Junior League, Felicia, in January, will add our Bar’s presidency to her Junior League duties – with her list of presidencies, she could fill Mt. Rushmore by herself.)

129. “Jeff Sessions Best Memory” Award – Von Memory, Stuart Memory, Tommy Keene, and Kenny Mendelsohn (Unlike apparently our country’s attorney general, these lawyers clearly remember all their meetings with Russian officials.)

130. “The Marshall Plan” Award – Steve Marshall (Unlike the original Marshall Plan, Steve’s plan is not designed to promote world peace, but rather to close down electronic bingo in Black Belt counties.)

131. “The Beatles’ Revolution” Award – David Byrne, Jr., Carrie McCollum, Frank Johnson, Bill Patty, Bryan Taylor, and Will Parker (The anticipated, and actual, change in governors brought coup-like changes to the governor’s legal office – Bryan, as legal advisor, and Will are in, and everyone else has moved along.)

132. “Running of the Bulls” Award – Judge James Anderson (Judge chose Chicago for knee replacement surgery – apparently hoping to fulfill a life-long dream of running with the Chicago Bulls – surgery was successful, not so much the Bulls part.)

133. “Joe Scarborough Tell Us What You Really Think” Award – Win Johnson (Win went to the steps of the state Judicial Building to tell the world what he thought of a state appellate judge’s decision in an abortion case.)

134. “Oprah Winfrey’s The Color Purple” Award – Brooke Reid and James Long (In a non-jury discrimination lawsuit brought by James against an apartment complex, Brooke contended that plaintiff was treated like everyone else, black, white or purple – decision still pending.)

135. “Aldous Huxley’s Point Counter Point” Award – Jim Vickrey (This lawyer-academician spoke this year at Archives and History about his excellent book on the history of Lee High School and the merits of the debate on what he feels could be thoughtless name-changing.)

136. “Audie Murphy One Man Army” Award – Randall Marshall (ACLU of Alabama’s former, (excellent) general counsel, and new executive director, will have trouble replacing himself.)

137. “Bon Jovi’s Never Say Goodbye” Award – Judge Myron Thompson (He was chosen as a principal speaker at the American College of Trial Lawyers’ annual meeting and is a nationally recognized judicial treasure and a fitting successor to Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr.)

138. “Chutzpah” Award – Tom Azar (Tom represents an 18 year-old alleged to have murdered his parents – sources say he plans to plead for mercy on the basis that he is an orphan.)

139. “Preet Bharara” Award – Louis Franklin and George Beck (President Trump may have screwed up when he fired the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of NY and George Beck, but he got it right when he named Louis as George’s successor.)

140. “Best Governmental Legal Team” Award – Kim Fehl, Stacy Reed, Stephanie Smithee, Mickey McInnish, and Chris East (These City attorneys are experienced, good litigators.)

141. “The Beatles’ We Can Work it Out” Award – Rand Neeley and Jonathan Ross (These Assistant U.S. Attorney teammates will work out a deal – but not always one you’ll like.)
142. “Coach K” Award – Joe Espy (Continuing a tradition of coaching basketball for the teams of his lineal descendants, Joe is now coaching Lulu’s, i.e., his eldest grandchild’s, team.)

143. “Eric Stoltz’s Some Kind of Wonderful” Award – Donnie Bethel (Donnie persuaded the court to let him take custody of his client, a federal prisoner, to assure his client could attend his sister’s funeral.)

144. “Citizen Kane” Award – Kendall Dunson (To add to his many honors and achievements, Kendall this year was the recipient of the Montgomery Bar’s Award for Service and Achievement – he’s an excellent citizen as well as an excellent lawyer.)

145. “Brangelina” Award – Samarria Dunson (As the other half of a movie star caliber team, Samarria accepted Kendall’s award – and her talk was better than his would have been.)

146. “Horsing Around” Award – Jim Edwards, Julie Beasley, Sue Bell Cobb, Alex Holtsford, Frank Stakely, Clay and Cindy Torbert, Graham Esdale, Bill Eskridge, William Haynes, Peggy Givhan, Ted Hosp, Stewart Vance, Jim Byram, William Martin (And others who either are board members of, or attended this year’s fundraiser for, MANE, a provider of therapeutic horseback riding.)

147. “Steve Martin’s Excuse Meeeee!” Award – Aimee Smith and Terry Davis (Gov. Bentley appointed Aimee to the Pardons and Parole Board, but he resigned before her term began, and Gov. Ivey withdrew Aimee’s appointment and named Terry instead – both would be great!)

148. “Rihanna’s Take a Bow” Award – Verne Speirs (With Louis Franklin’s ascension to U.S. Attorney, Verne has become Chief of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney’s office.)

149. “The Beatles’ Please Mr. Postman” Award – Scott Talkington (Old fashioned, good lawyer who still sends letters through the actual mail.)

150. “Adele’s When We Were Young” Award – Lee Copeland, Truman Hobbs, Jr., Sim Penton, Jimmy Garrett, now Judge Jimmy Pool, a then child prodigy lawyer Joana Ellis, now Judge James Anderson, Laura Crum, Steve Feaga, Spud Seale, then Judge (as opposed to Justice) Mark Kennedy, Laura Calloway, and the late, great Tony McLain and Dexter Hobbs (In late 1986, for Law Day, these lawyers did their own rendition of the Chicago Bears’ Super Bowl Shuffle – old photograph was tweeted this year.)

151. “Spielberg” Award – Kacey Keeton (This federal defender and her legal team created a Spielberg quality video on Kacey’s judicial override, death row client – to seek the governor’s intervention to reduce her client’s sentence to life without.)

152. “The Beatles’ Ticket to Ride” Award – Brittney Bucak (The Attorney General this year gave Brittney a ticket to ride from the DA’s office to his office.)

153. “Donald Trump Best Tweeter” Award – Ben Espy (His tweets are funny, interesting, and often endearing – you should follow him.)

154. “Kristan Higgins’ On Second Thought” Award – Ben Baker, LaBarron Boone, and Jere Beasley (In the closing close, Jere told the jury what LaBarron asked for in the opening close was too low – Ben, LaBarron and Jere’s Lowndes County jury returned a verdict for $16.8 million in a wrongful death case.)

155. “Slow Train to Justice” Award – Kenny Gibbs, Stephanie Billingslea, and Tommy Goggans (Stephanie and Kenny prosecuted, and convicted, and Tommy tried every constitutional argument to defend, a man tried for murder 10 years after his arrest and incarceration.)
156. “Rex Tillerson International Relations” Award – Julian McPhillips (Julian represented Nigerian students who believe Alabama State University mishandled scholarship money given to them by Nigeria.)

157. “DiCaprio’s The Wolf of Wall Street” Award – Ham Wilson, Tommy Keene, Tom Methvin, and Hank Hutchinson (These and other entrepreneurial managing attorneys have led the expansion of their law firms into, or have maintained offices in, other cities.)

158. “You are my Sunshine” Award – Katie Cameron O’Mailia (She represents the Family Sunshine Center – which provides a ray of sunshine for a lot of people.)

159. “Miami (or Prattville) Vice” Award – Bruce Maddox and Trey Norman (They represent two (now former) lieutenants in the Prattville Police Department who are charged with vice – including burglary, theft of property and possession of burglary tools.)

160. “DeSoto” Award – Judge Keith Watkins and Trey Granger (Like true pioneers, they are leading an effort to create an international learning center that will serve as the gateway for the U.S. Civil Rights Trail.)

161. “Nixon, Clinton, & Trump Impeachment Planning” Award – Pat Harris (As Secretary of the Senate, he had to plan for all contingencies related to the possible impeachment of Gov. Bentley.)

162. “Sandra Bullock’s Hope Floats” Award – Tiffany McCord and Bobo Gilpin (Now that Ala. State University has a new president, Board of Trustee members, Tiffany and Bobo, have rising hope for great new accomplishments.)

163. “The Beatles’ Someone to Watch Over Me” Award – Judge Troy Massey (When Judge initially denied bond for a 16 year-old charged with shooting a student outside Lee High School, he did so out of concern for the safety of the shooter.)

164. “Good News, Bad News” Award – Judge Liles Burke, Ann Pearson, and Beau Womack (Good news is that Judge was appointed to the federal bench in the Northern District, and staff attorney Beau is moving to Huntsville with the judge; bad news is that Ann, a long-time Montgomery resident and great staff attorney, must find another judge for whom to work.)

165. “The Coasters’ Why’s Everybody Always Pickin’ On Me” Award – Julian McPhilips (Julian has become the “go to” guy for correctional officers in trouble, and there appear to have been a lot of them this year.)

166. “Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Collateral Damage” Award – Gunter Guy (Despite having done a great job as Alabama’s Conservation Director, Gunter became collateral damage when Gov. Bentley was succeeded by Gov. Ivey.)

167. “The Better Part of Valor” Award – Richard Keith, Scott Green, and Damon Lewis (Defending a capital murder charge involving the death of a baby, Richard mid-trial recommended a plea deal offered by Scott and Damon, and his client accepted life with the possibility of parole.)

168. “Elton John’s Candle in the Wind” Award – Brandon Sellers (Brandon wrote a beautiful, heart-felt eulogy on Facebook about a doctor-friend who died trying to climb Mount Everest.”)

169. “Robin Wright’s House of Cards” Award – Dorothy Norwood, Bill Blanchard, and Judge Peggy Givhan (Montgomery’s Bridge Club – with Dorothy as president, Peggy as a member, and Bill as a provider of entertainment – hosted a duplicate bridge tournament this year.)

170. “Potatoes” Award – Ham Wilson (Ham has a second home in Idaho – where he can commune with potatoes, snow and, at one time, Tapestry artist Carole King.)
171. “Bruce Springsteen’s Glory Days” Award – Fred Gray (Every day of his professional life appears to have been, and to still be, a glory day.)

172. “Nick Saban Headhunting” Award – Kelly McTear, Tim Gallagher, and Laurel Crawford (As the president and past president of our Bar’s Volunteer Lawyer Program, Kelly and Tim did a Saban-like recruiting job in hiring Laurel to replace Mike Martin as Director.)

173. “Jolly Good Fellows” Award – Austin Huffaker and Gibson Vance (They became Fellows of the Alabama Law Foundation this year.)

174. “G” Award – Suzi Huffaker (Like the music note “G”, Suzie is a key note – having served as the keynote speaker at our Women’s Section program on “Women in Law: An Evolving Career.”)

175. “Lindsay Lohan’s The Parent Trap” Award – Leon Hampton (Deputy DA said this year that the DA’s office was looking for ways to hold parents responsible for their children’s negligent gun violence.)

176. “Ghandi” Award – Julia Collins (To demonstrate her objection to the court rule that lawyers cannot record proceedings in Autauga County courts, Julia, engaging in civil disobedience, did it anyway and suffered the contempt consequences.)

177. “Tommy Roe’s Jam Up and Jelly Tight” Award – Mike Martin (Our now former Volunteer Lawyer Program Director makes outstanding blueberry jam.)

178. “Bruce Springsteen’s Born to Run” Award – Justice Jim Main, Railey Wiggins, and other Montgomery lawyers and judges (They weren’t born to run, but the thoroughbreds they watched at Hospice of Montgomery’s Kentucky Derby Benefit were.)

179. “Let Them Eat Cake” Award – Chris Richard (Chris, who as Medicaid General Counsel, once looked out for the poor, has joined Gilpin Givhan to represent health care providers.)

180. “Will Smith’s The Fresh Prince” Award – Preston Presley (This outstanding associate – a fresh prince – in Roianne’ firm led the defense team to a “Not Guilty” verdict in a federal court prosecution of a felon allegedly in possession of a firearm.)


182. “Vengeance is Mine Sayeth the L-rd” Award – Larry Golston and Kendall Dunson (And, say Larry and Kendall, vengeance is not for an employer upset that its employee hired a lawyer in connection with an on the job injury – $1.9 million verdict for retaliatory discharge and co-employee suit.)

183. “Winonna Judd’s No one Else on Earth” Award – Royce Wadsworth (According to Dot Robinson, no one else on Earth has helped set up for Bar functions more than Royce.)


185. “New York Times Book Review” Award – Julie Weller (Her book review for the Docket was good enough for the Times.)
186. “Love is Never Having To Say You’re Sorry” Award – Andrew Skier (Gov. Ivey apologized to Andrew’s client, a finance department employee fired by Gov. Bentley over possible criminal wrongdoing for which he was entirely exonerated.)

187. “(Treasury Secretary) Steve Mnuchin Gold Standard” Award – Louis Franklin (Louis’ prosecutorial skills were described at his investiture as being the Gold Standard for all prosecutors.)

188. “Ryan Reynolds Definitely, Maybe” Award – Monet Gaines (Monet agonized about running for judge, but finally decided “not this year”)

189. “Al Pacino’s And Justice for All” Award – Frank Woodson and Connie Murray (They are presidents respectively of the Alabama and Montgomery Associations of Justice.)

190. “Charles Barkley Rebound” Award – Theron Stokes, Susan Kennedy, Clint Daughtrey, Tamika Reed, (before he was Judge) James Anderson, Monica Arrington, Chuck James, Joel Caldwell and others (Under Theron’s leadership as Associate Executive Director, and using both in-house and outside lawyers, AEA had a successful, rebound kind of year in fighting legal battles for its members and for public education.)

191. “Helen Keller The Miracle Worker” Award – Geron Gadd and Erica Tatum (In different ways they have devoted their careers to helping the disabled.)

192. “Jake Tapper Political Analyst” Award – Judge Vanzetta McPherson (Following Doug Jones’ election, Van astutely analyzed what he must do, and the flexibility his supporters must show, for him to be re-elected.)

193. “The Beatles’ With a Little Help From my Friends” Award – Lewis Gillis, Mark Englehart, and Judge Anita Kelly (Lewis – with help from Mark, his friend and former law partner – is defending his niece, Judge Kelly, against charges brought by the Judicial Inquiry Commission.)

194. “Clint Eastwood’s In the Line of Fire” Award – Brent Beal (This in-house lawyer for the Secretary of State may be in the line of fire between Roy Moore and Doug Jones over the question of Moore’s entitlement to a recount.)

195. “Vito Corleone International Crime Boss” Award – Joe Borg (Our Director of the Alabama Securities Commission was elected president of the North American Securities Administrators Association – his mission is to fight the crime of securities fraud internationally.)

196. “Dot Robinson” Award – Allen Sheehan (Allen has succeeded the long-serving Dot as editor of the Montgomery Bar Docket.)

197. “Gee, We’re Going to Miss You” Award² – Terry Brown, Peter Bush, Al Butler, Jack Dixon, Jr., Don Harrison, Kalia Spears Lane, Don Madison, Tony McLain, Sarah Mooneyham, Randy Moore, Bill Skinner, Chuck Volz, III.

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² The title of this award comes from a song memorializing Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper written shortly after their deaths in a plane crash in 1959. The song is about their transformation into three new stars in the sky. The principal lyric in the song is “Gee we’re going to miss you. Everybody sends their love.”
Beasley Allen’s David Dearing selected to prestigious legal society. Beasley Allen’s David Dearing, a principal attorney in the firm’s Mass Torts Section, has been selected as a member of the International Society of Barristers. Society membership is extended by invitation only to those “of exceptional talent whose qualities including integrity, honor and collegiality embody the spirit of the true professional,” according to its website. Selection is based on an extensive screening process that includes comments from judges before whom nominees have appeared and other attorneys who know them well. The International Society of Barristers supports the ideals of trial by jury, the adversary system and a free and independent judiciary. Dearing has been with Beasley Allen since 2012. He was a member of all five talcum powder trial teams that won verdicts in 2016 and 2017 against Johnson & Johnson and Imerys Talc America, totaling more than $700 million.

Beasley Allen’s Andy Birchfield, head of the firm’s Mass Torts Section, has been selected to Samford University’s Board of Trustees. A 1988 graduate of the university, Birchfield’s time on the board began Dec. 1. He will serve on the board through 2022 as one of 43 members selected to the university’s governing body. Birchfield has been with Beasley Allen since 1996. The Mass Torts Section he manages is recognized as a national leader in pharmaceutical litigation. It has successfully resolved claims for thousands of clients in the Vioxx, Bextra/Celebrex, Baycol, Rezulin, PPA and Ephedra litigations. To date, Andy has been involved in cases resulting in settlements and verdicts totaling in excess of $7.5 billion. His alma matter, Samford University, is the 87th oldest institution of higher education in the United States. It enrolls 5,509 students from 45 states and 30 countries in its 10 academic units: arts, arts and sciences, business, divinity, education, health professions, law, nursing, pharmacy, and public health.
Hill Hill Carter Opens South Alabama Office: Hill Hill Carter is pleased to announce the opening of its newest office in Fairhope, Alabama. The Fairhope office is located at 23210 US Highway 98, Suite D-4, Fairhope, Alabama 36532. The direct phone number for the Fairhope office is (251) 270-7217.

The rapid growth of Hill Hill Carter’s South Alabama business portfolio in recent years necessitated a location in South Alabama. “We have long represented clients in Southern Alabama and, as a continued commitment to servicing those clients, opening an office in Fairhope makes a lot of sense,” remarked David W. Henderson, Managing Shareholder of Hill Hill Carter. The Firm is excited to become a part of the Fairhope community and of the Mobile and Baldwin County Bar Associations. With the addition of this office, Hill Hill Carter can claim locations in the northern, central, and southern areas of Alabama.

Additionally, Hill Hill Carter welcomes Ms. Reed Morgan Coleman as of-counsel. Ms. Coleman will be based in the firm’s Fairhope office and her practice will focus primarily on defending national insurance carriers in a variety of automobile, casualty, and commercial claims with a special focus on first party claims and bad faith allegations. Additionally, Ms. Coleman’s experience includes the defense of corporations and small businesses in complex and commercial litigation suits. Ms. Coleman graduated magna cum laude from Tulane University in 2006 and graduated magna cum laude from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law where she received her juris doctorate. She is also licensed in Louisiana. In 2016 and again 2017, Super Lawyers named Ms. Coleman a “Rising Star” in the field of Insurance.

“I am excited to join the firm and to be a part of its expansion,” Ms. Coleman stated. “The opening of the South Alabama office solidifies the firm’s dedication to its clients in this area and to offering services to clients located throughout the state.”

Founded in 1924, Hill Hill Carter offers a full range of legal services, from business planning to complex litigation. The firm has offices in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Fairhope, Alabama as well as Louisville, Kentucky. Hill Hill Carter has been recognized by The Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers for offering exceptional, quality legal services. The firm is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been included in Best’s Directory of Recommended Insurance Attorneys for over 50 years.