My time as a steward of the Montgomery County Bar Association is quickly drawing to a close. This year has helped me further appreciate what a wonderful Bar Association we have and how humbling it has been to serve as President. Meeting lawyers outside of my practice area has been educational and encouraging. Interacting with our local judges has been rewarding. We are blessed to have many wise and distinguished judges in our local, state, and federal courts.²

We are in a great position going forward as Felicia Long will take over in January and I know she will do a wonderful job. Looking back, we are also deeply indebted to past Presidents, officers and board members and other leaders of the Montgomery County Bar Association. I stand on the shoulders of some of the giants in our profession – did you realize that Mike Winter and Royal Dumas were past MCBA Presidents?

I would be remiss not to mention several areas of emphasis for the MCBA this year. The MVLP continues to shine. In a state that is dead last nationally (behind even Mississippi) in funding legal care for the poor, volunteering is more important than ever. Our Tailgate Fundraiser for MVLP was a smashing success. Our regular CLE programs have gotten progressively better and were capped off with the Bench and Bar Program. The creation of a Government Lawyer Section is very important, and I predict it will grow overall MCBA membership significantly in the future. Thanks again for allowing me to serve. Please remember that our greatest resource at the MCBA is our people, our lawyers!

Rhon Jones, President
We wouldn’t have gotten this far without your guidance and support! The Montgomery Volunteer Lawyer Program would like to give a heartfelt thanks to our inaugural Executive Director, Mike Martin for his dedication, expertise and guidance over the past four-and-a-half years, as he was an integral part of our success to this point. To say I have some big shoes to fill would be an understatement. We wish you all the best in your retirement, make sure to wave when you play through on the golf course!

As Mike kindly introduced me in the last issue of the Docket, I, Laurel Crawford, am humbled and honored to be chosen as his successor as the new Executive Director of the MVLP. I am so very enthusiastic about the future of the MVLP and am eager to report all of the latest goings-on over the last couple months.

To say the MVLP has been busy would be an understatement! October was National Pro Bono Month and we marked the celebration with our 2nd Annual MVLP Pro Bono Awards Luncheon honoring our local volunteers, conducting our two Advice and Counsel Clinics and an additional specialty Divorce clinic, partnering with MCBA for the pro bono month kick-off social at the Waters, sponsoring the Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Gala in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and being honored as a finalist for the Samaritan Counseling Center’s River Region Ethics Awards.

The MVLP Pro Bono Awards Luncheon was a fantastic event again this year honoring this year’s volunteer attorneys and firms and featured our keynote speaker, former Alabama Chief Justice and 2018 Gubernatorial candidate,4 Honorable Sue Bell Cobb, an unwavering advocate of pro bono legal service, not only on her 30 years on the bench, but even now as a private attorney. This Docket contains a listing of the firms and attorneys who received awards during the luncheon.

The civil legal aid provided by these firms and attorneys has made ours the fastest growing program in the state and we intend to keep that momentum going. Thank you to all who volunteer!

November proved to match that of October this year as wildly successful! The MCBA Tailgate was a night to behold. The Union Station Trainshed came alive on a crisp fall night with musical flair by Dread Clampitt, superior culinary cuisine provided by Vintage Year and a buffet of Alabama-made craft beers for tasting. The orange/blue and crimson/white decor created an ambiance of a Southerner’s favorite past-time, college football game day! To top it off, John Charles (The Anderson Firm), was named the 2017 MCBA Volunteer Lawyer of the Year. If you have been paying attention to list of our monthly volunteers in each Docket, John Charles has appeared in our list of clinic volunteers in every single Docket this year, in addition to the selfless number of hours he has dedicated to taking extended representation cases. Congratulations to John Charles for a well-deserved honor. Our most sincere gratitude goes to the MCBA for choosing the MVLP as this year’s beneficiary for their annual charity event. The MCBA, firms and individuals who were the event sponsors, and all of those who worked tirelessly to make the Tailgate one for the memory banks, we are forever grateful for your continued support of the MVLP.

As 2017 comes to a close, we are pleased to look back and acknowledge the growth the MVLP continues to experience with the number of clients
we are able to serve and in the number of Montgomery attorneys and firms willing to make a commitment to providing pro bono civil legal aid to low-come citizen of Montgomery County. As of November 15, 2017, we have received 1104 requests for assistance, with 370 opened cases, 273 closed cases with 82 resulting in extended representation for the year. We have seen 308 clients at our clinics and continue to watch the numbers rise, as we still have time to spare by the end of the year.

Speaking of our clinics, a special thank you is in order for those selfless volunteers who helped clients at clinics during October and November: Philip Sellers, Mark Andrew Gable, James Lampkin, Elizabeth Eiland, Kia Scott, Sebrina Martin, Katie O’Malia, Joana Ellis, John Charles, David Weston, John Piazza, Michael Shorey, Shirley Brown, Kelly McTear, Roiannce Houlton Conner, Preston Presley, Mickey McDermott, Tim Gallagher, D. Brent Hargett, Patrick Sefton, Shawn Cole, Laura Crum and Joel Caldwell. The opportunity to join the fun comes every first and third Tuesday from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Give us a call at 265-0222 and join this much-needed and rewarding service offered to those in need! ‘Tis the season to give back and serve our community.

We are also accepting applications for the 2018 Leadership Corps Initiative. Our 2017 class proved to be wildly successful, as they opened 33 extended representation cases so far this year, expanding our services to include certain contested cases we would not otherwise be able to place with a regular volunteer. If you would like to apply, please submit the attached application, resume and cover letter to Kelly McTear (kmctear@fauklner.edu) no later than December 22, 2017. At this time of year, we pause to look back at our accomplishments, exude gratitude for our blessings and reflect on ways to improve ourselves in the coming year. Your MVLP is growing and serving an ever-expanding number of less fortunate clients with civil legal needs. Please consider joining with us and giving of your time and expertise. “For whom much is given, much is required.” Luke 12:48. Best wishes and a happy holiday season to all!

Laurel Crawford
Executive Director for MVLP

2017 Leadership Corps Initiative (L to R) Kelly McTear, MCBF Board President, Sebrina Martin, Kia Scott, Aigner Kolom, Hon. Sue Bell Cobb

Referee Vicki Toles, Hon. Tiffany McCord and Sue McInnish

In a special presentation, the MVLP honored Mike Martin for his dedicated service as Executive Director and wished him a Happy Retirement. (L to R) Kelly McTear, Mike Martin, Tim Gallagher

Joel Caldwell and Michael Fritz
I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and enjoyed time with family and friends. As we move into the remainder of the holiday season, I hope that you will open your hearts once again to those members of our community who need your help to make ends meet this Christmas.

Thanks to our Community Service Committee chaired by Board Member Ali Hawthorne, the Women’s Section will be participating in HandsOn River Region’s Christmas Clearinghouse Project. HandsOn’s Christmas Clearinghouse is the River Regions’ largest Christmas charitable giving program. They partner with over 40 social service and faith-based organizations to ensure the area’s most needy families are screened for eligibility, checked for duplication and registered for assistance. Then the fun part begins - Families in need are matched with families and groups that want to help. It’s that simple. They cross cultural and economic lines to spread JOY, HOPE, and PEACE for donors and recipients alike. Approximately 10,000 individuals in the River Region - including more than 8,000 children - are registered annually with the Christmas Clearinghouse. The Christmas Clearinghouse keeps families from being overlooked and makes sure that all donated resources are used wisely.

As part of the Christmas Clearinghouse Project, the Women’s Section will be collecting donations for the Care Basket Drive. The idea behind the Care Basket Drive is to fill up a laundry basket with household items that will help parents care for their children and free up much needed resources in the family budget. There are several ways YOU can be involved with this project. You can donate an entire basket, donate items to fill a basket, or make a monetary donation which can be used to purchase basket items. Drop off locations are listed below. In addition, our board members will collect donations for those unable to drop them off on December 12th.

**Donation Suggestions:** Diapers, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, blankets, etc.

**Drop Off Locations:**
- Beasley Allen - 272 Commerce Street (Leave donations for Ali Hawthorne)
- Montgomery County Bar Association Office, Montgomery County Courthouse, 251 S. Lawrence Street, 4th Floor (Leave donations for Suzanne Duffey)

Check out Christmas Clearinghouse online at [http://www.handsonriverregion.org/christmas-clearing-house](http://www.handsonriverregion.org/christmas-clearing-house). You can even sign up to “adopt” a family this Christmas and provide for that family’s specific needs.
We Need Your Help!

BUT WAIT! Once donations are collected, we need YOUR help assembling care baskets at the HandsOn River Region office. Join us December 13th from 5-7 PM at 101 Coliseum Boulevard in Montgomery.

Check out our flier for all the details of this holiday service project and make sure to follow our Facebook page at “MCBA Women’s Section.” We have a Facebook event page for this event where you can keep up with all the details and RSVP for the care basket assembly. If you have any questions about this project or to put your name on the donation pick up list, please email Ali Hawthorne at Alison.Hawthorne@beasleyallen.com.

As a reminder, membership invoices will be sent out in January. If any of your information needs to be updated, please email us at mcbawomen@gmail.com. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday shared by family and friends! As always, be kind.

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**The MCBA Women’s Section’s Christmas Clearinghouse Service Project**

Help those families who need it the most this holiday season!

The Women’s Section is assembling Care Baskets for the HandsOn River Region’s Christmas Clearinghouse Project. **Donations will be collected until December 12th.** Items can be dropped off with Ali Hawthorne at Beasley Allen, 272 Commerce Street, or with Suzanne Duffey at the MCBA Office on the 4th floor of the Montgomery County Courthouse. If you cannot drop off items, you may schedule a pick-up for December 12th by emailing Ali Hawthorne at Alison.Hawthorne@beasleyallen.com. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

Baskets will be assembled on **December 13th from 5-7 PM** at the HandsOn River Region office located at 101 Coliseum Boulevard in Montgomery. RSVP for the basket assembly on our Facebook page “MCBA Women’s Section” or by emailing mcbawomen@gmail.com.

**Care Basket Donation Suggestions:**
- Diapers, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, sponges, blankets, etc.

HandsOn's Christmas Clearinghouse is the River Regions' largest Christmas charitable giving program. Approximately 10,000 individuals in the River Region - including more than 8,000 children - are registered annually with the Christmas Clearinghouse. The Christmas Clearinghouse keeps families from being overlooked and makes sure that all donated resources are used wisely. Visit [http://www.handsonriverregion.org/christmas-clearing-house](http://www.handsonriverregion.org/christmas-clearing-house) to learn more about this project.
On any given night in the River Region, there are approximately 886 people that are homeless. Of those 886 people, there are over 108 homeless children sleeping in shelters, cars, or on the streets. Homelessness is a serious problem and sleeping outside in the cold is an unfortunate reality for many men, women, and children in our community. As we are now approaching the cold winter months, the Young Lawyers Section decided to participate in a blanket drive, raising warm and comforting blankets to be donated to the homeless in our area.

On Saturday, November 18, 2017, the Young Lawyers Section was honored to donate 120 blankets to the homeless. Our YLS officers met with a representative from the Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless where we were delighted to hand over boxes and boxes of thick, warm blankets. The Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless is an organization that provides support and resources to end homelessness in Montgomery and they will be delivering our donated blankets this month to all those in need. Thank you to everyone that participated in our blanket drive and for making this excellent service project happen. We could not have accomplished this without your help.

The Young Lawyers Section gives a special thank you to our service project partner, Baker Realtime Court Reporting! Baker Realtime was a big help to the YLS Blanket Drive and we are very grateful not only for their support, but also for their shared desire to reach out to those in our community that need our help. Thank you!

Pictured (left to right): MACH Representative Donavon McGuire, YLS Vice-President Brannan Reaves, YLS Secretary/Treasurer Elliott Lipinsky, YLS President Ali Hawthorne, Baker Realtime Project Partners Cornelia Baker and Taylor Boysen donating 120 blankets to MACH.
Oktoberfest Recap

The Young Lawyers Section had a great social at the Goat Haus Biergarten on October 19, 2017. The Goat Haus Biergarten is a charming and quaint establishment in downtown Montgomery off Clay Street. The Young Lawyers had a lot of fun ringing in the fall weather at this German-style venue with good vibes and great friends. We are appreciative of our sponsor, Baker Realtime Court Reporting, who made this social possible. We also want to thank the hospitable people at Goat Haus Biergarten who hosted more lawyers than they were probably comfortable with.

Be on the lookout for future emails announcing upcoming socials and service projects. We look forward to having you join us! Be on the lookout for future emails announcing upcoming socials and service projects. We look forward to having you join us!

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.
Our deepest sympathy is expressed to the families and friends of Kalia Spears Lane who passed away October 17, 2017. She was admitted to the Bar December 16, 1994.

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to the families and friends of Randolph Benjamin “Randy” Moore, III who passed away September 16, 2017. He was admitted to the Bar March 25, 1970.

Save The Date: Annual Meeting
January 18, 2018 | RSA Activity Center 201 Dexter Ave
Voting starts 11:30am (new board members and officers)
Lunch and program starts at noon

If you/your employer have not received your invoice for your membership dues by December 5th, please contact suzanneduffey@mc-ala.org and be sure we have the correct mailing address on file.

Stay tuned for the Distinguished Lawyer by Bobby Segall
The most distinguishable mustache since Hercule Poirot honors something about nearly every member of our bar and knows how to be funny without being mean. It is truly amazing and not to be missed.
General Counsel – Position Announcement
The Alabama State Bar is seeking candidates for the position of General Counsel of the Alabama State Bar. Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter explaining their interest and qualifications to erin@unlockyourlegend.com no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2018.

The Alabama State Bar is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, age, genetic or family medical history information, disability, protected veteran status, or any other legally protected basis, and will not be discriminated against because of their protected status. Applicants to and employees of this organization are protected under Federal law from discrimination on several bases.

Bench & Bar
This year’s Bench & Bar brought to you by the County Bar and Federal Bar had an amazing array of speakers, therefore a change to interact with Federal Judges at a lunch on Thursday and state court Judges at a coffee on Friday. Split between the Federal Courthouse and the County Courthouse. Where else can you receive 8 hours of free CLE credit from the likes of Judges Watkins, Moorer, Walker, Hardwick, Anderson, and Reed as well as the Attorney General, District Attorney, Sheriff, Police Chief, and Mayor, and a free lunch?
GOLD MEDALLION FIRMS
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Capell & Howard, PC
Faulkner Law Legal Clinics
The Anderson Law Firm
Sasser Sefton & Brown, PC
Holtsford Gilliland Higgins Hitson & Howard

SILVER MEDALLION FIRM
Shahid & Hosea LLC

BRONZE MEDALLION FIRM
Copeland, Franco, Screws & Gill, PA

MEDAL OF THE SAMARITAN
Evan Allen     Jeffrey C. Duffey     Kelly McTear
A. Brannon     Joana Ellis         LaKesha B. Shahid
Booth          Tim Gallagher       Royce Wadsworth
John W. Charles

2017 PRO BONO LEADERSHIP CORPS
John Bradley   Kaasha Griffin
Aigner Kolom   Sebrina Martin
Katie O’Mailia Kia Scott
Thank you to all of Our Sponsors!

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2018 Pro Bono Leadership Corps Application

The purpose of the PBLC is to provide young lawyers with the support and training necessary to develop a strong habit of pro bono service in practice.

Participant benefits include intensive training in various legal issues common to pro bono practice, ongoing mentorship and support from a Montgomery County Bar Foundation Board Member, and a $2,000.00 stipend in recognition of outstanding commitment to service.

The award year will run from January 15, 2018-December 31, 2018. The application deadline is December 22, 2017. Those selected for membership will be notified by January 3, 2018.

Applicants should submit materials (this packet, resume, & cover letter) to MCBF President Kelly McTear, via e-mail only, at kmctear@faulkner.edu.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Program Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-Admitted to Alabama State Bar</td>
<td>1-Accept 10 extended service pro bono referrals from the MVLP over the award year</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-In practice between 1-5 years</td>
<td>2-Volunteer at bi-weekly counsel and advice clinic at least 4 times over the award year</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Commitment to community service</td>
<td>3-Attend quarterly CLE’s on pro bono practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-Practice primarily in Montgomery County</td>
<td>4-Assist with MVLP Volunteer Lawyers Award Luncheon in October</td>
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<td>5-Submit all required materials, including resume, application, and cover letter</td>
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Verifications (initial each)

1. _______ I am admitted to practice law in the state of Alabama, and have been so licensed for at least one calendar year.

2. _______ If selected, I agree to accept at least 10 case referrals from the MVLP over the award year, volunteer at least 4 times for MVLP counsel and advice clinics, and attend quarterly CLE workshops on pro bono practice areas.

3. _______ If I am selected and fail to complete the requirements of the program, no stipend funds will be disbursed to me and any funds previously disbursed must be returned to the MVLP within 30 days of the end of the award year.

4. _______ The materials submitted along with this application are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:___________________________________________  Date:___________________________
Footnote 1
Yeah I’m doing that footnote thing again. You’re already sick of it? Me too.

Footnote 2
This is a required end of first paragraph of final President column sentences. Per Article XI Sec. 4 ¶ A(i)(d)(i). 3 of the MCBA bylaws.

Footnote 3
Laurel confirmed this was figurative.

Footnote 4
The Docket takes no stand on political races making this the only publication in the state not mentioning Schmoy Schmoore (name changed by censors).

Footnote 5
Laurel confirmed this was literal. Who doesn’t like John Charles? He has an awesome voice. Note to reader if he calls and says he has “been arrested”, hang up. He is asking for money for muscular dystrophy.

Footnote 6
Here is how I envision the conversation going: “So it’s called Ultimate Frisbee...No Joel I promise I didn’t make it up. Yeah I know it sounds like my last name, you played football in college so you would be a natural. I’m not messing with you, its a real thing. Practice is tomorrow at 2:30!”

Footnote 7

Footnote 8
The Beasley Allen CLE? I knew you would say that! It was still a good program if only I knew who to congratulate for co-hosting as President of the Federal Bar with Felicia.