Happy Thanksgiving! I treasure this time of year that begs us to pause from the busyness of our law practices to reflect and count our many blessings. We can all be thankful for the gift of life and each day we have. Everything else is icing on the cake. The fact that we have the opportunity to practice law, help others, and do this all in the same era together is a blessing of this life (i.e. part of the icing). I continue to witness great things that our Bar association can do when we partner together.

The MCBA’s 13th annual charity event was no exception! Thanks to your generosity and several gifted and brave attorneys in our Bar association showcasing their talents, we were able to raise over $30,000 to donate to our Montgomery Public Schools and the Montgomery County Volunteer Lawyers Program. Congratulations to magician Chris Baldwin for winning the talent show! (We are still trying to figure out how the playing card ended up in the fruit…opposing counsel be forewarned of Chris’s magic.) Pictures from the charity event and a list of all our sponsors are included on pages 15-20.

With only a little more than a month to go in the year, please make plans to attend our last two Bar events. The Bench and Bar conference will be November 29-30, 2018. On Thursday, November 29, we will have lunch with the federal judges and CLEs at the Frank M. Johnson U.S. Courthouse Complex. Then, on Friday, November 30, we will have coffee with the judges of Montgomery County at the Montgomery County Courthouse. See page 4 for more details and information on how to register.

Finally, our annual Holiday Gala will be on December 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Wynlakes. You and a guest are invited to mix and mingle with some of the finest lawyers and judges in town, enjoy some traditional holiday foods, and sip on a poinsettia, while listening to the holiday tunes from two of Montgomery’s favorite musicians, Jason Givens and Cameron Duboise. Santa may even make a special appearance and hand out some prizes for those on his ‘nice list’, so make sure to bring a donation for our holiday charities. Please consider bringing a new or gently used blanket to donate to the Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless, and/or a new stuffed animal for Child Protect.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming MCBA Bench and Bar and Holiday Gala!

Thankful for you,
Felicia Long
MCBA President
Calendar

NOVEMBER 29
Bench and Bar
12-5pm
Federal Courthouse, Jury Assembly Room

NOVEMBER 30
Coffee with the Judges
8am at Montgomery County Courthouse
Jury Assembly Room, 3rd floor

DECEMBER 3
Women’s Section- Service Project Assembly
5-7pm at HandsOn River Region
101 Coliseum Boulevard

DECEMBER 4
Construction Law Summit
Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel
Birmingham, AL

DECEMBER 6
Holiday Gala
6:00 pm at Wynlakes Country Club

DECEMBER 14
Mental Health CLE
9-11am at Montgomery County Courthouse
Jury Assembly Room, 3rd floor

JANUARY 17, 2019
MCBA Annual Meeting
11:45am at RSA Activity Center

Socials

December 6 | 6 pm
MCBA Holiday Gala
Wynlakes Country Club

Announcements

On November 9, 2018, longtime Montgomery District Judge Jimmy Pool was sworn in as a Circuit Judge, Tiffany McCord was sworn in as District Judge, and Gina Ishman was sworn in as Circuit Clerk in Montgomery County, AL.

COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OPENING:
Court Administrator at the Municipal Court of Atlanta. The Court Administrator job will be posted for 60 days. Here is a ink for applicants to apply: https://bit.ly/2QDhXn9
Notice to Montgomery County Bar Members

Any members of the MCBA who plans to run for Secretary/Treasurer or for one of the three positions on the Board of Directors for the 2019 term must submit a letter of intent to run no later than Wednesday December 17, 2018.

1. **The letter should be addressed to:**
   Larry Golston, MCBA Secretary/Treasurer
   Beasley Allen
   P.O. Box 4160
   Montgomery, AL 36103-4160

2. **A copy of the letter of intent with a short biography and picture must be sent to:**
   Suzanne B. Duffey, MCBA Executive Director
   P.O. Box 72
   Montgomery, AL 36101
The Bench & Bar -Conference-
November 29 -30, 2018
presented by the
Montgomery County Bar Association
and the Montgomery Chapter of the
Federal Bar Association

Thursday, Nov. 29
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Registration starts at 11:30 a.m.)
at the Federal Courthouse
1 Church Street, Montgomery, AL
Jury Assembly Room
• Lunch with the Judges will be provided
• Federal Judges Panel
• Hot Topic Updates
• Legislative Updates
• Ethics Presentation

Friday, Nov. 30
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
at the Montgomery County Courthouse
100 South Lawrence Street, Montgomery, AL
Jury Assembly Room
• Coffee with the Judges of
Montgomery County

Register by November 27

Register by calling the MCBA office at 265-4793
or email SuzanneDuffey@mc-ala.org

No charge for MCBA and Federal Bar members.
($50.00 for non-members.)

Speakers
Judge Keith Watkins
U.S. District Court for the Middle
District of Alabama
Presiding Judge

Honorable Roman Shaul
Alabama State Bar
General Counsel

Judge Johnny Hardwick
Montgomery County
Presiding Judge
YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

**Holiday Gala**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018
AT 6:00 IN THE EVENING
WYNLAKES GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
7900 WYNLAKES BOULEVARD

PLEASE BRING A NEW OR GENTLY USED BLANKET TO DONATE TO THE MID-ALABAMA COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS OR A NEW STUFFED ANIMAL FOR CHILD PROTECT.

RSVP BY DECEMBER 3RD TO
SUZANNEDUFFEY@MC-ALA.ORG
OR 334-265-4793

Coffee With the Judges
Sponsored by Freedom Reporting

Friday, November 30
8am | Montgomery County Courthouse
Jury Assembly Room, 3rf floor
Criminal Defense Attorneys, Public Defenders, and Prosecutors are strongly encouraged to attend.

Reminder: Please don’t forget to bring your State Bar ID.
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‘Tis the season for giving! The Women’s Section encourages you and your firm to start the holiday season off right by donating your efforts to our Christmas Clearinghouse Service Project.

The Women’s Section is assembling Care Baskets for the HandsOn River Region’s Christmas Clearinghouse Project. HandsOn’s Christmas Clearinghouse is the River Regions’ largest holiday 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. Families in need are matched with families and groups (like the Women’s Section!) that want to help. 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.

Donations will be accepted from all MCBA members until December 3rd.

DONATION DROP-OFFS:
Women’s Section President Effie Hawthorne at the Home Builders Licensure Board
445 Herron Street in Montgomery
OR
Suzanne Duffey at the MCBA Office
4th Floor, Montgomery County Courthouse

If you cannot drop off your donation items, please email mcbawomen@gmail.com to schedule a pick-up. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

CARE BASKET DONATION SUGGESTIONS:
Sponges/Cleaning Supplies, Personal Hygiene Products, Paper Towels/Toilet Paper, Diapers/Depends (all sizes) Dish Soap/Bath Soap/Hand Soap/Laundry Detergent, Blankets/Pillows/Towels Items may be donated in a laundry basket or separately.

ASSEMBLY SERVICE PROJECT DATE:
Baskets will be assembled on December 3rd from 5-7 PM at the HandsOn River Region’s office located at 101 Coliseum Boulevard in Montgomery. RSVP for our basket assembly on our Facebook page “MCBA Women’s Section” or by emailing us at mcbawomen@gmail.com.

Please see our flyer in this edition of The Docket for more information. If you would like a copy of the flyer to share with your office or others, please email us at mcbawomen@gmail.com.

We are still offering a discounted dues rate of $15 for the remainder of 2018. If you are a member of the MCBA and wish to join the section, please email us at mcbawomen@gmail.com for an application.

Effie Hawthorne, President
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 accepted from all MCBA members until December 3rd.** Items can be dropped off with Women’s Section President Effie Hawthorne at 445 Herron Street in Montgomery OR with Suzanne Duffey at the MCBA office on the 4th Floor of the Montgomery County Courthouse. If you cannot drop off your donation items, please email mcbawomen@gmail.com to schedule a pick-up. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

Baskets will be assembled on **December 3rd from 5-7 PM** at the HandsOn River Region’s office located at 101 Coliseum Boulevard in Montgomery. RSVP for our basket assembly on our Facebook page “MCBA Women’s Section” or by emailing us at mcbawomen@gmail.com.

**Care Basket Donation Suggestions:**
- Sponges/Cleaning Supplies, Personal Hygiene Products, Paper Towels/Toilet Paper, Diapers/Depends (all sizes)
- Dish Soap/Bath Soap/Hand Soap/Laundry Detergent, Blankets/Pillows/Towels

*Items may be donated in a laundry basket or separately.*

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.
TACO TUESDAY SOCIAL AND ELECTION

The YLS had a great turnout at our Taco Tuesday Social at Jalapeños in the Alley Downtown. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the margaritas, food, and fellowship! We are also excited to announce our new YLS Officers and Board of Directors. Join me in congratulating the following individuals who will take office in January of 2019:

President - Brannan Reaves
Vice President - Elliot Lipinsky
Secretary/Treasurer - Charlie Hawthorne
Past President - Ali Hawthorne
Board of Directors - Landon Eley, Warner Hornsby, Miland Simpler, Effie Hawthorne, and Chris Richard

SERVING THE COMMUNITY — BLANKETS FOR THE HOMELESS

The YLS is excited to announce that it will be participating in another blanket drive for the homeless. Last year, the YLS was proud to have donated 120 blankets to the Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless and we would like to exceed that number this year! 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 to all those in need this winter. Please join us in collecting blankets again this year!

We will be collecting new and gently used blankets until December 7, 2018. If you would like to donate a blanket or make a financial donation in support of this great cause, please contact the YLS President, Ali Hawthorne, at alison.hawthorne@beasleyallen.com to arrange for your donation to be picked up. Thank you in advance for joining us in this wonderful

Ali Hawthorne, President

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.
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, the President-elect of the Alabama State Bar, Christy Crow. Christy has been a career-long advocate for pro bono legal assistance and we were so honored to have her inspirational words and works. Elsewhere in this docket is 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!

The MCBA Charity event, “Montgomery’s Got Talent” did not disappoint. The Warehouse came alive with performances by our fellow colleagues and local MPS students providing a night full of entertainment, music and laughs. Local restaurants from all over the city provided culinary excellence in the form of appetizers we are so grateful for your donation and contributions! Our most sincere gratitude goes to the MCBA for choosing the MVLP as this year’s partial beneficiary for their annual charity event, along with MPS. The MCBA, firms and individuals who were the event sponsors, and all of those who worked tirelessly to make Montgomery’s Got Talent one for the memory banks, we are forever grateful for your continued support of the MVLP and for MPS.

The 2nd annual Divorce clinic brought over approximately 130 applicants to the Jury Assembly Room for advice and counsel on divorce and post-divorce matters. This is the largest clinic the MVLP has ever had in the history of the program and we are so thankful to our volunteers, Roianne Conner, Preston Presley, Mickey McDermott, Royce Wadsworth, Jamie Ratliff, Kelli McDaniel, Brian Mann, Autumn Caudell, Brannon Booth, Tonya Dupree, Charles Calloway, and Alyssa Hawkins, without the help of these selfless volunteers we would probably still be seeing clients! Sharing their expertise, especially in the specialized field of family law provided so many Montgomery citizens peace of mind regarding their situations. We commend you and thank you!

Speaking of our clinics, a special thank you is in order for those selfless volunteers who helped clients at clinics during October and November: John Charles, David Weston, McDowell Crook, Royce Wadsworth, Brannon Booth, Charles Calloway, Kristine Jones. 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 please to announce we will be having our annual CLE, free to all MVLP volunteers, on December 11th at Jones School of Law. The CLE will feature subjects on Bankruptcy 101, Probate matters and introduce our District Court Help Desk and provide training on District Court matters for helping low-income residents of Montgomery County. If you are interested in participating, please see attached a sign up form that can be emailed to lcrawford@montgomeryvlp.org or mailed to the MVLP, P. O. Box 644, Montgomery Alabama 36101.

We are also accepting applications for the 2019 Leadership Corps Initiative. Our 2018 class proved to be wildly successful again this year, as they opened 43 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@faulkner.edu) no later than December 22, 2018.

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!
2019 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 14, 2019-December 31, 2019. The application deadline is December 21, 2018. Those selected for membership will be notified by January 4, 2019.

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

---

**Eligibility**

1-Admitted to Alabama State Bar
2-In practice between 1-5 years
3-Commitment to community service
4-Practice primarily in Montgomery County
5-Submit all required materials, including resume, application, and cover letter

**Program Requirements**

1-Accept 10 extended service pro bono referrals from the MVLP over the award year
2-Volunteer at counsel and advice clinic at least 6 times over the award year
3-Volunteer at District Court Help Desk at least 4 times over the award year
4-Assist with MVLP Volunteer Lawyers Award Luncheon in October

---

**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: ___________________________
## Contact Information

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MVLP Volunteer: Yes ______ or No ________

ASB Number: [Blank]

*Non-MVL volunteers, the CLE cost is $50.00

Please return to Laurel Crawford, lcrawford@montgomeryvlp.org or mail to P. O. Box 644, Montgomery, Alabama 36101
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December 4, 2018
Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel
Birmingham, Alabama

Early registration fees through November 3 are $355. Late registration fee after November 3 is $405. Registration at the door December 4 is $445. To register, email Beacon.Programs@aol.com.
Thank you to our sponsors!

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ITTA BENA

VINTAGE YEAR

VINTAGE CAFE CLOVERDALE

LITTLE DONKEY MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Sinclair's
MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Bar Commissioners

FROM: Phillip W. McCallum, Executive Director

RE: Board Meeting Summary Notes – October 26, 2018

DATE: November 12, 2018

1. Administrative - Following the invocation by Commissioner LaBella Alvis and roll call, the minutes of the September 14, 2018 meeting were approved.


3. President’s Report - President Irby updated the commission on engagements in which he has represented the Alabama State Bar since the last commission meeting, including the Bar Leadership Summit, Red Mass and Opening of Court, the Southern Conference of Bar Presidents’ meeting in New Orleans, speaking to local bar associations, the Fall Admission Ceremony, lunch with the Supreme Court of Alabama and a Pro Bono Recognition Ceremony held at the Judicial Building. President Irby also informed the commission of upcoming speaking engagements and encouraged commissioners to contact him so that the state bar can interface with local bar associations and other groups.

President Irby informed the commission that he has appointed R. Brian Smith of Livingston and Commissioner Jeffery C. Duffey of Montgomery to serve on the Indigent Defense Review Panel. He also informed the commission that the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Law Foundation had voted to relocate the Alabama Law Foundation from the Alabama State Bar building and details were being finalized on the departure.

President Irby recognized Commissioners Shepard, Perry and Garner as executive council members of the Solo and Small Firm Section to make a special presentation. Commissioner Shepard informed the commission that the section had been considering
the idea of creating an annual service award. He said the section had overwhelmingly selected Laura Calloway, Director of External Relations, to receive the inaugural award. Mrs. Calloway was presented the award and thanked the section officers for the recognition.

4. **Secretary/Executive Director’s Report** - Secretary/Executive Director McCallum presented the Executive Director’s MVP award to Colonel Terry Travis of Montgomery. Col. Travis was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1982. He practiced law in several capacities and served in the Alabama National Guard. Col. Travis served multiple tours of duty in the Middle East and retired as Staff Judge Advocate for the Alabama National Guard. Mr. McCallum presented Col. Travis with a token of appreciation on behalf of the commission. Col. Travis, joined by his wife, Rosemary, and several family members thanked the commission for the recognition.

Mr. McCallum introduced Joycelyn Hill as the new administrative assistant for the Alabama Lawyers Assistance Program. He also informed the commission that the Examiners of Public Accounts had completed its audit of the Alabama State Bar and that commissioners should have received a copy of the final report. He asked the commission if there were any questions related to the audit report. There were none.

He also informed the commission that the bar building is a drop-off location for supplies needed in the recovery efforts after Hurricane Michael hit portions of Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Mr. McCallum recognized Commissioner Patel for his efforts in collecting and delivering supplies to those affected by the hurricane. Mr. McCallum also requested that the commission consider making a monetary donation to the State of Florida to the recovery efforts as a show of support from the Alabama State Bar.

Commissioner Bob Methvin made a motion to approve a monetary donation from the Alabama State Bar to the State of Florida for the recovery efforts for those affected by Hurricane Michael. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

5. **Office of General Counsel Report** - General Counsel Roman Shaul informed the commission that three of four lawsuits in which the Alabama State Bar was a party have been resolved in favor of the bar. He also informed the commission that his office is working to enhance technology in the office and electronically transmit files for hearings. He also informed the commission that video conferencing equipment has been installed in the hearing room so that witnesses may be questioned without being physically present at the hearing.

6. **Financial Report** - Director of Finance Merinda Hall shared the fiscal year-end financial report and informed the commission that the State Treasury and Alabama State Bar checking accounts ended with a surplus of approximately $500,000. She reported that those funds had seen a 2.7% annual growth rate and that investment balances had also increased over the prior year.
Lee Johnsey, chair of the Finance & Audit Committee, reminded the commission that the FY2020 budget had been presented at its last meeting and that the commission was informed at that time that there may be changes before the final proposal was made. Mr. Johnsey informed the commission that there were no changes to the proposal that was previously presented and that the proposal in the meeting materials represented the FY2020 budget as proposed by the Finance & Audit Committee. The proposal is $6.85 million dollars, a reduction of 1.7% from the FY2019 budget. The budget for FY2020 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

7. **Lawyer Incubator Task Force Report** - Dorman Walker, chair of the Lawyer Incubator Task Force presented the recommendations of the task force. Specifically, Mr. Walker informed the commission that the recommendation of the task force is to create a lawyer incubator task force in Alabama. He said that the next step would be to determine how the incubator would be structured, who would be the stakeholders, and how the program would be funded and staffed. President Irby thanked Mr. Walker for his hard work and the hard work of the task force and said that the Executive Council would continue to evaluate the recommendations of the task force and return to the commission with a recommendation.

8. **Lawyer Advertising/Court Funding Report** - Michael Upchurch, chair of the Lawyer Advertising Subcommittee of the Disciplinary Rules & Enforcement Committee, reported to the commission that the subcommittee is still in the process of reviewing lawyer advertising rules. He said that he anticipates this review process to take the remainder of the bar year, as the subcommittee is looking at what other states are doing and trying to figure out the best way to address not only lawyer advertising, but also other issues related to lawyer communication.

Mr. Upchurch also briefed the commission on the issue of court funding, and specifically addressed how members of the bar can assist in addressing the issue. Mr. Upchurch informed the commission that the best approach was probably for the bar to work with the Chief Justice and the Administrative Office of Courts on assembling an accurate set of numbers, educating lawyers on the numbers and rationale for them, and having lawyers talk to their legislators to educate the legislators on the issue and urge them to make adequate court funding a legislative priority.

9. **Leadership Forum Report** - Commissioner Parker reported to the commission that the decision was made that there would not be a Leadership Forum class this year. Instead, the bar will take a year to review the program with a focus on the future of the program and how to keep alumni engaged. Mr. Parker informed the commission that over the next several months, the bar will hold several social events to connect classes of the Leadership Forum and solicit input from alumni as to how to keep the program current and vibrant.
10. **Pro Bono Month Celebration Update** - Tim Gallagher, chair of the Pro Bono Celebration Task Force, introduced the law students who had participated in pro bono service and pro bono celebration activities this year. The following students were introduced and asked to stand and be recognized by the commission: Jeremy “JR” Thomas, Cumberland School of Law; Chandler Duncan, Cumberland School of Law; Lauren James, Faulkner University Jones School of Law and QuiAndria James, Faulkner University Jones School of Law.

Mr. Gallagher and Linda Lund, director of the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program, presented a token of appreciation to the past chairs of the Pro Bono Celebration Task Force. Those in attendance to receive the recognition were Commissioner Jimbo Terrell, Commissioner Jeanne Rasco, Cassandra Adams, Commissioner Flynn Mozingo, President-elect Christy Crow, Commissioner Jana Garner, and Tim Gallagher. Past president Alyce Spruell and Phil Mitchell were not in attendance, but were recognized for their service as past chair of the Pro Bono Celebration Task Force.

11. **Government Relations Liaison Committee Report** - Vice President Taze Shepard and Commissioner Mike Ermert, co-chairs of the Government Relations Liaison Committee, reported to the commission that the committee has developed a set of recommendations for the commission to consider. Mr. Shepard said that the committee believes implementation of these recommendations will strengthen the bar’s role in government relations. The recommendations are as follows: (1) the Alabama State Bar, in conjunction with the Circuit and District Judges Association, should hold an annual dinner for members of the Judiciary Committees of the Alabama House of Representatives and Alabama State Senate; (2) the Alabama State Bar should request that sections and committees who deal with substantive areas of law provide at least two subject matter experts during the legislative session to review legislative germane to the area(s) of law of the section or committee; (3) any appointment to the Government Relations Liaison Committee should be made with consideration given for individuals with actual experience with state government and those who are readily available to work with the bar’s legislative counsel; and (4) the Alabama State Bar should hold an annual training session on government relations so that members may more effectively engage with the legislature.

Mr. Ermert informed the commission that all seats in the state legislature are up for election in November. He also informed the commission that there will be many first-time legislators. Mr. Ermert urged the commissioners to make a call to the legislators in their area immediately after the election to congratulate them and to offer assistance as subject matter experts on issues that may come before them as legislators.

12. **Local Bar Reports** - President Irby recognized Commissioner Erskine Funderburg (30th Judicial Circuit), Commissioner Cliff Mendheim (20th Judicial Circuit) and Commissioner Fred Helmsing (13th Judicial Circuit) to give local bar reports.
First, Commissioner Funderburg reported there are approximately 35 active practicing attorneys in his circuit and that there is great comradery among the attorneys. He also recognized a program called Lighten the Load, which was started by Jennifer Sellers and Laurie Henderson. The program collects luggage and provides it to foster children so they can carry their belongings from one foster placement to the next. Commissioner Funderburg reported so far 300 pieces of luggage have been donated to the program in St. Clair County.

Next, Commissioner Cliff Mendheim reported that, for the most part, Hurricane Michael spared the area in his circuit, but that there was some substantial damage in the eastern portion of Houston County. He thanked those who have participated in the recovery efforts and encouraged commissioners to continue to support those efforts.

Finally, Commissioner Fred Helmsing reported to the commission that in 2019, the Mobile Bar Association will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding. He informed the commission that the Mobile Bar Association is the eleventh oldest bar association in the country. A special celebration is being planned for March 19, 2019, and Commissioner Helmsing said that he would provide additional details as the date approaches and he encouraged all commissioners to participate in the festivities.

13. **Consideration of Revised Travel Policy** - President Irby informed the commission that the revised Alabama State Bar Travel Policy is included in the meeting materials. The revised policy was a discussion item in a previous meeting. The travel policy was approved.

14. **Consideration of Amendments to Bylaws of the Non-Resident Members Section** - President Irby informed the commission that the proposed amendments to the bylaws of the Non-Resident Members Section were included in the meeting materials. The proposed amendments to the bylaws were a discussion item in a previous meeting. The amendments to the bylaws were approved by voice vote.
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