This is my last column as president of the Montgomery County Bar Association, and as I prepare to pass the baton, I would like to take a moment to reflect and thank you—the members of our great association—for allowing me to serve as your MCBA President. I am sincerely grateful and thankful to the MCBA Officers and Board of Directors for all their work and dedication in navigating the association through the unchartered water that was 2020. To say that the past year was challenging would be an understatement.

When I became the MCBA President in January 2020, I announced that I would like to focus on three primary areas: (1) lawyer wellness; (2) the creation of an MCBA mentoring program; and (3) using technology to help our members improve their respective legal practices. With the help of a very talented team of people, we accomplished what we set out to do. We started the task of tackling the goals referenced above when, on February 29, 2020, MCBA had our inaugural Race Judicata 5k and 10k run. The event was a success, and MCBA was able to raise money for two charitable organizations: the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program and Mercy House.

No one could have anticipated that a few short weeks later, by March 2020, we would be facing a global pandemic making an emphasis on attorney wellness, mentorship, and the use of technology even more important. In May we dedicated the entire month to lawyer wellness by creating our MCBA Wellness Challenge. The Wellness Challenge involved daily tasks throughout the month designated to improving our mental and physical well-being and to same reducing stress and
anxiety. Also, despite COVID-19, we launched the MCBA’s first mentoring program. I would like to thank all the judges in the 15th Judicial Circuit for agreeing to help make this program a success as we move forward into 2021 and beyond.

In addition, throughout this year, MCBA offered numerous learning opportunities and occasions for our legal community to come together and share our collective wisdom and insight. For example, this year MCBA provided 18 hours of virtual (and free) CLE. This includes our annual Bench and Bar Conference where we kept our commitment to provide our members with law and technology related information by providing presenters that taught on the following topics: “Using Technology to Win,” Remote Depositions and Trials,” “Practicing in a Virtual World,” and “Cybersecurity for Attorneys.” I would like to personally thank each CLE presenter that taught this year for your help in making the year a success.

I would like to also thank our judiciary (especially the justices of the Supreme Court of Alabama, the judges of the 15th Judicial Circuit, and the judges of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama) for their hard work in handling the COVID-19 crisis. My heartfelt gratitude and appreciation also go to my law firm, Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C., for its support of me and MCBA this year. I also want to offer special thanks to Executive Director Suzanne Duffey for her continued service and leadership to our bar association and to Matthew Ward for his tireless efforts and services to the MCBA over the course of the past year. Last, but not least, I want to thank and send warmest regards to my family for all their support and encouragement. Congratulations to incoming MCBA President Ashley Penhale, President-Elect Tim Gallagher, and Secretary/Treasurer Ali Hawthorne. I look forward to serving with the three of you next year, and I know that MCBA is in great hands for the foreseeable future.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve.

-Larry.
ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

So many things have changed with COVID-19, and MCBA’s Annual Meeting is no exception. This year, to keep everyone safe, our Annual Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. Each MCBA member will receive an e-mail with an invitation to register for the Zoom meeting. After registering, you will receive a link to join the meeting. Bryan Morgan has graciously agreed to moderate the Annual Meeting and help us navigate this virtual event.

The Annual Meeting will be **Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 12:00 P.M.**

The agenda will be the same as last year, including:

- Recognition of Deceased Attorneys
- Report of the Government Lawyers’ Section
- Report of the Women’s Section
- Report of the Young Lawyer’s Section
- Report of the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program
- Recognition of Supporters of 2020 Charity Event: *Race Judicata*
- MCBA Volunteer of the Year Award
- MCBA Service and Achievement Award
- Recognition of Attorneys Practicing 50 years
- Vote to Accept by Acclamation the 2021 MCBA Board of Directors
- Induction and Remarks of 2021 MCBA President Ashley Penhale

This year’s election will also be different. The MCBA Bylaws provide that, annually, the immediate past Vice-President assumes the Office of President and the immediate past Secretary/Treasurer assumes the Office of Vice-President. The only elections for 2021 is the Office of Secretary/Treasurer and three At-Large seats on MCBA’s Board of Directors. Only one MCBA member qualified to run the Office of Secretary/Treasurer—Ali Hawthorne—and only three MCBA members qualified to run for the three At-Large seats—Aigner Kolom, Bryan Morgan, and Stewart Vance. Since there will be no contested elections, the Board of Directors voted to accept these members by acclamation to be approved at the Annual Meeting. The At-Large seat currently occupied by Ali Hawthorne has one year left in the term and will be filled by the MCBA Board of Directors at its first 2021 Board Meeting.

Please [join us](#) for MCBA’s 2021 Annual Meeting!
CANDIDATE FOR MCBA’S SECRETARY/TREASURER

Ali Hawthorne

Ali Hawthorne is a Principal at Beasley Allen. She joined the firm in 2010 as an attorney in the Consumer Fraud and Commercial Litigation Section and has focused her practice primarily on complex litigation on a national level. Most recently, she has been involved in several different complex litigations in multiple states that seek to recover money on behalf of the states that paid for pharmaceutical products and devices as a result of fraudulent and deceptive acts against the states. Additionally, Ali has been involved in class action litigation involving consumer fraud in the health care and cosmetics industries along with qui tam litigation under the False Claims Act.

Ali is admitted to practice law in all courts in the State of Alabama and Georgia. She received an AV Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbell. She was selected as the Beasley Allen Lawyer of the Year for the Fraud Section in 2014 and 2015 and was named to the 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 Super Lawyers “Rising Stars” lists. Ali was also selected for the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum Class 13 (2017-2018) and continues to serve on the Leadership Forum Alumni Section.

Ali has served on the Board for the Montgomery County Bar Association since 2019. She also served as the President for the Montgomery County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section from 2016-2018, after having served on the Board of Directors since 2012, and on the Board of Directors for the Women’s Section for many years. Ali also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Montgomery County Association for Justice and the Montgomery County Bar Foundation. Additionally, Ali is a current or former member of the Alabama Association for Justice, ALAJ Emerging Leaders, American Association for Justice, the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program, the Alabama and Georgia State Bars, the Alabama State Bar Women’s Section, and is in the Hugh Maddox American Inn of Court.
CANDIDATES FOR MCBA’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AIGNER KOLOM

Aigner Kolom is an associate attorney at Beasley Allen Law Firm in the firm’s Mass Torts Section, which focuses on cases of injuries related to bone cement, proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), IVC filters, opioids, and other pharmaceutical products. Aigner attended Faulkner University’s Thomas Goode Jones School of Law, graduating summa cum laude in 2015.

Aigner is a member of the Alabama State Bar, Alabama State Bar Young Lawyers Section, Alabama State Bar Women’s Section, and the Montgomery County Bar Association, where she serves as President of the Women’s Section. Aigner also serves as Treasurer of the Alabama Lawyers Association and Secretary of the Capital City Bar Association. Recently, Aigner was selected by Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed to serve on the Mayor’s Young Professional Council. Additionally, Aigner serves on the Board of Directors for Common Ground Ministry and is a Provisional Member of the Junior League of Montgomery.
CANDIDATES FOR MCBA’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bryan Morgan

Bryan Morgan is the Director of Career Development at Thomas Goode Jones School of Law at Faulkner University. He retired as the State Judge Advocate for the Alabama National Guard in 2012 after 34 years of part-time and full-time military service. Bryan is from Birmingham and attended Banks High School, the University of Alabama, and Cumberland School of Law. He previously worked for the State of Alabama in the Governor’s Office and with the Alabama District Attorneys. His wife, Terrie, is an assistant attorney general with the State of Alabama Department of Education. They live in Prattville where he is a member of the Prattville Lions Club. They attend East Memorial Baptist Church and enjoy fishing together at Lake Mitchell and the Gulf Coast.

Stewart Vance

Stewart E. Vance is the founder & senior partner of The Vance Law Firm, P.C. Stewart has lived and operated his firm in Montgomery since 2001. He is active with several local non-profit organizations, including the Montgomery Area Food Bank, That’s My Child, Dream Court, MEOW (Music Education On Wheels), MAIN Art-R-We Productions, and has served on the boards of several. Stewart has also served on the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce President’s Counsel, of which his firm has been a proud member for many years. Stewart and his wife, Piper, are very active in our local community and are the proud parents of daughters Sarah Haden, Townsend, Sailor, and Georgia.
MCBA ANNUAL DUES

MCBA Annual Dues are due and payable on or before December 31, 2020.

The Annual Dues for each membership class are as follows:

- Active Membership (licensed to practice over 2 years) $125.00
- Active Membership (licensed to practice less than 2 years) $85.00
- Honorary Membership $0.00
- Retired Membership $25.00
- Military Membership $85.00
- Auxiliary Membership $85.00
- Government Attorney Membership $105.00
- Law Student Membership $25.00
- Legal Assistant Membership $65.00

Annual Dues may be paid at www.mcbar.org or by mail to:

Suzanne Duffey, Executive Director
Montgomery County Bar Association
Post Office Box 72
Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0072

For additional information, please contact Suzanne Duffey at (334) 265-4793.
50 YEAR HONOREES
of the
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JAMES DOUGLAS MCELVY
WILLIAM KELLEY MARTIN
MARVIN HARRY CAMPBELL
SHIRLEY CRAWFORD DORROUGH
LARRY TATUM MENEFEE
BILLY LENNARD CARTER
ROBERT DAVID SEGALL

In Memoriam:
MCBA MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2020

CLINTON CHADWELL CARTER
ROIANNE HOULTON CONNER
PAUL WHITING COPELAND
ORVILLE LEE HAMILTON III
HON. ALVA HUGH MADDOX
HON. MARK GONZALO MONTIEL
HENRY WINSTON PIRTL, SR.
BENJAMIN ERWIN POOLE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

JONES SCHOOL OF LAW AWARDS 2019–2020
MOST OUTSTANDING FIRST YEAR STUDENT

Every year, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law presents its Most Outstanding First Year Student Award to the first-year student considered most outstanding based upon the student’s cumulative GPA, professional character, and contributions to the law school. It is presented in honor of John M. Patterson, former governor and attorney general of Alabama and retired judge of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.

On December 9, 2020, Soren A. Geiger was named as the recipient of its 2019–2020 Most Outstanding First Year Student Award. Soren, a native of Montgomery, was on the Dean’s List both semesters of his first year in law school and wrote multiple best papers in his classes. He is now an editor of the Faulkner Law Review, a Dean’s Fellow, and a member of the law school’s National Moot Court Competition team.

JONES SCHOOL OF LAW GRADUATES & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS

Thomas Goode Jones School of Law graduates and students are readily available for Alabama lawyers to interview for any open Clerk or Associate positions.

For more information, contact Bryan Morgan, Director of Career Development, at (334) 386-7905 or bmorgan@faulkner.edu.
Several MCBA members have recently been named 2020 Mid-South Super Lawyers. Only the top 5 percent of lawyers in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee are named Mid-South Super Lawyers. No more than 2.5 percent of lawyers in these states are selected as Rising Stars, who must be 40 years old or younger or have been in practice for 10 or fewer years. Published by Thomson Reuters, Super Lawyers determines its rankings through independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations. The Mid-South Super Lawyers and Rising Stars lists are published in *Mid-South Super Lawyers Magazine* and in supplements in various regional publications, as well as distributed to attorneys and ABA-accredited law school libraries.

Sasser, Sefton & Brown, P.C., is pleased to announce three lawyers have been named 2020 Mid-South Super Lawyers or Rising Stars:

- **Bowdy J. Brown**
  (Creditor/Debtor Rights)

- **Patrick L.W. Sefton**
  (Banking Law)

- **William R. Cunningham**
  (Rising Stars - Real Estate)

Additionally, William R. Blanchard and Jeffery C. Duffey were recently named 2020 Mid-South Super Lawyers for Criminal Defense.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRADLEY ARANT NAMED TO LAW360’S 2020 PRACTICE GROUPS OF THE YEAR

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP is pleased to announce that the firm’s Construction Practice Group was named among Law360’s 2020 Practice Groups of the Year, one of only five firms in the nation to receive this honor. Law360’s annual Practice Group of the Year awards honor law firm practice groups that have accomplished the most significant litigation wins or deals over the past year. This year’s honorees were selected from more than 800 submissions. Bradley was named the “Law Firm of the Year” for Construction Law in the 2020 edition of U.S. News & World Report – Best Lawyers Best Law Firms.

MCBA ATTORNEY AWARDED 2020 “CHAD STEWART AWARD”

LaBarron Boone of Beasley Allen was awarded the 2020 “Chad Stewart Award.” This honor was created in memory of Beasley Allen lawyer Chad Stewart, who passed away unexpectedly in 2014 at the very young age of 41. The firm established the award to honor Chad’s spirit of service to God, his family, and the practice of law in the task of “helping those who need it most.” Each year, the firm recognizes one of its lawyers who best exemplifies those qualities Chad demonstrated in his life and his law practice. You can read more here.
ALABAMA STATE BAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

About the Bar:
The Alabama State Bar (ASB) is the regulatory authority for the legal profession in Alabama with over 18,000 attorney members and approximately 35 employees. The Board of Bar Commissioners (BBC) is the governing and policy-making body of the ASB. The Executive Director is hired by and reports to the BBC. The ASB is dedicated to promoting the professional responsibility and competence of its members, improving the administration of justice and increasing the public understanding of and respect for the law.

Job Description:
The executive director is responsible for leading, managing and executing the affairs of the ASB in accordance with statutory and regulatory authority, ASB policies and procedures, and the directive of the BBC, as well as ensuring that the ASB’s activities are in keeping with its strategic direction. The executive director provides leadership, vision and oversight for the ASB.

Features:
The position offers a number of unique features and opportunities. The Executive Director will be leading an experienced and accomplished staff of qualified professionals. He / She will develop working relationships with attorneys, judges and elected officials. The position provides the opportunity to be published regularly to over 18,000 readers as well as offering frequent speaking opportunities. The Executive Director also will work with other bar executives across the country. The position offers an attractive compensation and benefits package.

Qualifications:
A college degree is required. Preferred applicants will possess a combination of relevant financial, governmental, legal and human resources experience. Applicants should also possess organizational skills including issue management, strategic planning, budgeting and financial oversight and be able to communicate effectively. Other qualifications include an understanding of technology, social media and the impact of both on the legal profession and an ability to establish and maintain positive working relationships and teamwork, both internally and externally. If hired, successful applicant must be willing to relocate to Alabama.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities:
The executive director will work closely with ASB leadership to assist them in formulating, implementing, and managing special projects and initiatives. Ensure that competent and qualified staff are in place to carry out the mission, functions and duties of the ASB. Ensure that all levels of the ASB staff consistently produce high quality work product while routinely seeking to improve the processes, programs and efforts of the ASB. Work with ASB General Counsel and other designated staff to execute legal documents. Maintain the ongoing fiscal integrity of the ASB. Demonstrate a recognition of the value of, commitment to and intention about diversity,
equity and inclusiveness in the workplace and the legal profession. Oversee ASB leaders and staff in developing appropriate contact and communication with members, media and community. Manage the effective interaction of the ASB with the judicial, legislative and executive branches of state government, other bar associations and law schools. Serve as a representative of the ASB with peer groups and other professional groups related to the legal profession. Maintain knowledge of emerging issues impacting the mission and goals of the ASB, such as the evolution of the profession and the practice of law, best practices in legal organizations as well as current and future challenges impacting the ASB and its members and systematically communicate such knowledge to leadership and ASB staff. All other duties and activities as directed by the BBC.

**Travel:**
Occasional travel, both within and outside the state of Alabama, will be required.

**Application Process:**
All cover letters, resumes, and references should be emailed to Janet Eyster at Janet@onboardsearch.com No telephone calls please.

Cover letters and resumes should include a list and short description of representative projects demonstrating the applicant’s executive and management experience or other preferred qualifications. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

**Application Deadline: January 15, 2021**
We're excited to welcome our members to the new MCBA website built from the ground up with you in mind! We are ecstatic with the results, and we think you will be, too. If you haven't already, please visit the site and log into your profile to see all the new options available to our members.

For more information, please contact Suzanne Duffey at (334) 265-4793.
ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

The Docket, the official publication of the Montgomery County Bar Association, Inc., is published six times a year.

MCBA is happy to offer its vendors and sponsors a variety of advertising opportunities that reach hundreds of attorneys and legal professionals across the Montgomery area. There is no better way to advertise or share with the legal community in Montgomery than MCBA.

MCBA ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE DOCKET

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<th>1-Ad Package</th>
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- All advertisements are subject to approval by MCBA’s Board of Directors.
- All advertisements must be paid in advance.
- All payments for advertisements must be submitted to MCBA’s physical location.
- Please contact MCBA for any questions or additional information.

For more information, click here to visit the Advertising page on our website.