Fall is right around the corner, which means that the MCBA Annual Holiday Gala and the MCBA Annual Charity Event are not too far away. Both of these events have always been very important to MCBA, and this year we have some very exciting changes coming your way.

The biggest news, however, is that we will be combining both events into one fantastic evening of delicious food, desserts, drinks, and much-needed fellowship enjoyed in the beautiful home and gardens of Amy and Tom Methvin on December 14, 2023. We are pleased to be able to offer the Holiday Gala once again to our members as a way to close out the year and say thank you for your continuous participation and support of our MCBA. We also wanted to provide more of our members with the opportunity to take part in our Charity Event, so there is no better way to do that than hosting the fantastic events together.

As part of this year’s charity efforts, MCBA will be hosting a raffle at the Holiday Gala & Charity Event. Everyone will have an opportunity to tour around to view the items, purchase tickets, and hopefully leave with a wonderful piece of art, hunting experience with our local judges, or a variety of other items that will be raffled off. As part of the Charity Event, members may also make a monetary donation when submitting their RSVP for the evening. Unlike in years past, where we have asked every guest of the Holiday Gala to bring specific donations, this year we are saving you a stop and hopefully making your generous donations much more convenient through our online RSVP and donation option.
All proceeds to this year’s Charity Event will go to both the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program and Flatline Church at Chisolm. Both of these amazing beneficiaries follow suit with our profession’s mantra “lawyers render service.” The Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program (“MVLP”), who is currently celebrating its tenth anniversary, provides pro bono civil legal assistance to low-income individuals in Montgomery County who may otherwise be unable to retain counsel. Additionally, Flatline Church at Chisholm has served our community in ways that we can never repay them. Their mission is to seek the lost, strengthen the weak, and serve the poor, and that is exactly what they have done for our community. MCBA is excited to have both of these organizations as this year’s beneficiaries because, together, the MVLP and Flatline have found a way to fuse their commonly tied missions of serving our community and ensuring that even the most basic of human needs are met.

The MVLP and Flatline began their collaboration on April 16, 2021, with an expungement clinic in which Flatline graciously opened their doors and welcomed the MVLP with open arms. Since then, Flatline has maintained an open-door policy for the MVLP, which has allowed the MVLP to host not only its regularly scheduled counsel-and-advice clinics on the first and third Tuesdays of every month but also any other specialty legal clinics that it schedules throughout the year at Flatline’s facilities. Since that partnership began two years ago, an astounding 528 people have received services that range from counsel and advice all the way to extended representation. The staff at Flatline are always present and available to ensure that needs outside of the MVLP are also met. Both the MVLP and Flatline have selflessly served our community and together have changed the lives of hundreds of individuals who needed help. MCBA is honored to have the opportunity to donate the proceeds of this year’s Charity Event to them.

We cannot be more excited about the Holiday Gala & Charity Event, so be sure to save the date: December 14, 2023, beginning at 6:00 P.M. This will be a night you do not want to miss.

More information about the event, how to RSVP, and where to donate will be distributed in the next few weeks. MCBA welcomes and greatly appreciates any contributions and donated raffle items for the Charity Event. Please e-mail me if you would like to donate.

As always, if you need anything from me or any member of our Board of Directors, please just pick up the phone and call us. We are here to serve.

Sincerely,

Ali Hawthorne
President of the
Montgomery County Bar Association
Greetings Young Lawyers!

What goes hand in hand with football season and cooler weather (I’m not holding my breath)? Why, the Young Lawyer’s Section Annual Charity Clay Shoot of course! With that being said, this year’s Charity Clay Shoot will be held on **Friday, September 29, 2023, beginning at 1:00 P.M.** at the **Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club**.

This is by far our most important event of the year, and YLS has teamed up with **Child Protect Children’s Advocacy Center** to be this year’s local charity recipient of all funds raised. A special thanks to **Discover E Partners, LLC**, for graciously donating all sponsorship signs for this event! If you or your firm would like to participate in sponsoring the Annual Charity Clay Shoot, please see the following sponsorship information (as well as Child Protect’s brochure), and reach out to any YLS Board Members with any questions you may have.

As a reminder, please **e-mail me** or contact any of our YLS Board Members if you know of any young lawyers in the River Region who would like to get involved with our Section.

Respectfully,

Landon Eley,
President of the MCBA
Young Lawyers Section
Montgomery County Bar Association Young Lawyers
Charity Clay Shoot
Friday, September 29th

**Team Sponsor $600**
Includes:
* Complimentary team of 4 shooters with 100 clays per shooter
* Corporate signage at a designated clay shoot station
* Sponsor recognition at awards ceremony

**Station Sponsor $200**
Includes:
* Corporate signage at a designated clay shoot station
* Option to have corporate representative at designated station
* Sponsor recognition at awards ceremony

**Ceremony Sponsor Contribution**
Includes:
* Corporate signage at the pavilion during the awards ceremony and social
* Sponsor recognition at awards ceremony

Name/Company: _________________________________________________________________
Level of Sponsorship: _____________________________________________________________
If Ceremony Sponsor, please provide a description of the donation (i.e. beverages, food, coozies, goody-bags, etc.) _____________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________ Phone: ________________________________
Payment: (select payment type) ☐ Cash ☐ Check

Please make checks payable to Montgomery County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section. Please remit payment to Tyner Helms at PO Box 72, Montgomery, AL 36101 on or before September 25, 2023.
Child Protect Child Advocacy Center serves the children and families in Montgomery County, Alabama.

In 2022, our organization conducted 251 forensic interviews and 52% of those were child sex abuse cases, with the other 48% being severe physical abuse, neglect, witnessing a crime, or abuse or sibling.

Up until 2017, our agency also served Autauga & Elmore counties. Child Protect offers follow-up counseling and family advocacy throughout the judicial process at no cost to the children or their families.

The mission of Child Protect is to interview, counsel, and be an advocate for children when there are allegations of abuse.
WOMEN’S SECTION
UPDATE

The Women’s Section hosted our annual meeting on September 7, 2023, at Frenchie’s located in Old Cloverdale. All MCBA Women’s Section members and potential new members were invited to enjoy the opportunity to socialize and network with each other while enjoying drinks and appetizers. This year’s annual meeting did not hold elections, but we had a great time catching up with colleagues and friends! Alabama Court Reporting graciously sponsored our annual meeting this year, and we are thankful to partner with them.

The Women’s Section will also be hosting a CLE entitled “Basic Financial Literacy” on November 7, 2023, from 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. via Zoom. This CLE will be presented by Director of Alabama Securities Commission Amanda Senn and is open to all MCBA members. The CLE is free to all MCBA members and $25 for non-members. We will send more information out to our members in the coming weeks, including registration information. You will not want to miss this the opportunity to brush open on the basics of financial literacy with Director Senn.

If you are not already a member of the Women’s Section, it’s never too late to join! Anyone interested in joining the Women’s Section should fill out a membership application and invoice and e-mail it to us. You can also pay your dues online or by check on MCBA’s website. If you choose to pay by check, please make your check out to “MCBA Women’s Section” and mail it along with your membership application and invoice to:

MCBA Women’s Section
Montgomery County Bar Association
Post Office Box 72
Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0072

If you were unable to attend our annual meeting this year, we will be hosting another social in October that will be open to all Women’s Section members. Stay tuned for more information to be released soon!

Best Regards,

Erika McKay,
President of the MCBA
Women’s Section
BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS
MEETING SUMMARY NOTES
prepared for the
15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

MEETING NOTES: JULY 2023 - POINT CLEAR

ADMINISTRATIVE

Commissioner Felicia Long gave an invocation and led the Board in the pledge of allegiance. President Gibson Vance called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Roll call was taken with a quorum being present followed by approval of the amended meeting agenda and the minutes of the May 5, 2023. The Board unanimously approved the amended agenda and the minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Past President Sam Irby, Associate Justice Kelli Wise, Associate Justice Tommy Bryan, Associate Justice Sarah Stewart, Associate Justice Greg Cook, and Supreme Court Clerk Megan Rhodebeck.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Gibson Vance welcomed the board to the annual meeting and thanked them for their support over the bar year. He stated that he had two goals: to visit all 41 circuits and to promote mental health wellness to all members. In addition to completing these two goals, he indicated he had another goal that there would be consensus in the decisions we made and that unifying our leadership was important.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COMMISSIONERS

President Vance recognized these retiring commissioners:

Kira A. Fonteneau          Kenneth Moore
Anne Glass                 Tom Perry
Christy Graham             James Rebarchak
Brett King                 Allison Skinner
Leigh Anne Landis          Mallory Whitley
Tina Moon

RECOGNITION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

Next, President Vance recognized these new members of the commission whose terms commence simultaneously with the presidential bar year:

Kitty Brown               Jeff Sherrer
Ralph Holt                Hunter Compton
Suntracee Williams-Maynard Lynn Perry
Lee Knowles               Jerome Thompson
Pratt Austin-Tucks        Lisha Graham
Leslie Moore

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Terri Lovell thanked the leadership, the commissioners, and the court for their tremendous leadership and support over the past year. She directed those in attendance to the annual report and indicated that it should provide a summary of the many activities taking place at the Bar. She also asked the Board to approve the Strategic Plan as a source of vision and guidance for the staff and leadership in the years ahead.

GENERAL COUNSEL’S REPORT

General Counsel Roman Shaul stated that he had two items on the agenda listed as discussion items. He deferred his time to that portion of the meeting and allowed the discussion items to serve as his report.

ASB FINANCIAL REPORT

For the 3rd quarter of the fiscal year, ASB revenues increased slightly higher to 1.7% over last year, with the license, membership fees, and CLE compliance fees being the main contributors to the increase this year.
Spending increased nearly 10% over the previous year, as anticipated, due to rising personnel costs, active travel, and increased supply costs.

The ASB investment balances increased by 11% over the fiscal year as the market is showing signs of relief and has now recovered its total loss experienced over the past year.

**ASB BUILDING FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT**

Foundation revenues were down by less than 1% over the previous year due to a decline in website banner fees generated so far this year (billing time differences). Spending increased by 38% mainly on account of the unexpected repairs and replacements in the building with the inclement weather conditions. The investment balances are finally showing some gains this year at now 6% above last year’s totals.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**PROPOSED CHANGE TO RULE 26, Ala.R.Disc.P**

General Counsel Roman Shaul advised the Board that the proposed change to Rule 26(h)(2), are needed to clarify situations where lawyers surrender their license in order to avoid discipline or as part of a criminal guilty plea. The clarification would require them to receive Disciplinary Commission approval prior to being allowed to work in the legal field.

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

General Counsel Shaul notified the board of upcoming vacancies in the disciplinary process. Currently there are two spots on the Disciplinary Board without an incumbent member and then four more spots on the Disciplinary Board that have BBC members who desire to be reappointed for their last term. He also reminded the BBC that there are a total of nine lay member spots available on the Disciplinary Board.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/GENERAL COUNSEL EVALUATIONS**

President-Elect Brannon Buck reported that evaluations had been completed pursuant to the Performance Evaluation Policy adopted in 2022. He advised the Board that the evaluations of the Executive Director and General Counsel had been made available for review prior to the meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**ABA HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINTMENT**

Leslie Barineau was appointed to the ABA House of Delegates

**APPROVAL OF ALABAMA STATE BAR BYLAWS**

The Board adopted Bylaws recommended by the Bylaws Task Force.

**APPROVAL OF ALABAMA STATE BAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2026**

The Board adopted the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan recommended by the Long-Range Strategic Planning Task Force.

**APPROVAL OF ANNUAL LICENSE FEE RENEWAL**

The Board voted to continue annual license fees at the reduced rate of $300.00 for the 2023-2024 licensing year. Board approval was on a recommendation from the Finance and Audit Committee.

**APPROVAL OF ALABAMA LAWYERS ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board approved the following bar commissioners as appointees to the Alabama Lawyers Assistance Foundation board of directors:

Deborah Dunsmore (2024)
Jason Simmons (2025)
Angela Kennedy (2026)

The meeting was recessed at 2:41 p.m. to begin the Annual Meeting and Grand Convocation.
CALL TO ORDER

President Gibson Vance called to order the 146th Grand Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar on July 15, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY – CHIEF JUSTICE TOM PARKER

President Vance introduced Chief Justice Tom Parker for remarks regarding the Alabama court system. Chief Justice Parker thanked President Vance and the leadership of the Alabama State Bar for continuing to build a strong working relationship between the bar and the judiciary in Alabama. He congratulated President-elect Brannon Buck and said that he looked forward to working with him during the coming year.

Chief Justice Parker highlighted the successful legislative session that included the addition of 13 new circuit and district judgeships and the increase in mileage and per diem for jurors. He also outlined the expansion of Alabama’s online traffic resolution program. Chief Justice Parker closed by thanking bar leadership and members for their support during the 2023 Legislative session.

President Vance thanked Chief Justice Parker for his remarks and pledged continued support and cooperation by the bar in improving the court system and access to justice in Alabama.

FIFTY YEAR CERTIFICATES

Gibson Vance read the names of those individuals who were in attendance to receive their 50-year certificate, which was presented along with their 50-year pin by President Vance.

Those present to receive their certificate and pin were:

Chris Hume, III
Floyd Minor
Joe Kulakowski
Joseph Spransy
David Whetstone
Hon. Robert Cahill
Hon. Joel Dubina
Morris Roebuck
Lee Hale
Broox Garrett, Jr.
Bruce Schrimsher
Joe Dixon Edge

Congratulations to all those who celebrated 50 years in the profession this year:

Mr. William Waldo Lawrence
Mr. James Thomas Baxter III
Mr. William Powell Burgess Jr.
Mr. Benjamin Russell Rice
James Bruce Schrimsher
James Greene Hawthorne Jr.
Earl Calhoun Wilson
John Clinton Harris Jr.
Richard Clinton Duell III
Joseph Barton Greer III
Alan Eric Johnston
Jerry Richard Knight
Michael Albert Crespi
Robert Lowell Austin
Gregory Luce Leatherbury Jr.
William Allen Grocholski
James Richard Foley
Spencer Thomas Bachus III
Hon. Roger Miles Monroe
Charles Burton Paterson
Richard Warren Tingle
Julius Raymond Lowery Jr.
Donald George Valeska II
Joseph William Spransy
Charles Woodruff Allen
William Henry Agee
Joel Lee Sogol
John Ronald Storey
Michael David Langan
Terry Tumlin Everett
William Robert Lewis
Hon. Jerry Evan Stokes
Hon. Charles Herbert Dodson Jr.
Walter Allen Davis
Lee Louis Hale
Joseph O’Neil Kulakowski
Hugh White Underwood III
Eric Allison Bowen
Horace Earl (Chip) Nix Jr.
Michael Davis Goodson
William Alexander Moseley
Robert Guest Wilson
Hon. James William Patton III
Grady Oliver Lanier III
Morris Lloyd Roebuck
Hon. Jefferson B. Sessions III
Walter Ralph Stephen Meigs
Walter Graham Browning
Ronald Albert Snider
William Cox Tucker Jr.
Philip Patton Nelson
James Floyd Minor
Charles Nichols Parnell III
George Allen Moore
Katharine Palmer Smith
Thomas Edmund Baddley Jr.
James Mason Corder Jr.
Robert Young Griffin Jr.
Steve Arnold Baccus
James Edward Turnbach
Ernest Will Beard
Edward Brian Raymon
Charles Powell Hollifield
Alan Carpenter Livingston
Ernest Harold Hornsby
Broox Gray Garrett Jr.
Christopher Gadsden Hume III
Robert Hicks Pettry Jr.
Van Coleman Gholston
John Wesley Kelly III
James Goodloe Harrison
Guy Fleming Gunter III
Christopher Marlowe Mitchell
Charles Fredrick Daniels
Jack Porter Stephenson Jr.
David Leon Ashford
John Paul Scott Jr.
John Calvin Coggin III
Douglas Lee McWhorter
James Richard Duke
Theodore Leslie Hall
Carl Owen Pilgrim
Arnold Rankin Sneed
Charles Thomas Morris
Hon. Perry Wayne Thorn
Thomas Grady Keith
John David Whetstone
Hon. Houston Lanier Brown
Kenneth Edward Niemeyer
John T. Crowder Jr.
Hon. Arthur Bennett Briskman
Hon. Michael Franklin Bolin
Hon. William Marion Bowen Jr.
FIFTY YEAR CERTIFICATES CONT’D

Hon. Robert George Cahill  
Mr. Preston Baker Barnett  
John Benton Tally Jr.  
Sanford Dixon Bishop Jr.  
Curtis O’Neal Liles III  
Hon. Caryl Penney Privett  
Hon. Jerry Cleveland Shirley  
Timothy Wayne Morgan  
George Edward Jones Sr.  
Jacob Dormann Wingard Jr.  
Jim Keith Duncan  
Gilbert Egloff Johnston Jr.  
Harry L. Hopkins  
Laurence Duncan Vinson Jr.  
Roscoe Benjamin Hogan III  
James Alexander Vance  
Hon. Joel Fredrick Dubina  
Lynn Ashley Renoll  
Walter Frank Greenleaf  
Jerry Lee Weidler  
Daniel Britton  
Stuart Winston Hankins  
Joe Dixon Edge  
Joseph Haran Lowe Jr.  
John Marshall Gruenewald  
Hon. Daniel Alford Crowson  
Hon. Sidney Edward Jackson  
Timothy Joseph Hoff  
Hon. Inge Prytz Johnson  
Jonathan Prince Gardberg  
Richard Lawrence Thiry  
Charles David Baker  
Alfred Alaby Oldham Jr.  
William Stitt Poole Jr.  
Richard Carlen Noser  
James Edmund Davis Jr.  
Winston Tatum Lett  
Robert Webb Chesnut  
James Tennille Johnson III  
Roscoe Aaron Williams  
Billy Jack Rivers  
Stewart Ray Dudley  
William Franklin Murray Jr.  
Vick Speed  
Donald Joseph Sides  
Edward Jackson Ashton  
Margaret Smith Marston

Robert Benjamin Eubank  
Cary Linwood Dozier  
Charles Burton Dunn  
James Ellis Haley  
Hon. Gay Mathers Lake Jr  
George Locke Galbraith  
Bruce Allen Burtrum  
Robert Emmett Poundstone III  
Harold Laverne Ferguson Jr.  
Hon. Lance Karl Hillbrand  
Kent Boutwell Brunson  
Overby Stanley Thornton  
Col. Thomas Maxson Kullman  
Hon. John Ferrell Butler  
Richard Francis Browne  
Michael Alan Newsom  
Larry Wright Roney  
Marilyn Sheeley Kavanaugh  
Richard Franklin Allen  
Charles Fuzell Abernathy  
Thomas Marlowe Galloway Jr.  
Vernon Leo Wells II  
John Gilbert Stokesberry  
Donald Eugene Stanley  
Bobby Don McCarter  
Daniel Joseph Thompson Jr.  
Louis Andrew Borghese  
Grady Larry Morgan  
Robert Henry Woodrow III  
Harry Lowry Hooper III  
James Edward Smith  
Ashley Carraway  
Malcolm Nall Carmichael  
Susan Lee Frost

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

President Vance recognized members of the judiciary, members of the Alabama state legislature, past presidents of the Alabama State Bar, members of the Board of Bar Commissioners and executive council, and Leadership Forum alumni, and Senator Katie Britt and Wesley Britt.

PRESENTATION OF THE J. ANTHONY “TONY” McLAIN PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

President Vance presented the J. Anthony “Tony” McLain Professionalism Award to Malbeth Porter and Cole Portis.

PRESENTATION OF THE MICHAEL ERMERT AWARD OF MERIT

President Vance presented the Michael Ermert Award of Merit to Rebekah McKinney.

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT’S AWARD

President Vance said that many people had been critical to his success as president of the Alabama State Bar. In particular, he recognized Brannon Buck, Mark Boardman, Mark Debro, Brett Holcombe, Carmen Howell, Angela Kennedy, Felicia Long, and Elizabeth Smithart for their assistance and presented each of them with the President’s Award.

PRESENTATION OF THE WILLIAM D. “BILL” SCRUGGS, JR. AWARD

Incoming President-elect Tom Perry presented the William D. “Bill” Scruggs, Jr. Award to Halton Turner. His son Zach accepted the award on his behalf since Hal was traveling.

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMISSIONERS’ AWARD

Vice-President Elizabeth Smithart presented the Commissioners’ Awards to Commissioners Joel Connally and Brian Strength.

PRESENTATION OF THE JEANNE MARIE LESLIE AWARD

Alabama Lawyers Assistance Program Director Jeremy Rakes presented the Jeanne Marie Leslie Award to Elizabeth Young and Hugh Nickson.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

Vice President Elizabeth Smithhart announced recipients of awards presented at other times during the Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting.

Judicial Award of Merit: Hon. Eddie Hardaway
Maud McLure Kelly Award: Celia Collins
Susan B. Livingston Award: Leslie R. Barineau
Justice Janie L. Shores Scholarship: Antionette Richardson and Rolanda T. Turner

PRESENTATION OF THE VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM PRO BONO AWARDS

Elizabeth Smithhart recognized Jeanne Rizzardi, member of the Pro Bono Committee, to announce the recipients of the Volunteer Lawyers Program Pro Bono Awards.

Albert Vreeland Award: Tara Rose
Mediator Award: Jon E. Lewis
Law Firm/Group Award: Bradley Arant, Montgomery
Public Interest Attorney Award: Kelly F. McTear
Law Student Award: Anna M. Spidle

REMARKS FROM SENATOR KATIE BRITT

Senator Katie Britt congratulated President Gibson Vance on an outstanding year as president. Senator Britt shared about her experiences as a freshman Senator and remarked on the need to continue promoting programs that recognize the mental health crisis facing everyone. She also spoke about the importance of civility and treating everyone with dignity and respect, even those with whom you don't agree.

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT’S PLAQUE AND PIN

Vice President Smithhart presented President Gibson Vance with the President's Plaque and Past President's Ribbon. In addition, Executive Director Lovell thanked President Vance for his commitment to the Alabama State Bar for the 2022-2023 bar year. On behalf of the ASB staff, Lovell presented President Vance with a framed September Alabama Lawyer magazine cover highlighting him as president.

PRESIDENT’S CLOSING REMARKS

President Vance thanked those in attendance for allowing him the opportunity and privilege to serve as president of the Alabama State Bar. He gave an update on his initiative to improve lawyer wellness with the Lawyers Helpline and free counseling initiative, which 49 members utilized in its first year. He also introduced a short video presentation highlighting his Drive for Five and the 41 circuits visited across the state. He expressed his appreciation to his family, his law firm, and the ASB staff for their support during his presidency, and he wished Brannon Buck all the best as he takes office.

RECOGNITION OF TOM PERRY AS PRESIDENT-ELECT

President Vance asked Tom Perry to come to the podium. President Vance congratulated Mr. Perry on becoming president-elect. Mr. Perry made brief remarks and said that he looked forward to supporting incoming president Brannon Buck in executing his initiatives for the coming year.

INSTALLATION OF BRANNON BUCK AS 148TH PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA STATE BAR

Chief Justice Tom Parker administered the oath of office to Brannon Buck. President Vance introduced Brannon Buck of Birmingham as the 148th president of the Alabama State Bar and presented him with the presidential gavel, pin, and ribbon. President Buck thanked President Vance for his leadership over the past year. President Buck also thanked Chief Justice Parker and other members of the judiciary for their support and strong relationships with the Alabama State Bar.

In his speech after being sworn in as president, President Buck outlined the two initiatives he'll focus on during his presidency: promoting and emphasizing civility and collegiality in the profession, and launching a new website called Justice for All. The website will be an easy-to-navigate, one-stop-shop for connecting people with lawyers, legal aid resources, and court system information. Using QR codes that will be placed in courthouses, libraries, shelters, schools, and other community centers, individuals can simply scan the QR Code and be taken to the Justice for All site.

He concluded by sharing that he was humbled and honored to be the 148th President of the Alabama State Bar and grateful for the trust that the members of the Bar have placed in him.
GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

Robyn Bernier and representatives of Insurance Specialists (ISI) were recognized for the drawing of the grand prize. The winner was Alan Rigsby. She also recognized the platinum sponsors, ISI, AIM and The Campbell Law Firm. She concluded by thanking the vendors, sponsors, speakers and lawyers for their participation in this year’s annual meeting.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

President Buck closed the meeting by reminding all in attendance that the 2024 annual meeting would be held June 26-29, 2024, at the Sandestin Hilton in Destin, Florida. He reminded commissioners of their brief meeting immediately following the annual business meeting. He then declared the 2023 Grand Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar adjourned.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

President Brannon Buck resumed the meeting of Board of Bar Commissioners at 11:32 a.m. after being recessed on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 2:41 p.m. President Buck recognized Commissioner Carmen Howell, chair of the Nominating Committee, for the report of the Nominating Committee. Commissioner Howell reported the following nominations:

Nominations for Officers and Executive Council

President: Brannon Buck
President-elect: Tom Perry
Vice President: Felicia Long
Secretary: Terri Lovell
Parliamentarian Mark Boardman
Executive Council: Raymond Bell, Josh Hayes, and John Smyth
Ex-Officio (YLS President): Chris Driver
Ex-Officio (ALA President): Sam Ford

The Board approved the above listed officers to serve on the Executive Council for the 2023-2024 bar year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.
Wednesday, September 20, 2023
5:00 PM

BACK TO SCHOOL
SOCIAL

With Faulkner University Law

Hilltop Public House
3 North Goldthwaite Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
PRO BONO KICKOFF SOCIAL

10/05/2023
STARTING AT 5:00 PM
HILLTOP PUBLIC HOUSE
3 N Goldrhwaite St.
Montgomery, AL 36104

DRINKS - DOORPRIZE
Next time you see text that looks like this—MCBA’s webpage—try clicking on it. These are interactive hyperlinks within each issue of The Docket!

Hyperlinks to webpages will automatically open your internet browser to that webpage, and hyperlinks to e-mails will open a new e-mail to the appropriate person with an appropriate subject line.

Additionally, some images and tables are also interactive! Clicking on flyers with registration links (like the ones above) will take you directly to the appropriate event registration webpage, and the sections of each issue listed in the “In This Issue” table on page 2 will take you to the first page of that section. Try clicking on the two hyperlinks here to try it out yourself!
save the date

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Holiday Gala & Charity Event

THURSDAY 14
DEC 2023
5:30 to 7:30

THE METHVIN RESIDENCE
1919 SOUTH HULL STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

benefitting
FLATLINE CHURCH AT CHISHOLM &
MONTGOMERY COUNTY VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

SAVE THE DATE

M C B A  I S  P R O U D  T O  H O S T  T H E
2024 JUDICIAL RECEPTION OF THE ALABAMA ASSOCIATIONS OF
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES & DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
624 WASHINGTON AVE, MONTGOMERY, AL 36104
The Bench and Bar Conference
Thursday, October 5, 2023
Frank M. Johnson Jr. U.S. Courthouse Complex
One Church Street, Montgomery, Alabama

11:00 - 12:00 p.m. ** Registration and Lunch
Sponsored by

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ** Welcome and Middle District Update
Chief U.S. District Judge Emily C. Marks

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ** Middle Dist. Mandatory Mediation Program
Panel Discussion
U.S. District Judge R. Austin Huffaker, Jr.
U.S. Magistrate Judge Panel

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ** The POWER (Pro Bono) Act
Panel Discussion
Magistrate Judge Kelly Fitzgerald Pate
Panel from the Northern and Southern Districts of Alabama

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ** U.S. Supreme Court 2022/2023 Wrap-Up and Preview of the Upcoming Terms
John Palombi, Esq.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. ** Federal Defender Update
Christine Freeman, Middle District of Alabama
Federal Defender Program, Inc.

Register Here!

FREE for All Attendees!
** Space is limited, so register early!**

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
AND THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION PRESENT

The Bench and Bar Conference
Friday, October 6, 2023
Montgomery County Courthouse
251 S. Lawrence Street, Montgomery, Alabama

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. ** Coffee with the Judges
Sponsored by

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. ** View from the Bench - the 15th Judicial Circuit
Presiding Judge Johnny Hardwick
Judge James Anderson
Judge J.R. Gaines
Judge Monet Gaines
Judge Tiffany McCord
Judge Brooke Reid
Judge Calvin Williams

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. ** Practicing in Alabama's Appellate Courts
Justice Tommy Bryan, Alabama Supreme Court
Judge Richard Minor, Court of Criminal Appeals
Judge Chad Hanson, Court of Civil Appeals

11:00 - 12:00 p.m. ** Alabama Unified Judicial System Update
Chief Justice Tom Parker, Alabama Supreme Court

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ** Alabama State Bar Update (Ethics Credit)
Mark Moody, Alabama State Bar General Counsel

Register Here!

FREE for All Attendees!
** Space is limited, so register early!**
Basic Financial Literacy

The MCBA CLE Committee and the MCBA Women's Section Present

Tuesday, November 7, 2023  12:00 - 1:00  REGISTER HERE!

FREE for MCBA Members  $25 for Nonmembers

Amanda Senn
Director
Alabama Securities Commission

Effective Communications: Communicating with Diplomacy and Tact

Ian Mohorn
President and CEO
Dale Carnegie Training of the Emerald Coast
SCIE & Associates, LLC

Friday, September 29, 2023  12:00 - 1:00
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!

Free for MCBA Members - $25 for Nonmembers
CHANGES TO ALABAMA'S ADOPTION CODE

FREE FOR MCBA MEMBERS
$25 FOR NONMEMBERS

Thursday, November 30, 2023
12:00 - 1:00
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!
MONTGOMERY DISTRICT COURT
PRACTICE

FREE FOR MCBA MEMBERS
$25 FOR NONMEMBERS

PEYTON FAULK
MONTGOMERY VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023
12:00 - 1:00
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!
Lawyers for Liberty

Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen and the Alabama State Bar have implemented the Alabama Lawyers for Liberty program which offers Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) credit to Alabama attorneys that attend poll worker training and serve as poll workers.

Attorneys seeking to participate must:

- Apply and be appointed by the county appointing board (Probate, Sheriff, Circuit Clerk) to be a poll worker.
- Attend the required poll worker training administered by the county probate judge prior to the election in which the attorney will serve;
- Serve as a poll worker in the county in which the attorney is registered to vote for no less than 8 hours on election day at a polling location designated by the county probate judge; and
- Complete this form, have the county probate judge execute his or her signature, and submit the form to the Alabama State Bar.

Attorney poll workers will receive 4 hours of credit each time they meet the above requirements, but are limited to 8 hours credit per year.

*I certify that I have met the above requirements to achieve 4 hours of MCLE credit:*

_______________________________
County

_______________________________
Attorney Poll Worker Name (Print)

_______________________________
Attorney Poll Worker Name (Signature)

As Probate Judge and Chief Election Official of ___________________ County, I certify that the above attorney attended poll worker training and served as a poll worker in the ___________________ election held on ___________________.

_____________________________
Probate Judge Name (Print)

_____________________________
Probate Judge Name (Signature)

________________________
Date

It is the sole responsibility of the attorney seeking MCLE credit to supply this form to the Probate Judge, obtain the proper signature, and submit the completed application to the Alabama State Bar by email at cle@alabar.org.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCBA Announces its New Online Career Center

MCBA is proud to announce its new Career Center—the premier resource to connect local career opportunities with highly qualified legal talent. The Career Center is designed to provide you with a better overall experience through a modern design and an intuitive interface. You will be able to access the Career Center through any device of your choice—smartphone, tablet, or PC. Click here to visit the Career Center today!

The newly-designed MCBA Career Center will allow you to:

Manage Your Career:

- POST multiple resumes and cover letters or choose an anonymous career profile that leads employers to you
- SEARCH and apply to hundreds of fresh jobs on the spot with robust filters
- SET UP efficient job alerts to deliver the latest jobs right to your inbox
- ASK the experts advice, get resume writing tips, utilize career assessment test services, and more

Recruit for Open Positions:

- EMAIL your job directly to job seeking professionals
- PLACE your job in front of our highly qualified members
- SEARCH our resume database of qualified candidates
- MANAGE jobs and applicant activity right on our site
- LIMIT applicants only to those who are qualified
- FILL your jobs more quickly with great talent

We are excited to offer this new resource and hope the MCBA Career Center will make a significant difference for our members as they navigate their career paths. Thank you for your ongoing support!
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jones School of Law Adds Generational & Ancestral Property (GAP) Clinic

Those at Thomas Goode Jones School of Law continue to seek justice and serve their communities through the addition of a fourth pro bono clinic that will help Alabamians legally retain the right to their land that has been in their family for generations.

Called the GAP (Generational and Ancestral Property) Clinic, this clinic is the first of its kind in the State. Its goal to assist low-income clients in filling gaps in title to their family’s property to provide a pathway to financial stability and generational financial health. It will initially serve clients in Montgomery and Macon counties.

Beginning in the Fall 2023 semester, ten students with the GAP clinic will conduct property searches, counsel clients regarding ownership options, litigate or mediate, and conduct community education events on the importance of clear property ownership.

Professor Kelly McTear, Director of Jones School of Law Public Interest Programs, said a lack of clear property ownership is a widespread issue throughout the rural areas of Alabama.

“There is an astonishing amount of property in the South where the person who was deeded the land died 100 years ago and so that property legally belongs to 50 or more different heirs,” McTear explained. “Those who are paying taxes on the land cannot use it or sell it and are limited with what they can do with it because they do not actually own the property. Owning land is the best way to improve financial position, and without ownership, you cannot access the value of the property. This is one of the root causes of generational poverty in our state. Through this clinic, we hope to be able to provide clear ownership and thus provide generational financial stability for families.”

Those who are interested in acquiring the services of the free GAP clinic may call the law school at (334) 386-7915.
Montgomery was well-represented in the presentation of the 2023 Alabama State Bar's Awards at its Annual Meeting in July:

- **Tara Rose**, a volunteer attorney with MVLP from Rose Family Law, was named the recipient of the **Albert Vreeland Pro Bono Award**.

- **Kelly F. McTear**, Clinical Associate Professor of Law and Director of Public Interest Programs at Thomas Goode Jones School of Law, was named the recipient of the **Public Interest Attorney Pro Bono Award**.

- **Anna M. Spidle**, currently with the MVLP after recently graduating from Thomas Goode Jones School of Law, was named the recipient of the **Law Student Pro Bono Award**.

- **Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP** was named the recipient of the **Law Firm/Group Pro Bono Award**.

- **Brian Strength** and **Joel Connally**, both of **Strength & Connally, LLC**, was named two of the recipients of the **Commissioner’s Awards**.

- **Cole Portis**, of **Beasley Allen Law Firm**, was named one the recipients of the **J. Anthony “Tony” McLain Professionalism Award**.

- **Felicia Long**, of **Hill Hill Carter Franco Cole & Black, P.C.**, was named one of the recipients of the **President’s Award**.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

GILPIN WELCOMES STEEN TO FIRM

**Gilpin Givhan, P.C.,** is pleased to announce that **Taylor Steen** has joined the firm as an associate in the firm’s health care and regulated industries practice area. Ms. Steen received her B.A. degree (*cum laude*) from the University of Alabama in 2020 and her J.D. from the University of Alabama School of Law in 2023.

While in law school, Steen served as a junior editor and Lead Articles Editor for the Law & Psychology Review and was a member of the Dorbin Women’s Association. She also served as captain for the law school’s National Health Care Transactional Moot Court Team in 2022 and 2023 and completed externships with the Office of Counsel for UAB Health System and the Honorable Judge Jennifer Henderson with the Bankruptcy Court for the Northing District of Alabama.

BRADLEY WELCOMES TROTTER TO FIRM

**Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP** is pleased to announce that **Derek Trotter** is joining the firm as a senior advisor in the Governmental Affairs and Economic Development practice groups. Mr. Trotter has more than 16 years of experience in Alabama government and politics, including more than a decade combined as a senior staff member for the governor of Alabama and president pro tempore of the Senate. He has been instrumental in the passage and enactment of numerous major public policy initiatives. Mr. Trotter is a graduate of Auburn University.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Balch Relocates Montgomery Office

Balch & Bingham LLP announces the relocation of its Montgomery office to the RSA Dexter Avenue Building at 445 Dexter Avenue, Suite 8000.

The firm hopes the new office space will offer it an ideal setting to collaborate, leveraging its collective expertise to navigate complex legal challenges in regulated sectors such as energy, healthcare, higher education, real estate and financial services.

Jones School of Law Hiring Information for Graduates & Students

Graduates and students of Thomas Goode Jones School of Law are available for Alabama lawyers to interview for any open associate or clerkship positions.

For more information, contact Bryan Morgan, Director of Career Development, at (334) 386-7905 or bmorgan@faulkner.edu, or visit the Symplicity website.
IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM FLOYD ADDISON

William Floyd “Billy” Addison passed away on September 2, 2023 at the age of 72.

Addison received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama and a master’s degree from Auburn University. Prior to receiving his law degree from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, he taught school and coached football and baseball at Jefferson Davis High School in Montgomery.

Addison practiced law in Montgomery for over 30 years. In addition to his private practice of law, he also served as a Deputy District Attorney for the Montgomery County District Attorney and as an adjunct criminal law professor at Jones School of Law. He retired from law practice as an assistant general counsel for the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners.

JOHN MICHAEL MANASCO

John Michael Manasco passed away on August 5, 2023, at age 80.

Manasco earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Alabama and his law degree from the Thomas Goode Jones Law School. He served as Special Master for the Montgomery County Family Court and as a member of the Alabama State Board of Human Resources. He practiced in the area of family law for many years in Montgomery and became Montgomery’s first Fellow of the peer-elected American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He also served as President of the Family Law Section of the Alabama State Bar and was appointed to the committee that prepared the original set of Child Support Guidelines for Alabama. On closing his private law practice, he was appointed General Counsel to the State Treasurer of Alabama.
IN MEMORIAM

John Lawrence Carroll

The Honorable John Lawrence Carroll died on August 14, 2023, at the age of 79.

Judge Carroll received his undergraduate degree from Tufts University, his law degree from Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law, and an LLM from Harvard University. He served for many years as the Legal Director of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery. He later moved to Macon, Georgia, to teach as a Professor of Law at Mercer University School of Law.

He left Mercer to return to Montgomery to accept an appointment as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Alabama. He sat on the bench for 14 years until 2001. He moved to Birmingham to become Dean of the Cumberland School of Law. After stepping down as Dean, he continued to teach as a professor until his retirement in 2022.
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.

VISIT THE SITE

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