

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR

2006 GRANDE CONVOCATION AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

**Emerald Ballroom C-E
Sandestin Hilton
Destin, Florida**

Saturday, July 15, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Bobby Segall called to order the 127th Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar. After making a few brief remarks, he introduced The Honorable Drayton Nabers, Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court for the State of the Judiciary report.

Chief Justice Nabers made brief remarks praising President Bobby Segall's year as president and recognizing the fact that Boots Gale was in the new incoming president. He also recognized Justice Bernard Harwood who will be retiring in January for his service and dedication to the court.

The Chief Justice reported that the court system was in good shape. He stated that there were several challenges confronting him when assumed the office of Chief Justice including a demoralized and understaffed court system. He remarked that he sought to improve the efficiency of the court system in order to make up for the loss of personnel caused by a lack of funding. He explained that one of the ways that efficiency has been increased was by the introduction of e-filing. The Chief Justice stated that by this December all 67 counties would be participating in the e-filing program. He further noted that there are currently 2700 attorneys who are trained and registered on the system. He expressed hope that 80 percent of pleadings in trial court would soon be handled by e-filing. He also reported that e-filing would include records on appeal in at least 25 counties by the end of the year.

Next, the Chief Justice thanked the Board of Bar Commissioners for establishing the judicial scholarship program to raise funds to provide scholarships for judges to attend the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. He stated that because of a lack of funds, no judge had been able to attend the National Judicial College in several years and the Alabama Judicial College has been shut down since 2004 as well. He said that this effort by the private bar will provide a major enhancement to the judicial system. He then reported that efforts were continuing to improve courthouse security and that the court

system had recently received \$4.5 million from the Governor to be used for improving courthouse security.

The Chief Justice then elaborated on the Professionalism Commission and the ten town hall meetings held during the previous year to discuss issues of professionalism and matters confronting the profession. He expressed his disappointment at the fact that the indigent defense legislation had failed to pass in the last legislative session. He stated that it was important for Alabama to have a high quality, uniform as well as efficient indigent defense system. The Chief Justice noted that currently there are many disparities from circuit to circuit and the costs vary widely across the state. He remarked that the Chief Justice's Commission on Indigent Defense had attempted to address these problems but unfortunately the legislature was unable to pass the proposed legislation creating a unified indigent defense system. He acknowledged the current problem is exacerbated by the fact that payments for overhead expenses have been discontinued, but he expressed his determination to continue to working on the problem so as to improve the delivery of indigent defense services in Alabama.

Chief Justice Nabers praised the appellate and trial court system. He noted that Alabama is blessed with a good bar and good law schools. He further stated that the Alabama Judicial Article provides a wonderful framework for our system of justice in Alabama but the challenge is to make it a better system. Chief Justice Nabers said that in order to make it a better judicial system he needed the input of lawyers from across the state. He encouraged those assembled to provide feedback on making the judicial system better.

The Chief Justice concluded his remarks by stating that the judiciary needs to be independent of extraneous influences. He explained that the lawyers and the judges are the custodians of the rule of law. He reminded everyone that the rule of law is the envy of the world and that we should protect it.

2. **CHIEF JUSTICE'S PROFESSIONALISM AWARD**

Following the conclusion of his State of the Judiciary remarks, the Chief Justice announced that Governor Albert P. Brewer was the first recipient of the award. Governor Brewer received the award from Chief Justice Nabers and thanked the Professionalism Commission as well as the Board of Bar Commissioners for being so honored.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF STATE BAR LEADERSHIP FORUM GRADUATES**

President Segall noted that this program was begun two years ago and that the second class had finished in May. He outlined the purposes of the program and then read the names of the 2006 leadership forum class:

Christopher E. Abel
F. Wendell Allen
A. Vernon Barnett, IV
Robert E. Battle
Brannon J. Buck
Tracy W. Cary
Shayana B. Davis
Helen Kathryn Downs
James F. Hughey, III
Wyndall A. Ivey
B. Keith Jackson
Tracie B. Lee
Tara W. Lockett
Jonathan M. Lusk
Champ Lyons, III
Foster F. Marshall
Kim B. Martin
Robert G. Methvin, Jr.
Matthew C. Minner
Julie S. Moody
Joseph E. Powell
Thomas A. Radney
Patrick Sefton
Roman Ashley Shaul
Pamela B. Slate
R. Brian Smith
Sandra L. Speakman
Aldos L. Vance
Jon G. Waggoner

4. **2007 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

President Segall formally announced the 2007 inductees for the Alabama Hall of Fame. The inductees were William Rufus King, Thomas Minott Peters, John J. Sparkman, and Judge Robert S. Vance.

5. KIDS' CHANCE SCHOLARSHIP

President Segall recognized Tracy Daniel, Executive Director of the Alabama Law Foundation who stated that 31 students would receive approximately \$33,000 in scholarship aid for the year. She noted that in the 13 years the program had been in existence over \$350,000 in scholarship aid had been awarded to the children of the parents who had either been killed or injured on the job.

6. LOCAL BAR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

President Segall recognized Ed Patterson for the presentation of the Local Bar Achievement Award. The award was presented to the Escambia Bar Association. Everette Price received the award on behalf of the local bar president, Ernest Ray White.

7. MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

President Segall recognized former bar president Wade Baxley who read a resolution memorializing former bar president John A. Caddell.

8. BILL SCRUGGS AWARD

President Segall presented the William D. "Bill" Scruggs, Jr. Service to the Bar Award to David R. Boyd for his many years of dedicated service to the Alabama State Bar. President Segall noted that Mr. Boyd becomes the second recipient of this award.

9. 50-YEAR CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

President Segall presented 50-Year certificates to the following bar members who were present:

Anthony L. Cicio, William H. Mills, Wayman G. Sherrer and Lee Bowling Williams. The remaining members of the class of 1956 include the following:

William W. Allen – Tulsa, OK
 George B. Azar – Montgomery
 Frank Mims Bainbridge – Birmingham
 Leighton A. Beers, Jr. – Sunrise, FL
 Richard H. Bite – Birmingham
 Donald R. Bounds – Mobile
 Quinton Roosevelt Bowers – Birmingham
 Marian K. Coley – Birmingham
 Thomas C. Courington, Jr. – Tullahoma, TN
 Candler Crim, Jr. – Atlanta, GA
 Charles L. Denaburg – Birmingham
 Ben F. DuBois, III – Hudson, FL
 Robert S. Edington – Mobile

Richard P. Emmet – LaJolla, CA
Herman B. Franco – Montgomery
George C. Freeman, Jr. – Richmond, VA
William Sidney Fuller – Andalusia
John Thomas Golden – Birmingham
Dayton Foster Hale – Tuscaloosa
Oliver P. Head – Columbiana
James T. Hines, Jr. – Mobile
Carey F. Hollingsworth, Jr. – Birmingham
Thaddeus Holt – Point Clear
J. Gorman Houston, Jr. – Birmingham
Samuel W. Inge – Fairhope
Clarence B. Kelley – Birmingham
John James Keyes, Jr. – Bessemer
Lawrence H. Kloess, Jr. – Montgomery
Louis B. Lusk – Guntersville
Hartwell B. Lutz – Gurley
George A. McCain, Jr. – Galveston, TX
Robert C. McKee – Birmingham
Alice D. Merchant – Birmingham
Pierre Pelham – Mobile
Jacob C. Perdue, Jr. – Phenix City
Guy Owen Pittman – Jefferson, GA
Archibald T. Reeves, Jr. – Selma
Charles McCracken Scott – Fort Payne
Charles Eugene Sharp – Birmingham
Donald W. Spurrell – Johnson City, TN
Donald N. Spurrier – Huntsville
Ilf Lavern Tate – Florence
Nathan Graydon Watkins – Livingston
James W. Webb – Montgomery
George Kendrick Williams – Huntsville
Marvin A. Wilson – Florence
George Searcy Wright – Tuscaloosa
George Young – Orange Beach
William Carl Younger – Montgomery

10. **RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

President Segall asked the past presidents to stand and be recognized. He also asked the members of the Board of Bar Commissioners to stand and be recognized. President Segall then recognized the retiring members of the Board of Commissioners who included:

Randall K. Bozeman
Philip Henry Pitts
Robert K. Jordan
Edward P. Meyerson
Carol H. Stewart
Terry L. Butts
James E. Williams
John E. Paluzzi
Dan Warnes
R. Blake Lazenby

11. **PRESIDENT'S CONCLUDING REMARKS**

President Segall recognized Immediate Past President Douglas McElvy. Mr. McElvy first presented a framed certificate to Della Bryan, President Segall's secretary and thanked her for her service. Next, Mr. McElvy made several remarks about Mr. Segall's term as president and presented him with the past president's plaque and ribbon. Mr. Segall thanked Mr. McElvy and offered remarks concerning his term as president.

12. **INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT**

President Segall asked Mr. Sam Crosby to come to the podium. President Segall congratulated Mr. Crosby on his election as president-elect. Mr. Crosby made a few brief remarks.

13. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENT**

President Segall introduced the state bar's new president, Boots Gale and called Mr. Gale to the podium. He turned over the office of president to Mr. Gale and presented him with the president's gavel and presidential ribbon. President Gale thanked Mr. Segall. He then recognized his wife Louise, two daughters Cy and Jenny and their husbands and three grandchildren. Mr. Gale next recognized his law partners in attendance from the firm of Maynard, Cooper & Gale. He then took a few moments to outline his primary concerns for the upcoming year as president including a focus on the merit selection of judges on Alabama's appellate courts.

14. GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

President Gale recognized Ed Patterson and ISI President Bill Bass for the drawing of the 2006 Grand Prize supplied by ISI Alabama. The grand prize was won by Billy Cunningham of Mobile.

15. ADJOURNMENT

President Gale closed by stating that the 2007 Annual Meeting would be at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, July 18-21, 2007 and reminding the Commissioners of a brief meeting immediately following the Annual Business Meeting. He declared the 2006 Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar adjourned.

Bobby Segall, President, 2005-2006
Alabama State Bar

Boots Gale, President, 2006-2007
Alabama State Bar

ATTEST:

Keith B. Norman, Secretary
Alabama State Bar

NOTE: During the 2006 Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting, the following awards were presented:

Walter P. Gewin Award Recipient:	Carol J. Wallace, Decatur
Alabama State Bar Judicial Award of Merit Recipient:	U.W. Clemon Chief Judge U.S. District Court Northern District of Alabama
Commissioners Award:	Sam Franklin, Birmingham
Pro Bono Award Winners: Attorney Award:	Henry H. Caddell, Mobile
Firm Award:	Disaster Relief Committee Alabama State Bar Young Lawyers Section
Law Student Award:	Tamara J. Watson University of Alabama School of Law
Maud McLure Kelly Award:	Mahala Ashley Dickerson
Local Bar Achievement Award:	Escambia County Bar