



Addendum

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Brandon's Legacy

After a young deputy sheriff is killed, ASB members come to the aid of his fellow law enforcement officers

On April 8, 2004, **Covington County District Attorney Greg Gambriel** awakened in the night to the sad news that **Brandon Lassiter**, a young deputy sheriff, had been killed by a drunk driver. His patrol car was hit head on and the other driver was also killed. "I usually go to crime scenes involving fatalities, but this was one that wouldn't involve a prosecution, so I asked the investigator if there was anything that I could do at the scene. He got quiet and then said, 'Yeah, you can come and just be with your fellow law enforcement officers.'"

Gambriel soon understood why. Lassiter was the first officer to fall in the line of duty in Covington County in nearly two decades. At the scene, there were well over 100 law enforcement officers from multiple counties. "I've experienced a lot of death and tragedy in my job, but this took it to a new level."

Before the night was out, Gambriel's role as a prosecutor was needed. "I was approached about authorizing an autopsy on Deputy Lassiter. When I asked why, as there would be no prosecution, they told me it was necessary for his family to qualify for police officer death benefits," Gambriel said. "I was really entering foreign territory and, to complicate matters, a member of his family was opposed to the autopsy." Ultimately, officers close to the family got them to consent and Gambriel ordered the autopsy.

Gambriel said, "The confusion out there was horrible. Most of the officers had never dealt with an officer killed on duty and did not know what benefits were even available." Gambriel was determined that scene would never be repeated.

He was given a booklet from **Covington County Probation Officer Bill Law**, entitled *Benefits Available to Surviving Families of Federal Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty*, which included information for local, state and federal

peace officers.

"I immediately sent copies to the police chiefs in the county for them to hand out," Gambriel said.

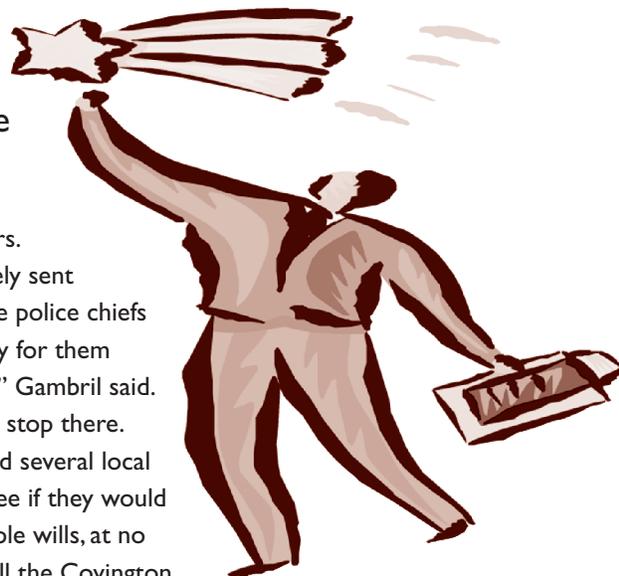
He did not stop there. He contacted several local lawyers to see if they would prepare simple wills, at no charge, for all the Covington County officers, as well as explain death benefits available to them. All said they would participate. Gambriel decided to extend the idea to the entire Covington County Bar membership and so began the **Brandon Lassiter Memorial Will Program**.

"Brandon was so young and his death was so sudden. The tremendous risks that come with the officers' jobs were suddenly right there in front of them," Gambriel said.

The response to the will program was impressive. "Over half of our bar membership volunteered to take part. Each year, additional lawyers have joined the list and not a single one has asked to be removed," Gambriel said. "Several of these attorneys make a large portion of their living defending clients accused of crimes, but they still have a deep respect for our law enforcement officers."

The program is spreading. "One of the most exciting things is that other local bar associations are following suit. Both criminal defense attorneys and district attorneys have called wanting information on how to start a program. Some of these jurisdictions intend to name their program in Brandon's memory. That is a great tribute to the sacrifice that Brandon paid in service to all of us."

(Continued on page 6)



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tab to the right of the blue "Basic Search" tab which is the default.

4. Leave the "Full Document Search Query" box blank.
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This will pull up all opinions from the date you put in the "From" box forward. If you'd like to look at just supreme court cases, or just civil appeals or criminal appeals cases, type "Supreme" or "Civil" or "Criminal" in the court field.
—Laura A. Calloway, Practice Management Assistance Program

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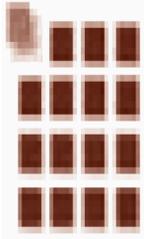
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The Complete Lawyer

The Alabama State Bar's newest member benefit focuses on increased satisfaction and success of lawyers' careers *and* lives

To be successful in today's world, lawyers need to be ready to take on new challenges that come their way every day. The ASB is pleased to add another member benefit to assist Alabama lawyers. *The Complete Lawyer (TCL)*, a bi-monthly online publication dedicated entirely to the personal and professional development of attorneys, is now publishing a special Alabama State Bar edition.

In today's world it is increasingly difficult for attorneys to balance the demands of a career and still find time for family and other pursuits that give meaning to their lives. *The Complete Lawyer* helps provide guidance and practical advice.

The March-April issue is headlined "Focus on marketing yourself." In keeping with the format that is being replicated with other bar associations throughout the country, each issue will contain an article specifically devoted to individual members of the ASB.

ASB Executive Director Keith B. Norman said, "Each issue of the *TCL* is about one thing—increasing the satisfaction and success of individual lawyers, in their careers and in their lives as a whole. Contributors are practicing lawyers, veteran coaches and consultants, and best-selling authors. They are dealing with the same complex issues that face Alabama lawyers daily."

Regular departments in *TCL* include:

- Business Development
- Communications
- Coaching & Mentoring
- Health
- Leadership
- Navigating Your Career
- Family
- Women in the Law
- Work-Life Balance

"What marketing principles do the most successful attorneys use to grow their practices?" asks *The Complete Lawyer*

in setting the stage for this issue. "Understanding the power of client service, focusing on a niche, thought leadership, networking instead of selling, building your personal brand signature, and, yes, having the right attitude are a few of the proven strategies that lawyers use every day to effectively market themselves."

Laura Calloway, director of the ASB's Practice Management Assistance Program, said, "Regardless of your practice area, the size of your firm, your age or gender, you can learn and effectively deploy the client development skills that suit your personal style and goals. In this edition, *TCL* offers you the perspectives of national marketing experts as well as lawyers who have increased their visibility and multiplied their success via savvy approaches."

TCL originated in 2004 as a collaborative effort with the Atlanta Bar Association. A consortium of metropolitan bar associations in Ohio followed, joined now by the Virginia Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, State Bar of Arizona, South Carolina Bar, State Bar of Montana, The Mississippi Bar, North Carolina Bar Association, Utah State Bar, and the Hennepin County (Minn.) Bar Association.

The Complete Lawyer is provided to ASB members at no cost, with its revenue generated entirely through advertising sales. Distribution of each issue is communicated via the ASB Web site at www.alabar.org, thereby enabling the ASB to maintain complete control and access to its members' e-mail addresses.

Archived issues of *The Complete Lawyer*, as well as links to editions bearing the nameplate of other state and municipal bar associations, are accessible via the online publication's main Web address, www.thecompletelawyer.com.

Member feedback is welcomed, either through the editors of *TCL* or by contacting Brad Carr with the Alabama State Bar Communications Department (brad.carr@alabar.org).



Alabama's Great Tradition of Lawyers in the Legislature: Have You Hugged Your Lawyer-Legislator Recently?

Part of the mission statement of the Alabama State Bar includes dedication to "improving the administration of justice." Who can help us fulfill this mission better than our members who are lawyer legislators?

All of us are proud that we come from a profession that has produced many of the greatest legislators in the history of our country, including Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, and 25 of its 56 signers; James Madison, the primary drafter of the United States Constitution, and 22 of its 39 signers; and 36 of the 52 governors of the State of Alabama. Both of our U.S. senators from Alabama are lawyers. Six of seven members of the U.S. House of Representatives from Alabama are lawyers. We have 22 lawyer legislators who are members of the ASB and are currently serving in the Alabama legislature.

I believe that the lawyers and judges in Alabama should support lawyers who are willing to sacrifice time away from their families and their jobs to engage in public service. Their service benefits all Alabama citizens.

At a recent meeting of state lawyer legislators, a past president of the Alabama State Bar asked the question, "What can we do to help you?" The response of two of the legislators who have active trial practices was to ask fellow lawyers and judges to cut us some slack by agreeing to, or granting, continuances of trials and depositions during periods when the legislature is in session.

This seems like a reasonable request and I hope all of us involved in litigation will make every effort to comply with this request.

The ASB is encouraging lawyers to be legislators and leaders in public service through its Leadership Forum, mentoring programs and other efforts. For non-legislator members to fail to support our legislator lawyers while the legislature is in session in accordance with their request runs counter to these other efforts by the ASB.

Lawyer-Legislators (ASB Members):

U.S. Senator Richard C. Shelby
U.S. Senator Jefferson B. Sessions, III
U.S. Congressman Robert B. Aderolt
U.S. Congressman Josiah Robins Bonner, Jr.
U.S. Congressman Spencer T. Bachus
U.S. Congressman Robert E. Cramer
U.S. Congressman Artur G. Davis
U.S. Congressman Michael Dennis Rogers

Alabama's House of Representatives:

Marcel Black
Paul Demarco
Chris England
Ken Guin
Tammy Irons
Marc Keahey
Jeff McLaughlin
Demetrius Newton
Yusuf Salaam
Cam Ward

Alabama's Senate:

Roger Bedford
Ben Brooks
Bradley Byrne
Ted Little
Zeb Little
Pat Lindsey
Wendell Mitchell
Arthur Orr
Myron Penn
Phil Poole
Hank Sanders
Rodger Smitherman

— Samuel N. Crosby, Stone, Granade & Crosby, Daphne

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jhamlett@knology.net

Spanish-Speaking Lawyers Committee Still Needs Your Time and Talents



Despite an overwhelming response from the ASB members, there's always room for one more

The announcement of the Spanish-Speaking Lawyers Committee has generated an overwhelming response, including that of **Judge J. Scott Vowell**, presiding judge, Jefferson County Circuit Court, who has agreed to serve as honorary chair of the committee. Judge Vowell has been a strong supporter of the ASB's Hispanic outreach efforts and we appreciate his interest and dedication.

Thanks also to those lawyers who expressed an interest in joining the committee to further its goals. Your energy will be greatly appreciated. The committee has a number of potential projects in mind and the combined resources and support of each member will help to address such projects as: (1) expanding access to legal services for Alabama's

Hispanic community through participation in the ASB Lawyer Referral Service; (2) working with the court system as it develops universal certification standards for court interpreters; (3) assisting with the translation of the ASB public information brochures into Spanish; and (4) providing guidance to the ASB *Rules of Professional Conduct* as they apply to representation of clients with limited English proficiency.

If you have not yet asked to be on this committee, but would like to contribute your skills, ideas and time, indicate your interest and provide your contact information by e-mail to marcia.daniel@alabar.org.

Muchas gracias.

You Want It? You Got It

The Alabama State Bar is converting our paper membership files to an electronic filing system. You may request that your original bar application be returned to you once the project is completed. The request must be in writing and there will be a \$10 administrative fee. This offer is being made for a very limited time.

Complete the form below and return it and your \$10 fee to the Alabama State Bar, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 671, Montgomery 36101 no later than June 1, 2007.

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Bar Identification Number: ASB- _____

Date of Admission: _____

Note: Upon completion of this project the files will be destroyed, so requests made after June 1, 2007 cannot be honored.



YLS and VLP Render Service in Coffee and Wilcox Counties

The Alabama State Bar's **Young Lawyers' Section** is once again providing free legal information to victims and families in the aftermath of the recent tornado that struck Enterprise and surrounding areas.

A disaster legal helpline (800-354-6154) was created to aid the residents of Coffee and Wilcox counties which have been declared a disaster area by federal authorities. **State Bar President Boots Gale** said, "Lawyers' services are in high demand after a natural disaster. People with damaged homes have questions about their insurance policies. Landlords and tenants want to know their rights when their properties become uninhabitable. Alabama lawyers are volunteering to help their neighbors in a time of need."

In a unique partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), members of the YLS will assist the families. "This helpline is to provide free legal information and answer disaster-related legal questions, not provide legal representation. When a natural disaster strikes our state, the Alabama State Bar is both ready and willing to assist those in need," said **Linda Lund**, director of the state bar's

Volunteer Lawyers Program. Attorney volunteers screen incoming calls and accept pro bono referrals from the helpline.

According to Lund, residents affected by a disaster appreciate assistance in clarifying confusing legal questions, including assisting with insurance claims, counseling on landlord-tenant problems, helping with home repair contracts, consumer protection matters and mortgage foreclosure problems, replacing wills, and drafting powers of attorney.

Typically, a disaster helpline becomes operational a few days after a disaster is declared. This gives the victims time to attend to more pressing matters, such as obtaining shelter and food. After a short time, however, victims recognize that they need legal help to put their lives back in order.

The helpline number is made available by all governmental agencies responding to the disaster. Lawyers staffing the helpline identify the legal issues presented by each caller and then refer the caller to an appropriate agency (e.g., shelters, food banks, government claims processing units, etc.). For more information, contact the ASB at (334) 269-1515.

(Continued from page 1)

One of the first to contact Gambрил was **Richard Minor**, St. Clair County district attorney. "When Greg told me about the program, my first thoughts were of **Officers Keith Turner** and **Kevin Green** of the Moody Police Department. I only wish we had the program before tragedy struck our community."

Officer Turner was on patrol the night of June 27, 1998 when he pulled in behind a suspicious vehicle driven by Mario Centobie. Centobie was an escaped convict who had just shot **Captain Cecil Lancaster** of the Tuscaloosa Police Department. He pulled out a stolen handgun and shot and killed the officer. Officer Turner was survived by his wife and infant daughter.

On February 25, 2006, tragedy struck again. Investigator Kevin Green of the Moody Police Department was killed in a one-vehicle accident. He was survived by his wife and two children.

On May 19, 2006, the **St. Clair County Law Enforcement Will Program** became a reality with over 25 participating attorneys. "Just knowing that the service was there prompted a lot of our officers to have a will prepared when they might have delayed it. I deeply appreciate what these attorneys are doing," Gambрил said.

For more information, contact Covington County DA Greg Gambрил at gambрил@alaweb.com or St. Clair County DA Richard Minor at richard.minor@alada.gov.

Grants, Comments, Nominations

Legal Services Corporation Notice of Availability of Competitive Grant Funds

The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) announces the availability of competitive grant funds to provide civil legal services to eligible clients during 2008. A Request for Proposals and other information pertaining to the LSC grants competition will be available from www.ain.lsc.gov during the week of April 16, 2007. Refer to www.ain.lsc.gov for filing dates and submission requirements. E-mail inquiries to competition@lsc.gov.

Notice of and Opportunity for Comment on Amendments to the Rules of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2071(b), notice and opportunity for comment are hereby given of proposed amendments to the Rules of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and of proposed amendments to Addendum Five, Non-Criminal Justice Act Counsel Appointments. A copy of the proposed amendments may be obtained on and after April 2, 2007 from www.caliuscourts.gov or from the Office of the Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 56 Forsyth St., NW, Atlanta 30303. Comments may be submitted in writing to the Clerk by May 2, 2007.

Pro Bono Award Nominations

The Alabama State Bar Committee on Volunteer Lawyer Programs/Access to Legal Services is seeking nominations for the Pro Bono Award. Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting Linda L. Lund, Alabama State Bar, P.O. Box 671, Montgomery; (334) 296-1515. The Pro Bono Award recognizes the outstanding pro bono efforts of attorneys, law firms and law students in the state. The award criteria includes: the total number of pro bono hours or complexity of cases handled, impact of the pro bono work and benefit for the poor, particular expertise provided or the particular need satisfied, successful recruitment of other attorneys for pro bono representation, and proven commitment to delivery of quality legal services to the poor and to providing equal access to legal services. Nominations must be postmarked by May 1, 2007 and include a completed nomination form.



Now you can pay your **2007-08 ASB occupational license fee** and **special membership dues** online.

**No checks to write;
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No disruption in your membership.**

The 2006-07 occupational licenses and special memberships expire on September 30, 2007. Payment of license fees and membership dues for 2007-08 is due in the Alabama State Bar office by October 31, 2007 and are considered delinquent after that date. Occupational licenses purchased after October 31st will have a 15 percent late fee penalty added to the license fee.

Payments may be mailed to the Alabama State Bar or made online at www.alabar.org. Contact the Membership Department by e-mail, ms@alabar.org, or via telephone at 334-269-1515.


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LAW WITH A PUNCH— MEDIA, CAMERAS, GAG ORDERS— ETHICS IN HIGH-PROFILE CASES

Thomas A. Mesereau, Jr. - a trial attorney and former amateur boxer best known for successfully defending Michael Jackson in the 2005 child molestation trial. His celebrity criminal defense work is balanced by his personal and professional commitment to seeking justice for the legally underserved and "railroaded" victims of overzealous criminal prosecution offices. He devotes his time and money to notable pro

bono legal services to the African American communities of Los Angeles and death penalty cases in Alabama and Mississippi. He is a founding partner of Mesereau & Yu LLP, a general practice firm in Century City, California.

JUDICIAL REVIEW: FEDERAL AND STATE JUDGES MAKE THEIR CASE

This plenary program will be moderated by Dean John Carroll, Cumberland School of Law, Samford University. The distinguished panel includes prominent members of the federal and state judiciary:

- Hon. Sharon L. Blackburn, chief judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama
- Hon. Mark E. Fuller, chief judge, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama
- Hon. Virginia Granade, chief judge, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama
- Hon. J. Scott Vowell, presiding circuit judge, 10th Judicial Circuit
- Hon. Charles Price, presiding circuit judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
- Hon. Charles Graddick, presiding circuit judge, 13th Judicial Circuit



BELT TIGHTENING: HOW LAWYERS CAN STAY HEALTHY AND KEEP THE BOTTOM LINE IN SHAPE

Jill Fonte - performance coach. For every dollar spent on wellness programs for employees, businesses can expect to save an average of \$3, according to a study by Purdue University. The Purdue research is the latest in a long line of studies that all show that wellness programs save businesses (like law firms) money in lower health-care costs, greater productivity and reduced absenteeism. Wellness

programs also lift morale and can improve decision-making. High performance in the practice of law depends on how you manage your energy, not time.

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