WOMEN'S SECTION

OF THE ALABAMA STATE BAR

Message from the Chair | Request for Nominations | Volunteer List

Mark Your Calendars

January 20, 2016

JUDICIAL BRUNCH

(Circuit and District Judges)

10:30 a.m. at Ross Bridge in Birmingham

RSVP required by noon on Thursday, January 14, 2016

February 15, 2016

Deadline for Nominations for Maud McLure Kelly Award and Susan Bevill Livingston Leadership Award

June 1, 2016

Target date to obtain practice areas of section members for new Member Directory

June 24, 2016

Maud McLure Kelly Luncheon

11:30 a.m. at Sandestin Baytowne Wharf in Florida

Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting (June 22-25, 2016)

Message from the Chair



New Year's Resolutions - I love to hate them. Each year, I dutifully complete my list of resolutions. My course for the year seems so clear at that moment. Then life happens and I find my list at the bottom of my inbox months later! Cautiously, I read my list and find out that some resolutions were met and others will have to wait. Then I am reminded of Dwight D. Eisenhower's quote, "I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable." Now it is time for our Section to plan its 2016 course. Planning would not be possible without the commitment of our Section members who volunteer their time to make this Section work. Thank you for your response to our volunteer requests. Inside this issue you will find a list of committee volunteers. With a new list of committee volunteers, our chairs can plan accordingly. The respective committee chair will contact you soon.

Here are some other things the Section is planning:

1. We do need your help with our Member Directory. We already have each member's contact information, but we do not have each member's areas of practice. Our membership list has been divided into geographic regions and we plan to assign a directory chair to each region. The directory chair will reach out

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Leigh King Forstman (BBA WLS Liaison)

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to you to identify your practice areas. Our goal to obtain this information is June 1, 2016.

2. Now through February 15, 2016, we are seeking nominations for two of our Section awards: the Maud McLure Kelly Award and the Susan Bevill Livingston Leadership Award. An explanation of the criteria for each award is on page 4 of this issue.

3. Thank you Dana Taunton, Judicial Brunch Chair, for your hard work planning our brunch to be held on January 20, 2016. If you plan to attend, you must rsvp. Space is limited.

4. Finally, thank you for our sponsors who donated to support our Section. Our newsletter now has a Sponsorship Page.

As we start the year with new resolutions, I hope you will include getting connected with this Section. Together, we can raise our voices to advance women in this profession. May 2016 bring you much health and happiness (with or without a long list of resolutions)!

Allison Skinner

2015-2017 Chair, Women's Section

Circuit and District Judges Mid-Winter Conference

The Women's Section of the Alabama State Bar invites you to a

Judicial Brunch

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

10:30 am

Ross Bridge







RSVP by January 11, 2016 - Dana Taunton - dana.taunton@beasleyallen.com or 334.495.1116

Space is limited- reserve your seat today!!

$40 per ticket

Sit and chat while an expertly prepared brunch is served to you!

CONGRATULATIONS!

LEILA WATSON Elected President-Elect of the Birmingham Bar Association



Leila H. Watson, *Cory Watson PC,* Birmingham

Ms. Watson earned her B.S. from the University of Wisconsin and her J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law. She served as Law Clerk to Associate Justice Janie L. Shores, Alabama Supreme Court from 1983-1984. She has had a diverse practice that started with two years as a criminal defense attorney, then shifting to an all-plaintiff practice in mass torts, single events and appellate practice across all types of cases, and now focuses on pharmaceutical and other product liability, abuse cases, medical issues and premises liability. Ms. Watson is a member of the Birmingham Bar; the Alabama and American Associations for Justice; the American Board of Trial Advocates; and the National Board of Appellate Lawyers. She is the chair of the Amicus Curiae Brief Committee for the Alabama Association for Justice and a member of the Alabama Pattern Jury Instructions Committee - Civil. She is the board chair at Studio By The Tracks and a member of the Alabama School Readiness Alliance Pre-K Task Force, and pro bono counsel for the Komen Race for the Cure.

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

The Women's Section of the Alabama State Bar is accepting nominations for the following awards:

MAUD MCLURE KELLY AWARD

This award is named for the first woman admitted to practice law in Alabama and is presented each year to a female attorney who has made a lasting impact on the legal profession and who has been a great pioneer and leader in the State of Alabama. The Women's Section is honored to present an award named after a woman whose commitment to women's rights was and continues to be an inspiration for all women in the state. Previous recipients include Justice Janie Shores, Miss Alice Lee, Miss Nina Miglionico, Judge Phyllis Nesbitt, Miss Mahala Ashley Dickerson, Dean Camille Cook, Jane Dishuck, Louise Turner, Frankie Fields Smith, Sara Dominick Clark, Carol Jean Smith, Marjorie Fine Knowles, Mary Lee Stapp, Ernestine Sapp, and Judge Caryl Privett. The award will be presented at the Maud McLure Kelly Luncheon at the Annual State Bar Meeting on June 24, 2016.

SUSAN BEVILL LIVINGSTON LEADERSHIP AWARD

This is a new award for the Women's Section in memory of Susan Bevill Livingston who practiced law at Balch & Bingham. The recipient of this award must demonstrate 1. a continual commitment to those around her as a mentor; 2. a sustained level of leadership throughout her career; 3. a commitment to her community in which she practices, such as, but not limited to, bar related activities, community service, and/or activities which benefit women in the legal field and/or in her community. The candidate must be or have been in good standing with the Alabama Bar and have at least ten (10) years of cumulative practice in the field of law. This award may be given posthumously. This award will be presented at a special reception.

Submission deadline is February 15, 2016

Please submit your nominations to Allison Skinner, Chair of the Women's Section, by email at askinner@acesin.com. Your submission should include the candidate's name and contact information, the candidate's current CV and any letters of recommendations.

Leigh King Forstman is the Editor of the Women's Section of the Alabama State Bar Newsletter. If you have news, contact her at leighf@pittmandutton.com, (205) 322-8880 or (205) 999-9962.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

JUDY H. BARGANIER - Montgomery, Alabama



Judy H. Barganier was raised in Birmingham, Alabama. After attending the University of Alabama and graduating with a Bachelor of Science from Auburn University in Montgomery, Judy graduated *magna cum* laude from the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in 1992 and received her Juris Doctor degree. She started out in private practice, moving forward to become a Deputy District Attorney for Montgomery County. In 1994 Judy originated the Montgomery County Task Force on Domestic Violence with Judge Lynn Bright, which brought major and continuing reforms to the way domestic violence cases were handled in Montgomery County. In that same year, she co-founded the Sexual Assault Response Team in Montgomery County, which radically reformed the criminal justice system's response to victims of rape, sodomy, and other sexual assault crimes. Judy participated as a member of the Multi-Disciplinary Teams, which handled child abuse and child sexual abuse allegations and crimes. In 1998, she returned to private practice, and on January 1, 2000, Judy created her Alabama family law and Alabama criminal defense practice. Judy is married to Joe Herman, has four adult children and nine wonderful grandchildren.



BROOKE NIXON - Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Brooke Nixon practices in the areas of labor and employment law and general business law with Rosen Harwood, P.A. In addition to her focus on these areas, Ms. Nixon also provides counsel to a wide array of companies and clients to develop preventive measures to minimize risks and avoid the expense of litigation. Ms. Nixon has represented clients in discrimination and harassment litigation, contract disputes, and retaliatory discharge claims. She also works with clients to form new businesses and helps them deal with a variety of workplace issues. Ms. Nixon received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Alabama and her Juris Doctorate from Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama. She is licensed to practice in both Alabama and Florida; U.S. District Court, Northern District and Middle District of Alabama; and U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida.

CHRISTIE DASINGER KNOWLES - Gadsden, Alabama

Christie Dasinger Knowles is from Jacksonville, Alabama. Christie graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law and was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1997. After clerking on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, Christie returned to northeast Alabama. She has been practicing in Gadsden since 1998. Christie's law firm is Knowles & Sullivan, LLC, located in the heart of historic downtown Gadsden. Her primary practice areas include business law and business formations, wills and estate planning and civil litigation. Christie loves working with business owners to form, advise and grow their businesses. She believes that community service is vital to her practice and serves on many local boards of directors including Gadsden Regional Medical Center, BBVA Compass Bank, Gadsden Cultural Arts Foundation and Etowah County Boys and Girls Club. She is past-president of the Gadsden Commercial Development Authority, Gadsden Area Chamber of Commerce and Etowah County United Way. Christie enjoys spending time with her husband, Jason, who is also her law partner, and her two children Caroline (14) and Jay (11).



THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!

2015-2016 ASB Women's Section Volunteer List

Silent Auction

Julie Carter

Judicial Brunch

Alexandria Parrish

Judy Parrish

Tina Lam

Jana Garner

Lauren White

Sarah Johnston

Long Range Planning

Susan Hamill

Sylvian Moss

Maud McLure Kelly Luncheon

Robin Burrell

Leslie Wright

Brittany Ramey

Laura Montgomery

Membership

Emily Nelson

Lisa Robinson

Emily Baggett

Sarah Johnston

Sylvian Moss

Lindsey Meadows

As Needed
Christy Crow

Rachel Webber

Leila Watson

Brittany Scott

Sharon Stuart

Heather Lee

Sabrina McKinney

Sarah Stokes

Brandy Robertson

Mentoring/CLE
Abigail Morrow

Frances Quick

Debra Lewis

Caroline Strawbridge

Melissa Smith

Julie Portera

Emily Baggett

Roianne Connor

Kristin Sullivan

Cheryl Oswald

Newsletter
Leigh Forstman

Sarah Johnston

Susan Crowther

Sylvian Moss

Lindsey Meadows

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JCD JINKS, CROW & DICKSON, P.C. Attorneys at Law

Skinner Neutral Services LLC

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