



KEITH B. NORMAN



*Much of the staff had to play musical chairs while the new build-out was underway.*

## Fifteen Tons and a Facelift

No, this is not about a new television reality show imitating the *Biggest Loser*. And, it's not a rewrite of the Merle Travis tune, *Sixteen Tons*, popularized by Tennessee Ernie Ford with his chart-topping version in 1955. Instead, I am reporting that we have finished building out the third floor of the ASB building and refurbishing all three floors. In the process of converting our third-floor storage space into office space, we shredded **15 tons** of old files that we no longer needed to keep. This included the hard copies of member files that were no longer required after all of those files were scanned into an electronic document management system.

The third-floor build-out included new space for our information technology (IT) staff and a special room for our network servers. The Communications Department moved from the first floor to the third floor and the Lawyers Assistance Program (ALAP) moved from its existing offices on the third floor to a new office area with added space for staff. Moving ALAP to the other side of the building allows additional space for the Alabama Law Foundation (ALF) and frees up space for the Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) to have, for the first time, an in-take clerk. Two unfilled offices in the new area will be used for the time being as storage space.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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*ASB Foundation Assistant Ann Rittenour was designated “clerk of the works” to oversee this project. These photos offer a glimpse at the different phases of construction from framing the office and storage space to wiring the electrical to finishing the walls.*

On the second floor, as on all other floors, the public spaces recently have been repainted. The work space in the Center for Professional Responsibility has been reconfigured to make it more serviceable. New meeting tables have been added in the boardroom and the small kitchen area off the boardroom has been refitted to better accommodate catered functions. The bronze windows on the first floor of the original building have been reworked as have the casements around each window. Additional shelves for filing have been added in the Admissions office and the former file room on the first floor has been converted to general storage. The MCLE director and staff, which have been split up, will be moved to the offices formerly occupied by the Communications Department.

The first build-out of the bar building's third floor occurred in 1998. In ten years, our membership has grown 32 percent, from 11,800 to 15,600 attorneys. The VLP, ALAP and Practice Management Program (PMAP), among others, have matured as their services have broadened. In addition, we have created staff positions that did not exist ten years ago: IT, Web site administrator and scanning technician. Fortunately, the Board of Bar Commissioners had the vision in 1989 to construct an addition to the bar building that has accommodated our membership's growth and the increase in services for bar members. Although there is no more interior space available for future expansion, I am confident that the Board of Bar Commissioners will address the state bar's future space needs with the same wisdom and vision that has guided it in the past. ▲▼▲