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# ADDENDUM

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Alabama State Bar Announces Selection of J. Douglas McElvy as Acting General Counsel
- Election of the President-Elect
- Commissioners' Corner
- Important Notices
- Attorney Advertising? (Just Ask)
- Member Benefits Spotlight
- Lawyer University Presents Technology 101: A Guide for Your Law Firm to Thrive in the 21st Century
- Self-Help Legal Documents
- Alabama Legal Food Frenzy 2017
- Birmingham Attorney Chosen to Lead National Conference
- Orange Beach CLE 2017
- Legal Work, On Demand: How Book-It Legal Is Revolutionizing the Traditional Clerkship Model

Short articles of general interest are always welcomed from ASB members. All materials submitted for publication in the *Addendum* are subject to editing for style, space and content. Send submissions as Word documents to Allison Skinner, editor, [allison.skinner@cadencebank.com](mailto:allison.skinner@cadencebank.com); Linda Flippo, assistant editor, [flippo@whitearnold.com](mailto:flippo@whitearnold.com); or Margaret Murphy, managing editor, [margaret.murphy@alabar.org](mailto:margaret.murphy@alabar.org).

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## > Alabama State Bar Announces Selection of J. Douglas McElvy as Acting General Counsel



**T**he Alabama State Bar recently announced the selection of attorney and past president of the Alabama State Bar J. Douglas McElvy as its acting general counsel. McElvy follows longtime General Counsel J. Anthony McLain who served the bar for more than 28 years.

"I am pleased that Doug McElvy has been selected as the bar's acting general counsel," said Alabama State Bar President J. Cole Portis. "I know Doug will pour his heart and soul into this position and, like Tony, he will balance mercy with justice."

McElvy received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama and his law degree from the university's school of law (1971). After graduating, McElvy clerked for Judge Charles Wright, presiding judge of the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals. He is a certified mediator by the American Academy of Attorney Mediators, and is admitted to practice before all Alabama courts, all

Alabama federal district courts, the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Tony McLain was esteemed by all who knew him, and finding a successor equal in stature will be difficult," said McElvy. "I am honored beyond measure to have been asked by the bar to act as general counsel."

McElvy served as a member of the bar's Board of Bar Commissioners from 1991 to 2003 and served four terms on the Executive Council. He served as vice president of the Alabama State Bar (2002) and as president (2004-2005). During his tenure as president, McElvy was instrumental in initiating and establishing the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism under Chief Justice Drayton Nabers. He was a member of the Professionalism Commission since its inception, served as its chair and was awarded the Chief Justice's Award of Professionalism in 2010.

McElvy served on the Alabama Law Foundation Board of Trustees and was also elected a Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama Law School Foundation.

McElvy is a Kiwanian and has been involved in numerous organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, Leadership Tuscaloosa, West Alabama Area American Cancer Society, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Tuscaloosa, YMCA, West Alabama Transplant Trust Fund, Tuscaloosa Coalition for Character, Christian Legal Society of Alabama, Baptist Health Care Foundation and Legal Services Alabama. <

# Let Me Hear from You!



At the beginning of my term, I sent a letter to all members of the Alabama State Bar, letting you know that this is your bar. In the letter were three ways to contact me:

- > Click on the "Better Bar" banner on the home page at [www.alabar.org](http://www.alabar.org);
- > Send an email to me at [cole.portis@beasleyallen.com](mailto:cole.portis@beasleyallen.com); and
- > Call/text me at (334) 451-0856

***I want to hear from you.*** I want to hear the good and the bad. I want to hear praise. I want to hear criticism. And, mostly, I want to listen to your ideas about how we can improve our bar!

—JCP



# Remember to **VOTE**

**MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017 – FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2017**



Sam W. Irby



R. Cooper Shattuck

**Election of the president-elect** will begin **Monday, May 15, 2017** and end **Friday, May 19, 2017**. On the third Monday in May (May 15), members will be notified by email with a link to an electronic ballot. Those who wish to vote by paper ballot should notify the secretary of the state bar in writing on or before the first Friday in May (May 5), requesting a paper ballot. All ballots (paper and electronic) must be voted and received by the Alabama State Bar by 5 p.m. on the Friday (May 19) immediately following the opening of the election.



## > COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

The approved minutes of the October 28, 2016 and January 20, 2017 Board of Bar Commissioners' meetings are available on the state bar's website at <https://www.alabar.org/assets/uploads/2014/08/2016-October-28-Board-Meeting.pdf> and <https://www.alabar.org/assets/uploads/2014/08/Board-Meeting-Minutes-January-20-2017.pdf>, respectively.

facebook

[www.facebook.com/alabamastatebar](http://www.facebook.com/alabamastatebar)

twitter

@AlabamaStateBar

## Join the conversation

Like us on FaceBook and follow us on Twitter.

# > IMPORTANT NOTICES

## Local Bar Award of Achievement

Cole Portis, Alabama State Bar president, and the ASB Local Bar Task Force want you to apply this year! This award recognizes local bars for their outstanding contributions to their communities. Awards will be presented during the Alabama State Bar's 2017 Annual Meeting at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort in Point Clear.

Local bar associations compete for these awards based on their size—large, medium or small.

The following criteria are used to judge the applications:

- The degree of participation by the individual bar in advancing programs to benefit the community;
- The quality and extent of the impact of the bar's participation on the citizens in that community; and
- The degree of enhancements to the bar's image in the community.

**To be considered for this award, local bar associations must complete and submit an application by Friday, June 2, 2017.** Applications may be downloaded from [www.alabar.org](http://www.alabar.org) or obtained by contacting Mary Frances Garner at (334) 269-1515 or [maryfrances.garner@alabar.org](mailto:maryfrances.garner@alabar.org).

## Notice from the Clerk of The Supreme Court of Alabama

Counsel practicing law in the state of Alabama should be particularly mindful of a recent amendment to the *Alabama Rules of Appellate Procedure*, effective January 1, 2017.

Rule 3(c) has been amended to require parties to an appeal to list with specificity all appellants and/or appellees in the notice of appeal, and appellants may no longer designate multiple, unnamed parties by the use of

"et al." or "etc." In cases with multiple parties, the appellant or cross-appellant may attach a separate sheet of paper listing the parties and their designations with specificity if the parties are too numerous to fit into the spaces allotted for the same on the notice of appeal form. Notice of the amendment to this rule and its effective date appeared in the December *Addendum* and the January *Alabama Lawyer*.

Counsel are also advised to periodically check for the latest amendments to all *Rules of Court* (civil, criminal, appellate, etc.), which are listed on the Alabama Appellate Courts website (<http://judicial.alabama.gov/rules/Rules.cfm>).

## 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 is hereby given of proposed amendments to the *Rules of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit*. The public comment period is from April 5 to May 5, 2017.

A copy of the proposed amendments may be obtained on and after April 5, 2017 from the court's website at <http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/rules/proposed-revisions>. A copy may also be obtained without charge from the Office of the Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 56 Forsyth St., NW, Atlanta 30303 (phone 404-335-6100). Comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted in writing to the Clerk at the above address or <http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/rules/proposed-revisions> by May 5, 2017.

## Position Announcement

Position: Staff Attorney

Location: Montgomery, Alabama

Opening Date: April 6, 2017

Closing Date: Applications must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 8, 2017. Applications received after that time will not be considered.

Position Available: Immediately

### ■ Representative Duties

The Standing Chapter 13 Trustee for the Middle District of Alabama is accepting applications from qualified individuals for full-time employment as staff attorney in the Trustee's office. The staff attorney works under the direction of the Chapter 13 Trustee. The position requires regular appearance on behalf of the Trustee for formal hearings before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Alabama in Montgomery, Opelika, Dothan and elsewhere as may be required. The duties of the position are comprehensive and demanding and include, but are not limited to:

- Attends and conducts first meetings of creditors;
- Represents the Trustee at confirmation hearings and other legal proceedings;
- Reviews petitions, pleadings, statements, applications, plans, motions and other documents for legal sufficiency and initiates and/or recommends appropriate strategy to the Trustee;
- Performs legal research and prepares briefs, responses and legal memoranda for the Trustee; and
- Provides technical assistance and responds to inquiries of attorneys, debtors, creditors, court employees and the public on matters involving Chapter 13 cases.

- The staff attorney must assist the Trustee in complying with all provisions of the *United States Bankruptcy Code* and *Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure*. Intra-district travel will be required; however, it is anticipated that overnight travel, other than for training purposes, will be infrequent.

#### ■ Requirements:

- Possess a Juris Doctor;
- Be an attorney in good standing of each bar in which the applicant is a member and be a member in good standing of the Alabama State Bar;
- Be admitted to practice law in the Middle District of Alabama;
- Must have superior analytical, research and writing skills and be proficient in computer-assisted research;
- Be free of prejudices against any individual, entity or group of individuals which would interfere with unbiased performance of the staff attorney's duties in assisting the Trustee;
- Exhibit by demeanor, character and personality that the applicant would be able to competently assist the Trustee in performing and discharging her required duties;
- Possess strong communication and interpersonal skills; and
- Be proficient with Microsoft Office and Westlaw.

#### ■ Preferred Qualifications:

- Possess knowledge and experience in bankruptcy practice and procedures;
- Proficiency with the Court Management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) system is highly desirable.

#### ■ Information for Applicants:

Applicant must be a U.S. citizen or eligible to work in the U.S. Only well-suited

applicants will be selected for personal interviews. Those selected for interviews should be prepared to provide a self-edited writing sample and professional references. The selection process will be confidential and competitive. The selected applicant will be required to use EFT for payroll deposit. Trustee Office employees are "at will" employees subject to removal at any time.

The staff attorney's annual salary and benefits are part of the Trustee's annual operating budget, which is subject to review and approval by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and the U.S. Bankruptcy Administrator. The starting salary will be dependent upon years of specialized experience and qualifications.

In addition to salary, benefits presently include, subject to applicable participation requirements:

- Participation in a health and dental plan;
- Participation in a 401K retirement savings plan;
- Sick and annual leave accrual; and
- Paid federal holidays.

#### ■ Application Process:

Applicants should submit their cover letter, resume and a three-year salary history to:

Sabrina L. McKinney  
Standing Chapter 13 Trustee  
P.O. Box 173  
Montgomery, AL 36101-0173  
ATTN: Beth Peek, Assistant Trustee

Alternatively, this information may be emailed to [peekb@ch13mdal.com](mailto:peekb@ch13mdal.com).

Applications must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 8, 2017.

Applications received after that time will not be considered.

***The Chapter 13 Trustee for the Middle District of Alabama is an equal opportunity employer.*** <

# Need more clients?

## Join the ASB Lawyer Referral Service



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- Referrals in all 67 counties
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Download the application at [www.alabar.org/membership/lawyer-referral-service/](http://www.alabar.org/membership/lawyer-referral-service/) or email [LRS@alabar.org](mailto:LRS@alabar.org).





# ANNUAL MEETING

20



17

GRAND HOTEL

POINT CLEAR

Thank you very much for planning so many family activities and making the meeting so kid-friendly. My whole family had a blast.

Overall, the conference was excellent, well organized, quality speakers and panels and plenty of networking opportunities.

**Join us for the Alabama State Bar's 140th Annual Meeting**

**JULY 12-15, 2017**

*Love Your Neighbor*

- TRACK PROGRAMMING: Business of Law; Future of the Profession; Helping the Public; Mind, Body, Spirit, Wellness
- American Bar Foundation Dinner
- KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Mike Ethridge, Paul Mellor, Ashby Pate, William Haltom, Artur Davis and more
- Socialize with ASB's new executive director, Phillip McCallum

- Activities for family members of all ages include: Golf, Tennis, Foot Golf, Rock & Roll Bingo, Fishing, Sailing
- Learn more about Lawyer University
- Grand Prize from ISI: A Week-Long Trip in Mazatlan, Mexico

Registration available now at  
<https://www.alabar.org/about-the-bar/annual-meeting/>



> *Below is a memorandum prepared on February 19 by Mark Moody of the Office of General Counsel to the Alabama State Bar Executive Committee regarding attorney advertising concerns.*

***In response to a request from several members of this committee regarding concerns expressed to them from lawyers around the state regarding attorney advertising in Alabama, please see below a short synopsis of the situation which should help address concerns of this nature going forward:***

**T**he Office of General Counsel advises lawyers on a daily basis regarding compliance with the *Rules of Professional Conduct*. This includes hundreds of inquiries per year regarding advertising. While Rule 7.2(b), *Ala. R. Prof. C.*, imposes a filing requirement for all

advertising, the Office of General Counsel also encourages lawyers to submit their advertising to the Office of General Counsel in order to review it for compliance with the *Rules of Professional Conduct* before said advertisement is published or aired. Many lawyers take advantage of this service offered free as part of the cost of one's license to practice law in Alabama. With regards to lawyer discipline regarding advertising, lawyers in Alabama have been disciplined for violating advertising rules. However, it is important to note that while the bar would like to regulate attorney advertising with greater scrutiny, the United States Supreme Court and federal courts side almost uniformly with attorneys challenging advertising rules

containing heightened scrutiny. *Bates v. State Bar of Arizona*, 433 U.S. 350 (1977); *Zauderer v. Office of Disciplinary Counsel of the Supreme Court of Ohio*, 471 U.S. 626 (1985); *Peel v. Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of Illinois*, 496 U.S. 91 (1990); *Shapiro v. Kentucky Bar Ass'n.*, 486 U.S. 466 (2001); *Alexander v. Cahill*, 598 F.3d 79 (2nd Cir. 2010); *Dwyer v. Cappell*, 762 F.3d 275 (3rd Cir. 2014); *Ficker v. Curran*, 119 F.3d 1150 (4th Cir. 1997); *Public Citizen, Inc. v. La. Atty. Disciplinary Bd.*, 632 F.3d 212 (5th Cir. 2011); *Mason v. Florida Bar*, 208 F.3d 952 (11th Cir. 2000); *Searcy v. Florida Bar*, 140 F. Supp.3d 1290 (N.D. Fla. 2015); *Rubenstein v. Florida Bar*, 69 F. Supp.3d 1331 (S.D. Fla. 2014); *Harrell v. Florida Bar*, 915 F. Supp.2d 1285 (M.D. Fla. 2011).



## > MEMBER BENEFITS SPOTLIGHT



### Ruby Receptionists Now Offering Free Local Number Hosting

Ruby can host an existing business number or provide a telephone number in the area code of choice, free of charge. No need for a landline or expensive PBX system—and, in fact, no need to involve the phone company at all!

And customers who host with Ruby have access to our "Choose Your Caller ID" feature, which lets users display their cell number or business number when making calls through the Ruby mobile app. Learn more by visiting <https://www.callruby.com/asb/>.



### LawPay

It's critical for attorneys to correctly handle credit card transactions between their trust and operating accounts. With LawPay, attorneys can accept credit cards with confidence.

LawPay's unique processing program correctly separates earned and un-earned fees in compliance with ABA

*Rules of Professional Conduct* and most state bar IOLTA guidelines. And, with LawPay you get competitive rates, no start-up costs, no minimum processing required, PCI compliance and fraud and chargeback protection. Why trust your payments to anyone else?



### Clio's Legal Practice Management Software

There's a better way to run your practice. Clio lets you manage every aspect of your firm in one comprehensive, easy-to-use platform, so that you can spend less time on non-billable administrative work and more time working with clients.

Clio is cloud-based, which means you can securely access your firm's resources from any web browser or via Clio's mobile app. Manage all of your matters, contacts, calendar resources, billing and trust accounting in one place—from client intake through to invoice. Get paid 35 percent faster with Clio Payments, designed specifically for lawyers looking to collect electronic payments via credit card. Clio integrates with all of your essential software, including Microsoft Office 365 for Business, Google's G Suite, Dropbox and Quickbooks Online.

Alabama State Bar members are eligible for a *10 percent lifetime discount* on Clio, which includes:

- Free seven-day trial
- Free data migrations
- Unlimited access to award-winning support and training

Clio is the ideal practice management solution for firms of all sizes. Learn how tens of thousands of lawyers around the world have improved their practice. Try Clio or schedule a demo for free by going to [https://landing.clio.com/alabar?utm\\_campaign=Clio\\_Bar&utm\\_medium=pr&utm\\_source=homepage&utm\\_content=alabar&utm\\_term=mar\\_02\\_2017](https://landing.clio.com/alabar?utm_campaign=Clio_Bar&utm_medium=pr&utm_source=homepage&utm_content=alabar&utm_term=mar_02_2017).



### GEICO

As an Alabama State Bar member, you know a thing or two about making smart choices. An auto policy with GEICO is one of the smartest choices you could make. And as a member of the ASB, you could qualify for a special discount. GEICO is also able to help you find additional coverage, such as homeowners', renters', personal umbrella and even motorcycle insurance. Contact GEICO today by visiting <http://geico.com/bar/asb> or calling (800) 368-2734. Don't forget to mention your Alabama State Bar membership to see how much your membership could save you. <





## ALABAMA STATE BAR



### > Lawyer University Presents Technology 101: A Guide for Your Law Firm to Thrive in the 21st Century

**E**very successful business now runs on technology, yet many lawyers are not utilizing it to the fullest extent. Some are not utilizing it at all. By effectively harnessing the many tech tools available, you will be able to reduce the time needed to deliver quality legal services, while boosting the bottom line.

For this second Lawyer University class, the first speaker is **Steven J. Best**. He is a nationally-known technology consultant with Affinity Consulting with a background in law, accounting and economics. He'll introduce you to all of the technology you could, and should, currently be using with an emphasis on using technology in the law firm in a safe and ethical way.

Birmingham lawyers **Tripp Watson** and **Rip Andrews** will complete the program with a roundup of 50 apps every

lawyer should know about and must-have trial technology, respectively.

The Lawyer University Tech 101 class is scheduled for **April 27, 2017, at 11:30 a.m. at the Birmingham Bar Center** and is approved for three hours of MCLE credit (one hour of ethics). Lunch is included. This class is limited to 100 members. To view the schedule, go to <https://www.alabar.org/assets/uploads/2017/03/Lawyer-University-Tech-101-Schedule.pdf>. To register, go to <https://www.alabar.org/assets/uploads/2017/03/Lawyer-University-Tech-101-Registration-Form-Fillable.pdf>. Sign up quickly so that you don't miss this opportunity!

For more information on Lawyer University or Technology 101, contact the ASB Practice Management Assistance Program at (334) 517-2242 or [pmap@alabar.org](mailto:pmap@alabar.org).

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## Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program



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# > Self-Help Legal Documents

By Joseph K. Beach

**S**elf-help legal services have gained popularity in recent years, providing convenience and the promise of accurate, legally binding documents. Though many individuals have successfully used these self-service solutions, they may not realize the trade-off they are making—gaining convenience at the expense of expertise.

When I was in private practice, I ran into a few situations where clients had used self-help legal documents. One time, I had a client approach me about probating his father's will. The will was generated by a computer program and had two noticeable problems. First, the will did not waive inventory. Second, it was not notarized. In order to probate the will, we had to send an affidavit to one of the witnesses. The client also had to file an inventory.

In anticipation of a meeting with a husband and wife to review their estate planning, the husband sent copies of their "wills." As I reviewed these program-generated documents, I noted that while the testator had signed the document and had it notarized, there were no witnesses to his signature, and thus the document was not a will. In reality, my clients had not had wills for the previous seven years.

Lawyers have been using forms (prepared internally or a document-drafting

system) for years, but all lawyers know that a form is just a starting point and does not contain all of the needed information. The danger in consumers using legal self-help documents is that they may not know the implications of certain choices in "drafting" documents. At least one provider of self-help documents has attorneys available to answer questions, but that may not be the case for all providers.

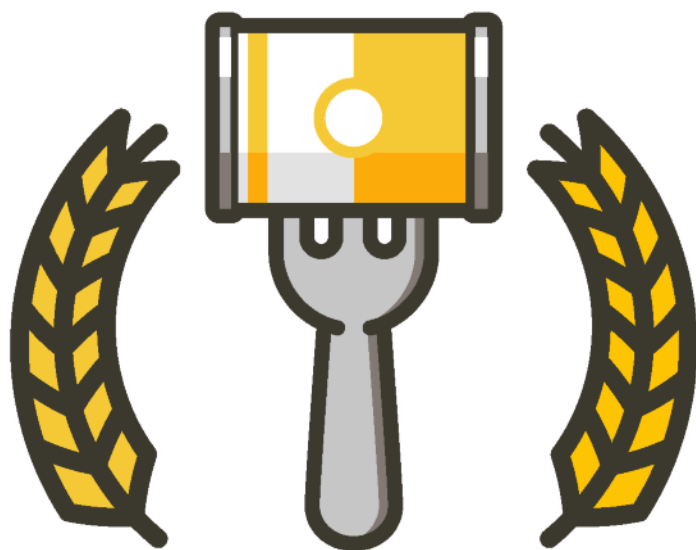
What's a lawyer to do? When asked about these self-help providers, I tell folks that it might be just fine (the third time I ran into such documents they appeared to be generally "in order")—or not.

We cannot know what the self-help product will produce, but I know that any Alabama attorney-drafted will would waive inventory, have witnesses and be notarized. The self-help form may have some of the minimum requirements, but a lawyer would be able to answer the most important question: "Should I (the client) be using this form in the first place?" As a lawyer of another generation said, "A lawyer's time and advice are his stock in trade." Be sure you are putting both to good use for the benefit of your clients. <

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*Joe Beach practices with SunTrust Private Wealth Management in Atlanta.*





# ALABAMA LEGAL FOOD FRENZY

## > Alabama Legal Food Frenzy 2017

**M**ore than 1.8 million Alabamians need food assistance and one in four children in Alabama comes from families that experience food hardships. Alabama's eight regional food banks distributed 50 million+ pounds of food last year through their network of approximately 1,500 partner agencies and pantries. And the need continues to grow.

Food donations are traditionally slow in late spring and early summer as families focus on end-of-school activities and summer vacations. Food banks and their agencies see the demand for food increase during this time as the 385,000 children who depend on access to breakfast and lunch at school are home for the summer months. Only eight percent of children who receive free or reduced-cost lunches during the school year have access to summer meal programs.

For two weeks, beginning **April 24 and lasting until May 5**, the Alabama State Bar, the Alabama Attorney General's Office and the Alabama Food Bank Association are challenging law firms and legal organizations across the state to raise food and funds for Alabama's eight regional food banks.

The law firm or legal organization that collects the most pounds of food per



employee will receive the Attorney General's Cup, with other honors to be awarded in categories based on the firm's size. Food will be weighed at food banks and monetary donations will be counted as four pounds of food for each dollar. Additional information and a sign-up form can be found at [allegalfoodfrenzy.org](http://allegalfoodfrenzy.org).

Last year, the equivalent of more than 140,000 pounds of food was collected

for Alabama food banks and the winners included:

### ■ **Attorney General's Cup**

Maynard, Cooper & Gale-Huntsville

### ■ **Solo Practitioners**

Annette M. Carwie (most pounds and most pounds per person)

### ■ **Small Firms**

Prim & Mendheim LLC (most pounds)  
Lewis, Feldman, Lehane & Snable LLC (most pounds per person)

### ■ **Medium Firms**

Bressler, Amery & Ross PC (most pounds and most pounds per person)

### ■ **Large Firms**

Sirote & Permutt PC (most pounds)  
Maynard, Cooper & Gale-Huntsville (most pounds per person)

### ■ **Legal Organizations**

Alabama State Bar (most pounds)  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, ND of Alabama, Western Division (most pounds per person)  
Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole & Black PC (Spirit of Excellence)

Please help us alleviate this need by participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alabama Legal Food Frenzy!

# > Birmingham Attorney Chosen to Lead National Conference



Barineau

**T**he National Conference of Bar Foundations (NCBF) Board of Trustees announces that Birmingham attorney **Leslie R. Barineau** was recently chosen to serve as its 2017 president-elect. Barineau has served on the board of trustees since 2011. She also is serving her second term as a state bar commissioner for the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, place number one, and is a partner at Barineau & Barineau. She has served in numerous capacities with the American Bar Association, the Alabama State Bar and the Birmingham Bar Association.

The National Conference of Bar Foundations advances the work of all types of bar foundations by:

- (a) Promoting the integral role of bar foundations in advancing law-related philanthropy to the organized bar, the larger legal community and the philanthropic community; and
- (b) Serving as a clearinghouse and resource to assist bar foundations in carrying out their charitable missions.



## Orange Beach CLE 2017

The Alabama State Bar Young Lawyers' Section presents their annual Orange Beach CLE, Thursday, May 4–Saturday, May 6, at the Caribe Resort. The seminar registration form and agenda are available at <https://www.alabar.org/membership/sections/young-lawyers/> under "Documents." When making your hotel reservation by phone, call (888) 607-7020 and be sure to use Group Code "ASB Young Lawyers CLE." If booking online, go to <http://search.iqrez.com/reservations/CaribeResort/search/20978>.





# BOOK-IT LEGAL

## > LEGAL WORK, ON DEMAND:

# How Book-It Legal is Revolutionizing the Traditional Clerkship Model

By Albert Copeland



Jack West (right) receives a check as a winner of the Alabama Launchpad competition.

Since leaving his job as a corporate lawyer, ASB member **Jack West** has been riding a rollercoaster in creating his legal startup, Book-It Legal. Based in Birmingham, Book-It Legal is a web-based platform connecting attorneys with law students for per-project assistance.

Here's how it works: lawyers can register as an employer on Book-It Legal's website and hire law students on a per-project basis, with assignments ranging from general research on a legal issue to cite-checking a brief. Lawyers may set either an hourly or flat rate for the projects and, once satisfied with the quality of the work, pay the student for the services rendered.

The ASB recently spoke with West to learn more about the company and his mission to offer an alternative "micro-clerkship" to the traditional clerkship model.

### ■ Why did you create Book-It Legal?

There's been a movement across other industries in providing on-demand access for services, so I wondered why should lawyers miss out on this trend? Our goal is to help students find jobs and gain experience, while at the same time provide value to law firms by having a pool of talented, on-demand law students for their workload.

### ■ What kinds of law students are available on your platform?

Right now, our students are members of an accredited law school's general interest law review, but that's about to change as we are now expanding our pool to law students across the country.

In the coming months, we plan on introducing a rating and review system so lawyers can further vet the students.

### ■ How do you manage client privilege?

The onus is on the attorney to follow ethical rules. When attorneys sign up on Book-It Legal, they agree to abide by model and jurisdictional rules regarding privilege. It's similar to the traditional clerkship model in that supervising attorneys can dictate how, and if, students share their work and whether the student needs to come into the physical office to meet. If employers want an additional layer of protection, though, they have the option of requiring a confidentiality agreement as well.

### ■ How you would describe your experience running a legal tech startup?

It's been a wild ride. There are certainly a lot of obstacles to overcome, but we are gaining traction and building a name for ourselves. We were awarded \$50,000 as one of the winners in last year's Alabama Launchpad competition, and we are working out of Innovation Depot's Velocity incubator in Birmingham to continue our work. We've met some incredible people in our short time here, and it's been a game-changer having the access to resources and support of the startup community.

*Albert Copeland is a JD Candidate 2018 attending the University of Alabama School of Law.*