

Addendum

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Birmingham Women Attorneys Lead Effort to Combat Domestic Violence

There truly can be power in numbers

Domestic violence is one of the most pervasive but least publicized crimes. It is pernicious; it knows no racial, ethnic or socioeconomic boundaries. At least one in every three women *throughout the world* has been a victim of domestic violence. Until recently, most communities responded by sheltering its victims, typically women and children. Protecting victims is essential, but protection after the fact does not strike at the crime itself.

Recognizing the need for a proactive response to domestic violence, in 2006 the **Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham** instituted **Voices Against Violence**, a community-level initiative to reduce domestic violence assaults by 25 percent in Jefferson County by 2015.

The initiative links previously unconnected efforts trying to grapple with domestic violence. It moves beyond sheltering victims to addressing the crime itself by holding perpetrators accountable, involving men as part of the solution and giving people the tools to respond appropriately to domestic violence.

The **Giving Circle**, a group of female Birmingham attorneys, is leading a five-year campaign to fund the initiative. In 2006, the Giving Circle raised \$70,000 from the Birmingham Bar Association and the business community. With this support, the Women's Fund gave \$10,000 to help support the placement of a YWCA court advocate in the Birmingham Municipal Court. Training and technical assistance to streamline the court docket for hearing domestic violence cases was also provided. And, a liaison for the Jefferson County Coordinated Community Response Team (CCR) was funded.

In 2007, the Giving Circle raised \$56,000. In addition to sustaining the prior year's efforts, partial funding was provided

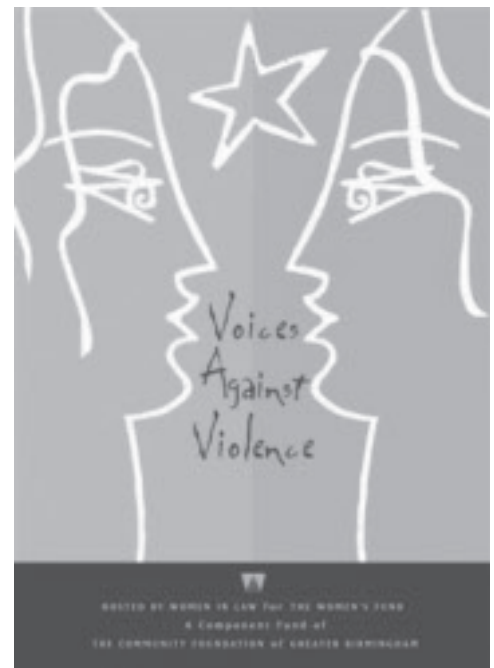
for the CCR. Funds were provided to study and then promote safety in the workplace while simultaneously involving men in the solution.

The Women's Fund recently donated digital cameras to the Birmingham Municipal Police Department to ensure its ability to collect forensic evidence in these cases.

The 2008 campaign culminates with a celebration event Thursday, September 18 at the Birmingham Museum of Art. **Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb** will address the need for domestic violence courts in every jurisdiction. Birmingham area judges will be special honored guests at the event.

All Alabama State Bar members are encouraged to consider making a pledge. Those pledging \$250 or more by July 31st will have their name or their firm's name placed on the invitations for the September event. Several sponsorship levels are available. For more information or to make a pledge, go to www.thewomensfundbhm.org or contact Wanda Coutts at (205) 327-3800.

—*Laura Peck is co-chair of the Giving Circle, and is a partner at Starnes & Atchison. Madeline Haikala, a partner at Lightfoot, Franklin & White, leads the Giving Circle's Corporate Counsel Team.*



ASB Member Benefit



Announces New Enhancements

This online research tool keeps getting better, with the expansion of its functions

One of the most widely used ASB member benefits is Casemaker®. What sets Casemaker® apart from other legal research sites (aside from affordability) is what this research tool offers. While Casemaker® 2.0 provides unique Browse, Thesaurus, casecheck and SuperCODE functions, it also features these enhancements:

1. Default data—upon entering Casemaker® you will automatically be taken to your state library to search within its database.
2. Multiple redundancy—backups are in place to safeguard against hardware and hosting outages.
3. Federal Bankruptcy opinions—dating back to 1979 from the Bankruptcy Reporter Series.
4. Federal library—700,000 additional documents, including District Court cases from 1950 and Circuit Court opinions from 1930.
5. Multi-state searches—allows you to aggregate cases and citations from a portal of all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia.
6. Flexible searches—its intelligence will automatically apply logic when a citation is not perfectly keyed. You may also drive both word form and proximity in search fields.
7. Improved speed—new front-end and back-end technology allows for even faster results.
8. 24/7 customer support—you may call at any time for customer support.
9. Live Webinar training—not only are they informative, but they are fun and you may ask questions at will. And, they're free!
10. Medical archive—Casemaker® unveils conceptual searching with Casemaker®-Medical. The service is 50 percent off the normal price to Casemaker® users.



New member benefit offers protection for servers, laptops and desktops

Alabama State Bar members have access to a new benefit that will help better protect a firm's critical data. CoreVault is an online data backup and recovery service that helps protect clients' data by getting it offsite on a daily and automated basis, while storing it in two private and geographically separate data centers. CoreVault also encrypts clients' data for increased security measures. Need to restore deleted or lost files?

No problem. With CoreVault, attorneys can restore single files and e-mails in a matter of minutes, which dramatically improves disaster recovery/business continuity plans.

Take advantage of the new special member price starting as low as \$29.95/month. For more information about this new service and to get a quick quote, e-mail CoreVault at sales@corevault.net or phone (866) 609-4ASB (4272) or visit www.corevault.net/asb.

Every Four Minutes Alabamians Contact ASB Lawyer Referral Service

Over 24,000 callers requested referrals last year via the state bar's toll-free number and Web site

Once every four minutes, an Alabama citizen calls the Alabama State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) seeking legal assistance. It happened 24,000 times last year.

Charles H. Moses, III, of Birmingham, chair of the LRS Board of Directors, said the service offers two important services to the public. "First, it helps the client determine if the problem is truly of a legal nature by screening inquiries and referring the individual to other service agencies when appropriate. The second, and perhaps more important function of a lawyer referral service, is to provide the client with an unbiased referral to an attorney who has experience in the area of law appropriate to the client's needs."

Callers may be referred to one of over 300 panel attorneys experienced in a specific area of the law, or they might need to be referred to a government agency or other resource to help resolve the matter.

The five areas of practice receiving the most calls are medical-malpractice; personal injury; wrongful termination; family law (divorce, custody, child support); and criminal felony.

ASB referral attorneys agree to charge a nominal fee (often waived) for the first half-hour consultation. If the legal issue requires work beyond this time, the client and lawyer then agree on the fee arrangement before any more work is done.

The ASB encourages clients to ask for a written fee agreement before they proceed with any legal work beyond the first 30-minute consultation.

More than five per cent of LRS referrals come from



the bar's Web site, www.alabar.org. It is interesting to note that the use of the Web site has not decreased the number of phone calls to the service.

As with the telephone referral service, online referrals are made on an impartial, county-by-county, rotation basis.

Yellow Pages advertising, ASB brochures and Internet publicity helps communicate the program's existence to non-lawyer audiences.

PMAP Library Spotlight

The 2008 Solo & Small Firm Legal Technology Guide: Critical Decisions Made Simple



By Sharon D. Nelson, John W. Simek and Michael C. Maschke

If your eyes glaze over when faced with purchasing or replacing computer equipment and peripherals (printers, scanners, etc.) for your office, and if you haven't got a clue what "Vista" is, much less whether you need it, this is the book for you.

The *Legal Technology Guide* draws on the wisdom and experience of three experts at Sensei Enterprises, Inc, a Fairfax, Virginia-based forensic technology firm, to lay out in simple language the "sweet spot" in terms of costs and features for computers, monitors, laptops, operating systems, scanners, and software for the small law firm. It also

covers antivirus and anti-spyware software for the single computers and small networks.

If you are thinking about making a technology purchase for your small firm this year, you can't afford *not* to take a quick look at this reference. And, at only 130 pages, you'll still have plenty of time left over to shop.

If you'd like to read the *Legal Technology Guide* or any of the other books in the Practice Management Assistance Program's Checkout Library, contact Kristi Skipper, PMAP administrative assistant, at kristi.skipper@alabar.org.

An advertisement for the October 2008 issue of the Addendum newsletter. The background is a grayscale image of a hand holding a globe, with a newspaper titled "Addendum" and a computer monitor visible. The text is overlaid on the image.

We're Going "Green"
To Save You Time
And Energy!

Beginning with the October 2008 issue, your *Addendum* newsletter will become available in an electronic format only.

All ASB members will have the bi-monthly newsletter delivered to the e-mail address they provided to the Membership Department. (Hint: You might want to double-check to see if the information we have for you is correct!) This is all in an effort to better serve our members and make sure that the information we send you is as correct and up-to-date as possible. The newsletter will still bring you news on cutting-edge technology, nuts-and-bolts practice suggestions, upcoming rule changes or other court announcements, and profiles of other ASB members rendering service in their communities. And, the day we send it is the day you'll get it! So, relax and feel good about the new format –

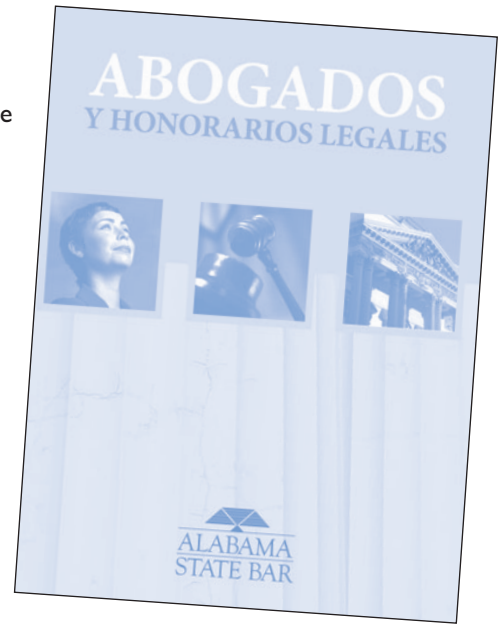
You'll be keeping your desk and the environment a little cleaner.

Dos Panfletos Del Alabama State Bar Ahora Disponibles En Español

The ASB's library of public information brochures
just got a little larger



Bi-lingual translations of two of the Alabama State Bar's public information brochures are now available at \$10 per 100 (you can always download a copy for free at www.alabar.org/brochures). *Abogados y Gastos Judiciales (Lawyers and Legal Fees)* and *Notarios Y Abohados (Notaries Public and Lawyers)* were translated by Birmingham attorney **Michael Johnson**, a member of the Spanish-Speaking Lawyers Committee. *Lawyers and Legal Fees* contains a summary of basic legal procedures and answers common legal questions. The notary pamphlet clarifies the difference between notaries public and lawyers in the U.S. All ASB public information brochures are intended to inform and not to advise. In the future, the committee intends to translate additional brochures.



Cumberland Wins National Title

These student trial advocates
are smarter than yours

A trial team from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law has claimed the national title in the 2008 American Association for Justice's student trial advocacy competition.

Team members Dillon Barker of Tennessee, Lisha Li of Auburn, Julie McMakin of Huntsville and Anna Smith of Mobile defeated a South Texas College of Law team in the final round of competition in April.

The Cumberland team defeated number-one ranked Temple University Law School in the quarter-finals to advance to beat University of Richmond School of Law in the semi-final round.

The national competition culminates a series of regional eliminations that began with 224 teams vying nationwide. Cumberland adjunct faculty member Mike Rasmussen is team coach.



Coach Mike Rasmussen, center, with team members from left, Lisha Li, Julie McMakin, Anna Smith and Dillon Barker

Orders Re: Destruction of Records and Evidence

In the Circuit Court of Conecuh and Monroe Counties, Alabama

RE: Destruction of Records in Civil Cases

It is ordered, adjudged and decreed that notice shall be given to all attorneys who have admitted evidence in civil cases in the 35th Judicial Circuit by publication in the Addendum that any party offering evidence in a civil case prior to January 1, 2007 shall have 60 days from the publication of this notice to request the return of said evidence.

It is ordered, adjudged and decreed that any civil case in which the parties have failed or refused to obtain the exhibits used in said proceeding within 60 days of said final disposition shall be destroyed by the Official Court Reporter with the assistance of the Conecuh and Monroe County sheriffs' departments.

Dated this the 21st day of April 2008

Dawn Wiggins Hare, circuit judge

In the Circuit Court of Conecuh County

RE: Destruction of Evidence in Criminal Cases

For purposes of judicial economy and for maintenance of limited storage facilities, together with assuring for the integrity of evidence maintained with the Official Court Reporter for the 35th Judicial Circuit, the court hereby enters the following order:

It is ordered, adjudged and decreed that:

1. The Official Court Reporter of the 35th Judicial Circuit shall perform an inventory of all evidence offered in criminal cases that have been tried in Conecuh County and which is presently secured in the court's evidence locker.

2. The Official Court Reporter shall provide a copy of the inventory prepared by her to the Presiding Circuit Judge, the Clerk of the Court, the District Attorney and the Sheriff of Conecuh County.

3. The Clerk of the Court and the District Attorney shall advise the court of the status of the criminal prosecution

and/or any appeals that relate to the evidence secured in the court's evidence locker.

4. Upon receipt of the above-described information, the court shall enter an appropriate order regarding the proposed destruction of evidence presently secured by the court.

Dated this the 21st day of April 2008 in Evergreen, Alabama

Dawn Wiggins Hare, circuit judge

In the Circuit Court of Monroe County

RE: Destruction of Evidence in Criminal Cases

For purposes of judicial economy and for maintenance of limited storage facilities, together with assuring for the integrity of evidence maintained with the Official Court Reporter for the 35th Judicial Circuit, the Court hereby enters the following order:

It is ordered, adjudged and decreed that:

1. The Official Court Reporter of the 35th Judicial Circuit shall perform an inventory of all evidence offered in criminal cases that have been tried in Monroe County, and which is presently secured in the court's evidence locker.

2. The Official Court Reporter shall provide a copy of the inventory prepared by her to the Presiding Circuit Judge, the Clerk of the Court, the District Attorney and the Sheriff of Monroe County.

3. The Clerk of the Court and the District Attorney shall advise the court of the status of the criminal prosecution and/or any appeals that relate to the evidence secured in the court's evidence locker.

4. Upon receipt of the above described information, the court shall enter an appropriate order regarding the proposed destruction of evidence presently secured by the court.

Dated this the 21st day of April 2008, Monroeville, Alabama

Dawn Wiggins Hare, circuit judge

Inns of Court Coffee

If you are a member of the Alabama American Inns of Court or are just interested in learning about it, please accept this invitation to join us for coffee at the ASB Annual Meeting in Sandestin, Thursday, July 10th, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., Coral Ballroom C.



AMERICAN
INNS of COURT

Applications Available Soon for 2009 Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum (Class 5)

Equal investments of time and energy from class participants are mandatory for successful completion of the course—do you have what it takes?

Applications for the 2009 sessions of the ASB Leadership Forum will be available by June 30, 2008 at www.alabar.org/members/leadership-update.cfm or by calling (334) 269-1515, ext. 2166. Class 5 will consist of no more than 30 participants, and successful applicants will be notified on or before November 15, 2008.

Applicants must have practiced law for not less than five years and for not more than 15 (based upon first admission to any state bar). Attendance at all five sessions (January through May) is mandatory.

For more information, contact Kimberly T. Powell (205-226-8769, ktpowell@balch.com) or Sam David Knight (205-874-7961, sdknight@gattorney.com).

“Leadership can be thought of as a capacity to define oneself to

others in a way that clarifies and expands a vision of the future.”
Edwin H. Friedman



Leadership Forum participants expressed keen interest in learning about the economic, social and political structures of Alabama. They challenged conventional thinking and were more than willing to devise out-of-the-box solutions. As ASB President Sam Crosby noted, “Lawyers are moved naturally toward positions of leadership because it calls into play their creativity and critical-thinking skills. Leaders need to have good problem-solving skills and be able to think critically. As a collaborative process, leadership also involves working well with others.”

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Did you know?



Shelby County, Alabama holds the world record for the fastest Habitat for Humanity homebuilding. The house was built by professionals in three hours, 26 minutes and 34 seconds.

2008 ANNUAL MEETING



The Alabama State Bar

*2008 Annual Meeting will be at the
Hilton Sandestin Beach
Golf Resort & Spa
July 9-12, 2008*

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