

Addendum

Published by the Alabama State Bar / www.alabar.org

Through HUGS and CA&REing, Adams & Reese Puts Words into Action



Edwin Cleverdon

For attorneys at Adams & Reese, providing pro bono legal service is not new. In 2001, firm management formed its first official pro bono program, CA&RE (Caring Adams & Reese Employees), and in January 2007, the firm renewed its commitment by implementing mandatory pro bono hours for its nearly 300 attorneys in ten offices.

"We believe it is every attorney's ethical obligation to perform pro bono work," says **Charles P. Adams, Jr.**, the firm's managing partner. "To put our words into action, we have made these hours obligatory. Community service is part of being an Adams & Reese attorney; it's a core component of our corporate culture."

Birmingham attorney **Edwin Cleverdon** recently answered the firm's call to action. He assisted in a pro bono effort by creating a legal defense fund to help members of the U.S. military who, because of actions related to post-traumatic stress disorder brought on by their military service, now find themselves facing significant legal bills.

This legal defense fund—provided through a nonprofit organization called *SaveOneSoldier.Org*—was inspired by the plight of an Alabama soldier who, after returning to his base from Iraq, suffered a dissociative episode. Believing himself to be required to go on patrol, he suited up in full combat gear and was subsequently charged by the military with misappropriating weapons. Although the case against him was initially dismissed, that dismissal was without

prejudice, and the military has continued to press charges against him.

Cleverdon drafted the articles of incorporation and bylaws for *SaveOneSoldier.Org* and researched the procedures for acquiring a taxpayer identification number and filing for tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service.

"Helping put together a legal defense fund for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder was satisfying on both a personal and a professional level," said Cleverdon. "It certainly brought home to me the reality of the wars being fought in distant lands. . . ."

Other Adams & Reese attorneys are contributing through partnerships with Alabama Appleseed and the Volunteer Lawyers programs in Birmingham and Mobile, as well as tackling immigration laws, bankruptcy and health-care issues.

It's not just the attorneys who are making a difference, though. Through the firm's corporate philanthropy program, HUGS (Hope, Understanding, Giving and Support), attorneys and staff are helping those less fortunate. Participation is directed squarely at the human need. Since the program's formation nearly 20 years ago, HUGS has given thousands of hours and untold dollars to causes and charities in the community. In honor of Independence Day, the firm's various offices gathered together for food, fun and philanthropy as they wrote thank-you notes and filled care packages for wounded soldiers overseas.

"As a corporate citizen in our communities, we have a responsibility to share our time, talent and treasure," says

partner **Richard Carmody**, who oversees CA&RE and HUGS in the Birmingham office. "These programs are the vehicles we use to give back to those in need, and I believe our firm and our community are better because of them."



Through the HUGS program, attorneys and staff honor Independence Day and wounded soldiers overseas.

Cyber Security

Protecting Your Online Privacy



Before submitting your e-mail address or other personal information online, you need to be sure that the privacy of that information will be protected. To protect your identity and prevent an attacker from easily accessing additional information about you, avoid providing certain personal information such as your birth date and Social Security number online.

How do you know if your privacy is being protected?

Privacy policy

Before submitting your name, e-mail address or other personal information on a Web site, look for the site's privacy policy. This policy should state how the information will be used and whether or not the information will be distributed to other organizations. Companies sometimes share information with partner vendors who offer related products or may offer options to subscribe to particular mailing lists. Look for indications that you are being added to mailing lists by default—failing to deselect those options may lead to unwanted spam. If you cannot find a privacy policy on a Web site, consider contacting the company to inquire about the policy before you submit personal information, or find an alternate site. Privacy policies sometimes change, so you may want to review them periodically.

Evidence that your information is being encrypted

To protect attackers from hijacking your information, any personal information submitted online should be encrypted so that it can only be read by the appropriate recipient. Many sites use SSL, or secure sockets layer, to encrypt information. Indications that your information will be encrypted include a URL that begins with "https:" instead of "http:" and a lock icon in the bottom right corner of the window (see "Understanding Web Site Certificates" at www.us-cert.gov/ for more information). Some sites also indicate whether the

data is encrypted when it is stored. If data is encrypted in transit but stored insecurely, an attacker who is able to break into the vendor's system could access your personal information.

What additional steps can you take to protect your privacy?

Do business with credible companies

Before supplying any information online, consider the following questions:

1. Do you trust the business?
2. Is it an established organization with a credible reputation?
3. Does the information on the site

suggest that there is a concern for the privacy of user information?

4. Is there legitimate contact information provided?

Do not use primary e-mail address in online submissions

Submitting your e-mail address could result in spam. If you do not want your primary e-mail account flooded with unwanted messages, consider opening an additional e-mail account for use online (see "Reducing Spam" at the above-listed site for more information). Make sure to log into the account on a regular basis in case the vendor sends information about changes to policies.

Avoid submitting credit card information online

Some companies offer a phone number you can use to provide your credit card information. Although this does not guarantee that the information will not be compromised, it eliminates the possibility that attackers will be able to hijack it during the submission process.

Devote one credit card to online purchases

To minimize the potential damage of an attacker gaining access to your credit card information, consider opening a credit card account for use only online. Keep a minimum credit line on the account to limit the amount of charges an attacker can accumulate.

Avoid using debit cards for online purchases

Credit cards usually offer some protection against identity theft and may limit the monetary amount you will be responsible for paying. Debit cards, however, do not offer that protection. Because the charges are immediately deducted from your account, an attacker who obtains your account information may empty your bank account before you even realize it.

—By Mindi McDowell, US-CERT (United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team, a government organization)

CLE on the Seas 2008

Sponsored by the Family Law Section

Set sail April 5, 2008 on "Enchantment of the Seas" (Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines) to Cozumel and Grand Cayman
Deadline for deposit is September 1, 2007

Leave from Ft. Lauderdale April 5 for a five-night cruise. Ports of call are Cozumel and Grand Cayman, with a full day at sea at the beginning and at the end of the cruise.

Per-person pricing ranges from \$360 (inside cabin) to \$800 (junior suite); taxes and fees of \$167 per person are additional. There is also a \$200 deposit per stateroom.



The balance is due no later than January 16, 2008. Passports are required for all participants, regardless of age.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Nell McInnish at All Seasons Travel in Montgomery, (800) 365-1224.

New officers elected

New officers for 2007 for the Tallapoosa County Bar Association are:

Mack Clayton, president;

Ken Wright, vice president

Derrick Blythe, secretary/treasurer

Addendum (USPS 013-915), official newsletter of the Alabama State Bar, is published six times a year (December, February, April, June, August, October) by *The Alabama Lawyer* Board of Editors, P.O. Box 4156, Montgomery 36101-4156. Contributions from members are welcomed and encouraged. Views expressed are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the board of editors, officers or board of bar commissioners of the ASB. Subscriptions: ASB members receive *Addendum* as part of their annual dues payment; \$15 of this goes to subscriptions for *The Alabama Lawyer* and *Addendum*. Copyright 2007 The Alabama State Bar. All rights reserved. Periodicals postage paid at Montgomery, AL. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Addendum*, P.O. Box 4156, Montgomery, AL 36101-4156
Editor: Ashley H. Hamlett, Montgomery, jhamlett@knology.net

Retrieving Deleted E-mail in Outlook

Did you know you can retrieve e-mails that have been deleted from the "Deleted Items" folder? This is an easy process:

1. Select the "Deleted Items" folder in Microsoft Outlook;
2. Select the "Tools" menu;
3. Select "Recover Deleted Items;"
4. In the new window, select the e-mails you want to recover;
5. Select the yellow envelope on the top of the window;

6. The e-mails you selected now will be available in your "Deleted Items" folder.

E-mail will be retrievable this way up to 90 days after being removed out of the "Deleted Items" folder.

—Reprinted from the January 2007 issue of the *State Bar of Georgia*

Enews





Alabama Law Foundation

Court Creates Commission to Improve Civil Legal Services for Low-Income Alabamians

Alabama last in nation in spending for legal aid to low-income residents

Alabama **Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb** and the Alabama Law Foundation announce the creation of the Access to Justice Commission, an organization to provide funding and civil legal services for low-income citizens. Birmingham attorney **Ted Hosp** will serve as chair.

The commission's creation was the result of Chief Justice Cobb's realization of the need for people to be treated fairly in the court system and the social concerns facing the state of Alabama.

"Low-income residents of Alabama do not have adequate means for receiving civil legal services and this commission's goal is to improve these inadequate standards," said Chief Justice Cobb. "All Alabama residents deserve equal access to the civil legal system and this commission will make sure they receive fair representation."

The 19-member commission is comprised of a wide range of citizens representing the legal profession, educational administration, religious community, military, business sector, advocacy groups representing low-income Alabamians, and volunteers.

"The need for legal aid in Alabama is dire," said Chief Justice Cobb. "According to recent statistics, Alabama ranks 51st in spending for legal aid to low-income residents. That's less than every other state and Puerto Rico. Our studies show that Alabama spends less than \$10 per person, compared to the national average of \$23 per person."

Unlike the criminal defense system, there is no constitutional guarantee of funding for low-income Alabamians who need civil legal assistance. Last year more than 422,000 households experienced more than 733,000 legal issues. Low-income households had legal assistance for only about 16 percent of these legal problems.

The commission plans to bring together organizations that serve low-income Alabamians to maximize current resources available and look for new ways to acquire more



Chief Justice
Sue Bell Cobb



Ted Hosp

funding and resources for low-income individuals who need civil legal services.

Commission members are **Henry Callaway**, Hand Arendall, Mobile; **Dean John L. Carroll**, Cumberland School of Law, Birmingham; **Rev. Thack Dyson**, rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Daphne; **Alan Engel**, president, Crowne Partners, Birmingham; **James Fry**, regional director, Legal Services Alabama, Gulf Shores; **Henry A. Gaede, Jr.**, Bradley Arant Rose & White, Birmingham; **Hon. Rhonda Jones-Hardesty**, circuit judge, Clanton; **Frances Heidt**, Birmingham; **Robin Hinkle**, Lightfoot, Franklin & White, Birmingham; **Ted Hosp**, Maynard, Cooper & Gale, Birmingham; **Hon. Thomas Jones**, circuit judge, Selma; **Sister Lynn McKenzie**, Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery and Knight, Griffith & McKenzie, Cullman; **Dr. Charles Nash**, vice chancellor for academic affairs, University of Alabama System, Tuscaloosa; **Sen. Myron Penn**, ASB member and Alabama legislator, Union Springs; **Daryl Perkins**, chief of staff, Office of Congressman Artur Davis, Birmingham; **Beth McFadden Rouse**, McFadden, Lyon & Rouse, Mobile; **Robert D. Segall**, Copeland, Franco, Screws & Gill, Montgomery; **Robert Ward, Jr.**, Rushton Stakely Johnston & Garrett, Montgomery; **Herman A. Watson**, Watson, Jimmerson & McKinney, Huntsville; and **Tracy Daniel**, executive director, Alabama Law Foundation, Montgomery.

Constitutional Essay Contest

Daphne firm is true winner as sponsor of area competition

Citrin Law Firm PC of Daphne recently held a Constitutional Essay Contest for students grades one through 12. The topic was **“Why did the Founding Fathers insist upon the right of trial by jury as reflected in the Bill of Rights?”**

“In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.”

—Amendment VII, United States Constitution, Ratified February 7, 1795

There were four divisions, grades one through three, four through six, seven through nine and ten through 12. Scores of entries were received from Mobile and Baldwin county students. The firm judged the essays on originality, knowledge, organization, grammar, and spelling. Awards were presented May 12 at the firm's offices where the winning entries were read aloud by the winning students. Four first-



Members of the firm, Elizabeth Citrin, far left, and Andy Citrin, far right, with the winners of the Constitutional Essay Contest

place awards of \$100, four second-place awards of \$75 and six third-place awards of \$50 were presented to the winners. The winners, in alphabetical order, were: **Angus Gambill, Will Grey, William Hampton, Zachary Huey, Lucy Johnston, Nicholas Leibold, Abby Leibold, Andrew Long, Adele Mantipty, Annie Patterson, and Megan Sessel.**

“We were extremely pleased with the response to our essay contest, and we received some truly outstanding essays from these exceptional students,” said **Andy Citrin**, a partner with the firm. The firm plans to hold a Constitutional Essay Contest again next spring.



Casemaker Tip

Locating Search Terms in Results Using "Next Hit"

Clicking on the "next hit" button located on the top right-hand side of the Casemaker toolbar within a result jumps you down in the document to your search terms (which are highlighted in red) so that you do not have to manually scroll through the document. Alternately, the "previous hit" button within a result jumps you back up in the document.

Amendments to Rule 7.2, *Ala. R. Crim. P.*

The Supreme Court of Alabama recently amended Rule 7.2(b), *Alabama Rules of Criminal Procedure*, which becomes effective September 1, 2007.

Rule 7.2(b), *Alabama Rules of Criminal Procedure* ("Bail Schedule")

The Supreme Court of Alabama, by order dated June 21, 2007, amended Rule 7.2(b), *Ala. R. Crim. P.*, "Bail Schedule," changing the recommended range of bail for scheduled offenses. Rule 7.2(b) has been amended to read as follows:

"(b) Bail Schedule. The following schedule is established as a general guide for circuit, district, and municipal courts in setting bail for persons charged with bailable offenses. Except where release is required in the minimum scheduled amount pursuant to the *Rules of Criminal Procedure*, courts should exercise discretion in setting bail above or below the scheduled amounts.

"BAIL SCHEDULE

"Recommended Range

"Felonies:

Capital felony—\$50,000 to No Bail Allowed

Murder—\$15,000 to \$75,000

Class A felony—\$10,000 to \$60,000

Class B felony—\$5,000 to \$30,000

Class C felony—\$2,500 to \$15,000

Drug manufacturing and trafficking—\$5,000 to \$1,500,000

"Misdemeanors (not included elsewhere in the schedule):

Class A misdemeanor—\$300 to \$6,000

Class B misdemeanor—\$300* to \$3,000

Class C misdemeanor—\$300 to \$1,000

Violation—\$300 to \$500

"Municipal-Ordinance Violations—\$300 to \$1,000

"Traffic-Related Offenses:

DUI—\$1,000 to \$7,500

Reckless driving—\$300 to \$1,000

Speeding—\$300 to \$500

Other traffic violations—\$300 to \$500

"*\$300 was set as the lower limit in compliance with *Ala. Code* 1975, § 15-13-105, providing that 'in violation and misdemeanor cases the minimum amount of bail shall be \$300 for each offense charged.'"

—Bilee Cauley, reporter of decisions, *Alabama Appellate Courts*

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.

A copy of the proposed amendments may be obtained after August 1, 2007 from the court's Web site at www.ca11.uscourts.gov. 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., N.W., Atlanta 30303 (phone: 404-335-6100). Comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted in writing to the clerk at the above street address by August 31, 2007.

Mandatory Registration Authorized House Counsel

Since October 2006, the Alabama State Bar has been accepting applications for the new authorized house counsel rule (Rule IX of the Rules Governing Admission to the Alabama State Bar). This rule applies to lawyers who are not admitted to practice in Alabama, but are serving as house counsel to businesses located in Alabama. This is a mandatory registration and the deadline for compliance is October 27, 2007.

Please help by contacting any house counsel you know and informing them of this rule.

A copy of Rule IX, the registration form and instructions are available on the bar's Web site, www.alabar.org. For more information, contact the ASB's membership department at (334) 269-1515, ext. 2120.

Job Opening

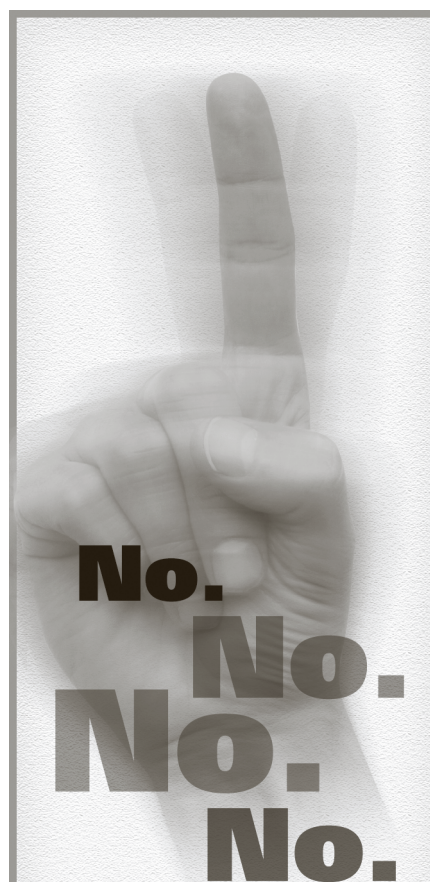
Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, Inc., Montgomery Advocacy Staff Associate, Immigrant Justice Project (part-time with full-time potential)

Alabama Appleseed is a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1999 to identify root causes of injustice and inequality in the State of Alabama, and craft practical, lasting solutions through legal advocacy, community activism and policy expertise.

A major priority for Alabama Appleseed is to seek policies and practices that promote the integration and full participation of new immigrant populations in the state. Key program areas include: comprehensive immigration reform, immigrant access to mainstream financial services, educational opportunity, due process rights and immigrant detention, access to public benefits, state integration policies, justice system reform, and civic engagement.

The IJP Advocacy Staff Associate will work with and under the supervision of the Alabama Appleseed's executive director and the IJP director.

The position is considered open until filled. For more information regarding job responsibilities, qualifications and salary and benefits, contact John Pickens at alaappleseed@bellsouth.net.



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

**No checks to write;
No payments to mail;
No late payments;
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.


ALABAMA STATE BAR

**Your legal life just got easier.
Really.**

Easy Money? Not Necessarily So in the “Big Easy”

A New Orleans lawyer sought an FHA loan for a client who lost his house in Hurricane Katrina and wanted to rebuild. He was told the loan would be granted if he could prove satisfactory title to the parcel of property being offered as collateral. The title dated back to 1803, which took the lawyer three months to find.

After sending the information to the FHA, he received the following reply:

(Actual letter)

“Upon review of your letter adjoining your client’s loan application, we note that the request is supported by an Abstract of Title. While we compliment the able manner in which you have prepared and presented the application, we must point out that you have only cleared title to the proposed collateral property back to 1803. Before final approval can be accorded, it will be necessary to clear the title back to its origin.”

Annoyed, the lawyer responded as follows:

(Actual letter)

“Your letter regarding title in Case No. 189156 has been received. I note that you wish to have title extended further than the 194 years covered by the present application. I was unaware that any educated person in this country, particularly those working in the property area, would not know that Louisiana was purchased, by the U.S., from France in 1803, the year of origin identified in our application.

“For the edification of uninformed FHA bureaucrats, the title to the land prior to U.S. ownership was obtained from France, which had acquired it by Right of Conquest from Spain.



“The land came into the possession of Spain by Right of Discovery made in the year 1492 by a sea captain named Christopher Columbus, who had been granted the privilege of seeking a new route to India by the Spanish monarch, Isabella.

“The good queen, Isabella, being a pious woman and almost as careful about titles as the FHA, took the precaution of securing the blessing of the Pope before she sold her jewels to finance Columbus’ expedition.

“Now the Pope, as I sure you may know, is the emissary of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and God, it is commonly accepted, created this world. Therefore, I believe it is safe to presume that God also made that part of the world called Louisiana.

“God, therefore, would be the owner of origin and His origins date back to before the beginning of time, the world as we know it **and** the FHA.

“I hope you find God’s original claim to be satisfactory. Now, may we have our damn loan?”

He got the loan.

Periodicals Postage
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Montgomery, AL

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ALABAMA STATE BAR
P.O. Box 4156
Montgomery, Alabama 36101
Published by the Alabama State Bar / www.alabar.org