

October 2004

Addendum

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CASEMAKER Countdown

Free online legal research is on
the way to ASB members

The Alabama State Bar recently announced its participation in the **Casemaker Consortium of Bar Associations**, a group of state bar associations offering a unique online legal research tool with a powerful search engine providing access to a combination of state and federal materials. Casemaker includes historic to current cases, statutes and regulations. Many consortium states provide Casemaker free to their members. The Casemaker Consortium, now made up of 19 states, already serves more than 300,000 American lawyers; the Alabama State Bar represents an additional 14,000+ lawyers. Participating states include Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Vermont.

Alabama State Bar **President Douglas McElvy** says, "Casemaker will be enthusiastically embraced by Alabama bar members, especially those in small firms who will find their legal research costs significantly reduced or completely eliminated."

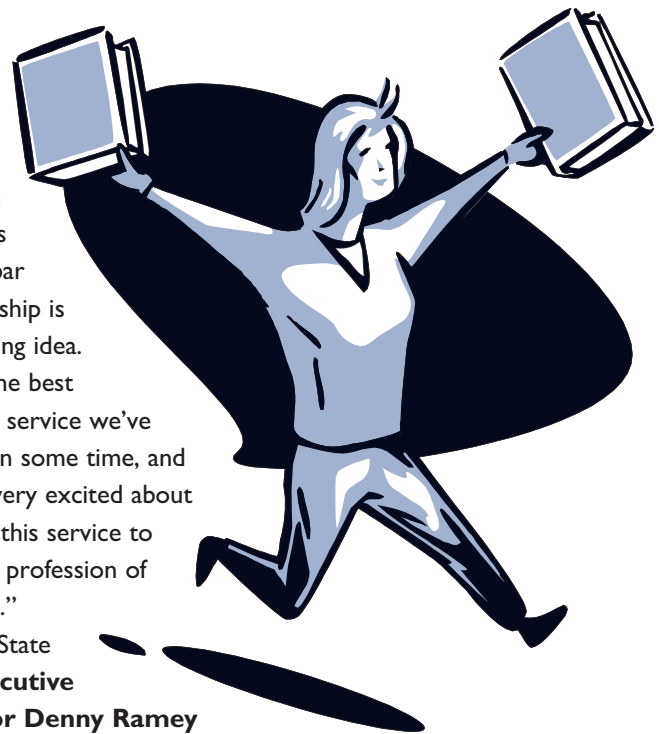
Keith Norman, executive director of the Alabama State Bar, concurs that, "Casemaker will be a tremendous benefit for our members. Having a comprehensive Alabama online

research library as part of bar membership is an amazing idea. This is the best member service we've offered in some time, and we are very excited about bringing this service to the legal profession of Alabama."

Ohio State
Bar **Executive
Director Denny Ramey**

touts Casemaker as "a boon for the 60 to 70 percent of lawyers who are solo practitioners or who practice in firms of five or fewer. It really levels the playing field."

The Alabama State Bar plans to bring Casemaker online in 2005. Visit the bar's Web site at www.alabar.org for updates and follow the "Casemaker Countdown" in upcoming bar publications.





I believe to be an attorney you have to possess an obsessive-compulsive personality. Law school is a molding experience, which finely focuses the basic obsessive-compulsive traits of individuals who aspire to practice law and thereby dedicate themselves excessively to work. After arguing cases or seeing clients all day, you don't go home to relax and enjoy the company of your family. At five o'clock in the afternoon, you drink a pot of coffee, start your research and stay up to three o'clock in the morning. Psychologists often characterize such behavior as obsessive-compulsive disorder. The same is the hallmark of a good lawyer. A good lawyer, however, must use restraint and guard that these innate personality traits, enhanced by law school conditioning, do not transfer over into what scant social life you may have. I speak from personal experience.

My dedication/obsession with the study of American jurisprudence had almost annihilated my social life. Now the mission of the **Portersville Revival Group** possesses my life outside of work. The group's focus is the cultural, environmental and historical preservation of the area once known as Portersville along the shores of the Portersville Bay in parts of Coden and Bayou La Batre in south Mobile County.

Portersville has historical significance from four distinct eras. First, extensive Native American shell mound sites with nine documented burials are in the area. Second, during the Colonial era, the early French were especially active in the area. For example, relatives of original founders of Mobile established plantations there. Third, in the mid-1880s, the town of Portersville, known as the "Coney Island

The Practice of Law, Obsessive-Compulsive Behavior and the Portersville Revival Group

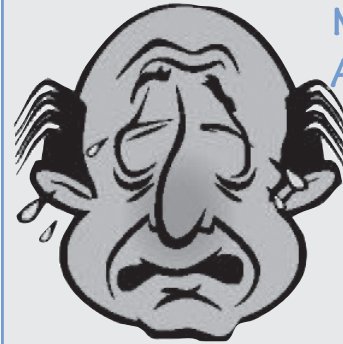
of the South," was established as a tourist destination for the Mobile and Bay Shore Railroad with luxury hotels that attracted visitors such as Jefferson Davis and the Bankhead family. Hurricanes in 1906 and 1926 devastated the region. Last, the area is now a small multi-cultural fishing village.

As a history/archaeology buff, I could not sit still when I heard that the activities of gas companies threatened to destroy the site of the town.

My social life now consists of talking about Portersville to anyone who will listen. I attribute my behavior to my innate obsessive-compulsive traits, finely and precisely molded by training at Cumberland School of Law.

If you are interested in learning more about Native Americans, the French Colonials and the site of Portersville, or have any background in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, please contact me at (251) 342-2900 or barbara131@aol.com.

—Barbara Holley Reid, Mobile



Missed the ASB Annual Meeting?

Don't worry! The CLE Program Materials from the 2004 ASB Annual Meeting are now available on CD!

Get your section updates, Rules of Professional Responsibility and much more for only \$15.00.

Supply is limited so order today!

Visit the Members page of www.alabar.org for more information.

sand and oceanview not included

“Fundamentals of Appellate Practice” Coming Your Way

Free CLE, including one hour of ethics and professionalism, is available this fall at locations around the state

The Alabama Supreme Court and the Alabama Judicial College will present free regional workshops on “Fundamentals of Appellate Practice: Procedures and Professionalism,” October 22nd at the Von Braun Center, Huntsville; November 12th at the RSA Plaza Terrace, Montgomery; November 19th at the Riverview Plaza, Mobile; and December 17th at the Marriott Hotel in Birmingham.

Faculty will consist of justices of the Supreme Court of Alabama and several members of the Alabama courts of Civil and Criminal Appeals.

Six CLE credits have been applied for, including one hour



of ethics and professionalism.

Topics to be covered include preserving error, perfecting the appeal and supplying the record, briefing a direct appeal and applying for rehearing and petitioning the court for a writ of certiorari.

The registration form and additional information can be found on the court system Web site at www.alacourt.gov. Click on the link “Fundamentals of Appellate Practice: Procedures and Professionalism” or contact the Alabama Judicial College at (334) 353-4968.

Don't Let the Sun Go Down

Many years ago, in the days before cellular phones, **John T. Crowder** called me from a pay phone located in a hallway outside the Alabama Supreme Court. He wanted to return my recent phone call before he began an oral argument to the court. I was so impressed that he had made the effort to return my phone call while he was still out of town, engaged in a case before the supreme court, that I still remember his call.

Many years later, during an Alabama State Bar annual meeting, Jay Foonberg advised lawyers to try to adhere to the following standard in our law practice: “Don't let the sun go down on an unreturned phone call.”

As a practical matter, adherence to this standard seems impossible for many of us in our law practice, but keeping

the standard in mind has encouraged me to be more conscientious and disciplined about returning telephone calls.

Returning phone calls promptly reflects concern for others and good time management. Generally, I believe that the best lawyers are those who will return a phone call themselves or through their staff before the “sun goes down” whenever possible.

—Samuel N. Crosby, Daphne





ASB to Offer Attorneys MasterClass in November

Learn the building blocks of a
strong, successful practice

Have you ever wanted to improve the operation of your practice, but just didn't know how? You'll have a chance to find out when the Alabama State Bar offers a special, one-time-only presentation of "The 14 Building Blocks of a Strong and Successful Practice" by Dustin Cole, president of Attorneys MasterClass, on Friday, November 5th, at the ASB.

Maximize, Master and Understand

The morning session will teach you how to maximize your revenues from your time, talents and team. You'll get tips on how to increase your productivity, your firm's profitability and your team's efficiency by understanding the "fatal flaw" in the traditional practice model, mastering the four essential leadership roles you must play in your practice, and understanding the six essential practice management principles that create a powerful business.

Client Development

The afternoon session will cover the nine practical, affordable and ethical secrets of client development. You'll learn the underlying issues you must understand to make your client development efforts successful, and how to develop personal marketing approaches that will help you build bridges—and more business for your firm.

Marketing, Advertising, PR and Management

This powerful, two-part program is led by Dustin Cole, president of Attorneys MasterClass, one of the nation's leading attorney practice development organizations. Cole has trained thousands of attorneys across the United States to build more successful practices. He brings more than 35 years of experience in every phase of marketing, advertising, public relations and management to his work with the legal profession.

Beyond his work with firms and individual attorneys, Cole is a frequent keynote speaker at legal organizations nationwide, including the American Bar Association, the Commercial Law League, the Inns of Court, the Association of Legal Administrators, and state bars in Florida, Texas, Massachusetts, New York, Arizona, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Colorado, and others.

Cole's past and current client list includes large and well-known firms, such as Holland & Knight, and solo practitioners and small firms across the country. He is a native of Phoenix, and holds a degree in mass communications from Arizona State University.

The program is sponsored by the ASB Law Office Management Assistance Program, the Lawyer Assistance Program, the Volunteer Lawyers Program and the Lawyer Referral Service, and is made possible by a generous grant from LexisNexis. If you have questions or would like additional information, check the ASB Web site at www.alabar.org or contact Laura Calloway at (334) 269-1515 or lcalloway@alabar.org. Please register early, as the program will be limited to the first 70 lawyers to respond.

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MCLE Rule and Regulation Changes

Effective January 9, 2004, MCLE Regulation 2.7 was adopted and MCLE Rule 2.C.2, Rule 3, Rule 5.B, Rule 6.A, and Rule 6.B were amended.

- Attorneys are now required to earn one hour each year of ethics or professionalism credit. The minimum number of hours remains at 12 hours each year.

- Other MCLE Rules revisions include an increase of the late filing fee to \$100 and the late compliance fee to \$100. Attorneys who fail to comply with the MCLE Rules for late filing and late compliance will be required to pay an additional \$300 noncompliance fee.

- Attorneys who reside in and maintain a principal office in another state that requires MCLE and who can demonstrate compliance with his or her principal state of practice are exempt from the 12-hour CLE requirement, but must file the year-end Annual Report of Compliance.

- The rules revision clarifies that assistant or deputy attorneys general and district attorneys, assistant or deputy district attorneys, and public defenders are not exempt from the MCLE Rules.

For a complete listing of all revisions and the full content of the MCLE Rule and Regulation changes, please visit the Alabama State Bar "Members" page at www.alabar.org.

CASEMAKER Countdown

TOP TEN REASONS THAT CASEMAKER IS FOR YOU!

Number 10. . .**Powerful**

Enhance your productivity as a world of research opens to you.

(More reasons to come—this is just the beginning!)

Do You Have What it Takes?

The ASB Leadership Forum wants you to take a chance on yourself and see if you have the “right stuff”

Recently, the Alabama State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners unanimously voted to create a Leadership Forum as proposed by then **President Bill Clark**. The mission of the forum is to produce committed and involved lawyers willing and able to fill significant leadership roles in the local and state bar associations, in communities and in state organizations, and to serve as role models in matters of ethics and professionalism.

Applicants should submit a completed application to the Alabama State Bar, Attn: Ed Patterson, P.O. Box 671, Montgomery 36101, along with a personal resume (no longer than two pages); one letter of recommendation; and a narrative summary addressing why you should be selected as a participant. While there is no age requirement,

participants must have practiced law for not less than five years and not more than 15 (admitted between 1989 and 1999).

For the inaugural class, applications must be completed and received prior to November 1, 2004. Successful applicants will be notified on or before December 15, 2004. Each class will consist of no more than 30 participants. The program will be made up of four sessions, beginning in January and running through May, and will cover leadership for lawyers; leadership through service; ethics, justice and values; and professionalism.

For more information, contact Patrick H. Graves, Jr. at (256) 517-5100 or pgraves@bradleyarant.com.

APPLICATION

Date: _____

Name _____
Last First Middle

Employer _____ Position _____

Business Address _____
Street/Suite City/State Zip

Business Phone (____) _____ Fax _____ E-Mail Address _____

What is your area of practice? _____

Year of first bar admission _____ States admitted _____

Tuition:

A nominal tuition for each participant will be charged and is due by January 15, 2005. Payment plans are available.

A limited amount of scholarship money is available. If accepted in the Leadership Forum, will you find it necessary to seek scholarship assistance toward the tuition fee, and if so, how much?

☐ Yes ☐ No

I understand the purposes of the Leadership Forum and will devote the time and energy necessary to make it a successful experience if I become a participant.

Signature

DRY STERILE THUNDER



JIM
ACCARDI
Author of *Saigon Landing*

Saigon Landing, Jim Accardi's first novel, was described by one reviewer as "a real legal thriller from a real lawyer." This eight-word review and the title of Accardi's third novel proved to be compelling reasons to learn more about this Alabama author.

Jim Accardi has served as a prosecutor in the Madison County District Attorney's Office for more than 28 years and is a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law. He has written dozens of articles and essays for regional and national magazines and journals.

Although Accardi, his wife and children live in Huntsville, he has spent many hours at his computer establishing the north Alabama fictional city of Richfield. It is the home of the heroine of *Saigon Landing*, Katie Cowan O'Brien, and a wide assortment of motley characters and "hard-nosed but thoughtful attorneys."

Book Review

The third novel
by this Alabama
prosecutor is
anything **but** dry
or sterile

Dry Sterile Thunder is Accardi's second novel in the Katie O'Brien series. Once again, Katie has a real problem. And, once again, Accardi captures the motivations and psychology of the novel's various characters.

Fast-Paced, Action-Packed Plot

New D.A. Katie O'Brien believes a possible serial killer is terrorizing her community of Richfield. She and veteran homicide investigator Bobby Franks are struggling to decipher taunting "clues" left at the scenes of the ritualistic killings. Although Katie is a veteran trial lawyer with a background in psychology, she is unable to zero in on the arrogant but clever killer.

With the help of Avery May, a longtime friend, Katie eventually determines that the clues are coded to successive sections of an 80-odd-year-old poem. But, this realization only produces a string of suspects with no clear evidence of guilt as to any of them. Even worse, a horrible possibility exists that other victims have already been assigned to the remaining sections of the poem.

Time is clearly running out for Katie, Bobby Franks and Avery May

Don't let time run out for you. The evidence is overwhelming—*Dry Sterile Thunder* is a captivating, real legal thriller from a real Alabama lawyer.

—Gloria McPherson, editor, *Addendum*

[*Dry Sterile Thunder*, Jim Accardi, 2004, ISBN 0-595-31908-4, iUniverse, Inc.] Available: amazon.com; booksamillion.com; barnesandnoble.com, etc.

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