

Tuscaloosa Attorney Receives Recognition for Her Work with Boy Scouts

By donating her time and experience, this ASB member affirms that “Lawyers Render Service”

Paige McCoy Oldshue of Tuscaloosa (Rosen Harwood PA) recently received statewide recognition from the Alabama State Bar for a Law Day program she conducted with the Boy Scouts.

The ASB Board of Bar Commissioners cited Oldshue for her efforts in planning, implementing and conducting an educational program for Boy Scouts from Jasper and Tuscaloosa to fulfill their Law Merit Badge requirements.

“Boots” Gale (Maynard, Cooper & Gale PC, Birmingham), 2007 ASB president, said, “We applaud Paige’s efforts in conjunction with this year’s Law Day theme, ‘Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy.’ Scouting instills the confidence to act as leaders both spiritually and morally. Those scouts who really get involved learn social skills, outdoor skills and how to lead others into successfully completing tasks. Presidents, senators, judges, prominent lawyers and doctors, astronauts, movie directors—countless numbers of people have gotten their start as scouts.”

Oldshue worked with **Bill Aldridge**, scout troop leader,



Oldshue

to recruit local lawyers to present a four-and-half-hour educational program that included an introduction to the law; becoming an attorney; how judges are selected; an overview of state and federal law; indigent representation for criminal and civil matters; the role of law enforcement; consumer protection laws and creditors/debtors rights; environmental laws; and computers and the Internet.

The Law Merit Badge is comprised of 11 requirements, from defining what law is to attending an actual civil or criminal trial and then writing an essay about what transpired in the courtroom. Scouts also must arrange to visit with a lawyer, understand the requirements necessary to become licensed to practice law and list 15 careers which are related to the law or legal process.

Bet You Didn't Know What the Bar Offers Its Members . . . Now You Will

Technology provides another way to stay in touch with our members

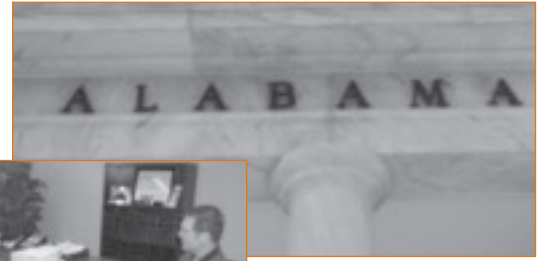


When **Sam Crosby** (Stone, Granade & Crosby PC, Daphne) met with ASB members throughout the state as he campaigned for the office of state bar president, he encountered one recurring theme: many members simply weren't aware of all of the services the state bar offers.

So, in this age of iPhones, iPods and iTunes, he decided the Internet was the best medium for reaching members. And the ASB's Web site, www.alabar.org, was just the ticket. He envisioned this venue running a three-minute streaming video to highlight key member benefits, including showcasing a "first-of-its-kind" initiative among state bars.

This model program recognizes the business aspects to practicing law, something rarely addressed in law schools. Working through the ASB's Practice Management Assistance Program (P-MAP), the program sets up one-on-one personal financial counseling and business planning between members of the Senior Council of Retired Executives (SCORE) and Alabama lawyers who have been in practice five years or less. The Alabama chapters of the Association of Legal Administrators also contribute to this program, donating services to advise new lawyers in law firm management, billing and technology issues.

ASB Vice President Alicia F. Bennett (Boardman, Carr & Hutcheson PC, Chelsea) explains the video will review four primary benefit areas: Education (pilot mentoring program, CLE, Roadshow, ADR); Networking (YLS, section and committee activities); Practice Support (Casemaker legal research); and Information (online bar directory, *The Alabama Lawyer* magazine, *Addendum*).



In developing the video, Crosby sought the counsel of **President-elect Mark White** (White, Arnold, Andrews & Dowd PC, Birmingham), and past bar commissioners **Thomas J. Methvin** (Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles PC, Montgomery), **Wanda Devereaux** (Devereaux & Associates, Montgomery) and **Celia Collins** (Johnstone, Adams LLC, Mobile) who also urged Crosby to address the issue. All readily agreed this would be a novel and entertaining method of getting across the message, especially to younger members who are already technologically inclined but also most likely to be unaware of state bar benefits.

"ASB membership has its benefits and privileges and our goal is to help our members maintain a vibrant and efficient law practice by providing them with useful information and opportunities to render service in their communities," Crosby said.

The video will be available on the ASB's home page at www.alabar.org on October 15. You can't miss it.

The Professionalism Award

Recognition for those who promote excellence in the legal profession

The Professionalism Award was created jointly by the **Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism** and the **Alabama State Bar**. It recognizes a judge or a lawyer for his or her outstanding contribution in advancing professionalism of the legal profession in Alabama. The award will be presented at the Professionalism Consortium February 21, 2008 in Birmingham.

The following criteria will be used to judge the nominees:

- Outstanding contribution to a program or activity which advances or promotes excellence, professionalism and public responsibility within the legal profession;
- Outstanding writings or speeches which advance or promote the same;
- Contribution of time and resources to public service, education, charitable or pro bono activities;
- Subordinating personal interests to professional concerns;
- Demonstrating respect for the law and integrity of the

- legal system;
- Conduct which has enhanced the image of the legal profession, either through practice or programs and activities that educate the public about the law or the legal system; and
- Demonstrations of general characteristics such as integrity, timeliness and promptness, credibility, and zealous advocacy while maintaining civility and mentoring of others.

Nominations should include a detailed biographical profile of the nominee and a narrative outline detailing how the nominee has fulfilled the award criteria and advanced professionalism of the legal profession in Alabama. Nominations may be supported with letters of endorsement.

Nominations will be received through November 16, 2007 and should be mailed to Anita Hamlett, Alabama State Bar, P.O. Box 671, Montgomery 36101-0671.



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ACCR Foundation Releases Shorter Documentary

You probably have heard about the **Alabama**

Citizens for Constitutional Reform Foundation's

45-minute entertaining and educational documentary called *It's a Thick Book*. The ACCR Foundation announces the release of a 27-minute version of the film which creatively looks at the issues with our state 1901 Constitution and quickly articulates reasons to reform. To order a free copy of the film, please visit the ACCR Foundation Web site: www.constitutionALreform.org.



Wells to Serve as American Bar Association President-Elect

Birmingham attorney is third Alabamian to head national organization



Wells

At the American Bar Association's Annual Meeting in August, Birmingham lawyer **H. Thomas Wells, Jr.** was chosen to serve as the next ABA president-elect. His term will run from August 2008 through August 2009. Wells is a shareholder with Maynard, Cooper & Gale and will be the third Alabama lawyer to serve the ABA as president. The other two were N. Lee Cooper, also of Maynard, Cooper & Gale, and Henry Upson Sims.

Wells served as chair of the ABA House of Delegates from 2002 to 2004, the association's second-highest position. Preserving judicial independence, increasing diversity in the legal profession and ensuring access to justice are areas

of focus during his presidential term.

With more than 413,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law in a democratic society.

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To find out more, visit **www.alabar.org** and select *Members* or contact Laura Calloway, director, Practice Management Assistance Program at **casemaker@alabar.org**.

Montgomery County Bar Hosts Sixth Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Young Lawyers' Section and community "swing" for a cure

The Montgomery County Bar Association's Young Lawyers' Section recently hosted its 6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament to raise money for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). All of the \$6,000 raised will benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

The tournament, held at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail on the Legislative Course in Prattville, was sponsored by 21 businesses and law firms in the Montgomery area, showing the community support behind raising funds for ALS-awareness and research. The tournament featured an 18-hole scramble with a post-tournament lunch. Prizes were awarded for first-, second- and third-place teams. Prizes were also given for the longest drive and the person closest to pin. The field consisted of 72 golfers who made up 18 teams. The **Beasley Allen** law firm team won the tourna-



ment with a round of 14 under par.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association is a national voluntary health agency dedicated to conquering more than 40 neuromuscular diseases that affect one million Americans of all ages. To learn more about MDA, visit www.mda.org.

Play By the Rules: Alabama's Law for Youth

Want to feel young again? Then sign up to spend time with local seventh-graders while teaching them about the law

The Young Lawyers' Section of the Alabama State Bar announces the "Lawyer in Every Classroom" program for 2007-2008. The section has paired with the Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education to provide schools throughout the state with YLS volunteers to teach a session of its "Play By the Rules" educational program. The center schedules and places YLS volunteers in seventh-grade classrooms where attorneys will guide the students through the "Play By the Rules" workbook during his or her visit.



Together with the teacher, the lawyer will help students discover the many important laws of Alabama, legal rights of juveniles, their responsibilities and how certain laws will affect the students as they grow older.

For more information about the program, contact **Mitesh Shah** at

Maynard, Cooper & Gale, PC, (205) 254-1178 or mshah@maynardcooper.com. To volunteer, contact **Jan Bedford** at the Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education, (205) 726-2433 or jabedford@samford.edu.

Why We Need an Appropriate Comparability Rule and Mandatory IOLTA in Alabama

In magnificent acts of leadership both the Alabama State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners and the Supreme Court of Alabama unanimously adopted an amendment to Rule 1.15 of the *Code of Professional Responsibility*. This amendment will implement a mandatory IOLTA plan and appropriate comparability rule requiring banks to pay a fair and comparable rate of interest on IOLTA accounts in Alabama.

Alabama currently ranks behind all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico in funding for access for justice for the poor in civil matters.

Fewer than 20 percent of the civil legal needs of Alabama's poor were served last year.

Alabama's IOLTA program was established by the Alabama Supreme Court as an opt-out program in 1987, but we are now one of only 16 states that do not have a mandatory IOLTA program. Thirty-four states already have a mandatory IOLTA program. All the states surrounding Alabama except Tennessee have mandatory IOLTA programs.

In March 2003, the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of mandatory IOLTA programs in the case of *Brown v. Washington Legal Foundation*, 538 U.S. 216 (2003).

Eighty percent of the Alabama Law Foundation (ALF) funds are used to help provide for the civil legal needs of Alabama's citizens.

Currently, even though the Federal Reserve Board has raised the Federal Funds rate from 1 percent to 4.75 percent, many banks in Alabama are still paying rates of less than 1 percent on IOLTA accounts.

The result of this amendment will be to provide millions of dollars in funding to help improve our efforts to effectively deliver civil legal services to indigent citizens in our state.

The amendment was drafted over a period of months through efforts of consultants from the ABA and other states, **ALF Director Tracy Daniel** and the trustees of ALF and the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation to ensure that



Alabama has the best IOLTA rule in the country.

On July 19, 2007, the Trustees of the Alabama Law Foundation endorsed the concept embraced by this amendment;

On July 20, 2007, the Access to Justice Commission unanimously endorsed this amendment;

On July 21, 2007, the Alabama State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners unanimously approved this amendment.

The amendment only applies to IOLTA accounts. Also, it only asks banks to pay an interest rate comparable to the rate that they would pay to another customer with comparable balances. The amendment even provides an alternative to the banks by allowing them to pay 55 percent of the Federal Funds target rate as of the first day of the business quarter on all IOLTA accounts.

The Preamble to the *Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct* states in part that "a lawyer should be mindful of deficiencies in the administration of justice and to the fact that the poor...cannot afford adequate legal assistance."

Proverbs 29:7 states "the righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern."

—Samuel N. Crosby, ASB president, Daphne

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Statement of Ownership

Mandatory Registration Authorized House Counsel

Since October 2006, the Alabama State Bar has been accepting applications for the 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**. 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.

**No.
No.
No.
No.**

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

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The 2006-07 occupational licenses and special memberships expired 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.

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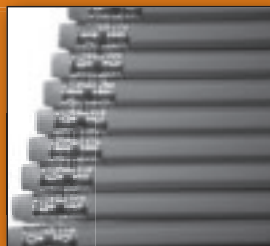
*You know, sometimes in life
you get to make a choice*



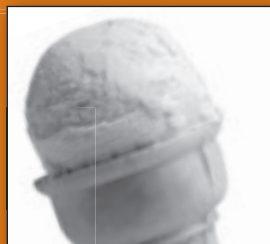
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