



2017 ALABAMA STATE BAR ANNUAL MEETING

# Award Recipients

JULY 12-15

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*Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting*

# *Award Recipients*

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## **JUDICIAL AWARD OF MERIT**

Presented to a judge who is not retired, whether state or federal court, trial or appellate, and is determined to have contributed significantly to the administration of justice in Alabama.

**Hon. John E. Ott** was appointed to the court in 1998 and now serves as the chief magistrate judge of the court. He has presided as a trial judge in more than 60 criminal or civil cases in a variety of subject areas, including employment discrimination, civil rights, contract disputes, antitrust, negligence and federal misdemeanor cases. He has also served as a settlement judge or mediator in more than 700 cases in nearly every type of federal litigation.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Ott served as an assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Alabama for 15 years. He began as a prosecutor in the criminal division of the office and held the positions of deputy chief and chief of the criminal division and executive assistant United States Attorney with oversight responsibility for litigation. Prior to his service with the United States Attorney, he was a law clerk for the United States Magistrate for the Northern District of Alabama.



*Ott*

Judge Ott serves on the adjunct faculty at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law teaching trial advocacy. He has also been an adjunct faculty member at The University of Alabama at Birmingham and Miles School of Law teaching courses in trial techniques and advocacy, criminal evidence, e-discovery and social media and negotiation and mediation. He is a frequent writer and presenter at continuing education courses for attorneys on attorney ethics and professionalism, trial advocacy, evidence, mediation and employment law.

In 1977, Judge Ott earned his B.A. degree in criminal justice magna cum laude from the University of Central Florida and his J.D. degree from the Cumberland School of Law in 1981. He is a member of the Alabama, Florida and Birmingham bars. He is also a fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation and the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

## AWARD OF MERIT

The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding constructive service to the legal profession in Alabama.

**Pamela Bucy Pierson** is the research professor of law at The University of Alabama School of Law. She has served on the law school's faculty for 30 years. Prior to entering teaching, Professor Pierson served as an AUSA, ED MO, criminal division, where she specialized in white-collar prosecutions. She has published seven books and more than 50 law review articles and published bar journals. She has testified before Congress three times and is active in the ABA and the Alabama State Bar. One of her former students, Ken Minturn, and the Honorable Philip Reich (retired, Alabama Circuit Court) will join her as co-authors in their forthcoming book, *Economics, Emotional Intelligence and Finance: Tools for Every Lawyer in the Twenty-First Century* (West Academic, 2017).



*Pierson*

## WILLIAM D. "BILL" SCRUGGS, JR., AWARD

This award was created in 2002 in honor of the late Bill Scruggs, former state bar president, to recognize outstanding and dedicated service to the Alabama State Bar.

A native of Demopolis, **Alyce Manley Spruell** received her undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University in 1980 and her law degree from The University of Alabama in 1983. For more than 34 years, she has practiced law primarily in the Tuscaloosa County area in governmental and regulatory matters, employment and business law and general civil litigation.

Alyce has served in a variety of roles within the bar including president from 2010-2011, member of the Board of Bar Commissioners, founding co-chair of the Leadership Forum, chair of the National Pro Bono Celebration Committee and initial leadership member of the Volunteer Lawyers Program. She also served as president of the Tuscaloosa County Bar, member of the Alabama Law Foundation Board of Directors,



*Spruell*

member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Bar Presidents and president of the Southern Association of Bar Presidents when the bar hosted the meeting during her presidency.

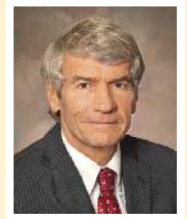
She served as the director of the Administrative Office of Courts, as well as its Legal Division director, assistant dean and director of development for The University of Alabama School of Law and as counsel for the Alabama Senate's Committee on Transportation and Energy for the Alabama Law Institute. She teaches courses in trial advocacy and legislative drafting at The University of Alabama School of Law, and provides continuing education and training on topics related to leadership development and civic education.

Alyce received the Harold W. Albritton Award for her service to the VLP in 2013, and was recognized by the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce in 2014 for her community advocacy. She was also recognized by the Alabama Criminal Lawyers Association in 2011 and the Alabama Circuit Clerks Association in 2012 for her service to our court system.

## **J. ANTHONY "TONY" MCLAIN PROFESSIONALISM AWARD**

This award is given to recognize members for distinguished service in the advancement of professionalism.

**Samuel N. Crosby** has practiced law for 39 years with the firm of Stone Crosby PC in Baldwin County. He attended the University of Virginia where he graduated with academic distinction, and went on to graduate from The University of Alabama School of Law. He is retired from the JAG Corps of the United States Naval Reserve. Sam has authored two books and numerous professional articles and columns. He is recognized by his peers as a premier mediator. From 2007-2008, he served as president of the Alabama State Bar, and became the first Alabama lawyer to receive the Chief Justice's Outstanding Leadership Award for his service to the public. As a member of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, he helped coordinate the first statewide professionalism consortium.



*Crosby*

## **COMMISSIONERS' AWARD**

This award was created by the Board of Bar Commissioners in 1998 to recognize individuals who have had a long-standing commitment to the improvement of the administration of justice in Alabama.

**William H. "Bill" Broome** received his undergraduate degree from Auburn University and his law degree from The University of Alabama School of Law. He was a sole practitioner in Anniston from 1997 until 2015 when his son, William H. Broome, Jr., joined his practice as a partner. Their practice is devoted exclusively to the defense of individuals accused of criminal offenses ranging from capital murders to misdemeanors in federal, state and municipal courts.



*Broome*

Bill has tried 18 capital murder cases to a jury verdict and has never had a client receive the death penalty. To Bill, being a criminal defense lawyer is not simply a job, a business or even a profession. It is a mission to protect the constitutional rights of all defendants and promote equal justice for all.

Bill is currently serving his sixth term as a member of the Board of Bar Commissioners. He served on the bar's Executive Council (2006-2007) and is currently chair of the bar's Appointed Counsel and Indigent Representation Committee. Bill is a past president of the Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (2014-2015) and presently serves on the board of directors. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Legal Services Alabama and served as president of the board from 2007-2009. He is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Alabama Bar Foundation, and served as president of the Opportunity Center Foundation of Northeast Alabama from 2007-2014.

## **JEANNE MARIE LESLIE SERVICE AWARD**

This award recognizes exemplary service to lawyers in need in the areas of substance abuse and mental health and is presented by the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program Committee.

**J. Massey Relfe, Jr.**, was a long-time resident of Birmingham where he practiced law as a general practitioner, specializing in criminal defense law. He was a graduate of The University of Alabama where he received his degree in communications and later received his juris doctorate from the Cumberland School of Law. As a member of the Birmingham Bar and the Alabama State Bar, he served on numerous committees over the years. He also served as an appointed judge for the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit on numerous occasions.



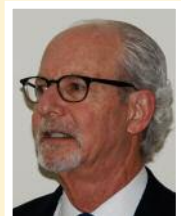
*Relfe*

Massey was a proud member of the U.S. Air Force and U.S Air Force Reserve. While on active duty with the Air Force, he was stationed at bases in Kansas City, Missouri; Izmir, Turkey; and Wiesbaden, Germany. During his time with the Alabama Air National Guard, he was the Commander of the 117<sup>th</sup> Communications Flight in Birmingham (1968-1982) and served at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery before retiring as lieutenant colonel.

Massey gave his time to many community organizations, including St. Anne's Home and Fellowship House. He was an active member of First United Methodist Church for more than 50 years, teaching church school, ushering and serving on the administrative board. He became a member of All Saints Episcopal Church in 2006 and was active in many activities, including serving as member of the vestry.

Massey considered it an honor and was proud to be a part of the legal community for more than 40 years before passing away in March 2016.

**David A. "Chip" Schwartz** is a native of Cincinnati, and one of the founding members of Zarzaur & Schwartz PC in Birmingham. He is a graduate of The University of Alabama and attended Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, class of 1977. He served on the boards of the Southern Region of The Commercial



*Schwartz*

Law League of America, Temple Beth-El, The Jewish Community Center of Birmingham, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) and St. Anne's Home for Women in Recovery. He is an active committee member of the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program and a board member of the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Foundation.

## **MAUD MCLURE KELLY AWARD**

*(Presented at the Women's Section Luncheon on Friday)*

Maud McLure Kelly was the first woman to be admitted to the practice of law in Alabama. In 1907, Kelly's performance on the entrance exam at The University of Alabama Law Department merited her admission as a senior, the second woman ever to have been admitted to the school.

**Martha Jane Patton** is a Birmingham lawyer who recently retired from 18 years' tenure as executive director of the Legal Aid Society of Birmingham, a nonprofit organization providing legal services to children and low-income citizens. Prior to her appointment with Legal Aid, she maintained a private practice both as a solo practitioner and with the firm of Vowell & Meelheim over the course of 20 years. Her private practice was a general one, but eventually she concentrated on probate and family law, particularly adoptions and child custody. Along the way, she received an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell for achieving the highest level of professional excellence.



*Patton*

As a dedicated member of the Birmingham Bar Association and the Alabama State Bar, she and women lawyer friends founded the Women Lawyers Section of the Birmingham Bar Association and the Women's Section of the Alabama State Bar. She has been recognized twice by the Women Lawyers Section of Birmingham with its Distinguished Service Award and by the Birmingham Bar with its Burton Dunn Public Service Award. Her law school, Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, conferred its Pro Bono Award to her and in 2016 she became the first female to receive the Birmingham Bar Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

Outside of professional achievements, she founded the Friends of Avondale Park organization in 1990 which led the transformation of the Avondale area of Birmingham. Through her activities with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, she has taken on leadership at the Diocesan level on the Commission on Race Relations. She is a founder of the Alabama Women's Political Caucus, a member of the Leadership Birmingham Class of 1990 and received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from her alma mater, Birmingham-Southern College, in 2006.

## **SUSAN B. LIVINGSTON AWARD**

*(Presented at the Women's Section Luncheon on Friday)*

The recipient of this award must demonstrate a continual commitment to those around her as a mentor, a sustained level of leadership throughout her career and a commitment to her community in which she practices, such as, but not limited to, bar-related activities, community service and/or activities which benefit women in the legal field and/or in her community.

**Maibeth J. Porter** is a founding member and shareholder of Maynard Cooper & Gale PC where she has exemplified to an extraordinary degree all of the qualities that the Susan B. Livingston Award seeks to highlight. Maibeth is an accomplished trial lawyer and serves as co-chair of the firm's financial institutions, corporate governance and fiduciary litigation practice group and co-chair of the Women's Mentoring Program. Her litigation and appellate talents are consistently recognized by her peers and clients and include rankings in Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business since 2008, Best Lawyers in America since 2007, which also named her Lawyer of the Year in 2012 and 2014, and Super Lawyers since 2008, which most recently tapped her among the Top 50 Female Mid-South Lawyers in 2016, one of Alabama's Top 10 Lawyers in 2015 and Top 25 Women Lawyers from 2008-2015. In April 2011, Maibeth became the first female lawyer in Alabama to be inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.



*Porter*

She is a past president and past member of the executive committee of the Birmingham Bar Association, a decade-long commissioner of the Alabama State Bar, former chair of Panel II of the Alabama State Bar Character and Fitness Committee and chair of the Alabama Supreme Court Standing Committee on the *Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure*. She was recently appointed to the Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission and is a fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation. Maibeth represents indigent clients in divorce actions through the Birmingham Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program and the YWCA.

Maibeth graduated summa cum laude from the University of the South in 1977, where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa, among other honorary societies. She received her law degree from the Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1980. At Vanderbilt, Maibeth was a Patrick Wilson Scholar and executive student writing editor of the *Vanderbilt Law Review*. Upon graduation from law school, she served as law clerk to the Honorable Seybourn H. Lynne in the Northern District of Alabama.

## **JUSTICE JANIE L. SHORES SCHOLARSHIP**

To encourage the next generation of women lawyers, the Women's Section of the Alabama State Bar established the Justice Janie L. Shores Scholarship Fund. Named in honor of the first woman justice to sit on the Supreme Court of Alabama, the scholarship is awarded to an outstanding woman who is an Alabama resident attending law school in Alabama. This year's recipient is **Krystina Jackson** of Stevenson (The University of Alabama School of Law '18).

## LOCAL BAR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS RECIPIENTS

This award recognizes local bar associations for their outstanding contributions to their communities judged by the quality and extent of programs, level of participation of the bar and overall impact of the programs on its citizens.

### **Calhoun-Cleburne County Bar Association**

*President: Eric N. Snyder*

### **Tuscaloosa County Bar Association**

*President: Anne W. Guthrie*

### **Birmingham Bar Association**

*President: Leila H. Watson*

## VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM PRO BONO AWARDS

The **Albert Vreeland Pro Bono Award** is presented to an individual who demonstrates outstanding pro bono efforts through the active donation of time to the civil representation of those who cannot otherwise afford legal counsel and by encouraging greater legal representation in, and acceptance of, pro bono cases.

### **Richard P. Carmody, Adams & Reese LLP, Birmingham –**

In 2016, Richard dedicated more than 575 hours to pro bono work with the National Appleseed, Alabama Appleseed and the organization's justice centers. In his work with Appleseed, he collaborated on a National Appleseed venture to analyze current foreign remittance fees and uncover ways to reduce fees. He worked with regional Appleseed centers to update judicial process requirements for debt-collection practices and assisted in Appleseed's evaluation of the current SNAP benefit structure, specifically to prevent the expected cut-off of an estimated 500,000 SNAP recipients. Richard also volunteered with the Birmingham Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program at their Project Homeless Connect monthly help desk.



*Carmody*

## FIRM/GROUP AWARD

**NXTSTEP Family Law PC, Huntsville –** Since 2010, this small firm has donated more than 533 hours of pro bono work and served more than 40 pro bono clients. NXTSTEP Family Law has provided assistance in a wide array of family law cases

from uncontested divorce to child support and custody and visitation issues. The firm's pro bono clients rave about their work, stating that they are very thorough, take time to answer questions and make them feel protected. In addition to providing direct



service to clients, the firm's attorneys have served on committees addressing affidavits of substantial hardship in Madison County, and as a result of their efforts, a protocol for submission and granting hardship requests has been established in domestic relations matters.

## LAW STUDENT AWARD

**Jessica Chang, Cumberland School of Law, Birmingham –**

Jessica began volunteering with the Birmingham Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program as a first-year law student. She's volunteered at the Domestic Relations Help Desk, as well as the Homeless Help Desk, every month. Jessica interviewed clients and entered their information into the case management system, often talking to as many as 40 clients during one session. Jessica also volunteers at the Birmingham VLP office helping staff close cases and follow up with volunteer attorneys. She helps at the program's yearly fundraiser, Pro Hops Vino, handling registration and check-in. Jessica said that she finds working at the Volunteer Lawyers Program "a huge learning experience" and is happy "we have a program that can provide legal services to people that would have no avenue of help."



*Chang*

## MEDIATION AWARD

**Sally C. Bowers, Proctor & Vaughn LLC, Sylacauga –** Sally participates in the Foreclosure Mediation Program and the Family Mediation Program, which provide free mediation to the parties. In 2016, Sally provided more than 100 hours of service to the mediation program. She conducts mediation for parents involved in divorce and custody cases in Jefferson and Shelby counties.



*Bowers*

## RETIRING COMMISSIONERS' AWARDS

**J. Eric Coale**  
21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Sam Irby**  
28<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 2

**Meredith Shay Peters**  
At-Large, Place 3

**Lee F. Knowles**  
33<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Sharon Hindman Hester**  
34<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Tommy Chapman**  
35<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Scott L. McPherson**  
41<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Ashley S. Fincher**  
At-Large, Place

# Legislative Awards Recipients

*(Presented at the Alabama Law Institute meeting on Friday)*

## ■ Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act (Act 2017-316)

Representative Juandalynn Givan  
Senator Cam Ward



*Givan*



*Ward*

The Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act (Revised UFADAA) modernizes fiduciary law to accommodate our digital lives. UFADAA provides legal authority for fiduciaries to manage digital assets in accordance with the user's estate plan, while protecting a user's private communications from unwarranted disclosure.

## ■ Alimony Amendments (Act 2017-164)

Representative Mike Jones  
Senator Linda Coleman-Madison



*Jones*



*Coleman-Madison*

Years of competing alimony proposals and consideration by the Legislature culminated in these tweaks to the law. This act better sets forth the factors to be considered in awarding alimony and establishes default guidelines on types to be awarded and their duration.

## ■ Division of Retirement Benefits upon Divorce Act (Act 2017-162)

Representative Merika Coleman  
Senator Linda Coleman-Madison



*Coleman*



*Coleman-Madison*

These modifications to the division of retirement benefits go hand in hand with the amendments to the alimony statutes. The amendments address the award, valuation and risks associated with market fluctuation between award and division.

## THE WALTER P. GEWIN AWARD

*(Presented at The University of Alabama Alumni Reception on Thursday)*

**Pamela Bucy Pierson** is the research professor of law at The University of Alabama School of Law. She has served on the law school's faculty for 30 years. Prior to entering teaching, Professor Pierson served as an AUSA, ED MO, criminal division, where she

specialized in white-collar prosecutions. She has published seven books and more than 50 law review articles and published bar journals. She has testified before Congress three times and is active in the ABA and the Alabama State Bar. One of her former students, Ken Minturn, and the Honorable Philip Reich (retired, Alabama Circuit Court) will join her as co-authors in their forthcoming book, *Economics, Emotional Intelligence and Finance: Tools for Every Lawyer in the Twenty-First Century* (West Academic, 2017).



**Pierson**

## 50-YEAR MEMBERS

- |                              |                                |                                 |                                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Neal Hagood Acker            | Rachel Smith Ferguson          | Charles Eddie Isom              | Abner Riley Powell, III          |
| Gilbert Eugene Alberding     | Raymond R. Flowers, Jr.        | Hewlett Chervis Isom, Jr.       | Allen Clay Rankin, III           |
| Elliott Richard Alhadeff     | Wilson Howard Foote, Jr.       | Theodore King Jackson, III      | Ronald Alan Rappoport            |
| Melvin C. Alldredge          | James D. Forstman              | James Jarvis Jenkins            | John Michael Rediker             |
| Angela Stover Anderson       | Arnold Charles Freeman         | David Paul Jones, Jr.           | Susan Williams Reeves            |
| Horace Thomas Armstrong, Jr. | Donald Aaron Friedlander       | Hon. Clatus Junkin              | Fred Miller Ridolphi, Jr.        |
| John Martin Baker            | Henry I. Frohsin               | Barry Lynn Katz                 | Robert Werner Rieder, Jr.        |
| Hon. Daniel Basil Banks, Jr. | William Jordan Gamble          | Larry Hubert Keener             | Alan Edward Riffle               |
| Jerry Rufus Barksdale        | Thomas Ranshaw Gamble          | Hon. Braxton Leon Kittrell, Jr. | Charles Edward Rikard            |
| George Melvin Barnett        | John Patrick Geary             | Curtis Maddin Lincoln           | Charles Lee Robinson             |
| Jerry Franklin Bartlett      | Charles Lawrence Gibbs         | Allen Weldon Lindsay, Jr.       | Robert Merritt Rogers            |
| Hon. Joseph Laurie Battle    | Robert Eugene Gibney           | Terrell David Little            | Howard Murfee Schramm, Jr.       |
| Robert Lynn Bertram          | Joseph Edward Glenn            | Linda Schwartz Lombard          | Hon. Philip Dale Segrest         |
| Michael Thomas Blacker       | John Grant Gourlay, Jr.        | Henry Clyde Mabry, Jr.          | Charles Edwin Shaver, Jr.        |
| Harold Hampton Boles         | Hubert Aubrey Grissom, Jr.     | William Alexander Major, Jr.    | William Edward Shinn, Jr.        |
| Patrick Hodges Boone         | Daniel Howard Gross            | Wayne Watkins Martin            | Fred Don Siegal                  |
| Hon. Archie Ted Bozeman      | Jane Smelley Grubbs            | George H.B. Mathews             | Clare Brown Smiley, Jr.          |
| Donald Mayer Briskman        | Albert Martin Guemmer          | Charles Wood Matthews, Jr.      | Frankie Fields Smith             |
| Robert Russell Bryan         | Jerry Franklin Guyton          | Hon. Edward Bermudez McDermott  | Charles Randall Smith, Jr.       |
| Harvey Melvin Burg           | Donald Robert Hall             | Daniel Gray McDowell            | Ronald Howard Strawbridge, Sr.   |
| Samuel Curtis Butler, Jr.    | William Joseph Hamner          | Pete Jensen Meredith            | Hon. Malcolm Bartell Street, Jr. |
| Robert Craig Campbell, III   | David Earl Hampe, Jr.          | Hon. Jeffords D. Miller         | Eugene Phillip Stutts            |
| John Wesley Clark, Jr.       | Hon. Arthur Jackson Hanes, Jr. | Claude McCain Moncus            | Haffred Neil Taylor, Jr.         |
| John St. Clair Cline, III    | Robin H. Harbin                | John Thaddeus Moore             | William Hickerson Thomas         |
| Nicholas Hamner Cobbs, Jr.   | Clifford William Hardy, Jr.    | Robert Edward Moorer            | Hon. Nathaniel Pride Tompkins    |
| Richard Jay Cohn             | James Douglas Harris, Jr.      | Hon. Drayton Nabers, Jr.        | William Oliver Vann              |
| Brittin Turner Coleman       | Harold Edward Hartline         | Raymond Franklin Newman, Jr.    | Gen. Olan Grady Waldrop, Jr.     |
| William Deal Coleman         | Thomas Burns Henley            | Joel Morrie Nomberg             | Howard Philip Walthall, Sr.      |
| Leon E. Cooper, Jr.          | Herbert Hemingway Henry, III   | Jerry Brantley Oglesby          | Robert Childress Walthall        |
| Andrew McCorkle Cromer, Jr.  | John Zachariah Higgs, Jr.      | John Percy Oliver, II           | Hon. Sterl Arthur Watson, Jr.    |
| Norman Charles Cummins       | Tommy Edward Hill              | Andrew Michael Onderdonk        | Darryl Lee Webb                  |
| Marcy Bradshaw Darnall, III  | Larry Henry Hipsh              | John Arthur Owens               | William George Werdehoff         |
| Philip Christopher Davis     | Charles John Holditch          | David Arnold Oxford             | Donald Gene Wright               |
| Joseph Ray Davis             | Robert Burks Huie              | William Andrew Parker, III      | Carlton Terrell Wynn, Jr.        |
| John Forrester DeBuys, Jr.   | Albert Charles Hultquist       | Charles Levon Parks             | Ralph Marion Young               |
| William Richard Delaney      | David Truman Hyde, Jr.         | Theodore Bowling Pearson, Jr.   | John Adrian Yung IV              |
| Joseph Michael Druhan, Jr.   | Edward Anthony Hyndman, Jr.    | Emory Bush Peebles, III         | Hon. Edward Samuel Zanaty        |
| Mac Simmion Dunaway          |                                |                                 |                                  |
| Charles Herbert Erwin        |                                |                                 |                                  |



# ALABAMA STATE BAR

415 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
[www.alabar.org](http://www.alabar.org)

*See you next year!!*

We look forward to seeing you at Sandestin Hilton for  
the 141st Annual Meeting, June 27-30, 2018!