

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR 2018 GRANDE CONVOCATION AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Hilton Sandestin
Emerald Ballroom
Destin, Florida

Saturday, June 30, 2018

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Augusta S. Dowd called to order the 141st Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar.

2. **STATE OF THE JUDICIARY – CHIEF JUSTICE LYN STUART**

President Dowd introduced Chief Justice Lyn Stuart for remarks regarding the Alabama court system. Chief Justice Stuart thanked President Dowd and the leadership of the Alabama State Bar for improving communications and the working relationship between the Supreme Court of Alabama and the Alabama State Bar. She congratulated President-elect Irby and wished him well during his presidency.

Chief Justice Stuart gave an update on the personnel and financial status of the state court system. She thanked those in attendance for encouraging their legislators to increase funding for the court system. Chief Justice Stuart stated that funding of the court system has increased and she hopes additional increases will be made so that the court system is adequately funded and able to provide access to justice.

Chief Justice Stuart provided an update of the work of the Judicial Allocation Commission. She presented the five judicial circuits that were most in need of additional judges. She also informed those in attendance that the framework for allocating additional judges only allows for one reallocation every two years. She said that she is hopeful that this requirement will be loosened and that those circuits with the greatest need will each have an additional judge in a shorter time period.

President Dowd thanked Chief Justice Stuart for her remarks and stated that the bar is willing to assist her and the judicial system in any way possible.

3. **PRESENTATION OF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Chief Justice Lyn Stuart informed those in attendance that the Supreme Court of Alabama voted to present a Lifetime Achievement Award to an Alabama lawyer who had made a commitment to improving the legal profession and administration of justice in Alabama. Chief Justice Stuart presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Penny Davis, who most recently served as assistant director of the Alabama Law Institute. Ms. Davis graciously accepted the award and thanked Chief Justice Stuart and the Supreme Court of Alabama for the honor.

4. **LAWYERS HALL OF FAME 2018 CLASS**

President Dowd recognized Wendy Crew, a member of the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame Selection Committee to make a report. Ms. Crew announced that the inductees for 2018 class of the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame would include Jeremiah Clemens, Carl Atwood Elliott, Robert Huffaker, Henry Upson Sims, and George Peach Taylor.

5. **RECOGNITION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PRESIDENT AUGUSTA S. DOWD**

Vice President Diandra S. Debrosse thanked President Dowd for her service as president. Mrs. Debrosse highlighted the major accomplishments of President Dowd including the formation of a General Counsel Search Committee, selection of Roman A. Shaul as General Counsel of the Alabama State Bar, and improved relationships with the Supreme Court of Alabama.

6. **FIFTY YEAR CERTIFICATES**

Vice President Diandra S. Debrosse read the names of those individuals who were in attendance to receive their 50 year certificate, which was presented along with their 50 year pin by President Dowd. Those present to receive their certificate and pin were:

Jacqueline E. Austin
 Jimmy Spurlock Calton, Sr.
 Clement J. Cartron, III
 Hon. U.W. Clemon
 Hon. Randall L. Cole
 Gregory S. Cusimano
 Chriss Hershell Doss
 Joseph E. Faulk
 Jerry L. Griffin
 Donald Nelson Guthrie
 Hobson Manasco, Jr.
 Charles H. Moses, III – (Commissioner Randy May accepted for Mr. Moses)
 John D. Richardson
 W. Alan Summers, Sr.

James F. Trucks

Vice President Debrosse spent a few minutes highlighting and praising President Dowd for her exemplary service throughout the year of her presidency.

7. **RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

President Dowd recognized members of the judiciary, members of the Alabama state legislature, past presidents of the Alabama State Bar, members of the Board of Bar Commissioners and executive council, and Leadership Forum alumni.

President Dowd recognized Leah McLain, widow of longtime Alabama State Bar General Counsel Tony McLain. President Dowd thanked Mrs. McLain for attending the Grand Convocation as well as for being in attendance at the annual golf tournament, which has been renamed the “Friends of Tony” Golf Tournament.

President Dowd asked members of the Alabama State Bar staff to stand and be recognized as a group. She also recognized Executive Director Phillip W. McCallum and thanked him for his leadership of the staff and assistance to her during her presidency.

President Dowd asked those in attendance who are affiliated with her law firm, White, Arnold & Dowd, to stand and be recognized as a group. She thanked them for their hard work and assistance to her as she balanced the demands of the law firm with the demands of being president of the state bar.

President Dowd recognized her husband, David Dowd, and thanked him for being supportive of her during her presidency.

8. **RECOGNITION OF ACTING GENERAL COUNSEL DOUGLAS MCELVY**

President Dowd recognized Douglas McElvy for his service as Acting General Counsel of the Alabama State Bar. She said that Mr. McElvy had not only filled the position of General Counsel until a permanent replacement was named, but that he had also been instrumental in improving the relationship of the Alabama State Bar and Supreme Court of Alabama. President Dowd presented Mr. McElvy with a plaque in recognition of his service to the Alabama State Bar as Acting General Counsel.

9. **PRESENTATION OF ALABAMA STATE BAR AWARD OF MERIT**

President Dowd presented the Alabama State Bar Award of Merit to Dan Johnson. In presenting the award, President Dowd highlighted the service of Mr. Johnson as a longtime member and current chair of the Alabama Board of Bar Examiners. In receiving the award, Mr. Johnson thanked President Dowd and the bar for the recognition and said that he hopes Alabama will continue to be on the forefront of matters related to the bar exam and bar admissions.

10. **PRESENTATION OF THE WILLIAM D. “BILL” SCRUGGS, JR. AWARD**

President Dowd presented the William D. “Bill” Scruggs, Jr. Award to Alabama Supreme Court Associate Justice Mike Bolin. In receiving the award, Justice Bolin spoke of the unmatched reputation of Bill Scruggs and thanked those who nominated him for the award.

11. **PRESENTATION OF THE J. ANTHONY “TONY” McLAIN PROFESSIONALISM AWARD**

President Dowd presented the J. Anthony “Tony” McLain Professionalism Award to Billy Bedsole. In receiving the award, Mr. Bedsole said that it carried a special significance to him because of his close friendship with Tony McLain. He expressed his appreciation to those who nominated him for the award.

12. **PRESENTATION OF THE COMMISSIONERS’ AWARD**

President Dowd presented the Commissioners’ Award to Commissioner LaBella Alvis. President Dowd spoke of the extraordinary work of Commissioner Alvis as co-chair of the Member Relations Task Force. Ms. Alvis thanked President Dowd and the Board of Bar Commissioners for the recognition and said that she was grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Bar Commissioners with so many talented and committed lawyers.

13. **PRESENTATION OF THE JEANNE MARIE LESLIE SERVICE AWARD**

President Dowd recognized Robert Thornhill, Director of the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program to present the Jeanne Marie Leslie Service Award. Mr. Thornhill announced Eason Mitchell and Jim Standridge as the recipients of the award. The award was presented to Mr. Standridge and posthumously to Mr. Mitchell.

14. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**

President Dowd announced recipients of awards presented at other times during the Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting.

Judicial Award of Merit
Maude McLure Kelly Award
Susan B. Livingston Leadership Award
Walter P. Gewin Award

Hon. Harold V. Hughston, Jr.
Alyce M. Spruell
Kathy Miller
Thomas Nettles

15. **LOCAL BAR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

President Dowd recognized Alabama State Bar Assistant Executive Director Ed Patterson to present the Local Bar Achievement Awards. The awards were presented to the Talladega County Bar Association, the Tuscaloosa County Bar Association, and the Mobile Bar Association.

16. PRESENTATION OF THE VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM PRO BONO AWARDS

President Dowd recognized Allen Howell, chair of the Pro Bono Committee, to announce the recipients of the Volunteer Lawyers Program Pro Bono Awards.

Albert Vreeland Award	Jana Russell Garner
Firm/Group Award	Balch & Bingham, LLP (Birmingham)
Mediation Award	Faith Whidden-Buster
Law Student Award	Lea Luterstein (University of Alabama School of Law)

17. PRESENTATION BY IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Immediate Past President Cole Portis was recognized. Mr. Portis presented a certificate of appreciation to the president's assistant, Anita Ellison. He then presented President Dowd with the past president's plaque and pin.

18. PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S AWARD

President Dowd said that many people had been necessary to her success as president of the Alabama State Bar. In particular, she recognized Katherine "Kitty" Brown, Commissioner Jeanne Dowdle Rasco, Stephanie Hunter, and Erin Owen for their assistance and presented each of them with the President's Award.

19. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS

President Dowd thanked those in attendance for allowing her the opportunity and privilege to serve as president of the Alabama State Bar. She said that she felt the past year had been a positive one for the bench and bar in Alabama. She concluded her remarks by saying that Alabama has a terrific state bar and that it was a great joy for her to travel the state and meet so many great lawyers. President Dowd recognized Phillip McCallum and thanked him for his excellent leadership as Executive Director of the Alabama State Bar. On behalf of the Alabama State Bar, Mr. McCallum presented President Dowd with a framed cover of *The Alabama Lawyer* with a photo of the Dowd family.

20. RECOGNITION OF CHRISTY CROW AS PRESIDENT-ELECT

President Dowd asked Christy Crow to come to the podium. President Dowd congratulated Mrs. Crow on becoming president-elect and presented her with the president-elect ribbon. Mrs. Crow made brief remarks, recognizing her husband, Van Wadsworth, her children, her law partners and the lawyers of the 3rd Judicial Circuit. She said that she looked forward to serving the members of the Alabama State Bar.

21. INSTALLATION OF SAM W. IRBY AS 143RD PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA STATE BAR

President Dowd introduced Sam W. Irby as the 143rd president of the Alabama State Bar and presented him with the presidential gavel, pin and ribbon. President Irby thanked President Dowd for her service and said that it is obvious that she loves the Alabama State Bar and the legal profession. President Irby also thanked Chief Justice Stuart and the other justices of the Supreme Court of Alabama for their support of the bar.

President Irby recognized his family and thanked them for their support of his decision to spend time away in order to serve in a leadership capacity with the Alabama State Bar. He recognized his law partner, Ken Heard, and the staff of his law firm, Irby & Heard. Mr. Irby also recognized the staff of the Alabama State Bar and said that he appreciated their continued support and assistance as he begins his term as president.

President Irby concluded his remarks by offering his assistance to any member of the bar. He pledged to be transparent and accessible as president of the bar. He encouraged those who need assistance or who want to share an idea to contact him directly.

22. GOLF AND TENNIS TOURNAMENT WINNERS

President Irby recognized Mr. Chip McCallum who announced the results of the golf tournament and tennis tournament.

23. GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

Laura Calloway and representatives of Insurance Specialists (ISI) were recognized for the drawing of the grand prize. The winner was Keith Miller. Ms. Calloway also announced that winners of the legal expo prizes were posted in the ballroom foyer and thanked all of the expo sponsors for their participation in this year's annual meeting.

24. CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

President Irby closed the meeting by reminding all in attendance that the 2019 annual meeting would be held July 17-20, 2019, at The Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama. He reminded commissioners of their brief meeting in Coastal Ballroom C immediately following the annual business meeting. He then declared the 2018 Grande

Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar adjourned.

Augusta S. Dowd
President, 2017-2018

Sam W. Irby
President, 2018-2019

ATTEST:

Phillip W. McCallum, Secretary
Alabama State Bar