

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR

2007 GRANDE CONVOCATION AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

**Magnolia 4
Grand Hotel
Point Clear, Alabama**

Saturday, July 21, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Boots Gale called to order the 128th Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar at 9:15 a.m. in Magnolia 4 of the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama. He introduced the Honorable Sue Bell Cobb, Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court for her report on the State of the Judiciary.

2. REPORT OF THE STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

Following her preliminary remarks, Chief Justice Cobb reported that the Judiciary has operated on meager resources in the past but progress has been made to increase the Judiciary's funding. She stated that despite the fact that the legislature had appropriated \$135 million to operate the judicial system, salary and benefits of the court systems' 2,600 personnel account for \$132 million of that total. She stated that more work with the legislature was needed and that a legislative liaison had been hired to help to make the case for the judicial system's needs. She further reported that a bond issue of \$10 million had been approved by the legislature to fix the many problems with the judicial building. She also reported that the legislature had funded a statewide drug court program and that funds were available to hire extra staff for clerks' offices throughout the state. The Chief Justice announced that with the additional staffing, clerks' offices would resume regular hours of operation on October 1, 2007.

The Chief Justice then discussed several items that she intends to focus on over the next year. One of those was an aggressive legislative agenda to include the passage of a new juvenile code which had failed to pass during the 2007 session. She also stated that she will serve on an intergovernmental cooperative group for the National Center for State Courts to help improve communication with the other branches of government. The Chief Justice noted that she wanted to give a state of the judiciary report to the other branches and that she planned to study the proper utilization of judicial resources to improve the administration of justice.

The Chief Justice explained that the courts should be a part of the solution in the prison overcrowding situation. She reported that of the 29,000 inmates currently incarcerated, 60 percent had previously served prison time. She stated that drug courts were one way to address this problem. The Chief Justice also commented on efforts to change the method of electing judges. She stated that the high cost of judicial campaigns was weakening the system. She stated that legislation was introduced which she supported for merit selection of vacancies. She mentioned the bar's merit selection bill as another example to address the problem. The Chief Justice stated that it was important to maintain a dialog to seek a better way to select judges.

The Chief Justice discussed the creation of the Access to Justice Commission to help improve the delivery of civil legal services to the poor. She expressed her appreciation to the state bar for having made this recommendation because of the importance of helping ensure that all citizens have access to the court system. She said that Ted Hosp was serving as chair and Judge Tommy Jones as vice chair of the commission. The Chief Justice stated that Alabama ranked 51st among all states and territories in its support for civil legal services for the poor. The Chief Justice next discussed the Family Law Task Force, the Mental Health Task Force and the reactivation of the Judicial Study Commission. The Chief Justice explained that the court system was going to emphasize service and that the graduates of the Leadership Forum would be helping with exit surveys at courts across the state. She stated that the surveys would provide information on what areas in the court system needed to be improved. She encouraged all lawyers to help with the survey by completing an on-line version that would soon be available. She acknowledged that it was important to hear the remarks of all system users so that the system can be improved. The Chief Justice also said that she was very much in favor of the quality of life issues and efforts to seek balance with families, personal life and work.

The Chief Justice concluded with a few personal remarks and observations.

President Gale thanked the Chief Justice for her report and remarks.

3. HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Former President Sam Rumore was recognized to make a report. He stated that the Hall of Fame Selection Committee had recommended and the Board of Bar Commissioners had approved the Hall of Fame Inductees for 2007. They were Associate Justice John Archibald Campbell, Senator Howell Heflin, Governor Thomas Goode Jones and Patrick Richardson.

4. LOCAL BAR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ed Patterson, Director of Programs was recognized. Mr. Patterson presented the award to the Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association. Accepting on behalf of the President George Moore was Commissioner Rich Raleigh.

5. MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

President Gale recognized Broox Holmes, John Owens and Sam Rumore who read memorial resolutions adopted by the Board of Commissioners for past presidents Bibb Allen, E. T. Brown, Jr. and Drew Redden who had died since the last annual meeting.

[Those resolutions appear as Appendix I, II and III to these minutes.]

6. FIFTY YEAR CERTIFICATES

President Gale presented Fifty Year Certificates to those lawyers who were admitted in 1957 and were present. They were as follows: Izas Bahakel, John S. Casey, John Robert Christian, Abe Mitchell, Hugh Maddox, Mayer W. Perloff, John F. Proctor and Richard H. Ramsey, III.

7. RECOGNITION OF THE PAST PRESIDENTS

President Gale asked that all former presidents of the Alabama State Bar stand and be recognized.

8. RECOGNITION OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

President Gale asked that all members of the Board of Commissioners stand and be recognized.

9. PRESENTATION OF COMMISSIONERS' MEDALLIONS

President Gale recognized retiring bar commissioners. They were: Louis Rutland, Oliver Kitchens, William H. Broome, Cecilia J. Collins, Charles R. Stephens, Sr., Thomas J. Methvin, William H. Atkinson, Roy W. Williams, Jr. and Dawn Wiggins Hare. He presented medallions to former commissioners Broome, Collins and Methvin who were in attendance.

10. RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENT'S SECRETARY

President Gale recognized Past President John Owens for a special presentation. Mr. John Owens recognized Peggy Sue Rentz, secretary to President Boots Gale and presented her with a framed certificate of appreciation for her service during Mr. Gale's year as president.

[Immediate Past President Bobby Segall had to leave the annual meeting early for a family emergency and was unavailable to make this and the following presentation.]

11. PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S PLAQUE

Past President Owens presented President Gale with his president's plaque and past president's ribbon. Mr. Gale accepted the plaque and ribbon. He made brief remarks and thanked his wife, Louise, Ms. Rentz, his firm, state bar staff and members of the Board of Bar Commissioners for his year as president.

12. RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

President Gale asked Mark White to come to the podium. President Gale stated that Mr. White had been elected president-elect and presented Mr. White with the president-elect's ribbon. Mr. White offered brief remarks upon accepting the president-elect ribbon.

13. INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT SAM CROSBY

President Gale called President-elect Sam Crosby to the podium. He presented Mr. Crosby with the presidential gavel and the president's ribbon thereby installing Mr. Crosby as President of the Alabama State Bar. Mr. Crosby offered his remarks on the occasion. He recognized his wife, Ann, his daughter Cason and son-in-law Dan Shealy and granddaughter. He also recognized his son, Sam and his wife Amy. He then recognized his siblings including Sally Smith, Ray Crosby, Martha Jacobs, Ellie Lanier and their spouses as well as his niece Christian Smith, her children and spouse. He then recognized members of his firm including former bar president Norborne Stone, members of his law firm staff and members of the Baldwin County Bar who were in attendance. He thanked Past President Boots Gale and Louise Gale. He then discussed his ideas and initiatives for his year as president including Wills for Heroes, Financial Partnership and Planning for New Lawyers, Administration of Justice Issues, Mandatory IOLTA, Capturing the Wit and Wisdom of Senior Members of the Bar in a video history project.

He concluded his remarks by reminding lawyers of the Book of Micah's admonition which is to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with the Lord.

14. GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

President Crosby recognized Laura Calloway and Ed Patterson for the Expo 2007 Grand Prize drawing. The grand prize winner was John Gullahorn.

15. CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Prior to adjourning the meeting, President Crosby asked if there was any further business to come before the meeting. He recognized former Executive Director Reggie Hamner. Mr. Hamner stated that in view of the fact former president Drew Redden had died recently, it should be known that during his term as president, Mr. Redden commissioned and paid for the creation of the mold for the medallions that have been presented to retiring commissioners for more than 30 years.

16. ADJOURNMENT

President Crosby declared the 2007 Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar adjourned.

Fournier J. Gale, III, President, 2006-2007
Alabama State Bar

Samuel N. Crosby, President, 2007-2008
Alabama State Bar

ATTEST:

Keith B. Norman, Secretary
Alabama State Bar

NOTE: During the 2007 Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting, the following awards were presented:

Award of Merit:	Judge William Gordon Connie Barker Judge Harold Murphy
Walter P. Gewin Award:	Greg Cusimano
Alabama State Bar Judicial Award of Merit:	Judge Randall Cole
Pro Bono Awards:	
Albert Vreeland Pro Bono Award:	Gil Laden
Student Award:	Eddie L. Koen, Jr.
Firm Award:	Maynard Cooper & Gale
Mediator Award:	Louis C. Colley
Maud McLure Kelly Award:	Camille W. Cook
Local Bar Achievement Award:	Huntsville-Madison County Bar