

# MINUTES

## ALABAMA STATE BAR

### 2012 GRANDE CONVOCATION AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Magnolia Ballrooms A-C  
Baytowne Wharf Convention Center  
Destin, FL

Saturday, July 21, 2012

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Pratt called to order the 133rd Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar.

#### 2. WELCOME OF CHIEF JUSTICE CHUCK MALONE

President Pratt welcomed Chief Justice Chuck Malone. Chief Justice Malone repeated this year's Law Day theme which was "No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom" and discussed the underfunding of Alabama's Judiciary. He noted that the bench, the bar, the clerks, the district attorneys and others of the judicial system came together and spoke with one voice which made securing the court cost bill for continued funding of the judiciary possible. He stated that the ratification of the constitutional amendment on September 18 was crucial to the continued operation of the judicial system or the system could lose an additional 10 to 20 percent of its funding. The Chief Justice encouraged all members of the legal profession to support the amendment to tap the Alabama Heritage Trust Fund and encourage other voters to support the amendment as well. After discussing the need to continue the education of future generations about the Rule of Law, he concluded his remarks by stating his continued commitment to stay involved with Alabama's judicial system and particularly to make his successor's transition a smooth one. He gave his thanks to all for the courtesies extended to him during his term of office.

President Pratt took a moment to discuss the work of the Constitutional Revision Committee and noted to those assembled that the revisions of two articles, Articles 9 and 10, would be on the ballot in the November general election for ratification.

#### 3. HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

President Pratt recognized Keith Norman for a report of the selection committee. Secretary Norman reported that the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame Selection committee

had recommended and the Board of Bar Commissioners had approved for inclusion in the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame the following attorneys who had been deceased at least two years: John A. Caddell (Decatur); William Logan Martin, Jr. (Birmingham); Edwin Cary Page (Evergreen) and David J. Vann (Birmingham). He stated that in the category of attorneys deceased more than 100 years the selection committee had recommended and the commission had approved William James Samford (Opelika) for inclusion in the Hall of Fame.

**4. LOCAL BAR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Receiving awards were the Tuscaloosa County Bar Association, the Calhoun-Cleburne County Bar Association, the Mobile Bar Association and the Birmingham Bar Association.

**5. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

President-elect Phillip McCallum came to the podium and recognized Representative Paul DeMarco to make a special presentation. Representative DeMarco presented President Pratt with a resolution from the House of Representatives of the State of Alabama thanking him for his assistance to the Alabama Legislature during his presidency.

**6. LEADERSHIP FORUM GRADUATES RECOGNIZED**

President Pratt asked the graduates of the Leadership Forum to stand and be recognized.

**7. 50-YEAR CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS**

Vice President Rocky Watson called the names of the 50-Year certificate recipients in attendance as President Pratt presented them with their certificates. They were: Robert Creveling, James R. Knight and Ben H. Harris, Jr.

**8. RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

President Pratt asked the past presidents to stand and be recognized. He also asked the members of the Board of Bar Commissioners and members of the Executive Council to stand and be recognized as well.

**9. RECOGNITION OF BAR STAFF**

President Pratt thanked and recognized the members of the bar staff for their service during his year as president.

**10. RECOGNITION OF ALL JUDGES**

The President asked all active or retired judges attending the meeting to stand and be recognized.

**11. RETIRING COMMISSIONERS**

President Pratt recognized the members of the Board of Bar Commissioners who were retiring and presented medallions to those who were present including: Cleve Poole, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit; Robert E. Moorer, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 8; and L. Thomas Ryan, Jr., 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 2.

**12. PRESIDENT'S CONCLUDING REMARKS**

President Pratt recognized Immediate Past President Alyce Spruell. Ms. Spruell recognized Mr. Pratt's wife, Marcia. Ms. Spruell then presented a framed certificate to Debbie Byrd, President Pratt's secretary and thanked her for her service. Next, Ms. Spruell made several remarks about Mr. Pratt's year as president and presented him with the past president plaque and ribbon. Mr. Pratt thanked Ms. Spruell.

**13. INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT**

President Pratt recognized Mr. Anthony Joseph. He congratulated Mr. Joseph on his election as president-elect. Mr. Joseph made brief remarks.

**14. CONCLUDING REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Pratt stated that during his term he stressed four things including the commission, the staff, publicity for the profession as well as the Rule of Law and the judiciary. He thanked the commission members, officers, his firm, the bar staff and his family for their support during his year as president.

**15. INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT**

President Pratt called President-elect Phillip W. McCallum to the podium. He presented Mr. McCallum with the president's gavel and his president's ribbon. Mr. McCallum thanked Mr. Pratt for a successful year. He stated that he was looking forward to working with President-elect Joseph as well as the commission and the members of the bar. He next introduced his family including his wife, Kelley, his daughters, Caitlan and Savannah and his son Murphy. He introduced his three brothers and their families who were in attendance, his father and his father-in-law. He then recognized his law partners as well as his secretary, Christie Archer.

President McCallum highlighted the primary issues that he would be tackling during his year as president. He stated that the biggest issue would be court funding and that the

efforts begun this year must be continued because inadequate funding of the courts is the biggest problem facing the state. He next discussed access to justice and his desire to appoint a task force to develop a long range plan for the VLPs. He stated that Commissioner Raleigh would serve as chair of this task force. He applauded the work of the pro bono task force and the national acclaim for their work in promoting National Pro Bono Week in Alabama, including the fact that there will be a National Pro Bono Summit in Alabama. President McCallum stated that his third area of concentration would be the future of the profession and that former Alabama State Bar president Mark White and former ABA president Tommy Wells would co-chair the work of this task force to identify and consider the important issues facing Alabama's legal profession. President McCallum described his plans for a local bar outreach program which would serve to improve communications with the local bars. He stated that Commissioner Ashley Swink with help from the Leadership Forum, would be working on this project. He reported that plans were underway to find a new ALAP director. He stated that Jeanne Marie Leslie had worked diligently for 14 years to build the program and that she would be terribly missed. He stated that the Lawyers Assistance Committee and the Director of Service Programs, Laura Calloway, and others have been hard at work in seeking out a new director. President McCallum next mentioned that he would conduct a Leadership Summit for the chairs of the committees and sections in September and that he would also be appointing a task force to study the state bar's financial structure.

President McCallum concluded his remarks by stating that there was much work to be done and that he would be working hard along with other leaders and volunteers of the state bar to accomplish these goals.

## 16. **GOLF AWARDS**

President McCallum recognized General Counsel Tony McLain who chaired the golf program for the annual meeting to announce the winners of the rain shortened event . They were as follows:

Low Team Score Net—John Smyth, Brannon Buck, Blair Clinton, Taylor Bartlett and Cliff Mendheim

Low Team Score Gross—Greg McCabe, Patrick Jones, LaBarron Boone, and Will Matthews

Longest Drive—LaBarron Boone

Closest to the Pin—Brannon Buck

Worst Team Score—Robby Lusk, Donald Holyfield, Rita Scott & Romaine Scott

## 17. **GRAND PRIZE**

President McCallum called on Laura Calloway, Director of Service Programs. Ms. Calloway thanked the vendors with special thanks to the member benefit providers and the meeting sponsors in the platinum, gold, silver and bronze categories. Ms. Calloway also thanked her assistant Kristi Skipper and Leyden Skipper for their help in taking care

of the vendors of the legal expo. She then called the names of the gift recipients and the winner of the drawing for the grand prize. They were:

ISI iPad Winner – Linda Flippo

IPad Early Registrant Winner – Paul Patterson

Grand Prize (California Dreaming Grand Prize Getaway provided by ISI Alabama) – Marvin Wehl

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

President McCallum closed by reminding everyone that the 2013 annual meeting would be held July 17-20 at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear. He stated that there would be a brief meeting of the commissioners immediately following the annual business meeting in Magnolia Ballroom F on the first floor. He then declared the 2012 Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar adjourned.

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James R. Pratt, III, President, 2011-2012  
Alabama State Bar

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Phillip W. McCallum, President, 2012-2013  
Alabama State Bar

ATTEST:

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Keith B. Norman, Secretary  
Alabama State Bar

Note: The awards made during the 2012 state bar meeting are listed in the pamphlet from the Bench and Bar Awards Luncheon. This is included as Appendix A to these minutes.