

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR

2008 GRANDE CONVOCATION AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

**Emerald Ballroom C-E
Sandestin Hilton
Destin, Florida**

Saturday, July 12, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Sam Crosby called to order the 129th Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar.

2. GRANDE CONVOCATION SPEAKER H. THOMAS WELLS, JR.

After making a few brief remarks, President Crosby introduced H. Thomas Wells, Jr., president-elect of the American Bar Association (ABA) for remarks. Mr. Wells' remarks concerned his plans during his term as president of the ABA which would commence at the ABA's annual meeting in August. He stated that the guiding principle of his presidency would be to stay focused on concerns of all lawyers which are the core values of the profession: access to justice; independence (of the bar and the judiciary); diversity and the rule of law. Mr. Wells stated these core values unite the legal profession and that he planned to focus on them particularly with this being a national election year and a new incoming presidential administration. With regard to elections, Mr. Wells highlighted election standards that are supported by the ABA and explained resources from the ABA that would allow lawyers to help promote fair and free elections across the nation.

Mr. Wells next discussed each of the four core values and described how access to justice, independence of the profession, diversity and the rule of law are important to the legal profession. He concluded by noting that as lawyers we must all work to support these core values.

Following his remarks, President Crosby presented Mr. Wells with the book, "Sweet Home Alabama".

3. HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

President Crosby recognized Mr. Sam Rumore who announced the 2008 Hall of Fame Inductees. They were John B. Scott, Vernon Z. Crawford, Edward M. Friend, Jr. and Elisha Woosley Peck.

4. LOCAL BAR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

President Crosby recognized Ed Patterson for the presentation for the local bar achievement award. The award was presented in the large bar category, to the Mobile Bar Association with Ian Gaston, president, accepting. In the medium bar category, the award was presented to the Calhoun-Cleburne County Bar Association, Randy J. Moeller, president. Commissioner John Gruenewald accepted on behalf of Mr. Moeller.

5. FIFTY YEAR CERTIFICATES

President Crosby presented fifty year certificates to the following bar members who were present: Ralph Coleman, J. Richmond Pearson (accepted by his daughter, attorney Richet Pearson) and Richard Manley.

The remaining members of the class of 1958 were as follows:

Gary F. Burns, Maury Friedlander, Jackson Wilson Guyton, Charles J. Kettler, Jr., Richard C. Lacey, Howard Stuart Leach, Jr., Robert F. Lewis, Gareth A. Lindsey, Hobart A. McWhorter, Jr., Paul Millirons, Dwayne Neal Morris, John H. Morrow, Sam M. Phelps, Donald F. Pierce, Calvin C. Pryor, Thomas A. Ritchie, Euel Screws, Jr., James R. Walton, Ira Dement, John L. Haislip, Gordon B. Kahn, Maurice C. Mackey, Jr., William David Page, Jesse S. Vogtle, Robert L. Bonfield, Joe R. Carr, Charlotte Railey Clayton, Jerry C. Coe, Neil H. Graham, Abram W. Hatcher, Edwin D. Ledford, William C. McCain, Jr., William H. McMurry, William W. Monday, Clyde E. Peters, James M. Rea, Haywood I. Reams, Eugene N. Riddle, Oliphant Malcolm Sumrall, Eldred B. Teague, Robert H. Thomas, William C. Boone, Robert F. Calhoun, Gilbert Philip Cohen, Erlin C. Cooper, Howard H. Galloway, William H. Griffin, Houston E. Hamm, Ira Kline, John H. O'Donnell, Jr., Philip H. Smith, David Lawrence Stewart.

6. RECOGNITION OF THE PAST PRESIDENTS

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

7. RECOGNITION OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

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

8. PRESENTATION OF COMMISSIONERS' MEDALLIONS

President Crosby recognized retiring bar commissioners. They were: Nicholas B. Roth – 8th Judicial Circuit, Michael D. Knight – 13th Judicial Circuit, Place 1, John E. Medaris – 18th Judicial Circuit, Robert L. Bowers – 19th Judicial Circuit, Everette A. Price, Jr., - 21st Judicial Circuit, Thomas B. Albritton – 22nd Judicial Circuit, Robert H. Brogden – 33rd Judicial Circuit, Roger H. Bedford, Jr., - 34th Judicial Circuit, David T. Hyde, Jr., - 35th Judicial Circuit, Timothy D. Littrell – 36th Judicial Circuit, Wayman G. Sherrer – 41st Judicial Circuit, Kyra Sparks – At-Large, Place 6.

Retired commissioners present and receiving their medallions were John Medaris, Everette Price and Roger Bedford.

9. LEADERSHIP FORUM GRADUATES

President Crosby then recognized the Leadership Forum graduates from Classes I-IV as a group and asked them to stand.

10. PRESIDENT'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

President Crosby recognized immediate past president Boots Gale. Mr. Gale first presented a framed certificate to Brenda Roland, President Crosby's secretary and thanked her for her service. Next, Mr. Gale made several remarks about Mr. Crosby's term as president and presented him with the past president's plaque and ribbon.

11. PRESENTATION OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S LEADERSHIP AWARD TO SAM CROSBY

Before returning to his seat, Mr. Gale recognized Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb. Chief Justice Cobb presented President Crosby with the Chief Justice Leadership Award. Mr. Crosby thanked the Chief Justice for the recognition.

12. CONCLUDING REMARKS OF PRESIDENT AND INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

President Crosby made his concluding remarks as president of the Alabama State Bar. Following his remarks, he asked Mr. Tom Methvin to come to the podium. President Crosby congratulated Mr. Methvin on his election as president-elect. Mr. Methvin made brief remarks. At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. Methvin presented Chief Justice Cobb with her very own navy blue blazer as a token of appreciation for her close work with the bar since her installation as chief justice.

13. INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENT

President Crosby introduced the state bar's new president, Mark White and called Mr. White to the podium. He turned over the office of president to Mr. White and presented him with the president's gavel and presidential ribbon. President White thanked Mr. Crosby. He introduced his wife, family members, law firm members and staff who were present as well as several close friends.

President White outlined his vision for his year as president which includes access to justice for the poor, indigent defense (a state-wide indigent defense commission), mentoring, professionalism and instilling pride in our profession. Prior to concluding his remarks, President White asked all those present to stand and re-take the Oath of Office which Chief Justice Cobb administered.

14. GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

President White recognized Laura Calloway and ISI president Bill Bass for the drawing of the 2008 Grand Prize provided by ISI Alabama. The grand prize was won by Bob Clute of Mobile.

15. ADJOURNMENT

President White closed by stating that the 2009 Annual Meeting would be at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, July 15-18 and reminding the commissioners of a brief meeting in Emerald Ballroom A-B. He then declared the 2008 Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar adjourned.

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

J. Mark White, President, 2008-2009
Alabama State Bar

ATTEST:

Keith B. Norman, Secretary
Alabama State Bar

NOTE: During the 2008 Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting, the following awards were presented:

Award of Merit:	Beth Carmichael Millard D. Fuller Barbara Rhodes
Walter P. Gewin Award:	Gordon F. Bailey, Jr.
Commissioners' Award	Morris S. Dees, Jr. Fred D. Gray
Pro Bono Awards:	
Albert Vreeland Pro Bono Award:	Sister Lynn Marie McKenzie
Student Award:	Sigfredo Rubio
Firm Award:	Alford, Clausen & McDonald, LLC
Mediator Award:	Douglas I. Key
Maud McLure Kelly Award:	Louise Ingram Turner Jane Kimbrough Dishuck
Local Bar Achievement Award:	Mobile Bar Association – Large Bar
	Calhoun/Cleburne County Bar Association – Medium Bar
President's Award	Mike and Mickey Turner Freedom Court Reporting
Chief Justice Leadership Award	Sam Crosby