

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR

2014 GRANDE CONVOCATION AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

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

Saturday, July 12, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Anthony Joseph called to order the 135th Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar.

2. GRANDE CONVOCATION SPEAKER – WILLIAM HUBBARD

President Joseph recognized Mr. Billy Coplin of Demopolis and a member of the ABA's House of Governors, to introduce William Hubbard of Columbia, South Carolina, president-elect of the ABA. After the introduction by Mr. Coplin, Mr. Hubbard covered a number of topics in his remarks. Discussing the rule of law, Mr. Hubbard stated that two things were essential. They are an independent judiciary and a strong organized bar. He discussed Magna Carta, and its central role in the rule of law and the ABA's efforts to focus on its importance to the rule of law during the coming year. He stated that it would be the central theme for the 2015 Law Day celebration and that efforts are being made to raise funds for restoring the monument erected many years ago by the ABA at Runnymede in England commemorating Magna Carta.

Mr. Hubbard then discussed the need to expand justice and highlighted the over criminalization of laws and the resulting prison population explosion in the United States. He noted that these are issues the ABA intends to work on closely with the states. The next topic covered by Mr. Hubbard in his remarks was closing the justice gap and making legal services more affordable and available for the poor and middle class. He said that many parties who need attorneys can't afford them even though they have serious legal problems. He highlighted the efforts by many citizens towards self-help and that it was incumbent upon the organized bar to help correct this problem.

Innovation to the practice of law and the incorporation of technology were issues that Mr. Hubbard also addressed. He explained that the organized bar must address these and other emerging issues and help bring fresh ideas to the delivery of providing legal

services. He said that the ABA has a toolkit to help bar associations host meetings to address the technological and other issues that are confronting the legal profession.

Mr. Hubbard closed his remarks by observing that in the United States “We over lawyer the wealthy and under lawyer the poor.” He stated that we must do a better job to address this problem and close the gap between lawyers and the other issues confronting the legal profession. Mr. Hubbard concluded by saying, “We must establish justice as the constitution says, because our primary calling is to justice and promoting justice for all.”

President Joseph thanked Mr. Hubbard and his wife Kappy for attending our meeting and presented him with the book, “*Headwaters: A Celebration of Alabama Rivers*”.

3. STATE OF THE JUDICIARY AND PRESENTATION OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE’S PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

President Joseph recognized Chief Justice Roy Moore for his state of the judiciary remarks. Chief Justice Moore highlighted Alabama’s exploding prison population as alluded to by Mr. Hubbard. He then discussed the financial problems facing the judicial system noting that the unified judicial system had lost 350 employees, mostly in clerks’ offices across the state, since 2001. The Chief Justice stated that the state’s judiciary was operating with \$39 million less than in 2001. He did mention that the financial circumstances for the judicial system might be improving because additional funds may be made available to the courts. Chief Justice Moore explained salary adjustments to be made in the circuit clerks’ offices and merit pay raises where applicable. He explained that his positive outlook was based on his conversations with the governor and legislative leaders.

Chief Justice Moore remarked that the court was as current as it has ever been with respect to case dispositions. He explained that the dispositions were up overall and that more oral arguments were being granted and more opinions are being written. Following additional remarks concerning the U.S. Constitution, Chief Justice Moore presented the Chief Justice’s Professionalism Award to retired circuit judge Joe Colquitt of Tuscaloosa. Judge Colquitt offered his remarks following his receiving the award.

4. HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Wendy Crew, a member of the selection committee, announced the 2014 Hall of Fame Inductees who were as follows: Walter L. Bragg (Marion, 1835-1891), as the one hundred year inductee; George Washington Lovejoy (Mobile, 1859-1933); Albert L. Patterson (Phenix City, 1894-1954); Hon. Sam C. Pointer, Jr. (Birmingham, 1934-2008) and Henry B. Steagall (Dale County, 1873-1943). Ms. Crew encouraged members of the audience to submit nominations for lawyers to be considered for inclusion in the Lawyers Hall of Fame.

5. LEADERSHIP FORUM GRADUATES

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

6. 50 YEAR MEMBERS HONORED

President Joseph presented 50 year certificates to the following bar members who were present: Ben L. Holley, Richard M. Jordan, William Oliver Kirk, Jr., Byrd R. Lathram, William P. Powers, III and John Ray Warren.

7. MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

President Joseph recognized former state bar president Douglas McElvy who read a resolution in memory of former state bar president Oakley Melton. Following Mr. McElvy's reading of the resolution, President Joseph recognized former state bar president Fred Gray to read a resolution in memory of former state bar president Walter Byars.

8. RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEMBERS AND RETIRING COMMISSIONERS

President Joseph recognized past state bar presidents and asked them to stand. He next asked the members of the Board of Bar Commissioners to stand and be recognized. He then recognized the retiring commissioners who were as follows:

Phil D. Mitchell, II	8 th Judicial Circuit
Joseph A. Fawal	10 th Judicial Circuit, Place 7
William A. (Pete) Short, Jr.	10 th Judicial Circuit, Bessemer Cut-off
Albert J. Trousdale, II	11 th Judicial Circuit
Harry V. Satterwhite	13 th Judicial Circuit, Place 5
K. Scott Stapp	17 th Judicial Circuit
David A. McDowell	19 th Judicial Circuit
M. Hampton Baxley	20 th Judicial Circuit
John L. Jernigan, III	21 st Judicial Circuit
John M. Peek	22 nd Judicial Circuit
H. Harold Stephens	23 rd Judicial Circuit, Place 1
Elizabeth S. Parsons	30 th Judicial Circuit
Braxton W. Ashe	31 st Judicial Circuit
Robert H. Brogden	33 rd Judicial Circuit
Rebecca Green Thomason	34 th Judicial Circuit
J. Milton Coxwell, Jr.	35 th Judicial Circuit
H. Jerome Thompson	36 th Judicial Circuit
Alexander M. Smith	41 st Judicial Circuit
LaBarron N. Boone	At-Large, Place 6

9. PRESIDENT'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

President Joseph recognized immediate past president Phillip McCallum. Mr. McCallum first presented a framed certificate to Mr. Joseph's legal assistant, Laura Cato and thanked her for her service. Next, Mr. McCallum made several remarks about Mr. Joseph's term as president and presented him with the past president's plaque and ribbon. Mr. Joseph thanked Mr. McCallum and offered remarks concerning his term as president.

10. TONY MCLAIN PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

President Joseph then announced a new award created by the Executive Council. He described the criteria and named the 2014 honoree, General Counsel Tony McLain. President Joseph stated the award will be named the J. Anthony "Tony" McLain Professionalism Award. Mr. McLain received the award and offered his remarks.

11. INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

President Joseph introduced Lee Copeland of Montgomery as the president-elect. He congratulated Mr. Copeland and Mr. Copeland made a few brief remarks.

12. INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT RICHARD J.R. RALEIGH, JR.

President Joseph introduced Mr. Rich Raleigh as the 138th state bar president and called him to the podium. He turned over the office of president to Mr. Raleigh and presented him with the president's gavel and president's ribbon. President Raleigh thanked Mr. Joseph and other past presidents for their support. He thanked his firm members as well as Huntsville colleagues. He then recognized his family members including his in-laws, his children, Tripp and Sarah Medders, and his wife, Shannon.

Mr. Raleigh encouraged the audience to all work together during this next year. He announced that his theme will be "Lawyers in Transition" and he explained the various transitions that different groups of lawyers encounter, stating that the state bar can be a help to each group. President Raleigh then mentioned the Alabama Veterans Network and working to improve the image of lawyers by improving the public's perception through such programs as the legislative neutrals and the VLP. He concluded his remarks by stating that he will continue to work with and support other state groups including circuit judges, D.A.s, etc. in helping tackle the many difficult issues confronting the profession and the state.

13. 2014 GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

President Raleigh recognized Laura Calloway. Ms. Calloway thanked sponsors, exhibitors as well as the member benefit providers at this year's annual expo for the many prizes they provided. She then read the name of the winner of the iPad mini

who was among the first 50 members to register for the annual meeting. The winner was Ken Rainer.

Ms. Calloway then recognized Mr. William Bass, president of ISI, Charlotte Gardner and Guy Gardner. Ms. Calloway summarized the programs hosted during the annual meeting by ISI, as well as ISI providing the grand prize. President Raleigh drew a card from among all the contestants for the grand prize and the winner was David Holt.

14. GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Chip McCallum announced the winners of the annual golf tournament including the winners of the closest to the pin contest, the winning team and the losing team.

15. CLOSING REMARKS

President Raleigh concluded by stating that the 2015 Annual Meeting will be held at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, July 15-18 and reminding bar commissioners of a brief meeting immediately following the annual business meeting in Coral Ballroom A. He also invited everyone to the presidential reception beginning at 11:15 a.m. in the Sandpiper room on the lower level. President Raleigh declared the 2014 Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar adjourned.

Anthony A. Joseph, President, 2013-2014
Alabama State Bar

Richard J.R. Raleigh, Jr., President,
2014-2015
Alabama State Bar

ATTEST:

Keith B. Norman, Secretary
Alabama State Bar

Note: The awards made during the 2014 state bar meeting are listed in the pamphlet from the Bench and Bar Awards Luncheon held on July 10. This is included as Appendix A to these minutes.