

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR

**2015 GRANDE CONVOCATION
AND
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**Grand Ballroom North
Grand Hotel
Point Clear, AL**

Saturday, July 18, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Rich Raleigh called to order the 138th Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar.

2. STATE OF THE JUDICIARY AND PRESENTATION OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

President Raleigh recognized Chief Justice Roy Moore for his remarks. Chief Justice Moore recognized Mr. Robert Denniston of Mobile. After reading his biography, the Chief Justice Moore presented Mr. Denniston with the Chief Justice's Professionalism Award for 2015. During his remarks, the Chief Justice pointed out that Mr. Denniston was currently the longest practicing member of the Alabama State Bar.

Chief Justice Moore next addressed the dire budget situation confronting the Alabama court system. His presentation emphasized the funding needed to adequately operate the judicial system. He explained that while \$250 million was actually needed, \$200 million was absolutely essential to keep the courts operating. He reported that funding for FY2015 was \$195 million and that funding for FY2016 was cut to \$183 million.

The Chief Justice provided examples of funding for other state entities, e.g., education, executive branch, legislative branch, and colleges and universities. He stated that since 2002, the court system has lost 17 percent of its funding while funding for the executive branch has increased by 70 percent. He explained that if the court system had merely received level funding since 2002, the executive branch budget would be \$220 million.

Chief Justice Moore noted that in 2014, Alabama's courts collected \$490 million in fees, fines, etc., which was returned to the General Fund. He stated that the state's entire budget is \$29 billion and that as a part of the entire state budget, funding for the judicial branch represents .67 percent. The Chief Justice noted that Alabama's court system gets the least amount of funding of any unified judicial system in America. He further

noted that Alabama has the highest percentage of its state budget earmarked of any state in the country. In concluding his remarks, Chief Justice Moore discussed the constitutional requirement that the judiciary must be adequately funded. He stated it was his recommendation that earmarking be abolished in order to address the chronic underfunding of Alabama's court system.

Following his remarks, President Raleigh thanked the Chief Justice for his very informative report.

3. LAWYERS HALL OF FAME 2015 CLASS

President Raleigh recognized Wendy Crew, a member of the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame Selection Committee, who announced the new members of the class of 2015. They were: Ruben Chapman (deceased for more than 100 years); Abe Berkowitz; Dean Leigh Harrison; Frank Spain and Holland M. Smith.

4. RECOGNITION OF LEADERSHIP FORUM GRADUATES

President Raleigh asked the graduates of the Leadership Forum to stand and be recognized as a group.

5. FIFTY YEAR CERTIFICATES

President Raleigh recognized Vice President Cooper Shattuck who announced the Fifty Year Certificate recipients as President Raleigh presented them with their certificate and pins. Those in attendance were: John D. Cates, Jr.; William Norman "Hank" Fannin; Reginald T. Hamner; Charles R. Hare, Jr.; Clarence T. Hellums, Jr.; Robert R. Kracke; Champ Lyons, Jr.; George W. Noble; Edward A. Price, Jr.; Alan E. Rothfeder; Irving Silver.

[The full list is included with these minutes as Appendix A.]

6. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

President Raleigh asked for active and retired judges to stand and be recognized. He also recognized Congressman Bradley Byrne and his wife, Rebecca, who were attending the Grand Convocation and Annual Business Meeting.

7. RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS AND RETIRED AND CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

President Raleigh asked all past presidents of the Alabama State Bar to stand and be recognized. He then recognized members of the Board of Bar Commissioners and the retired commissioners who were in attendance.

The retiring members of the Board of Bar Commissioners were:

Jerry L. Thornton	2nd Judicial Circuit
W. N. (Rocky) Watson	9th Judicial Circuit
S. Greg Burge	10th Judicial Circuit, Place 2
Derrick A. Mills	10th Judicial Circuit, Place 9
Henry A. Callaway, III	13th Judicial Circuit, Place 1
Walter H. Honeycutt	13th Judicial Circuit, Place 2
Julia C. Kimbrough	18th Judicial Circuit, Place 2
Thomas B. Albritton	22nd Judicial Circuit
John Earl Paluzzi	24th Judicial Circuit
Jerry Wayne Baker	27th Judicial Circuit
Robert L. Rumsey	29th Judicial Circuit
Stephen M. Kennamer	38th Judicial Circuit
John M. Plunk	39th Judicial Circuit

8. MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

President Raleigh recognized past presidents Phil Adams and John Owens who read resolutions adopted by the Board of Bar Commissioners in memory of former presidents Wade Baxley and Jim North, respectively.

9. PRESIDENT'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

Past President Anthony Joseph was recognized for a special presentation. Mr. Joseph honored Vickie Simmons, the President's secretary for her service during Mr. Raleigh's

term as president. He next presented President Raleigh with the Past President's Plaque and Ribbon. President Raleigh thanked Mr. Joseph.

10. RECOGNITION OF COLE PORTIS AS PRESIDENT-ELECT

President Raleigh congratulated Mr. Cole Portis of Montgomery on his election as president-elect of the Alabama State Bar. Mr. Portis came to the podium and received his president-elect ribbon and made brief remarks.

11. CLOSING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT RICH RALEIGH

President Raleigh remarked on his year as president before recognizing Mr. Copeland.

12. INSTALLATION OF LEE COPELAND AS 140TH PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA STATE BAR

President Raleigh requested that Mr. Copeland come to the podium. He presented Mr. Copeland with the President's Gavel and the President's Ribbon and turned the office of president over to Mr. Copeland. President Copeland introduced his family, friends and law partners. He reflected on being a lawyer and the fact that he loves being a member of the legal profession. He remarked that he is proud to be a lawyer because the legal profession is about helping people. President Copeland then discussed some of the concerns raised by the new Alabama State Bar Economic Survey and some things he would like to accomplish during his term as president. He concluded his remarks saying that he was lucky to be president and that he looks forward to working hard during this year.

13. GOLF AND TENNIS TOURNAMENT WINNERS

President Copeland recognized Mr. Chip McCallum and Mr. Mark Moody who announced the winners of the golf and tennis tournaments, respectively.

14. GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

President Copeland asked Laura Calloway to come to the podium. Ms. Calloway thanked all of the expo vendors. She announced the Early Bird Registration winner who was Bruce Rogers. She next introduced Mr. Bill Bass, president of Insurance Specialist, Inc. (ISI), a platinum sponsor of the Alabama Legal Expo for the drawing of the Grand Prize provided by ISI. Mr. Bass recognized his wife, Nina, and introduced Doug Johnson and Charlotte Gardner who work with ISI. He reported that ISI would soon be opening a Birmingham office to better serve members of the Alabama State Bar. Mr. Bass then drew the winning card and announced that the recipient of the 2015 Grand Prize drawing was Mark White of Birmingham.

15. CLOSING REMARKS

President Copeland announced that next year's meeting would be held at Baytowne Wharf, June 22-25 in Sandestin. He invited everyone to attend the Presidential Reception beginning at 11:30 a.m. in Magnolia 4. Following these remarks, President Copeland declared the 138th Annual Meeting and Grande Convocation closed.

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

Lee H. Copeland, President
2015-2016
Alabama State Bar

ATTEST:

Keith B. Norman, Secretary
Alabama State Bar

Note: The awards made during the 2015 state bar meeting are listed in the pamphlet from the Bench and Bar Awards Luncheon held on July 16. This is included as Appendix B to these minutes.