

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR 2021 GRAND CONVOCATION AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Grand Hotel
Grand Ballroom
Point Clear, Alabama

Saturday, July 17, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Bob Methvin called to order the 144th Grand Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar.

2. **STATE OF THE JUDICIARY – CHIEF JUSTICE TOM PARKER**

President Methvin introduced Chief Justice Tom Parker for remarks regarding the Alabama court system. Chief Justice Parker thanked President Methvin and the leadership of the Alabama State Bar for continuing to build a strong working relationship between the bar and the judiciary in Alabama. He congratulated President-elect Shepard and said that he looked forward to working with him during the coming year.

Chief Justice Parker highlighted the work of the Covid-19 Bench and Bar Task Force and their leadership during the past year. He recognized that the work of the task force was instrumental in helping the courts remain open. He also thanked the bar staff for their assistance with the virtual judge's conference, the Covid-19 webpage that included orders from circuits throughout the state, and their assistance with the Bench Pandemic Manual. Chief Justice Parker closed by thanking bar leadership and members for their support during the 2021 Legislative session.

President Methvin thanked Chief Justice Parker for his remarks and pledged continued support and cooperation by the bar in improving the court system and access to justice in Alabama.

3. **LAWYERS HALL OF FAME 2020 and 2021 CLASS**

President Methvin recognized Past President Sam Rumore, chair of the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame Selection Committee to make a report. Mr. Rumore announced that the inductees for 2020 and 2021 class of the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame would include

Jane Dishuck, Bill Hairston, Helen Shores Lee, Cecil Strawbridge and Henry Minor for 2020 and Charles Arendall, Jerome Cooper, Doug Corretti, J.O. Sentell and William Council for 2021.

4. **FIFTY YEAR CERTIFICATES**

Vice President Gibson Vance read the names of those individuals who were in attendance to receive their 50-year certificate, which was presented along with their 50-year pin by President Methvin. Those present to receive their certificate and pin were:

2020: Alva Cain

2021:

Jack McNamee

Charles Boyd

Sam Irby

Jesse Roscoe Brooks, Jr.

Richard Pearson

Charles Robinson

Honorable Lynwood Smith, Jr.

Richard Dorman

5. **RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

President Methvin recognized members of the judiciary, members of the Alabama state legislature, past presidents of the Alabama State Bar, members of the Board of Bar Commissioners and executive council, and Leadership Forum alumni.

6. **PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

President Methvin said that many people had been critical to his success as president of the Alabama State Bar. In particular, he recognized Clay Ryan, Courtney Gipson, Raymond Bell, Jana Garner, Tom Perry, Ane Debro, Hal Turner, Rebekah McKinney, Mike Ermert, Diandra Debrosse, Mark Boardman, Terri Tompkins, Cassandra Adams, Cliff Mendheim, Jeff Bowling and Lang Floyd for their assistance and presented each of them with the President's Award.

7. **PRESENTATION OF THE WILLIAM D. "BILL" SCRUGGS, JR. AWARD**

President presented the William D. "Bill" Scruggs, Jr. Award to Past President Christy Crow. In receiving the award, Mrs. Crow said that it is her highest honor to be associated with an award bearing the name of Bill Scruggs and thanked those who nominated her for the award.

8. **PRESENTATION OF THE J. ANTHONY "TONY" McLAIN PROFESSIONALISM AWARD**

President Methvin presented the J. Anthony "Tony" McLain Professionalism Award to

LaBella McCallum. Mrs. McCallum gave brief remarks in accepting the award and thanked those who nominated her for an award with such significance in the Alabama State Bar.

9. **PRESENTATION OF THE COMMISSIONERS' AWARD**

President Methvin presented the Commissioners' Awards to Commissioner John Brinkley, Michael Ermert, Jana Garner and Rebekah McKinney.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**

President Methvin announced recipients of awards presented at other times during the Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting.

Judicial Award of Merit	Hon. Brendette Brown Green Hon. Sibley Reynolds
Maude McLure Kelly Award	Jacqueline Austin Augusta Dowd
Justice Janie L. Shores Scholarship	Courtney Howard

11. **PRESENTATION OF THE VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM PRO BONO AWARDS**

President Methvin recognized Rachel Miller, chair of the Pro Bono Committee, to announce the recipients of the Volunteer Lawyers Program Pro Bono Awards.

Albert Vreeland Award	L. Thomas Ryan, Jr.
Firm/Group Award	Carr Allison
Mediator Award	R. Boyd Miller
Law Student Award	Joseph Antonio Holley
Public Interest Award	Stephen D. Rygiel

12. **PRESENTATION OF THE ALABAMA LAW INSTITUTE AWARDS**

President Methvin announced award of recipients of the Alabama Law Institute presented earlier in the week.

Senator Greg Albritton
Representative Matt Simpson
Senator Will Barfoot
Senator Sam Givhan
Representative Bill Poole

Senator Arthur Orr
 Senator Bobby Singleton
 Senator Rodger Smitherman
 Representative Chris England
 Representative David Faulkner
 Representative Tim Wadsworth

13. **PRESENTATION BY IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Immediate Past President Christy Crow was recognized. Mrs. Crow presented a certificate of appreciation to the president's assistant, Susan Reynold. She then presented President Methvin with the past president's plaque and pin.

14. **PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS**

President Methvin thanked those in attendance for allowing him the opportunity and privilege to serve as president of the Alabama State Bar.

15. **RECOGNITION OF GIBSON VANCE AS PRESIDENT-ELECT**

President Methvin asked Gibson Vance to come to the podium. President Methvin congratulated Mr. Vance on becoming president-elect. Mr. Vance made brief remarks and said that he looked forward to supporting incoming president Taze Shepard in executing his initiatives for the coming year.

16. **INSTALLATION OF TAZE SHEPARD AS 146TH PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA STATE BAR**

President Methvin introduced Taze Shepard of Huntsville as the 146th president of the Alabama State Bar and presented him with the presidential gavel, pin and ribbon. President Shepard thanked President Methvin for his leadership over the past year. President Shepard also thanked Chief Justice Parker and other members of the judiciary for their support and strong relationships with the Alabama State Bar.

In his speech after being sworn in as president, President Shepard stated that there is a lot of negativism, a lot of anger in society. He went on to say as leaders of the Bar, we can inject more kindness and more love, into what we do and how we treat people. He shared that if you want to be a better judge or a better lawyer, start by really working to be a better person.

President Shepard indicated that his administration will focus on being responsive to the 18,000+ members' needs, transparent about decision-making, and committed to current issues like systemic bias and human trafficking. In serving in various leadership roles with the Alabama State Bar and his local bar, President Shepard stated that he has always found satisfaction from helping people and being involved in something outside of himself. He

concluded by sharing that he was am humbled and honored to be the 146th President of the Alabama State Bar and grateful for the trust that the members of the Bar have placed in him.

17. **GRAND PRIZE DRAWING**

Robyn Bernier and representatives of Insurance Specialists (ISI) were recognized for the drawing of the grand prize. The winner was Herman Padgett and she also recognized the platinum sponsors, ISI, AIM and The Campbell Law Firm. She concluded by thanking the vendors, sponsors, speakers and lawyers for their participation in this year's annual meeting.

18. **CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT**

President Shepard closed the meeting by reminding all in attendance that the 2022 annual meeting would be held June 22-25, 2022, at the Sandestin Hilton in Destin, Florida. He reminded commissioners of their brief meeting in Azalea Ballrooms C-F immediately following the annual business meeting. He then declared the 2021 Grand Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar adjourned.



Robert G. Methvin, Jr.
President, 2020-2021



Tazewell T. Shepard, III
President, 2021-2022

ATTEST:



Terri B. Lovell, Secretary
Alabama State Bar