

**ALABAMA STATE BAR 146TH MEETING**

# AWARD RECIPIENTS

**THE GRAND HOTEL | POINT CLEAR, ALABAMA**



**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

C. Gibson Vance, Alabama State Bar President



# ALABAMA STATE BAR 146TH MEETING

## AWARD RECIPIENTS

---

### JUDICIAL AWARD OF MERIT

#### **Eddie Hardaway, Jr.**

Eddie Hardaway, Jr. was educated in the Sumter County Public School System and graduated Salutatorian from Livingston High School in 1971. Eddie Hardaway, Jr. played clarinet for the University of Alabama's Million Dollar Band and graduated from the University of Alabama in 1974. Eddie continued his studies at University of Alabama School of Law and graduated in 1977. After graduation, he took a position with the Attorney General's Office of the State of Alabama. Eddie has always had a passion for helping people, and in December of 1978 he left the Attorney General's Office to become a Staff Attorney for Legal Services in Selma, Alabama. Eddie was passionate about his work with Legal Services, but he felt there was a greater need in his own community. In January of 1980, Eddie returned to Sumter County and became a partner in England, Bivens, and Hardaway in York, Alabama.

In June of 1980, Eddie Hardaway, Jr. married Lena Bonner. In 1985, Robert, their only child was born. Eddie Hardaway, Jr., has an older son Eddie Duane Hardaway, from his first marriage. Eddie is also a father to his eldest nephew Linwood Bonner.

In the middle of 1980, Eddie Hardaway, Jr. decided to run for public office. In November of 1980, Eddie Hardaway, Jr. became the first African American District Court Judge in Sumter County, Alabama. Judge Hardaway was re-elected to this position twice before being elected the first African American Presiding Circuit Court Judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit of Alabama in November of 1994. Judge Hardaway has been re-elected to this position four times and is currently one of the longest serving judges in the state of Alabama.

He is currently the Chairman of the Sumter County Industrial Development Authority, a trustee at Alabama State University, a Past President of the University of Alabama National Alumni Association, a graduate of Leadership Alabama, the current Chairman of the Alabama New South Coalition-Sumter County Chapter, a Masonic Brother, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and member of First Baptist Church in Livingston, Alabama. In addition to being one of the most dedicated public servants in modern times, Judge Hardaway is a prolific businessman. He is the President and Founder of Hardaway's Funeral Services, Inc. in York, Alabama.



# MICHAEL D. ERMERT AWARD OF MERIT

## **Rebekah Keith McKinney**

Rebekah McKinney was born in Huntsville, Alabama and has practiced law there since 1997. Rebekah practices with Watson McKinney, LLP, in the areas of personal injury and wrongful death, employment discrimination, family law and estate and administrative matters. Rebekah received her undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University in 1991 and her law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1995. She is President-Elect of the Huntsville Bar Association and has also served as its Treasurer. She served as the first female President of the Alabama Association for Justice, for which she continues to be a Board member, and on the Board of the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation. Rebekah previously served as a Bar Commissioner for the Alabama State Bar for the 23rd Judicial Circuit, Vice President of the State Bar and is currently a Disciplinary Hearing Officer for the State Bar. She is a Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation, a member of the Appellate Rules Committee of the Alabama Supreme Court, and is a member of the Judicial Resources Allocation Commission. Rebekah has also been engaged in the Huntsville community, having been a member of the Board of Directors of the Earlyworks Museum, Alabama Constitution Village Foundation, the Arts Council of Huntsville, the Junior League of Huntsville and Free 2 Teach. Rebekah has three sons, Sam (19), Griffin (17) and John (17).



# WILLIAM B. "BILL" SCRUGGS AWARD

## **Haron W. Turner**

Graduated cum laude from the University of Alabama in August 1981. Graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in May 1984. Admitted to the Alabama State Bar in September 1984. Admitted to practice before Fifth and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeal and the Southern, Middle, and Northern Federal District Courts of Alabama. Serves as managing partner of Turner, Onderdonk, Kimbrough & Howell, PA of Chatom, Alabama. Served as Assistant District Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit from 1984 until 2020. Served as Bar Commissioner for the 1st Judicial Circuit from 2013 to 2022.



# J. ANTHONY "TONY" MCLAIN PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

## Cole Portis

Cole Portis serves as Beasley Allen Law Firm's Personal Injury & Products Liability Section Head. He began practicing law over 30 years ago because he enjoys problem-solving and helping others in the process.

Cole is a leader in the legal profession and community, daily exhibiting Beasley Allen's motto of "helping those who need it most." He served as Alabama State Bar President from 2016-2017, leading the association through a pivotal transition after ASB General Counsel J. Anthony "Tony" McLain passed away and executive director, Keith Norman, decided to retire. Cole has also served as President of the Montgomery County Bar Association (2022), Alabama Young Lawyers Association (2000-2001), Montgomery County Trial Lawyers Association (1999), Auburn University Bar Association (1999) and Montgomery County Young Lawyers (1993). In addition, Cole has served as President of the Jimmy Hitchcock Award, a prestigious award honoring Christian student-athletes in Montgomery, Alabama. Further, he serves on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Board of Directors and the Trinity Presbyterian School Board of Trustees. Cole is currently a Morningview Baptist Church lay elder.



A Martindale-Hubbell AV-rated lawyer, Cole is selected to the Midsouth Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America lists annually. He has also been selected to Lawdragon 3000, Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers, and National Trial Lawyers Top 100. Cole was a finalist for Public Justice's 2014 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award and was featured on the 2015 National Law Journal Plaintiffs' Hot List. In 2010, he was named Beasley Allen's Litigator of the Year.

# J. ANTHONY "TONY" MCLAIN PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

## **Maibeth J. Porter**

Maibeth graduated from Vanderbilt Law School in 1980. She clerked for The Honorable Seybourn H. Lynne in the Northern District of Alabama. Maibeth then joined what is now Maynard Nexsen, where she continues to practice.

Maibeth is a member of the Birmingham Bar Association, where she served as President and on the Executive Committee.

With Labella McCallum, she successfully lobbied Ed Elliott, then BBA President, to create the Women Lawyers' Section and has served as a director.

Maibeth has participated in the State Bar on numerous committees and as a Bar Commissioner for nine years, during which she came to know Tony and Leah McLain. Maibeth is humbled to receive this award.

Maibeth is one of the State Bar's appointees to the Judicial Inquiry Commission. The State Bar Women Lawyers' Section previously awarded her its Susan Bevill Livingston Award.

Maibeth is also Chair of the Alabama Supreme Court's Standing Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure and a member of the American Law Institute and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Maibeth has been active in the Episcopal Church on the local, state, and national levels. She served two terms as Chancellor of the Diocese of Alabama and is a member of its Standing Committee and a lay reader at Cathedral Church of the Advent.

Maibeth and her husband, Robert Eckinger, are the parents of three adult daughters—Helen, a lawyer; Virginia, a landscape architect; and Sarah, a photography editor for the New York Times.



# COMMISSIONERS AWARD

## Joel Connally

Joel Connally is a native of Gadsden, Alabama. He graduated from Auburn University in 1993, worked for two years and then went to law school, graduating from Alabama in 1998. Joel is a member of Strength & Connally, LLC, in Montgomery and Tuskegee. He provides general counsel to individuals and businesses, with a focus on commercial, financial and asset litigation. He has also developed a unique niche of pro bono work for wealthy people. Joel is

married to Amy Connally, a lawyer with the Retirement Systems of Alabama. They have one son and are active in his school, their church, and various civic and charitable organizations. Joel is serving his second term as a bar commissioner for the 15th Judicial Circuit.



---

## Brian Strength

Brian P. Strength was born in Valley, Alabama. He received his bachelor's of science degree from Auburn University in 1994. In 1998, he graduated cum laude from The University of Alabama School of Law. Prior to starting his own firm in 2008, Brian worked for the law firm of Bradley, Arrant, Boulton, Cummings primarily representing defendants in civil litigation. Brian also was a member of the Cochran Firm and served as managing attorney in its Tuskegee, Alabama office. Since graduating law school, his practice has focused exclusively on civil litigation, including products liability, employment, accidents involving large trucks, and wrongful deaths. He is a member of the Alabama State Bar, the Federal Bar Association and the American Bar Association.



# PRESIDENT'S AWARD

## **Brannon Buck**

Brannon is a native of Huntsville and has practiced law in Alabama for over 25 years. He graduated with Honors from Davidson College and magna cum laude from the University of Alabama School of Law. Brannon is a founding partner at Badham & Buck, LLC in Birmingham where he has a commercial litigation practice. Before Badham & Buck, Brannon was a partner at Maynard Cooper & Gale. Super Lawyers magazine routinely lists Brannon among the "Top 10" and "Top 50" attorneys in Alabama. Brannon is a Fellow in both the Alabama Law Foundation and the American Bar Foundation.



Brannon will serve as the Alabama State Bar's 148th President in 2023-2024. He previously served three consecutive terms as a Bar Commissioner for the 10th Judicial Circuit and as a member of the State Bar's Executive Council. As a young lawyer, Brannon was President of the Young Lawyers Section. He has also chaired numerous committees and task forces, including, most recently, the Bylaws Task Force which drafted new bylaws for the State Bar. Outside of his bar-related activities, Brannon has worked on the boards of several-profit organizations and in lay leadership at his church. He also currently serves on the University of Alabama School of Law Alumni Leadership Council.

---

## **Mark Boardman**

Mark Boardman is finishing his second term as the Bar Commission's elected Parliamentarian. Mark is in his third term as Commissioner from the 18th Judicial Circuit (Shelby County). Mark has a general practice, with a concentration in government law, serving as general counsel for two dozen state and local governments and having represented over 225 state and local governments. Mark has served as the President of the Alabama Association of Municipal Attorneys (for two years) and the Alabama Council of School Board Attorneys. Mark is a partner in Boardman, Carr, Petelos, Watkins & Ogle, P.C., in Chelsea. Mark is a frequent speaker to professional groups and government employees on government law, including the Open Meetings Act and the Open Records Act.



# PRESIDENT'S AWARD

## J. Mark Debro

J. Mark Debro has over 23 years of legal experience. Currently, he is a partner at Grace, Matthews & Debro, LLC, in Huntsville, Alabama. Prior to joining the firm, he was an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Huntsville, Alabama and was an attorney at Douglas J. Fees, P.C. His current practice focuses on general civil liability defense where he handles cases in all state and federal courts. Mark is a 1991 graduate of Alabama A&M University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. In 1999, he earned a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Cumberland School of Law, Samford University.



Mark's professional, social and religious affiliations include membership in the Alabama State Bar, Alabama Lawyers Association, American Bar Association, DRI, Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (ADLA), Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association, Inc., First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Morning Star Lodge, No. 50 F&AM (PHA), Tennessee Valley Consistory #160 - AASR, SJ, (PHA), Huntsville Alumni Kappa Scholarship Foundation, Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of the Alabama A&M University National Alumni Association. He is a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and the Alabama A&M University National Alumni Association.

Mark has served in various capacities locally and state-wide. He has served on the Alabama State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners, Executive Council, Finance & Audit Committee, Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee and the Long Range Strategic Planning Task Force. As a member of the Alabama Lawyers Association, Alabama affiliate of the National Bar Association, Mark has served as President and Northern District Representative. As a member of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association, he has served as a District I representative. As a member of the Huntsville Madison County Bar Association, he has served as President, Treasurer, and on various committees. Mark is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He also serves as a substitute Municipal Judge in Huntsville. Mark is the husband of Angela (Ane) Redmond Debro, Esq. and the proud father of a son, John Mark, II, and daughter, Lara Page.

# PRESIDENT'S AWARD

## **Felicia Long**

Felicia Long is a shareholder at Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole & Black, P.C., where she focuses her practice on the defense of complex civil litigation matters and insurance defense. Felicia also maintains an appellate practice and is a registered mediator with the Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution. Prior to joining the firm, she worked with other plaintiff and defense firms and was a judicial law clerk for Justice Lyons on the Supreme Court of Alabama.



Felicia is currently a 15th Judicial Circuit Bar Commissioner for the Alabama State Bar and was elected by the commission to serve on the Executive Council this year. Within the state bar, she also serves as Co-Chair of the Women's Section, Bylaws Task Force member, Strategic Planning Task Force member, and is a past Chair of the Lawyers in Every Classroom Committee. Within the local bar, Felicia has been active with the Montgomery County Bar Association for a number of years, having served as President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. Felicia also serves on the Alabama Supreme Court's standing committee on the Alabama Rules of Evidence, is Past President of the Hugh Maddox Inn of Court, and is an active member of the National Association of Minority and Female Owned Law Firms.

Felicia enjoys being involved in her hometown community and has served as Board President for the Junior League of Montgomery, Jimmy Hitchcock Memorial Award, and Britton YMCA. She currently serves on the Montgomery Committee of 100 and the Metro YMCA Board of Directors.

# PRESIDENT'S AWARD

## **Brett Holsombeck**

In his capacity as 2022-2023 President of the Alabama State Bar Young Lawyers Section, Brett Holsombeck served on President Vance's Executive Council and was the liaison between State Bar leadership and the Volunteer Lawyers Program. Holsombeck is a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law. He currently practices with Wilson Elser, LLP in Birmingham as a member of the firm's Complex Tort and General Casualty practice group. He focuses his practice on the defense of private fleet owners and major commercial motor carriers throughout the continental United States. Holsombeck routinely defends companies and casualty insurance carriers in high-exposure cases.



His practice team serves as national and regional counsel to several international corporations. In addition to his State Bar involvement, Holsombeck is an active member of the Birmingham Bar Association and currently serves as a member of the American Bar Association House of Delegates.

---

## **Carmen Howell**

Carmen Howell has successfully owned and managed a solo law firm for nearly 15 years in Enterprise, Alabama. Carmen has a diverse practice which includes domestic relations, mediation, civil litigation, education, and criminal defense. She aggressively litigates for her clients while also emphasizing the importance of compromise and dispute resolution. Carmen wants her clients to feel empowered and part of the solution to their legal disputes.



Carmen loves lawyers and the practice of law. She believes that there is no greater honor in this profession than being a "lawyer's lawyer". She is a servant leader for this profession and she demonstrates that by serving on numerous committees for the Alabama State Bar including the Executive Council for President Gibson Vance. Carmen served as president of the Coffee County Bar Association for five years. She is a graduate of the Alabama State Bar's Leadership Forum and she has served as bar commissioner for the 12th Judicial Circuit since 2018.

Carmen is married with three daughters. She enjoys spending time with her family, running, and taking yoga classes.

# PRESIDENT'S AWARD

## Angela Kennedy

Attorney Angela E. Kennedy is a native of Birmingham, Alabama. Attorney Kennedy resides and operates a general law practice in the Bessemer cut-off area of Jefferson County, Alabama. A graduate of Miles Law School, in Fairfield, Alabama. Attorney Kennedy is licensed to practice in all State and Federal Courts in Alabama as well as being a member of the United States Supreme Court Bar. Attorney Kennedy is a member of several organizations to include, the National Bar Association where she serves as the Vice President for Region XI, she is the Immediate Past President of the Alabama Lawyer's Association, a member of the Birmingham Bar Association where she currently serves as a member of the Future Leaders Forum Committee, the Solo/Small Firm Section, the Women's Section and is a past Co-Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.



Attorney Kennedy is currently a member of Delta Theta Phi International Law Fraternity, Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and the Junior League of Birmingham. Attorney Kennedy is an active member of the Alabama State Bar and has been licensed to practice for 8 years. She serves as an At-Large Bar Commissioner for Place 1, as a member of the Disciplinary Panel and member of the Women's Section. She is a past Co-Chair of the Administrative Law Section (serving from 2020-2022) and an Alumna of the Alabama State Bar Future Leaders Forum (Class 16).

In addition to her legal career and education, Attorney Kennedy is a 25 year Nursing professional. She graduated from the University of Alabama (Capstone College of Nursing) where she earned a Bachelor's degree and Spring Hill College of Nursing where she earned a Master's degree. She has served as an Adjunct Nursing Professor at Auburn University and Jefferson State Community College. Her hobbies include reading, amateur photography and traveling.

# PRESIDENT'S AWARD

## **Elizabeth C. Smithart**

Elizabeth Smithart has been a practicing attorney since 1989, having received a bachelor's degree from Huntingdon College, followed by her juris doctorate from the University of Alabama School of Law.

Smithart's bar service includes serving as the Vice-President 2022-2023, member of the Executive Committee 2021-2022 and Board of Bar Commissioners, former Chair of the Women's Section; former Co-Chair of the Dispute Resolution Section and former member of the Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee. In addition, she has served on multiple committees and task forces. She is also an Alabama Law Foundation Fellow.

A long-time resident of Union Springs, Alabama, Smithart is an active member of First United Methodist Church. She has served the Partners in Education Foundation, the Bullock County Food Pantry, the Bullock County Historical Society, the Union Springs/Bullock County Tourism Board and Chamber of Commerce, as well as many other local organizations. A graduate of Leadership Alabama Class XIV, she received the Y.C. Nance Community Service Award and was a member of the Montgomery Advertiser's Top Forty Under Forty.

Smithart currently serves as a member of the Huntingdon College Board of Trustees, the associate Chancellor for the Alabama West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church and the State of Alabama Department of Human Resources board. Her experience has included the following: legislative counsel, public boards, public board liability, municipal law, probate matters, deeds, simple wills and trust, powers of attorney, litigation, products liability, wrongful death, personal injury, workers compensation. She actively engages in General Civil Mediation, Domestic Mediation, Domestic Violence Mediation and Appellate Mediation while continuing to provide pro bono assistance in all areas listed. Prior to opening her solo practice, Smithart clerked for the Honorable Joseph Phelps (15th Judicial Circuit), was an associate with Beers, Anderson, Jackson and Smith (Montgomery), and of counsel with Jinks, Smithart, Jackson and Daniel (Union Springs).

She met and married her husband, Burt Smithart in law school. Burt is the Presiding Circuit Judge for the 3rd Judicial Circuit. They have been married 35 years and have two children: daughter Wesley, an attorney in Birmingham who practices with the firm of Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC and son Jon, a logistics coordinator with Boyd Brothers Transportation, Inc. in their Birmingham location.



# RETIRING COMMISSIONERS

Kira Y. Fonteneau  
Anne M. Glass  
Christy W. Graham  
Brett A. King

Leigh Anne Landis  
Terinna S. Moon  
Kenneth L. Moore  
T. Thomas Perry, Jr.

James Rebarchak  
Allison O. Skinner  
Mallory B. Whitley

---

## 50-YEAR MEMBERS

Charles Fuzell Abernathy  
William Henry Agee  
Charles Woodruff Allen  
Richard Franklin Allen  
Myron Kay Allenstein  
Paul Benjamin Anderson Jr.  
David Leon Ashford  
Edward Jackson Ashton  
Robert Lowell Austin  
Steve Arnold Baccus  
Spencer Thomas Bachus III  
Thomas Edmund Baddley Jr.  
Schuyler Allen Baker Jr.  
Charles David Baker  
Preston Baker Barnett  
James Thomas Baxter III  
Ernest Will Beard  
Sanford Dixon Bishop Jr.  
Michael Franklyn Bolin  
Louis Andrew Borghese  
Eric Allison Bowen  
William Marion Bowen Jr.  
Arthur Bennett Briskman  
Daniel Britton  
Houston Lanier Brown  
Richard Francis Browne  
Walter Graham Browning  
Kent Boutwell Brunson  
William Powell Burgess Jr.  
Bruce Allen Burttram  
John Ferrell Butler  
Robert George Cahill  
Malcolm Nall Carmichael  
Ashley Carraway  
Robert Webb Chesnut  
John Calvin Coggin III  
Nace R. Cohen  
James Mason Corder Jr.  
Michael Albert Crespi  
John T. Crowder Jr.  
Daniel Alford Crowson  
Charles Fredrick Daniels  
Walter Allen Davis  
James Edmund Davis Jr.  
Charles Herbert Dodson Jr.

Edward Whitfield Doggett  
Cary Linwood Dozier  
Joel Fredrick Dubina  
Stewart Ray Dudley  
Richard Clinton Duell III  
James Richard Duke  
Jim Keith Duncan  
Charles Burton Dunn  
Joe Dixon Edge  
Robert Benjamin Eubank  
Terry Tumlin Everett  
Harold Laverne Ferguson Jr.  
James Richard Foley  
Booker Taliaferro Forte Jr.  
Susan Lee Frost  
George Locke Galbraith  
Thomas Marlowe Galloway Jr.  
Jonathan Prince Gardberg  
Broox Gray Garrett Jr.  
Van Coleman Gholston  
Michael Davis Goodson  
Walter Frank Greenleaf  
Joseph Barton Greer III  
Robert Young Griffin Jr.  
William Allen Grocholski  
John Marshall Gruenewald  
Guy Fleming Gunter III  
Lee Louis Hale  
James Ellis Haley  
Theodore Leslie Hall  
Stuart Winston Hankins  
John Clinton Harris Jr.  
James Goodloe Harrison  
Donald Richard Harrison  
James Greene Hawthorne Jr.  
Lance Karl Hiltbrand  
Ben Dwight Hixon  
Timothy Joseph Hoff  
Roscoe Benjamin Hogan III  
Charles Powell Hollifield  
Harry Lowry Hooper III  
Harry L. Hopkins  
Ernest Harold Hornsby  
George Harper Howell  
Christopher Gadsden Hume III

Sidney Edward Jackson  
Inge Prytz Johnson  
James Tennille Johnson III  
Alan Eric Johnston  
Gilbert Egloff Johnston Jr.  
George Edward Jones Sr.  
Marilyn Sheeley Kavanaugh  
Thomas Grady Keith  
John Wesley Kelly III  
Jerry Richard Knight  
Joseph O'Neil Kulakowski  
Thomas Maxson Kullman  
Gay Mathers Lake Jr.  
Michael David Langan  
Grady Oliver Lanier III  
William Waldo Lawrence  
Gregory Luce Leatherbury Jr.  
Winston Tatum Lett  
William Robert Lewis  
Curtis O'Neal Liles III  
Alan Carpenter Livingston  
Joseph Haran Lowe Jr.  
Julius Raymond Lowery Jr.  
Margaret Smith Marston  
Joseph Jerome Masters  
Bobby Don McCarter  
Douglas Lee McWhorter  
Walter Ralph Stephen Meigs  
James Floyd Minor  
Christopher Marlowe Mitchell  
Roger Miles Monroe  
Earle Farley Moody II  
George Allen Moore  
Timothy Wayne Morgan  
Grady Larry Morgan  
Charles Thomas Morris  
William Alexander Moseley  
William Franklin Murray Jr.  
Philip Patton Nelson  
Larry Ronald Newman  
Michael Alan Newsom  
Kenneth Edward Niemeyer  
Horace Earl (Chip) Nix Jr.  
Richard Carlen Noser  
Alfred Alaby Oldham Jr.

Benjamin Claude Paden Jr.  
Lewis Wendell Page Jr.  
Charles Nichols Parnell III  
Charles Burton Paterson  
James William Patton III  
Robert Hicks Pettey Jr.  
Carl Owen Pilgrim  
Howard Keith Pitts  
William Stitt Poole Jr.  
Robert Emmett Poundstone III  
Caryl Penney Privett  
Edward Brian Raymon  
Lynn Ashley Renoll  
Benjamin Russell Rice  
Gary Lee Rigney  
Billy Jack Rivers  
Roy Richard Robertson Jr.  
Morris Lloyd Roebuck  
Larry Wright Roney  
James Bruce Schrimsher

John Paul Scott Jr.  
Jefferson B. Sessions III  
Jerry Cleveland Shirley  
Donald Joseph Sides  
Katharine Palmer Smith  
Carol Jean Smith  
James Edward Smith  
Arnold Rankin Sneed  
Ronald Albert Snider  
Joel Lee Sogol  
Vick Speed  
Joseph William Spransy  
Donald Eugene Stanley  
Jack Porter Stephenson Jr.  
Jerry Evan Stokes  
John Gilbert Stokesberry  
John Ronald Storey  
Charles James Sullivan III  
John Benton Tally Jr.  
Richard Lawrence Thiry

Daniel Joseph Thompson Jr.  
Perry Wayne Thorn  
Overby Stanley Thornton  
Arthur Grey Till Jr.  
Richard Warren Tingle  
William Cox Tucker Jr.  
James Edward Turnbach  
Hugh White Underwood III  
Donald George Valeska II  
Laurence Duncan Vinson Jr.  
Jerry Lee Weidler  
Vernon Leo Wells II  
Gary Wayne Weston  
John David Whetstone  
Roscoe Aaron Williams  
Earl Calhoun Wilson  
Robert Guest Wilson  
Jacob Dorman Wingard Jr.  
Robert Henry Woodrow III  
James Alexander Yance

---

## ALABAMA STATE BAR 146TH MEETING PRO BONO AWARD RECIPIENTS

---

### ALBERT VREELAND PRO BONO AWARD

#### Tara Rose

Tara Rose arrived in Alabama in 2015 after serving 10 years in the United States Air Force. She graduated Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in 2018. She began practicing law and partnering with a local attorney until 2022, when she established Rose Family Law. During this time, she remained actively engaged within the community by offering free legal counselling and volunteering with a local program that targeted at-risk youth.



Tara volunteers with both the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program and the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program. Through these two programs Tara provided over 92 hours of pro bono legal assistance. She took 18 extended representation cases, many of which were contested family law matters, attended 12 counsel and advice clinics and 2 Lawyer for a Day in District Court clinics. In 2022 Tara received the Montgomery County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyer of the Year award.

# LAW FIRM/GROUP AWARD

## **Bradley Arant Cummings, LLP, Montgomery Office**

Bradley's Montgomery office, was founded in 2000 to provide the firm with a presence in the state's capital. Bradley's attorneys in Montgomery uphold our reputation for maintaining the highest ethical standards while providing practical solutions to our clients' legal and business challenges.

Like the entire Bradley law firm, the Montgomery office makes it a priority to contribute to the community. In 2022 Bradley attorneys provided 61 hours of pro bono service to the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program and participated in 38 counsel and advice clinics. Bradley also hosts CLEs, including one in partnership with the YWCA of Central Alabama on obtaining protection from abuse orders. They also provide the Douglas Arant Public Interest Fellowship which allows a Bradley summer associate the opportunity to work with the public service organization of their choice for four of the 10 weeks they are employed with the firm. As stated by Peyton Faulk, Executive Director of the Montgomery VLP, "Bradley encourage their attorneys to tap into their passions and use their talents in a way that will make life better for the people and communities around them."

The logo for Bradley, featuring the word "Bradley" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with a red horizontal line underneath the letters "a", "d", and "l". The logo is centered within a white circular background.

# MEDIATOR AWARD

## **Jon E. Lewis**

Jon Lewis volunteers in the Jefferson County District Court's Friday Double Pro Se Docket Mediation Program. Jon also provides pro bono mediation services through the Alabama First Landlord Tenant Mediation Program. This program, which began during 2022, provides free mediation services to landlords and tenants for evictions, unlawful detainers and any landlord/tenant dispute. Judges Grant, Davis and Cook have ordered landlords and tenants to mediation in Jefferson County under the program. Jon is a regular pro bono mediator and has mediated 11 cases for 11 landlords and 21 tenants.



He has been instrumental in promoting mediation awareness to mediators, attorneys and the public. He served as an instructor/panelist on three free webinars which were co-sponsored by the Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution and the Dispute Resolution Section of the Alabama State Bar.

# LAW STUDENT AWARD

## **Anna M. Spindle**

*Faulkner University,  
Jones School of Law*

Anna just completed law school and is preparing to sit for the bar exam. She volunteered with the Montgomery County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program during her second and third years of law school. In 2022 she spent 111 hours in district court docket clinics and assisted with several extended representation cases. Anna also assists with recruiting other law students to provide pro bono services through the MVLP.



---

# PUBLIC INTEREST ATTORNEY AWARD

## **Kelly F. McTear**

Professor McTear has regularly earned the MVLP's Order of the Samaritan award for representation of indigent clients and was named a Fellow of the MVLP in 2021 for this work. Additionally, she has represented over 1000 indigent victims of domestic violence during her legal career, both at Legal Services Alabama and as the director of our law school's Domestic Violence Clinic. For the past two years, she has provided pro bono mediation services to Montgomery County's District Courts as director of our Mediation Clinic, which during that time provided pro bono mediation services in more than 125 cases. There has not been a time in Professor McTear's career when she was not providing assistance to indigent litigants.



In Fall 2023, Professor McTear is embarking on another huge project directed at providing services to indigent populations. In August 2023, after YEARS of advocacy, work, and planning, Faulkner Law will launch its Generational & Ancestral Property (GAP) Clinic. Professor McTear will be leading the effort to make a meaningful impact in the field of heirs property in Montgomery and throughout the Black Belt. This new project is a first-of-its-kind in Alabama, but Professor McTear has long advocated that this much needed area of legal service is a perfect fit for law student work.

# ALABAMA STATE BAR 146TH MEETING WOMEN'S SECTION AWARD RECIPIENTS

---

## MAUD MCLURE KELLEY AWARD

### **Celia Collins**

Celia Collins graduated from Randolph Macon Women's College and received her Law Degree from Vanderbilt University School of Law, after which she became the first woman associate to join Johnstone Adams and subsequently the first women partner.

She is recognized in her practice areas of Employment and Labor Law by both Best Lawyers and Super Lawyers. She was also recognized by Super Lawyers in their 2022 Top 50 Women Mid-South List and by Best Lawyers on several occasions as Mobile's Lawyer of the Year in management side Labor Law, Employment Law and Employment Litigation.

Throughout her career she has been committed to women issues in both her professional and community activities. On the professional level she served as Chair of the ASB Task Force on Women in the Profession and the Standing Committee on Women in the Profession, which evolved into the ASB's Women's Section. She currently serves on the Women's Section Executive Committee.

Celia is a member of the Mobile Bar Association Women Lawyers, who honored her with their 2016 Trailblazer Award, and a Board member and previous officer of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations.

In the Community she has served as President of the YWCA, on the Board of the Women's Business Center and as Chair of a local women's political PAC.

At the State Bar, Celia has served as a Bar Examiner, a Bar Commissioner, and as Chair of the Labor and Employment Section.



# SUSAN B. LIVINGSTON AWARD

## **Leslie R. Barineau**

Leslie graduated Magna Cum Laude from Cumberland School of Law and began her career at a small boutique law firm handling plaintiff's personal injury and workers' compensation cases as well as domestic and probate matters. After spending five years with this firm, she opened her own law firm – Barineau & Barineau.



Leslie's dedication to the profession is evidenced by her extensive participation in national, state, and local bar activities as well as her continued involvement at Cumberland as an adjunct professor teaching workers' compensation. She strongly believes that participation in these organizations provides an opportunity not only to help others through the various programs, but it promotes camaraderie among the lawyers.

Currently she is President of the Alabama Law Foundation, in the American Bar Association House of Delegates as an Alabama State Bar delegate, and on various committees and sections with the Birmingham Bar Association, Birmingham Bar Foundation, and the Alabama State Bar. She has served as President with the National Conference of Bar Foundations and President of the Birmingham Bar Foundation. She served three terms as an Alabama State Bar Commissioner and was on the Birmingham Bar Association Executive Committee. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Solo/Small Firm Section of the Birmingham Bar Association, the Women's Section of the Birmingham Bar Association, and the Fellows Program for the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Leslie is a member of Canterbury United Methodist and served two four-year terms on the Board of Directors for the United Methodist Children's Home.

Leading by example and garnering the respect of her peers, Leslie champions the importance of being involved to her colleagues. "It's what we must do for our profession."

Leslie enjoys spending time with her son and his family, especially her granddaughter, Olivia.

# JUSTICE JANIE L. SHORES SCHOLARSHIP

## **Antionette Richardson**

*Birmingham School of Law*

Antionette currently attends Birmingham School of Law and will finish out her first year in August 2023. Outside of school, she is a mother of two sons and employed full-time. During her spare time, she enjoys gathering for family functions, a game of bowling, or going to the movies. She is looking forward to completing her legal studies and pursuing her career in law.



---

## **Rolanda T. Turner**

*Cumberland School of Law*

Rolanda Tina Turner is a rising 3L at Cumberland School of Law. She has been actively engaged in numerous leadership roles and organizations, including serving as the President of Cumberland Society of Arts, VP of Cumberland Health & Wellness Society, 1L Advisor for the Career Development Advisory Board, Section Leader (Race & Justice) for the Center for Children, Law, & Ethics, an Academic Success Advisor, an AccessLex Champion. She is also the founder of Cumberland Career Closet, as well as a Scholar of Merit, and a member of various organizations including Black Law Students Association and Women In Law. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Alabama. She is a native of Pell City, Alabama where she graduated from Pell City High School.



# ALABAMA STATE BAR 146TH MEETING

## ALABAMA LAWYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AWARDS

---

### JEANNE MARIE LESLIE SERVICE AWARD

#### **Elizabeth Young**

Liz Young received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Jacksonville State University. She attended Birmingham School of Law while also working for the State of Alabama as a sworn probation and parole officer. Liz passed the bar exam and began private practice in 2011. Because of her prior experience as a law enforcement officer, Liz began her career in criminal defense in which she still practices today. She has been recognized for her professional accomplishments in Birmingham Magazine, B- Metro Magazine, and Super Lawyers. In 2018, Liz expanded her practice and began representing police officers and firefighters involving employment issues that are specialized to first responders. She now represents some of the largest police and fire organizations in Alabama.



#### **Hugh Nickson**

Hugh Nickson received his undergraduate degree in Biology from Birmingham-Southern College. He attended the University of Alabama School of Law where he earned his Juris Doctor in 1995. He is a founder and managing member of Nickson Law LLC. He is member of the ALAP committee, and member of 5 sections of the Alabama State Bar.

He is married to Christine Nickson, and they have two children, Isabel (19) and Hugh (18).



# PAST RECIPIENTS

## Judicial Award of Merit

Gaines C. McCorquodale

## Michael D. Ermert Award of Merit

Terri O. Tompkins  
Pat Sefton  
Raymond Bell  
Leon Hampton

## William B. "Bill" Scruggs Award

Tazewell T. Shepard

## J. Anthony "Tony" McLain Professionalism Award

Michael Ballard

## Commissioners Award

Mark Boardman  
Mark Debro  
Aaron Chastain  
Lang Floyd  
Clay Martin  
Tom Perry  
Allison Skinner  
Elizabeth Smithart  
John Stamps  
Halron Turner

## Jeanne Marie Leslie Service Award

Hon. William B. Ogletree

## Justice Janie L. Shores Scholarship

Chotsani Holifield

## President's Award

Mary Margaret Bailey  
Brannon Buck  
Laura Calloway  
Juliana Dean  
Angela Debro  
Sam Ford  
Eileen Harris  
Guy Lescault  
Barry Matson  
Matt McDonald  
Phil Mitchell  
Flynn Mazinga  
Clifton Richardson  
Harold Stephens  
Gibson Vance  
Claire Veal  
Greg Ward

## Maud McLure Kelley Award

Judge Carole Smitherman

## Susan B. Livingston Award

Justice Sue Bell Cobb

## Pro Bono Awards

Timothy J. F. Gallagher  
*Albert Vreeland Award*

Brian D. Hayes  
*Mediator Award*

Alabama Bankruptcy  
Assistance Project Advisory  
Council  
*Firm/Group Award*

Lucas Lopez  
*Law Student Award*



