Presentation of Awards
Lee H. Copeland
Alabama State Bar President
Montgomery

Invocation
J. Parker Miller
Young Lawyers Section Incoming President
Montgomery

Photos courtesy of the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort
The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding constructive service to the legal profession in Alabama.

This year’s recipients are:

**Mike Atchison**

Mike Atchison retired last year after 47 years as a trial lawyer. His career in the courtroom covered almost every kind of litigation from professional liability to commercial airline crashes. He has significant practice defending various product manufacturers, banks and insurance companies. The last 20 years of Atchison’s practice were concentrated on complex business and commercial litigation including numerous securities cases. Atchison was also co-outside general counsel to a New York Stock Exchange-listed corporation, a frequent lecturer at legal seminars on a variety of topics and author/co-author of several published articles. A graduate of Birmingham-Southern College and the Cumberland School of Law, Atchison was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws by Birmingham Southern College where he served as chair of its board of trustees. He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Birmingham Bar Association, Alabama State Bar, American Bar Association and Alabama Defense Lawyers Association and is a fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

**Penny Davis**

Penny Davis graduated from The University of Alabama with a B.S. in education in 1973 and received her M.A. in guidance and counseling in 1974. In 1978, she graduated from The University of Alabama School of Law with her J.D. During her law school career, she was the student work editor for the Alabama Law Review. Following law school graduation, she clerked for the Honorable Walter P. Gewin, senior judge of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. She is currently the associate director at the Alabama Law Institute and has taught at The University of Alabama School of Law since 1984.

**Kate Musso**

Katharine “Kate” Musso is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. She is a certified fraud examiner and certified anti-money laundering specialist. Musso advised financial industry clients on regulatory matters and compliance. She retired from Jones Walker LLP at the end of 2015. She and her husband, Joe, live in Homewood where she now spends more time in the garden with their rescue dogs.
William D. “Bill” Scruggs, Jr., Award Recipient

This award was created in 2002 in honor of the late Bill Scruggs, former state bar president, to recognize outstanding and dedicated service to the Alabama State Bar.

W. N. “Rocky” Watson

This year’s recipient is W. N. “Rocky” Watson. For nearly 40 years, Watson has handled civil and criminal trials, domestic relations and business matters including the representation of various local banks. He graduated from Auburn University with honors in 1971. He then attended The University of Alabama School of Law on scholarship. Upon graduating from law school in 1974, he returned to Fort Payne and entered the private practice of law with his father.

After serving two years as the president of the DeKalb County Bar Association in the late 1970s and again in the mid-1980s at the urging of William D. “Bill” Scruggs, Watson became active with the Alabama State Bar. He served as the bar commissioner from the 9th Judicial Circuit from 1986-1987 and again from 1993-2003. He returned to the Board of Bar Commissioners in 2006 and is still serving. Watson has served in several other capacities with the bar including as a member of the Executive Committee (2000-2001; 2011-2014), vice president of the bar (2011-2012; 2013-2014), member of the Disciplinary Commission (1994-2000; 2001-2003; 2006-present) and as chair of the Disciplinary Commission since 2012. He serves on the Finance and Audit Committee as well as the Personnel Committee of the Alabama State Bar.

Additionally, Watson was the president of the Alabama Law Foundation from 2011-2013, served on the Board of Trustees for the Alabama Law Foundation from 2003-2009 and again from 2013-present. Legal honors received by Watson include selection as a fellow of the Alabama Bar Foundation and fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and he received the Alabama State Bar President’s Award (2002-2003).

J. Anthony “Tony” McLain Professionalism Award

This award is given to recognize members for distinguished service in the advancement of professionalism.

Charles W. Gamble

This year’s recipient is Professor Charles W. Gamble. Professor Gamble received his B.S. degree from Jacksonville State University in 1965, J.D. degree from The University of Alabama (where he served on the *Alabama Law Review* and was elected to Order of the Coif) in 1968 and a LL.M. degree from Harvard University in 1971. He practiced with the Anniston firm of Lybrand, Sides & Hamner after joining the business law faculty of Jacksonville State University. Professor Gamble taught for 10 years at the Cumberland School of Law where he last served as the J. Russell McElroy Professor of Law. He joined The University of Alabama School of Law as acting dean and professor of law in 1982. He was dean of the law school from 1984 to 1987 and served as the Henry Upson Sims Professor of Law from 1987 to 2006.

He received The University of Alabama National Alumni Association Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award in 1992, the Jacksonville State University Alumnus of the Year Award in 1999, the Student Bar Association’s Outstanding Faculty Award in 2002 and the Sam W. Pipes Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2004. He was reporter to the Committee on the *Alabama Rules of Evidence*, a member of the Alabama Pattern Jury Instructions Committee Civil and a member of the Civil Justice Reform Working Committee. Professor Gamble is the author of several books and numerous law review articles.

President’s Award Presented in Recognition of Exemplary Service to the Profession

President Copeland has chosen to recognize the following members who best exemplify the ASB motto, “Lawyers Render Service.”

**Mike Turner**

This is being awarded posthumously following Mike Turner’s passing on April 8, 2016. Turner attended The University of Alabama in Huntsville from 1971-1973. In 1976, he obtained a B.S. degree in business from The University of Alabama at Birmingham. Later that same year, he graduated from Lippert’s College of Court Reporting in Plainview, Texas, and started practicing as a court reporter in Birmingham. He took more than 11,000 depositions in places ranging from Ghana, Africa, to Seoul, South Korea, and points in-between. He, along with his wife Mickey, owned and operated Freedom Reporting, which is one of the largest privately-owned court reporting companies in the United States and provides more than 100 court reporters, videographers and trial technicians to clients throughout the country. Mike and Mickey were honored with the Alabama State Bar President’s Award in 2008 and 2011.

**Mickey Turner**

Mickey Turner is a business owner with more than 30 years of leadership and entrepreneurial experience. She has been a court reporter for 37 years. She co-founded a firm and sold that firm to a consolidator in the industry and managed it for them for six years. She owns and operates Freedom Reporting, which is one of the largest privately-owned court reporting companies in the United States. They currently provide more than 100 court reporters, videographers and trial technicians to clients throughout the country. Mickey was honored with the Alabama State Bar President’s Award in 2008 and 2011. She is actively involved in the community, legal field and personal development programs.
David R. Boyd
David Boyd is a partner at Balch & Bingham LLP, practicing in the firm’s Alabama offices. He focuses his practice primarily on business litigation, but has considerable trial and appellate experience in other areas including employment law, constitutional and civil rights litigation, higher education law and state government matters.

Boyd has served as chair of the Alabama Board of Bar Examiners, member of the Alabama State Bar’s Board of Bar Commissioners, Alabama State Bar vice president and chair of the bar’s Disciplinary Commission. He is past chair of the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) and former chair and current member of NCBE’s Multistate Bar Examination Committee. He is chair of the Middle District of Alabama’s History Committee, serves on the Executive Committee of the Alabama Law Institute and as a member of the Alabama Supreme Court’s Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure. He is a fellow and former president of the Alabama Law Foundation and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Samuel H. Franklin
Franklin is a native of Brewton and is a founding member of Lightfoot Franklin White LLC. During his 40 years of practice, Franklin has handled jury trials in many different areas ranging from personal injury/wrongful death to complex business disputes. Although oral arguments before the Alabama Supreme Court are less frequent now, he has had the privilege to argue before them on several occasions. Franklin is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and an advocate of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He served on the Board of Regents of the American College of Trial Lawyers from 2009-2013 and served as secretary from 2014-2015. He is a former president of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association, and has been active in the Alabama State Bar. He is also a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, from whom he has been presented the Peter Perlman Service Award. In 2006, he received the Commissioners’ Award from the Alabama State Bar. He currently serves on the board of the Birmingham Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program and has served as chair of the BVLP Private Bar.

Dennis R. Bailey
Prior to graduating from Auburn University in 1975 with a degree in journalism, Dennis Bailey was a scholarship baseball player who received Academic All-SEC honors. He attended the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University where he served on the editorial board of the Cumberland Law Review. After serving as a federal law clerk in the Middle District of Alabama for one year, Bailey began practicing law with the Rushton Stakely firm in Montgomery in 1980 and has been a shareholder since 1983. A former newspaper reporter, cartoonist and magazine editor, he has been involved in media law since 1980, particularly matters involving First Amendment rights and open government. He has served for years as general counsel for the Alabama Press Association and other media clients, and now supervises a statewide media hotline. The Alabama Legislature has recognized him as being instrumental in the process leading to the passage of the Open Meetings Act. He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and a member of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association.

Jeanne Marie Leslie Service Award
This award recognizes exemplary service to lawyers in need in the areas of substance abuse and mental health and is presented by the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program Committee.

John Brinkley
John Brinkley is a north Alabama lawyer who graduated from in-state schools, and is married to the former Kristen Davis. They have six children – Wini (2005), John (2007), Lyn (2009), Andy (2011), George (2014) and Charles (2016). John handles personal injury/wrongful death cases, files disability claims and defends those accused of crimes in the Tennessee Valley. He is active in his local bar where he was elected as a bar commissioner and serves as the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program Chair. He is involved in several committees/task forces with the Alabama State Bar. Service to others is an integral part of his life and practice.

Robert “Squire” Gwin
Robert W. “Squire” Gwin, Jr., a Birmingham native, is a graduate of Howard College (now Samford University) and the Cumberland School of Law. His practice over the past 23 years has been that of a practitioner with a focus on elder law. He is a founding member of the Alabama Lawyers Assistance Program (ALAP) which has been in existence since 1998. He served as chair of ALAP from 1999 through 2001.

Maud McLure Kelly Award
(MPresented at the Women’s Section Luncheon on Friday)
Maud McLure Kelly was the first woman to be admitted to the practice of law in Alabama. In 1907, Kelly’s performance on the entrance exam at The University of Alabama Law Department merited her admission as a senior, the second woman ever to have been admitted to the school.

Sharon Yates
It is with great honor that the Women’s Section of the Alabama State Bar announces Sharon Yates as the 2016 recipient of the Maud McLure Kelly Award. Judge Sharon Yates obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in education from The University of Alabama in 1975, her M.A. in educational administration from The University of Alabama in 1976 and her J.D. from The University of Alabama School of Law in 1982.

Judge Yates was the first woman elected to serve on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals (1993-2005) and served her last four years as the first female presiding judge. In addition, Judge Yates served as a district court judge in Montgomery County where she created and implemented, with the cooperation of the district attorney, the first Misdemeanor Drug Court and
Misdemeanor Pre-Trial Diversion Program. Currently an associate professor of law at Jones School of Law, Judge Yates teaches evidence, professional responsibility, criminal law and appellate advocacy.

Judge Yates was inducted into the Alabama Women’s Academy of Honor by the Alabama Business and Professional Women’s Foundation. In 2010, she was honored by the Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama, Inc. as one of its “Women of Distinction.”

Local Bar Achievement Awards Recipients

Covington County Bar Association
President: William B. Alverson, Jr.

Tuscaloosa County Bar Association
President: Jaime W. Conger

Montgomery County Bar Association
President: Royal C. Dumas

Mobile Bar Association
President: Peter S. Mackey

Volunteer Lawyers Program
Pro Bono Awards Recipients

Al Vreeland Award Recipient
Jeanne Dowdle Rasco, City Attorney’s Office, Huntsville – Jeanne Dowdle Rasco became involved in the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program in 2006 while in private practice in Talladega County. From the time Rasco took her first VLP case, there was no looking back. She became more and more involved in the program, initially setting up a wills clinic at the Talladega Alabama Industries for the Blind, as well as accepting case referrals through the program. In 2009, Rasco was placed on the first Pro Bono Celebration Task Force and served as chair of the Law School Involvement Committee. In 2011, she served as vice chair of the task force in an effort to develop a CLE program that served as a national model for the ABA. In 2012, Rasco served as chair of the task force. In 2012-2013, she served as vice chair of the Pro Bono and Public Service Committee and served as chair 2013-2015. She was involved in the Social Return on Investment study and the Community Conversations held around the state as a result. Her leadership has made the Volunteer Lawyers Program stronger and resulted in national recognition of Alabama’s Pro Bono Celebration and more importantly the increased provision of legal services to those in need around the state.

Firm/Group Award Recipient
Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, Birmingham – Baker Donelson is the only law firm in Alabama that devotes the majority of the time of a full-time, partner-level attorney to developing and expanding its pro bono program. More than 50 Baker Donelson lawyers contributed pro bono hours during 2015 and the firm has contributed more than 20,000 pro bono hours over the last five years. The majority of these hours have been devoted to civil advice and litigation on behalf of indigent Alabamians. These civil matters have included numerous divorce, adoption, probate and consumer credit cases referred by the Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Program. Baker Donelson has also represented individual and class plaintiffs in litigation involving violations of civil rights in Alabama’s prison system. Their litigation against the City of Harpersville, Alabama, for running a debtors’ prison in connection with its municipal court succeeded in shutting down the municipal court and having fines and fees of dozens of clients dismissed. The Shelby County Circuit Court enjoined the practices of the municipal court and its private probation company, Judicial Correction Services, in an order that called their practices a ”judicially sanctioned extortion racket.” Judicial Correction Services ultimately left the state of Alabama altogether, abandoning more than 100 contracts with municipalities in the state.

Law Student Award Recipient
Carly Calhoun, The University of Alabama School of Law, Tuscaloosa – Carly Calhoun has been an active volunteer since her very first day of law school. Before her first-year orientation program even began, she signed up for a voluntary Day of Service organized by Alabama’s Public Interest Student Board. Since that time, she has been a regular participant in nearly every pro bono project offered through the law school. She has volunteered with the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, Veterans’ Legal Assistance Clinic, Prison Reentry Clinic, Habitat for Humanity Wills Clinic, Project Homeless Connect and Wills for Heroes. Calhoun has contributed more than 75 hours of community service and pro bono work during her first two years of law school. Not only is she a consistent and reliable presence at the Public Interest Institute’s events and pro bono programs, she always shows up with a smile on her face and a willingness to do whatever is needed. She regularly goes above and beyond what is expected of her and in doing so exemplifies what it means to be a servant leader.

Mediation Award Recipient
Cassandra W. Adams, Cumberland School of Law, Birmingham – Thanks to Cassandra Adams’ efforts, more than 180 hours of pro bono mediation assistance was provided last year which helped 75 clients. Additionally, as the director of the Cumberland Community Mediation Center, Adams has trained volunteers to provide free and confidential mediation services to the greater Birmingham community. These services have also saved the courts untold hours. Pro bono services developed under her leadership and offered by the center include the Samford Residential Life Mediations Program which provides mediation services to students in Samford University’s resident halls; providing mediation services to schools needing assistance to resolve disputes arising between students, parent-teacher issues, student-teacher, etc.; providing mediation to the courts; working with Tarrant City Schools and the Birmingham Bar Foundation to launch the Resolve to Solve Peer Mediation Program; partnering with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to develop a community mediation center/family mediation curriculum to assist senior citizens with conflict resolution and transitional aging issues; and conducting educational workshops to inform the community about the benefit of mediation and availability of free confidential services.
This act is the result of extensive work by the ALI Standing Committee on Business Entities. The committee is committed to modernizing and improving all aspects of our business formation and governance laws. This act is a substantial improvement to our limited partnership laws and brings them in line with the many improvements made to our LLC statute the past couple of years.

**ACT 2016-362: Grandparent Visitation**

Representative Mike Jones and Senator Gerald Allen

This act creates the right for grandparents to seek visitation in limited circumstances. This bill is the product of extensive work to draft a law that will withstand scrutiny by a committee of lawyers, trial judges and appellate judges. It is premised on the notion that fit parents have a rebuttable presumption of their decision and that to get visitation grandparents must prove a significant and viable relationship with the child that visitation is in the child’s best interest.

**ACT 2016-306: Common Law Marriage Repeal**

Representative Mike Jones and Senator Rodger Smitherman

This was the result of the legislature asking ALI to create alternative proposals concerning common law marriage ranging from reform to abolishment for consideration during the 2016 Regular Session. The act, which passed, repeals the notion of common law marriage for those entered into on or after January 1, 2017. Any common law marriage in existence as of January 1, 2017, will continue to be recognized for all purposes.

**ACT 2016-379: Alabama Limited Partnership Law**

Representative Bill Poole and Senator Cam Ward

This act is the result of extensive work by the ALI Standing Committee on Business Entities. The committee is committed to modernizing and improving all aspects of our business formation and governance laws. This act is a substantial improvement to our limited partnership laws and brings them in line with the many improvements made to our LLC statute the past couple of years.
We Look Forward to Seeing You at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa in Point Clear for the
140th Annual Meeting
July 12-15, 2017!