

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR

2017 GRANDE CONVOCATION AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Grand Ballroom North
The Grand Hotel
Point Clear, Alabama

Saturday, July 15, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Cole Portis called to order the 140th Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar.

2. JUDICIAL SYSTEM UPDATE

President Portis introduced Chief Justice Lyn Stuart for brief remarks regarding the Alabama court system. Chief Justice Stuart commented that it was an honor and privilege to address the lawyers of Alabama at the State Bar Annual Meeting. She thanked President Portis and his leadership team for the cooperative work of the court system and State Bar over the past year and commented that she looks forward to a continued strong relationship going forward. She also thanked those lawyers who were able to participate in the Bench-Bar Symposium held in conjunction with the Judges' Meeting and State Bar Annual Meeting.

Chief Justice Stuart thanked all lawyers of the state for their support of the state court system. In particular, she commented on the challenges that faced the Alabama Supreme Court over the past year and commended her colleagues on the Court for their cooperation and hard work in facing those challenges.

Finally, Chief Justice Stuart thanked the bar for stepping up to support the courts, especially in seeking funding for the court system. She shared her philosophy on securing funds for the court system as making a reasonably and absolutely justifiable request for funds needed to run the courts, to be careful in how funds are spent and to be completely transparent.

Chief Justice Stuart concluded her remarks by challenging lawyers to be leaders in their communities and to be change agents in the challenges that face our state and nation.

President Portis thanked Chief Justice Stuart for her remarks and stated that the bar is willing to assist her with the court in every way possible.

3. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVEN T. MARSHALL**

Commissioner Mike Ermert introduced Alabama Attorney General Steven T. Marshall as the keynote speaker.

Attorney General Marshall thanked President Portis for the opportunity to address the Annual Meeting of the Alabama State Bar. He spoke of his career in the legal profession and said that the greatest honor of his life is serving as Attorney General of Alabama. Attorney General Marshall spoke about how his experience as a prosecutor has given him a unique perspective of the justice system and the opportunity to affect real people through the cases he has prosecuted.

Attorney General Marshall challenged lawyers to be catalysts for change personally and professionally. He added that lawyers, through the legal profession, have an opportunity to leave a legacy in their communities and through the clients that they represent.

4. **LAWYERS HALL OF FAME 2017 CLASS**

President Portis recognized Wendy Crew, a member of the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame Selection Committee to make a report. Ms. Crew announced that the inductees for 2017 include Hon. John Godbold, Alto Lee, III, Bibb Allen, Mahala Dickerson, and Charles Tate.

5. **RECOGNITION OF LEADERSHIP FORUM GRADUATES**

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

6. **FIFTY YEAR CERTIFICATES AND PINS**

Vice President Monet Gaines came to the podium and 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 Portis. Those present to receive their certificate and pin were:

John Martin Baker
Archie Ted Bozeman
Donald Mayer Briskman
Norman Charles Cummins
William Jordan Gamble
Jane Smelley Grubbs
Albert Martin Guemmer
Tommy Edward Hill
Allen Weldon Lindsay, Jr.

Terrell David Little
Joel Morrie Nomberg
John Arthur Owens
Abner Riley Powell, III
Robert Warner Rieder, Jr.
Philip Dale Segrest
Frankie Fields Smith
Ronald Howard Strawbridge, Sr.
Howard Philip Walthall, Sr.

7. **PRESENTATION OF ALABAMA STATE BAR AWARD OF MERIT**

President Portis presented the Alabama State Bar Award of Merit to Professor Pam Bucy Pierson. In presenting the award, President Portis spoke of the impact that Professor Pierson has had on thousands of lawyers.

8. **PRESENTATION OF THE WILLIAM D. “BILL” SCRUGGS, JR. AWARD**

President Portis presented the William D. “Bill” Scruggs, Jr. Award to Alyce Manley Spruell. In receiving the award, Ms. Spruell spoke of the inspiration Bill Scruggs had on her decision to enter the legal profession.

9. **PRESENTATION OF THE J. ANTHONY “TONY” MCLAIN PROFESSIONALISM AWARD**

President Portis presented the J. Anthony “Tony” McLain Professionalism Award to Samuel N. Crosby. In his remarks, President Portis spoke of how the award carried special significance this year because of the passing of General Counsel Tony McLain on January 1, 2017. In receiving the award, Mr. Crosby said that he was humbled and honored to receive an award named for Tony McLain, who Mr. Crosby said had the most positive impact on the legal profession in Alabama on a day-to-day basis.

10. **PRESENTATION OF THE COMMISSIONERS AWARD**

President Portis presented the Commissioners Award to Commissioner Bill Broome, who this year was diagnosed with and continues to battle against cancer. Mr. Broome spoke of the honor to practice law and serve alongside the members of the Board of Bar Commissioners.

11. RECOGNITION OF CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

President Portis recognized current members of the Board of Bar Commissioners and asked them to stand and be recognized.

12. PRESENTATION OF THE JEANNE MARIE LESLIE SERVICE AWARD

President Portis asked Robert Thornhill, Director of the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program and Squire Gwin to present the Jeanne Marie Leslie Service Award. Mr. Thornhill announced David A. “Chip” Schwartz and J. Massey Relfe, Jr., as the recipients of the award. The award was presented to Mr. Schwartz and posthumously to Mr. Relfe’s daughter, Mary Margaret Relfe.

13. ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

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

Judicial Award of Merit	Hon. John E. Ott
Maude McLure Kelly Award	Martha Jane Patton
Susan B. Livingston Leadership Award	Maibeth J. Porter
Justice Janie L. Shores Scholarship	Krystina Jackson
Walter P. Gewin Award	Pam Bucy Pierson

14. LOCAL BAR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

President Portis recognized Alabama State Bar Assistant Executive Director Ed Patterson to present the Local Bar Achievement Awards. The awards were presented to the Calhoun-Cleburne County Bar Association, the Tuscaloosa County Bar Association, and the Birmingham Bar Association.

15. PRESENTATION OF THE VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM PRO BONO AWARDS

Royal Dumas, chair of the Pro Bono Committee, announced the recipients of the Volunteer Lawyers Program Pro Bono Awards.

Al Vreeland Award	Richard P. Carmody
Firm/Group Award	NXTSTEP Family Law P.C., Huntsville
Mediation Award	Sally C. Bowers
Law Student Award	Jessica Chang (Cumberland School of Law)

16. PRESIDENT'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

Immediate Past President Lee Copeland was recognized. Mr. Copeland presented a certificate of appreciation to the president's assistant, Sloan Downes. He then presented President Portis with the past president's plaque and pin. President Portis made his concluding remarks recognizing his wife, Joy and their children. He also thanked his law firm and the Alabama State Bar staff. Alabama State Bar Executive Director Phillip W. McCallum presented President Portis with the past president's ribbon and a framed reproduction of the cover of *The Alabama Lawyer* featuring President Portis and his family.

17. RECOGNITION OF SAM IRBY AS PRESIDENT-ELECT

President Portis asked Mr. Sam Irby to come to the podium. President Portis congratulated Mr. Irby on his election as president-elect and presented him with the president-elect ribbon. Mr. Irby made brief remarks, recognizing his wife, Ginger, and welcoming those in attendance to his hometown of Fairhope and the surrounding communities.

18. INSTALLATION OF AUGUSTA S. DOWD AS 142ND PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA STATE BAR

President Portis introduced Augusta Dowd as the 142nd president of the Alabama State Bar and presented her with the presidential gavel, pin and ribbon. President Dowd's remarks focused on building relationships. In particular, she is focused on improving relationships among lawyers, between lawyers and the State Bar and the court system. President Dowd recognized Chief Justice Stuart and Attorney General Steve Marshall and pledged her support to the courts and law enforcement in the state. President Dowd recognized past president Portis for his leadership, patience and kindness during his term as president of the Alabama State Bar.

President Dowd recognized her family, particularly her husband, David, and children Bevan, Grace, and David D. Dowd, IV. Also in attendance and recognized were President Dowd's mother, mother-in-law and extended family. President Dowd also recognized members of her law firm and thanked them for their support of her decision to serve as president of the Alabama State Bar.

President Dowd committed to visit local bars across the state during her term as bar president. She commented that one of her main jobs as president of the bar is to be an ambassador for the State Bar. She said that she will be reviewing all committees and task forces and places an emphasis on technology and becoming a cutting-edge bar association.

19. GOLF AND TENNIS TOURNAMENT WINNERS

President Dowd recognized Mr. Chip McCallum who announced the results of the golf tournament and called on Mr. Mark Moody who announced the winner of the tennis tournament.

20. GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

Laura Calloway was recognized as was Bill Bass and members of the Insurance Specialists, Inc. (ISI) staff for the drawing of the grand prize. The winner was Laura Livaudais. Ms. Calloway also announced legal expo winners and thanked all of the expo sponsors for their participation in this year's annual meeting.

21. CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

President Dowd closed the meeting by reminding all in attendance that the 2018 Annual Meeting would be held June 27-30 at the Sandestin Hilton in Sandestin, Florida. She reminded commissioners of their brief meeting in Azalea Salons D-F immediately following the annual business meeting. She then declared the 2017 Grande Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar adjourned.

J. Cole Portis, President
2016-2017
Alabama State Bar

Augusta S. Dowd, President
2017-2018
Alabama State Bar

ATTEST:

Phillip W. McCallum, Secretary
Alabama State Bar

Note: The awards made during the 2017 state bar meeting are listed in the pamphlet as Appendix A to these minutes.