

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR 2023 GRAND CONVOCATION AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Grand Hotel
Grand Ballroom
Point Clear, Alabama

Saturday, July 15, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

President Gibson Vance called to order the 146th Grand Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar.

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY – CHIEF JUSTICE TOM PARKER

President Vance introduced Chief Justice Tom Parker for remarks regarding the Alabama court system. Chief Justice Parker thanked President Vance 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 Brannon Buck and said that he looked forward to working with him during the coming year.

Chief Justice Parker highlighted the successful legislative session and announced that 13 new circuit and district judgeships and the increase in mileage and per diem for jurors. He also outlined the expansion of Alabama's online traffic resolution program. Chief Justice Parker closed by thanking bar leadership and members for their support during the 2023 Legislative session.

President Vance 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.

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 Vance. Those present to receive their certificate and pin were:

Chris Hume, III
Joe Kulakowski
David Whetstone
Hon. Joel Dubina
Broox Garrett, Jr.
Michael Goodson
Joe Edge

Floyd Minor
Joseph Spransy
Hon. Robert Cahill
Lee Hale
Bruce Schrimsher
Morris Roebuck

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

President Vance 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, the Executive Council, Leadership Forum alumni, and Senator Katie Britt and Wesley Britt

PRESENTATION OF THE J. ANTHONY “TONY” McLAIN PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

President Vance presented the J. Anthony “Tony” McLain Professionalism Award to Maibeth Porter and Cole Portis.

PRESENTATION OF THE MICHAEL ERMERT AWARD OF MERIT

President Vance presented the Michael Ermert Award of Merit to Rebekah McKinney.

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT’S AWARD

President Vance presented Brannon Buck, Mark Boardman, Mark Debro, Brett Holsombeck, Carmen Howell, Angela Kennedy, Felicia Long, and Elizabeth Smithart with the President’s Award.

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

Incoming President-elect Tom Perry presented the William D. “Bill” Scruggs, Jr. Award to Halron Turner.

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMISSIONERS’ AWARD

Vice-President Elizabeth Smithart presented the Commissioners’ Awards to Commissioners Joel Connally and Brian Strength.

PRESENTATION OF THE JEANNE MARIE LESLIE AWARD

Alabama Lawyers Assistance Program Director Jeremy Rakes presented the Jeanne Marie Leslie Award to Elizabeth Young and Hugh Nickson.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

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

Judicial Award of Merit	Hon. Eddie Hardaway
Maude McLure Kelly Award	Celia Collins
Susan B. Livingston Award	Leslie R. Barineau
Justice Janie L. Shores Scholarship	Antionette Richardson Rolanda T. Turner

PRESENTATION OF THE VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM PRO BONO AWARDS

Elizabeth Smithart recognized Jeanne Rizzardi, member of the Pro Bono Committee, to announce the recipients of the Volunteer Lawyers Program Pro Bono Awards.

Albert Vreeland Award	Tara Rose
Mediator Award	Jon E. Lewis
Law Firm/Group Award	Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP (Montgomery Office)
Public Interest Attorney Award	Kelly F. McTear
Law Student Award	Anna M. Spidle

REMARKS FROM SENATOR KATIE BRITT

Senator Katie Britt congratulated President Gibson Vance on an outstanding year as president. Senator Britt shared about her experiences as a freshmen Senator and remarked on the need to continue promoting programs that recognize the mental health crisis facing everyone. She also spoke about the importance of civility and treating everyone with dignity and respect, even those with whom you don't agree.

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S PLAQUE AND PIN

Vice President Smithart presented President Gibson Vance with the President's Plaque and Past President's Ribbon. Executive Director Terri Lovell thanked President Gibson Vance for his commitment to the Alabama State Bar and on behalf of the ASB staff presented him with a framed September Alabama Lawyer magazine cover.

PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS

President Vance thanked those in attendance for allowing him the opportunity and privilege to serve as president of the Alabama State Bar. He gave an update on his initiative to improve lawyer wellness with the Lawyers Helpline and free counseling initiative, which 49 members utilized in its first year. He also introduced a short video presentation highlighting his Drive for Five and the 41 circuits visited across the state. He expressed his appreciation to his family, his law firm, and the ASB staff for their support during his presidency, and he wished Brannon Buck all the best as he takes office.

RECOGNITION OF TOM PERRY AS PRESIDENT-ELECT

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

INSTALLATION OF BRANNON BUCK AS 148TH PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA STATE BAR

Chief Justice Tom Parker administered the oath of office to Brannon Buck. President Vance introduced Brannon Buck of Birmingham as the 148th president of the Alabama State Bar and presented him with the presidential gavel, pin and ribbon. President Buck thanked President Vance for his leadership over the past year. President Buck 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 Buck outlined the two initiatives he will focus on during his presidency: promoting and emphasizing civility and collegiality in the profession, and launching a new website called *Justice for All*. The website will be an easy-to-navigate, one-stop-shop for connecting people with lawyers, legal aid resources, and court system information. Using QR codes that will be placed in courthouses, libraries, shelters, schools, and other community centers, individuals can simply scan the QR Code and be taken to the *Justice for All* site.

President Buck concluded by sharing that he was am humbled and honored to be the 148th President of the Alabama State Bar and grateful for the trust that the members of the Bar have placed in him.

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING


Robyn Bernier and representatives of Insurance Specialists (ISI) were recognized for the drawing of the grand prize. The winner was Alan Rigsby. 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.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

President Buck closed the meeting by reminding all in attendance that the 2024 annual meeting would be held June 26-29, 2024, at the Sandestin Hilton in Destin, Florida. He reminded commissioners of their brief meeting immediately following the annual business meeting. He then declared the 2023 Grand Convocation and Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama State Bar adjourned.

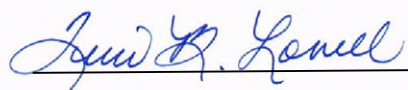


Gibson Vance
President, 2022-2023



Brannon J. Buck, President
Alabama State Bar Foundation

ATTEST:



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Terri B. Lovell", is positioned above a horizontal line. The signature is contained within a light pink rectangular background.

Terri B. Lovell, Secretary
Alabama State Bar