

Addendum

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SPLC's Cohen Wins FBI Civilian Award

Montgomery resident honored for helping FBI champion unsolved civil rights-era homicide cases

The FBI has given one of its highest civilian honors to Southern Poverty Law Center President Richard Cohen. He accepted the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award at the Civil Rights Memorial Center in Montgomery on January 16.

The award recognizes the SPLC's role in the FBI's pursuit of civil rights-era killers who were never brought to justice.

"The FBI commends Mr. Cohen for bringing justice to light," said Debra K. Mack, special agent in charge of the bureau's Mobile division, which includes 36 counties in south Alabama. She said Cohen's award was unique because he was nominated directly from FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C., not by state FBI officials, as most recipients are.

Cohen said that many civil rights-era murders were never investigated or solved because of the lack of interest or the complicity of white officials charged with upholding the law. "It was a question of political will," he said.

The gains of the civil rights movement and the passage of



Richard Cohen, right, is congratulated by U.S. Attorney Leura Canary and Assistant U.S. Attorney Louis Franklin. (Photo by Penny Weaver)

time have seen a renewed interest in justice that has led to convictions in some cold cases from the era.

"What a difference a generation makes," Cohen said.

During the late 1980s, as it planned the Civil Rights Memorial, the SPLC collected information about the deaths of more than 100 people thought to have been murdered because of their activism or as acts of terror committed by white supremacists. The black granite monument designed by Maya Lin is inscribed with the names of 40 martyrs slain during the period between the 1954 *Brown v. Board* decision and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in 1968. However, dozens of other victims were not included due to a lack of information about the circumstances of their deaths.

A year ago, when the FBI announced its intention to reinvestigate civil rights era cold cases, the SPLC provided its files on about 75 individuals whose killers were never brought to justice.

Cohen said the blank space between the first and last events inscribed on the memorial not only commemorates the unknown martyrs of the movement but also symbolizes the pursuit of justice today.

"It summons us to dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice today—to the cause of those who are still victims of racism, xenophobia and other forms of unfairness," he said before echoing the biblical inscription on the memorial. "I know that I speak for everyone at the Southern Poverty Law Center when I say that we will not rest until justice in our time rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

New Look, Ease of Navigation Highlights of ASB Web Site

Check out www.alabar.org and see how easy it is to find what you need!



The Alabama State Bar's Web site at www.alabar.org has a new look. With more than 2,000 pages and a redesigned home page, the site makes online navigation easier and faster for members of the bar and the public. The site was last changed in 2001.

According to ASB Executive Director Keith Norman, "This effort is part of our ongoing plan to better serve our members and to provide them with the information that they need to effectively conduct business and research."

The main navigation of the site has been revised to put the most popular areas within easy reach by using "rollover menus." When a user points the mouse at an item on the navigation menu, the menu will expand vertically to show all of the sub-navigation items. For example, when users point to

"Publications," a list of all publications will be displayed and the user can instantly navigate right to the area they are seeking.

The Web site has been reorganized under the following headings: Regulatory, Bar Directory, Members, Programs/Departments, Publications, Public Resources, and About the Bar. The site averages more than 3,500 visitors per day, with more than 19,000 pages viewed daily. The most popular destinations include: Online Directory (636,000 annual pageviews), Member Central (129,000 annual pageviews) and Ethics Opinions (95,000 annual pageviews).

Future changes are planned for section and committee pages which will reflect an affinity with the ASB site.

Familiar Faces in New Places

To better serve ASB members and the public, staff reorganization is implemented

In January, Alabama State Bar Executive Director Keith Norman announced changes in the day-to-day duties and responsibilities within the Programs and Activities Department of the state bar.

Ed Patterson, formerly the director of programs, is now ASB Assistant Executive Director. Patterson will continue to have general oversight of the department, including working with ALAP Director Jeanne Marie Leslie, and managing task forces, committees and sections. He will also continue heading



Ed Patterson and wife Beverly



Laura Calloway and husband Terry Harris



Anita Hamlett and son Landon

up the Leadership Forum and Mentoring Program, as well as various *ad hoc* programs.

Laura A. Calloway is now director of Service Programs. In addition to still managing P-MAP, she will work directly with Linda Lund, director of VLP, and Shannon Knight, LRS secretary.

Anita Hamlett is now director of Regulatory Programs. Hamlett will continue to manage the MCLE Program but will also supervise the Specialization and Fee Mediation programs.

Professional Manners: If You Want to Be Treated Like a Professional, Act Like a Professional

This is the practice of law in Alabama, not an episode of “Sex and the City”

In my years of law practice in Alabama, I’ve had the opportunity to observe a lot of lawyers, some of whom made a good impression and others of whom . . . well, you know. I’ve given advice, solicited and unsolicited, to a number of very talented young lawyers. There are recurring themes that I believe are worth sharing. This article does not attempt to deal with profound ethics or practice issues, but rather simply addresses some basic points that apparently can no longer be left unsaid. These ideas fall under the general heading: If you want to be treated like a serious professional, you should strive to look and act like a serious professional. At the risk of sounding like an old lady, here goes:

- Always stand when a judge enters the courtroom, and always stand when addressing the court, no matter what they tell you. Always address a judge as “Judge” or “Your Honor” outside the courtroom unless you are childhood friends or are specifically instructed to do otherwise by the judicial officer in question.
- Always shake hands with your opponents, greet them by name and make eye contact when you meet them in court, at depositions or other proceedings in the case. If you do not know your opponent, introduce yourself and shake hands at the first opportunity.
- Dress like a grownup. This means no hair hanging over your eyes, no untucked shirttails, no underwear worn as daywear and no short skirts, and the wearing of appropriate undergarments. This is the practice of law in Alabama, not an episode of “Sex and the City.”
- Your clothes should be clean and fit well. If necessary, make friends with a good tailor.
- Be on time for court appearances, depositions, conference calls and meetings.



- Do not answer your cell phone, chew gum, use your Blackberry or read the sports page during hearings, conference calls, depositions or meetings. If it’s not something you would do in church with your grandmother, it’s probably inappropriate in these professional settings.
- During hearings and depositions, do not mumble, slouch, smirk, scoff, roll your eyes, or engage in other behavior for which you would chastise your children.
- Invest in a decent overcoat and raincoat. In our climate, they will last for years, and you will be spared the indignity of wearing your camouflage jacket or plastic poncho on the inclement days that you must leave your office.
- Be gracious in defeat and in victory. In the practice of law in Alabama, most of us know one another. You can be assured that, to paraphrase a familiar Southern expression, “the sun don’t shine on the same dog’s fanny every day,” so treat the lawyer on the other side the way you want to be treated when it’s your turn.

I’m still working on my list, so let’s just call this the first installment. You can e-mail your suggestions for Part 2 to me at sgr@cabaniss.com. Now, go out there and act like a serious professional.

—By Sandy G. Robinson, Cabaniss, Johnston, Gardner, Dumas & O’Neal, Mobile

Posters, Essays and Videos Part of 2008 Law Day Contest

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Law Day, Boy Scouts may now submit videos illustrating the principle of the rule of law

The Alabama State Bar is calling for entries from students in grades K-12 across the state for its annual contest celebrating Law Day, which is observed on May 1. This is the 50th anniversary of the event and this year's theme is, "The U.S. Constitution: Foundation of the Rule of Law."

ASB President Sam Crosby said, "This year's theme is especially meaningful because many people do not make the connection between the rule of law and their daily lives—their safety, jobs, health, education, and liberty. The rule of law refers to a form of self-government with a strong and accessible legal process. It features a system based on fair, publicized, broadly understood and stable laws, and diverse, competent and independent lawyers and judges. Advancing the rule of law helps achieve an array of public benefits."

Complete information and entry forms can be found at www.alabar.org/lawday or by calling the state bar at 800-354-6154, extension 2126. The deadline for submitting video entries is April 1, 2008; poster and essay entries are due April 18, 2008.

Crosby, who is a former assistant scoutmaster, said the video contest category was created specifically for Boy Scouts who are members of the Greater Alabama Council (which covers 22 counties in central and northern Alabama). Scouts are being asked to produce a two-minute video that illustrates the principle of the rule of law as embodied in the U.S. Constitution.

Submissions will be posted on YouTube and two winners will each receive a \$250 U.S. Savings Bond.

Montgomery lawyers **Thomas Klinner** and **Gregg Everett** serve as co-chairs of the state bar's Law Day Committee. The

poster contest is open to grades K-6 and the essay contest is for students in grades 7-12. A total of \$1,500 in savings bonds will be awarded to winners. Teachers also receive a monetary gift for use in the classroom.

"The theme lends itself to a variety of creative opportunities for students through the use of art, essays and video. We want to ensure that our youth are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively make their voices heard within our democracy," Crosby said.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established May 1 as Law Day to strengthen our heritage of liberty, justice and equality under law. This is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law and to underscore how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms we share.

In 2007, the ASB achieved national recognition from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for its Law Day activities.



Stamp Honors Jury Duty

The U.S. Postal Service recently issued a first-class stamp that called attention to the importance of jury service.

The Jury Duty stamp image presents a diverse group of 12 representative jurors in silhouette. It was dedicated at the Mecklenberg County Courthouse in Charlotte.

In issuing the stamp the Postal Service stressed important points about jury service that may be overlooked by the general public. Issuance of the stamp emphasizes that the U.S. Constitution guarantees citizens charged in criminal cases the right to trial by a jury of their peers, and in civil cases, the jury manifests the conscience of the community, ruling for either of the opposing parties in a dispute.

—This article originally appeared in the November 2007 issue of the *Tennessee Bar Journal*, the official publication of the Tennessee Bar Association.



Have An Eye for Art? We Need You!

Some ASB members run marathons while others write books or try their hand at acting. If your “release” is painting or photography, let us know. You may see it featured on the cover of *The Alabama Lawyer*.



The editorial board of *The Alabama Lawyer* is interested in publishing original artwork by ASB members.

This is just one way to spotlight the eclectic talents of Alabama attorneys.

Artists of any age, working in any genre, are encouraged to submit work for consideration for use on a publication cover. Legal and Alabama themes are preferred.

Artwork should be oriented vertically. The *Lawyer's* print area is 7.5" x 10"; please add 1/8" on all sides for bleed.

Please mail a photocopy or a photograph of your original artwork. (Do not submit originals at this stage. If your artwork is in color, send a color photocopy.) Or, you may

e-mail a low-resolution scan or a photo of your creation (either as a PDF, JPG or TIF).

Once a piece has been selected for possible publication, you will be notified to submit the original art or a high-resolution digital file. You will also be asked to provide a brief biography and photo of yourself, along with an explanation of the artwork. No monetary compensation will be given to the chosen artist(s).

Mail or e-mail your submission to Margaret Murphy, publications director, Alabama State Bar, 415 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery 36104, margaret.murphy@alabar.org.

ASB Members Chosen to Participate in Class IV of the Leadership Forum

Lawyers move naturally toward positions of leadership due to their creativity and critical-thinking skills. Leadership Forum classes ensure that these potential leaders are ready to take on these challenges.

Recognizing that young attorneys have a vital stake in the future of the state's communities, both as policy-makers and in their profession, the Alabama State Bar announces Class IV of its Leadership Forum (at right).

ASB President Sam Crosby said, "This program was created to identify and train outstanding lawyers to be leaders in our state. Throughout Alabama, lawyers serve on non-profit boards, political organizations and community groups. We want to further the leadership skills lawyers use and need to fulfill their ethical duties and responsibilities. We are making the state and the profession stronger by encouraging the development of these leaders."

This year, more than 75 applications were received, and a class of 20 men and ten women was chosen. While there is no age requirement, participants must have practiced law for not less than five years nor more than 15.

Crosby noted lawyers are moved naturally toward positions of leadership because it calls into play their creativity and critical thinking skills. "Leaders need to have good problem-solving skills and be able to think critically. Leadership also involves working well with others," he said.

To graduate, forum participants are required to attend five separate training sessions after which there is an induction ceremony. They spend approximately 60 hours in meetings and workshops learning from prominent leaders such as Millard Fuller, founder and former president of Habitat for Humanity International; Dr. Wayne Flint, Auburn University; former Gov. Albert Brewer; Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center; Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb; and Leadership Forum alums.

Topics for the sessions include: Principles of Leadership; Leadership through Service; Access to Justice; Civil Rights; and Justice, Values and Professionalism.

Birmingham attorneys **Keith Jackson** and **Kimberly Till Powell** chaired the Leadership Forum Selection Committee.



Anna Kelly Brennan, Birmingham
Jequette Harris Clancy, Birmingham
Jonathan Samuel, Birmingham
Anne Lamkin Durward, Birmingham
John Henry England, Birmingham
Sandra Eubank Gregory, Birmingham
Erik Stephen Heninger, Birmingham
Samuel David Knight, Birmingham
Cynthia Ransburg-Brown, Birmingham
Clayton Michael Ryan, Birmingham
James Michael Terrell, Birmingham
Reed Thomas Warburton, Birmingham
John Cox Webb, Birmingham
Dana Bolden Hill, Chelsea
Mark Hampton Baxley, Dothan
Chad Edward Stewart, Enterprise
Bradley Williams Cornett, Gadsden
Jonathan Blake Lowe, Haleyville
Robert Carter Lockwood, Huntsville
Ashley Elizabeth Swink, Huntsville
Margaret Holladay Alves, Mobile
Russell Crandle Buffkin, Mobile
Adrian Daniel Johnson, Montgomery
James David Martin, Montgomery
James Flynn Mazingo, Montgomery
James Bruce Perrine, Montgomery
Christopher Nathan Smith, Montgomery
Kent Michael Lauderdale, Opelika
Valerie Kisor Chittom, Selma
Tari DeVon Williams, Tuscaloosa

ABA LEGAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the American Bar Association Legal Scholarship Fund are being accepted for the 2008-09 academic year. The scholarship was created to encourage racial and ethnic minority students to apply to law school and to provide financial assistance to the scholarship recipients.

The scholarship fund will award \$5,000 of financial assistance annually to each scholarship recipient attending an ABA-accredited law school. An award made to an entering first-year student may be renewable for two additional years, resulting in financial assistance totaling \$15,000 during his or her time in law school.

Recipients will be selected based on their qualifications for the scholarship and not on the law school they plan to attend.

Applications may be downloaded from www.abanet.org/fje. Completed scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2008.



FURNITURE FOR SALE

The Alabama State Bar has office furniture for sale. The furniture may be viewed at www.alabar.org. For more information, contact Ann Rittenour at (334) 269-1515, ext. 2108 or ann.rittenour@alabar.org.

Another "Did You Know?" from CASEMAKER®

Thesaurus Function

Did you know that Casemaker incorporates a Thesaurus function in its search engine?

Casemaker's little-known Thesaurus function can provide users with expanded search capabilities. By placing a tilde (~) immediately before a word (no spaces allowed), users can find synonyms for keywords. Because the thesaurus allows for the expansion of the number of searchable cases with similar dialogue, this greatly increases the chance of finding case law that is most applicable to your challenges. For example, entering ~alcohol into the Full Document Search Query box will yield the case law containing the words, "liquor," "whiskey," "intoxicant," "spirits," and more.

Entering the word ~car will yield the words "car," "automobile," "auto," "vehicle," "train," and others. But users need to be careful. Because the word, "vehicle" can also mean, "conveyance," this word may also appear in the search. When searching for ~animal the surnames "Hare" and "Hunter" may appear.



The Thesaurus function can also be used in conjunction with other search parameters such as AND, OR, NOT, PHRASE, and SUFFIX EXPANSION searches.

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Go ahead and mark your calendars!



*The Alabama State Bar
2008 Annual Meeting will be
held at the Hilton Sandestin
Beach Golf Resort & Spa
in Sandestin, Florida
on July 9-12, 2008.*

See you there!

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