

The Alabama Law  
Foundation's 20th  
Anniversary

Alabama Law  
Foundation Continues  
to help Katrina Victims

Kid's Chance First Tennis  
Tournament Is A Hit

*The Alabama Law Foundation, a  
charitable tax-exempt organization  
affiliated with the Alabama State  
Bar, strives to make access to civil  
justice and education to all  
Alabama citizens a reality.*



The ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION  
*Summer Newsletter*

# ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION

S u m m e r 2 0 0 7

This year the Alabama Law Foundation marks its 20th anniversary. Looking back, John B. Scott, the first president of the Alabama Law Foundation, modestly and colorfully says of his considerable contributions to the foundation in its first year, "The train was already fired up, I just started it down the track."

To continue the metaphor, most credit E. T. Brown and Roy Crawford with firing up the train. Before the Alabama Law Foundation existed, the only charitable organization for lawyers was the Alabama State Bar Foundation, which existed for the sole purpose of owning and maintaining the state bar building. E.T. realized that

Alabama lawyers needed a new foundation through which they could serve the public good. Reggie Hamner, who was serving as the executive director of the bar at that time, explains that lawyers in Alabama "needed a new vehicle for the work that we continue today." With the continuing support of Hamner and other state bar officers, E.T recruited Roy Crawford to prepare the foundation's application for tax-exempt status, and thus the Alabama Law Foundation was founded.

John Scott recalls, "from the first, legal services to the poor was the chief objective." To fund that objective, E. T. Brown and Roy Crawford initiated the IOLTA program. IOLTA (Interest On Lawyer's Trust Accounts) allows attorneys to convert their commingled client trust accounts to interest-bearing accounts. This interest then is disbursed to the Alabama Law Foundation, and a grants committee distributes the funds. The Supreme Court of Alabama approved the IOLTA plan, and Alabama's IOLTA program was established in 1987. Scott explains that the positive response from Alabama's lawyers has always been the key to IOLTA's success.

Many of the officers of the Alabama State Bar Foundation were working to create the Alabama Law Foundation. They decided that the new foundation needed a separate board of directors. John B. Scott was elected the first president, and Reggie Hamner was secretary/treasurer. Once IOLTA was approved, a full time director was needed to run the foundation. Reggie

Hamner hired a young graduate of Huntingdon College, Tracy Daniel. Scott remembers that she canvassed the state presenting seminars to lawyers on how to set up IOLTA accounts. Tracy Daniel is the first and only executive director of the Alabama Law Foundation.

Although providing equal access to justice was a prime objective for the foundation, E. T. Brown believed the foundation's works could include educational opportunities for the next generation of legal professionals. In 1987, through E.T.'s guidance, his law firm, Cabaniss, Johnston, Gardner, Dumas & O'Neal, endowed the Alabama Law Foundation's first scholarship program, the Cabaniss, Johnston Scholarship Fund.

And so that "train," fired up and directed by innovative, dedicated leaders, has continued down the track for twenty years. The foundation has come a long way. Tracy remembers working alone at her desk in the corner of the state bar library administrating IOLTA and one scholarship, the Cabaniss, Johnston Scholarship Fund. Today she shares professional office space in the state bar building with two additional staff members—Tara Allison and Michelle Lyons Adams. Over the years the Alabama Law Foundation has worked to become knowledgeable on issues of access to justice for the poor in Alabama. To improve the success of funded programs, the foundation has developed accountability standards for grantees and has helped programs organize for improved efficiency. Each year, the foundation awards IOLTA grants to programs that strengthen the foundation's ever widening reach to bring improved access to justice for the poor across the entire state. IOLTA remains the financial foundation for the Alabama Law Foundation. The Alabama Law Foundation has awarded \$13.1 million in IOLTA grants to programs that improve access to justice for disadvantaged Alabama citizens.

The Alabama Law Foundation has also actively increased opportunities for higher education in Alabama. In addition to the Cabaniss Johnson Scholarship, the foundation administers Kids' Chance, the Justice Janie L. Shores Scholarship, and the William Verbon Black Scholarship. To acknowledge the dedication and commitment of outstanding legal professionals while

## All Aboard! The Alabama Law Foundation's 20th Anniversary



ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION, INC.  
P.O. Box 671  
Montgomery, Alabama 36101

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 750  
MONTGOMERY, AL

# Alabama Law Foundation Grant Continues To Help Katrina

The Alabama Law Foundation gave most of the money collected after Hurricane Katrina to the Red Cross and the Salvation Army to meet immediate needs. However, realizing that Katrina's victims would require legal services in the aftermath of the damage, the Alabama Law Foundation kept \$25,000 to grant for future need. This year, the foundation granted the Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice \$15,000 to help low-income hurricane victims get clear title to their homes so they can get assistance money to rebuild.

In Alabama's Mobile County, an estimated 10,000 households registered for FEMA housing assistance. However, approximately one-third of those have not been able to prove clear title of ownership to damaged or destroyed homes. Without legal proof of ownership, these families cannot receive any housing assistance to repair or rebuild their homes. In fact, they are not even qualified to have a FEMA house trailer on their property. Many of these clients are lower income and elderly, and Hurricane Katrina, in addition to destroying their home, destroyed all wills, titles, and other papers. Another frequent situation involves clients living in homes passed down from one generation to the next without anyone understanding the need to keep documentation current. To further complicate matters, many family members moved after the storm and have not returned, making identification and communication with relatives who could help prove ownership difficult.

Many of these clients are families with children and elderly members currently living in near-homelessness. A sizable amount of housing assistance will be available to them once they



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JOHN A. OWENS, *President*  
Tuscaloosa, AL

LARRY W. MORRIS, *Vice President*  
Alexander City, AL

LAURA L. CRUM, *Treasurer*  
Montgomery, AL

TRACY A. DANIEL, *Secretary*  
Montgomery, AL

SAMUEL N. CROSBY  
Daphne, AL

PATRICK C. DAVIDSON  
Opelika, AL

RICHARD T. DORMAN  
Mobile, AL

FOURNIER J. GALE  
Birmingham, AL

MELINDA M. MATHEWS  
Birmingham, AL

WALTER E. MCGOWAN  
Tuskegee, AL

THOMAS L. OLIVER, II  
Birmingham, AL

CATHERINE J. RANDALL  
Tuscaloosa, AL

ROBERT D. SEGALL  
Montgomery, AL

IRVING SILVER  
Mobile, AL

SYDNEY S. SMITH  
Phenix City, AL

W. N. WATSON  
Fort Payne, AL

JAMES E. WILLIAMS  
Montgomery, AL

# Contributors

## JUSTICE JANIE L. SHORES SCHOLARSHIP

Nanci F. Chazen,  
*In Honor of Carol Ann Smith*  
R. Timothy Morrison

## GENERAL FUND

Gregory C. Cook  
Ben H. Harris, Jr.  
Carey F. Hollingsworth, Jr.,  
*In Memory of Elizabeth D. Eselman*  
Sasser, Bolton, Stidham & Sefton,  
*In Memory of Mrs. Albert P. Brewer*

## KIDS' CHANCE

Adams, Umbach, Davidson & White  
Alabama Retail Comp  
Alabama Self-Insurers Guaranty Association  
American Cast Iron Pipe Co.  
Balch & Bingham, Montgomery  
Joe Barger  
Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles  
Sharon Berry  
Bluc Cross/Blue Shield of Alabama  
Carlisle & Associates  
Carr Allison  
L. Joel Collins  
CorVel Corporation  
Samuel N. Crosby  
Donohoe & Stapleton  
Ford Meter Box Company  
Steven W. Ford  
Gullahorn & Hare

Hare, Wynn, Newell & Newton  
Healthlink Physical Therapy  
HealthSouth Corporation  
Heninger, Garrison & Davis  
Dave Herring  
Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole & Black  
Marissa Howell  
Jett Medical Company  
Dorothy Johnson  
Conitha King  
R. Blake Lazenby,  
*In Memory of Nell McGrady*  
*In Memory of Kate Nomberg*  
*In Honor of Mary Frances Parker*  
Lee County Bar Association  
Lightfoot, Franklin & White  
Diane Locke  
Lockhart Case Management  
Laura Mackay  
J. Anthony McLain  
MedWest  
Gerald L. Paulk  
Denise Oliver  
Thomas L. Oliver  
Orthopaedic Specialists of Alabama  
Laurie Pitts  
L. R. Sullivan  
Robert D. Segall  
Sportsmed  
Southern Physical Therapy  
Starnes & Atchison  
Harold L. Stephens  
Thera-Connection, Inc.  
Vision Insurance Group  
Wainwright, Pope & McMeekin

## ATTICUS FINCH SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS

L. Susan Doss  
Augusta S. Dowd  
Gregory H. Hawley  
Joseph B. Mays, Jr.  
Robert G. Methvin, Jr.  
George M. (Jack) Neal, Jr.  
George S. Wright

## IN MEMORY OF BIBB ALLEN

Reggie & Anne Hamner  
Christian King

## IN MEMORY OF MARION FRANKLIN

Louis B. Feld  
Madeline Haikala

## IN MEMORY OF AL VREELAND

Gloria Blackburn  
Star Bloom  
Lacon & Susie Carver  
William J. Donald, Jr.  
Nancy L. Dyar  
Helene W. Hibbard  
Friends at Lehr, Middlebrooks & Proctor  
Linda L. Lund  
Anil A. Mujumdar  
Keith & Teresa Norman  
Robert D. Segall  
George & Genie Taylor, Jr.  
Janette Boone Younkin

## PLEASE CONTACT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

one  E-mail

I want to make a donation to Kids' Chance.

I want to make a donation to the Alabama Law Foundation Fund.

I want to make a donation to the Justice Janie L. Shores Scholarship.

In honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please bill my credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Visa/MasterCard/Amex # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

334.269.1515

### COVER STORY CONTINUED...

providing new ways to enable leadership, the Alabama Law Foundation created the Fellows and the new Atticus Finch Society.

The Alabama Law Foundation's 20th anniversary is a time to remember and a time to look forward. Reggie Hamner speaks of a "mantle of leadership," and says it is the people, past and present, who make a difference. E. T. Brown died on October 10, 2006 at the age of 86, but his legacy lives on through the Alabama Law Foundation. The Alabama Law Foundation's 20th anniversary brings to mind and honors his foresight and involvement that led to the foundation's creation. John Scott remembers he had "wonderful folks to work with," and Reggie Hamner "can't imagine the Bar without the foundation." Current President John Owens says he is "excited about the future and that Tracy is the best thing that every happened to the foundation." Tracy demurs discussing her long commitment to the foundation, but referring to the foundation, reflects on "how far we have come." Still, she says, "we know we can do a better job serving the needs of the poor."

*So after 20 years, that train is still fired up and on track. Are you on board?*

# Kids' Chance **First Tennis Tournament,** *A Hit!*

Everyone had a great time at the first annual Kids' Chance Tennis Tournament, Serving for Scholarships, on April 20th, at Hoover Country Club in Hoover, Alabama. The Alabama Law Foundation hosted the event and thanks the committee members and the committee chair, Carol Lockhart, for their hard work that helped make the tournament such a fun event.



(left to right) Stephanie Lockhart & Tom Oliver get tough out on the court  
Dorothy Johnson & Diane Locke, Alabama State Bar Ringers, Laura Mackay, Laurie Pitts, Sharon Berry & Denise Oliver  
Dorothy Johnson believes that ball will drop!

Kids' Chance Scholarships provide **TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS** for young people who have had a parent killed or permanently and totally disabled in a work related accident.

Almost **40 KIDS' CHANCE RECIPIENTS** have graduated from college and are successstories working in professional positions or attending graduate school.

## *Please Pardon Our Error in Fellows List*

In the spring Alabama Law Foundation newsletter, in the listing of new Fellows, **VANZETTA PENN MCPHERSON'S DESCRIPTION WAS INCORRECT.** Vanzetta Penn McPherson, a former United States Magistrate Judge, has NOT returned to law practice. Her listing should have read as follows: Vanzetta Penn McPherson—United States Magistrate Judge (Ret.). The Alabama Law Foundation regrets the error and asks that readers please note the correction.

# The ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION **First Board of Trustees**

*James L. North • Joe C. Cassady • Lynn R. Jackson • John Earle Chason  
William D. Scruggs, Jr. (Deceased) • Roy J. Crawford, (President, 1993 -- 1995)  
John B. Scott, Jr., (President, 1987 -- 1988) • Ben H. Harris, Jr., (President, 1988 – 1991)  
Charles R. Hare, Jr., (President, 1991 -- 1993)*

# Kids' Chance Golf Tournament *Swings* into Summer

The popular, annual Kids' Chance Swings for Scholarships golf tournament was held on Thursday, June 7 at The Legends at Capitol Hill in Prattville, Alabama.

The Alabama Law Foundation thanks the participants, the spectators and especially the sponsors who made these two events fun and successful.



(above left) Hill, Hill, Carter was represented by Scott Speagle and David Henderson.

(left) The Vision Insurance Group was Looking Good! (left to right): Dr. David Bronner, Grant Walker, Pat Matthews & Bruce Hodges.