

# A Stellar Evening

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts provided a beautiful setting for the 2010 Alabama Law Foundation's Fellows dinner on Friday, February 20. The event recognized Alabama Bar members selected to join the foundation's Fellows program and those elevated to Life Fellows status.

Colleagues from across the state of Alabama look forward to the annual event as a time to don evening clothes, visit friends and recognize the new Fellows and the Life Fellows for their outstanding service. This year several of the guests, known for their distinguished public careers, added to the stellar aspect of the evening. Judges Joel Dubina and Bill Pryor of the 11th Circuit Court were present. Alabama Law Foundation President Dave Boyd acted as emcee for the evening. United States Senator Jeff Sessions, attending as a new Fellow, said, "the Fellows dinner and reception was one of the most enjoyable evenings I have ever had, fellowshipping with the leaders of the Bar, judges, and friends. Everyone was in great spirits and all for a worthy cause."



Senator Jeff Sessions and Jan and Tommy Wells



The A-Team: (Back row, L-R) Cindy Head and Larita McGee; (Front row, L-R) Sharon McGuire, Anna Pender Pierce, Sue Jones, and Tracy Daniel



Alabama Law Foundation President Dave Boyd and Trustee Joe Fawal

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The beauty of the museum's Lowder Gallery and the elegant colors of the table and chair drapings—eggplant for the tables and citron for the chairs—created a welcoming glow. Purple orchids at each table contributed to making the evening shine. The notable guests, the beautiful dresses and distinguished eveningwear all added their share of sparkle. But the service to community and commitment to justice that the Fellows—both those newly welcomed and those previously honored—exemplified was the brightest element that made a stellar evening.



Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb



Lynn and Laveda Battle



Judge Charles Price and Judge Jim Main



Bob and Babs McCurley

# Life Fellows

are members previously inducted who have met their pledge and continue to provide support and leadership for the Alabama Law Foundation. 2009 Life Fellows:

- W. Harold Albritton
- J. Greg Allen
- Richard A. Ball, Jr.
- John B. Barnett, III
- Charles F. Carr
- John L. Carroll
- Ralph D. Cook
- Laura L. Crum
- Tony Davis
- Robert G. Esdale
- Randy Haynes
- James F. Hughey, Jr.
- M. Dale Marsh
- Phillip W. McCallum
- Mac McCorquodale
- Teresa G. Minor
- Cleophus Thomas, Jr.
- W. Lee Thuston

The selection committee chooses new Fellows from an exceptional group of lawyers: no more than 1 percent of bar members who have demonstrated outstanding dedication to their profession and their community are invited into fellowship.

The Fellows program was established in 1995 to honor Alabama bar members for outstanding service and commitment. Those chosen to become Fellows are given the opportunity to increase their leadership roles and to provide financial support for the Alabama Law Foundation, the charitable arm of the Alabama State Bar.

## Fellows accepted into membership for 2009:

- J. Greg Allen, *Montgomery*—Partner in Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles
- W. Percy Badham, III, *Birmingham*—Partner in Badham & Buck
- Edward G.I. Bowron, *Mobile*—Partner in Burr & Forman
- J. R. Brooks, *Huntsville*—Shareholder in Lanier, Ford, Shaver & Payne
- Charles F. Carr, *Fairhope*—Shareholder in Carr, Allison, Pugh, Howard, Oliver & Sisson
- Lee H. Copeland, *Montgomery*—Partner in Copeland, Franco, Screws & Gill
- Wendy Brooks Crew, *Birmingham*—Partner in Crew & Howell
- Laura L. Crum, *Montgomery*—Partner in Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole & Black
- W. Anthony Davis, III, *Birmingham*—Partner in Starnes & Atchison
- Robert G. Esdale, Sr., *Montgomery*—Clerk, Supreme Court of Alabama
- H. Lewis Gillis, *Montgomery*—Partner in Thomas, Means, Gillis & Seay
- Charles A. Graddick, *Mobile*—Presiding Circuit Judge, 13th Judicial Circuit
- Dawn W. Hare, *Monroeville*—Circuit Judge, 35th Judicial Circuit Judge
- Gregory H. Hawley, *Birmingham*—Partner in White, Arnold & Dowd
- Phillip W. McCallum, *Birmingham*—Partner in McCallum, Methvin & Terrell
- Joseph C. McCorquodale, III, *Jackson*—Partner in McCorquodale & McCorquodale
- Teresa G. Minor, *Birmingham*—Partner in Balch & Bingham
- George M. Neal, Jr., *Birmingham*—Shareholder in Sirote & Permutt
- Thomas L. Oliver, II, *Birmingham*—Shareholder in Carr, Allison, Pugh, Howard, Oliver & Sisson
- W. Boyd Reeves, *Mobile*—Partner in Armbrrecht Jackson
- Jefferson B. Sessions, III, *Mobile*—United States Senator
- Alyce M. Spruell, *Tuscaloosa*—Partner in Spruell & Powell
- Malcolm B. Street, Jr., *Anniston*—Circuit Judge, 7th Judicial Circuit

Since the IOLTA program was established in 1987, the Alabama Law Foundation has awarded **\$15 MILLION** in grants.

Because of the mandatory IOLTA program, the Alabama Law Foundation can increase funding for legal aid programs and help build a stronger, more democratic society by making access to justice for all citizens in Alabama a reality.

## THE WORK CONTINUES: 2010 IOLTA GRANTS

The Alabama Law Foundation's yearly IOLTA (Interest on Lawyer's Trust Accounts) grants are awarded to programs committed to the foundation's mission of making access to justice a reality for all of Alabama's citizens. As Alabama's major grant maker for legal aid, the Alabama Law Foundation annually distributes 80 percent of IOLTA funding to programs that provide legal aid to citizens who cannot afford an attorney.

IOLTA is the financial foundation for the Alabama Law Foundation. The IOLTA program 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 to law-related charities across Alabama. IOLTA became mandatory in 2008. IOLTA grants increased from \$680,000 in 2009, to a total of \$919,000 for 2010. The increased revenue has helped to meet the dramatic need for legal services in the continuing economic downturn.

### THE ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION IOLTA GRANTS ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE SECTIONS: LEGAL AID, ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, AND LAW-RELATED EDUCATION.

#### Programs that provide legal services for the underserved collectively received IOLTA grants totaling \$774,000.

**Legal Services Alabama (LSA)** provides legal aid to economically disadvantaged citizens throughout Alabama. LSA received a \$318,000 grant to target the current unmet legal need.

**The Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program**, which refers cases directly to lawyers in 64 counties and coordinates over 1,000 volunteers, received a \$90,000 IOLTA grant.

**The Mobile Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program** refers cases to 650 attorneys who provide free legal service to low-income clients in Mobile; the program was awarded a \$70,000 grant.

**The Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Program**, which refers cases to 770 attorneys in the Birmingham area, received a \$100,000 IOLTA grant.

**The Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama** received a \$50,000 grant to continue providing low-cost, quality legal and immigration services to low-income immigrants.

**The Civil Law Clinic, at the University of Alabama Law School**, provides legal assistance to a variety of clients. The clinic's \$66,000 grant is earmarked for a staff attorney to supervise law students who provide free legal assistance in civil cases to citizens of Tuscaloosa and the surrounding area.

**YWCA of Central Alabama** received \$80,000 for their "Justice on Wheels" program to provide legal services to isolated victims of domestic violence.

#### Programs in the category of "Administration of Justice" received IOLTA grants totaling \$135,000.

**The Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama**, which assists attorneys appointed to capital cases in the post-conviction stage and supplies some representation to indigent defendants, received a \$70,000 IOLTA grant.

**The Georgia Innocence Project** works to exonerate wrongly convicted prisoners through DNA testing. Alabama is one of three states not currently served by an Innocence Project; a \$10,000 IOLTA grant helps Georgia's Innocence Project expand its operations to Alabama.

**The Alabama Applesseed Center for Law and Justice** will target their \$10,000 IOLTA grant to support constitutional reform, to oppose payday loans and to develop a victim outreach program.

**The Alabama CASA Network** supports **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)** in training volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children in court. The \$20,000 IOLTA grant helps hire an Operations Director.

**Lauderdale County Family Court** received a \$20,000 IOLTA grant to supplement a co-parenting program to help couples facing divorce resolve conflicts regarding visitation and other issues before they require court involvement.

**The Madison County Volunteer Mediators Program** received a \$5,000 grant for training volunteers to work as community mediators to help people settle disputes and avoid going to court.

#### Programs in the category of Law-Related Education received \$10,000.

**The Alabama Center for Law & Civic Education** received an IOLTA grant for \$10,000 to support their "Play by the Rules" program that educates high school students about the law and their legal responsibilities.

## Rolling Out A New Program

The YWCA of Central Alabama received an IOLTA grant for the first time for a new program in their Domestic Violence Services division, "Justice on Wheels." The program provides legal services to victims of domestic violence who are isolated due to location, poverty or their living situation.

Living in the rural areas of Jefferson, St. Clair, and Blount counties, these women often find traveling to an urban center for help is impossible.

In these cases, "Justice on Wheels" comes to them. The YWCA has utilized community connections to

find locations where the women can safely seek legal counsel. The logistics are simple: A paralegal and an attorney travel by van to safe, public places and meet with women who need legal assistance in dealing with the many problems caused by domestic abuse such as safety, shelter, child custody and child support. The IOLTA grant will assist the YWCA's Domestic Violence Services to get "Justice on Wheels" rolling.



(From left to right) Grant Committee Member Sally Hawley presents a big check to Jennifer Caraway, Director of Domestic Violence Services YWCA Central Alabama, and Yolanda Sullivan, Board President YWCA Central Alabama.

The Alabama Law Foundation, the only 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.

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A Stellar Evening:  
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