



FBA TODAY

Newsletter of the Montgomery Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2009

Meet Your FBA Leaders

R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., serves as president of the Montgomery chapter. Huffaker is a shareholder with the Montgomery law firm of Rushton, Stakely, Johnston & Garrett, P.A., where he focuses on civil defense work. He lives in Montgomery and graduated from the University of Alabama Law School. He previously has served as first vice president and secretary-treasurer of the chapter.

Terrie Scott Biggs is this year's first vice president. She works in general litigation at Capell & Howard, P.C. and graduated from Jones School of Law in 2002.

Second vice-president J. Matt Bledsoe is an assistant attorney general with the Alabama Attorney General's office. A 2005 graduate of Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, he primarily handles cases in the areas of civil litigation and administrative law.

Kelly F. Pate, an associate in the Montgomery office of Balch & Bingham, LLP, is secretary-treasurer. Also a graduate of Cumberland School of Law, her practice focuses on general litigation and state and federal employment.



The 2008-09 FBA officers at last fall's reception for new court clerks: (l. to r.) Austin Huffaker, president; Terrie Scott Biggs, 1st vice-president; Matt Bledsoe, 2nd vice-president; and Kelly Pate, secretary-treasurer.

National president also hails from Alabama

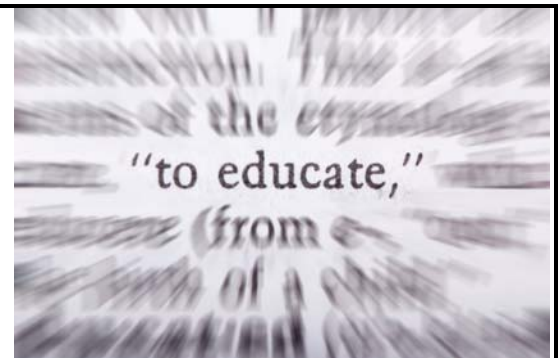


Juanita Sales Lee, FBA national president, is a senior attorney with the U.S. Army, Space and Missile Defense Command in Huntsville, where she primarily practices labor and employment law. A native of Phenix City, she is a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law and has an LL.M. from the Army Judge Advocate General's School. An FBA member for more than 15 years, Lee has also served as national treasurer, secretary and deputy secretary and vice president for the Eleventh Circuit. **Ms. Lee will be a panelist at a workshop on Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Attorneys during the Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting July 15-18 in Point Clear, AL. See www.alabar.org for details.**



Inside This Issue: August CLE, Calendar of Events, President's Corner and more

Free CLE!



1st Annual “Cutting Edge” CLE Seminar

Sponsored by the FBA, the Attorney General’s Office & the
Montgomery County Bar Association

Thursday, August 6, 2009

State Capitol Auditorium

Total CLE Hours: 6.0, including 1.0 hour of Ethics Credit

- 8:30 AM Registration—Continental breakfast provided by MCBA
- 8:55 AM Welcoming Remarks
- 9 AM Legal Writing—Hon. Edward E. Carnes, 11th Circuit Court of Appeals
- 10:30 BREAK
- 10:45 Basics of Federal Practice—Hon. Mark E. Fuller, Chief U.S. District Judge,
Middle District of Alabama
- 11:45 LUNCH (on your own)

Afternoon Session

- 1:00 PM “Trying the Case of A Lifetime,” Wilmer “Buddy”
Parker, Maloy Jenkins Parker, Atlanta, GA
- 2:30 BREAK
- 2:45 Ethics & Professionalism—Hon. Hugh Maddox,
Associate Justice, Alabama Supreme Court (Retired)
- 3:45 Electronic Discovery—Hon. Charles S. Coody, U.S.
Magistrate Judge, Middle District of Alabama
- 4:45 Closing Remarks and Evaluations

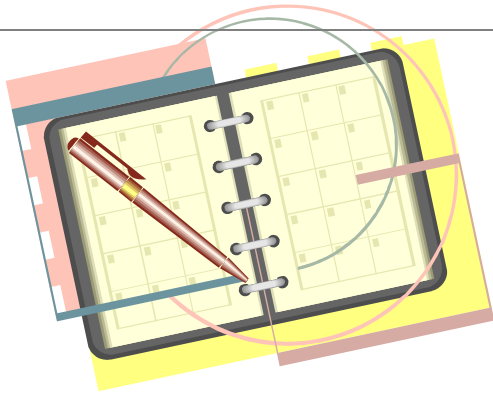


Seating is limited! Register by July 27 (absolute deadline) by
contacting Audrey Marlette at am@rsjg.com or 206-3126.

We recommend parking at the Crampton Bowl, where free trolley service will be
available to the Capitol from 6:30-8:30 a.m. and back from 4-5:30 p.m.

Save the Date!

**New Clerks' Reception on Sept. 30,
2009—Watch for more details!**



**Photos
from last
year's
reception**



Brown Bag Lunches to Return This Fall

Ever wonder what judges talk about at lunch? The FBA is offering you a chance to find out!

One of the Montgomery Chapter's most popular offerings has been our series of Brown Bag Lunches with local members of the federal judiciary. After a summer hiatus, the lunches will return this fall, on Oct. 14 and Nov. 18 (both Wednesdays), at noon at the U.S. Courthouse in Montgomery. Attendance is limited to 10-12 attorneys to foster candid interaction with the judges, and attendees must be FBA members. Discussions have covered topics ranging from courtroom security to jury questionnaires to military history to judicial transitions. Reservations will be required, so watch your e-mail for more details as we get closer to the dates.



Upcoming National FBA events

September 10–12, 2009, Annual Meeting and Convention

Location: Skirvin Hilton, Oklahoma City, OK. Go to http://www.fedbar.org/OK09_home.html for details.

March 5, 2010, 34th Annual Tax Law Conference

Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Washington, D.C.



President's Corner, By Austin Huffaker

I hope you have had a great summer so far. I certainly have, although it is hard to image that the summer is half over. Nevertheless, the Executive Board for the Montgomery Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has great plans for the upcoming fall. One recent change is the production of a quarterly newsletter, the first of which you are currently reading. With it, we hope to keep you informed of upcoming activities, both on a local and national level. We also hope to provide articles and other tidbits of information concerning local chapter issues, news and activities. If there is something that you would like to have published in future editions, please notify me or anyone on the Board so that we can make arrangements to publish it in the next newsletter. As for upcoming events, we are co-sponsoring a CLE presentation (August 6) with the Attorney General's office. This is a limited seating event, so notify me no later than July 27 if you are interested in attending. We also will be sponsoring our annual welcome reception (September 30) for the new federal law clerks. Beyond that, we will have our regular brown bag lunches. With that, enjoy the rest of the summer, and we hope to see you during one of the upcoming events.

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Is there something you'd like to see in this newsletter? Contact the editor, Susan Turley, at susanlturley@gmail.com

Where are they now? Former FBA leaders in the news

FORMER FBA President Constance S. Barker is completing her first year as a Commissioner of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Barker, who was president of the Montgomery Chapter from 2006-07, was nominated in March 2008 by then-Pres. George W. Bush. After unanimous Senate confirmation, she was sworn in on July 14, 2008 to serve the remainder of a five-year term expiring on July 1, 2011.

In 1996, Barker joined Capell & Howard as a shareholder, focusing on prevention of discrimination complaints and defending clients in employment discrimination lawsuits. Her public-sector experience included four years as assistant district attorney for the 11th Judicial Circuit and later for the 13th Judicial Circuit of Alabama. In 1985, she was hired to the newly created position of in-house counsel for Mobile County Public Schools, that county's largest employer and the 13th largest school system in the nation. She served in that position for 11 years, providing legal advice and counsel to the board and top management on matters involving discrimination, tenure law, contracts and areas of general corporate law. She also served as part-time judge for the towns of Citronelle and Satsuma.



A native of Florence, Barker received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1973. She earned her law degree from the University of Alabama in 1977 and was admitted to the Alabama State Bar that same year. Her husband, Carl, is a former president of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce and is president of Servis First Bank of Montgomery.