

w o m e n

lawyers section of the bba

notitia



Announcements

Welcome to the March 2008 Edition of the Notitia!

The Notitia is published monthly to our members and friends of the Section. This publication is one of the many tools the Women Lawyers Section of the Birmingham Bar Association uses to encourage the participation of women in the practice of law, to enhance the quality of life for women who have chosen law as a profession, to provide role models and mentors for women seeking to enter or grow in the profession, to provide an environment which fosters cooperation between and among women in the profession thereby enhancing the profession as a whole.

Reminders for Section Activities and Events:

All members of the Birmingham Bar Association are invited to join our Section in 2008! You can join at any time during the year. Membership runs from Dec. 1, 2007 - Nov. 30, 2008. Here is a generic membership form: [BBA Membership Renewal.pdf](#) - You will need to put your name somewhere on the form and return it to Beth Carmichael at the Birmingham Bar. You can also become a Sustaining Member of the Section by sending your additional \$30 contribution to Sidney Hoover c/o the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, 500 Beacon Parkway West, Birmingham, AL 35209-3108. Sustaining Members are: Pam Blalock, Khristi Driver, Ashley Hattaway, Sidney Hoover, Carolyn Lam, Shirley McCarty and Teresa Minor.

Would you like to work with one of the committees or task forces in 2008 on a particular project or event? Here is your chance to let us know. Click anywhere on the following link and it will take you to an online preference form:

[http://creator.zoho.com/showForm.do?](http://creator.zoho.com/showForm.do?formLinkId=2&link=true&sharedBy=bbachair&borderColor=990000&tabId=9008&showFormName=true&width=700&height=350)

[formLinkId=2&link=true&sharedBy=bbachair&borderColor=990000&tabId=9008&showFormName=true&width=700&height=350](http://creator.zoho.com/showForm.do?formLinkId=2&link=true&sharedBy=bbachair&borderColor=990000&tabId=9008&showFormName=true&width=700&height=350)

Please submit your articles or photos or reminders for the March 2008 Edition of the Notitia to Christi Graham or Michelle Obradovic.

The Leadership of the Section meets monthly at the YWCA of Central Alabama, 309 North 23rd Street, Birmingham. Attendees who have ordered a lunch will be served at 11:30, with the meeting to begin thereafter. You may bring your own lunch if you like. Regular meeting dates are March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 08, August 12, September 09 and October 14. The November meeting will be the Annual Meeting.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLOTHING DRIVE - MARCH 5th – MARCH 31st 2008

Please take the time to go through your closets for donations to My Sister's Closet. My Sister's Closet needs donations of clean professional clothes. Please donate suits, slacks, blouses, skirts, shoes, belts, scarves, purses, accessories, new pantyhose and new undergarments. Sizes 12 and up are greatly needed. My Sister's Closet provides clothing to many area shelters, and operates a thrift store with proceeds going to the YWCA. Women using the services of the YWCA for job interviews and for work will benefit from the items you donate.

Items can be donated and a tax receipt obtained at the following locations:

- Birmingham Bar Center; 2021 2nd Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203, contact Crystal McMeekin (251-2231 or bbfound@bellsouth.net)
- Maynard Cooper & Gale, 1901 6th Ave. North, 2400 Regions Harbert Plaza, Birmingham, AL 35203, contact Marcie Braswell (254-1000, mbraswell@maynardcooper.com)
- Law Offices of Gene Sellers, 3410 Independence Drive, Ste. 200, Homewood, AL 35209, contact Leatha Gilbert (870-5500, lgilbert@gsellerslaw.com)

- Sirote & Permutt, 2311 Highland Avenue South, contact Jamie Erdberg (930-5189, jerdberg@sirote.com)
- Champion Cleaners, located at 2548 Rocky Ridge Road in Hoover and at 5402 Highway 280 (next to Lazy Boy at intersection of Hwy. 119) is offering free dry cleaning services for the donated items.

You can drop off at either location, and Champion will clean the clothes and deliver to the YWCA. Clearly indicate at the time of your drop off that the clothes are for the WLS My Sisters Closet Clothing Drive.

WOMEN LAWYERS DINE AROUND - Alabama Power – Lunch - March 14th

This year our Leadership Development Task Force will be organizing the Dine Around's. A Dine Around is when we pick a restaurant for lunch or dinner and Section members meet for the meal and talk about a topic and also use the time to network with fellow members. For the first 15 minutes of each meal they will schedule a speaker to talk about various leadership topics, the remainder of the meal will be for discussion of the topic and networking. We alternate between lunch and dinner to accommodate different schedules. On March 14th, 2008 (Friday), the first Dine Around of the year will be held at the Alabama Power building. Lunch will be from 12-1 and we will be in the "Electric Room". The Alabama Power cafeteria offers a variety of food options and accepts cash, check, or credit cards. The Alabama Power building is located at the corner of 6th Avenue North and 18th Street and the entrance is on 18th Street. After you go through the cafeteria line the meeting room will be on the left.

Reminders for Non-Section Activities and Events:

SHARING SUCCESS - - A SEMINAR FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

As a member of the planning committee for this seminar, Lana Alcorn of Lightfoot, Franklin & White extends a very special invitation to you for this one-of-a-kind seminar for defense trial lawyers, corporate counsel and claims attorneys on **March 6-7, 2008** in Phoenix, Arizona. This seminar will enhance the skills of all female attorneys as they work together to defend the corporate client. The program boasts distinguished faculty from around the country, including in-house lawyers from some of the most recognized companies in the U.S., experienced and successful trial lawyers, and nationally prominent marketing and trial consultants. In addition, there is a corporate counsel breakout session open only to in-house counsel which will provide attendees with an opportunity to discuss issues unique to corporate counsel. This is a great way to hone your trial and business development skills while getting to meet and network with terrific female lawyers from all across the country. I hope to see many of you in Phoenix! It would be great to have a big group of Alabama lawyers attend! Lana - (205) 581-1514 (direct dial). [08Sharing_final.pdf](#)

OASIS, A WOMEN'S COUNSELING CENTER

2nd Annual Help and Hope Luncheon at The Club on March 11, 2008. The primary purpose of the luncheon is to address the stigma associated with mental health and increase awareness of their services. This year's luncheon honors Joan and Dick Pizitz and their philanthropic contributions to the Birmingham community and Oasis. Information and tickets at 933-0338

DO DAH DAY - Croonin' For Critters

What: Talent from Birmingham law firms will compete in a singing competition. The audience will vote with dollars for their favorite lawyer. The lawyer with the most votes will be named Birmingham's Lawyer Idol. Talent will be critiqued by celebrity Judges Jeh Jeh Pruitt, Paul Finebaum and Janice Rogers. Mickey Ferguson will host the event. Contestants include singing lawyers from Fawal & Spina, Ward & Wilson, LLC., Waldrep, Stewart & Kendrick LLC., McCallum, Methvin & Terrell, PC., Corey, Watson, Crowder and DeGaris, P.C., Lanny Vines and more. When: April 1, 2008 Doors open at 6:00 P.M. Competition starts at 7:00 P.M. Where: Twist & Shout, 2011 Highland Avenue South. Why: Proceeds from Croonin' For Critters will benefit Do Dah Day. Do Dah Day is a 501 c 3 non profit all volunteer organization benefiting local animal shelters. Attend and enjoy the fun, or call Tommy Spina 205-939-1330 if you are interested in competing. Thanks!

The latest edition of the Cumberland School of Law newsletter is now available. Please point your internet browser to <http://www.samford.edu/schools/law/news/currentnews.pdf> to view the newsletter.

ALABAMA APPELLATE COURTS RETURN TO BIRMINGHAM

- Sponsored by the Birmingham Bar Foundation and Cumberland School of Law

Appellate Courts Reception

Wednesday April 16, 2008

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Saint Paul Cathedral Life Center - Great Hall

2120 3rd Avenue North (enter Great Hall on 4th Ave. North)

Tickets - \$25.00 per person

Oral Arguments of the Alabama Supreme Court and Court of Civil Appeals

Thursday April 17, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Wright Center – Samford University

800 Lakeshore Drive

Oral Arguments are free of charge and open to public

Reception tickets are on sale now.

Mail check payable to Birmingham Bar Foundation to
Birmingham Bar Foundation

2021 2nd Ave. North
Birmingham, AL 35203

The 4th annual convening of the Alabama Appellate Courts in Birmingham is set for April 16-17, 2008. Please make your plans to attend the reception welcoming the Alabama Supreme Court and Court of Civil Appeals town on Wednesday, April 16th at St. Paul's Cathedral Life Center. Also, on Thursday, April 17th the Courts will be in session hearing oral arguments at Samford Wright Center. Students from area schools and members of the legal community and the public are invited to attend the arguments. The Appellate Courts and the attorneys representing parties in the cases always bring an engaging presentation of Alabama's judicial system at work. For more information, contact Leslie Barineau at 205-251-9200 or the Bar Foundation at 205-251-2231.

Articles

LIVING MY PRAYER by Sister Helen Prejean

I watch what I do to see what I really believe.

Belief and faith are not just words. It's one thing for me to say I'm a Christian, but I have to embody what it means; I have to live it. So, writing this essay and knowing I'll share it in a public way becomes an occasion for me to look deeply at what I really believe by how I act.

"Love your neighbor as yourself," Jesus said, and as a beginner nun I tried earnestly to love my neighbor — the children I taught, their parents, my fellow teachers, my fellow nuns. But for a long time, the circle of my loving care was small and, for the most part, included only white, middle-class people like me. But one day I woke up to Jesus' deeper challenge to love the outcast, the criminal, the underdog. So I packed my stuff and moved into a noisy, violent housing project in an African-American neighborhood in New Orleans.

I saw the suffering and I let myself feel it: the sound of gunshots in the night, mothers calling out for their children. I saw the injustice and was compelled to do something about it. I changed from being a nun who only prayed for the suffering world to a nun with my sleeves rolled up, living my prayer. Working in that community in New Orleans soon led me to Louisiana's death row.

So, I keep watching what I do to see what I actually believe.

Jesus' biggest challenge to us is to love our enemies. On death row, I encountered the enemy — those considered so irredeemable by our society that even our Supreme Court has made it legal to kill them. For 20 years now, I've been visiting people on death row, and I have accompanied six human beings to their deaths. As each has been killed, I have told them to look at me. I want them to see a loving face when they die. I want my face to carry the love that tells them that they and every one of us are worth more than our most terrible acts.

But I knew being with the perpetrators wasn't enough. I also had to reach out to victims' families. I visited the families who wanted to see me, and I founded a victims support group in New Orleans. It was a big stretch for me, loving both perpetrators and victims' families, and most of the time I fail because so often a victim's families interpret my care for perpetrators as choosing sides — the wrong side. I understand that, but I don't stop reaching out. I've learned from victims' families just how alone many of them feel. The murder of their loved one is so horrible, their pain so great, that most people stay away. But they need people to visit, to listen, to care. It doesn't take anyone special, just someone who cares.

Writing this essay reminds me, as an ordinary person, that it's important to take stock, to see where I am. The only way I know what I really believe is by keeping watch over what I do.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=17845521>

UPDATE – Tag # 85 - Ovarian Cancer Research Distinctive License Plate Supporting Research at UAB

Seventy (70) tags were purchased in February, 2008! Thank you. Additional charitable donations were made for \$5,000, \$1,000 and \$200 providing another 124 free car tags! Purchases or donations are still needed to reach the goal so that the legislation can be finalized and the tags actually produced and distributed. If the minimum pre-purchase goal is not reached by June 30th, the car tag effort will fail, but the money will still go to UAB.

Goal - 1,000 tags reserved by **June 30, 2008**. How? Download the Ovarian Cancer Commitment Tag Affidavit: <http://www.ovariancancercartag.com/ovctag/POAform.pdf>. To complete the form, you will need to know your VIN number and make a \$50 check to "License Office". You may mail your affidavit and check to: Angela Lewis/WSKLLC 2323 2nd Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203. For more information, see: Dr. Ronald Alvarez <http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=42227> and the website, Alabama's Ovarian Cancer Car Tag <http://www.ovariancancercartag.com>.



Courtesy of Grant-Guerrero Photography

*"I changed from being a nun
who only prayed for the
suffering world to a nun with
my sleeves rolled up, living
my prayer."*

- listen to Sister Helen read her essay
[01 Living My Prayer.mp3](#)

Sister Helen Prejean's work as spiritual adviser to death row inmates formed the basis of two books, including *Dead Man Walking*. A native of Louisiana, Prejean became a nun in 1957. In 1981 she dedicated her life to helping the poor of New Orleans.

GARDENING FOR MARCH

Patience is a virtue this month. It is time to apply the weed & feed to your lawn though. A weed & feed product should have a fertilizer for the grass and a pre-emergent to control weeds. If you already have weeds in your lawn, Myers Plants and Pottery in Pelham suggests you spray "Weed Free Zone". More lawn tips can be found at www.myersplantsandpottery.com. Stewart Myers says that it is time to take care of the birds your emerging garden is no doubt already attracting – think about seed and suet feeders, oriole and hummingbird feeders, peanut feeders, squirrel encouraging and squirrel discouraging products, bird baths, bird houses and nesting material. Even though it is early in the year for large scale outdoor planting, a Saturday visit to the pottery yard certainly will have your imagination working overtime about the sunny days ahead and fun things that you can do to get ready for them!



In a 9-inch frying pan (with a tight fitting lid), fry the vermicelli on both sides in hot oil until golden brown in color. Remove from pan. In the same oil, brown the minced onion, add the chopped tomato. Add chicken broth. Season with salt and pepper to taste. When broth is boiling, add vermicelli and reduce heat to a low simmer. Cover and cook until the vermicelli has soaked up the liquid, about 30 minutes.



Baby Bok Choy with Cashews

2 Tbsp olive oil
 1 cup chopped green onions
 3 cloves garlic, chopped
 1 pound baby bok, rinsed, larger leaves separated from base, base trimmed but still present, holding the smaller leaves together
 1/2 teaspoon dark sesame oil
 1/2 cup chopped, roasted, salted or raw cashews
 freshly grated ginger or a sliced red chili pepper on the side

1. Heat olive oil in a large sauté pan on medium high heat. Add onions, then garlic, then bok choy. Sprinkle with sesame oil and salt. Cover, and let the baby bok cook down for approximately 3 minutes. (Like spinach, when cooked, the bok choy will wilt a bit.)
 2. Remove cover. Lower heat to low. Stir and let cook for a minute or two longer, until the bok choy is just cooked.
 3. Gently mix in cashews.



Ravioli a Gorgonzola e Noci (walnuts)

1/2 cup ricotta cheese, well drained and crumbled
 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons crumbled gorgonzola
 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
 1 tablespoon roasted garlic paste
 Salt & Freshly ground black pepper
 3 sheets of fresh pasta
 Cornmeal
 1 stick unsalted butter
 1/2 cup roughly chopped walnuts
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
 2 teaspoons chopped fresh tarragon
 1/4 cup heavy cream
 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
 1/4 cup finely grated Parmesan

In a bowl, combine the ricotta, gorgonzola, parsley, and garlic paste and mash together until smooth. Season with salt and pepper.

Put 1 pasta sheet on a work surface with the long side facing you. Place heaping tablespoons of filling down the sheet, about 2 inches apart. Brush water around each pile of filling and fold the dough lengthwise over the filling. Press gently around each to force out any air and seal. Trim with a fluted pastry wheel or knife to cut into separate ravioli. Place on a baking sheet lightly dusted with cornmeal to keep from sticking. Repeat with the remaining ravioli.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the ravioli until they are tender and rise to the surface, gently stirring to keep them from sticking together, 3 to 4 minutes. While the ravioli are cooking, in a skillet over medium-high heat, cook the butter without stirring until it starts to darken to a golden color. Add the nuts and cook until the butter is golden brown and the nuts are fragrant, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Add the herbs, cream, and lemon juice, and stir to combine. Cook for 30 seconds. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer the ravioli with a slotted spoon to the skillet with the butter, swirling to coat. Sprinkle with the Parmesan, spooning the sauce over the ravioli to melt the cheese. Sprinkle with Parmesan or Romano, if desired. Serve immediately.

Continuing Legal Education

ABICLE - ALABAMA BAR INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

3/7/08 Damages - Tuscaloosa--University of Alabama Law School
 4/11/08 Guardian Ad Litem - Tuscaloosa--University of Alabama Law School
 4/18/08 Collections Law - Tuscaloosa--University of Alabama Law School
 4/25/08 Divorce from A to Z - Tuscaloosa--University of Alabama Law School
 5/2/08 Appellate Practice - Tuscaloosa--University of Alabama Law School

5/9-10/08 City & County Government - Orange Beach, Alabama--Perdido Beach Resort
 5/16/08 Intellectual Property - Tuscaloosa--University of Alabama Law
 5/23/08 Professionalism-May - B'ham--Cahaba Grand Conference Ctr, (formerly HealthSouth) U.S. 280E

ALABAMA CENTER FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Contact Judy Keegan for more information at judy.keegan@alabar.org or www.alabamaadr.org
 BASIC MEDIATION TRAINING (3-day, 20 hour CLE course with 3 hours of ethics) - TROY SMITH
 (800) ADR-FIRM or www.mediationmedia.com or troysmith@mediationmedia.com

BIRMINGHAM BAR ASSOCIATION

On demand CLE available at www.birminghambar-u.org.

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW CLEs:

Call 205-726-2391 to register by phone.
 Online Courses available anytime: <http://cumberland.fastcle.com/store/provider/provider.php?sessionid=983bb135734060c39caed71280f3ec19-3632852>

LORMAN CLEs:

March 25, 2008 - Mobile - AIA Contracts
 Learn more about this seminar <http://www.lorman.com/seminars/seminar_details.php?pid=183722>

Contacts

2008 Officers:

Chair - Leatha Gilbert
 Chair - Elect Pam Blalock
 Immediate Past Chair - Ashley Hattaway
 Secretary - Rhonda Caviedes Andreen
 Treasurer - Sidney Hoover
 Corresponding Secretary - Frances King Quick
 Historian - Linda Cole
 NCWBA Representative - Pat Moore
 Liaison with Alabama State Bar Women's Section - Sherrie L. Phillips

Executive Board

Board Term Expires in 2008

Shayana Boyd Davis, Patricia N. Moore, Leatha Gilbert, Susan Bevill Livingston, Monica B. Graveline

Board Term Expires in 2009

Deane Corliss, Gail Barber, Katy Willis, Candi Peeples, Sidney Hoover, Shirley McCarty

Board Term Expires in 2010

LaBella Alvis, Mary Lynn Bates, Honora Gathings, Alicia Haynes, Hon. Virginia Vinson

2008 Committee Chair and Co-Chair Assignments:

Membership

(Assists in updating membership databases and organizes a project or event that will increase membership and improve retention.)
 Rebecca Amthor, Chair Hon. Teresa Pulliam, Co-Chair

Newsletter and Public Relations

(Publishes the Notitia in collaboration with other Committees and the BBA, liaison with the Birmingham Bar Journal, the Alabama Lawyer and local media outlets.)
 Christi Graham, Chair Michelle Obradovic, Co-Chair

Social and Entertainment

(Plans Annual Meeting, another large event and several social gatherings.)
 April Rogers, Chair Janine Smith, Co-Chair

Programs

(Plans a large program and special programs in addition to the Annual Meeting.)
 Tameka Wren, Chair Theresa Minor, Co-Chair

Projects

(Identifies projects benefiting the YWCA and organizes events benefiting other non-profits and coordinates charitable donations.)
 Crystal McMeekin, Chair Marcie Braswell, Co-Chair

Service Award

(Coordinates Law School Scholarships.)
 Brendette Green, Chair Anne Mitchell, Co-Chair

2008 Task Force Chair and Co-Chair Assignments:

Pinstripes and Pearls (panel discussion)	Khristi Driver, Chair	Deloris Simmons Owens, Co-Chair
Leadership Development (assist section members in becoming leaders)	Frances Heidt, Chair	Carolyn, Lam, Co-Chair

Back Issues

January, February, March and April 2007 Editions of the Notitia: [2007 Notitia January through April Editions.pdf](#)

May 2007 Edition of the Notitia: [May 2007 Notitia.pdf](#)

June 2007 Edition of the Notitia: [June 2007 Edition of the Notitia.pdf](#)

July, August and September 2007 Editions of the Notitia: [July, August, September Editions.pdf](#)

October 2007 Edition of the Notitia: [October 2007 Edition of the Notitia.pdf](#)

November 2007 Edition of the Notitia: [November 2007 Edition of the Notitia.pdf](#)

December 2007 Edition of the Notitia: [December 2007 Edition of the Notitia.pdf](#)

January 2008 Edition of the Notitia: [January 2008 Edition of the Notitia.pdf](#)

February 2008 Edition of the Notitia: [February 2008 Edition of the Notitia.pdf](#)

ListServ

The WLS has a Yahoo! listserv that is maintained by Candi Peebles. To join: (1) send an email to bba_women_subscribe@yahoogroups.com (That's bba "underscore" women "dash" subscribe @ yahoogroups.com); (2) when you receive an email back from Yahoo! asking you to confirm the fact that you want to be on the list serve, follow the directions in the email. To post messages to the Section, send an e-mail to bba_women@yahoogroups.com. Candi can be reached at 205-871-9550 or candi@shawanderson.com. Online help can be found at the following link: <http://help.yahoo.com/help/us/groups/>

What are the options for reading group messages in email? For each group you belong to, you have the option to control both the frequency of email message delivery and the format of messages:

Frequency Options

- Individual Emails

Messages are delivered one at a time to your email inbox. This is the best option if you want to keep up on the latest posts immediately. Email attachments, if included in a message and allowed by your moderator, will be sent directly to you.

- Daily Digest

Messages are delivered in batches of 25 or daily, whichever comes sooner. This is the best option if you want to receive fewer mail messages and don't need up-to-the minute posts in your inbox. Email attachments are not available in digests.

- Only Special Announcements

This means you will receive email messages only when the group moderator posts a "Special Announcement" message. This is a good option if you want to pass on day-to-day discussion for very busy groups but do want to receive important updates from the group moderator. Keep in mind that usage by each moderator will vary. (The moderator may choose to never use this feature, in which case you would never receive email messages, or may choose to use it frequently.)

- No Mail / Web Only

The best option to choose if you prefer to only read messages on the web. Also useful if you need to temporarily put message delivery on hold, for example while you are on vacation. However, keep in mind that (while rare) some groups do not enable the "message archive" feature and for these groups it is not possible to read messages on the web. It is a moderator decision on whether to enable the message archive feature.

Format Options

- Full Featured

Includes links giving you instant access to all group features (photos, calendar, profiles, polls, files, etc.), the ability to see all messages to a topic, and a "recent activity module" providing information on new activity in the group over the last seven days. Definitely the best choice for groups that use more than just the message features or groups where you want to take advantage of the message archive.

- Traditional

Emails are delivered "as is", without the addition of any links back to the group, except in the footer of the email. The right choice if your email client does not effectively support the "Full Featured" format.

To set any of these options, go to the "Edit Membership" page of your group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GROUPNAME/join> (where "GROUPNAME" is the name of your group). Message frequency options for groups can also be changes from the "Edit My Groups" page:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/mygroups?o=2&edit=1> Additional help can be found at:

<http://help.yahoo.com/help/us/groups/messages/messages-01.html>

Guidelines for posting messages

The Women Lawyers Section wants the list-serve to be an active tool, however it is recognized that too much irrelevant traffic will defeat the purpose of the list-serve. The following are some guidelines to use in posting messages. These guidelines are not intended to scare anyone from posting messages or other valuable information. Rather, experiences with other list-serves suggest that guidelines will keep our list-serve running smoothly and effectively.

The following types of messages are NOT appropriate.

- 1) Marketing by list members or others.
- 2) Political announcements or petitions.
- 3) Political solicitation, including campaign materials.
- 4) Any other message not directly related to or of particular interest to section members . This category includes jokes (even funny ones), warnings about internet scams and viruses and chain messages.
- 5) Any kind of inflammatory, discriminatory or personal attacks.

Thank you for adhering to these guidelines!