



Litigation Section

The Mississippi Bar

E-Newsletter

APRIL 2009

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Section's Annual CLE Benefits Mississippi Innocence Project

The Litigation Section sponsored a trial advocacy skills seminar on January 16, 2009 in Oxford to benefit the Mississippi Innocence Project (MIP), which is based at the University of Mississippi Law School. The inspiration for the program was "A Death in Belmont," Sebastian Junger's chronicle of a 1963 murder trial in Massachusetts. Over 200 attendees earned up to 7.5 hours of credit as an all-star faculty of Mississippi attorneys presented *The Commonwealth v. Roy Smith*. As a result of funds generated by the seminar, the Litigation Section was able to contribute \$20,000 to MIP's general operating budget and \$5,000 to start a scholarship endowment for law students interested in MIP's mission. The Litigation Section owes a special thanks to the outstanding faculty who presented the program: Orlando Richmond, Jack Dunbar, Steve

Thomas, Rob McDuff, Cynthia Speetjens, Charlie Merkel, Kathy Nester, Joe Sam Owen, Al Povall, Clarence Webster and Dr. Henry Sullivan. Renowned author and fellow bar member John Grisham made a special appearance as Albert DeSalvo, who later confessed to being the Boston Strangler. Many thanks to all those who attended.

**Mississippi
Innocence
Project**

at The University of Mississippi School of Law

The Mississippi Innocence Project at the University of Mississippi School of Law (www.mississippiinnocence.org).

Annual Section Meeting in Sandestin

Please mark your calendars for the Litigation Section's Annual Meeting on Friday, July 17, 2009 at 10:15 a.m., at the Sandestin Hilton & Conference Center. The Section is pleased to announce, as the featured speaker, Dr. Dan Jordan, who will present "Lawyer Thomas Jefferson and Why He is Important Today." Dr. Jordan, a renowned authority on Jefferson, recently retired as President of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, which owns and operates Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia. Dr. Jordan, a graduate of the University of Mississippi and the University of Virginia, is the father of United States District Judge Dan Jordan.

Law School Scholarships and Contributions

The Litigation Section Executive Committee has once again approved annual scholarships to deserving law students interested in litigation. This spring, the Section will award two Mississippi College and two University of Mississippi law students with scholarships of \$1,000 each. Additionally, the Executive Committee has approved contributions of \$5,000 for each law school's building fund campaigns.



Cal Mayo presented Dean Sam Davis a \$5,000 gift for the University of Mississippi School of Law Building Campaign.



Doug Minor (pictured left) and Judge Dan Jordan (pictured right) presented Dean Jim Rosenblatt a \$5,000 gift for the MC School of Law's *Growing the Vision* campaign.



Doug Minor presented Shirley Williams of MVLP a \$5,000 gift on behalf of the Litigation Section.

American Bar Association's Appellate Practice Committee

The ABA sponsors an Appellate Practice Committee, which may be of interest to many Litigation Section members. To learn more about the Appellate Practice Committee's purpose and resources, please access a recent letter from Committee Co-Chair, Kevin C. Newsom by clicking [here](#).

Litigation Section Executive Committee:



Cal Mayo, Chair
Kyle Moran, Vice-Chair
Grant Bennett, Secretary/Treasurer
Hon. Dan Jordan, Past Chair
Doug Minor, Executive Committee
Brooke Newman, Executive Committee
Ted Connell, Executive Committee
René Garner, Section Coordinator