



Litigation Section

The Mississippi Bar

E-Newsletter

JUNE 2010

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Sandestin**

Commonwealth v. Roy Smith: Lessons in Trial Advocacy Seminar - June 18

The Litigation Section of The Mississippi Bar will again host “Commonwealth v. Roy Smith: Lessons in Trial Advocacy” CLE Seminar on Friday, June 18, in Jackson.

On November 22, 1963, the same day as President John Kennedy’s assassination in Dallas, Roy Smith, a native of Oxford, heard closing arguments in his own murder trial in Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Accused of killing Bessie Goldberg some nine months earlier, Smith was convicted and sentenced to life in prison, despite his pleas of innocence. His conviction was affirmed on appeal. However, then Governor Michael Dukakis later commuted his sentence in 1976, in part due to the confessions of Albert DeSalvo, the Boston Strangler, who had been a suspect. Sebastian Junger has chronicled the story of Roy Smith in his book, “A Death in Belmont.”

On June 18, 2010, the Litigation Section brings the prosecution to life once again, but this time with the benefit of the Boston Strangler’s testimony. Please join us for a day of learning the art of persuasion from eight experienced Mississippi trial lawyers. Using the facts of Commonwealth v. Roy Smith, these attorneys will demonstrate and instruct on all aspects of a jury trial: opening statements, direct and cross examinations and closing arguments. At the end of the day, you can decide Roy Smith’s fate: innocent? Or guilty as charged? Register online by clicking [here](#) or download a registration form by clicking [here](#). For additional information, contact Rene Garner at rgarner@msbar.org.

Annual Section Meeting: Noted Justice Department Attorney Highlights Panel Discussion on Meredith Incident

John Doar, one of the lead Justice Department attorneys for many of the landmark civil rights cases in Mississippi, headlines an outstanding group of panelists who will discuss the legal and historical events surrounding the admission of James Meredith at the University of Mississippi in 1962. Curtis Wilkie, award-winning journalist and author, will moderate the discussion, which will also include Dr. Charles Eagles, author of *The Price of Defiance: James Meredith and the Integration of Ole Miss*, and Jimmy Robertson, former Mississippi Supreme Court Justice and editor of *The Mississippian* from 1961-62. Judge Charles Clark, who served as the attorney for the State of Mississippi, and Bill Goodman, who served as one of the legal counsel to Governor Ross Barnett, will also participate in the program. Please plan to join us from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Friday, July 9 for this memorable event. This presentation has been approved for 2 hours of CLE.

The Litigation Section will also elect officers for 2010-2011 at the annual meeting. The slate of nominees is:

Grant Bennett	Chair
Doug Minor	Vice-Chair
Brooke Newman	Secretary/Treasurer
Kyle Moran	Immediate Past Chair
Ted Connell	Executive Committee (08/2008 – 07/2011)
Rebecca Wiggs	Executive Committee (08/2009 – 07/2012)
Meade Mitchell	Executive Committee (08/2010 – 07/2013)

Litigation Section Executive Committee:



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