

THE MISSISSIPPI Lawyer

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NO. 2

LAWYERS *in the* ARTS

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Featured in the Arts**
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Challenges Facing
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Pictured on the front cover is Judge Alfred Nicols of Brandon, painting in his studio.

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The Talents of our Membership

This issue of the *Mississippi Lawyer* spotlights the artistic talents of members of our association. It is no surprise that outstanding lawyers have outstanding artistic talents as well. It is espoused by some that music and the arts can be significant stress reducers which would explain the logical connections to our profession. It has been truly entertaining, pun intended, to discover the wide range of artistic abilities our members possess. I hope that you will enjoy this special issue spotlighting those talents.

Continuing to focus on the talents of our membership, it certainly is true that our members have a variety of talents in abundance. They are willing to share the talent which is their lives with our Bar and with our state. Among those are the number of judges who are retiring at the end of this year. To you, please accept your Bar's congratulations and expressions of appreciation for your contributions to the betterment of not only our profession but also of our state. For decades you have served as exemplary members of our judiciary, making a positive difference in the lives of so many. Congratulations to each of you and best wishes upon your retirement as you leave with the knowledge that you have left our judiciary in a better place by your having been there.

You have been made aware of a new award, the Lawyer Citizenship Award, which will recognize the volunteerism of members of the Bar who have served their communities in a multitude of areas. The talents of our members in the giving of themselves to their communities is exceptional and worthy of note. Look for the presentation of these awards in the new year. Additionally happening in January was the first session of the new Leadership Forum. Young lawyers throughout the state meet to learn from prominent legal and community leaders who will conduct the sessions for five months.

Among the giving talents displayed by our members is the renewed commitment to improve and expand access to justice to those in our state who are in need. Our members are registering with the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project in record numbers to ensure that more needs for legal services are being met. Please contact MLVP Director Shirley Williams or General Counsel La' Verne Edney if you are willing to share your legal talents as part of this program. Additionally, MVLP is seeking assistance from members of the Bar in raising \$50,000 which will be used to increase the number of volunteer lawyers statewide, boost the number of legal clinics to match volunteer lawyers with pro bono clients, ensure small fees do not impede legal actions, provide outreach, and support operations. Former Supreme Court Justice Reuben Anderson and Capital Bar Association President Roy Campbell are leading this effort. Visit MVLP at <http://www.mvlp.net> to learn more or to contribute online.

Many of our more senior and experienced lawyers are also taking a step back into a somewhat leisurely pace in their practices. Few endeavors are better suited to the unique skills of senior lawyers than *pro bono* legal work on behalf of persons of limited economic means. The Commission on Second Season of Service is the American Bar Association's service to



*Nina Stubblefield Tollison
President of The Mississippi Bar
2010-2011*

Continued on next page

The Talents of our Membership

lawyers who are leaving the full-time practice of law, or their long-term practices, but who wish to remain active and committed to their communities. Commission studies show that senior lawyers choose to do *pro bono* work for a variety of different reasons. Some of these reasons may include a desire to continue using legal skills after retirement, to learn about new areas of the law, to continue interacting with the legal community on a regular basis, or a commitment to public service. Citing comments of the Commission on Second Season of Service, the upcoming transition of the 'Boomer' generation is the single largest transformation of a workforce in modern times. Retirement will have a dramatic impact on the legal profession as well whether our members wish to continue practicing law—either as a new career or *pro bono*—or to serve their communities otherwise as volunteers. Additionally, senior lawyers who are scaling back their active practices are well-suited to serve as mentors for those new lawyers just beginning their legal careers. Our Bar has a new Seniors Section to develop these concepts of continuation. Just more talents of our membership to be shared.

I would be remiss in not recognizing the talents of giving exhibited by those serving on the Board of Bar Commissioners, Bar Committees, and Bar Sections. These men and women are giving their time and talents for the betterment of your Bar. If you personally have not yet served in some capacity with the Bar, please consider doing so. It can be a learning experience that will be rewarding to you in turn. As a result of the office I hold, I am fortunate to often come into contact with attorneys who are kind, giving individuals willing to help in whatever manner asked. While we are a much maligned profession, I am witness to the outstanding qualities so many in our membership exhibit on a daily basis.

Many of us can agree that we've seen some outstanding, talented performances in the courtroom evidencing the skills, intellect and legal prowess of attorneys. As I said earlier it is no surprise that outstanding lawyers also have the ability to excel in artistic endeavors as well. This close connection of law and the arts reminds me of a musical on Broadway in the early 1970's called "Purlie." The lead character, Purlie, was a minister. In his sermon, Purlie's closing words to his parishioners were, "May the Constitution of the United States go with you; may the Declaration of Independence stand by you, and the Bill of Rights protect you; and may your own dreams be your only boundaries." How fitting this passage is to connect the law, aspirational goals therein with the power of the arts. ■



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An Update on the Financial Challenges Facing Mississippi's Judiciary

By Chief Justice William L. Waller, Jr.

The economic challenges of FY 2011 will continue into FY 2012. Governor Haley Barbour recently warned of a \$600 million budget shortfall due to a loss in the availability of federal stimulus funds together with minimal, if any, increases in revenue. The Governor has directed all executive agencies to submit a plan on how each agency can operate at funding 15% below FY 2011 appropriation levels. The judiciary is not an executive agency, and therefore, it is not subject to this directive. Nevertheless, the judicial branch recognizes the dire financial challenges facing our State. For that reason, the judiciary's FY 2012 appropriations request reflects FY 2011 funding levels, along with a few minimal increases necessary to sustain operations.

The following is a brief review of the past two fiscal years and an update of where we are today.

FY 2010

In the closing days of its 2009 session, the Legislature appropriated \$34.8 million for the judiciary. This amount was approximately \$3 million below what was requested and needed to effectively operate the State's ninety-nine trial courts and two appellate courts. The Court worked to obtain a commitment from the Governor and legislative leaders to provide a \$1.7 million deficit appropriation. The \$1.7 million was taken from special funds allocated originally for future use in drug and youth courts. Governor Barbour also directed that \$200,000 in stimulus funds be transferred to the judiciary. The Court made up the remaining balance of the deficit by imposing cost-savings measures and cuts.

The State's fiscal situation worsened in the fall of 2009 as revenues fell \$136.8 million below projections. In response to

revenue shortfalls, the Governor, on January 22, 2010, directed the State Fiscal Officer to implement a 5% across-the-board spending cut on all state agencies, citing Section 27-104-13 of Mississippi Code as authority. The State Fiscal Officer, in turn, notified the affected agencies of their respective cut. The judiciary received notice of a \$1.742 million cut. Such cuts would have devastated the judiciary, which was already operating at minimal funding levels.

The judiciary is situated peculiarly with regard to budget reductions. The primary challenge is that the Mississippi Constitution prohibits reducing a judge's pay during his or her term in office. Because judicial compensation comprises 45% of the judiciary's budget, only about 55% our budget is subject to being reduced.

The greater issue surrounding the Governor's 5% mandated cut was the legality of applying this directive to the judiciary. Section 27-104-13 authorizes the State Fiscal Officer to reduce funding for executive agencies. This authority, however, does not extend to the judiciary as it is not an agency, but a separate branch of government. Therefore, on January 29, 2010, this Court entered an administrative order directing that the State Fiscal Officer not impose the 5% mandated cut on the judicial branch. The State Fiscal Officer complied with the Court's order, and the cuts were not implemented on the judiciary.

Notwithstanding the Court's administrative order, the Legislature and the Governor continued to support the Court's deficit appropriation. Ultimately, the courts completed FY 2010 without any interruption to the judicial process.

FY 2011

Due to continually deteriorating financial conditions, the Legislative Budget Office recommended originally that the judiciary receive \$32 million for FY 2011—almost 13%, or \$6.5 million, less than the Court's adjusted appropriation for FY 2010. Fortunately, the legislative leadership recognized that the judiciary could not operate at that level of funding. As a result, the Legislature ultimately appropriated \$37.1 million FY 2011. Once again, \$1.9 million of this amount was taken from special funds.

FY 2012

For FY 2012, which begins July 1, 2011, the Court has requested \$38.4 million in general funds. This is approximately \$1.3 million more than what the judiciary received in FY 2011. Figure 1 depicts the difference between the judiciary's FY 2011 appropriation and its request for FY 2012, along with a pie chart detailing increased funding needs. These needs include "new funding requirements" and "transfer payments."

New funding requirements for FY 2012 include: (1) three new trial judge positions and their staffs; (2) an Assistant Deputy Marshal position; and (3) funding for judicial education. Two new circuit judgeships in the 16th and 17th Circuit Court Districts and a new chancellor in the 7th Chancery Court District are set to begin service on January 1, 2011. Additional funds are also required to pay an Assistant Deputy Marshal. An Assistant Deputy Marshal is needed to assist the one current Marshal with providing security for four appellate courtrooms which will begin operating in FY 2012. Furthermore, funding for judicial

Continued on next page

An Update on the Financial Challenges Facing Mississippi's Judiciary

education is needed for the coming year. Judicial education has not been funded the last two fiscal years. Funding is essential this year because we have at least nineteen¹ new judges assuming office in 2011. These new judges are required to attend entry-level, judicial education courses.

Figure 1 also refers to \$400,000 in transfer payments. These are uncontrollable, ever-increasing costs that are required for general operation of the judicial branch. They include rent for the Supreme Court Courthouse and various transfer fees to other state agencies. The judiciary does not object to making these payments so long as sufficient funding is provided to enable it to do so.

Lean Times

The judiciary's requested appropriation is the bare minimum required to sustain basic operations. The budget is based on trial judges receiving \$73,500 for support-staff funding, rather than the statutorily authorized \$80,000, and a \$5,000 office allowance, instead of the \$9,000 authorized by law. Any further cuts would affect day-to-day operations of the courts and would necessitate lay-offs of support staff.

Two of our State's most distinguished judges recently expressed to me the importance of their support staff. Circuit Judge Marcus Gordon of the 8th Circuit Court District told me that he tried forty-two criminal cases to a verdict last year. This number does not include pleas, motions, or civil cases. Judge Gordon stated very candidly that he simply cannot manage such a caseload without a law clerk. Likewise, Chancellor Ed Patten of the 15th Chancery Court District told me that he had over 1,900 new filings last year. Judge Patten said that he cannot manage his docket without adequate support staff.

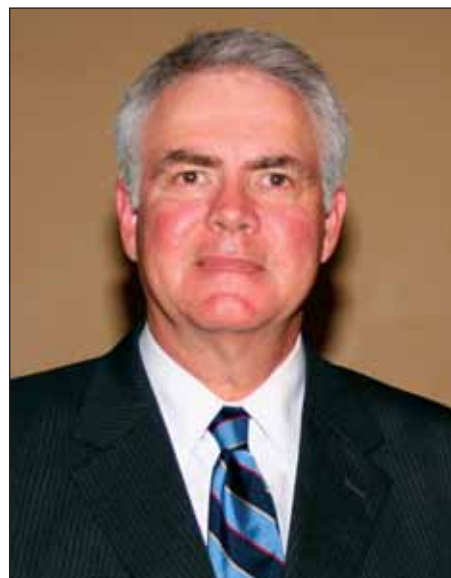
The fair and efficient administration of justice is an essential, core function of government. Judges need adequate support staff to perform this important work.

Conclusion

The judiciary is cognizant of the difficult economic challenges facing our State. We are committed to operating responsibly, while continually exploring ways to reduce our budget. At the same time, the



Judge Marcus Gordon of the 8th Circuit Court District



Judge Ed Patten of the 15th Chancery Court District

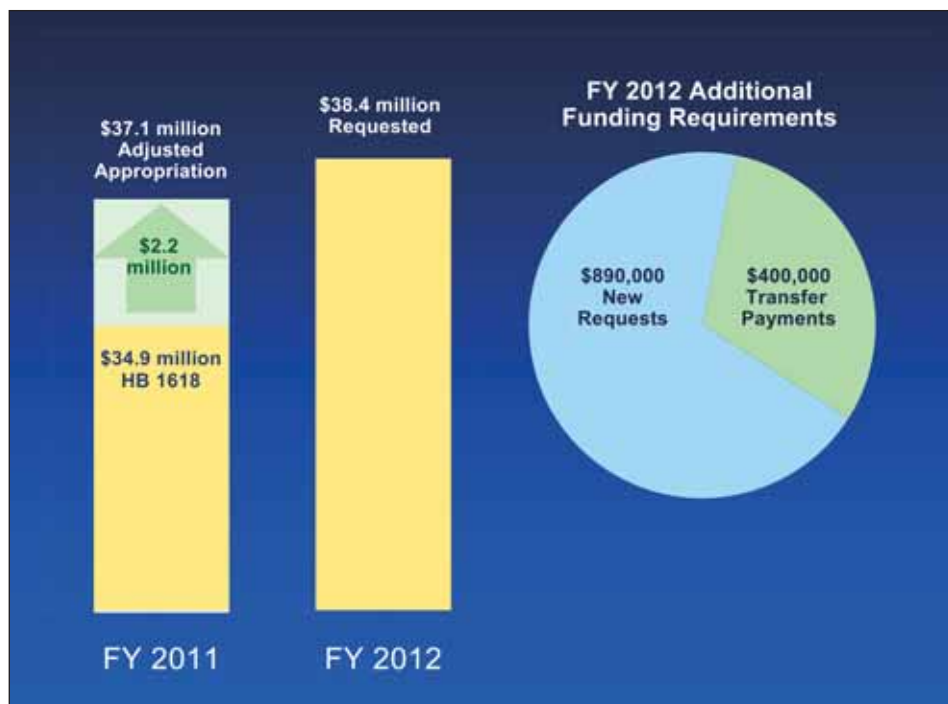


Figure 1

judicial branch performs a core function of government, and it must have adequate financial resources to fulfill its constitutional mandate. The judiciary makes up approximately sixty-seven one-hundredths of one percent (.0067) of the State budget. Further reductions would have a de minimis impact on the State's budget crisis, but would devastate our court system.

I call on every member of the Bar to contact the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and their respective Senator and

Representative to ask that they support the judiciary's \$38.4 million funding request. ■

¹ We are able to confirm nineteen new judges at the time of publication. This includes five new chancellors, ten new circuit court judges, and four new county court judges. The number of new judges could increase to twenty-one, however. One incumbent chancellor faces a run-off election, and the election results from one county court judicial post are very close and may be challenged.

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ALEX ALSTON, JR. *Jackson*

Always keenly interested in family heritage and the history of the state he calls home, Alex Alston made his publishing debut by chronicling his family's amazing journey through nine generations. The finished work titled *An Alston Saga* provides a rare glimpse of an American family's history beginning with their departure from England in the 1600s to their adventures settling in the Carolinas, Georgia and Mississippi.

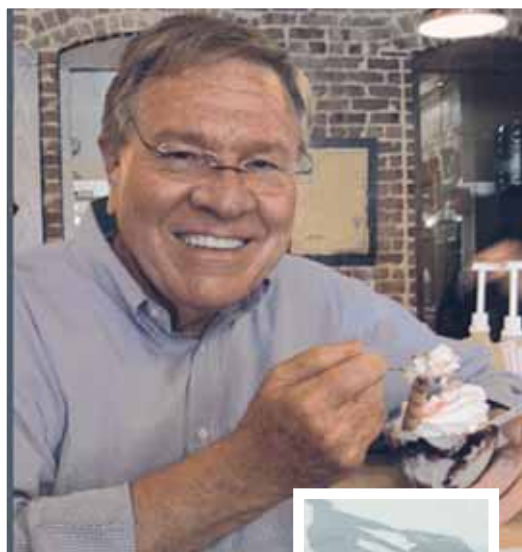
"Most of my books are historical matters," he notes, adding that he has always enjoyed the art of writing throughout his legal career, dating back to 1961. "I wrote and researched that one primarily for my children."

Retired since 2007, Alston is now using the extra time he has acquired to further pursue his writing ambitions and has added two additional books to his credits— *Christeana's Legacy* and *Devil's Sanctuary: An Eyewitness History of Mississippi Hate Crimes*.

Christeana's Legacy features characters from his mother's ancestry who traveled by flatboat down the Mississippi River, later arriving in Natchez. The book chronicles the family's experiences in their journey to settle and later establish a large plantation. Alston, along with co-author James Dickerson, draw from their experiences as young attorneys during the 1950s and 60s to bring to life events from the Civil Rights movement in *Devil's Sanctuary*.

A trial lawyer who graduated from the University of Mississippi, Alston has received much satisfaction from his years in the courtroom. "I've had a fascinating career as a trial lawyer," he emphasizes. "Standing between clients and the rest of the world has made for a fascinating experience."

Alston and his wife, Sarah Jane, recently completed another large project that began as a treehouse for their grandchildren and evolved into something much greater. "It's more than a treehouse. My wife got a hold of the plans, and it expanded exponentially," he laughed, adding that it is likely "the most beautiful treehouse in the world."



LEN BLACKWELL *Gulfport*

Five years ago, a visit to a hometown cemetery inspired Len Blackwell to pen memories of the characters he encountered while growing up as a paper boy in the city of Perkinston, Mississippi. The end result became Blackwell's first book, which presents a nostalgic view of the people and places he encountered from his Western Flyer bike.

"It's a love letter of sorts to the place I grew up," he says, pointing out that the simple phrases on the marble plots he read in the cemetery just didn't capture the essence of the people he knew during his childhood. "I thought this doesn't tell their story."

The Perk Paperboy is a self-published work that just recently became available. Blackwell notes that he expects the book to appeal to a certain kind of audience and does not expect it will be taken up by the masses. "I may do some signings around the state," he notes. "It's going to be something that people who are interested in Mississippi and small towns in Mississippi will want to read."

Blackwell is currently a partner with Blackwell's Lawyers and Counselors in Gulfport and is married to Mary Eloise. He has two grown daughters—Daisy and Caroline. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Blackwell has been honored by the International Masters of Gaming Law as one of the Best Lawyers in America every year since 2006.

When asked if he will continue writing, Blackwell laughingly says "that's a good question." He points to the time commitment required to write a novel against a busy law practice. "Writing is different than anything on my calendar," he says, emphasizing that it provides a great escape from the ordinary. "You get really lost in the process...that's a good thing."



MACK CAMERON *Jackson*

It's an adventure that will take you on a ride with bootleggers, socialites and swamp people through the swamps and bayous of Bay St. Louis with many twists and turns along the way. Mack Cameron's first novel, *The Bluffs of Devil's Swamp*, provides an absorbing look at the rich, complex culture that existed in the South during the 1920s.

"I get two comments from people who read it—'How much of this is true?' and 'Man, this would make a great movie,'" he notes. "It's got a surprise ending to say the least."

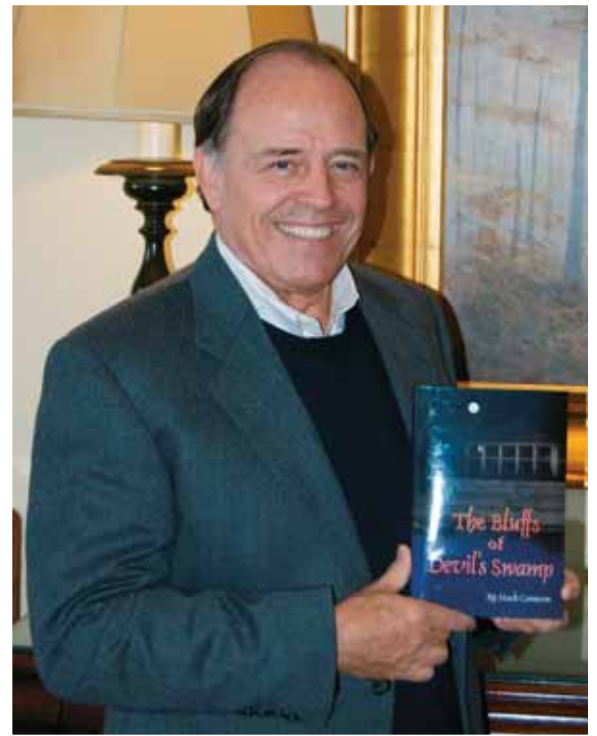
Cameron self-published the book and released it in the summer of 2008. He already has an outline sequel in the works and hopes to start writing it in the near future.

After graduating law school at the University of Mississippi, Cameron served as assistant legal counsel for the United States Secret Service under Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter. He later returned to Mississippi as a special assistant attorney general in the Mississippi Attorney General's Office.

On crutches from the first through fourth grade, Cameron says that he later regained his ability to walk through the grace of God. He went on to win numerous SEC tennis championships during his undergraduate and graduate years at Mississippi State University and was later inducted into the State of Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and the Mississippi State University Sports Hall of Fame.

The book took Cameron four years to write, but he recalls that he thought about writing it for 20. "I'm glad I made the decision to do it...I had more fun writing this book," he expresses. "I hope that people have as much fun reading it as I had writing it."

Cameron currently lives with his wife in Jackson and is also a real estate broker.



TOM DAWSON *Oxford*

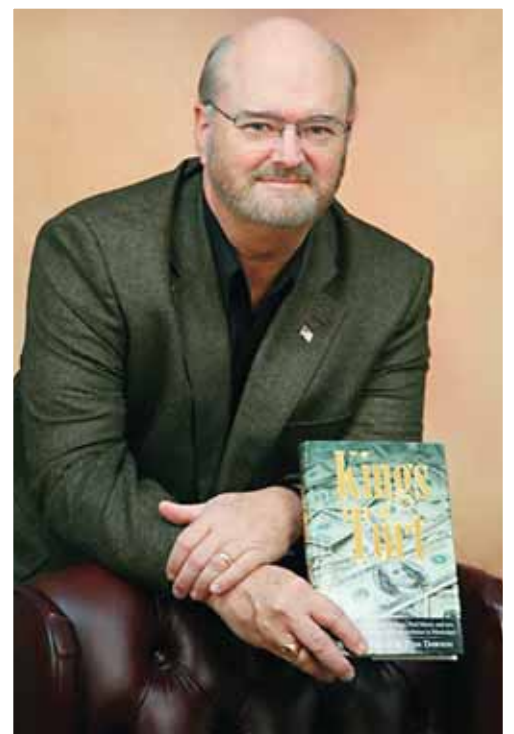
Success, corruption and intrigue—they are the makings of a great suspense novel. In the case of Tom Dawson's *Kings of Tort*, the story line contains all of these elements as the compelling tale of true events that occurred in Oxford—one of the nation's hotbeds for high-profile tort and litigation.

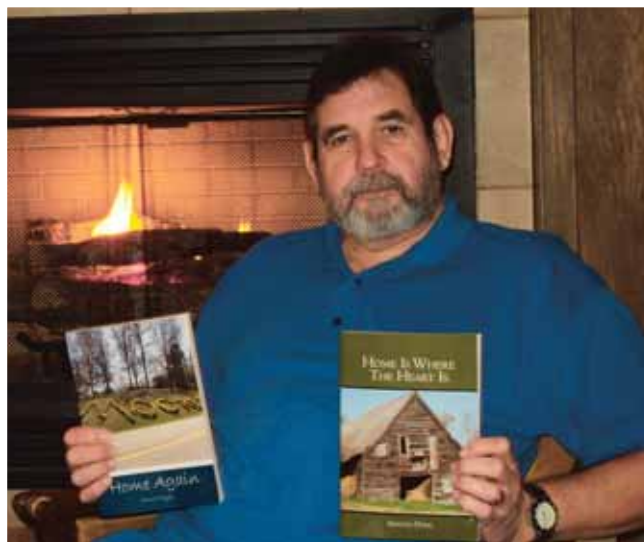
As lead prosecutor in one of the state of Mississippi's most notorious legal cases, Dawson witnessed the inner workings of the eight-month trial that brought down Dickie Scruggs, the central figure in the state's largest bribery case. Co-authored with Alan Lange, a political journalist who had followed Scruggs' career from his success with Big Tobacco litigation in the 1990s, Dawson notes that *Kings of Tort* provides a thorough and factual look at the rise and fall of this former billionaire.

"In the wake of these cases, I found that people on the street would ask 'why did this happen?'...Is there a dark side to the legal profession?" Dawson recalls, adding that he wanted there to be a historical, factual record that would dispel rumor and innuendo associated with the case. "Ninety-nine percent of lawyers and judges get up every morning and do the right thing."

A veteran federal prosecutor with more than 35 years in the field, Dawson has served as a trial attorney with the Department of Justice in Washington, D. C., associate independent counsel and Assistant U.S. Attorney. He notes that he has a new respect for authors, explaining that writing "is a lot more work than most people think."

Dawson retired in 2009 but says he has not closed the door on future publishing opportunities. He currently resides in Oxford with his wife, Susan, and describes himself as "disgustingly average" as a family man who likes to hunt, fish and spend time with his three grandsons.





ARNOLD DYRE *Madison*

“There is a time to laugh,” as the verse suggests. And that’s precisely what Arnold Dyre has tried to convey through two books of nostalgic humor—*Home is Where the Heart Is* and *Home Again*.

“Both books present entertaining tales of a well-spent youth growing up in the rural South as well as various personal essays that demonstrate my notion that most things in life should not be taken too seriously,” he says. “The books are guaranteed to make most folks smile or maybe even laugh out loud.”

A private practice attorney in Jackson since 1976, Dyre has also written a weekly newspaper column for the *Grenada Star* in his hometown of Grenada. In fact, many of the stories found in his published books were previously printed as newspaper articles.

Much different than the light, humorous side he presents in these books, Dyre has also completed two unpublished novels falling into the genre of legal thriller and mystery. “I wish to eventually publish at least one of my novels and hope that it will not

stop there,” he says. “When I write fiction, it is as if I am reading something really interesting and can hardly wait to see what happens next.”

Always passionate about writing, Dyre plans to continue his newspaper column and publish works similar to the two now available to the public. He is presently working on a book that is tentatively titled *Over the Hill and Beyond* as well as a work about his lifelong enjoyment of various family pets that will be titled *Best Friends*.

Retired from his legal practice since April 2006, Dyre continues to maintain his license and occasionally handle matters for long-time clients as well as provides pro bono work for various elderly individuals.

JUDGE JIM FRAISER *Tupelo*

When Jim Fraiser completed the draft of his first fiction novel, *Shadow Seed*, he accomplished a feat that is the dream of most would-be writers—no rejections. The first publisher that reviewed his draft accepted the manuscript for publishing.

“I sent it to a small literary firm in Alabama first, figuring it would get a rejection, but they accepted,” he recalls, adding that he credits his ease of entering the fiction publishing world to advice and guidance provided by fellow author Charles Wilson.

An accomplished writer before the fiction novel debut in 1997, Fraiser now has 13 books to his credit. He says that the majority of his writing revolves around the history of architecture and culture in Mississippi and Louisiana. Some of his other works include *Majesty of the Mississippi Delta* with John C. Willis and West Freeman; *For Love of the Game: The Holy Wars of Millsaps College & Mississippi College Football*; *The French Quarter of New Orleans*; and *Vanished Mississippi Gulf Coast* with Rick Guy.

Out of character somewhat with most of his other work, *Shadow Seed* is a psychological thriller that provides a thought-provoking look at the moral challenges and responsibilities of the legal system.

Currently a federal administrative law judge, Fraiser received his law degree from the University of Mississippi and has experience as an assistant district attorney and private practice attorney alongside other interests that include acting and teaching. He and his wife, Carole, reside in Tupelo and have two teenage daughters, Lucy and Mary Adelyn, and an 11-month-old son, Paul.

Fraiser acknowledges that finding time to write amid a busy career and family life is one of his greatest challenges. “You have to be a little nuts to do all that,” he laughingly notes, adding that if it is something that is important “you make time for it.”



JOHN HAILMAN *Oxford*

Whether your taste is red or white, attorney John Hailman can point you to the best wine in the industry. Alongside more than 40 successful years practicing law, Hailman has also garnered respect as an international wine judge and nationally-syndicated wine columnist.

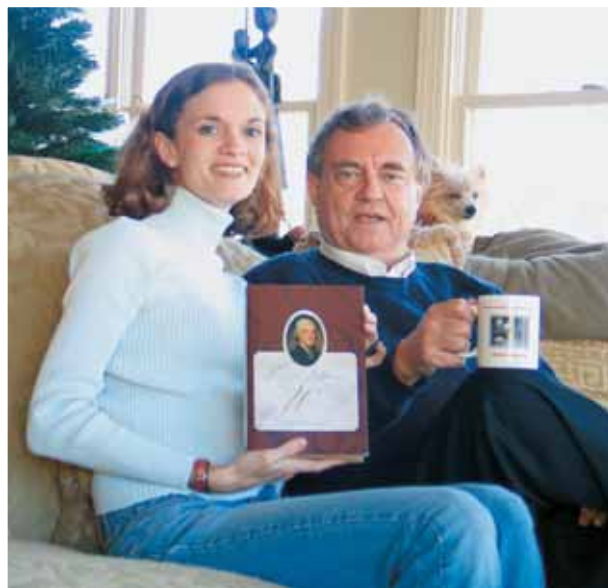
His book, *Thomas Jefferson on Wine*, is a direct outgrowth of his experience in the industry and was conceived after writing about Madeira wine for the Washington Post, the favorite wine of the nation's founding fathers. Contacted by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation to research the third president's lifelong interest in wine, the project that was initially intended to become an informational piece for Monticello evolved into something quite different.

"I agreed to an eight-page pamphlet to hand out at Monticello...but the project got totally out of hand," he asserts. "I spent the next 30 years researching and compiling information."

The end result proved to be well worth the effort when University Press of Mississippi accepted his rough manuscript for publishing. The book pulls from Jefferson's own words extracted from hundreds of letters and explores the third president's fascination with wine beginning with his time at Williamsburg to his retirement at Monticello.

Recalling how he was chosen to lead the project, Hailman notes that one can never predict where a life experience will lead. Shipped across the Atlantic Ocean to France as a boy after being rejected by potential girlfriend's family for his lack of refinement, Hailman's mother hoped the experience would help "smooth out the edges." In the end, his command of the French language helped him immensely in the wine industry and with the Jefferson project.

Hailman's second book is scheduled for release in April 2012. Also published by University Press of Mississippi, the book is titled *From Midnight to Guntown, True Crime in the Land of Faulkner and Elvis*.



John Hailman with his daughter Lydia

MARTIN HEGWOOD *Canton*

Once attorney Martin Hegwood decided to get serious about writing, he made a strategic decision to "increase his odds" of getting published by focusing on genres that were the top sellers in the industry. And four novels later, it is apparent that his strategic gamble paid off.

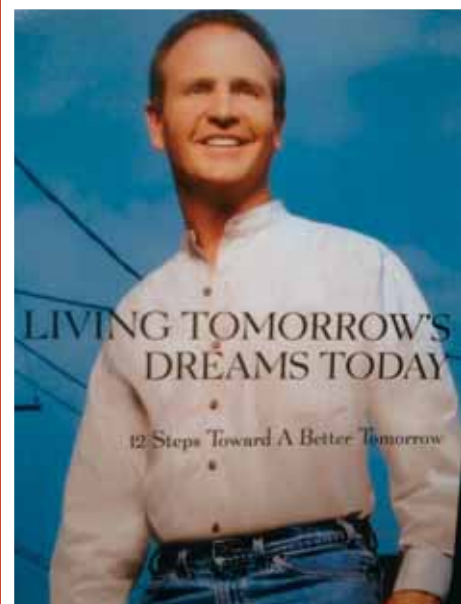
A writer of southern mystery novels, Hegwood's first novel, *Big Easy Back Road*, became available in 1999. It was later followed by three more successful works including *A Green-Eyed Hurricane*, *Massacre Island* and *Jackpot Bay*. All four novels revolve around Hegwood's hero, Jack Delmas, a freelance investigator hailing from Bay St. Louis.

Hegwood notes that the success of any novel is built around the complexity and realistic nature of its characters—a focal point of his work that rates higher than even the plot. "I play the 'what if' game and populate the novel around a character," he points out, adding that each character is defined in great detail early in the writing process.

A former assistant district attorney, Hegwood is currently the senior attorney for the Secretary of State's office in Mississippi. He graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1977 and has worked in the legal field from time in private practice and the district attorney's office to work in the oil and gas field and lobbying. "I have a checkered past," he laughingly remarks.

Always interested in writing, Hegwood made his move when he "realized something was lacking." Four novels later, he recognizes the sacrifice of being an author. "I thought law school was tough...but it was nothing compared to writing a novel," he says, adding that he has taken every opportunity to improve his abilities from reading books on writing to attending seminars. "You always learn a little something new...something to take it up a notch."





BURNS MCFARLAND *Jackson*

Faith and family are two of the most prominent inspirations behind the writings of Burns McFarland. A successful businessman, McFarland says that his achievements would mean little without those elements prioritized in his life.

“One of the most important things to me above being a lawyer, above being an author, is being a daddy to my son,” McFarland emphasizes, adding that five-year-old Brooks McFarland is the “love of his life.”

Father of three children, the oldest two McFarlands now in their thirties—Anna Ryan and Robert Burns—both work alongside their father at the family-owned Health One of Mississippi as CFO and Vice President respectively. Formerly Chief Counsel of the law firm representing the Vanderbilt Medical Center Business Office, Burns founded the company in 1995 as a healthcare legal firm that consults with hospital trauma centers around the country. While all three McFarlands work as high-level executives in the company, they are quick to point out that “the real boss” is five-year-old Brooks.

Alongside his entrepreneurial spirit, McFarland has always had a passion for writing and wrote a newspaper column for a number of years along with his own poetry. Questioned by his peers as to why he didn’t publish more of his writings, he set out to publish his first book, *A Spiritual Dance With Romance*.

McFarland formed RA Publishing to produce his first work, taking its name from the first letters of his two oldest children. The book offers words of encouragement and intimate portrayals of special people and places in his life.

He has also published *Living Tomorrow's Dreams Today* and has a draft completed of his first fiction novel, *A Song Within*. The novel chronicles a young athlete’s journey to discover that true happiness lies in the heart.

“I believe our lot in life is to ask God to guide us through our challenges and give him the credit when we come of it and achieve success,” McFarland notes.

JUDGE MIKE MILLS *Oxford*

Growing up amid the unique landscape and culture of rural Mississippi has left many young lads with memories of exciting adventures and one-of-a-kind personalities, and U.S. District Judge Mike Mills is no exception. To give voice to some of these childhood memories as well as those encountered throughout his career, Mills authored a rich and humorous compilation of his experiences with the people and places of his beloved home state.

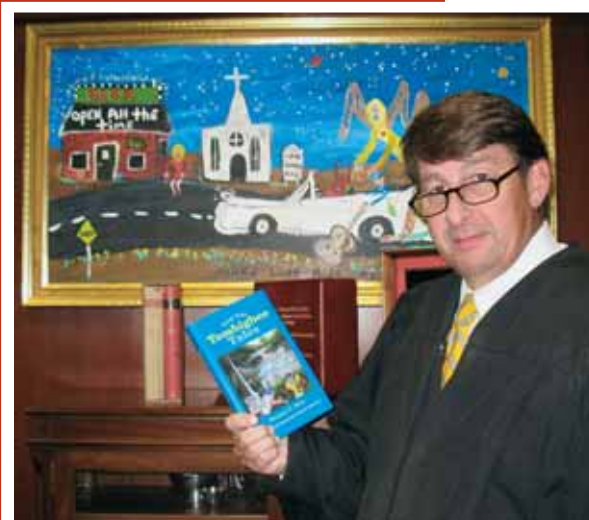
Far from the serious tone of his more notable law journal articles, the essays and anecdotes found in his first book, *Twice Told Tombigbee Tales*, capture the spirit of characters Mills knew growing up near the old Tombigbee River in northeastern Mississippi as well as while serving in the Mississippi Legislature. “And a few tall tales are told too,” he laughs.

The book provides a behind-the-scenes glimpse of rural Mississippi politics as only someone who had experienced it could tell. Readers have the opportunity to hear lively stories told about such personalities as former Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Armis Hawkins and former legislators Butch Lambert, Jerry Wilburn and John David Pennebaker.

A graduate of Ole Miss Law School, Mills served 12 years in the Mississippi legislature. He then served as Mississippi Supreme Court Justice from 1995 to 2001, and was appointed to U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi by President George W. Bush in 2001. He is presently Chief Judge of the Northern District.

Mills is a literature aficionado and his short story “There’s Pow’r in the Blood” received an award in the 2001 Tallahatchie Riverfest William Faulkner Writing Contest. He has also authored numerous law journal articles, most notably “Slave Law in Mississippi From 1817-1861,” which appeared in the *Mississippi Law Journal* in 2001.

Believing in the power of storytelling to preserve the past, Mills penned his memories to pass on the spirit of the region he loves to future generations.



CHET NICHOLSON *Gulfport*

As one reviewer of Chet Nicholson's *Dream Room*, *Tales of the Dixie Mafia* put it: "there are just no characters like the characters from the Mississippi Gulf Coast." From gambling rings and prostitution to murder and intrigue, Nicholson transports readers back to the decades from the 1960s to 1980s when the Dixie Mafia operated in the region.

Based on actual people and events, the book is a historical but fictional account of this band of loosely organized criminals who operated throughout several Southern states and had ties to the traditional Mafia. As legal counsel to one known as the "Godfather of the Gulf Coast", Nicholson notes that he had "unprecedented access" to some of the crime organization's inner workings.

"The book is ultimately about the human condition," Nicholson says. "It does not glorify criminals...it humanizes them."

The book was picked up by a small publisher in Dallas and has had notable success along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Nicholson notes that he is completing a companion piece to the book that will feature a whole cast of Dixie Mafia characters not previously covered in the first book. The working title is *Coast Rats*.

Nicholson is also completing another book called *No Level Ground*, which showcases a different side to his writing. Influenced by his own experiences, he describes the book as a look at the redemptive power of love and its limits.

Married to Gail for 25 years, Nicholson has two children and five grandchildren. He led a platoon in Vietnam at age 21, and went on to pursue his education when he returned to the states. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1984, he has held a private practice along the Gulf Coast for a number of years.



ALLIE POVALL *Oxford*

When Eddie Noel notoriously gunned down three white men in 1954, Allie (Al) Povall was 12 years old. Always intrigued by the bizarre narrative that followed this Holmes County event, Povall tucked away a goal in his mind to eventually combine his interest in the story with a lifelong ambition to write a book.

The opportunity presented itself when he retired from his legal career in 1998, and the end-result is his first book—*The Time of Eddie Noel*.

"I remembered much of the Eddie Noel story from childhood and was surprised to find that what I remembered tracked pretty well with what I found in the papers I reviewed, so I began interviewing in earnest," he recalls, adding that the manuscript went through a number of rejections and rewrites before it was ultimately put on bookshelves by Comfort Publishing out of North Carolina.

Going forward, Povall says he may dig further into the history of his hometown of Lexington for future pursuits, calling the city "a veritable mother lode of rich material that would fill many books." In the end, he hopes to transfer a sense of the state's past to the young people of today "so that they can understand what it was like growing up in Mississippi during the 1950s and 60s and how far we have come—for better and for worse—since those days."

Povall spent most of his law career with BellSouth Corporation (now AT&T). Always passionate about the law, he says he still loves to discuss legal matters with practicing attorneys. "It keeps my mind as sharp as my mind can be," he asserts.

He and wife, Janet, have lived in Oxford since 2000 and travel as much as they can. He said they are both voracious readers and lovers of old movies.





SAMUEL TUMEY *Liberty*

He may be a two-time winner of the Faux Faulkner contest, but Samuel Tumey is the real deal when it comes to writing. Entering his 30th year as an attorney, Tumey said that he's been writing his whole life. "A lot of us grew up thinking that we would get a day job to support us and write a novel a night," he recalls. "I thought for a long time I would be a novelist."

A passion for writing alongside strong ties to the University of Mississippi, Tumey was certainly close to the influence of Faulkner—a name associated with the university since the 1920s. Now discontinued, the annual Ole Miss Faux Faulkner contest would attract hundreds of entries from around the world during the 1990s. Entrants created individual Faulkner imitations, putting their own spin on the famed author's unique style, themes and characters in short-story fashion.

Of Tumey's two winning parodies, one featured a plot based on an Ole Miss football game and the other revolved around a railroad crossing in the Mississippi Delta known as the spot where the "Southern crosses the dog." The location of interest is a rare right-angle railroad crossing.

"I entered the contest every year as far as I know...I won it twice and got a few honorable mentions," Tumey notes, adding that one of the entries made it into a collection called *The Best of Bad Faulkner* in the late 90s.

Ever private about his writing, Tumey also has a draft of a novel completed but currently has no plans to pursue "haggling with publishers." True to his art, he says he's happy with the finished product and plans to keep it that way.

An attorney for three decades, Tumey said he is starting to wind down but added that he has considered "writing some more Faulkner spoofs" in the future.

QUENTIN WHITWELL *Jackson*

"An 'If By Whiskey' moment is one of those defining junctures when a person understands both sides of an issue and makes the choice for both, instead of defending one or the other," says Quentin Whitwell. And that's precisely why he chose that name for his first book, which is a satirical portrait of the challenges and opportunities that exist between the traditions of the Old South and the ideas of the New South in a post-modern world.

"For many years, I have struggled with who I am as a Southerner," he says, noting that the message of *If By Whiskey* is one of racial tolerance, recognizing that the South has come a long way but there are still miles to travel before it arrives. "Writing is not only a way to communicate with others but a way to share one's thoughts, philosophies and to challenge others to greater ideas."

The book chronicles the experiences of Anna Neimus, an aspiring college journalist from the north attending the University of Mississippi. The plot is set amid the backdrop of the presidential candidate debates between Barack Obama and John McCain that took place at Ole Miss. An Ole Miss alum, Whitwell notes that the university has often found itself in the middle of the paradoxes that have defined the debates between the Old South and the New South.

Currently a managing partner in a boutique public relations firm that specializes in political consulting, Whitwell describes himself as "a recovering lawyer and serial entrepreneur." He is also a partner with Meadowbrook Capital investment firm, and he and wife, Ginger, recently developed a technological tool for online fundraising.

Whitwell is father to two children and has started a second book, though he laughingly notes that his wife has asked to "keep his day job."





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JAMES (JIM) BECKER *Jackson*

A painter since 1980, Jim Becker describes his style as “naïve impressionism.” Bringing to life landscapes and still-life images from regional and national locales that he has traveled, Becker’s art is bright and rich with color.

“I have a very primitive style,” Becker notes, adding that he calls it naïve because he has no formal training in impressionism.

Inspired by the paintings of Theora Hamblett, another Mississippi painter with no formal training who started the craft when she was 60, Becker felt drawn to try his hand at the art. The end result has evolved into a 30-year passion and love for painting.

Becker’s paintings have been donated to many charitable organizations and fundraisers throughout the years, and he has held shows at local galleries throughout the city of Jackson periodically. He is quick to point out that the personal satisfaction he receives from pursuing the art has been more than enough to keep him going.

“I’ve not done much commercially. I’ve mainly pursued painting as a form of relaxation,” he says.

Becker is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and has been a member of The Mississippi Bar since 1958. During his 50 years as an active defense trial attorney, he has focused his attention on insurance litigation, products liability, medical malpractice as well as many other areas of law. He is currently an attorney with Watkins and Eager law firm in Jackson.

Becker says that his wife, Susie, also recently took up the art. Hailing from Maine, her home located on the coast of the state has provided an inspirational backdrop for some of Becker’s work. Always one to pack up his canvases and acrylic paints for opportunities to bring to life new landscapes, he says that he has always enjoyed the opportunity to paint up there.

GEORGE HOLMES *Jackson*

Early on, George Holmes set his sights high to excellence and proficiency as a painter—but the road to reach his goals to master the art did not come without determination and challenges. “Developmentally, just relying on interest and what some people call talent has not been enough for me to begin to reach my goals,” he explains. “It takes continuing hard work, many hours of study, experimentation, failure and most of all tenacity.”

Hard work paid off for Holmes, who has been a semi-professional artist since 2003 with a concentration in portraiture. His is the state ambassador to the Portrait Society of Atlanta for Mississippi and has recently had two portraits juried in as finalists for the Portrait Society of Atlanta’s Fall 2010 Show.

Holmes credits an elementary school teacher and accomplished artist with transforming his mind in such a way that he could look at the world in a way that would translate into realistic drawings and paintings. He recalls trying different media on his own with mediocre results. “My interests survived discouragement that all art should be abstract and whimsical throughout the 1970’s, and survived the demands of law practice...but with continuing mediocre results,” he acknowledges.

In 2001, he got more serious with his craft, taking some notable portrait workshops locally and around the country. Holmes recalls spending countless hours painting and studying art as well as anatomy.

Along with portraiture, Holmes also paints landscapes and still life, working predominantly in oil with some focus on charcoal, graphite and pastels. A 1985 graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, he worked in a private solo practice until 2006. Since that time, he has served as the deputy director of the Mississippi Office of Indigent Appeals.



CROCKETT LINDSEY *Gulfport*

As a painter, Crockett Lindsey describes himself as “rank amateur” and is surprised when the paintings that he gives to family members actually grace the prominent areas of their homes. A painter for 10 years, he says that while he has taken some classes from local artists, he really has had no formal training.

“I don’t exactly know how to identify my painting style,” he acknowledges, pointing out that he mostly paints still life and landscape scenes using oil on canvas. “I tend to gravitate toward impasto art, which involves applications of thick layers of paint.”

Lindsey has participated in art shows at the George Ohr Studio in Biloxi and with the Ocean Springs Art Association, but he mostly gives away his paintings. He is presently studying abstract painting using acrylic paints on canvas and believes his experience with it will play an influential role in his painting style going forward.

“I don’t fully understand it yet—if that is even possible, but I am having a great time at it,” he quips. “I am growing to understand that my initial feeling that any idiot can do this just ain’t right.”

Lindsey has spent 40 years in the legal field, which he says “is a neat trick for a 50-year-old man.” A private practice attorney in Gulfport for the first 18 years of his career, he recalls that he practiced where “voracious native wolves thrive.” He has also served as municipal court judge for Gulfport and is currently an assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Mississippi.

In addition to painting, he enjoys boating and fishing on the Mississippi Sound and the Gulf of Mexico. He notes that cooking and gardening also bring him a lot of pleasure—as does eating.



REILLY MORSE *Biloxi*

When attorney Reilly Morse isn’t busy advancing civil and economic justice, he indulges in a craft that has consumed his interests since childhood. At the age of 14, Morse took up the art of painting, a passion that evolved from his early interests in drawing.

“I was a cartoonist as a child,” he says, adding that his first exposure to sketching and drawing came from cartoons. More than a hobby, Morse tried his hand as a painter for a time after receiving an undergraduate degree in the art. He later pursued a law degree and is currently a senior attorney at the Biloxi office of the Mississippi Center for Justice.

Much of Morse’s painting is currently focused on a mixture of landscapes and portraits using a variety of media and styles. As painting is more of a private, personal pursuit for Morse, he made the choice not to sell or publicly display his work for a number of years. He suggests that his private approach to the art may change going forward, though.

“I’m at a point now where I might consider [more public exposure],” he says. “There are a few things I would like to share with folks.”

Morse also served as a municipal court prosecutor and a municipal judge in Gulfport and spent ten years in environmental public interest litigation. Prior to 1996, he was a partner in a Biloxi business law firm and an associate in a Gulfport law firm. His work has been recognized by such awards as the first Equal Justice Works Katrina Legal fellowship in 2006, the Edwin Wolf Award for Public Interest Law in 2006 and the 2008 Hugh White Award from the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice.

Married to Christina Backstrom, Morse has two grown daughters and also enjoys sailing, boating and swimming.



GAIL NICHOLSON *Gulfport*



It took only a few words of encouragement and affirmation in middle school for Gail Nicholson to set her goals as a painter in motion. “A seventh grade teacher told me I had ability, and I latched on to that,” she recalls. “I majored in fine arts as an undergrad and taught high school art in Memphis for a few years.”

Nicholson paints in oil and says that her attention has been focused on mastering the academic style of masters like Valezquez and Sorolla for the past eight years, concentrating on mood, light, edges, and paint quality. “I paint portraits, life (nude figure), still-life and landscapes,” she notes, adding that while she truly enjoys the creative process, she doesn’t seek out shows. That said, her works have been showcased at such locations as the New Orleans Academy of Fine Art and once at Ohr-Okeefe in the past.

Looking to the future, Nicholson says that she plans to continue exploring the medium of oil painting, pointing out that it wasn’t until recent years that she understood the true skills that had to be mastered before a painter could be competent in a “personal style.”

“It’s a source of joy to me to paint,” she emphasizes, adding that she enjoys discovering the uniqueness of the people and objects she paints. “There is great beauty in people, objects, scenery, light, shadows... and few endeavors allow you to observe and appreciate like painting does.”

Nicholson has been practicing law with husband Chet at Nicholson and Nicholson law firm for 25 years along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. She describes her life as rich with passions and activities, adding that “my husband is endlessly interesting and unpredictable.” Nicholson has five grandchildren, who have all taken up drawing or painting to some degree.

ALFRED NICOLS *Brandon*



For former Judge Alfred Nicols, the beauty of Southern landscape is “haunting”—so much so that he has spent countless hours over the past 45 years trying to capture images of the familiar surroundings that he loves through his painting. And while his talents with brush and stroke have taken him in many other directions during that timeframe, he notes that his inspiration always brings him back to his homeland.

He points to nostalgic images such as fall fields and meadows following his Dad quail hunting as a boy, fishing small farm ponds during his college days and duck hunting cypress brakes and delta marshes. He emphasizes that “always the objective is to simplify and amplify so as to portray the essence of the land in such a way that viewers can apply their own memories and feel a connection to a special time and place of their own.”

In 2010, one of Nicols’ landscapes was named a finalist in the worldwide landscape competition hosted by *International Artist Magazine*. “This particular year, I was the only artist from the Southeast that made it in the top ten,” he notes.

His art was also recently featured in the Nov/Dec 2009 issue of *Mississippi Magazine*, and he exhibited more than 70 works in a show sponsored by the Greater Jackson Arts Alliance in 2008. His paintings have also graced the walls of the Washington offices for Senator Trent Lott and Senator Roger Wicker as well as the lobby of the new Inn at Ole Miss.

“I’m getting a lot of attention for an old cat,” he quips, adding that he has enjoyed following a new software program that tracks visits to his website. After implementing the tracking software, he was delighted to find that the website garnered more than 3,035 visits from all over the world in sixteen months. “In recent months I have sold art to purchasers in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Mobile, Alabama who used the website to decide on their purchases,” he adds.

DARNELL NICOVICH *Gulfport*

Attorney Darnell Nicovich fondly recalls memories from her childhood that depict scenes of her sitting on the lawn of a big estate formerly known as “The House of Treasures” and sketching an old lighthouse that sat on the property along with the natural beauty around it. It was part of her instruction that came from taking art classes at the Biloxi Art Association—an interest that was soon interrupted when the devastating effects of Hurricane Camille brought destruction to the area.

While always interested in painting, Nicovich says that she later dropped her pursuits amid the busyness of college and law school. It wasn’t until two years ago that she picked up her brushes again to attend a workshop offered at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art in Ocean Springs.

“That inspired me, and the flame was re-ignited,” she recalls. “Painting is now my sanity.”

Nicovich is an oil painter and paints in a representational style, which she describes as that of the old masters where the painter reflects realism but not like what you would see in a photograph. She paints still life images primarily, along with seascapes.

Currently Nicovich has not pursued exhibiting her work and mostly donates her paintings to charitable causes. Some of her paintings are displayed at the Caboose Art Gallery in Long Beach.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1981, Nicovich has held a private practice along the Gulf Coast ever since, focusing on domestic cases. She has twin sons who are 25, and “both entertain in some form or fashion.”

Nicovich says that she plans to continue to hone her skills as a painter. “I want to continue to get better,” she says.



KAREN SPENCER *Jackson*

A sense of place—that’s what Karen Spencer aims to portray through her paintings that depict everything from scenes of Dupont Circle in Washington D.C. to historic buildings in Canton, Mississippi and century old structures in Tuscany, Italy. And she achieves this goal by painting *en plein air*—a French expression for “in the open air.”

While Spencer has always had a desire to oil paint, she notes that the opportunity did not present itself until a few years ago when she started to retire from her law practice and began taking lessons from Bob Tompkins, a local oil painter. Since then, she has broadened her skills through instruction from numerous other professionals including nationally-recognized Santa Fe artist Jo Anna Arnett, Mississippi painter Pat Walker-Fields, Charleston oil painter Brad Lorbach and American landscape painter Matthew Read Smith.

A dedicated *en plein air* painter, Spencer says that the method allows her to “judge accurately but creatively where I am going with an oil painting.” In fact, she and a handful of other local oil painters have formed a group called Plein Air Artists of Mississippi (PAAM). The group will host a show at the Cedars in Jackson next September.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1979, Spencer practiced full time in the area of commercial litigation and family law for 30 years, 10 of those years with her husband, Sonny. Mostly retired, she notes that she is currently representing only one client—“my small family company that my mother, siblings and I run.”

Looking to the future, Spencer says that she intends to continue to develop as a professional oil painter focusing on *alla prima* painting, which involves painting “wet-on-wet” all in the same sitting and provides a fresh, spontaneous look to the art.





PAT CALDWELL *Tupelo*

Whether it's sea kayaking with killer whales or climbing Kilimanjara, Pat Caldwell and his team of adventure travel pals have definitely experienced some grand sights over the past 20 years. In fact, photographs of these amazing experiences are what helped garner attention for Caldwell's talents as a photographer.

"I sort of became the default photographer for our trips," he recalls, adding that the group's adventures to some of these high-profile sights created a buzz in many corners of Tupelo. Caldwell would take his slide presentations to various civic group meetings and local events to share some of their stories and experiences.

From there, Caldwell was invited to participate in his first juried show, hosted by the GumTree Museum of Art in Tupelo. The success of this experience led to other shows such as the Color of Tupelo and an event that paired photographers with other artists. In this particular show, Caldwell partnered with Lucy Gaines, a local painter who put her spin on a photograph he had taken of a flooded field. "We won an award for that," he notes.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi Law School, Caldwell is currently a partner with Riley, Cork, Caldwell and Alvis law firm and focuses the majority of his time on the banking industry. He was recently named a 2010 Super Lawyer for mid-size firms by Super Lawyers rating service.

While his photography has been noted for its commercial appeal, Caldwell says he has no intentions of quitting his day job. He plans to continue enjoying his passion for the outdoors and photographing the sights and sounds of places he visits.

Caldwell resides in Tupelo with his wife Jennifer. His adventure travel group celebrated their 20th anniversary trip last year by climbing Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Scotland.



BENNY CARTER *Meridian*

A photographer for 30 years, Benny Carter says that he likes to photograph quirky, memorable depictions of architecture and daily life. With styles similar to the influence of notable photographers like Walker Evans and William Eggelston, Carter notes that he simply photographs "anything that strikes me."

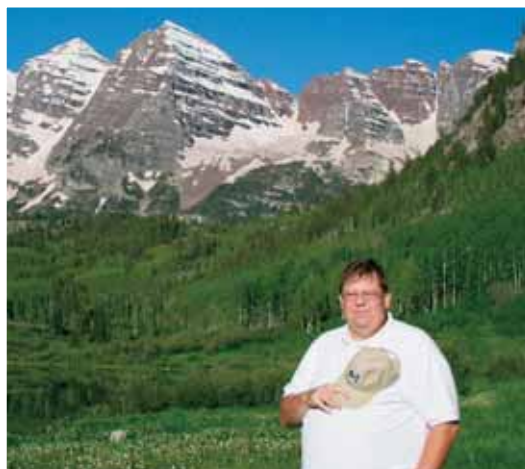
Carter has rarely exhibited his photography in public settings over the years with the exception of occasional art shows in Meridian, where he has lived with wife, Deborah, and practiced law since 1984. Notably, he did win a local contest back in the mid-1980s where photography was chosen from across the nation and showcased at the Smithsonian Institute.

"My photograph was selected from Meridian," he recalls. "That's my only claim to fame." The photograph chosen was a color image depicting a red, straight-backed chair sitting on the porch of an old home. Carter explains that the contest focused on retrospective images and architectural preservation.

Carter discovered a love for photography as a teenager, but like many family and career-minded individuals, he acknowledges that the craft often took a backseat to other interests and obligations over the years. Along with being a private practice attorney, Carter served as a scout master with the Boy Scouts of America for 10 years as well as a soccer coach during his children's younger years.

"I've mostly focused on art photography that I wanted to do myself," he notes. "I hope someday that I will put a book together and get someone to publish it."

After graduating from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1982, Carter spent two years in Washington D.C. as a legislative assistant to Senator Thad Cochran and Representative Webb Franklin. Since that time, he has been a private practice attorney specializing in trial practice of medical cases. Married for 36 years, he and Deborah have three grown children.



ROBERT "BOB" DEEN *Meridian*

For photography enthusiast Robert "Bob" Deen, a trip 900 miles northeast to Babcock State Park in West Virginia proved a smart travel investment. Captivated by a mill he had seen in the region while browsing *Popular Photography* magazine, he made it a goal to photograph the site himself.

And the mileage he has gotten from that trip and resulting photograph has been more than worth the effort. "It became one of the best photographs I had ever taken," he asserts, pointing out that the picturesque image titled "Glade Creek Grist Mill" has landed him many photography awards, including a cash prize of \$1,000.

A seasoned photographer and the recipient of numerous national and international awards, Deen has traveled to many locales across the nation to photograph nature and wildlife. He is a member of the Photographic Society of America and has exhibited more than 3,000 color slides in the organization's approved domestic and international exhibitions. Along with appearances in several national magazines and other regional publications, Deen was also the featured artist in the "Retrospective Images" exhibition showcased at Meridian Museum of Art in 1997 with 47 color prints.

Deen was born in Tupelo and graduated law school at Vanderbilt University with a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. He later moved to Meridian in 1950 and maintained an active general practice for 55 years.

He is married to wife, Lindy, and has been active in many community organizations over the years including the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America and Mental Health Association. He also assisted in the creation and organization of both the Phil Hardin Foundation and Riley Foundation and served as an officer, director and legal counsel to the groups.



2000 Southern States Photo Contest Winner

KATIE GILCHRIST *Jackson*

Katie Gilchrist says she is grateful that a friend convinced her to get back into photography at just the right moment, and she hasn't looked back since. After taking a sabbatical of sorts, Gilchrist got serious about her passion again in 2005 and quietly applied to be in the Double Decker Arts Festival in Oxford. She says that she was surprised when she got accepted.

"So far, I've gotten in every year since," she says. "Photography has been a lifelong interest sparked by my father who was an avid photographer when I was kid. He bought me my first camera."

Gilchrist opened her business, Perspective Photography, and participates in a number of regional shows. Most of her work is associated with her love of travel. Along with her home state of Mississippi, Gilchrist has photographed the people and places of such locales as Italy, the Caribbean, Ireland and Africa.

"I love travel," Gilchrist emphasizes, adding that she has been blessed to be able to experience a lot of new places over the last decade. "Anywhere I get to go, I work in a day of bumping around taking pictures."

A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Gilchrist is a seasoned attorney working with Adams and Reese law firm in Jackson. She started the health care practice team in that office and now serves as its team leader and is also a partner in the Special Business Services Group.

She recalls that she came within three hours of completing a journalism major with an emphasis on photo journalism. Fortunately, it did not take a degree to make Gilchrist's photography commercially viable.

Gilchrist lives in Jackson with her three dogs, a miniature dachshund, golden retriever and black lab. She also has a passion for teaching and is an adjunct professor at both the University of Mississippi School of Law and Mississippi College School of Law.

Gilchrist describes herself as a "lawyer who keeps myself sane by doing photography."





CHARLES GRIFFIN *Jackson*

As a photographer, Charles Griffin has enjoyed credits with such news outlets as UPI, Time and Newsweek, and has photographed everything from sports and travel to Playboy models. While he notes that his tastes have become more refined over the years, he has certainly made the rounds in the world of photography.

Recalling an unexpected moment, he notes that one of his most widely-published photographs came from a feel-good story that appeared in *The Clarion-Ledger* about a cancer-stricken toddler who had gone into remission. “That story was picked up by the *Weekly World News*,” he laughs, describing the publication as a tabloid in sync with format of the *National Enquirer*. “The headline read ‘Miracle Boy Survives.’”

One of his most poignant shoots came from an assignment completed in association with USA for Africa, a project that entailed capturing images of Tunica, at that time one of the poorest cities in the country. “They needed me to go in and photograph the conditions as they were,” he notes, pointing to the infamous “Sugar Ditch Alley,” named for an open sewer. “That shoot was probably one of the most memorable I did.”

While Griffin has many memories from his notable photography career, his connection to the art was forever changed when his oldest son was killed in an accident about five years ago. “One of the things we both shared was a great interest in photography,” he says, adding that pictures taken by his son now provide him a glimpse of the world through his son’s eyes. “That’s a source of great pride for me.”

Griffin has four other children ages 15 to 27 and is married to wife Lora. A principal in Griffin & Associates, he has practiced law for 22 years and is currently working on a photography book of his favorite images taken through the years.



HAROLD GRISSOM, JR. *Gulfport*

With photography, it’s all about being in the right place at the right time, according to Harold Grissom, and even though he is admittedly a “workaholic”, he does his best to make himself available for those rare and one-of-a-kind opportunities. “Typically, my camera is always with me,” he says, adding that his office is only seconds away from the beauty of the Gulf of Mexico. “I can put in hours at work, yet within 15 minutes capture an awesome sunrise or sunset. Living on the Mississippi Gulf Coast provides me so much to photograph.”

Grissom balances his love for photography alongside a busy private practice specializing in domestic law. Emphasizing that he loves this area of legal work, Grissom acknowledges that domestic law can be emotionally draining. “You deal with your clientele’s personal issues on a daily basis. Keeping some balance in your life is a necessity,” he notes.

Always passionate about photography, Grissom invested in a Nikon D300s camera last year. He predominantly shoots wildlife, nature and weather scenes. “I don’t know that photography will ever be more than a hobby to me because I’m scared of spoiling a good thing,” he asserts.

After receiving his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi in 1987, Grissom served as assistant district attorney in seven different counties including Lauderdale, Kemper, Wayne, Clark, Harrison, Stone and Hancock. He later moved into civil practice before specializing in domestic law.

Grissom notes that he has many hobbies that keep him busy but first and foremost in his life are his family. “My girlfriend of nine years and her little girl are special additions to my family,” he says. “I would say that I’m just a simple guy that works hard, enjoys life and doesn’t forget where I came from.”



STEPHEN OAKES *Madison*

It's the people around Stephen Oakes who recognize his talent and potential for photography—not necessarily Oakes himself. Always a passion and interest in his life beginning in childhood, Oakes is reserved about his skill, suggesting that it is simply a hobby he enjoys when he has time.

He received some unexpected attention for his work last year after showcasing some of his photographs at a show called “Reflections on the Square.” The unique offering featured photographs taken of reflections that were cast off of storefront windows in downtown Oxford, and many became popular with the public.

“I’m always trying to figure out and do something that hasn’t been done before,” he says. “What I did with that was unique...it turned out a lot better than I thought.”

While the photographs from the show are what the city has had the opportunity to see of his work, Oakes points out that his passion is really centered on photographing landscapes, nature and wildlife.

“I’m from the Delta, and I would like to do more from the Delta and places along the Blues Trail,” he notes, adding that he is also interested in photographing the 30A region of the Florida panhandle.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi Law School, Oakes spent some time in private practice and has been Vice President of Mississippi Valley Title Insurance Company for nearly 14 years. He is married to wife, Becky, and has three sons ages 11, nine and four.

Oakes says that his oldest two sons have shown some interest in photography as well, the middle in particular traveling with him on occasion to do a photo shoot alongside his dad. “I think some of his were probably better than mine,” he laughs, adding that his eleven-year-old son has also shown promise with a camera. “They are extremely creative.”



JUDGE JIM PERSONS *Gulfport*

Living on 25 acres in Harrison County has afforded Chancery Judge Jim Persons plenty of opportunity to enjoy one of his favorite pastimes—photographing nature. From birds and flowers to the family’s equine collection, Persons has developed a unique talent for capturing the beauty of the environment around him.

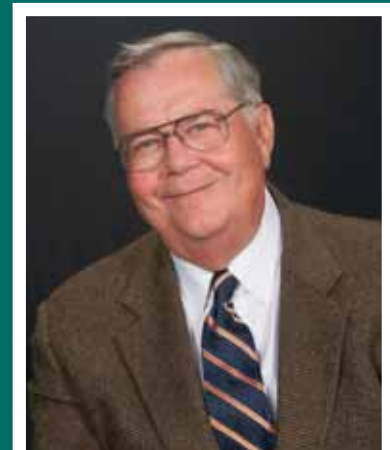
“People around the courthouse and friends have been very complimentary,” he acknowledges with reserve. “I view it not so much as art but as a craft and hobby.”

Several of Persons’ photographs have been published in various flower magazines, and one appeared in the *2009 Farmer’s Almanac*. Persons says that his favorite photograph currently is a close-up image of a cicada bug on a piece of glass, capturing the unique character of the insect.

While Persons publishes his photography to his flickr photo sharing site, he says that he has never really pursued exhibiting his photography or participating in shows. Looking ahead, he says that he would like to do more with black and white images.

Introduced to photography at a young age by his father and grandfather, Persons always had an interest in the craft but didn’t pursue it with serious focus until the mid 1990s when he purchased his first Nikon camera and lenses. He then began reading books on photography and studying how to use the craft in nature.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Persons also received a masters degree of laws in taxation from New York University. Beginning in 1967, he practiced law in both Jackson and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and was elected to his first term as chancery judge for the 8th Chancery District of Mississippi in 2003. He just began his third term. Persons is married to wife Kaye, also an attorney, and he has two grown children.



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ANITA MODAK-TRURAN *Jackson*

As a writer, director and producer of her own films, Anita Modak-Truran says that film and legal work go hand-in-hand. "I've always thought that film and trial work are very similar," she says, explaining that they both require active storytelling from beginning to end.

After completing a law degree from Loyola University School of Law in Chicago, she studied film at Columbia University. Founder and president of Questidore Entertainment, Modak-Truran has well over 20 documentaries, short films and features to her credit.

Her *Belles and Whistles* documentary, a light-hearted look at the phenomenon of the Southern Belle, was screened at the marketplace of the Cannes Film Festival and selected to appear at various film festivals in California, New York, Tennessee and Mississippi. It was also selected for the University of Chicago speaker series.

Another recent film, *Crimes Against Pizza*, was selected for the Crossroads Film Festival, the Mississippi International Film Festival and named a winner of the Shortie Award. The film is a satire about the whole experience of competitive short-film making. "I get a lot of satisfaction from making people laugh," Modak-Truran says.

A partner in the Pharmaceutical, Medical Device and Healthcare Industry Group of Butler Snow in Ridgeland, much of Modak-Truran's current focus revolves around defending pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers in mass tort and individual cases. These cases are pending in various state and federal venues, including Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia.

Modak-Truran notes that she has been able to blend her love of film with her legal career by producing films for Butler Snow and other organizations connected to the legal industry. "It has been very fun to work on law projects for some of our law clients," she notes, adding that she would like to do more of this kind of work in the future.



ALICE STAMPS *Jackson*

While attorney Alice Stamps has experienced a successful and fulfilling legal career over the last 20 years, she also has a dream of seeing one of her screenplays make it to the big screen one day. Along with a law degree, she also has a masters degree in film production from Florida State University and a passion for writing.

"I have written poems and short stories; however, I am not a published author. My main interest is writing screenplays," she notes, adding that she tries to stay true to the wisdom of the writer's creed to "write about what you know." That means that much of her writing revolves around her experiences and observations while in the legal profession.

Stamps points out that she enjoys writing screenplays because it is dialogue and character driven. "I've always been a movie buff," she emphasizes. "I like developing characters."

While writing has been a lifelong interest for Stamps, she acknowledges that a busy career representing clients who cannot afford an attorney of their own presents challenges to finding time for creative processing. "Currently I am collaborating with a friend on a screenplay," she says. "I want to continue to write screenplays with the hope of one day seeing my script made into a film."

A public defender in the Hinds County Public Defender Office for the past eight years, Stamps notes that the majority of her legal experience has revolved around working with indigent clients. A graduate of Tulane University Law School, she has done civil work with legal services in the cities of McComb and Jackson.

Outside of her writing interests, Stamps says there is little time for other extracurricular activity. "Between work, family, and friends, I have no time for hobbies," she laughs.





ANDY ALEXANDER *Greenville*

Guitarist and singer Andy Alexander has had the opportunity to play with a number of “interesting” people over the years—Jimmy Buffet, Jerry Jeff Walker and Michael Martin Murphy just to name a few. “The strangest was probably Barry Manilow,” he notes with a touch of humor, pointing out that the bands he has played with over the years have opened for heavy hitters like these and more.

Growing up in the Mississippi Delta also afforded Alexander the opportunity to be exposed to some of the biggest “blues” names in the business. “When I was growing up, most of the original blues guys were still around,” he recalls. “I got to play with them. I would back them up on bass pretty often.”

Following his years in law school at the University of Mississippi, Alexander went on to perform with a band called Easy Money, a group that played together for a number of years and still gets together for a gig here and there today. It was also during these years that he got involved in musical theater, a pastime he still enjoys today. “I’ve played the part of Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. That was an interesting role,” he notes.

Alongside musical theater interests, he has also performed the tenor solos in various productions of the *Messiah*. “It’s all so different. I think what I enjoy most now is playing with a three-piece group that does a lot of harmony,” he says, pointing to sounds similar to those of Crosby, Stills and Nash.

Alexander graduated law school in 1982, and currently is a private practice attorney with Lake Tindall law firm in Greenville. He is married to wife, Betsy, and between the two of them, they have six children.

TIM BASS *Kennedy Space Center, FL*

Member of the band 4 Star View, NASA attorney Tim Bass describes the band’s sound as “old-style country western mixed with emotional new wave punk, with a twist of grunge, a splash of metal, just a pinch of southern and classic rock and always acoustic,” adding that they “like to experiment.”

Bass plays and sings alongside lead guitarist and vocalist Adam Sessums as well as back-up vocalist Anna Powers. While he will not call himself an expert on any instrument, he certainly has made the rounds playing everything from guitar and harmonica to dulcimer, keyboard and accordion. “I play a myriad of instruments just well enough to write the songs and leave it to Adam to put the more complex riffs that bring the song to full fruition,” he notes.

4 Star View is currently working on its third and fourth albums concurrently—*Jacob’s Ladder*, a study in one individual’s emotional journey, and another tentatively titled *The Cape Sessions*, offering general appeal. “I guess I would have to say that our music tends to lack a general theme because it is based on personal observations of ourselves and others at any given intersection of our own space-time continuum,” he points out. “We really try to focus on lyrics.”

Looking to the future, Bass says that the band will continue to write, record and occasionally perform. The group is currently trying to get a blog site up and running to allow free downloads of their music.

A 2009 graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Bass landed a job as assistant chief counsel for the NASA Launch Services Program at Kennedy Space Center following an internship. Alongside his music and writing interests, he enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, kayaking and just taking in nature.



BOB DAVIDSON *Jackson*

If you have ever witnessed the annual Mal's St. Paddy's Day Parade in downtown Jackson, then you may be familiar with Bob Davidson's high-energy musical group called the Bluz Boys Band. Best known for their performances held at the conclusion of this high-profile event, the 15-piece rhythm and blues band is complete with Aretha Franklin and James Brown style singers and a six-member horn section.

Leading and directing one band alongside a busy career as chief counsel and director of the Senate Legislative Services Office may seem like plenty. In Davidson's case, though, he is also founder and director of the Capitol City Stage Band, an 18-member authentic swing band playing arrangements from the Big Band Era. The group has graced such high-profile events as the Governors Inaugural Ball, Mobile Mardi Gras, the Symphony Ball, the Opera Ball and many other galas in the Jackson area.

"I am particularly interested in keeping authentic live, big-band style music before the public," emphasizes Davidson, a trumpet player for more than 30 years.

Introduced to music at an early age through his parent's influence as musicians and music teachers themselves, Davidson studied trumpet at the University of Missouri where he was also drum major of "Marching Mizzou." The marching band performed at both the 1968 Gator Bowl and the 1969 Orange Bowl under his direction. He also directed the Great Lakes Naval Station Band prior to joining the Pacific fleet for a two-year stint in the Philippines and Vietnam.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Davidson has been staff attorney for the Mississippi Senate since 1977. He is also a Civil War buff and attends reenactments whenever possible. His son, Forrest Lee, was named after the famous Confederate generals.



JUSTICE JESS DICKINSON *Jackson*

From rock n' roll bands in the 1960s to bluegrass and folk music in the current decade, Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Jess Dickinson's passion for music has touched many genres. With 30 different musical instruments under his belt, he says his favorite to play right now is the hammer dulcimer.

Emphasizing that a hammer dulcimer is quite different than the more modern dulcimer recognized by many today, he points out that the instrument's origins date back to ancient times. His proficiency on the stringed instrument landed him a regular spot at a high-profile gig hosted annually in the folk mecca of Mountain View, Arkansas.

"I got invited to play hammer dulcimer at their big Christmas show one year, and I went back and played another six or seven years in a row," he recalls, adding that he finally had to stop due to the demands of his position. He can still be found playing hammer dulcimer regularly at events around town as well as with the musical group Bluegrass Appeal—a name fitting for a Supreme Court Justice, he notes.

Dickinson says that he discovered a strong love for music at a young age and later took a hiatus from college to pursue his music ambitions. He had some success playing with such high-profile names as Jerry Butler and B. J. Thomas, until he and his wife collectively decided that "it was time to grow up."

After going back to school and completing his law degree at the University of Mississippi, Dickinson practiced law for 20 years before being appointed to the Mississippi Supreme Court.

Dickinson has been married to wife Janet, a singer, for 33 years. The two of them also have performed together regularly during their time together.



Bluegrass Appeal playing a concert in Columbia, MS



VIC DUBOSE *Hattiesburg*

“Some people play golf...I play music,” says Hattiesburg attorney Vic DuBose about his favorite pastime. An attorney for nineteen years, DuBose is a member of T-Bird Mac, a classic rock band that performs locally around the Hattiesburg area.

First introduced to music by way of the trombone in junior high school band programs, DuBose later took up guitar in high school and bass guitar in college. A member of Heritage United Methodist Church, DuBose’s talents have also proved to be an asset to the praise band, a group he plays with on Sunday mornings.

Also a singer and songwriter, DuBose recently produced parody lyrics to two songs—*Back in the USSA* and *Eight Billion a Week*. The finished products were recorded and can be found on YouTube under the name Bailout Blues Band. “Back in USSA has over 1,000 hits,” he notes, adding that the numbers may not be huge from the broader YouTube perspective, but he’s happy they have gotten some play.

Looking to the future, he says that he would like to publish a novel that he wrote about the South, lawyers, faith and friends. He has a sound track of songs to accompany the novel that he would also like to record. “Some songs I wrote. Others were written by friends,” he notes. “The songs weren’t written for the book...I just found that they fit.”

DuBose has been married to wife, Ruth, for nearly 20 years, and they have two grown children. He has held a private practice in Hattiesburg for 16 years.

TERRY GERMANY *Ridgeland*

Writing and music—these two forms of expression are two of Terry Germany’s greatest passions. And since he never had the time or patience to write a novel, Germany decided to merge the two desires and write songs.

While Germany composes most of his songs on his own, he sometimes shares his creative pastime with long-time friend Randy Edgar. “We started writing when we were in junior high school, and neither he nor I have stopped since,” he recalls.

In fact, the two friends have released two albums through their collaboration. One album, *Liberalodium*, is somewhat of a political statement, according to Germany, and the other, *True Freedom*, is a gospel album.

With major musical influences coming from the Beatles, the Band, Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash and the Rolling Stones, Germany has varied musical taste ranging from country and rock to blues and gospel. Self taught on the guitar, he composes his music at his in-home studio and also plays saxophone, guitar, harmonica and “horrible keyboards and mandolin,” he says.

Born in Union, Mississippi, Germany is currently a private practice attorney with Anderson, Crawley and Burke in Ridgeland. He completed his preparatory education at Mississippi State University and his legal education at the Mississippi College School of Law. His current focus is primarily on the representation of employers and carriers in workers’ compensation cases.

When he is not writing music, Germany says he loves to ride his Harley Davidson motorcycle with his wife who also has her own Harley. He also enjoys photography.

A lifelong passion, Germany says he plans to keep writing all kinds of music. “The only music I do not care for is opera,” he says, noting that “I do respect the talent of a great opera singer.”



JACINTA HALL *Jackson*

From her younger years in Yazoo City, Mississippi to her college years in Oxford and current home in Jackson, Jacinta Hall has been playing piano for churches all her life. “As soon as my feet hit the ground in these places, there was a church waiting,” she recalls.

Hall was first introduced to the instrument when she was nine-years-old. Placed under the instruction of a well-known jazz musician in Mississippi, Hall says that she developed a love for jazz and still enjoys all forms of live music. She later attended Power Academic and Performing Arts Complex (APAC) in Jackson from sixth grade until graduation and then went on to double major in music and psychology at the University of Mississippi, graduating in 2002. Always passionate about her playing, Hall notes that she knew she wanted to further pursue music but never planned to make it a full-time career. She later completed her juris doctorate from Ole Miss in 2005 and has worked in the Hinds County Public Defender’s Office since her clerkship with the Mississippi Court of Appeals.

“I want to keep playing because I believe it’s my gift to share,” Hall emphasizes, adding that it’s a release to the stress that comes from being a full-time attorney. “Music allows me to do this right...it evens me out.”

Hall is mother to a two-year-old son and currently plays for two churches in Jackson, making Sunday mornings a bit hectic as she travels from one location to the next to do her part.



DOUG JENNINGS *Jackson*

Surrounded by music all his life, Doug Jennings says that it took him years to garner enough confidence to sing in front of other people. “It’s pretty recent that I started singing publicly,” he notes, adding that it wasn’t until about 10 years ago that he started forming bands. “Everyone in my family is insanely musical, and all of my childhood friends were too. All of that was a bit intimidating.”

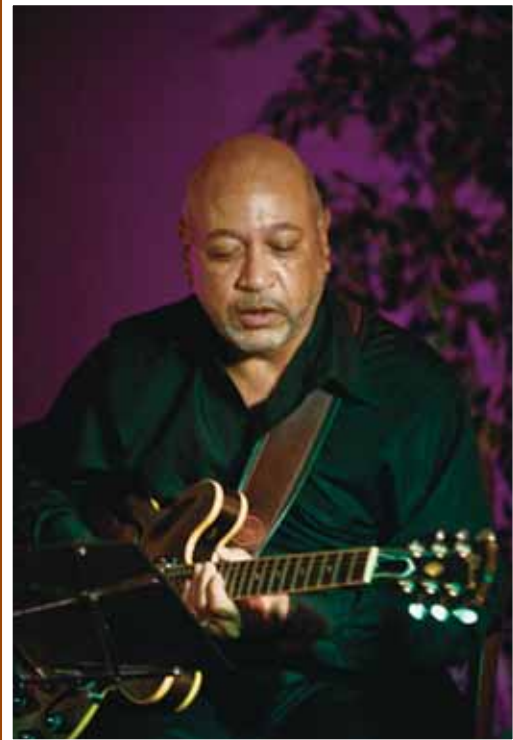
And now that he has experienced some success center stage, he’s taking it to the next level by signing up for the RPM Challenge in February. Not a contest in the truest sense of the word, the program challenges musicians to create a whole album of music, which is turned in during the month of February. The albums are then made available for streaming and sharing.

“If I can pull that off, I’ll consider it a victory,” he emphasizes, adding that songwriting is a new venture for him as he has previously been part of “cover” bands. “I’ve written poetry for years and have finally started putting it to song.”

Jennings got his start musically playing trombone in middle school and high school bands. He started singing and playing guitar when he was 17, and it was at that time that he got “notions of becoming a rock star.” Now ready for the next level as a songwriter, Jennings notes that “you have to embrace your talent and try to make it work for you.”

A 2005 graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Jennings later received his masters of law in international legal studies at New York University and practiced at a medium-sized law firm in Nashville. He later decided the practice was not for him and is now a senior attorney with the Mississippi Secretary of State.





BERNARD JONES *Jackson*

Bernard Jones had been playing guitar a full 20 years before he became a member of The Mississippi Bar in 1984. A gift of a guitar and amplifier by his mother set the wheels in motion for Jones in high school, and he says that the “next thing I knew is that I was doing it for money.”

He started by playing gigs with local bands during his high school years and then founded a group called the West Fortification Street Blues Band. He then went on to play professionally on and off while he attended college.

“I got married at 19, and that was how we ate,” he recalls, noting that he did not start law school until 1981 and continued to pay the bills by playing with such names as Louis Lee and the Upsetters, Haran Griffin, Luther Ingram, Tommy Tate, These Days with Cassandra Wilson, Z. Z. Hill, McKinley Mitchell, Tommy Smiley and Soop’s House Band featuring Patrice Moncell.

“I’ve performed and recorded with several nationally recognized artists as well as various local musicians,” he notes. “I now realize that I got to play with some pretty heavy folks.”

Alongside a private practice with his daughters in Jackson, Jones still does some work with jazz singer Latongya Garner as well as a local group of seasoned players appropriately named The Musicians. “I’m actually the baby of the group,” he notes. “The band is mostly made up of retired band directors.”

Jones says that he enjoys the fact that he can play what he wants to now—mostly jazz and blues—instead of whatever will pay the bills. “If I had my druthers, I’d like to just play guitar in cafes in St. Croix,” he laughs. “That would be nice.”

WILLIAM TREY JONES, III *Jackson*

From *Whiskey River* and *On the Road Again* to *Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain*, band members William Trey Jones, Bill Dillon and Raymond Hall have got the country, classic and gospel favorites of Willie Nelson covered. As the lead singer in a Willie Nelson tribute band, Jones says that he’s always been a big fan of the country-music legend.

“Somehow along the way I developed the ability to sound a little like him when I sing,” Jones said, adding that he found two other band members who also love Willie’s music, and eventually they began playing in places other than the living room. “We quickly discovered that people of all ages and class will sit for hours and listen to Willie’s music, so we started playing regularly at private functions and public places.”

Currently, Dillon provides vocals and guitar to the group, and Hall fills out the rest with harmonicas, mandolin and percussion. As long as people want to sit and listen to the music of Willie Nelson, Jones notes that the group will continue playing for them. “When people stop liking it, we’ll go back to Bill’s living room,” he laughs.

Following law school, Jones clerked for U.S. District Judge Tom Lee. Currently, he is a partner with the Brunini Law Firm, where he has practiced for the past 11 years in civil litigation with emphasis on commercial litigation and environmental litigation. Jones is also listed in the Best Lawyers in America in the field of business litigation.

Jones is married to wife Brenda, a partner with Wise, Carter, Child and Caraway, P.A. and has two boys—five-year-old Currie and three-year-old Lee. “My wife, Brenda, loves Willie too, so that is a bonus,” he says.



William Trey Jones, III, center, and band Luckenbach

SAMUEL KEYES, JR. *Ridgeland*

When Sam Keyes picked up his guitar to start playing seriously again about 10 years ago, little did he know that those first steps would evolve into what is now the band called Flashback Café. Established mid-2010, the band is comprised of several close friends and musicians, and Keyes says they are ready and willing to perform.

"It's just been a lot of fun...I don't care what age you are, we all have a little nostalgia in us," he says, pointing out that the band will be performing a wide range of rock n' roll from the 1960s and 70s. "We've got our set list, and we're ready to start advertising and finding people who will want to listen."

From classical to rock n' roll, Keyes emphasizes that music has always been an important part of his life. He got his start with instruments playing trumpet and tuba in band programs from junior high through his first year of college. He also played in garage-style bands in high school, but the Flashback Café will be his first step into public performances with a rock n' roll group.

A private practice attorney with Butler Snow law firm in Ridgeland, Keyes acknowledges that the band will have to find a balance between family, work and their new endeavor. "All of us would love to be able to play once a week somewhere," he notes.

Keyes also plays in church praise bands and is married to wife Ruth, a former church pianist who currently teaches privately. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1981, Keyes served as assistant attorney general for the State of Mississippi from 1985 to 1993. He has been named one of the "Best Lawyers in America" for government relations law and public finance law.



Samuel Keyes, Jr., riding shotgun

KEVIN LEWIS *Flowood*

At age 51, Kevin Lewis has been playing the saxophone for more than half of his life, and 35 years later, he is still going strong. In fact, between the three bands he plays in regularly, it's not uncommon for Lewis to book more than 50 gigs in a given year.

He is an original member of The Vamps, a group he describes as earthy, yet sophisticated, showcasing a lineup that consists of B.B. King and Stax alumni among others. The group plays styles ranging from Latin and funk to New Orleans jazz and Memphis soul. Lewis is also an original member of the newly-formed Greenfish group and plays regularly with the well-established Patrick Smith Band.

"I like all kinds of music, but most gigs are jazz, blues and cover tunes of any style," he says. "It's hard to pigeon hole the style of any of the bands I'm in because we all play lots of styles, depending on whatever we can book."

Lewis has practiced personal injury law for about 22 years, the majority spent working with the Diaz Law Firm in the Jackson area. For the past three years, he has had a solo practice, branching out into some domestic and criminal work.

Lewis says that he hopes to continue playing as many gigs as time will allow, adding that he would like to spend more time writing music. "Basically I just take life as it comes at me because that keeps me plenty busy," he emphasizes.

Married to wife Debi, who he describes as "the love of my life," Lewis is also an avid disc golfer and enjoys playing with his two sons.





TOM LOWE *Jackson*

A violinist since age six, Tom Lowe loves many kinds of classical music, but he says his favorite composer is most likely Mozart. “It’s hard to choose,” he says. “There is so much fine music out there.”

The pursuit of this beloved string instrument, which reaches across centuries of music, has been a lifelong endeavor for Lowe. He completed graduate work in music at the University of Oklahoma and had the opportunity to study under violin master Daniel Guilet, the concert master with the NBC Symphony Orchestra who served under conductor Arturo Toscanini.

A member of various symphonies since 1960, Lowe has served as concert master of the University of Alabama Symphony and played with such groups as the Honolulu Symphony during his time in the military, and of course, the Mississippi Symphony in Jackson.

Lowe notes that one of his best memories of playing occurred during a children’s concert where he substituted as concert master with the Mississippi Symphony. “I had to play *Flight of the Bumble Bee*, and they put bumblebee wings on me,” he recalls.

Currently, Lowe is collaborating on a project with John Paul, the organist and choir master at St. Andrews Cathedral in Jackson. The two are in the midst of performing a series that will include all of Beethoven’s ten violin and piano sonatas at the Mississippi Museum of Art. “We’ve done two, and we will do three more this spring,” he adds.

Along with his violin achievements, Lowe and wife, Mary Lou, are also soloists at St. Andrews Cathedral. He also has a son who is musically gifted, working as a computer analyst in Boston.

Lowe was admitted to law practice in 1979, and has been a solo practitioner for the majority of his career.



WILLIAM MILLER *Biloxi*

William “Billy” Miller did not follow the typical path to becoming an attorney. In fact, he spent a number of years on the road in a rock n’ roll touring band before he ever went to law school.

“I was in my first band in the 1960s, but didn’t get serious with music until the late 1970s, when I formed a touring band called Footloose,” he says, adding that the group had a grinding schedule of travel from Florida to Texas. Recalling the adventures of living life on the road, he remembers getting one room for multiple band members at one particular hotel for \$6.50 per night. “I’ll never forget that one. You had to walk down the hall to the bathroom,” he recalls.

Miller entered law school in 1985 and graduated with a law degree from Ole Miss in 1988. He returned to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to practice law and is currently a managing partner of Miller & Fowlkes law firm.

Twenty years would pass before Miller performed on stage again. Now the lead singer of Billy Miller & The Soul Savants, the band made its debut in 2008. A nine-piece musical group comprised of what Miller describes as “the cream of the crop of the Gulf Coast’s musicians,” the rock n’ roll band limits its appearances to large events and festivals.

The band played at the Beau Rivage last March for a benefit concert and also played at Mayfest in Ocean Springs. Miller is currently working on a hunger concert to be held at the IP Casino Resort sometime in the future. “I want to try and raise \$100,000 in one night,” he explains.

Miller is also part owner of a restaurant and nightclub in Ocean Springs called Mosaic Tapas Bar.

mark breland
photographer

PAUL NEWTON, JR. *Gulfport*

Who says that a musician can't play everything? In the case of Paul Newton, his musical skills touch most instrument classifications except brass.

A partner in Newton and Hoff law firm since 1988, Newton lives in Gulfport and has played everything from lead guitar with B.B. King to five string banjo. And that's just the tip of the iceberg as the list goes on to include alto sax, mandolin, pedal steel guitar, upright bass and more.

"I pretty much do all types of performance art," Newton says, adding that he has also recently added singing in theater productions to his portfolio. "I just did a theater benefit show at the Imperial Palace Casino."

Newton's love of music was likely birthed from the influence of his father, an accomplished jazz pianist. A child of the 1960's, Newton says he naturally started playing guitar after seeing the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show. "One of my best friends since childhood, Ned McElroy is a Nashville songwriter with several number one hits," he notes. "Ned and I played music together constantly as children."

A graduate of Ole Miss law school in 1980, Newton later went on to receive a masters in taxation from New York University. Along with his time as a private practice attorney, Newton has been the past president of the Harrison County Bar and past chair of The Mississippi Bar Taxation Section.

He is married to wife, Virginia, and has a daughter named Grace, who sings and plays the violin and piano. Following in her father's footsteps, Grace is also involved in theater productions.

Newton does not plan on slowing down in his efforts to expand his musicianship and says that he is currently working hard to refine his alto sax abilities, studying rudiments on drums, working through Vince Guaraldi transcription on piano and an Eric Johnson transcription book on guitar.



BUBBA PETTIT *Kosciusko*

Many high school and college bands have come and gone. In the case of the band Bubba Pettit and friends formed in high school, it came, left and then came back even stronger.

In 1983, the former band members never dreamed that the one-night gig planned as part of their 15th high school class reunion would turn into more than 25 years of playing and entertaining together.

"My wife said you're an established lawyer now—you don't need to be playing all that rock n' roll," he laughs, adding that the group had so much fun that night that they decided to keep the band going. "We're bigger now than ever."

The band is appropriately called Class Reunion and is best described by Pettit as high-energy, hard-driving party music. The group plays a lot of music from the 1960s, including Motown charts and beach music, and they know how to make an event fun. "When you've done this as long as I have, you learn how to work the crowd," Pettit emphasizes, noting that he gets a lot of satisfaction out of seeing people have fun.

This year, the group performed about 15 gigs. Pettit says that they don't like to do more than about 20 per year because then the schedule gets to be too much. Plus you won't find Pettit performing during the months of January and February—prime months for rabbit hunting.

Married to wife, Gail, for 36 years, Pettit has two grown children and one grandchild. He graduated from law school at the University of Mississippi in 1975 and has practiced law for about 34 years in the city of Kosciusko. Currently semi-retired, Pettit's business interests are now focused on the tree farming industry.



Bubba Pettit on far left



Mark Prewitt, third from right, with The Chill circa 1993

MARK PREWITT *Vicksburg*

In 1985, a music group called The Big Chill made its debut in Mississippi, and the rhythm and blues band is still going strong today. One of the original founders, Mark Prewitt played with the group until 1996 and describes that time in his life as a “blast.”

“We probably fielded up to 50 calls a week to book the band,” Prewitt notes, recalling the popularity of the group all across the Southeast. “I remember doing 13 jobs in one December alone.”

An accomplished guitarist and singer, Prewitt notes that during his time with The Big Chill, he did about 95 percent of the vocals. He describes the persona of the group as a “horn band” including trumpets, saxophones and at times, a trombone.

Passionate about music since he was a boy, Prewitt starting playing guitar at age 13 and formed his first band by the time he was fourteen. He was playing gigs by himself when the concept of The Big Chill just “fell into place,” he recalls.

Prewitt left the band when he decided that juggling the intense performance schedule with a busy law career was becoming too demanding. “I was much younger then,” he laughs, pointing to his eleven years with the band. “I didn’t require as much downtime.”

Born and raised in Vicksburg, Prewitt has practiced law in the city for almost 33 years. He recalls that the only time he hasn’t lived in Vicksburg was during the time he attended Mississippi College and a short stint in the U.S. Army. Today, the accomplished singer and guitarist still enjoys playing for various benefits and events. He has two daughters and seven grandchildren who also vie for his time.



MYLES SHARP *D’Iberville*

For Myles Sharp, a talent and love for music comes naturally. Growing up with musician parents and a father who still tours the globe as a professional musician today, he notes that “I’ve gotten to sit on stage and in music studios with people you could never imagine.”

Currently, Myles Sharp can be seen playing alongside three other professionals from the Mississippi Gulf Coast in a band appropriately named The Myles Sharp Band. “They figured I was the most well known, so they stuck my name on it,” he laughs, adding that he never gets to live it down.

The band plays regularly throughout the Gulf Coast region for private functions and has a pretty regular rotation with local clubs. Sharp notes that they try not to do too much club work since three of the members have small children. Notably, the band had the opportunity to open for such names as Blues Traveler and Drivin’ and Cryin’ a few years back.

Sharp recently had the opportunity to participate in a family “first” during the month of December by performing with his three brothers and father at The Quarter in Gulfport. “It’s the first time we’ve performed together,” he said, noting that busy schedules have made it difficult for all of them to be in the same place at the same time.

Sharp’s father plays the Hammond B3 organ—the instrument of Gregg Allman—and tours with musician Michael Burks. Sharp notes that his father has played with everyone from Ray Charles to the Black Crowes.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Sharp has been a private practice attorney for eight years. He is married to wife, Daria, and has three children ages four, six and seven. “I’m waiting to see if my kids are musical,” he notes.

KARL STEINBERGER *Pascagoula*

Growing up in New Jersey afforded Karl Steinberger a different kind of start on the keyboard than traditional piano instruction. He notes that at that time, one of the more popular instruments to start with was the accordion, and Steinberger's parents had him begin learning to play at age five.

From there, Steinberger expanded his music portfolio to band instruments such as the bassoon and sousaphone and later bought a rock n' roll organ. "When I went to Ole Miss, I marched with the sousaphone and played bassoon in the Ole Miss Symphony," he recalls, adding that it was also during that time that he became one of the charter members of a band called Uncle Sam.

The nine-piece horn band experienced notable popularity across the Southeast, playing in seven states. "We did it so that we could make money to go to school," he notes, adding that after law school, he retired from playing professionally. Now, Steinberger enjoys playing for enjoyment on his own time.

Over the last few years, Uncle Sam band members began hosting reunions, and Steinberger had the opportunity to play with the band once again at Parrish's Bar in Oxford. "Before we closed, there was a line waiting outside," he says.

Steinberger received a juris doctor degree from the University of Mississippi in 1976, and was admitted to The Mississippi Bar the same year. After an internship in the Jackson County Public Defender's Office, he was a general practitioner in Pascagoula and later joined the firm Heidelberg, Steinberger, Colmer & Burrow in the same city.

Married to wife Theresa, Steinberger is a proud father to Suzanne and Sarah, both graduates of Ole Miss. He is active with the Red Cross and also sings in the choir at his local church.



ERIC STRACENER *Jackson*

Growing up amid a family of musicians, Eric Stracener calls himself a "late bloomer." He waited until his senior year of undergraduate school to pick up guitar, and the rest is history.

"That's when I got on the slippery slope," he laughs, adding that the delay has not kept him from making some noise on the local music scene. "I've been lucky. I've had some critical acclaim on a small scale."

A family man who also runs a busy law practice as a partner with Hawkins, Stracener and Gibson, Stracener was chosen as Best Singer/Songwriter in Jackson for 2007 and 2008—an achievement that would rank high on many a musician's list.

His first album—*Sockeye*—was released in 2003 with an acoustic flavor, and number two—*The Trickbag*—appeared on the scene in 2006. Stracener says that his second album is his best, bringing in the talents of backup band The Frustrations.

"Both albums were very well received," Stracener notes, adding that his style embodies rock n' roll, country and folk elements. The third album is written and is waiting to be recorded. Stracener expects that it will be released sometime in 2011.

While Stracener says that a busy law practice keeps him from "touring" in the classic sense of the word, he says that he and his band still get out to local and regional events. Stracener is married to wife, Stacey, and is father to nine-year-old Will and six-year-old Polly who are "both really musical already," he asserts.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Stracener is a graduate of Millsaps College and received his J.D. from the University of Mississippi in 1996. He and his partners are also fervent supporters of Operation Shoestring, a non-profit interfaith ministry that provides programs and services promoting health and self-sufficiency of the needy.





Photograph by James Patterson

JOSH WIENER *Ridgeland*

From opera and classical to country and rock n' roll, Josh Wiener's skills on the ivories are versatile and varied. And while most of his current performance opportunities revolve around accompanying, directing and putting on musical productions, Wiener's piano proficiency has taken him in many directions over the years.

Growing up in Long Island, New York, Wiener notes that he was the proverbial child of musician parents who was introduced to piano instruction at a young age. He notes that his interests and abilities were fair to average until his mood towards music took an upswing in high school.

"I really caught fire with it when I was about 16 and got intensely interested in classical music," he recalls, adding that he remembers making the decision to get serious with music one night while listening to several of Beethoven's most popular Sonatas. "That was the magical moment for me."

He spent his undergraduate years at Columbia University and concentrated in music. He and his wife later moved to Mississippi and both attended law school at the University of Mississippi. During that time, Wiener provided accompany services for classical gigs as well as played with local rock and jazz groups, including the Ole Miss jazz band.

Wiener graduated law school in 1981 and is currently the practice group leader for the Tort, Transportation and Insurance Group at Butler Snow in Jackson. He has been named one of the Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation and a Mid-South Super Lawyer.

In the world of music, Wiener says his biggest claim to fame currently is that he is the director and pianist with the Shirim Choir at Beth Israel Congregation. He has also been the regular Sunday morning pianist at the Stew Pot, a large community service organization providing food, shelter and other items to those in need.

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CHERYN BAKER *Brandon*

Poise and charisma are qualities that are not only important to Cheryn Baker's legal career but also to her pursuits as a dancer.

With just over 10 years pursuing the art, Baker has performed and competed regionally, even earning the top spot in her division at Georgia's Peach State Dance Classic in 2006.

With no formal training from youth, Baker decided it was time to take on a new pursuit in the late 1990s after she discovered a passion for country/western partner dancing. This interest later evolved to other forms of partner dancing including West Coast swing and ballroom styles.

"I sought out opportunities for training," she notes, adding that while she never took ballet, tap or jazz as a child, she feels her musical background as a pianist helped her learn dance more quickly. "My favorite styles are West Coast swing and the country/western two-step."

A magna cum laude graduate of the University of Mississippi in 1988, Baker practiced law in the Jackson area after graduating from the University of Denver College of Law in 1991. She joined the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office in March 2008, serving as the assistant secretary of state for the Division of Policy and Research, and currently works as a corporate counsel with Hancock Bank in Gulfport. Baker's legal experience includes business and corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, securities law, health care law and gaming law.

Baker notes that her move to the coast hampered her momentum with dance temporarily as she has not been able to locate a trainer yet. "I will have to regroup and find out what's available here," she emphasizes.

Married to husband Chris for more than six years, she states that while he may not have the same passion for swinging and swaying, he is very supportive of her dancing interests.



MARGARET CUPPLES *Jackson*

Love for Irish dancing "grabbed me when I least expected it at about age 25," says Margaret Cupples, an attorney since 1993. Describing it as a form of aerobic exercise where a person is simultaneously expected to drink Irish whiskey, she asserts that "it will get even people who never thought they would be on the dance floor to participate."

Encouraged by friends who had developed an interest in the art, Cupples says it only took one night to pull her in for the long haul. Plus, it's also how she got to know her husband, Brett, "who very craftily got interested in Irish dancing just long enough to impress me," she laughs, noting that he "retired" after they got engaged.

Cupples currently dances with Jackson Irish Dancers, a group she helped start about 12 years ago. The group now has several dozen regular dancers along with others who turn up from time to time for performances, classes, and informal dancing in Jackson and around the state. Occasionally, the group travels to Louisiana and Texas for various events.

Jackson Irish Dancers does all forms of Irish dancing, including modern competition-style solo dancing similar to what one might see in Riverdance as well as older forms of solo dance called séan-nos. Cupples says that she most enjoys a form of group dancing known as set dancing, a social dance form that is a descendant of eighteenth-century French court dancing and an ancestor of American square dancing.

Cupples graduated law school from Washington & Lee University in 1993 and is a partner with *Bradley Arant Rose & White* law firm in Jackson. Her practice currently focuses on products liability and mass tort defense work, and she has primarily worked for a Fortune 500 company over the last several years, helping them with litigation all across the United States.





RENETHA FRIESON *Greenville*

It was just recently that Renetha Frieson got back involved in what she describes as her “therapy.” Drawn away from her passion as a vocalist due to educational and work obligations, Frieson says that she is happy to have the therapeutic effects of music back in her life.

Raised in her father’s Baptist church, Frieson began singing at a very young age. “They discovered I had a talent, and it flowered from there,” she notes. “I’ve always had natural ability as an artist. I am forever grateful for the natural gifts.”

Frieson discovered a love for theater while participating in MJM Unlimited Production, a Memphis-based community Christian theatre production, before law school. She recently got back involved in theater with Delta Center Stage in Greenville. Her last production was *Sanctified*, a gospel musical where she was cast as a diva. “It was very different from my personality,” she notes. “I’m a very calm, easy going person...so I had to find my inner lion.”

A 2008 graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Frieson is currently an attorney with Campbell DeLong law firm in Greenville. She notes that when the firm learned that she had placed in the Nashville Star Search and Trowbridge Symposium, they encouraged her to pursue her artistic interests locally.

Frieson is currently looking forward to the opportunity to try out for *The Color Purple* and hopes to earn the cast assignment of Celie. In her spare time, she also volunteers her talents to the E.E. Bass Cultural Center and spends time with her son, Jaylin.



LINDSEY OSWALT *Jackson*

Jackson attorney Lindsey Oswalt has many memorable moments from her years as a vocalist, but probably the best experience she can recall was the opportunity to sing at Carnegie Hall with the Mississippi College Singers, one of the top college singing groups in the country.

A choral singer and All-State vocalist from her years in high school, Oswalt notes that she was exposed to music in many forms growing up by the influence of her father, a minister of music and professor of music at Mississippi College. Currently, Oswalt is sought out to perform in weddings, churches and many college and professional sporting events around the Jackson area.

Recalling some of her other more memorable moments as a singer, Oswalt laughs as she tells the story of a performance that got her rave reviews for not singing at all. Asked to sing the Star Spangled Banner at the beginning of a baseball game, she recalls that the microphone malfunctioned and did not produce sound. The audio professionals quickly played Whitney Houston’s a cappella version of the song. Hidden from the audience, Oswalt stepped out to a standing ovation.

Oswalt joined Adams and Reese law firm in 2010 as an associate on the Litigation Practice Team. She is also an adjunct professor of appellate advocacy at the Mississippi College School of Law, where she assists second-year law students with research and composition of an appellate brief in preparation for oral arguments.

In her spare time, Oswalt enjoys kickboxing, spending time outdoors and traveling, including a college semester abroad in London and Western Europe.

ROSAMOND POSEY *Oxford*

Since 2005, the band Rocket 88 has been making waves across Mississippi with a sound that has been described as roots rock and honky-tonkin' rock n' roll. It's not the first band that Rosamond Posey and husband Jamison have founded together, and it's also not their first musical group to produce an album.

Posey got her start in music playing piano and later minored in the instrument at the University of Mississippi. She also picked up guitar as a freshman at Ole Miss and decided to start a band. "I started Honey Blonde with my college roommate, Virginia Carlton, and my now husband, Jamison Posey," she notes. "We toured with Honey Blonde for several years, and then I started law school and was unable to make the commitment to tour too far from home."

Honey Blonde's self titled album was released in 2000, and Rocket 88 released its first album, *Full Circle*, in March 2008. One reviewer of the album described Posey's voice as one that could "effectively sing you a lullaby or in the next instance send you to the bar for another drink."

A 2000 graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Posey worked as a legal writing specialist at the Office of the Federal Defendant for the Western District of Tennessee up until 2004. Since that time, she has worked for Mitchell, McNutt and Sams, P.A. and currently practices in the firm's bankruptcy and creditors' rights section.

Looking towards the future, Posey said that she is looking forward to Rocket 88's continued success touring around Oxford, Jackson and much of Mississippi. She is also currently a part of Grammy winner Jimbo Mathus' Mosquitoville, a band which has been touring all over the state.



CHAM TROTTER *Belzoni*

Cham Trotter cannot remember a time when he didn't sing. A lifelong interest and love, his performances over time have ranged from appearances with rock n' roll bands to community theater and musical productions.

Trotter recalls a fond memory of one of his early accomplishments as a singer, when he attended a Boy Scout Jamboree comprised of about 75,000 attendees and won the talent show at age 17. He performed the folk song, *Green Back Dollar*, as part of the final show and was followed by President Lyndon Johnson, who shook his hand coming on stage.

Trotter sang with rock n' roll bands and folk groups in high school and college and was also part of a prestigious 12-person ensemble at the University of Mississippi called The Group. A contemporary song and dance ensemble, The Group went on to tour in Germany with the USO in 1969. "I was basically a professional entertainer working for Ole Miss," he recalls.

Since then, Trotter has continued his singing pursuits, serving as choir director at the First Presbyterian Church in Belzoni for 15 years and getting involved in community theater. He notes that he has participated in musicals for the past 25 years including everything from *Annie* to the *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. His most recent production was *Forever Plaid*.

One of Trotter's most memorable acting moments came when he was cast as Franklin Rutledge in the film *Miss Firecracker*. Partially filmed in Belzoni, Trotter played opposite Mary Steenburgen. "We were the only two people in the scene," he recalls. "She's basically a good ole girl from Arkansas."

A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Trotter has held a general practice in the small town of Belzoni since 1972. He is married to wife, Jane, and has three children and six grandchildren.



Trotter, far right





Wayne Williams sang "All I Ask of You" from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* with Suzanne Oakley, Bruce MS, January 2010 "An Evening of Entertainment" at Tupelo Community Theatre

WAYNE WILLIAMS *Tupelo*

A classically-trained vocalist, Wayne Williams has been singing all of his life. And while his career and professional life ultimately led him down a different path, he still enjoys indulging in his passion for music by singing in community productions throughout Tupelo.

"It's a love of mine...I try to take advantage of most any opportunity that comes my way," he says, acknowledging that finding time to pursue music amid a busy family and career life can be challenging. "There's nothing like singing in front of your friends. That's just fun."

A voice major at the University of Miami, Williams says that he earned a bachelor's degree in music that is best explained as a double major that combines business and music. He then went on to pursue his law degree at the University of Mississippi, graduating with a juris doctorate degree in 1993.

Williams has recently enjoyed performing such roles as *Beauty and the Beast's* Gaston and as Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* with Tupelo Community Theatre. He has also participated in annual community productions of Handel's *Messiah*, performed with the Tupelo Symphony Orchestra and sings regularly in the choir with his local church.

"Some of the things I've done here have been very fun and enjoyable," Williams notes, adding that he appreciates the early exposure he received to music through such opportunities as the Columbus Boy Choir. Now known as the American Boy Choir, this group is currently considered one of the premier choral groups in the nation.

Williams is currently a shareholder with Webb, Sanders and Williams. For the past 20 years, he has been married to wife Suzy, who has a doctorate degree in vocal teaching and is currently on faculty at Itawamba Community College. They have two daughters—Ashley, 16, and Anna Katherine, 11, who both sing and play the piano.

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RICK AMOS *Gulfport*

While he says his best role to date was Randle P. McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, attorney Rick Amos acknowledges that he had the most fun being cast as Rocky in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. With 10 plays and musical credits to his name, Amos says that while he participated in theater during his school and college years, he didn't really discover his passion for acting until 2002.

"Someone had dropped out of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and they needed to cast the role of Reverend Sykes," he recalls. "Someone recommended me, and I discovered my passion. Five years later, I won the role of Tom Robinson in the same play."

Community theater has been a good fit for Amos, and he has performed primarily at the Biloxi Little Theatre with some appearances at Gulfport Little Theatre, Bay St. Louis Little Theatre and Mary O'Keefe Performing Arts in Ocean Springs. He recalls that his most demanding role was Walter Lee in *A Raisin in the Sun*.

A graduate of the Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, WI, in 1989, Amos balances his acting pursuits against a busy private practice in Gulfport, specializing in civil matters, family law, business, and probates and estates. He is married to wife, Cathye, and also actively involved in working with children at his church. "When I was growing up, a lot of people took time from their busy lives to help me, so I want to pass that to others," he asserts.

Looking to the future, Amos hopes to continue doing community theatre, noting that he enjoys delivering a message directly from the playwright. "It would be a dream come true to do a Broadway play," he adds.



Second from left

JUDGE FELICIA BURKES *Gulfport*

While her love for theater began when she saw the Broadway musical *Purlie* in 1970 as a teenager, it would take more than three decades for Judge Felicia Burkes to move front stage. The wheels were set into motion in 2003 when her eight-year-old daughter, Claire, auditioned for a minor role in Gulfport Little Theater's production of *Les Miserables*, and later when Burkes decided to audition alongside her daughter in 2006 for the theater's production of *Cats*.

"To my utter delight, we were both cast, and the absolutely magical experience of being on stage in such an extraordinary musical was infectious," she recalls. Burkes later went on to appear in the theater's production of *West Side Story* in 2007 and was typecast as Superior Court Judge Wilma Heath in the Ayn Rand play titled *The Night of January 16th* in 2011. She

was also cast as Ruth in the Pulitzer-Prize-winning play *A Raisin in the Sun* at Biloxi Theater in 2008.

Burkes' passion for theater did not stop with acting, though, as she decided to try her hand at directing in 2009. "The Walter Anderson Players production of James Baldwin's *The Amen Corner* was my directorial debut," she notes, adding that the production was a major success with all shows sold out.

Burkes maintains her passion for theater alongside a busy career as a full-time judge for Gulfport Municipal Court. She has been a member of The Mississippi Bar since May 1984.

Looking to the future, Burkes plans to continue acting and directing. In May, she will direct the Gulfport Little Theater production of Pulitzer Prize winning playwright August Wilson's *Radio Golf*. "I particularly appreciate the opportunity theater offers me to introduce audiences in south Mississippi to works by great African-American dramatists," she emphasizes.

CHRIS GRAVES *Jackson*

As an actor, Chris Graves is not afraid to delve into the intricacies of portraying complex characters. He says his most notorious role to date was that of Satan in Stephen Adly Guirgis' *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, performed at New Stage Theater in Jackson.

"I had been interested in doing a play at New Stage. Ironically, everyone said I did a good job," he quips, noting that a friend in the Hinds County District Attorney's office also said, "that's about right for a criminal defense lawyer" regarding his role.

Graves notes that his interest in theater dates back to middle school, but after beginning college, he became somewhat removed from acting. He auditioned again about two years ago when encouraged by a colleague and was immediately cast in a short film. "They were surprised I hadn't been classically trained," he recalls.

Since then, he has performed the role of flawed pastor Vincent Jackson in *Revenge*, a play written, produced and directed by Jackson State University alum Jimmie Lee. He was also cast in another short film called *She's Not Worth It*.

"What's interesting is that *Revenge* recently won best stage play in the Jackson Free Press," he notes.

A graduate of Washington D.C.'s Howard University School of Law in 2001, Graves is a trial lawyer in Jackson, practicing in the areas of criminal defense, employment discrimination, consumer protection, and personal injury claims. He says that he would like to perform in more plays regionally as well as try his hand at screenwriting in the future.

"I like to tell stories about Mississippi," he notes, pointing out that he would like to focus on the state's rich history of working together. "One of the screenplays I'm working on right now is about Katrina."



BYRON HUGHES *Jackson*

Byron Hughes may be anything but predictable. After more than 30 years in the legal field, he says he got bored one day and decided to take an acting class. "I saw an acting class offered by Delta State University, and I just went out there and took the class," he recalls. "And the teacher said, 'you aren't half bad.'"

The rest is history, as they say, and Hughes now has an agent and has appeared in numerous commercials and a movie that will be released in the spring called *The Dynamiter*. Cast as Sheriff Addison, the film has appeared at the Sundance Film Festival and is currently at the Berlin Film Festival.

Hughes' commercial credits include roles in a casino commercial, a senator in a justice commercial and a state-sponsored anti-smoking commercial. "I got a lot of exposure doing the state commercial...I'm now recognized as the guy in the anti-smoking commercial," he laughs.

Now retired from his position as a prosecutor with the Department of Human Services, Hughes says he now makes his living through his oil exploration and land services company. He plans to continue to pursue acting opportunities, noting that he's "waiting on Hollywood to call."

"Acting has been a new adventure," he notes. "In the past five or six years, it has taken me places I never thought I would go."

Hughes received his law degree from the Jackson School of Law (now the Mississippi College School of Law) in 1971. He resides in the Jackson area and has two grown daughters and one grandson.





JAMIE JACKS *Cleveland*

Jamie Jacks loves all theater and has been cast in shows ranging in style from Beth Henley's *The Miss Firecracker Contest* to Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. "I can honestly say I have never been in a play that I did not enjoy," she says.

Jacks was recently reminded of her lifelong interest in theater when her mother pulled out a play she had written for a Thanksgiving family celebration circa 1984. "I think I forced all of my cousins to participate," she laughs.

Attending an all-girls Catholic high school in New Orleans afforded Jacks the opportunity to expand her horizons in theater through roles in such plays as *Nunsense*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Grease*, *Picnic*, and *A Few Good Men* at her own high school as well as others throughout the city. "Attending an all-girls school actually meant you had more theatre opportunities than most because not only could you audition at your own high school, but you could be cast at the boy's high schools as well," she recalls.

Practice paid off, and Jack's efforts landed her a theater scholarship at the University of Mississippi, where she earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism. After five years working as a news anchor and reporter, Jacks went to law school and is currently a private practice attorney at Jacks, Adams and Norquist in Cleveland.

Alongside her legal career, Jacks continues to pursue acting opportunities through Delta State University. In fact, her next show opens in February and is called *Almost, Maine*. She also currently serves as the chair of programming for the Delta Arts Alliance, an organization offering arts education opportunities to local Delta kids. "As programming chair, I want to continue to try and make these arts opportunities happen for local kids," she says.

LARRY MAGDOVITZ *Clarksdale*

For the past seven years, Larry Magdovitz has held a double identity, and it all started at the 2002 Tupelo Chili Festival when the whole firm of Phelps Dunbar did "Burning Love" in the skit competition.

"I was picked to be Elvis because of my body type, more than my singing ability. We managed to win the skit competition, and I was hooked," he laughs. "I have been dressing up as Elvis Presley for about seven years now."

Magdovitz admits that he has always craved attention, adding that most of his attorney friends "can probably relate." In an effort to channel those desires in a positive way, he notes that his mother introduced him to the arts at a young age. "I was in the *Nutcracker* ballet when I was in the sixth grade. My role was listed as 'juvenile rat'," he recalls.

After graduating law school at the University of Tennessee Knoxville in 2000, Magdovitz practiced at Phelps Dunbar law firm in Tupelo until he joined his father's law practice in Clarksdale in 2002. He then began playing rugby in Memphis with the Memphis Blues Rugby Club, and to further his talents, Magdovitz took the job of emcee for the group's annual tournament called the Elvis 7s Tournament.

"I have been emceeing that tournament for the last six years under the stage name 'El-vitz'," he says, adding that he also purchased a \$300 jumpsuit replete with cape and rhinestones.

While Magdovitz enjoys a unique pastime as an actor, he says his greatest passion is being a dad. Looking to the future he emphasizes that he has no plans for expanding his acting endeavors, asserting that "my family is embarrassed enough as it is."



MARSHALL SHOWS, JR. *Jackson*

Mystery, intrigue and classic “who-dunnit” tales—it’s the genre of choice for attorney and actor Marshall Shows. Performing in community theatre and as a member of a murder mystery troupe, he has appeared in productions like *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *The Developer* and *The Package* at the Black Rose Theatre in Brandon. He can also be seen performing murder mysteries regularly with the acting group Mississippi Murder Mysteries.

“I love playing characters that are uniquely southern and that are easy to relate to by the audiences in our community theaters,” he notes, adding that he started acting out of a desire to be on stage with his daughter during her high school acting endeavors. “After her interest waned, mine actually grew, and I found some interesting roles in offbeat plays such as the series of *Renfrow Sisters* plays written and directed by my dear friends Steve and Virginia Sutton.”

Shows plans to continue seeking out unusual offerings in the community theater arena and suggests that he may even try his hand at playwriting in the future. “It would be a lot of fun to act in a play that you had a hand in writing. I come up with a lot of quirky little things that would make an interesting script, if done well,” he says.

After law school graduation in 1984, Shows worked as a claims adjuster for USF&G Insurance in Natchez. He later became a member of the in-house legal team at Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company in 1986, where he currently holds the title of senior managing counsel.

Alongside his career and acting pursuits, Shows can be seen riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle as well as taking time out for hunting and fishing endeavors. He adds that “nothing beats the thrill of hearing the applause of an appreciative audience.”



Marshall Shows, back right, Cast of “The Package”, a one act play, Black Rose Theatre, Brandon, MS, 2010

RACHELLE FORTENBERRY STEINHAUER *Hattiesburg*

Of the many performances that Rachelle Fortenberry Steinhauer has performed in as an actress or directed over the years, she says that her proudest experiences have come from her time with Just Over the Rainbow Theater (JORT), a non-profit organization that supports the Abby Rogers Civitan Camp for the Mentally Challenged. “Through the years, JORT has donated thousands of dollars to this cause,” she notes. “JORT members have also ‘played an active part’, so to speak, in the camp itself.”

An actress since the age of 10, Steinhauer describes herself as primarily a comedic performer, having performed primary roles in such plays as *Steel Magnolias*, *The Foreigner*, *Exact Center of the Universe*, *Death and Deceit on the Nile*, and *The Mousetrap*. She has also performed the role of Caitlin O’Hare in *Over the River and Through the Woods* as well as the title role in *Sylvia* at the Mississippi Theater Association Festival—the latter earning her two All Star Cast Awards.

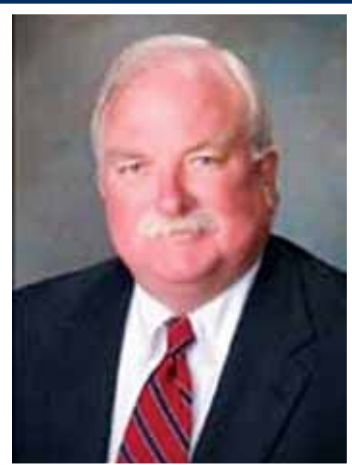
“Acting has been a lifelong interest,” Steinhauer says, noting that she studied theater in college and even toured with two children’s show. “I feel that live theater is a great way to connect with people in a very organic way.”

Steinhauer has also put her directing talents on display with many shows, most notably *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Importance of Being Earnest* and *Private Lives*, she says, adding that she plans to continue to participate in both community and church productions. “Perhaps one day I will open a drama school for children and teens,” she asserts.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law in 2003, Steinhauer says that her passion is being a role model. Also actively involved with the Christian Women’s Job Corp, she emphasizes that “I love helping others.”



Rachelle Fortenberry Steinhauer, second from left, in the production “Death and Deceit on the Nile”, Over the Rainbow Theater in March 2010



OTIS TIMS *Tupelo*

A theater aficionado while in high school, attorney Otis Tims rediscovered his passion for acting in the mid 1990s. Since then, he's found himself in a wide range of roles as either an actor or director in dozens of plays through the Tupelo Community Theatre.

"The Tupelo Community Theatre is a very active group with high standards," he notes. "I have really appreciated the opportunities I have had with the professionals there."

Tims' acting abilities cover many styles and genres. Drawing on his experience as an attorney, he has been cast in legal roles such as the chief judge in the *Crucible* as well as much lighter roles such as Kris Kringle in *Miracle on 34th Street*. "I grew a white beard," he humorously recalls. "Kids would come up to me afterwards still thinking I was Santa Claus. It was a lot of fun."

Tims recalls that his favorite role was the one that got him back into acting. Always a fan of C.S. Lewis, Tims was cast as the world-renown author/theologian when his daughter encouraged him to try out for *Shadowlands*, a play based on the life of C.S. Lewis.

"I admire his work, his writings...his life," Tims notes, adding that capturing the essence of this complicated man was challenging and rewarding.

Tims can often be found directing or co-directing alongside Susan, his wife of eight years. While he used to do three to four plays a year, he says that he only has time for one or two now.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1985, Tims is currently an attorney with Mitchell, McNutt and Sams representing businesses and governmental entities in a broad spectrum of specialized fields. He and wife Susan have four daughters and two sons between them.

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SEAN GUY *Ridgeland*

When Sean Guy spent a day piddling in a friend's fused glass studio, he could have never predicted that the art would soon become one of his favorite pastimes. In fact, until that infamous day six or seven years ago, Guy notes that he never pursued art in any form.

"I just really had not done anything along those lines before," he recalls. "It really came out of nowhere...but I love it."

Not long after Guy took up fused glass as a hobby, it became apparent that he had a talent. He soon began receiving regular orders from friends and was accepted into the Craftsmen's Guild just a year or two later, a notable achievement since artists must present their work and be chosen by a jury.

Today, alongside a busy law practice with McCraney, Montagnet and Quin in Ridgeland, Guy also operates Banjo Moon Glass alongside fellow artists Maryanne Wynn and Billy Wynn. While all three are master craftsmen, Guy emphasizes that they each have very unique styles, his being very geometric based with a lot of precision.

Because the three artists also have full-time careers alongside their passion for fused glass, they only do one show annually—the Chimneyville Crafts Festival. Their work is also shown in Brown's Fine Art in Jackson.

Guy earned his doctor of jurisprudence from Mississippi College School of Law in 2001. He also holds a masters degree of business administration from the same school. Much of his current practice is focused on criminal defense and civil litigation, including product liability, insurance, mass tort, toxic torts and consumer finance.



LYNN WATKINS *Jackson*

Lynn Watkins learned how to knit at an early age after her grandmother gave her a knitting kit when she was eight. It wasn't until the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, though, that she really understood how the power of the craft would shape her next moves as a fiber artist.

"After Hurricane Katrina, the compulsion to create something in the midst of so much overwhelming loss led me to a local craft store for dollar cotton and some bamboo needles," she says, recalling the despair felt after her husband's family lost everything. "I think it took me to another state."

Watkins toyed with the craft during her late 20s, even making several sweaters. Once she decided to take up law school at the age of 33, she recalls, that "knitting went into a bag...literally."

Since her new awakening following Hurricane Katrina, Watkins has taken the craft to the next level, recently being accepted into the Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild. "I am so proud of that achievement," she notes. "I find it deeply satisfying to create something from humble materials."

Watkins graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1977 with a bachelors degree in journalism and speech. She worked as a newspaper reporter for 10 years before entering law school at Ole Miss and currently works in the Hinds County Public Defender's office serving indigent clients. Watkins says that knitting provides a therapeutic outlet and is a positive counterpoint to her work as an appellate lawyer.

"I think that the art opens up another outlet that we lawyers can sometimes shut off," she emphasizes. "We have to work to open ourselves back up."

Watkins lives in Jackson with her husband Terrell Williamson and son Thomas. Looking to the future, she hopes to begin spinning her own yarn.



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Derek R. Arrington
Young Lawyers Division President
2010-2011

On behalf of the Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar, I extend to each of you the warmest wishes for a happy new year in 2011. While 2010 was a productive and eventful year for the YLD, I believe that 2011 will even be better. However, in planning for the future, we must be mindful of the past. Along those lines, plans are well underway to commemorate the YLD's 75th Anniversary. Along with a dinner honoring past YLD officials, plans for other events around the state are coming together to form a year-long celebration that will continue through President-Elect Jennifer Graham Hall's administration.

Chairwoman Tiffany Graves of the Public Service Committee has held Wills for Heroes events in Choctaw and Ridgeland. Further, she has Wills for Heroes events scheduled in Hattiesburg, Tupelo, Gulfport, Jackson County, Desoto County and Itawamba County in the near future. If you are in these areas, please contact Tiffany or your local affiliate for opportunities to volunteer your time and service to those first responders who serve us on a daily basis. I would like to offer special thanks to the Jackson Legal Professionals Association who have generously donated their time and services to this program.

The YLD's Mock Trial Program is in full swing as regional competitions in Oxford, Jackson, and the Gulf Coast occur throughout the months of January and February. Your help is needed to serve as judges in these locations as well

Young Lawyers Division News

as during the statewide competition in Jackson on February 25 and 26. Please reach out to Jennie Pitts and René Garner to volunteer as a judge at one of these events. If you have not done so before, I can assure you that you will walk away from the experience with a sincere appreciation for the time and effort these young men and women invested in preparing their case. Further, the talent level evident in their execution of the case during the competition is as surprising as it is inspiring.

A new project garnering great excitement among members of the YLD is Diversity in the Law Chairwoman Keyla McCullum's new writing contest for high school students. Students are encouraged to write an essay about what diversity means to them and how they are working to achieve diversity in their school and submit it to the YLD for consideration in the newly formed competition. Winners of the competition will receive a \$500.00 scholarship to be used to further their education. I hope that this competition will become an annual event and reward the students' critical thinking and creative writing by recognizing their excellence and encouraging them to pursue higher education.

As has often been said, the YLD local affiliates are the life blood of the Young Lawyers Division. They are on the front line serving the needs of young lawyers and their community on a daily basis. Therefore, it is always exciting and encouraging to recognize growth in this area. I am pleased to report that the Lauderdale County Young Lawyers Association has re-formed and Kathryn McNair graciously agreed to serve as President during the reorganizing of this

important local affiliate. I call upon all young lawyers in the Lauderdale County area to pitch in and assist Kathryn in getting this organization up, running and serving the area for years to come. Congratulations, Kathryn, on your willingness to serve and taking the initiative to do the hard work necessary to get things moving in the right direction.

The Publications Committee is busy at work under the leadership of Chairman Lem Montgomery. They are hard at work attempting to bring the Bar Directory online via smart phone application. This has been a popular request among YLD members, and we are working out the glitches related to this technological innovation in hopes of providing this service to our members in the near future.

Of course, this is only a sampling of the work the YLD is engaged in via its numerous committees. If you would like to get involved, I assure you there is a committee to match your interests and strengths. Our Division is only as strong as the volunteer efforts of its members. I ask your help in preparing us for the challenges and possibilities that lie ahead in 2011.

In closing, I want to thank Nina Tollison for her leadership of The Mississippi Bar and the leadership of The Mississippi Bar Foundation for their consistent, steadfast support of the Young Lawyers Division. I am grateful for the moral and financial support they provide which allows the YLD to conduct its programs. I look forward to working with each of you through the YLD to discover what 2011 has in store for The Mississippi Bar. ■

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Jessica Nicole Ayers
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Fall 2010 Bar Admissions Ceremony Sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division



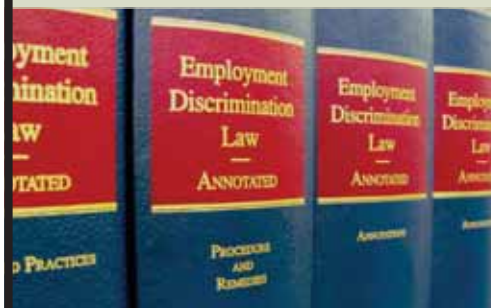
Program participants administering the oath to practice law in Mississippi included (front row), Derek R. Arrington, President of the Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar; Nina Stubblefield Tollison, President of The Mississippi Bar; Chief Justice William L. Waller, Jr., Supreme Court of Mississippi; Judge Michael P. Mills, United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi; Judge E. Grady Jolly, Jr., US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; Judge Denise Owens, Hinds County Chancery Court; and Judge Keith Starrett, US District Courts for the Southern District of Mississippi; (second row), Brad Reeves, Chair, Bar Admissions Ceremony Committee; Larry Houchins, Executive Director of The Mississippi Bar; Ann Bowden-Hollis, Vice-Chair, Board of Bar Admissions; Dean Richard Gershon, University of Mississippi Law School; Dean James H. Rosenblatt, Mississippi College School of Law; and Rev. Gary Adams, Zion Chapel Church.



The Fall Bar Admission Ceremony sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division was held Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at Thalia Mara Hall. Representing the Young Lawyers Division Bar Admission Ceremony Committee were (front row) Andrew Stubbs; Mary Purvis; Matt Williams; (back row) Keyla McCullum; Jason Payne; Kamesha Mumford; and Barbara Meeks.



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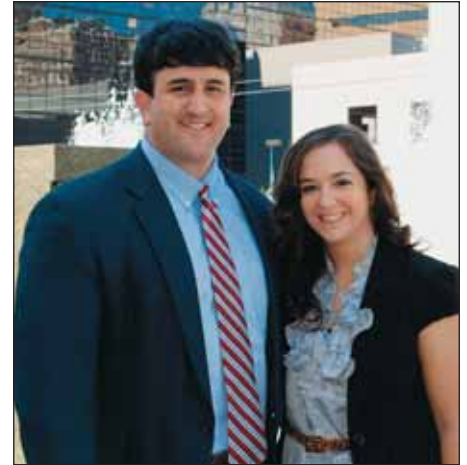
New “Lawyers in the Family”



Sarah Reese, left, of Ocean Springs is welcomed by her mother Judy M. Guice of Biloxi (admitted 1980).



Kathlyn Van Buskirk, right, of Ocean Springs is congratulated by her father Robert W. Smith of Ocean Springs (admitted 1977).



Courtney McAlexander, right, of Clarksdale is greeted by her brother Joe Nosef, left, of Jackson (admitted in 1995).



Charles Hays Burchfield, right, of Eupora is welcomed by his grandfather, Charles Pete Fortner, Jr. of Eupora (admitted in 1972).



William F. Blair, right, of Brandon (admitted 1978) congratulates his daughter Rachel A. Blair of Brandon.



Lawrence C. Long, left, of Indianola (admitted 1981) greets his daughter Elizabeth Long Friary of Indianola.



Susan Kirkpatrick Steadman, left, of Hattiesburg (admitted 1979) welcomes her daughter Pellerree Amelia Steadman of Hattiesburg.



Wesley Mockbee, right, of Jackson is congratulated by his father David Mockbee of Jackson (admitted 1974).

New “Lawyers in the Family”



Daniel Andrew Hassin, Jr, left, of Brandon is greeted by his wife Christiana S. Hassin of Brandon (admitted 2003).



Charles E. Lawrence, III, right, of Hattiesburg is welcomed by his father Charles E. Lawrence, Jr. of Hattiesburg (admitted 1979).



Kelly McLeod, center, of Oxford is congratulated by her sister Courtney Williams, right, of Jackson and brother-in-law Paul Williams, left, of Jackson.



William L. McDonough, Jr, left, of Gulfport (admitted in 1980) greets his son William Clayton McDonough of Clinton.



Mike Tarleton, left, (admitted 2005) welcomes his daughter Brooke Tarleton, both of Madison.



Sarah Ann Carroll, right, of Savannah, TN is greeted by her fiancé David Ellis of Jackson (admitted 2008).



Lewis Clark Hunter, center left, of Quitman is congratulated by his uncle Attorney General Jim Hood, far left, of Brandon (admitted 1990), his uncle Tom Hood, far right, of Madison (admitted 2000) and grandfather Jimmy Hood, center right, of Houston (admitted 1970).



Nathaniel Clark of Iuka is welcomed by his father Richard O. Clark, left, of Iuka (admitted 1966), his uncle Roger Clark, center right, of Gulfport (admitted 1970), and his cousin Kirk Clark, far right, of Gulfport (admitted 2002).

New “Lawyers in the Family”



Cody C. Bailey, left, of Ellisville (admitted 2010) congratulates his wife Jenna Bailey of Cape Girardeau, MO.



Nick Crawford, right, (admitted 1979) greets his son Nicholas Crawford, both of Greenville.



William E. Ballard, right, of Jackson (admitted 2009) welcomes his wife Jamie R. Ballard of Wichita, KS.



Alexander Martin, II, left, is welcomed by his father Alexander Martin, Sr. (admitted 1982), both of Port Gibson.



Garner Wetzel, right, is congratulated by his father James K. Wetzel, both of Gulfport.



Baskin Jones, right, of Jackson is welcomed by his father Rabun Jones of Jackson (admitted 1974).



Allison F. Davis, left, of Greenwood is congratulated by her sister, Mary Leslie Davis of Greenwood (admitted 2005).



Lori Lynn Whaley, center, of Potts Camp is congratulated by her sister Amanda Whaley Smith, left, of Holly Springs (admitted 2002), and her brother-in-law Kent E. Smith, right, of Holly Springs (admitted 1991).

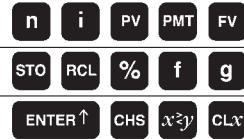


Samantha Davis Weathersbee, right, of Oxford is greeted by her father Sam Davis, left, of Oxford (admitted in 1969).

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The Judicial Excellence Award recognizes a judge who has exceeded the fall of the judicial office. The recipient should be an exceptional county, circuit, chancery or state appellate judge who is an example of judicial excellence, a leader in advancing the quality and efficiency of justice and a person of high ideals, character and integrity. To be eligible, a judge must be serving as a county, circuit, chancery or appellate judge. Judges on senior status are eligible if they continue to be active on the bench.

Nominations shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee of The Mississippi Bar. The Executive Committee shall make its recommendations to the Board of Commissioners at its Spring Board Meeting. Upon approval of the Board, award recipients shall be notified by the Executive Director of the Bar. All awards shall be presented at the next Annual Meeting of the Bar following their selection by the Board of Commissioners.

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Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project Reception for National Pro Bono Week October 27, 2010



La'Verne Edney, General Counsel for the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project; and Shirley Williams, MVLP Executive Director



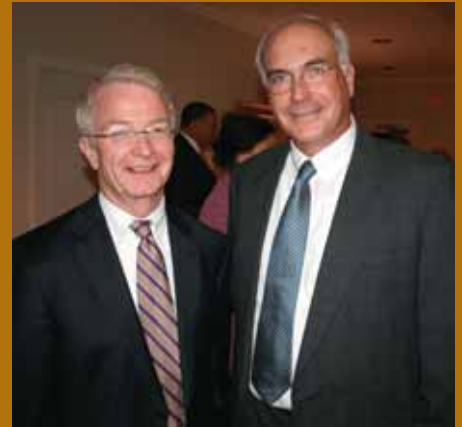
Chris Solop, Bob Biggs and Tom Alexander



MS Bar President Nina Stubblefield Tollison and Katie Hester



Robert Gibbs and Charles Ozier



Past MS Bar President George Fair and Steve Orlansky



Alston Ludwig, Lindsey Oswald, and Ben Morgan



Dellwyn Smith, Daryl Smith and Zandrea King



Patricia Herlily and Judge Virginia Carlton



Patti Gandy, Gee Ogletree, and E.J. Russell



Lee Vernon, Brad Moody, and Scotty Welch



Virginia Munford and Karyn Howell



Stephen Teague, Selika Owens, and Jody Owens



Judge Denise Owens and Past Bar President Reuben Anderson



MS Bar Executive Director Larry Houchins and MS Bar President Nina Stubblefield Tollison



Cody Gibbs, Pat Evans, and Roy Campbell

The 2nd Annual MVLP reception was held at the Bar Center.



Attorney-Client Privilege for In-House Counsel in the European Union



Introduction

This article focuses on the recent decision by the European Court of Justice² in *Akzo Nobel Chemicals Limited and Akcros Chemicals Limited v. European Commission* of September 14, 2010.³

The decision was widely anticipated in Europe and has already received broad attention in the United States.⁴ On appeal from the European Court of First Instance (now the General Court),⁵ the Court of Justice held that the legal professional privilege, which is the equivalent to the attorney-client privilege in the United States, does not extend to written communications, including emails, between in-house counsel and management as long as they are in an employment relationship with their client.⁶

Of particular interest is the fact that the American Corporate Counsel Association - European Chapter (“ACCA”) was involved in the case and was granted leave by the Court⁷ to intervene in support of *Akzo Nobel* and *Akcros*.⁸ The ACCA argued that the legal professional privilege, as the equivalent to the attorney-client privilege in the U.S., should not be limited in its scope and should include communications that involve in-house corporate counsel. The American Bar Association’s application for leave to intervene was refused for failure to establish a legitimate interest in the result of the case.⁹

As the involvement of these organizations demonstrates, the knowledge of what is protected under the attorney-client privilege is no longer only a national concern. Rather, with a transnational practice of law comes an additional dimension of ethical standards and rules. Specifically, American lawyers representing international clients or in-house counsel represented by attorneys admitted in Europe may be subject to different or additional obligations under the professional rules of conduct in foreign jurisdictions. Yet, the information

on international professional standards is sparse at best and guidance not always readily available.

This article will address some of these concerns and provide some information and insight on the scope of the attorney-client privilege in the European Union and with specific focus on in-house counsel. The article will first provide some procedural and factual background information (B.), followed by a discussion of the attorney client privilege in the European Union (C.), and the national levels of the twenty seven Member States (D.). It concludes with some final remarks (E.) and notes possible implications of the ruling for the practice of law in the U.S. (F.).

B. Procedural Background

The background of *Akzo Nobel Chemicals Ltd. and Akcros Chemicals Ltd. v. European Commission* (hereinafter “Akzo”) was a discovery proceeding initiated by the European Commission (hereinafter “Commission”) during which the Commission seized documents, that the applicants/appellants considered privileged.¹⁰

Akzo Nobel and *Akcros* were accused of participating in a cartel of plastic additive producers that included price fixing, allocating markets, and exchanging commercially sensitive information.¹¹ As part of its investigation, the Commission ordered the search of the business premises of *Akzo Nobel* and *Akcros* in the United Kingdom,¹² during which the documents in question were seized. Of particular concern were two emails exchanged between *Akcros*’s general manager and a member of *Akzo Nobel*’s in-house legal

*By Mississippi College School
of Law Assistant Professor
of Law Christoph Henkel*

department, who was also *Akzo Nobel's* coordinator for competition law and was admitted to the Netherlands Bar. Prior to the seizure, Commission officials examined the documents and determined that they were not privileged. The documents were then placed on file without separating or isolating them from other documents.¹³

As the competent competition authority of the European Union,¹⁴ the Commission has very broad investigatory powers.¹⁵ It may conduct all necessary inspections of corporations and subsidiaries, examining the books and other records related to the business, without regard to the medium on which they are stored.¹⁶ In addition, representatives of the Commission may take any copies or extracts of such books or records¹⁷ and enter any premises where business records may be kept, including private homes.¹⁸ Written communications between attorney and client are considered business records as long as they are responsive to the subject matter of the investigation.¹⁹ During the proceedings before the General Court, the Commission took the position that it is part of the Commission's investigatory powers to view and seize potentially privileged documents as a preparatory act and that the Commission at a later time has the right to ultimately determine whether these documents are legally privileged.²⁰

C. The Legal Professional Privilege in the European Union

The legal professional privilege, or attorney-client privilege (as it is referred to in the U.S.), is recognized as a common principle among all twenty-seven Member States.²¹ Since the 1982 decision of the Court of Justice in *AM&S Europe Limited v. Commission*,²² the privilege is also recognized as a fundamental right²³ in European Union law.

In *AM&S*, the Court found that some Member States protect the legal professional privilege as part of "the very nature of the legal profession inasmuch as it contributes towards the maintenance of the rule of law,"²⁴ while other Member States recognize the privilege as part of the "rights of the defense."²⁵ Based on this analysis, the Court held that the confidentiality of communications between attorney and client is generally protected, but

subject to two conditions.²⁶ First, the communication must be made for the purpose and interest of the client's right of defense.²⁷ And second, only communications initiated by independent attorneys, not bound by any employment relationship with the client, are protected.²⁸ While the initiation of a proceeding is a prerequisite to prompt the protection under the privilege, the Court also held that if necessary for an effective protection of the right to defense, the privilege may attach to communications prior to the initiation of proceedings as long as a relationship to the subject-matter of the procedure can be proved.²⁹

The parties in *Akzo Nobel Chemicals Ltd. and Akcros Chemicals Ltd. v. European Commission* did not dispute the existence of the legal professional privilege in European Union Law, but objected to the exclusion of the protection under the privilege for communications of in-house corporate counsel.³⁰ The appellants argued

that the legal landscape had significantly changed since *AM&S*, and that the independence of lawyers should no longer merely be interpreted based on their employment relationship, but rather by the professional ethical obligations to which they are subject.³¹ The Court disagreed and did not find that the changes in the legal landscape were significant enough since the judgment in *AM&S* to justify a change in the case-law.³² The Court specifically noted that in-house counsel, despite bar admission and the professional ethical obligations, are less able to deal effectively with any conflicts between their professional obligations and the aims of their client.³³ According to the Court, rules of professional conduct strengthen the position of an in-house counsel within a company, but not enough to ensure a degree of independence comparable to that of an external lawyers.³⁴

Continued on next page



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Attorney-Client Privilege for In-House Counsel in the European Union

While thereby confirming the *AM&S* ruling, *Akzo* as a point of principle goes much further and unmistakably establishes the rule that in European Union law in-house counsel are not recognized as professional legal advisors for the purpose of the attorney-client privilege.

D. Treatment of In-house Counsel in Member States' National Legal Systems

The European Union has not harmonized the rules organizing the legal profession at the national level of the Member States and national rules continue to determine the legal professional privilege within national jurisdictions.³⁵

In fact, from a national perspective, the legal professional privilege often has very different roots and material meanings.³⁶ For example, in the United Kingdom³⁷ and Ireland,³⁸ the privilege is based on case-law alone. In Bulgaria and Spain, it part of the constitution itself,³⁹ whereas in Sweden⁴⁰ and Denmark,⁴¹ it is based on a statutory provision in the Code

of Civil Procedure; and in Germany it is part of the Code of Criminal Procedure and other statutory provisions.⁴²

No uniform approach exists for the recognition of in-house counsel as legal advisors for purposes of the legal professional privilege among the Member States of the European Union. Only a minority of states extend the benefit of the legal professional privilege to in-house counsel or salaried lawyers, such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Greece, Portugal, and Poland.⁴³ Some jurisdictions, such as Belgium, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, or Sweden, absolutely prohibit lawyers admitted to a bar or law society from employment as salaried lawyers.⁴⁴ On the other hand, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom allow in-house counsel to be admitted to the bar.⁴⁵ But significant differences exist even among the latter group of countries. While in Spain and the United Kingdom salaried lawyers may be full bar members, this is not true in

Germany or the Netherlands.⁴⁶ At the same time, Finland has a voluntary bar and the practice of law does not require membership of a bar or law society.⁴⁷

Thus, although the protection of written communications between lawyer and client is generally recognized in all national legal systems of the European Union Member States, the scope and the criteria for applying the legal professional privilege vary in accordance with the different national rules⁴⁸ and may, therefore, significantly differ from the rules established in *AM&S* and *Akzo*. Even if attempts are made to adopt a standard code of professional conduct, such as the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe's (CCBE)⁴⁹ adoption of the Code of Conduct for European Lawyers,⁵⁰ these rules are not being uniformly implemented.⁵¹ The result is a remaining patchwork of rules in the law of the European Union Member States⁵² and with regard to the question of whether in-house counsel communications are protected under the legal professional privilege.

E. Final Remarks

Two additional points exist with regard to questions not addressed by the Court of Justice.

As noted, the background of the Court of Justice decision in *Akzo* was a limited appeal from a prior ruling of the General Court in the same case. The General Court addressed two additional issues that were not subject of the appeal, but may also have important implications for the transnational practice of law. Those two issues are: 1.) who determines whether a document is privileged when the Commission investigates anti-competitive behavior and 2.) whether communications between in-house and outside counsel are protected under attorney-client privilege when made for the purpose of seeking legal advice.

As to the first issue, the General Court held that the question of privilege is ultimately determined by the Court and when the Commission determined privilege of the documents in the instant case, the Commission violated the applicants' rights.⁵³ Specifically, the Court noted that even the most cursory look at the documents may allow the Commission to gain access to information covered by legal

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professional privilege and prejudice the applicants.⁵⁴ While the Commission may place documents in a sealed envelope and seize them with the view to a subsequent resolution of the dispute, the Commission is not permitted to look at the documents.⁵⁵

As regards the second issue of communications between in-house and outside counsel, the General Court determined that the material scope of the legal professional privilege includes preparatory documents or documents made for the purpose of seeking legal advice from outside counsel, even if they are not physically sent to outside counsel.⁵⁶ As an exception to the Commission's essential investigatory powers, the privilege for preparatory documents must be construed narrowly, however.⁵⁷ Discussion of a document with a lawyer is not sufficient, instead the document must have been drafted "with the sole aim of seeking legal advice from a lawyer,"⁵⁸ the exclusive purpose of which must be proved by the party relying on the privilege.⁵⁹

Finally, neither the General Court nor the Court of Justice addressed the question of whether, in similarity to the United States,⁶⁰ the European Union should grant privilege to communications between in-house or outside counsel admitted in jurisdictions outside the European Union.⁶¹ Only the Advocate-General's opinion in the appeal before the Court of Justice referred to this question, but rejected the need to extend the benefit of the privilege to foreign lawyers.⁶² The Advocate-General reasoned that no adequate international basis exists for the mutual recognition of legal qualifications and professional ethical obligations.⁶³ Unlike in the United States, the legal professional privilege in the European Union does, therefore, not extend to foreign lawyers or lawyers from the United States.

F. Conclusion and Practical Implications

Clearly, the legal professional privilege in European Union law amounts to less than what attorneys in the United States are accustomed to under the attorney-client privilege,⁶⁴ and to some extent appears to be a stronger work-product rule as far as the right of defense is implicated. Further, contrary to the United States practice,⁶⁵ in European Union law in-

house counsel are not recognized as professional legal advisors for purposes of the privilege.

Akzo was a paradigm case and the ACCA and other interveners on behalf of *Akzo Nobel* and *Akcros* were disappointed after the Court of Justice rejected the opportunity to overturn its 1982 decision in *AM&S*. Among many in-house lawyers in Europe, the fear is that the failure to extend the protection of the attorney-client privilege will ultimately erode the importance and sentinel function that in-house counsel play in advising their clients and reduce their function to nothing more than the position of a corporate compliance officer.

The rules of legal professional privilege in Europe continue to pose potential traps to attorneys admitted in the United States. Specifically, in order to benefit from the European Union legal professional privilege, communications by in-house counsel must be anchored to outside counsel and made in preparation for the protection of the right of defense. Any other communication is not protected. In addition, seeking advice from attorneys in the United States may not be sufficient because it remains unclear whether attorneys admitted in foreign jurisdictions are covered under the legal professional privilege in European Union law.

Moreover, national rules in the various Member States of the European Union differ significantly and need to be taken into account. Regardless, the importance of the rule confirmed by the Court of Justice in *Akzo* is the fact that it may act as a default rule even when European Union law is not implicated. While the *Akzo* rule

is limited to competition law investigations by the Commission, the rule is also based on criteria common in all twenty seven Member States of the European Union and can function as an effective guideline in that context.

Inevitably, the attorney with a transnational practice will see an increasing number of emails with the disclaimer that the document was prepared for the exclusive purpose of seeking legal advice, but such disclaimer cannot, of course, ensure protection under the privilege. The document must be unambiguous and the burden of proof that the document in question was created for the sole purpose of seeking legal advice is on the defendant. Thus, the best advice may be to generally assume that written communications with in-house counsel are not protected under attorney-client privilege and a request for legal advice cannot necessarily overcome this limitation as long as such advice is sought from outside counsel admitted in a jurisdiction other than the European Union. ■

¹ Professor Henkel is Co-director of the International and Comparative Law Center at Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, Mississippi. He teaches Contracts, Commercial Law, Bankruptcy, International Law, and European Union Law. Professor Henkel is an active member of the State Bar of Michigan and has expertise in International Litigation and Arbitration, and Cross-Border Transactions.

² The Court of Justice of the European Union consists of the Court of Justice, the General Court, and the Civil Service Tribunal. The Civil Service Tribunal was created in 2004.

Continued on next page

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- ³ Case C-550/07 P, *Akzo Nobel Chems. Ltd. v. Comm'n*, (2010), available at <http://curia.europa.eu>.
- ⁴ ABA Section for Antitrust Law, Teleconference: **The ECJ's Akzo Ruling: Implications and Limits on Legal Privilege, Monday, October 25, 2010.**
- ⁵ See Case T-125/03 R, *Akzo Nobel Chems. v. Comm'n*, 2003 E.C.R. II-4771, available at <http://curia.europa.eu>
- ⁶ *Akzo*, *supra* note 3, at ¶¶ 40-51.
- ⁷ *Id.* at ¶ 10; see also Protocol on the Statute of the Court of Justice of the European Union, art. 40, available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>; Rules of Procedure of the Court of Justice, arts. 93(1), 123, available at <http://curia.europa.eu>.
- ⁸ Akros Chemicals Limited was a fully owned subsidiary of Akzo Nobel Chemicals Limited during the initial litigation. In early 2007 Akzo Nobel sold Akros Chemicals to the GIL investment company in the UK.
- ⁹ The Conseil de barreaux européens, the Algemene Taad van de Nederlandse Orde van Advocaten, the European Company Lawyers Association, the International Bar Association, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands were all granted leave to intervene in the case. See, Order of the President of the Court, available at <http://curia.europa.eu>; Order of the President of the Court of First Instance, 2004 O.J. (C 35) 10, available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>.
- ¹⁰ Commission Decision C (2003) 85/4 (Jan. 30, 2003).
- ¹¹ *Akzo*, *supra* note 3, at ¶ 4. The focus of the investigation was the antitrust case COMP/E-38.589, concerning plastic additives, such as heat stabilizers. The European Commission fined numerous plastic additives producers a total of ?173 million for price fixing and market sharing cartels. The applicants/appellants were fined in excess of ?21 million.
- ¹² Commission Decision C (2003) 85/4 (Jan. 30, 2003), as amended by Decision C (2003) 559/4 (Feb. 10, 2003).
- ¹³ For a more complete description of the background of the dispute, see Opinion of Advocate General Kokott in *Akzo*, at ¶¶ 7-16, available at <http://curia.europa.eu>, [hereinafter "Opinion of Advocate General Kokott"]. On the final decision by the Commission to reject privilege, see Commission Decision C (2003) 1533 (May 8, 2003).
- ¹⁴ See, TFEU arts. 105 and 103; Art. 14(3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 17 of 6 February 1962: First Regulation implementing Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of the European Economic Community (OJ, English Special Edition 1959-1962, p. 87); See also Articles 43(1) and 45 of Council Regulation of December 16, 2002 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in EEC Treaty arts. 81, 82 (now TFEU arts. 105 and 103) (O.J. 2003 L1, p1.) (also known as Regulation 1/2003).
- ¹⁵ *Id.*
- ¹⁶ *Id.*
- ¹⁷ *Id.*
- ¹⁸ *Id.* at ¶ 85. See also recital 25 and 26 in the preamble of Regulation 1/2003; See *supra* note 14.
- ¹⁹ See, *i.e.*, Case 155-79, *AM & S Eur. Ltd. v. Comm'n*, 1982 E.C.R. 1575, at ¶¶ 17-18 [hereinafter *AM&S*].
- ²⁰ Case T-125/03, *supra* note 5, ¶ 41.
- ²¹ The European Union and its Member States do not distinguish clearly between the attorney-client privilege and the work-product rule. Rather, both are part of a so-called legal professional privilege.
- ²² See, *AM&S*, *supra* note 19, at ¶¶ 18-21.
- ²³ See, *i.e.*, Opinion of Advocate General Léger in Case C-309/99, *Wouters and Others* [2002] ECR I-1577, ¶ 182; Opinion of Advocate General Poiares Maduro in Case C-305/05, *Ordre des barreaux francophones et germanophone and Others* [2007] ECR I-5305, ¶ 39; Case T-30/89, *Hilti v. Commission*, [1990] ECR II-163, ¶¶ 13-14; Opinion of Advocate General Kokott, *supra* note 13, at ¶ 47.
- ²⁴ *Id.* at ¶ 20. In German legal terminology this is referred to as *unabhängiges Organ der Rechtspflege* (an independent institution for the administration of justice) or in French legal terminology *auxiliaire de justice* (organ of the administration of justice). See also *André & Othe v. France*, No. 18603/03, 42 (July 2008).
- ²⁵ See, *AM&S*, *supra* note 19, at ¶¶ 18-21.
- ²⁶ *Id.* at ¶¶ 21-22.
- ²⁷ *Id.*
- ²⁸ *Id.*
- ²⁹ *Id.* at ¶ 23.
- ³⁰ Opinion of Advocate General Kokott, *supra* note 13, at ¶ 55.
- ³¹ *Akzo*, *supra* note 3, at ¶ 34-36.
- ³² *Id.* at ¶ 76.
- ³³ *Id.* at ¶¶ 45-46
- ³⁴ *Id.*
- ³⁵ See, TFEU arts. 45-48, Directive 98/5/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of February 16, 1998, (OJ 1998 L 77, p. 36); Council Directive 77/249/EEC of March 22, 1977 (O.J. 1977 L. 78, p.17).
- ³⁶ See, *i.e.*, John Fish, *Regulated legal professionals and professional privilege within the European Union, the European Economic Area and Switzerland, and certain other European jurisdictions*, COUNCIL OF THE BARS AND LAW SOCIETIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, February 2004, available at <http://www.ccbe.org>.
- ³⁷ See, *i.e.*, *R v Derby Magistrates' Court, Ex parte B*. [1996] AC 487; *R v Sec. of State Home Dept., Ex parte Daly* [2001]; *Morgan Grenfell & Co. Ltd.* [2001].
- ³⁸ See, *i.e.*, *Smurfit Paribas Bank Ltd. v. AAB Export Fin. Ltd.*, 1990 [1 IR 469].
- ³⁹ In Bulgaria it is Article 30(5) of the Bulgarian Constitution and in Spain it is Articles 20 and 24 of the Spanish Constitution.
- ⁴⁰ Code of Judicial Procedure, ch. 8, § 4, ¶ 1.
- ⁴¹ Danish Code of Procedure, art. 170.
- ⁴² Criminal Code, art. 203; German Lawyers Act, art. 43a; German Federal Bar Rules of Professional Practice, art. 2.
- ⁴³ Case T-125/03, *supra* note 5, at ¶ 153-155; see also Opinion of Advocate General Kokott, *supra* note 13, at ¶¶ 101-104. See note 22 and 29.
- ⁴⁴ *Id.* In Greece, in-house counsel cannot be a member of the bar, but is covered under the legal professional privilege. Belgium has a separate law society for in-house counsel ("Institut des jurists d'entreprise") with a particular set of professional ethical obligations.
- ⁴⁵ Case T-125/03, *supra* note 5, at ¶ 153-155.
- ⁴⁶ *Id.* In Germany in-house lawyers ("Syndikusanwälte") are allowed to be members of the bar, but the protection of the legal professional privilege does not attach to internal corporate communications.
- ⁴⁷ *Id.*
- ⁴⁸ *AM&S*, *supra* note 19, at ¶ 19-20; see *Akzo*, *supra* note 3, at ¶¶ 66-70.
- ⁴⁹ CCBE, <http://www.ccbe.eu> (last visited Oct. 28, 2010).
- ⁵⁰ <http://www.ccbe.eu>.
- ⁵¹ See Status of the CCBE Code of Conduct at a national level, available at <http://www.ccbe.eu>.
- ⁵² See D.A.O. Edward, *The Professional Secret, Confidentiality and Legal Professional Privilege in the Nine Member States of the European Community*, CONSULTATIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE BARS AND LAW SOCIETIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, (1976), available at <http://www.ccbe.org>. For an updated version of the report, see *The Professional Secret, Confidentiality and Legal Professional Privilege in Europe (an update on the Report by D.A.O. Edward, QC)*, CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BARS AND LAW SOCIETIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, (2003), available at <http://www.ccbe.org>.

⁵³ Case T-125/03, *supra* note 5, at ¶¶ 76-101.

⁵⁴ *Id.* at ¶ 81.

⁵⁵ *Id.* at ¶ 83. According to the Court “[t]his procedure enables risks of a breach of legal professional privilege to be avoided while at the same time enabling the Commission to retain a certain control over the documents forming the subject-matter of the investigation and avoiding the risk that the documents will subsequently disappear or be manipulated.”

⁵⁶ *Id.* at ¶ 123.

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ *Id.* The exclusive purpose “should be unambiguously clear from the content of the documents themselves or the context in which those documents were prepared and found.”

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ See, e.g., *Mitts & Merrill, Inc. v. Shred Pax Corp.*, 112 F.R.D. 349 (N.D. Ill. 1986); *Mendenhall v. Barber-Greene Co.*, F. Supp. 951 (N.D. Illinois 1982); *Renfield Corp. v. E. Rémy Martin & Co.*, 98 F.R.D. 442 (D. Del. 1982).

⁶¹ Opinion of Advocate General Kokott, *supra* note 13, at ¶¶ 188-190. Apparently this was also part of the submission by the ACCA in support of the applicant/appellant. ACCA argued that European Union law must extend the protection afforded by legal professional privilege even to communications with in-house lawyers who are members of a Bar of Law Society in a third country.

⁶² The General Court and the Court of Justice are assisted by the office of the Advocate General. The Advocate General participates in hearings before the Court, but most important, produces written opinions for the Court in which he evaluates and analyzes the issues in each case. The opinion of the Advocate General is given before the Court makes its decision and is one of the most important aids to analyze the rulings of the Court. See, TFEU art. 252.

⁶³ Opinion of Advocate General Kokott, *supra* note 13, at ¶¶ 188-190. See note 22 and 29.

⁶⁴ See also, Ronald A. Brand, FUNDAMENTALS OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS 409-410 (Kluwer Law International 2000).

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Professional Qualifications:

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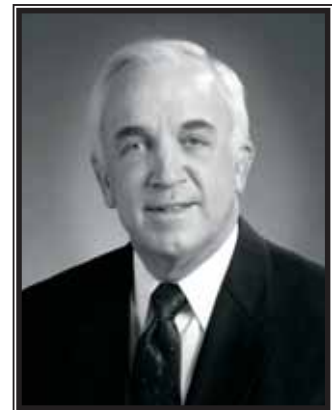
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CLE Calendar of Events

The following live programs have been approved by the Mississippi Commission on Continuing Legal Education. This list is not all-inclusive. For information regarding other programs, including teleconferences and online programs, contact Tracy Graves, CLE Administrator at (601) 576-4622 or 1-800-441-8724, or check out our website, www.mssc.state.ms.us Mississippi now approves **online programs** for CLE credit. For a list of approved courses, check the Calendar of Events on our website. For information on the approval process for these programs, please see Regulations 3.3 and 4.10 posted under the CLE Rules on our website or contact Tracy Graves at the numbers listed above.

FEBRUARY

18-19 UM-CLE "18th Annual Evelyn Gandy Lecture Series." 6.0 credits (includes ethics). Biloxi, MS, Beau Rivage. Contact 662-915-7283.

21 MS School Board Association "CSBA Seminar on School Law." 6.0 credits. Clinton, MS. Contact 601-924-2001, April Mills.

MARCH

2 MS School Board Association "Topics w/ Jim Keith: FMLA, Workers Comp, FLSA." 3.0 credits. Jackson, MS. Contact 601-924-2001, April Mills.

4 UM-CLE "11th Annual Guardian Ad Litem Certification Training." 6.0 credits (includes ethics). Ridgeland, MS, Embassy Suites. Contact 662-915-7283.

14 Abbott & Weems "Summary of Recent MS Law." 6.0 credits (includes ethics). Oxford, MS. Contact 662-234-6956, Professor Guthrie Abbott.

16 Abbott & Weems "Summary of Recent MS Law." 6.0 credits (includes ethics). Jackson, MS, The Hilton. Contact 662-234-6956, Professor Guthrie Abbott.

18 Abbott & Weems "Summary of Recent MS Law." 6.0 credits (includes ethics). Biloxi, MS, Imperial Palace. Contact 662-234-6956, Professor Guthrie Abbott.

22 Sterling Education Services, Inc. "Landlord-Tenant Law." 7.0 credits (includes ethics). Jackson, MS. Contact 715-855-0495, Jennifer Westrate.

APRIL

15 UM-CLE "Law Alumni Weekend CLE Seminar." 6.0 credits (includes ethics). Oxford, MS, The Depot. Contact 662-915-7283.

29-30 UM-CLE "Mississippi Law Update." 12.0 credits (includes 2.0 hours of ethics). Natchez, MS, Dunleith Plantation. Contact 662-915-7283.

29 MS Bar "Tupelo CLE on the Road." 6.0 credits (includes ethics). Tupelo, MS, Hilton Garden Inn. Contact 601-353-1703, Kellie Freeman.

MAY

3 MS School Board Association "Legislative Update & School Law Review." 6.0 credits. Clinton, MS. Contact 601-924-2001, April Mills.

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Richard Lloyd Arnold

Richard Lloyd Arnold, 71, of Jackson, died November 3, 2010. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1965. He served in the Air Guard. Arnold served the state of Mississippi for over 30 years with his last employment as a Special Assistant Attorney General with the Attorney General's Office.

Curtis Homer Austin

Curtis Homer Austin, 59, of Columbus, died October 6, 2010. A graduate of George Washington Law Center he was admitted to practice in 1977. He was a judge and practicing attorney for 34 years, served on the Columbus City Council for eight years, served in the U.S. National Guard and was a member of Stephen Chapel MB Church and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Robert Glenn Barnett

Robert Glenn Barnett, 77, of Jackson, died November 13, 2010. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1961. He was Visiting Professor of Banking Law at the University of Mississippi Law School in 1977, 1978 and 1985.

Barnett practiced law in Southaven, Mississippi, for two years after law school, and in Jackson thereafter. He and his late brother James Arden Barnett practiced in partnership until 1970, when Barnett became legal counsel for Deposit Guaranty National Bank. He retired from the bank after 25 years, serving the last 16 as general counsel and secretary of the board. He then joined the law firm of Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens and Cannada as counsel in the area of banking law. Barnett was president of the Mississippi Young Lawyers in 1967-68, president of Mississippi Corporate Counsel Association in 1988, president of Fellows of Young Lawyers in 1995, and founding chairman of the Southern Conference of Bank House Counsel. Barnett was a proud member of the armed forces where he served five years as a Navy jet fighter pilot, retired as a Navy Captain after 12 years as a carrier-based Naval Aviator and 13 years as Naval Judge Advocate General. His civic interests include positions as past president of the North Jackson Lions Club, past president of Jackson Legal Aid Society, past board member of the Jackson Symphony and past secretary and board member of River Hills Club. He was a deacon in First Baptist Church of Jackson since 1964, serving as chairman in 1981. He taught Sunday School for 45 consecutive years at First Baptist Church of Jackson. He was one of seven founders and the first Sunday School teacher of the Southaven Baptist Church. He was a 1975 founder and a leader in the weekly Bible Study and Morning Meditation at Deposit Guaranty National Bank until his 1995 retirement.

Moss M. Butler

Moss M. Butler, 96, of Greenwood, died October 6, 2010. A graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1940. He operated farming interests near Jonestown for many years, where he was a member of the Jonestown United Methodist Church and served as chairman of the Board of Stewards until the church closed in 2003. He subsequently joined St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Clarksdale. He was also a 32nd

Degree Mason and a Shriner. He was a Registered Professional Engineer. He served as a director of the Mississippi School Board Association and locally, he was a member of the Coahoma County School Board where he served as president for 16 years. He also served as president of the Jonestown Cemetery Board, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Jonestown Peanut Corporation, the Board of Directors of the Jonestown, and the Board of Directors of the Coahoma County Farm Bureau.

Frederick T. Carney

Frederick T. Carney, 94, of Memphis, TN, died November 19, 2010. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1948. A native Memphian, he was a long time member of Trinity Methodist Church, a lifelong scout, and a WWII veteran. As a member of the Boy Scouts of America he earned his Eagle badge with two silver palms and served many years as a scoutmaster and on the executive board of the Chickasaw Council. He earned Scouting's highest awards, including the Wood Badge, the Silver Beaver, and the Silver Antelope. During WWII he commanded the destroyer escort Howard D. Crowe, DE-252, and served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres on four other ships including the USS El Paso. He retired from the military as a Captain in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and was active in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Carney received his Master's degree in tax law at NYU. He served both as the Assistant Regional Counsel of the Southeast Region for the IRS and in private practice specializing in tax law. He served as a law clerk to Judge Marion Boyd. He was a member of the Military Officers Association of America, Military order of the World Wars, and a lifelong member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

Joseph Anthony Gentile

Joseph Anthony Gentile, 58, of Jackson, died October 13, 2009. A graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1979.

Ellen E. Goldman

Ellen Eason Covington Goldman, 89, of Marks, died September 13, 2010. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, she was admitted to practice in 1970. Goldman once worked at the Federal Land Bank in New Orleans. She then accepted a job at the National Archive in Washington as an editorial assistant for the publications of the Federal Register. After moving back to Marks, she practiced law in for 25 years. Goldman sat on the State of Mississippi Bar Admissions Board for five years as the Vice-Chairman. She was also the first woman to be appointed by the Governor of Mississippi to be a Circuit Court Judge in the State of Mississippi and she served two terms.

Michael T. Guthrie, Sr.

Michael T. Guthrie, Sr., 63, of Ridgeland, died December 8, 2010. A graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1982. Guthrie was a combat veteran of the U. S. Air Force. He was stationed at Tan Son NHUT Air Base in Vietnam in 1966-1967. He also served in Guam and at the Columbus Air Force

Continued on next page

IN MEMORIAM

Base. While in law school, Mike established Guthrie Insurance Agency. In 1982, he formed M T G Operating Co. with oil and gas operations in Wyoming.

Thomas J. Holifield

Thomas J. Holifield, 87, of Laurel, died October 6, 2010. He was admitted to practice in 1952. He was a member of the American Bar Association, U. S. District Court for Southern District, U. S. Court of Appeals for Third Circuit in New Orleans, specialized in Oil and Gas Law in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, and was a member of several organizations in connection with the oil industry. He was past president of Laurel Kiwanis Club, member of Laurel County Club, and also served with the U. S. Marines in World War II and played football for the Marines in San Diego and Honolulu, Hawaii. A member of First Baptist Church of Laurel since 1957, he served as deacon, Sunday school superintendent, and teacher. He taught the Sanctuary Bible Class for approximately 14 years. He also organized the Friday Morning Men's Prayer Group in 1969 and served as its president for approximately 41 years. He also helped in the construction and operation of Houston Road Baptist Church for two years.

William D. M. Holmes

William D. M. Holmes, 73, of Arlington, VA, died August 25, 2010. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1964. Holmes was an attorney with the United States Department of Justice for more than 35 years. After retiring in 2003, he brought his experience as a tax attorney to his new career with Arlington Realty. Bill Holmes was formerly a member of the JAG Corps in the United States Army and United States Army Reserves and long-time member of the Calvary United Methodist church.

James P. Knight, Jr.

James P. Knight, Jr., 85, of Ridgeland, died August 1, 2009. A graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1964. Knight was of counsel at Knight, Mazingo, Quarles & Simpson, PLLC from its inception until his death. He enlisted in the army and served in George Patton's 10th armored division in World War II from 1943 through 1946. He received the Purple Heart from a wound received in Germany shortly before the Battle of the Bulge, as well as other decorations. He took a job with the Internal Revenue Service, working there for seventeen years. He practiced tax and business law the rest of his career. Many of those years he was a partner with his son, Jimmy.

Milton H. Mitchell

Milton H. Mitchell, 90, of Brandon, died October 26, 2010. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1946. He entered service in the United States Army Air Force as an aviation cadet. He received his wings as a pilot in February, 1943, and was immediately shipped overseas where he served in the Pacific until January of 1945. During his service in World War II, he flew 243 combat missions. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and five Battle Stars.

He was discharged from the service in September, 1945. From 1946 to 1975 Mitchell was engaged in the private practice of law in Jackson, the majority of which time he was a partner in the firm of Carter, Mitchell & Robinson. In August of 1975 he withdrew from the firm and the private practice of law to become the General Counsel and Senior Vice President of MFC Services. He served in that capacity until his retirement in 1985. Mitchell was a member of the Presbyterian Church and the Alpha chapter of the Kappa Alpha Order.

Dan Stewart Murrell

Dan Stewart Murrell, 77, of Memphis, TN, died December 5, 2010. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1968. He served nine years in the regular army, including three years in Germany. After graduation, he joined the General Crimes Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. and entered George Washington University School of Law where he earned the LL.M. He joined the faculty of the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis in 1970 and taught there until 2001. He also served two years as university legal counsel. He was active in international law, spending time with the American Bar Association's Center for Eastern European Legal Initiatives in Moldova and as a visiting professor in Budapest, Hungary. He was an active member of and volunteer for multiple organizations, including the Lions Club, Boy Scout Troop 40, CASA, the Shelby County Juvenile Court, and St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Murrell taught at Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law for more than 30 years.

Henry R. Nobles

Henry Russell Nobles, 94, of Jackson, died July 26, 2010. A graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1967. Nobles entered the United States Army in 1941. He completed Officers' Candidate School and was assigned to the 81st Wildcat Division. He served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, receiving the Bronze Star for his combat service at Peleliu Island. He rose to the rank of Major and continued serving with the 81st Division's occupational forces in the Pacific until his discharge in March, 1946. After his discharge from the army, he lived in Copiah County. He was active in community affairs, serving as a member of the Hazlehurst City School System Board of Trustees and a President of the Hazlehurst Chamber of Commerce. Nobles moved from Hazlehurst to Jackson, where he served as Vice-President and General Manager of Joe T. Dehmer Distributor, Inc. After retirement he worked for a number of years at Montgomery Hardware. A member of Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church since 1924, Nobles served as the Sunday School teacher for both the Watkins-Griffith Men's class and the Ben Fatherree class. He also served on the Board of Trustee.

Johnnie Edmand Pace

Johnnie Edmand Pace, 64, of Natchitoches, LA, died September 9, 2010. A graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1974. Pace moved to Picayune and became a partner in the law firm of Stewart, Burks, Pace and Carroll. He practiced law with that firm until 1996. During his time in

Picayune, Pace served at Municipal Court Judge and the Youth Court Judge from 1979 to 1996. After his career as a judge and lawyer, he found employment with David Murphy Oil Co. Pace was a member of the Faith Tabernacle in Pine, LA.

William B. Ridgway

William B. Ridgway, 91, of Jackson, died December 13, 2010. A graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1947. In October, 1941, Bryant joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was an instructor for Advanced Pilot Training for two years, then served as a B-24 Liberator pilot attached to the 467th Bomb Group with the 8th Air Force in Rackheath, England. He flew fourteen combat missions before the war in Europe ended in May 1945. He was honorably discharged from active duty in the Air Force in October 1945, but continued service in the U.S. Air Force Reserves until October 1968, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After returning to civilian life, he was a Real Estate Broker, a principal in Ridgway Management, Inc., and was active in the oil and gas, real estate and timber businesses. Bryant was an active member of Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church for 85 years, where he served on the visitation committee, delivered meals on wheels, taught Sunday School, served as Lay Leader and Chairman of the Administrative Board. Bryant was a member of the Monday Morning Bible Study Group at Galloway for almost 40 years, and served on the Board of the Methodist Children's Home. He served as president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Men's Y Club, and the Jackson Central Lions Club. He served one term in the Mississippi House of Representatives as a representative for Hinds and Yazoo Counties. Bryant was a charter member of the River Hills Club. He was a member of the Chancellor's Trust at the University of Mississippi.

Frank Allen Riley, Sr.

Frank Allen Riley, Sr., 82, of Tupelo, died Sept. 16, 2010. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1957. He served five years of active duty with the United States Navy during the Korean conflict. Following his release from service as a Lt. senior grade, he completed his law studies. He practiced his entire legal career in Tupelo, where he was senior partner of Riley, Caldwell, Cork and Alvis, PA. Riley also served as City Attorney for the City of Tupelo during the 1960's and 1970's. In 1961 Riley was named general counsel for the Bank of Tupelo. He remained in that role for 37 years, during which time the bank grew into Bank of Mississippi and then BancorpSouth. He served on the bank's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Riley retired in April 1998. He served as president of the Mississippi Young Lawyers Section, member of the American Bar Association's General Practice Council and chair of its Mississippi Fellows. He was recognized in 2007 for his 50 years of law practice. Riley served on the Board of Directors of Yocona Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and received the Silver Beaver for his service to scouting. He also served on the Oren Dunn Museum Board of Directors, the Community Development Foundation, the Lee County Council of Governments, and as president of both the Tupelo Rotary Club and the Community Concert Association. He served on both the Lee County and Mississippi State Democratic Party's executive committees. He was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church of Tupelo.

Thomas G. Stewart

Thomas G. Stewart, 62, of Raymond, died October 22, 2010. A graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1978. Stewart was a member of Griffith Memorial Baptist Church and served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, serving on numerous committees and singing in the choir. Stewart worked with the Internal Revenue Service from which he retired in 2009 after 42 years. Stewart was also a member of the Mississippi National Guard, Headquarters STARC, where he retired after 27 years of service and obtaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Stewart spent many years being involved with youth sports activities at the YMCA and Forest Hill Youth Club, coaching various sports for boys and girls.

Alonzo H. Sturgeon

Alonzo H. Sturgeon, 79, of Woodsville, died December 17, 2010. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1961. Sturgeon's career as District Attorney for the 6th Circuit Court District spanned 17 years. He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He taught at the University of Southern Mississippi, helping to form the school's criminal justice department, before becoming dean of admissions there in the mid-1960s. His political career began in 1963 when he was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives. In 1967, he was elected Wilkinson County Chancery Court Clerk. He was elected district attorney in 1979, serving until his retirement from public office in 1995. From 1996 until his death, he practiced law with his son, Holmes Sturgeon.

Charles Gregory Thomas

Charles Gregory Thomas, 41, of D'Iberville, died December 1, 2010. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 1968. He practiced law in Alabama and in Mississippi, and served as an usher and lector at his home church.

James HC Thomas, Jr.

James HC Thomas, Jr., of Hattiesburg, died October 1, 2010. A graduate of Tulane University he was admitted to practice in 1964. Judge Thomas practiced law for 29 years in Hattiesburg and served 16 years as chancellor of the 10th Chancery Court District. He was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of First Baptist Church of Hattiesburg.

Margaret Elizabeth Walker

Margaret Elizabeth Walker, 61, of Biloxi, died November 23, 2010. A graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, she was admitted to practice in 1980. A resident of Ocean Springs, Walker practiced law in Biloxi for 31 years. She had previously resided in California, Florida, and Jackson. When she first came to Biloxi she was employed by Mississippi Legal Services in Biloxi. She was an associate of the late Lawrence Semski, then Stanton Fountain, Jr., She then opened her own solo practice in Biloxi.

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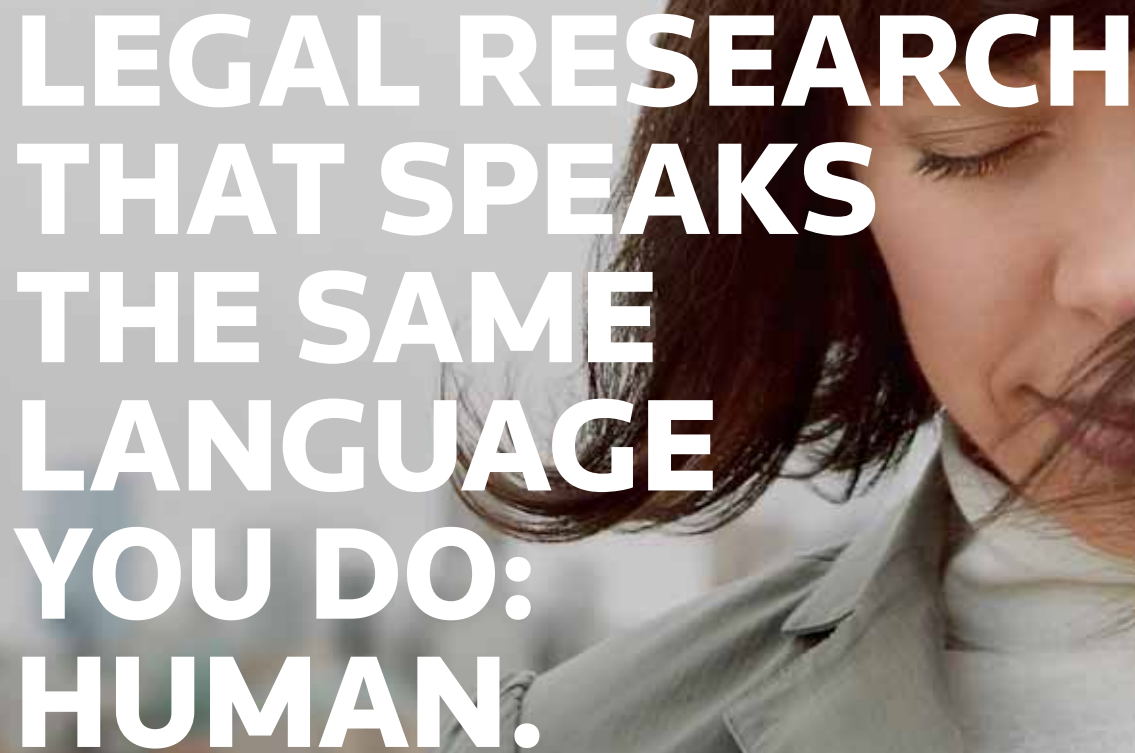


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