



President's Column

Laura McKinley Glaze

As I begin this year as President of the Capital Area Bar Association, I want to let you know that I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve the legal community in and around Jackson. I will do my best to continue the stewardship of those who came before me and whose vision and dedication have made this association so great.

I especially want to thank Roy Campbell and the many committee chairs and members for their leadership and work this last year. This edition of the CABA Newsletter includes a host of examples of the good work this association accomplishes each and every year. To all who served this past year: Thank you for a job well-done. You played an important part in the vital work of CABA. Our legal community and our greater capital area community are better for your commitment and your actions.

CABA wants to continue to add value to the lives of its members. To this end, we will continue to provide pertinent programs at our bi-monthly membership luncheons. Hugh Keating, the incoming President of The Mississippi Bar, will be our guest speaker on June 21. We are working now on our August CLE offering and hope to offer one or two more CLE lunch meetings later in the year. As a benefit of membership, I am pleased to announce that CABA will pay for the August CLE hour for all CABA members who have paid their membership dues for 2011-2012 and attend the August lunch meeting.

CABA also wants to add value by offering opportunities to gather as a community on a



large scale. Membership luncheons, the Fall Social, the Christmas Party, the Spring Social and the annual Golf Tournament give members a chance to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow attorneys and judges. To these events, I want to add a fabulously fun evening of music, featuring the multitude of attorneys and judges in our midst with musical talent. This musical review will benefit the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project and the CABA Scholarships at both law schools. If you are interested in participating in or planning such an event, let me know. More on this idea later.

CABA is also interested in encouraging smaller groups to get together within the larger CABA community. Perhaps you have been wanting to gather a group of colleagues to read Cutis Wilkie's The Fall of the House of Zeus, or one of James McPherson's or Doris Kearns's books on Abraham Lincoln (to mark the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War), or to reread Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird, or any other great book that you read, or should have read, in school. You may want to have a group meet at your conference room for lunch, on the patio of a favorite local restaurant, or at your home. If this strikes your fancy, let CABA help by advertising what book, where to meet,

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Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Aug 16

CABA Membership Meeting/
One-Hour CLE Ethics
11:30 • Capital Club

Tuesday, Oct 18

CABA Membership Meeting
Noon • Capital Club

Thursday, Dec 1

CABA/JYL Christmas Social
5:30 - 7:30 • Old Capitol Inn

Tuesday, Feb 21

CABA Membership Meeting
Noon • Capital Club

Tuesday, April 17

CABA Membership Meeting
Noon • Capital Club

CABA June Membership Luncheon Meeting

Tuesday, June 21, 2010 Speaker: Hugh Keating
12 Noon • Capital Club, 19th Floor, President-Elect for The Mississippi Bar.
Capital Towers Building



CAPTAIN EQUITY



SO...NOW WHAT?

Now that we have Barack Obama's birth certificate and Osama bin Laden's death certificate, what's next?

Now that we have Barack Obama's birth certificate and Osama bin Laden's death certificate, what's next? Unfortunately, I am afraid it is back to election-cycle, kick-the-can-down-the-road, business as usual. But before I catalog the likely hypocritical nonsense that is coming, let's take a moment to pay tribute to the two events first mentioned.

One would think that stopping the Birther Movement in its tracks while ridding the earth of Terrorist Number One would certainly be cause for celebration without any more being said. But there is more. Thankfully, these two events combined to finally dispose of Donald Trump's unwanted entry into Presidential politics. America's preeminent thin-skinned, narcissist bully was finally silenced, which turns out to be one of the great humanitarian events of our lifetime. Now he can go back to *The Celebrity Apprentice* with the likes of Gary Busey, Meatloaf, et al., when not gazing upon himself endlessly in a mirror or telling anyone in ear shot how rich and smart he is.

Yes, it is a time for adults, but all we seem to get are petulant children masquerading as grown ups spewing their hypocritical, self serving nonsense as way too many people seem to hang on their every word...

But unfortunately, in today's over-connected infotainment culture there are dozens standing in line for camera time even as the Donald ducks. This is made even worse by the unrelenting problems we face. Yes, it is a time for adults, but all we seem to get are petulant children masquerading as grown ups spewing their hypocritical, self serving nonsense as way too many people seem to hang on their every word. And as November 2012 draws closer, it is just going to get worse and worse. Our only hope is that the silent majority of rational Americans will finally rise up with a resounding "No thank you." Not that they will, but we can only hope.

Actually, it is already beginning to happen. The Republican right's (an oxymoron) plan to dismantle Medicare and Medicaid as we know it has already been met with a resounding "No Thank You" at town hall meetings in Middle America over the recent two week long Easter Congressional recess. (If they get two weeks for Easter, shouldn't

they get three months for Christmas?) In the solemn name of deficit reduction, but only after kneeling at the alter of the Bush tax cuts for the rich, Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) advocated giving senior citizens a voucher worth seven or eight thousand dollars to buy private insurance in place of Medicare. All one has to do is ask the question, how many private insurance companies are going to want to insure 80 year olds with a host of preexisting conditions? And even if they could find a company willing to write a policy, how long do you think that voucher would last? Of course Congressman Ryan is young, healthy and has the best federal health care available thanks to being a member of Congress. Oh, and did I mention the Bush tax cuts and the Orange Weeper's (Speaker of the House) steadfast refusal to raise taxes on anyone or anything?

Are entitlements as presently constituted unsustainable? Yes. Do we have a 14 trillion dollar debt that is out of control and growing exponentially even as you read these words? Yes, again. Must something serious and far reaching be done soon to avoid default, hyper-inflation and the onset of a worldwide depression? Yes, Yes and Yes! So what do Republicans do? Dole out tractor-trailer loads of corporate welfare to Big Oil and Big everything else you can think of while seeking to privatize Medicare and Medicare so seniors and poor people can pay the 30% overhead and profit to private insurance companies vs. the 3% administrative overhead that goes to Medicare as presently constituted. And of course we continue to fight three wars of dubious legitimacy and value to America while declaring defense spending (nation building and defense contractor welfare) off the table, all the while ignoring business as usual shenanigans on Wall Street. So, what is the answer according to Republicans? Why, simply cut funding to NPR, Planned Parenthood and Amtrak and everything will be just dandy.

To be sure, old line, adult Republicans (think Haley Barbour, Richard Lugar and John McCain circa 2000) who are chafing from their arranged marriage with the Tea Party (think politically active teenagers with the legislative equivalent of guns, alcohol, money and keys to the family car

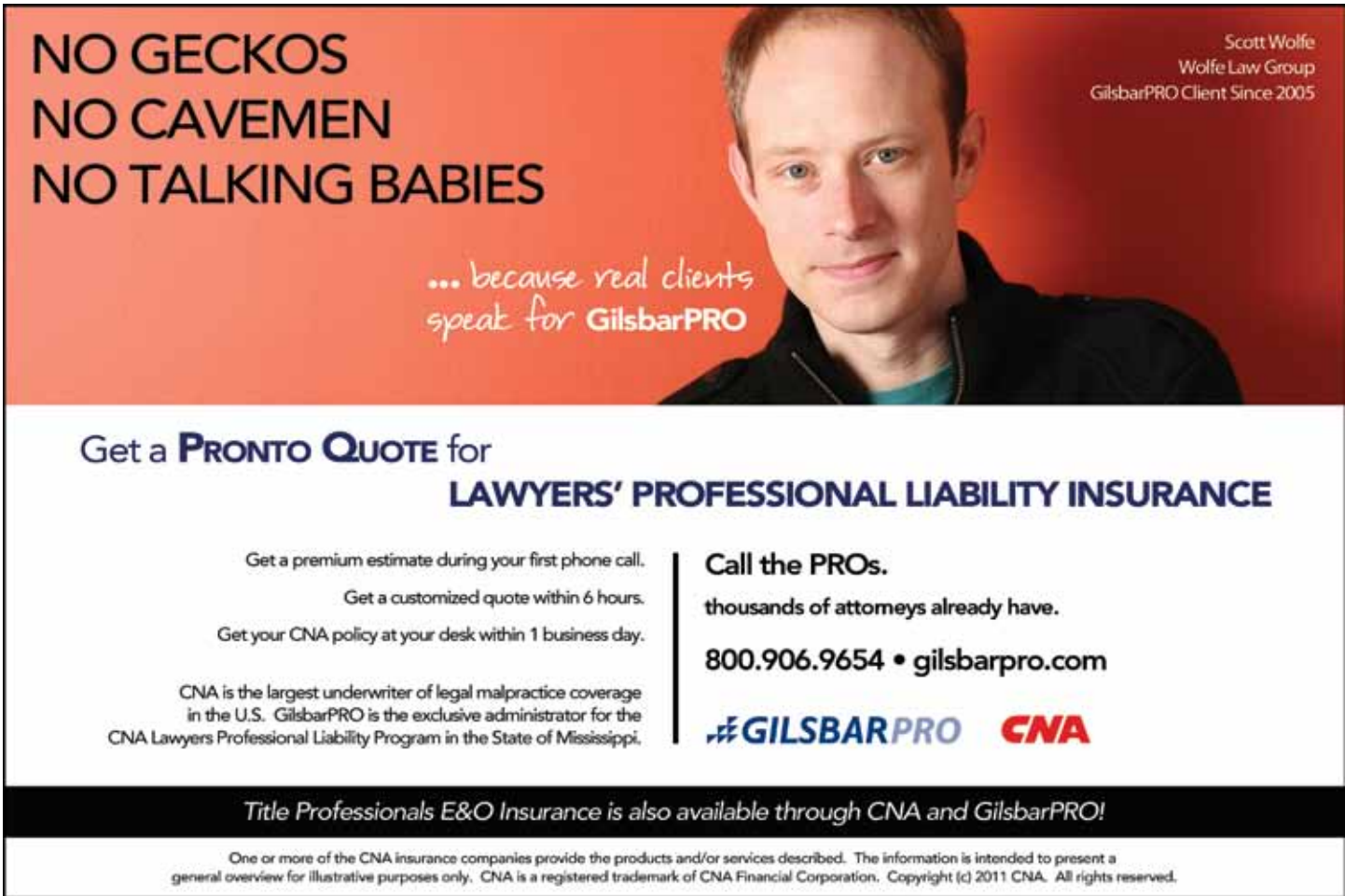


while their parents are out of town for an entire election cycle) do not deserve to shoulder all the blame. The Obama administration has its own share of culpability with which to contend. As cable TV wisecracker Jon Stewart put it on the fake news *Daily Show*, Obama's 2008 clarion call for "Change You Can Believe In" has morphed into "Whatever." The Obama White House is absolutely in bed with Wall Street thanks to millions of dollars in political contributions. Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner (think love child composite of Sean Penn and Lyle Lovett) along with controversial former Harvard President Larry Summers have insured that there is no change for anyone to believe in when it comes to the way Wall Street operates. Space constraints do not allow a full indictment of what "business as usual" means in the high flying world of

Big Finance. I urge you to read *The Big Short* by Michael Lewis, author of *The Blind Side*. It provides chapter and verse on the sub-prime mortgage meltdown for which we are still paying in terms of falling real estate prices, foreclosures, etc. When you read it, you will become incensed at the callous greed, avarice and gross negligence of our so called "financial sector," which American taxpayers were forced to bail out to avoid an even worse outcome. But thanks to connections in Washington at the White House, on both sides of the aisle in Congress and at the K Street Lobbying Factories, the beat goes on.

As the late comedian Rodney Dangerfield was famous for telling TV host Johnny Carson, "Hey, Johnny, we've got a lot of problems here, a lot of problems, Johnny." If he were here today, Rodney's bulging eyes might just pop

right out of their sockets. The latest episode has the Orange Weeper threatening to not raise the debt ceiling unless the Republicans get everything they want: no new taxes combined with defunding NPR, Planned Parenthood and Amtrak. On the Democratic side, the Obama Administration has deep-sixed its Simpson-Bowles Debt Commission the President created last year. Because it will be an election year, there is little to make anyone optimistic that anything of substance will be done which means just kicking the can down the road another year. Unfortunately, whenever the adults regain control, the Tea Party may well have wrecked the car, emptied their guns into who knows what and left a lot of empty beer cans in the back seat of the overturned family auto. Not possible you say? Think again...sooner rather than later. ➡



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AN EVENING HONORING THE JUDICIARY



- A** Laura Glaze, incoming 2011-2012 incoming CABA President; presented the outgoing President's Plaque to Roy Campbell, 2010-2011 President.
- B** Tom Alexander 2009-2010 CABA President; John Henegan, Professionalism Award Winner; and Roy Campbell.
- C** Tom Alexander; Ben Piazza, Professionalism Award Winner; and Roy Campbell.
- D** Roy Campbell, CABA President; Justice Jess Dickinson, Judicial Innovator Award Winner; Mary Clay Morgan, JYL President.



Roy Campbell, Hank Thomas, and Laura Glaze.

Laura McKinley Glaze

Attendance was phenomenal at the Evening Honoring the Judiciary, held Thursday, May 12, at the Mississippi Museum of Art. The Capital Area Bar Association, Jackson Young Lawyers, and the Magnolia Bar Association sponsored the seventeenth annual event honoring federal and state judges, as well as judges in Hinds, Madison, and Rankin counties. Pamela Prather of Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis served as the chairman of this year's program. The evening began with an inspiring Invocation by Orlando R. (Rod) Richmond, Sr. of Butler Snow. (The full text of the Invocation can be found on the CABA website at www.caba.ms.)

The attendees of the sold-out event were treated to a moving speech by Henry "Hank" Thomas, one of the original Freedom Riders, who came to Mississippi to test segregated transportation facilities in 1961. Upon his arrival in Jackson, he was arrested and incarcerated in Parchman Penitentiary. Mr. Thomas's mug shot, along with 327 others making up the exhibit, Breach of Peace: Portraits of the 1961 Freedom Riders, served as the poignant backdrop to his address. A Viet Nam War Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Thomas spoke eloquently of the reconciliation work he has been involved with in Ha Noi. He also spoke graciously of his recent visit with Governor Haley and Marsha Barbour in preparation of the 50th Anniversary

Celebration of the Freedom Rides and focused on moving forward socially and politically without allegations of racism. Mr. Thomas received a well-deserved standing ovation by the rapt audience.

The Capital Area Bar Association, Jackson Young Lawyers, and the Federal Bar Association also recognized award recipients. CABA and JYL jointly bestowed upon Presiding Justice Jess Dickinson the Judicial Innovation Award for his work with the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission, formed by the Mississippi Supreme Court in 2006, to promote equal access for the poor to the civil courts. As a charter member of the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission, Justice Dickinson has worked tirelessly with the commission to create a structure that will coordinate the various organizations involved in the delivery of legal services to the poor and to increase the involvement of lawyers in private practice. Together with JYL, CABA commends Justice Dickinson for his tireless work on behalf of the poor in Mississippi.

The Capital Area Bar Association also recognized James W. Shelton, a partner with Phelps Dunbar LLC, for his dedication to the community through pro bono legal work. This year, Jim donated more than 85 hours of service to the people of Mississippi through his work with the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. CABA congratulates Jim on his

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AN EVENING HONORING THE JUDICIARY

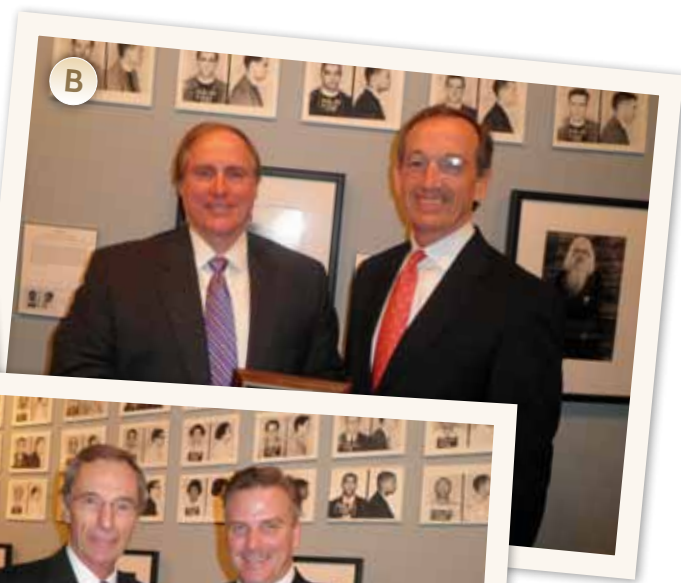
tremendous good work and thanks him for the leadership he offers by his example.

As president of CABA in 2009–2010, Tom Alexander had a vision for the creation of scholarships at both in-state law schools for minority students, in honor of Reuben Anderson. Tom’s initial goal was to raise \$25,000 for each school’s scholarship. Through his enthusiasm and hard work, Tom surpassed his goal, raising \$55,000 for each scholarship fund for a total of \$110,000. For the service he provided to CABA and to future minority law students in Mississippi, CABA awarded Tom Alexander the Outstanding Service Award.

The Federal Bar Association joined in the celebration and awarded J.T. Noblin its Outstanding Service Award for his service and dedication to the federal courts in Mississippi, their judges, practitioners, and the public whom they serve. J.T. has served with distinction as Clerk of Court for the Southern District of Mississippi for more than two decades. J.T. has guided the court through tremendous growth and development, including the implementation of electronic filing and the construction of three federal courthouses in Mississippi, the most recent being the new courthouse on Court Street

here in Jackson.

In the words of Rod Richmond, the Evening Honoring the Judiciary celebrated all “who sincerely believe that justice is not simply a noble concept, but an imperative which finds its basis not in the electoral process nor political ideologies, but ultimately in morality.” The dedicated service of those honored—the judges, the award recipients, and Hank Thomas—“has been exemplary and unselfish and it is right that we should recognize their valuable efforts.”



- A** Roy Campbell presented the CABA Pro Bono Award to Jim Shelson
- B** Tom Alexander, Outstanding Service Award Winner; and Roy Campbell.
- C** Federal Award Bar Association Honoree, J. T. Noblin; and David Maron, 2010–2011 CABA Secretary-Treasurer.

Joel Howell On Computing»

A Column for the Contemporary Lawyer



» Web Sources that Will Enhance Your Law Practice

With thanks to Robert Ambrogi and Law Technology News, here's some information on web sources to enhance your law practice.

Last year, Google Scholar (scholar.google.com) was mentioned here. As predicted, it's now even better. With Scholar you can now search law journals and court opinions by jurisdiction. Go to advanced search and pick the jurisdiction under "Collections." It defaults either to courts within a state or a federal circuit. You can pick not only individual courts under a submenu, but also you can specify individual courts from several jurisdictions. Another helpful new option allows email alerts.

CourtListener (courtlister.com) offers a free alert tool for the U.S. Supreme Court and the federal circuits. You can make a search query, and the results page lists matching cases with an option: "Save this as an alert." You can then assign a time period to the alert and receive an email with status.

The underlying database for CourtListener covers all opinions (both precedential and non-precedential) for all federal circuits (omitting non-precedential opinions for the D.C. Circuit for whatever reason) and the U.S. Supreme Court. It's updated at the end of each day, with any applicable alerts sent out after the update.

ALM, which publishes Law Technology News, has rolled out Smart Litigator, www.smartlitigator.com. While it is intended for New York trial lawyers, it will be a template for like sites in other states where ALM has offices.

Smart Litigator is integrated with ALM's New York Law Journal, which reports daily news, decisions, and court information, and with ALM's VerdictSearch (verdictsearch.com). It can provide custom reports for specified practice areas, as well as forms, checklists, and actual case files. It also has a fifty-state case and statute database.

Thomson Reuters has launched a new pro bono site, TrustLaw (www.trust.org/trustlaw). It features a platform called TrustLaw Connect, which helps organizations and others who cannot afford legal services to find lawyers willing to provide pro bono representation.

TrustLaw has two libraries of news, legal material, case studies, and like resources. One focuses on pro bono legal service, while the other has materials related to good governance and anticorruption efforts.

LexisNexis is in the process of rolling out a beta version of

its cloud practice management system, LexisNexis Firm manager (www.myfirmmanager.com), which is designed for smaller firms.

During the public beta period, it is available without charge. Thereafter, it will be flat-fee priced (cost to be announced), but on a month-to-month basis without a long term commitment.

Aside from the foregoing sites, here's a couple of programs I've run across that are worth taking a look at.

Everyone can use a program that automatically synchronizes your computer's clock. KarenWare.com offers a free download of Karen's Time Sync, which will perform that function automatically or on demand.

Another very helpful free tool is ccleaner. Available from many download sites, including KarenWare. It will clean temporary files, history, cookies, and other things from Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Opera, and Safari. It can also clean up Windows' Recycle Bin, temporary files, and log files. Finally, it also has Registry Cleaner to remove unused and old registry entries. ➔

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November 24th Thanksgiving Day
December 25th Christmas Day*

*In addition to Christmas Day, any day(s) designated, at the Governor's discretion, for the observance of the Christmas Season are fixed by proclamation by the Governor.

A Life Sentence Served by an Innocent Man

James L. Robertson

On February 18, 2011, Circuit Judge Robert Helfrich of Hattiesburg entered an order that reads:

Larry Ruffin is officially exonerated and declared innocent of the crime of capital murder for which he was convicted in 1980 in Forrest County. That conviction is null and void.

Larry Donnell Ruffin was 20 years old when he was wrongfully arrested and charged. He served his life sentence in full. He died at Parchman in 2002.

I am sick at heart at my role in the fate of this innocent man.

I remembered a *Ruffin v. State* when I heard late last Summer that Ruffin, Bobby Ray Dixon and Phillip Leo Bivens might be exonerated of their murder convictions. I had cited it a few times, and seen others citing it. But I have no independent recollection of the case that I now know came before the Supreme Court of Mississippi about a year after I was sworn in as a Justice. Nor can I recall any of the facts of the horrible rape murder that most assuredly did take place in rural Forrest County in early May of 1979.

Bobby Ray Dixon and Phillip Leo Bivens were names I did not know at all. This is not surprising, as Dixon and Bivens were never tried; hence, no appeal. Each “confessed,” pleaded guilty and was a witness for the prosecution against Larry Ruffin. I was not on the panel that heard Ruffin’s appeal.

Of course, I knew nothing of Andrew Harris, the man now said to be the one who really did rape and kill Eva Gail Patterson.

Some Legislative Facts of Fate’s Cruelty

Cases like Ruffin’s can teach us much. To learn its lessons, as good lawyers know, we must do our best to grasp the facts—including the often elusive legislative facts—and sense

how and why this legal tragedy happened. Our earnest search for the lessons of *Ruffin v. State* is the least we can do, that the monstrous injustice Larry Ruffin suffered be not in vain.

What follows is but the tip of the iceberg.

The socio-political milieu in which the Supreme Court of Mississippi found itself in February of 1984 is important. The death penalty was much with us. Jimmy Lee Gray was executed on September 2, 1983.

Then, as now, in this world where all is relative, a homicide conviction followed by a mere life sentence was of a qualitatively lesser concern. The penalty phase votes of the jurors who refused to sentence Larry Ruffin to die were a mixed blessing.

It is important to understand that the appellate judicial institutional bias favors affirmance, particularly on the facts. The jury’s verdict is supposed to fix the facts.

Appellate courts review the facts only to see if there is substantial credible evidence in the record from which the jury may reasonably have found as it did.

These accepted and seemingly sensible premises played their part in condemning an innocent man.

The Luck of the Draw in Ruffin’s Case

Before any work was done on Larry Ruffin’s appeal, he got a break. He dodged the three Justices statistically most prone to affirm criminal convictions. His case was assigned to Justice Armis E. Hawkins of Chickasaw County who was sitting with a panel of Presiding Justice Vernon H. Broom of Marion County and Justice Dan M. Lee of Hinds County.

None of the other six Justices, including your truly, knew the case existed until the panel had made a tentative decision and Justice Hawkins had written a proposed opinion.

I assume the opinion circulated on

February 15, 1984 is the one that now appears formally as *Ruffin v. State*, 447 So.2d 113 (Miss. 1984). This opinion is **must reading** for those open to learning its lessons, in light of what we now know.

On the face of the opinion, Ruffin appears to have had competent counsel, both at trial and on appeal. I personally know several of his lawyers, and at each level. I have seen them in court.

A change of venue would definitely have struck me as appropriate. In my pre-judge days, I had experience with capital murder cases out of Forrest County. On the other hand, a change of venue to Harrison County was a “frying pan to the fire” transfer, given the number of death verdicts then being returned by Harrison County juries.

As it turned out this was a saving grace, for Dixon¹ and Bivens, that is. In the Fall of 1991, Gayle Parker was elected Circuit Clerk of Harrison County. As fate would have it, Ms. Parker decided to preserve the evidence of serious criminal trials that had been completed before she took office. Larry Ruffin’s case was only one of those.

The Late Justice Armis Hawkins and the Late Larry Ruffin

While Gayle Parker is one of the heroes of the day, the late Justice Armis E. Hawkins was one of its victims. Born on Armistice Day, 1920, Hawkins grew up in Northeast Mississippi in the political tradition of New Deal Democrats. He practiced law alone. He saw himself the Atticus Finch of his town.

I knew Armis Hawkins before either of us came to the Supreme Court of Mississippi. He had asked me to help him conclude several cases he had pending when he became a Justice in 1981. I opposed him in another. Never a trial judge, Hawkins was quite independent in his approach to criminal appeals. He hired African American law clerks. He laid bare his soul in dissent in *Leatherwood v. State*, 435 So.2d 645, 657-660 (Miss. 1983), a case of a young man sentenced to die.

Larry Ruffin could not have drawn a Justice more open to the possibility that his conviction should be reversed, or giving less of a damn if that turned out to be the case.

Justice Hawkins read every page of the appellate record in cases like Ruffin’s. Having recently re-read *Ruffin v. State*, I have no doubt Justice Hawkins wrote every word in it—on his “antique” manual typewriter brought from his law office back in Houston, Mississippi.

One context for the lessons we should learn is what Justice Hawkins calls “as ghastly a murder as can be envisioned. A harmless young housewife was raped in her home, her throat cut slashed from ear-to-ear in the presence of her two little terrified children.” Gruesome details are sprinkled through the opinion.

Why Confessions Really Should be Viewed with Caution

Multiple “confessions” by Ruffin, Dixon and Bivens could not help but color the case—any case—at trial, and on appeal.

In his video confession, Dixon says “at one time Ruffin cut her throat, and another

time Ruffin had sex with her, ... [and another] he did not see Ruffin on the night of May 4, ... was not even there...” Bivens’ video confession includes “A little child was screaming. Mrs. Patterson was screaming and Ruffin started cutting on her.” When they left “Ruffin was full of blood.” The “photographs had evidentiary value in proving the brutality of the slaying ... This was a capital murder case involving rape.”

Justice Hawkins’ opinion sets out verbatim parts of Ruffin’s May 30 and June 12 “confessions,” and explains that Ruffin accompanied officers to the scene “and there explained how he gained entrance to the house.” Following the obligatory rule, “the weight and credibility of these confessions...to this most dastardly murder, was for the jury.”

Justice Hawkins read trial records with a critical eye, informed by years in the courtroom. “No doubt any jury would have a marked indisposition to accept very much

of the testimony of Dixon at face value. Bivens testimony was not filled with the contradictions that Dixon’s was.”

Then came the familiar Hawkins touch. “Since Adam and Eve, it is not at all unusual for accomplices in an offense to blame each other.”

“At trial Ruffin’s defense was he was elsewhere when the crime was committed. He produced several witnesses. The weight of this testimony...was for the jury.”

Again, accepted and seemingly sensible premises played their part in condemning an innocent man.

But What Can You Do When the Truth is Not Told?

I see nothing in *Ruffin v. State*, even in hindsight, suggesting I should have doubted that Justice Hawkins had it about right. In fairness, he should not be faulted for failing to foresee *Ake v. Oklahoma*, 470 U.S. 68 (1985),

EXONEREES	CHARGE	YEARS IN PRISON	RELEASED	TRUE CULPRIT FOUND	OPINIONS / NOTES
Bivens, Phillip <i>Forrest County</i>	Capital Murder	30	09/16/2010	Yes	Opinions: see <i>Ruffin v. State</i> , 447 So.2d 113 (Miss.1984)
Brewer, Kennedy <i>Noxubee County</i>	Capital Murder ¹	13	02/15/2008	Yes ²	Notes: 1. Kennedy was wrongly convicted and sentenced to death. 2. Trial of true perpetrator is pending. Opinions: 725 So.2d 106 (Miss. 1998); 819 So.2d 1165 (Miss. 2000); 819 So.2d 1169, Miss. 2002)
Brooks, Levon <i>Noxubee County</i>	Capital Murder	18	05/13/2008	Yes ¹	Notes: 1. Trial of true perpetrator is pending. Opinions: 748 So.2d 736 (Miss 1999)
Dixon, Bobby Ray <i>Forrest County</i>	Capital Murder	30	Aug 2010.	Yes	Notes: Released on medical parole in August 2010. Mr. Dixon passed away on November 7, 2010. Opinions: see <i>Ruffin v. State</i> , 447 So.2d 113 (Miss.1984)
Johnson, Arthur <i>Sunflower County</i>	Rape	16	09/30/2008	Yes ¹	Notes: 1. Trial of true perpetrator is pending. Opinions: 667 So.2d 637 (Miss. Ct. App. 1995)
Kennard, Clyde <i>Forrest County</i>	Burglary ¹	3	1963 ²	Yes	Notes: 1. Conviction based on fraudulent testimony. 2. Compassionate release; Kennard died of complications from cancer soon after release; exonerated posthumously in 2007. Opinions: 127 So.2d 848, (Miss. 1961); 128 So.2d 572 (Miss.1961); 148 So.2d 660 (Miss. 1963); <i>Gill v. State</i> , 962 So.2d 552 (Miss. 2007)
Norwood, Matthew <i>Hinds County</i>	Armed Carjacking	15	10/06/2010	Yes	
Ruffin, Larry <i>Forrest County</i>	Capital Murder	30	Died in prison in 2002	Yes	Notes: Exonerated posthumously Opinions: 447 So.2d 113 (Miss.1984)
Wilks, Calvin <i>Hinds County</i>	Murder	3.5	1983	Yes	Opinions: 408 So.2d 68 (Miss.1981)
Willis, Cedric <i>Hinds County</i>	Capital Murder & Armed Robbery	12	03/06/2006	No	

or its implications for the state funded expert witness issue on Ruffin’s appeal.²

A while back I talked with my friend Fred Banks, a former Justice who authored the majority opinion in *Brewer v. State*, 725 So.2d 106 (Miss. 1998).³ I recall Fred saying “the evidence seemed a little thin, but what could you do.” If anything, Justice Banks was more careful and meticulous than Justice Hawkins.

Circuit Clerk Parker’s decision in January 1992 to keep the evidence in serious criminal cases long concluded (that many clerks would have thrown away) cannot be praised enough. I had known and respected Gayle for seven or eight years before that. She kept the “rape kit” containing DNA evidence, and much more, because it was the right and responsible thing to do.

The fortuity is that in 1992, the decade old Ruffin “rape kit” was in Gulfport, and not Hattiesburg. Another fortuity—one quite cruel—is that it was not in evidence at Larry Ruffin’s trial with a proper forensic exposition of its DNA indicia.

The Law as the Proverbial Blunt Instrument

I recall only one capital murder case in my ten years on the Court where I wondered if the defendant was even there at the scene of the crime. The Court reversed and remanded that case for a new trial in another venue, whereupon the defendant was acquitted. I count that among the instances where the law was at its best, though the defendant still spent several years on Death Row.

Armis Hawkins could not tolerate my sober assessment—based on that case and many years of watching the courts in action—that the law is the ultimate proverbial blunt instrument; at its best, it seldom yields but a crude approximation of justice, and that the law seldom functions at its very best. He may have been the most uncompromising man I ever met.

But I knew Justice Hawkins well enough that I can sense the no doubt eternal turbulent turning and churning of his body in the grave, with righteous rage that this State’s criminal justice system placed before the Court and in his chambers the record of a prosecution and

trial that left him no choice—consistent with his oath—but to affirm Ruffin’s conviction and sentence.⁴

Balancing the Risks of the System’s Human Imperfections

I’m sure I was in high school when I first heard the truism that it was better for ten guilty criminals to go free than for an innocent man to go to jail. That seemed sensible enough, though hardly a necessary view. My early exposures to Sgt. Joe Friday on “Dragnet” and Broderick Crawford’s “Highway Patrol” made it clear that the bad guys always got caught. Perry Mason and E. G. Marshall always pulled a rabbit out of the hat to save the innocent.

Law school reinforced and gave reason to my adolescent notions. I learned there that one policy premise underlying the myriad procedural protections afforded the criminally accused is none other than the value judgment that it is better for ten guilty criminals to go free than for an innocent man to go to jail. In time, I came to see the practical reality that, like all things human, the system really does

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from time to time make mistakes.

Intuitively, I accepted that Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., was right when, after 47 years on the bench, he could say “for my part I think it a less evil that some criminals should escape than that the government should play an ignoble part.” *Olmstead v. U. S.*, 277 U.S. 438, 470 (1928).

No thinking person can reasonably doubt that there are about 100 innocent persons today in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections. To be sure, the number may be only 80, but then it may be 120. Addressing this certain circumstance of injustice is complicated by the fact that there are likely 2,000 or more who say they are innocent.

Our “Ass Backwards” World

Over the last 30 or so years, we have watered down the procedural protections available to the accused so that they are often of little practical value. I am pretty sure some of the confessions extracted within *Miranda*’s ever-expanding loop holes are the kinds of “confessions” that Larry Ruffin, Bobby Ray Dixon and Phillip Leo Bivens gave at a time when *Miranda* was supposedly in full force and effect.

Yet, more than ever, we live in a world where the political-institutional forces at large seem bent on making it as hard as possible for would be exonerees.

Full of passionate intensity, the State resists the notion of actual innocence. For five years after we knew or should have known that Kennedy Brewer was an innocent man, the State kept Brewer behind bars.

I am troubled that the State went to such pains to keep Jimmy Bass in prison, after the Circuit Court of Bolivar County had vacated his conviction, first appealing and applying for certiorari when the Court of Appeals affirmed. *Bass v. State*, 998 So.2d 1010, 4 So.3d 353 (Miss. 2009).

1. Bobby Ray Dixon died November 7, 2010, less than three months after his original release on medical parole.
2. The institutional machinations the court will pursue to avoid *Ake* and its constitutional mandate for state funded expert witness where necessary to assure a fair trial are depressing, e.g., *King v. State*, 960 So.2d 413, 420-24 (Miss. 2007), although there has been the

President’s Column

continued from page 1

and what time.

As you know, for the last few years, CABA has participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade in Jackson. We will do so again, under the continued leadership of John Henegan, in January 2012. We also want to offer CABA members the opportunity to work on a service project that day honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. We have not yet identified a specific project—ideas are welcome—but we are looking for a child-friendly project

I can hear my late friend Armis Hawkins now. “This is ass backwards.”

I hope I am wrong, but it seems very few are open to learning the lessons of cases like *Ruffin v. State*. I am not sure which we fear the most: That if we loosen the screws just a little to hear an innocence claim, the flood of prisoner petitions from the 2,000 will inundate us, mandating more judges, judicial staff, funding and a tiny bit more taxes for each of us. Or, that a guilty felon might escape, and that it just might be better for ten innocent men to remain in prison than for a guilty man to be free.

Or, maybe both.

To “The Right to Sleep at Night”

I have no final formula to offer. I know we all need more schooling in the legislative facts of innocence legal practice, and sensitivity to those practical realities. I am pretty sure we should ameliorate somewhat the procedural strictures of post-conviction relief, via Miss. Const., Art. 3, § 21, or otherwise. I commend for reflection an insight of almost 100 years ago.

“[H]abeas corpus cuts through all forms and goes to the very tissue of the structure.

- occasional breath of fresh air, e.g., *Richardson v. State*, 767 So.2d 195, 199-200 (Miss. 2000). These are among the points our studies should include.
3. Kennedy Brewer and Levon Brooks were exonerated and released in February of 2008 after Brewer has spent eight years on Death Row, and he and Brooks had each spent some sixteen years at Parchman for capital

so we can include our families in our civic work. Please be on the lookout for such a project.

And, of course, CABA will continue its committee work. We will continue to award grant money to worthy causes and organizations, sponsor an essay contest for school children, have legal fairs for people in need, and improve and expand our website (www.caba.ms) – You can now pay your dues on the website via PayPal. Please see the list of committees included in this newsletter. Pick something; spend some time with your colleagues; and make a difference!

It comes in from the outside, not in subordination to the proceedings, and although every form may have been preserved opens the inquiry whether they have been more than an empty shell.”

Frank v. Mangum, 237 U.S. 309, 346 (1915) (Holmes, J., dissenting).

Today the inquiry opened must include whether appearances are deceiving when, as in poor Larry Ruffin’s case, the shell is not empty but **appears** quite full.

There was a time when I would have been in the trenches on issues like this. Now I sit on boards of directors, of Innocence Project-Mississippi, www.mississippiinnocence.org, and of Innocence Project-New Orleans, www.ip-no.org. And I reflect on the words of Faulkner’s Gavin Stevens:

“What we are trying to deal with now is injustice. Only truth can cope with that. Or love... Call it pity then. Or courage. Or simple honor honesty, or a simple desire for the right to sleep at night.”

Requiem For A Nun, at 76-77 (1951). 📌

- murders we are now pretty sure were committed by Justin Albert Johnson.
4. Armis Hawkins was a cross between Don Quixote and Ichabod Crane, and not just in appearance. The man was driven by a mission to right injustice, including an assault on the occasional windmill. Woe to anyone he decided was wicked! Or even spoke with the wicked!

2011 GOLF TOURNAMENT

For the third year, the Capital Area Bar Association and the Jackson Young Lawyers combined their respective golf tournaments. The event was held May 17 at Annandale Golf Club. Chairing the tournament for CABA was Elizabeth Thomas with co-chair Jay Kilpatrick. Matt Grenfell served as JYL Chairman. The CABA proceeds will be given to the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, and the JYL proceeds will go to the Mississippi Boys and Girls Clubs. Both organizations, CABA and JYL, are very appreciative of all the sponsors.





- A** Matt Grenfell and Bob Grenfell, CABA Past President
- B** Dick Lawrence and Meade Mitchell
- C** Matt Grenfell, JYL Chairman; Elizabeth Thomas, CABA Chairman; Kevin Buffington, CABA Committee Member
- D** Jay Kilpatrick, CABA Co-Chair; and Andrew Wilson, JYL Committee Member
- E** Jenny Wilson; Pat Evans, CABA Executive Director; Meredith Aden, CABA Committee Member

Congratulations to the CABA 2011 Golf Tournament Winners!

Championship Flight

Bob Grenfell
Jim Streetman
Ken Adcock
Geoffrey Morgan

Third Flight

Kevin Buffington
Sam Gregory
Justin Warren
Brian Hannula

Closest to Pin #8

Steve Montagnet

Drive the Middle #9

Eric Hamer

Second Flight

Brian Rippee
York Craig
Collier Simpson
Shane Langston

Closest to Hole #2

Johnny Brunini

Long Drive #4

Stephen Kruger

Long Drive #18

Jimmy Hall

2011-2012

COMMITTEES

A *Bench & Bar Relations:*

This committee acts as a liaison between our local judiciary and CABA attorneys. This year, the committee is planning a CLE program to be presented at the February 2012 membership luncheon.

B *Community Grant:*

This committee solicits grant proposals from local charitable organizations and makes recommendations to the CABA Board for grant awards.

C *Diversity:*

This committee promotes the importance of gender and ethnic diversity and fairness in the legal community, organizes CABA's presence in the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade, as well as CABA's MLK Day Service Project.

D *Evening Honoring the Judiciary:*

This committee plans our annual dinner designed to celebrate Mississippi's local, state, and federal judiciary as well outstanding members of CABA and JYL.

E *Golf Tournament:*

The Golf Tournament Committee plans and implements an annual golf tournament that raises significant funds each year for the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project.

F *Law-Related Education:*

This committee organizes an annual educational project—usually an essay contest—to spark interest among area high school students in law-related issues.

G *Library:*

This committee oversees the finds statutorily designated for public use in the Hinds County Courthouse.

H *Membership:*

This committee encourages membership enrollment and participation in CABA.

I *Musical Review Event:*

This year we plan to have a night of music highlighting the many attorneys and judges with musical talent. If you are interested in participating in or helping plan this event, please let us know.

J *Newsletter:*

This committee plans and publishes CABA's newsletters. We are always looking for new contributors and articles of interest.

K *Pro Bono:*

This committee helps provide opportunities for CABA members to offer pro bono legal services in the capital area—currently through the Wills for Heroes program.

L *Professionalism:*

This committee selects the recipient of CABA's annual Professionalism Award.

M *Programs:*

This committee plans and secures the speakers for our bi-monthly membership meetings.

N *Social:*

This committee plans the social activities of CABA, e.g. the Fall Social, the Christmas Party, and the Spring Social.

O *Tennis Tournament:*

It has been a while since CABA hosted a tennis tournament, but we understand CABA members want one. If you want to help plan this event, please let us know.

P *Website:*

This committee works to ensure that the CABA website is a valuable resource for our members by developing content and recommending features.

Women & Children Advocacy Committee

2011 LEGAL FAIR
ON WOMEN AND
CHILDREN'S ISSUES
FINAL REPORT



Though there were damaging tornados and storms on Friday, it resulted in a beautiful, cool Saturday full of sunshine! On Saturday, April 16, 2011 the Capital Area Bar Association cosponsored by MS Volunteer Lawyers Project and Bradley Arant Boulton & Cummings, LLP presented a Legal Fair on Women and Children's Issues at Fresh Start Christian Church. Seven organizations and several private attorneys provided vital information about custody, child support, children and women health issues, the divorce process, guardianships and health care directives. Participating organizations included: Alexander & Watson, P.A., Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Society at Tougaloo College, Mississippi Department of Health-Breast and Cervical Cancer Division, Hinds Comprehensive Health, City of Jackson Fire Department, and Mission First.

Children enjoyed games and activities, including face painting by local high school students, college students from Tougaloo College and Jackson State University volunteers and more. The event was free and open to the public and a light lunch was provided. Children participated in the fire

safety drill, toured the fire truck and fire trailer.

We would like to extend a special thank you to committee members, Fresh Start Christian Church, James Henley (CABA member and pastor of Fresh Start), and volunteers of the event. The chair of the event was Amanda Green Alexander of Alexander & Watson, P.A. and committee members includes: La'Veme Edney, Dellwyn Smith and Denita Smith of Mississippi Volunteer

Lawyer's Project, Carol West of Mississippi College School of Law, Teselyn Funches and Paula Boyd of Tougaloo College, Lakeysha Isaac of Cosmich Simmons & Brown Law Office, Tianna Raby of Forman Perry Watkins Krutz and Tardy, LLP, Adrienne Dumas of Morgan & Morgan, Laura Glaze of the United States Bankruptcy Court, and Kathleen Shields O'Beirne of Bradley Arant Boulton & Cummings LLP. ➔

April Membership Meeting



Presenting the program at the April Capital Area Bar Association was Lt. Governor Phil Bryant.

Bryant is pictured with Roy Campbell, CABA President; Katie Bryant, his daughter and an attorney with Butler Snow; and Meade Mitchell, CABA Program Chairman.

BOOK REVIEW

THE PRICE OF DEFIANCE—JAMES MERIDITH AND THE INTEGRATION OF OLE MISS

Written by Prof. Charles W. Eagles
Reviewed by John C. Henegan

This is an important, ambitious book. The author, Professor Charles W. Eagles, a native of North Carolina, came in 1983 to the University of Mississippi at Oxford to teach history. He has remained there since. *The Price of Defiance* was 17 years in the writing, and it is his third prize-winning book of history.

When Professor Eagles was approached about the idea, four books about Dr. James Meredith's enrollment in 1962 as an undergraduate student at the University of Mississippi had already been published. (Before he finished, three more came out.) Professor Eagles' interest was piqued for several reasons. He saw the story of the civil rights struggle in the South as a rich subject; he had already written about the 1965 killing of a New England Episcopalian seminary student in Alabama. When approached, he was assured of access to materials at the University that no other scholars had yet seen. When he first told his wife about the potential

An enemy is someone whose stories you haven't heard—Gene Knudsen Hoffman

project, her reaction was that if he wrote an honest account of the events, they would not be able to stay in Oxford after it was published.

While digging for primary source materials, Professor Eagles obtained after years of effort the files of the U.S. Department of Justice, the FBI, the U.S. Marshal's Service, and the U.S. Army, none of which had been used in the other accounts of Dr. Meredith. The Mississippi Sovereignty Commission's

records also became available after several years of federal litigation prevented their scheduled destruction by the Mississippi Legislature. Professor Eagles eschewed interviews with people who claimed to be involved with the events of the time but had no contemporaneous written account of the events. He appears to have located, read, and given an account of virtually every significant contemporaneous newspaper and magazine piece published about Dr. Meredith and his stay as a student at the University, including the campus newspaper.

Not only is he an historian, Professor Eagles is a practitioner and devotee of good writing. Setting aside the primary source materials he used, his most serendipitous finds may be the two pieces by the American poets Mr. Langston Hughes and Mr. John Ciardi that sandwich the text. The first is a short rapper-style poem by Mr. Hughes entitled "Toast to Ole Miss" found while Professor Eagles combed the archives of the *Chicago Defender*, the most influential African-American newspaper in the United States in the twentieth century.

"Toast to Ole Miss" is about the University or more accurately about the people outside the University who tried to keep Dr. Meredith out. The second piece excerpts an essay for *Saturday Review* by Mr. Ciardi, who describes Dr. Meredith as one "who emerges as the heroic figure, though so quietly and in so low a key that the drama of his courage lies forever beyond the language of headlines."

Dr. James Meredith was born and raised on a farm in Attala County, Mississippi. He

began his education there but left his family and home and finished high school in 1951 in St. Petersburg, Florida, while living with an uncle and his family. Too poor to attend college, Dr. Meredith enlisted in July 1951 in the United States Air Force where he served for eight years, including an overseas stint in Japan, and obtained the rank of sergeant before he and his wife decided in 1958 that he would return to Mississippi. He was honorably discharged, receiving the Good Conduct Medal in 1958.

After taking college courses in the military and then at Jackson State College after moving to Jackson, Mississippi, Dr. Meredith's formal efforts to enroll at the University of Mississippi began on January 26, 1961, when his first letter arrived at the University Registrar's Office. Federal court litigation followed when the University rejected his application, and the United States Fifth Circuit of Appeals ultimately ordered in the fall of 1962 that the State Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning admit Dr. Meredith as a student to the University. Its Order had to be carried out and enforced with assistance from the U.S. Marshals' Service, the Mississippi National Guard, and the U.S. Army.

The response to Dr. Meredith's enrollment on the afternoon of Sunday, September 30, 1962, rocked the campus leading to a night long riot, with tear gas, burned out cars, armed weapons, two deaths, and numerous wounded. Mr. Walter Ray Gunter, a 23-year-old from Abbeville, Mississippi, who did not take part in the riots, was the victim of a stray 38. caliber bullet. His 18-year-old wife gave birth to their son 10 days after his death. Mr. Paul Leslie Guihard, a 30-year-old British army veteran and, by then, a journalist covering the Meredith story for the British and French media, was also killed. Numerous U.S. Marshals who had encircled the Lyceum that afternoon were injured and seriously wounded by hurled objects and gun fire during the night.

After Dr. Meredith began classes, he was harassed, threatened, and ostracized by the vast majority of students. Those few students who reached out to offer Dr. Meredith any sort of academic or social support were similarly harassed and ostracized. A small number of the faculty engaged him by eating with him in

the university cafeteria and attempting to give him some small semblance of the educational and social opportunities and advantages that a public university offers its students. The riots and the ensuing aftermath had the immediate effect of endangering the University's accreditation. Numerous professors later left in their wake. Nonetheless, the University remained a primary training ground for much of Mississippi's future business, professional, and political leadership. The events spawned by Dr. Meredith's enrollment ultimately helped open the doors of all Mississippi public institutions of higher learning to its African-American citizens, not simply those located in Jackson, Itta Bena, and Lorman.

While a University student, Dr. Meredith wrote pieces about his experience for two national magazines, and he was interviewed by Mr. John Corlew, then editor of the campus paper and now a member of the Capital Area Bar Association. Mr. Corlew wrote that Dr. Meredith was "sometimes serious, sometimes nonchalant – but always quietly confident."

Dr. Meredith later appeared on *Meet The Press*. Professor Eagles writes that in these settings, Dr. Meredith always "stressed issues larger than himself. Greater opportunity for Mississippi blacks and 'uplift for the Negro in general' drove him more than his own college degree." Dr. Meredith told the journalists on *Meet The Press* that he favored "strong legislation" by Congress and that he wanted to end white supremacy not to force people "to enter into association with anyone else unless they so desire." He told Ole Miss students, "I do not want to join your fraternities."

Professor Eagles explains that Dr. Meredith "repeatedly maintained that he wanted basic rights and opportunities for himself and for other blacks and [for] society to come 'to the point where an individual is not judged by his race.'" For him both integration and segregation emphasized race, not individuality. Refusing to blame students or rednecks, he decided that the "real problem is the power structure—the system of law and the legal structure" and political leadership. As a result, the campus protesters "had no choice but to act as they did." His ostracism, like segregation, "results in a reduction in everybody's rights" because it affected any white

student who wanted to associate with him.

Five years after Dr. Meredith entered the University, seven African-Americans enrolled in 1967. One of those seven, Honorable Leslie King, is now a Justice on the Mississippi Supreme Court, having previously served as Chief Judge of the Mississippi Court of Appeals and before that as a State Legislator from Greenville, Mississippi. In the 2010-2011 freshman class at the University of Mississippi, over 25 percent of the in-state freshmen are African-Americans, which is the second highest percentage in the SEC. The University has one of the highest percentages of post-graduate degrees awarded to African-Americans of any public university in the nation. An African-American has been elected

President of the Associated Student Body three out of the past 10 years. On October 1, 2006, the University dedicated a statue of Dr. Meredith on the campus between the Lyceum and the Library with over 2,500 people attending. Before Professor Eagles had finished his book, one of his contemporaries asked him how it felt to be writing a book with a happy ending.

Mississippi has and will continue to have people who say that they don't want to hear anything more about civil rights because all "that" is in the past. Others who are in positions of influence and who seek "reconciliation" want justice to take a back seat to acquiescence in the status quo. But true reconciliation can not be brought about

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without justice. Restorative justice can begin by facing history and discovering and listening to the threads of one another's story. As Queen Elizabeth recently said during her historic visit to the Republic of Ireland, both the Irish and the English need to be "able to bow to the past but not be bound by it." Truth telling has the potential to heal the wounds, soul, and psyche of the victims *and* those felt by the past perpetrators of injustice.

The Price of Defiance is full of rich themes

such as the rule of law, moral courage, leadership, the structure and use of power, and educational and economic opportunity. It should be read, and it should be discussed by lawyers, judges, business leaders, journalists and pundits, priests and pastors, public officials, political scientists, historians, and educators in Mississippi. It should be read not only by Mississippians but wherever people believe in and hope to experience those inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the

pursuit of happiness that our founding fathers famously penned and proclaimed in 1776. Those ideals served then and still serve today to fan the flames of individual freedom and liberty and equal justice for all—the rich and the poor, the insider and the other—whether they arise in McComb, Mississippi, Selma, Alabama, Eastern Europe, Tiananmen Square, Tibet, or the dry desert air of Africa and the Middle East. ➔

Dedication of Mississippi's New Carroll Gartin Justice Building

Symbolic and ponderable, tall as a cloud, solid as a rock, dominating all: protector of the weak, judicate and curb of the passions and lusts, repository and guardian of the aspirations and the hopes...

David F. Maron

With this William Faulkner quote Mississippi Bar President, Nina Stubblefield Tollison, offered a fitting Mississippi tribute to the new Carroll Gartin Justice Building during the May 20, 2011 dedication ceremony. The architectural dignity of the new building's neoclassical design, stone walls and towering columns adds both aesthetic and symbolic dimensions to the Capitol complex as home of Mississippi's third branch of government.

Chief Justice William Waller, Jr. convened the dedication ceremony in the Supreme Court en banc courtroom. Based on the design of the New Capitol's Supreme Court chambers, the en banc courtroom provides an architectural tribute to Mississippi's judicial history. Bishop Joseph N. Latino's invocation and the Mississippi National Guard's presentation of the colors each offered unique and moving reminders of the importance of upholding the rule of law and protecting liberty and freedom in our courts as well as the sacrifices in defending freedom abroad.

Fifth Circuit Judge James Graves introduced and recognized members of federal and state judiciary; Major General William L. Freeman, Jr. Adjutant General of Mississippi; former Chief Justices James W. Smith, Lenore Prather, Edwin Lloyd Pittman, and Roy Noble Lee; and many other federal state, and local officials. Presiding Justice Carlson conveyed special thanks to former Chief Justice Prather for her work to secure the initial funding for the building. The Capitol Area Bar Association and its officers also were recognized for support of the May 20 ceremony.

Governor Haley Barbour's remarks emphasized the importance and predictability of the rule of law. Lieutenant Governor Bryant echoed those comments also noting the significance of the new building honoring the name and legacy of a Lt. Governor.

Chief Judge Joe Lee introduced keynote speaker, US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Justice Scalia's remarks paid tribute to, Justice L. Q. C. Lamar, Mississippi's sole member on the Supreme Court of the United States, but reminded that although the United States Supreme Court is the nation's highest court, in the American republic it is state law and state judiciary that impact American's daily lives more than federal law.

The new Carroll Gartin Justice Building is the State's first building to house both the Mississippi Supreme Court and the Mississippi

Court of Appeals. It is the sixth building to house the Supreme Court since Mississippi's statehood and only the fourth building to do so since 1839 with the Old Capital (1839-1903) followed by the New Capital (1903-1974) and original Carroll Gartin Justice Building (1974-2008). The new Gartin Justice Building now houses the Clerk's Office, the State Library, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Board of Bar Admissions, and the Commission on Continuing Legal Education.

Both the original (1974) and new Carroll Gartin Justice Buildings are named in honor of the late Lt. Governor Carroll Gartin. Retired Fifth Circuit Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr. a former law partner of Carroll Gartin, recognized Lt Governor Gartin's family members and spoke about the life, and career and public service of the man for whom both buildings are named. Lt. Governor Gartin served in World War II, served two terms as mayor of Laurel, and was completing his third term as Lt. Governor at his untimely death on December 19, 1966.

Presiding Justice Jess Dickinson closed the ceremony. Then, following the benediction given by Reverend Timothy Howard, senior pastor of Anderson South and a former law clerk to the Mississippi Supreme Court, Chief Justice Waller invited guests to enjoy the reception and a tour of the new facility. ➔

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Saturday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

EXCEPTIONS

JULY 4TH WEEKEND (JULY 2, 2011 – JULY 4, 2011)

Saturday, Sunday & Monday CLOSED

SECOND INTERCESSION (AUG. 6, 2011 – AUG. 16, 2011)

Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday CLOSED

*Fall hours begin
Wednesday, August 17, 2011.*

For more information please call 925-7120.
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