

## President's Column: *Continuity in the Midst of Constant Change*

By Kaytie Pickett



"Behold, we know not anything; I can but trust that good shall fall. At last – far off – at last, to all, And every winter change to spring." Alfred Lord Tennyson *"In the Valley of Caunteretz" (1847)*

As this new edition of the CABA newsletter goes to press, I am in the thick of preparing for a jury trial – probably the most time-and-energy intensive endeavor that litigators ever face. The rest of the world has to recede from view for a time. It takes a team to get through trial, but it also takes a team to keep everything else stable and moving forward.

It's good to know that some things can be counted on, even as everything around us seems to be constantly in flux. For me, CABA is one of those things.

I know that when my trial duties conclude, our April 18 membership lunch/CLE meeting at the Capital Club will be on the horizon. This year, the Bench & Bar Committee will present "Journey to Judgeship: Views and

Perspectives from the Bench to the Bar."

I know that plans for our annual Evening Honoring the Judiciary, set for May 10 at the Country Club of Jackson, include a distinguished panel of state and federal court judges with 15 years (or more) on the bench (*thank you Judge Brewer, Judge Jordan, Judge Kidd, Judge McDaniel, Judge Thomas and Justice Kitchens!*).

I know that CABA will have the pleasure of presenting another check to the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project from the proceeds of our annual golf tournament.

I know that our Community Outreach Committee will continue to look for ways our members can provide an impact in the local community, like reading to students at Obama Magnate School in Jackson and East Flora Elementary School on Read Across America Day.

I know that CABA members will continue to step up as officers, board members, committee chairs and volunteers. To that end, I'd like to congratulate newly-elected directors Claire Barker and John Rouse and Secretary/Treasurer Missy Scott.

Thanks to your steadfast participation and willingness to serve, I know that Mississippi's largest bar association will continue to thrive. 🍀

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## Upcoming Events

**April 18**

CABA Membership Meeting  
Noon • The Capital Club

**May 10**

An Evening Honoring the Judiciary



Seth Shannon and Margaret Cupples read to students at Obama Magnet School for Read Across America Day on March 2.



# FROM SITCOMS TO SITTING ON THE BENCH:

## *Meet Chancellor Tametrice Hodges*

By Brianna Bailey

Growing up, Hinds County Chancery Court Judge Tametrice Hodges was inspired to pursue a career in law by watching 90's sitcoms featuring tenacious young female lawyers. As a middle schooler, Judge Hodges was particularly enamored by Maxine Shaw, a popular character from the sitcom, *Living Single*. Maxine was known for entering a room and greeting everyone with her famous catchphrase "Maxine Shaw Attorney at Law." Ally McBeal was another young lawyer who influenced Hodges through her comedy.

Born and raised in inner-city Jackson, it has always been important to Judge Hodges to serve the community that she was raised in. She is now doing so as the new Hinds County Chancery Court Judge for Subdistrict 3.

For many years, Hodges believed she could best serve her community as a lawyer. After becoming a lawyer herself, Hodges began her career at Morgan & Morgan, defending the rights of injured workers. She then opened her own law practice, Hodges-Childress Law Group, where she fought for children and families in chancery courts across the state. Finally, before her campaign to serve Subdistrict 3, Hodges was an Assistant District Attorney at the Hinds County District Attorney's Office.

Judge Hodges is committed to remaining immersed in the community. One of her greatest passions is volunteering with the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI), a local initiative of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. YLI is an interactive leadership development program that guides youth to build a future. Judge Hodges is a proud volunteer and meets bi-weekly with the youth to discuss topics to empower them physically, emotionally, and socially. Hodges is also

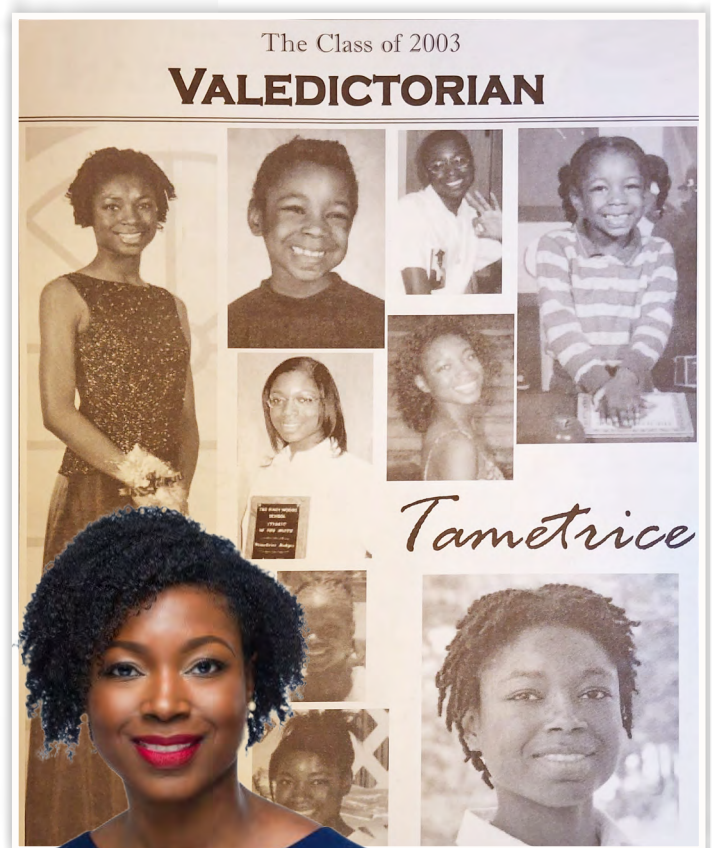
visiting local schools, some of which she attended, including Mary C. Jones Head Start, John Hopkins Elementary School, Walton Elementary School, Rowan Middle School, and Piney Woods Country Life School. Hodges is also a graduate of Denison University in Granville, Ohio and Mississippi College School of Law.

After 90 days on the bench, Judge Hodges reports that she spends all her days reading, writing, and listening. Her goal is to have a strong handle on the law and facts of each case, so she is ready before she hits the bench.

Judge Hodges said her experiences practicing law as a solo practitioner prepared her for the isolating nature of serving as a judge. As a judge, "you do the work alone" she said, and luckily, Judge Hodges has many years of experience running a business and practicing law on her own. ➔



Judge Hodges, Councilman Grizzell and Councilwoman Lee with the students of YLI



# The IMPORTANCE of the EXCEPTIONS to our AT-WILL EMPLOYMENT RULE

This is especially true of workers in facilities caring for the vulnerable.

By John Hawkins

Mississippi has followed the employment-at-will rule since 1858. In a nutshell, the rule holds that a contract of employment for an indefinite period may be terminated at any time at the will of either party with or without justification. In *Shaw v. Burchfield*, 481 So. 2d 247 (Miss. 1985), the Court recognized that “an employee may be discharged at the employer’s will for good reason, bad reason, or no reason at all, excepting only reasons independently declared legally impermissible.” *Id.* at 253–54

Congress has enacted federal protections such as the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and 42 USC § 1981. However, these and other federal statutory protections do not provide a basis for state law wrongful discharge claims. See, e.g., *Spiers v. Oak Grove Credit*, 328 So. 3d 645, 656 (Miss. 2021) (recognizing terminations motivated by sex and age discrimination have already been “independently declared legally impermissible” under Title VII and the ADEA and therefore do not constitute viable bases to challenge the employment-at-will rule under Mississippi law).

There were no state common law exceptions to the at-will rule until the Mississippi Supreme Court handed down *McArn v. Allied Bruce-Terminix Co.*, 626 So. 2d 603,

607 (Miss. 1993). In *McArn*, the Court established a common-law tort of retaliatory discharge as an exception to the at-will employment doctrine. Writing for the Court, Justice Michael Sullivan held:

*We are of the opinion that there should be in at least two circumstances, a narrow public policy exception to the employment at will doctrine and this should be so whether there is a written contract or not: (1) an employee who refuses to participate in an illegal act... shall not be barred by the common law rule of employment at will from bringing an action in tort for damages against his employer; (2) an employee who is discharged for reporting illegal acts of his employer to the employer or anyone else is not barred by the employment at will doctrine from bringing action in tort for damages against his employer. To this limited extent this Court declares these public policy exceptions to the age old common law rule of employment at will. These exceptions apply even where there is “privately made law” governing the employment relationship, where the illegal activity either declined by the employee or reported by him affects third parties among the general public, though they are not parties to the lawsuit.*

*We therefore reverse the directed verdict granted to Allied–Bruce Terminix, Inc., and remand this case for a determination of whether or not McArn was actually discharged for a refusal to commit deceptive, fraudulent or illegal actions against the clients of Terminix or for reporting same.*

*Id.* at 607. It is noteworthy that the Court remanded the case for the jury to determine whether *McArn* was fired for refusing to commit “deceptive, fraudulent **or** illegal actions.” *Id.* (emphasis added). The Court has since clarified that the exception is only available to employees who report or refuse to engage in *criminal* conduct. “The *McArn* exceptions only apply where the activity complained of is actually illegal: “the acts complained of [must] warrant the imposition of criminal penalties, as opposed to mere civil penalties.” *Hammons v. Fleetwood Homes of Miss. Inc.*, 907 So. 2d 357, 360 (Miss. Ct. App. 2004).

The Mississippi Supreme Court recognizes that termination in retaliation for reporting a co-worker’s illegal conduct can be a sufficient basis for a wrongful termination claim, as long as it relates to the employer’s business. See *DeCarlo v. Bonus Stores, Inc.*, 989 So. 2d 351, 357 (Miss. 2008) (recognizing that “[d]ischarge in retaliation for an employee’s good faith effort to protect the employer from wrongdoing constitutes an independent

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1. *Perry v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 508 So. 2d 1086, 1088 (Miss. 1987).
  2. Practice Tip: Both Title VII and Section 1981 outlaw intentional race discrimination in employment contracts. However, workers pursuing 1981 claims do not have to first exhaust administrative remedies at the EEOC or a state agency, a key distinction from Title VII. The statute of limitations is four years under Section 1981 and – unlike Title VII – there is no damages cap. So, for race discrimination claims in the employment context, lawyers should consider bringing their case under 42 USC §1981.

Continued on page 4...



tort and may support punitive damages”) (quoting *Willard v. Paracelsus Health Care Corp.*, 681 So. 2d 539, 543 (Miss. 1996)).

This rule is especially important in the context of employees who report illegal conduct of co-workers in long-term care facilities. In *Community Care Center of Aberdeen v. Barrentine*, 160 So. 3d 216 (Miss. 2015), the Plaintiff alleged he was wrongfully terminated under the *McArn* exception to the employment at will rule when his nursing home employer fired him for reporting patient abuse. Recognizing that wrongful discharge claims under *McArn* sound in tort, the Court held that a “*McArn* claim alleging wrongful discharge in violation of public policy is based on an employer’s duty not to thwart the public interest by terminating employees for speaking the truth.” *Id.* at 220.

Additionally, the Mississippi Supreme Court held that where the Mississippi Legislature has “independently declared” a basis for a wrongful termination claim, the claim is not barred by the at-will employment rule, even if the case did not otherwise meet the narrow public policy exceptions pronounced in *McArn* and its progeny. See *Swindol v. Aurora Sciences Flight Corp.*, 194 So. 3d 847 (Miss. 2016) (on certified question from the Fifth Circuit, at-will employment rule does not bar wrongful discharge claim where employee stored his firearm in a locked vehicle on company property consistent with Miss. Code Ann. § 45-9-55).

The Mississippi Legislature has independently declared that termination of a care facility worker for reporting abuse or neglect is legally impermissible. The

Mississippi Vulnerable Persons Act, Miss. Code Ann. § 43-47-37 (2013), provides that any person working at a care facility such as a nursing home, hospital, long-term care facility, hospice or home health agency, who has knowledge of or reasonable cause to believe that a patient or resident of a care facility has been the victim of abuse, neglect or exploitation must immediately report the abuse, neglect or exploitation. § 43-47-37(1). A care facility is required to make a report orally or telephonically within 24 hours to the State Department of Health (MSDH) and the Attorney General’s office. The care facility must then make a written report to the MSDH and AG’s office within 72 hours. The statute goes on to provide the following:

*No person shall terminate from employment, demote, reject for promotion or otherwise sanction, punish or retaliate against any individual who, in good faith, makes a report as provided in this section or who testifies in any official proceeding regarding matters arising out of this section.*

Miss. Code Ann. § 43-47-37(5)(b). This statute explicitly declares that terminating or retaliating against an employee for reporting abuse, neglect or exploitation of a vulnerable person is illegal. Moreover, the Vulnerable Persons Act imposes criminal penalties for failing to report or attempting to induce another, by threat or otherwise, to fail to make a report of abuse, neglect or exploitation of a vulnerable person. §43-47-37(7).

Thus, an employee’s case against a care facility alleging wrongful termination for reporting patient abuse or neglect

is actionable under both the public policy exception of *McArn* and the explicit language of §43-47-37(5)(b) declaring such retaliatory conduct to be legally impermissible. Recently, co-counsel Josh Ginn and I successfully represented a gentleman who was fired from a long-term care facility for good faith reporting of abuse and neglect. We pursued the case under both *McArn* and § 43-47-37. After hearing the evidence, the trial Court found that our client had been wrongfully discharged and awarded damages for lost wages and emotional distress.

**“The common law absolutely should protect such workers from retaliatory discharge.”**

The *McArn* exceptions to the employment-at-will rule could find no better application than in situations where an employee reports abuse or neglect of a vulnerable person. The common law absolutely should protect such workers from retaliatory discharge under these circumstances. That the Legislature has codified the importance of that public policy in the Vulnerable Persons Act makes it clear that our state protects the vulnerable and will not stand for retaliatory treatment of workers in care facilities who in good faith report abuse or neglect.

*Hawkins regularly represents individuals and families in nursing home, medical malpractice and employment cases. He also represents doctors, nurses and CNAs in employment and licensure matters.* ➔

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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Statistics show that 90% of organizations now maintain social media profiles, and CABA is among that majority. You can find the Capital Area Bar Association’s page on Facebook and find us on Twitter (@CABALaw). Social media is a simple way to improve communications within our organization, but we need our members to help to build an effective social media presence. If you are currently on Facebook or Twitter, please engage. Whether you like us, follow us, or comment on posts, you are helping build CABA’s social media profile.

# NOT ALWAYS CHARMED: THE DARK SIDE OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY

*There are parts of Irish history that are darker than a pint of Guinness.*

By Terryl Rushing

At the time that this article is being written, we're in the interlude between two ostensibly Irish holidays in Mississippi — St. Patrick's Day on March 17 and the Hal's St. Paddy's Day Parade, which, for reasons known only to its founder, Hal's brother, Malcolm White, will occur on March 25. March 17 is the actual feast day for St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, and it is celebrated as a holy day by Catholics in Ireland, many of whom attend Mass on that day, no matter where in the weekly calendar it falls. Here, it is an important enough feast day that, when it occurred on a Friday during Lent this year, a day in which meat is not normally permitted, Bishop Kopacz of the Jackson Diocese granted a disposition to allow feasting on corned beef.

The St. Paddy's Day Parade, on the other hand, is a purely pagan (*sorry, Malcolm*) celebration of beer and funny costumes that includes the entire community. Years ago, my kids were introduced to my Crazy Aunt Eileen. Understand that my sister and I preface all of our maternal kinfolk's names with the word "Crazy;" they are known to us collectively as "The Crazy Irish." Aunt Eileen lit one cigarette from another and announced,

“On Parade Day, those two groups swim together in a happy sea of green beer.”

in her best brogue, “There are only two kinds of people in the world — the Irish, and those who wish they were Irish.” On Parade Day, those two groups swim together in a happy sea of green beer.

To watch a St. Patrick's Day Parade, you would think that Irish history is full of four-leaved clovers and leprechauns; however, there are parts darker than a pint of Guinness. It would take two hands to count the

number of times that England conquered the land of Ireland; the pesky Irish people mostly pretended not to notice. Unlike Scotland and Wales, which ultimately found enough in common with England to form Great Britain, the Irish just could not be brought to heel. At the heart of the problem was their stubborn resistance to becoming Protestant. During the troubled period of English history between Henry VIII and Oliver Cromwell, England tipped from Catholicism to Protestantism and back regularly, depending on the preference of the ruler. It was a nasty time, with Catholics burning Protestants and Protestants returning the favor. Naturally, resentment grew between the camps, particularly since the Irish, motivated by religious fervor as well as the desire for independence, mounted one insurrection after another.

Finally, England had enough, and Puritan Oliver Cromwell mounted an attack on Ireland that left, according to some, barely 500,000–800,000 Irish Catholics alive. Even worse, the survivors were subject to the Penal Laws. They barred Catholics from joining the military, the professions, voting, holding office, or buying land. Catholics could not attend school, and they could not practice their religion. But the biggest impact, in terms of later events, was the effect of the Laws on inheritance of land. While Protestants could continue to pass property down to the eldest son, thereby preserving their estates, Catholic parcels were divided among all of the sons, unless the eldest became a Protestant.

This last provision meant that the property that a Catholic family could own, already limited to a small percentage of the island following enormous land grants to English lords, became even smaller with each generation. Even after the Penal Laws were repealed, the practice continued as a tradition. With the predictability of Irish fertility, the population grew apace, and, by 1841, the population was between eight and nine million. That part of the population that was rural, which was to

say most of the population at that time, largely existed on either owned or leased property that often consisted of plots of five or fewer acres. These small plots of land were insufficient to support a family on traditional grain crops; however, the Irish had discovered a vegetable that could sustain them: the potato. People ate potatoes for breakfast, lunch, and supper, and, when combined with milk or buttermilk, it was

“Between potatoes and an abundance of peat to keep warm, the Irish survived.”

a relatively nourishing meal. Between potatoes and an abundance of peat to keep warm, the Irish survived. While some officials warned of impending disaster if that crop failed, they were largely unheard; Parliament believing that any problems the Irish encountered were the result of “the improvidence and lack of energy of the Irish people.”

Predictably, the potato crop failed, leading to what the Irish call an Gorta Mor, the Great Hunger. In July, 1845, reports came in of crop failures in several counties. By 1846, the country was in the grips of famine that lasted through 1849. Stories abound of the suffering of the Irish during that time, and the relatively ineffectual actions of the English government to combat it, although, in truth, probably no government then existing could have effectively dealt with a disaster of this size. Irish on their own property starved on their own land. Absentee landlords had their agents evict any Irish who couldn't pay their rent on leased property, leaving their tenants starving in the road. While millions of Irish people were dying of hunger, however, English landowners sent surplus crops of grain from Ireland to England.

*Continued on page 6...*



One particular story from that time demonstrates the famine's pathos. In early spring of 1847, almost 400 starving adults and children assembled in Louisburgh to be inspected for approval to distribute food. Instead, they were directed to walk to Doolough, in search of the inspectors, and to assemble there in the morning. This directive obliged them to walk through the night to make the twelve-mile trip in time. The trek would have been challenging for the fit; for people debilitated by starvation, it was virtually impossible. Moreover, reports from the time say it was freezing cold that night, with heavy rain and flooding.

Many of the walkers died along the way; some fell by the wayside, others were reportedly blown by high winds into a nearby lake, where they drowned or died from the cold. The next day, the scene was described as a trail of corpses, with the dead ultimately buried in shallow graves where they fell. Estimates of the number of casualties put it anywhere from 20 to 600. *(The figure of 20 casualties comes from English historians; Irish historians, with their native propensity toward hyperbole, put the figure at 600, which, you will note, is larger than the number who set out on the journey.)* An Irish historical group now conducts a tour along that route to commemorate the "Famine Walk." In 1991, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his wife Leah led the Walk through a gale similar to the one experienced in 1849. In 1994, Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, and his wife Sunandra led the Walk, and they unveiled a memorial to Gandhi in the famine graveyard.

There were two ways out of the famine: death and emigration. At least a million Irish perished; another million left, reducing Ireland's population by 25%. *(The poorest Irish left, and those were the most likely to speak Irish as a native language, so the percentage of the population who could speak Irish also drastically declined.)* It wasn't easy for a pauper to leave; however, in some instances, the landlord who had evicted them paid their passage, thereby ridding himself of an embarrassment and a Catholic. Others somehow scraped the money together to pay steerage fare for their ship; most often, they were bound for America.

English sea captains scrambled to meet the demand for passage, making at least 5,000 trips during the famine years, cramming passengers into tiny ships that most likely once carried slaves to the New World. Filled to capacity

with weak people who often carried disease, the mortality rate was high, and they became known as the "coffin ships." To make matters worse, America had enacted the Passengers Acts, limiting the number of passengers who could be carried on ships arriving at American ports. English ships could carry more; thus, passage on those vessels was cheaper. To skirt the regulations, non-compliant ships began putting in at ports in Canada, which, being part of the British Commonwealth, could not refuse entry. So if a traveler had purchased passage at the lower price and survived famine

**“The biggest monuments of all, perhaps, are the annual St. Patrick's Day parades held in the United States.”**

in Ireland, meagre, pest-ridden food on ship, and typhus, he might be dropped off in the wrong country!

Voyage to any port at that time was perilous; doubly so on a ship that carried pestilence. Passengers to Canada sailed down the St. Lawrence River to Quebec and Montreal. As the Canadian government began to grasp the implications of permitting thousands of Irish immigrants to debark without examination, it established an immigration depot on Grosse Isle, located in the St. Lawrence River at Quebec. Thousands of Irish immigrants were quarantined on the Island; it is estimated that over 3,000 Irish people died there. It is believed that over 5,000 are currently buried in its cemetery, including many who died en route, making it the largest burial ground for famine victims outside Ireland.

There's a joke that the definition of Irish Alzheimer's is where you forget everything but the grudges. An Gorta Mor added to the grudge that Irish Catholics had against the English, bringing it to a dangerous level. The Famine had pretty much run its course by 1850, although a lesser famine, an Gorta Beag occurred in 1879. *(It prompted another round of emigration, including my great-grandmother, Mary McGee.)* One reason that there were fewer deaths in 1879 was that many of the refugees from an Gorta Mor were in a position to send money home. They continued to send money home through the early twentieth century, although much of it was earmarked toward revolutionary groups such as the Irish Volunteers, soon to become the Irish Republican Army. Led by Eamon de Valera and Michael

Collins, the Volunteers prevailed in a bloody guerilla war over the British Army in southern Ireland. The war resulted in the creation of the Irish Republic, consisting of all but the six northernmost counties that were retained as part of the British Empire. With typical Irish contrariness, however, the Irish turned on each other, assassinating Collins before resigning themselves to governing only the Irish Republic. The eternal grudge that the Irish had against England eventually led to what the Irish euphemistically refer to as "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland. The grudge still

exists. I know; I've asked my older relatives.

The Famine will not be forgotten in Ireland, and monuments to the victims of an Gorta Mor sprang up all over the country. The United States, Canada, and Australia *(another destination of Irish refugees)* all have Famine monuments. The biggest monuments of all, perhaps, are the annual St. Patrick's Day parades held in the United States. Those parades had occurred during pre-Revolutionary times, to celebrate Irish heritage. After the influx of Irish immigrants during the Famine, however, the ranks of parade marchers swelled, and the parades took on a new meaning. Irish organizations, such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians, began organizing the parades, which often became political expressions of Irish-American's solidarity with the nationalist movement in Ireland. *(There was no parade in Dublin until the 1990's.)* And sorry, folks, the largest—the New York City Parade—has always prohibited wagons and floats. By so doing, they avoid much of the "we're on a float, so let's get drunk and throw beads" blend of Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day that characterizes Jackson's Parade. The New York City Parade allows the participants to focus on Irish heritage.

Regardless, though, of your heritage or intent, I hope you enjoyed your St. Patrick's Day celebration this year. I also hope you look forward to next year's party. But as you put on your festive green clothes and beads, give a thought to the starving poor who came to this country just to survive, and, in so doing, added so immeasurably to our culture and traditions. And let go of your grudges. **Éirinn go Brách!** 🍀

# Annual GOLF OUTING

*The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual CABA Golf Tournament was held  
March 22, 2023 at The Country Club of Jackson.*



## 2023 SPONSORS

### **PLATINUM**

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP  
Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC  
Butler Snow  
Jones Walker, LLP

### **GOLD**

Baker Donelson  
The University of Mississippi School of Law  
Daniel Coker Horton & Bell, P.A.  
Watkins & Eager, PLLC

### **Lunch**

Bennett Lotterhos Sulser & Wilson, P.A.

### **Hole**

Bennett Lotterhos Sulser & Wilson, P.A.  
Brooks Court Reporting  
Hawkins Law, PC  
McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC  
Pittman, Roberts & Welsh, PLLC  
Stubblefield Yelverton & Van Uden, PLLC

### **EVENT**

Cultivation Food Hall  
Porsche Jackson  
Cathead Vodka  
Southern Beverage Company  
Sanderson Farms Championship



# Annual GOLF OUTING

EVENT PHOTOS CONTINUED





# Annual GOLF OUTING

EVENT PHOTOS CONTINUED







By Chad Hammons<sup>1</sup>

# ALL (Ok, Several) ROADS LEAD TO LAUREL Pt 2

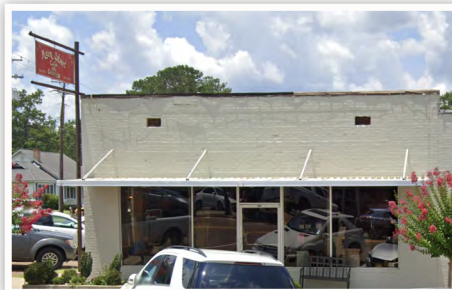
The first installment of this column mentioned my recent experiences in traveling to Laurel on a receivership case pending in Jones County Chancery Court that has required me to go to Laurel quite a few times over the past year for 9:00 a.m. hearings. December's installment chronicled traffic issues, deer with bad timing, and my newfound preference for traveling to Laurel via Highway 49 and Highway 84, rather than going through Brandon, Puckett, Bay Springs, etc.

## 28 Diner

In the last piece, I mentioned **28 Diner** in Taylorsville, where I had eaten on the way back from a receivership hearing. It is on Highway 28, which runs from Laurel through Soso, Taylorsville, and Mize, before picking up Highway 49 at Magee. If you have never taken this route, I highly recommend it. I suspect that like me, many readers aren't overly familiar with this area of the state, despite lifelong residence in Mississippi.



## Main Street Café



If you prefer to stay on four-lanes though, and travel through Collins, there are a couple of good lunch places offering contrasting fare. I may have even mentioned **Main Street Café** in a prior column. It is located on the main drag—i.e., Main Street—of Collins, a block or two down from the courthouse, on the other side of the street. You probably know what they serve, without my telling you. The buffet serves a different main course every day, with the usual assortment of southern vegetables and starches.

## Deli Diner

By contrast, **Deli Diner** serves a different type of food, more geared to the sandwich and salad crowd. I'm a fan of both culinary genres, but when I'm in more of a mood to eat just a bit healthier, a large salad will get the nod over a meat-n-three. On this point, Deli

Diner is actually quite good. They have really good sandwiches, and an excellent selection of salads. It has been some time since I have been there, but I recall the Crunchy Asian Salad being particularly good. If you are interested, Deli Diner is on the south side of town, about a half mile from the courthouse.



If you decide to be a little more adventurous, and to take my advice on exploring the road less traveled through Soso and Taylorsville, you will want to keep your eyes peeled for a little bend in the road about 20 minutes outside of Laurel, halfway between Soso and Taylorsville. It's one of those little communities in Mississippi that has a rectangular green sign as you approach, with another rectangular sign bearing the same name, about 200 yards down the road, on the other side.

1. Chad Hammons is a partner in the Jackson office of Jones Walker LLP.

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## Gitano Grill Restaurant & Bakery

This particular hamlet is called Gitano, and is the home of **Gitano Grill Restaurant & Bakery**. I know what you're thinking right now. You are thinking that it is pronounced "JHEE-TAHNO." You would be wrong. It is pronounced "GUY-TAYNO!" The word "gitano" means "gypsy" in English. More specifically, from Merriam-Webster, it means "Spanish male gypsy."



As for why this little postage stamp of land has this particular name, according to an unverified nugget I found in an internet search, the name derives from a gypsy camp that existed there long ago.<sup>1</sup>

The original owner of the land supposedly let a band of gypsies camp there. (*Again, all unverified.*) It is situated in the far northwest corner of Jones county, and could easily be mistaken as part of Jasper, Smith, or Covington counties, which all converge in that vicinity. It's the area that Newt Knight roamed and camped, to evade the Confeds who wanted his neck, for refusing to toe the line on their distorted worldview and culture.

But that was then. Newt Knight is long gone, as are the gypsies. Now, its more about a place where loggers, oil field workers, and other locals flock at lunchtime. Coming from Laurel, the Gitano Grill is on the left hand side of the road, past Soso, before Taylorsville. It is easily missed, if you are

not paying attention. But you should pay attention. Rather than being a buffet or regular plate lunch type of place, it is more of a burger, sandwich, and chopped steak kind of joint. The day I ate there, I had a hamburger steak smothered in onions and gravy, with a copious amount of French fries as a side order. I'm still recovering.<sup>2</sup>

As noted in its name, the Gitano Grill also has a bakery. I bought several cookies from there and took them home to my kids who were home over Christmas. I wish I had bought one of the freshly made caramel cakes sitting in the display case. It looked fabulous. But since my doctor has told me to cut down on carbs, it looks like I will have to wait awhile on that. But as for you younger and healthier legal road warriors out there though, I encourage you to pay a visit to Gitano and buy one. I would love to hear about it. ➡

2. I'm not going to wade into the debate over whether "gypsy" is a pejorative term, unless by merely mentioning that possibility, I am in fact wading into the debate. Suffice it to say that in some quarters, "gypsy" is considered offensive, and the term "Romani" should be used instead. That being said, in Spain, the Romani are apparently called "Gitanos."

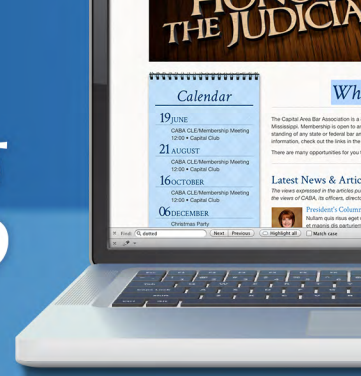
## CABA Membership Meeting *February 21*

The Solo and Small Firms Committee sponsored Frank Coxwell's presentation about "Personal Tech with a Business Touch."

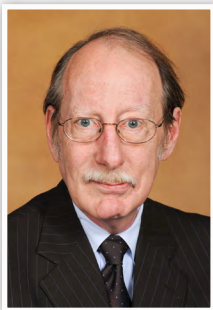


# » On Computing

Focused on the Contemporary Lawyer



## Little Tweaks to Make Windows Better



By Joel Howell

Even if you've been using Windows for a long time, it's so sprawling that there are helpful, yet more obscure features that can still surprise you. Thanks to the usual internet resources, particularly PC World, these little-known Windows features that might just improve your efficiency, your comfort, or possibly even your fun while using your PC.

If you're looking to go even further down this rabbit hole, check out our roundup of [10 truly helpful Windows tools you might not know about](#), [how to tune Windows for laser-focused productivity](#), and [how to fix Windows 11's worst annoyances](#). Meanwhile, if you're on Windows 11, a big new annual update just landed on your PC. Here are the [5 features you'll want to check out first](#).

On initial installation, mouse hover window is not activated, but it's easy to do so. This setting allows you to activate a window simply by moving your mouse cursor over it, instead of requiring an extra click before interacting with the program. It's a tiny change, but one that makes a dramatic difference, especially on a laptop trackpad.

To activate this setting, go to Control Panel and click the Ease of Access Center. Click "Make the mouse easier to use." Under "Make it easier to manage windows," select "Activate a window by hovering over it with the mouse." Click Okay to enable the setting.

With newer versions of Windows, it's easy to move windows (sorry) around your screen. Hold down the Windows key on your keyboard, then press the arrow keys. Pressing left or right will instantly move the window to the corresponding half of the screen. Pressing up or down will alternate between halving the window in the upper or lower portion of the screen, maximizing it, or minimizing it to the toolbar.

These shortcuts even work across multiple monitors. It's a terrific way to quickly arrange your windows across screens and monitors with minimal effort.

If you want to quickly manage windows, you probably pin your most-used programs and tools to the taskbar. If you want to get to them even faster hold down the Windows button and press the number on your keyboard that corresponds to their spot on the taskbar.

Speaking of the taskbar, the system tray (*the little mini-icons on the right side*) can often get crowded if you're using a lot of software. That's especially true when you run a lot of programs at startup. To eliminate the clutter, click and drag any of the icons around to re-arrange them. You can put them in the drop-down menu to hide them (just click the arrow to show them again) or set them to the right to make them permanently visible.

If you haven't done so yet, start using the official (*but obscure*) [Windows Snipping Tool](#), which expands the operating system's rather basic screenshot tool (tied to the Print Screen button) with all sorts of new goodies. Press Win + Shift + S simultaneously to see options to instantly screenshot your entire workspace, just one window, or a freeform selection drawn with your mouse. Your screenshot is then copied and ready to be pasted into a web form or image editor.

In a hurry? You can still access the old screenshot functionality (*which saves a full image file in your Pictures>Screenshots folder*) by pressing Win + Print Screen. Alternately, you can copy the full screenshot instead with Ctrl + Print Screen, or copy a selection of just your currently active program with Alt + Print Screen. ➔



Questions or comments?

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