



September 2011

From the Editor, Sherie Edwards

Autumn is finally approaching and TBALL is gearing up for a new class to be selected Thursday, October 27. In this latest issue of the TBALL times, we will provide you with updates on the alumni association executive council and committee chairs; share with you a profile of the TBA vice president, Jackie Dixon; some fun facts about alums from across the state; and, most importantly, have you save some important dates on your calendar!

Let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions for The TBALL Times by emailing Sherie Edwards sherieE@svmic.com, TBALL Newsletter committee chair, or Monica Mackie, the TBA's TBALL Director.

IN THIS ISSUE

- [From the Editor, Sherie Edwards](#)
 - [Annual Meeting Update](#)
 - [Interview with Jackie Dixon, TBA Vice President](#)
 - [SAVE THE DATE](#)
 - [For Fun](#)
-

Annual Meeting Update

by: Todd Presnell

It is my honor and privilege to serve as TBALLA Chair for the upcoming year. Like all of you, I thoroughly enjoyed my TBALL experience and very much look forward to continuing that education through this fantastic alumni organization. I hope this year will bring increased activity from our Alumni, continued involvement with the 2012 TBALL class, and high attendance at the first-ever TBALL Alumni Retreat.

The TBA Leadership Law Alumni Association held its Annual Meeting on Friday, July 17, 2011 during the TBA Convention. Many TBALL alumni were in attendance, including Danny Van Horn, the first TBALL graduate to ascend to the TBA Presidency. Many alumni were able to reconnect with former TBALL classmates, and generally everyone appreciated the opportunity visit with old friends and mingle with new ones.

The meeting began with committee reports. The newsletter committee, led by Sherie Edwards, reported on its work for the year and called for alumni to share their successes and other happenings for publication. TBALLA members enjoy hearing about their classmates, and everyone was encouraged to contact Sherie with news, however minor or major, for inclusion in the newsletter.

Monica Mackie reported on TBALLA finances. Annual dues for

TBALLA is \$50, and each member needs to remember to pay his or her dues. There was some discussion about whether dues invoices were received by some members, and we determined to ensure that all alumni received dues statements so that our finances remain solid. We currently have approximately \$6,000 in the alumni account that will be used for TBALL sponsorships and potentially TBALL scholarships.

We thanked the outgoing officers for their dedicated time and service of the last year. These include outgoing Chair Adam Knight and Executive Council members David Smith, Bryan Williams, and Heather Anderson. We appreciate their service.

The new slate of Officers and the 2011-2012 TBALL Alumni Executive Counsel is as follows:

Chair: Todd Presnell

Vice Chair: Nancy Stabell

Secretary-Treasurer: Sam Funk

Council Representatives (Term Ending 2014): Sarah Henry (West Tennessee), Wes Bryant (Middle Tennessee), and Bob Bowman (East Tennessee)

Council Representatives (Term Ending 2013): Taylor Cates (West Tennessee), Bernadette Welch (Middle Tennessee), and Jason Fisher (East Tennessee)

Council Representatives (Term Ending 2012): Michael Russell (West Tennessee), Mark Chalos (Middle Tennessee), and Chuck Young (East Tennessee).

Newsletter/Communications Chair: Sherie Edwards

Social Committee Chair: Alicia Oliver

If you would like to serve on any of these TBALLA committees, please contact the committee chairs for information. Your input is valuable to both the committees and to TBALLA as a whole.

Interview with Jackie Dixon, TBA Vice President

By Sherie Edwards (TBALL 2010)

1. Why did you decide to seek the Bar presidency?

I love being a lawyer! The practice of law is a wonderful profession, and the TBA is the largest professional organization in our state. I want to help make the practice even better for Tennessee lawyers by offering opportunities to improve our practices and the quality of our lives. I would also like to work to improve the public's perception of lawyers and its understanding of our judicial system.

2. What will be the 'theme' of your presidency?

I don't have a "catchy" theme just yet. I like one my good friend and former TBA President Larry Wilks used: "Serving

every lawyer every day.” That is really what the TBA is about.

3. What is your favorite memory of your time in TBALL?

I loved the day we spent immersed in Tennessee politics, uh, I meant government. Sitting in the balcony, listening to Governor Bredesen give his State of the State address is a favorite memory.

4. How important is TBALL in terms of developing future TBA leaders?

TBALL is vital. For example, I got out my list of all TBALL participants when I put together the Long Range Planning committee earlier this year. Your name was on that list—now you are the TBA’s assistant treasurer!

5. If you could give a ‘baby’ lawyer one piece of advice, what would that be?

Work hard to maintain your character and reputation as well as your competency in whatever you do.

Okay, enough with the serious questions. For fun:

6. It’s Saturday afternoon. Where are you most likely to be spending your time?

At home, probably in the kitchen or now that football season is here, dividing my time between the big TV in the den and the smaller one in the kitchen. Cooking is my relaxation, and lately I have been doing a lot with fresh produce from the Farmer’s Market.

7. Most folks fall into one of two camps: dogs or cats. To which camp do you belong?

I am a huge animal lover and really like both. However, since Slooby, the cat from hell, went to that big litter box in the sky at the age of 18 ½, we have not replaced him. We are content with the two best dogs in Green Hills (that is what I tell them), Cilla, an 11 year old Golden Retriever mix and sister to John Tarpley’s dog, Belle, and Jake, a 99 pound black lab mix we rescued from Metro Animal Control. He is so grateful!

8. What is your favorite quote?

I enjoy quotes and have quite a collection. One of my current favorites is reported to be from Albert Einstein, “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

9. Clooney or Pitt?

That is something I have never thought about! I am not a big movie or TV watcher. I did enjoy George Clooney in “Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?” I also admire him for some of the humanitarian work he is involved in.

SAVE THE DATE

Reception for the Hon. Kevin Sharp

Please mark your calendar for a reception to honor TBALL Alum (2005) Kevin Sharp on Thursday, October 13 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The reception will be held in the Terrace Room on the Fifth Floor. The Honorable Judge Sharp was sworn in as U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee on July 15, 2011. It's now time for TBA and TBALLA to celebrate this momentous occasion!

Fall Receptions

For the last few years, we have had receptions in each of the grand divisions for TBALL alums and new TBALL class members. This year we have decided to add a reception in Chattanooga. The dates are:

Monday, November 7-Knoxville
Thursday, November 10-Memphis
Tuesday, November 15-Nashville
Thursday, November 17-Chattanooga

More information on places and times to follow.

TBALLA Retreat

During the Annual Meeting, TBALLA decided to host what we hope will become the Annual TBALLA Retreat. The Retreat will be held at (where else?) Montgomery Bell State Park on **February 2-3, 2012**. The Officers, Executive Council, and other volunteers are finalizing programming plans at this time, and a formal invitation will be sent in the near future. We will begin on Thursday, February 2, with a reception at 5:30pm followed by dinner where ample fried catfish will be served, and cap the night off with the infamous hospitality suite in true TBALL tradition. As if this is not enough, we will spend Friday, February 3 engaged in thought-provoking discussions led by reputable speakers and panelists. Friday's programming will be from 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. with a one-hour caucus. Please mark your calendars—the Annual Retreat will allow you to reconnect with TBALL classmates, enjoy top-quality, CLE programming unique to TBALL alumni, discuss how TBALLA alumni can make a difference as leaders in this State, and generally have a great time. We hope you will join us!

For Fun

Cross Examination by Sherie Edwards

If you press Shuffle on your I-Pod©, what are the first 5 songs to appear?

Marcy Magee (2006)

"Mountain Music" by Alabama

"American Trilogy" by Elvis

"Don't Stop Believin" by Journey

"The Best" by Tina Turner

"I Go Back" by Kenny Chesney

Maury Nicely (2011)

"Oh My God, Whatever, Etc." by Ryan Adams

"d.b. cooper" by Todd Snider

"Bent Out of Shape" by The Replacements

"Lipstick Sunset" by John Hiatt

"Good Man" by Josh Ritter

Heidi Barcus (2005)

"Peacock" by Katy Perry

"Flip Flop Summer" by Kenny Chesney

"That Man" by Macy Gray

"Better Together" by Jack Johnson

"Wrong Baby Wrong" by Martina McBride

Danny Van Horn (2007)

"Jungle Love" by the Time;

"Why I am" by Dave Matthews Band;

"Don't Go Back to Rockville" by R.E.M.;

"New Divide" by Linkin Park;

"I Will Follow" by U2

Shannon Coleman (2011)

"Untitled Waltz" by Corb Lund

"I've Got the World on a String" by Frank Sinatra

"Boom Boom Pow" by Black Eyed Peas

"Mil Besos" by Patty Griffin

"We Are the People" by Jimmy Buffet

Chris Varner (2005)

"1979" by Smashing Pumpkins

"Lost Weekend" by Lloyd Cole & the Commotions

"Laid" by Better Than Ezra

"Where's Your Head At" by Basement Jaxx

"Sometime Around Midnight" by The Airborne Toxic Event

Mary Dohner-Smith (2009)

"She'll Leave You With a Smile" by George Strait

"Hero of the Day" by Metallica

"Baby Mine" by Alison Krause

"I'm Just a Girl" by No Doubt

"The Last Resort (live version)" by The Eagles

Michelle Sellers (2005)

"Toes" by Zac Brown Band

"Imma Be" by Black Eyed Peas

"Red Light" by David Nail

"Come Away With Me" by Norah Jones

"Baby It's Cold Outside" by Dean Martin
