

The Sentinel

President's Column

Tommy Spina, Esq.

FEAR LESS

The holidays are now behind us and for me personally, I continue to be constantly bombarded with the reality of the awesome power of police officers and prosecutors, whose almost limitless discretion to decide who to charge for what, is supported by the vast majority of Americans.

More often, we hear of wrongfully convicted individuals who have spent years in jail based upon admittedly suspect testimony. We continue to read about the unreliability of eye witness identification and the testimony of jail house snitches. A sense of helplessness surrounds us each day that we walk into the Criminal Justice building.

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER BIRMINGHAM CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

We are all afraid, at least I am, every time we go to trial; afraid that our judgment is not the best, that our skills are not the best, that our preparation is the not the best, that the responsibility may be too much; and that we will fail, and our client will go to prison or die. We will probably never persuade a majority of Americans that defending accused criminals is heroic. But I know it is, you know it is, our clients and their families know it also. That should be enough.

I am submitting an abbreviated version of The Sentinel, primarily to encourage each and every one of you who practice criminal defense and who desire to involve themselves in the defense of those individuals charged in capital cases, attend the excellent seminar that is being offered by our State Association during the weekend of February 8th and 9th, 2002. Following you will find all pertinent information that you will need in signing up for this invaluable program.

Loosening the Death Belt VI:

Tightening the Defense - One Life at a Time

A Death Penalty Seminar presented by The Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

In cooperation with the Cumberland School
of Law & The ABA Death Penalty
Representation Project

February 8-9, 2002

Cumberland School of Law

Dwight Beeson Hall, Brock Forum

Samford University

Birmingham, Alabama

9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

E-mail: annscooper@acdla.org

Phone: 334-272-0064 Fax: 334-277-2927

The Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is pleased to present this two-day Death Penalty Seminar featuring some of the top criminal defense lawyers in the country. Don't miss this opportunity to hear highly acclaimed death penalty lawyers talk about successful techniques necessary to prepare and defend capital cases.

You will learn:

How Jurors Think and Vote in Capital Cases

- Motion Practice and Record Preservation
- Opening and Closing Statements
- Voir Dire in Capital Cases

- Defendant the Federal Death Penalty Case
- Defending the Impossible Case

CLEs

12 hours of Continuing Legal Education have been applied for through the Alabama State Bar for this event.

Hear Alabama's Top Criminal Defense Attorneys

William R. Blanchard practices in Montgomery, Alabama and has received acclaim for his work defending indigent defendants in death penalty cases.

Richard S. Jaffee, Birmingham, Alabama, has handled to conclusion over 40 capital cases, including those of Randal Padgett, "Bo" Cochran and Gary Drinkard, all death row inmates acquitted in new trials.

John E. Mays, Decatur, Alabama, has authored three publications including, "Defending Death Penalty Cases in Alabama." In June of 2001, he was the co-counsel, along with Mr. Jaffee, in successful defense of Death Row inmate Gary Drinkard.

Joel L. Sogol teaches at the University of Alabama Law School in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He also has a distinguished career as a successful death penalty practitioner in the state.

Bryan Stevenson is director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama. His successful defense of Death Row inmate, Walter McMillian has received national acclaim and he frequently testifies for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

Carlos A. Willias, the Federal Defender in Mobile, Alabama, has handled capital cases in both the State and Federal arena. He was co-counsel in a recent Federal death penalty case and convinced the U.S. Justice Department not to authorize.

Featured Speakers

John H. Blume, Columbia, SC, is a successful death penalty practitioner who teaches at Cornlee University and co-authored the nationally acclaimed study on *How Jurors Think and Vote*.

David I. Bruck, Columbia, SC, was a successful defender of the Susan Smith case. Mr. Bruck has successfully argued landmark cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, including those on victim impact.

Ruth E. Friedman, a nationally acclaimed expert in post-conviction death penalty cases, is at EJI's Washington, DC office.

Andrea D. Lyon teaches law at the University of Michigan and DePaul College of Law. She is founder and director of the Clarence Darrow Death Penalty Defense College at the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor, MI.

B. Michael Mears is the Director of the Metro Atlanta, GA, Multi-County Public Defenders Office, and has numerous successes in the death penalty area. He is a sought-out speaker and teacher of death penalty litigation.

Registration Form Loosening the Death Belt VI

Check all that apply:	By 1/5	After 1/15
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Registration - ACDLA Members	\$200.00	\$225.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Registration - Public Defenders	\$175.00	\$225.00
<input type="checkbox"/> President's Club Members	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Members (@ 1/2)	\$100.00	\$112.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-members ACDLA	\$250.00	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Materials Only	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00

Subtotal: _____

Total: _____

Name: _____

Firm: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Method of Payment:

☐ Check-Payable to ACDLA ☐ Purchase Order

P.O. Billing Address _____

No refunds after January 15, 2002.
Substitutions accepted.

Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association:
P.O. Box 1147
Montgomery, Alabama 36101

E-Mail: annscooper@acdla.org

Phone: 334-272-0064 Fax: 334-277-2927

Special Hotel Accommodations:

Available until 1/4/02: The Mountain Brook Inn, 2800 U.S. Highway 280, Birmingham, Alabama, 35233
(205) 870-3100 Ask for DP Rate: \$79.00 · Double/King

GBCDLA 2001-2002 OFFICERS

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MISCELLANEOUS

• Please do not forget to use UAB TASC for certain bonds to assist your clients in getting out of jail quicker. TASC is available to make bonds under certain circumstances. Contact the TASC fourth floor office at the Criminal Justice Building in the event you have a client who meets the criteria.

• We have begun the process of inquiry relative to the court allowing defendants to be released on bond after a deposit of ten percent of the bond amount is made with the clerk of the court. These funds would be available for future use by the client toward the payment of fines, court cost and even perhaps, lawyer fees.

• For those of you appointed to represent indigent defendants, please make every effort to visit your client as soon as possible after receiving your court appointment.

• Anyone wishing to submit an article for publication in The Sentinel should submit it to Tommy Spina at 1330 21st Way South, Suite 200, Birmingham, Alabama 35205.

• Sign up a friend in your organization.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Admitted to Bar: _____

Annual Dues:

☐ Sustaining Member (\$100.00)

☐ General Member (\$50.00)

☐ General Member less than 3 years in practice (\$25.00)

Make check payable to GBCDLA and mail to:

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