CABA
Capital Area Bar Association

APRIL 2026

President's Column

By Melissa S. Scott

The end of the Capital Area Bar Association year is drawing near, but the end of the year is full of continued opportunities for connection and community. We have our membership luncheon on April 21st, a CLE on how to hang your shingle on April 28th, and our final celebration at the Evening Honoring the Judiciary on May 12th.

We will spend the evening of May 12th celebrating those whose contributions to our professional community have enriched our lives. That includes our award winners and every member of this organization who has given of their time and talent this year, whether you served on a committee, provided insight through CLE or a newsletter article, or attended an event. There are many ways you can spend your time, and CABA is a better organization because you chose to spend that time with us. Thank you!

I am incredibly grateful you have allowed me to serve these past few years on the CABA Board of Directors and this past year as president. I look forward to passing the gavel to Graham Carner and all that he has in store for us next year.

Inside

Upcoming Events

April 21

CABA Membership Meeting
Legislative Update
One Hour CLE

Lunch at 11:30am
Meeting at 12:00pm
River Hills

Free Lunch

THE KING IS GONE (SO ARE YOU)

By Simon Bailey

Judge E. Grady Jolly owned a whiskey decanter that looked like Elvis, a reference to the tongue-in-cheek 1989 George Jones hit, "The King is Gone (So Are You)." He proudly displayed this kitschy object on a shelf in his home and delighted in explaining it to guests, many of whom didn't know the song it referenced. His guests were probably surprised to receive a lesson on country music from this bespectacled federal judge, who owned a closetful of white bucks but no cowboy boots, and shelves of artifacts from his world travels but no other Elvis memorabilia. I can see Judge Jolly now, a slightly mischievous grin on his face and the decanter in his hands, enjoying his listeners' disbelieving reactions. And so will I see him always in my mind's eye.

We said goodbye to Judge Jolly on March 23, 2026, in a Requiem Eucharist at Saint Andrew's Cathedral in Jackson, one week after his passing. At least twelve members of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit were in attendance, along with judges from the United States district courts, and our state courts. Some of the brightest lights of the capital area bar were there too, along with former law clerks who came from all over the country, and the Judge's many friends—lawyers and non-lawyers alike.

The occasion, like the man, was a blend of ceremony and humor. The Reverend Buddy Stallings delivered a homily. Phil Burnett, husband to Judge Jolly's beloved niece, Anna, shared family memories; Judge Edith Jones spoke for the Judge's Fifth Circuit colleagues; and Claiborne Barksdale offered his perspective as the Judge's friend and first law clerk.

The church service was followed by a reception at the Fairview Inn, one of the Judge's favorite places. Jolly stories flowed there with warmth and enthusiasm—a fitting tribute to a man who loved to tell a good story. Former law clerks, in particular, told tales of sparring with the Judge over draft opinions (he always won; they always lost); of their own embarrassing moments the Judge still teased them about years later (like throwing up in chambers the morning of an oral argument); and of failed attempts to match the Judge's sartorial splendor (only double pucker seersucker met the Judge's standards). We all laughed and wished the Judge were there to apply his own unique gloss to every story, as he always did.

Reflecting on these stories, it occurred to me that when one talks about Judge Jolly, the natural tendency is to talk about his personality and good cheer first. And this is perhaps an unusual tendency when the subject of conversation is someone with so many professional accomplishments. Many accomplished people build a respectable façade and live behind it, amplifying their accomplishments to make the façade impenetrable. That was not Judge Jolly's way. His job, as he saw it, was to decide cases on the law and record, not to seek attention. This approach to the job earned Judge Jolly the respect and trust of his colleagues. He took his oath and duty very seriously, and he fulfilled them with distinction. But he never took himself too seriously.

That is why, whether you knew Judge Jolly from the forty three years he served on the Fifth Circuit, or you practiced law with or against him, or you crossed paths with him in his earlier government service (with the DOJ, the U.S. Attorney's office, or the NLRB), or you knew him socially, you have something to say about who he was, and not just about what he did. The chances are, you remember something that makes you laugh or smile. Maybe it's a whiskey decanter that looks like Elvis.

LET US KNOW!

We value your thoughts and want to make sure you don't forget to leave them in our **"Comments"** section under each article on our website.

Start the discussion...

Throwing Out the Baby with the Bathwater?

The Supreme Court Reinforces the Boundaries of Federal Jurisdiction in *Hain*.

By Deborah Challener

In a July 2025 article, I discussed the Fifth Circuit's decision in *Hain Celestial Group, Inc. v. Palmquist* and the Supreme Court's grant of *certiorari*. A unanimous U.S. Supreme Court has now affirmed the Fifth Circuit's decision, confirming that a district court's erroneous dismissal of a nondiverse defendant does not cure the lack of diversity jurisdiction that existed at the time of removal. Even after a full federal trial and a defense judgment as a matter of law, the judgment could not stand, and the case had to be sent back to state court. In a decision that is likely to matter well beyond the instant case, the Court reinforced the limits of federal jurisdiction, clarified the reach of *Caterpillar Inc. v. Lewis*, and signaled that aggressive improper-joinder removals can carry significant risk.

Background

The Palmquists sued Hain and Whole Foods in Texas state court after alleging that baby food manufactured by Hain and purchased at Whole Foods exposed their child to toxic heavy metals. They asserted product liability and negligence claims against Hain and breach-of-warranty and negligence claims against Whole Foods. That pleading posture mattered because the plaintiffs were Texas citizens, Hain was a citizen of Delaware and New York, and Whole Foods was a Texas citizen. As filed, the case lacked complete diversity.

Hain removed the case anyway, arguing that Whole Foods had been improperly (or fraudulently) joined and should be dismissed. The district court agreed, denied remand, dismissed Whole Foods, and kept the case in federal court. The case then proceeded to trial against Hain alone, where the district court granted judgment as a matter of law for Hain on causation grounds.

The key appellate issue was whether that federal judgment could survive if the improper joinder ruling turned out to be wrong. The Fifth Circuit held that Whole Foods had been properly joined, reversed the dismissal, vacated the defense judgment, and ordered the case remanded to state court. That ruling created the question the Supreme Court agreed to resolve: whether a district court's final judgment as to diverse parties must be vacated when the appellate court later determines that the district court erred by dismissing a nondiverse defendant after removal.

The Supreme Court's Decision

The Supreme Court unanimously affirmed. Writing for the Court, Justice Sotomayor began with two premises: (1) no one asked the Court to revisit the Fifth Circuit's conclusion that the district court's improper joinder decision was incorrect and Whole Foods should not have been dismissed, and (2) no one disputed that the district court would have lacked jurisdiction had it correctly decided the joinder issue at the outset. From there, the question was narrow: Given the district court's erroneous dismissal of Whole Foods, did the district court have jurisdiction to enter a final judgment as to Hain? The Court held that it did not.

The Court framed the case against the backdrop of ordinary jurisdictional principles. Federal appellate courts generally assess jurisdiction based on the facts existing at filing or removal. If jurisdiction was absent at that time, a merits judgment ordinarily must be vacated. The Court recognized the familiar exception from *Caterpillar Inc. v. Lewis*: when a jurisdictional defect is properly cured before final judgment, the judgment may stand. But the Court held that *Hain* fell outside that exception because Whole Foods was not properly and finally dismissed from the case. Its dismissal was erroneous and interlocutory, which meant it did not dispose of the whole case and was reversible on appeal from a final judgment in Hain's favor. In the Court's formulation, Whole Foods was only "temporarily and erroneously removed"; it was not "gone for good." Because the defect therefore "lingered through judgment," the judgment "must be vacated."

The Court also rejected Hain's argument that efficiency and finality should save the judgment. Although *Caterpillar* recognized that finality, efficiency, and economy can become "overwhelming" after a case has been tried in federal court, those concerns matter only after a jurisdictional defect has been properly and finally cured. They cannot supply jurisdiction where it never validly existed. The Court made the point plainly: a district court cannot create jurisdiction through its own mistakes.

The Court likewise rejected Hain's fallback argument under Rule 21, which allows a

Continued on page 4...

federal court "on its own" to "add or drop a party" "on just terms." While Rule 21 allows dismissal of a dispensable nondiverse party in appropriate circumstances, the Court held that the requested use of Rule 21 here would improperly override the plaintiffs' forum choice. The Court emphasized that the plaintiff is the "master of the complaint" and that the Palmquists had purposefully and properly joined a nondiverse defendant and promptly moved to remand. Rule 21, the Court held, could not be used to force them into federal court under those circumstances.

Justice Thomas's Concurrence

Justice Thomas joined the Court's opinion in full but wrote separately to express skepticism about the modern improper-joinder doctrine itself. In his view, the doctrine appears to permit federal courts to enlarge their own jurisdiction by assessing the merits of claims over which they lack jurisdiction. He suggested that the Court's earlier fraudulent-joinder precedents were aimed at bad faith or actual fraud, not the more common modern practice of evaluating whether the plaintiff's claims against the nondiverse defendant are sufficiently strong on the merits. He concluded that, in a future case, the Court should consider the propriety of the improper-joinder doctrine.

The Court's majority opinion assumed the propriety of improper joinder and resolved only the narrower vacatur question. Justice Thomas, by contrast, flagged a deeper structural concern: whether federal courts should be conducting what amounts to a merits-based screening of claims against nondiverse defendants at all while jurisdiction remains in dispute. Plaintiff-side litigants will almost certainly cite the concurrence in future remand battles, and defense counsel should expect closer scrutiny of the doctrinal foundations of improper joinder going forward. If that issue eventually returns to the Court squarely presented, *Hain* may prove important not only for what it held, but for the broader challenge to the improper joinder doctrine that Justice Thomas' concurrence invited.

What the Decision Means

The Supreme Court's holding in *Hain* is straightforward: an erroneous dismissal of a nondiverse defendant does not cure a removal defect that existed from the beginning, and a final federal judgment cannot stand when that defect remains uncured through judgment.

For plaintiffs' attorneys, *Hain* is a meaningful forum-preservation decision. It confirms that when a plaintiff properly joins a nondiverse defendant and timely contests removal, an erroneous improper-joinder ruling does not become harmless simply because the case proceeds through years of federal litigation. If the ruling is reversed on appeal, the federal judgment may still be wiped away. At the same time, the decision does not insulate weak or sham claims. The Court's analysis depended on the premise that Whole Foods was properly joined in the first place.

For defense attorneys, *Hain* does not eliminate improper-joinder removals, but it does raise the stakes. Defendants considering removal on that theory now face a clearer risk that a federal merits victory may later be vacated if the joinder ruling does not hold up on appeal. That practical risk may push defendants to be more selective in asserting improper joinder and to sharpen the record on why the joinder is improper.

More broadly, the decision is an important reminder about access to federal courts. *Hain* underscores that federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction and that convenience cannot expand the scope of federal judicial power beyond the limits Congress imposed. At bottom, the Court treated the case as a separation-of-powers and forum-allocation decision, not merely a technical dispute over removal mechanics. And Justice Thomas' dissent signals that the Court may be willing—at least in a future case—to take a harder look at improper joinder itself.

For parties litigating in removed diversity cases, *Hain* is a reminder that jurisdictional rulings at the outset of a case can carry consequences all the way through trial and appeal. And for practitioners on both sides of the bar, the decision is a useful caution: a federal victory obtained after an erroneous removal may not be a final victory at all.

Key Takeaways

- An erroneous dismissal of a nondiverse defendant does **not** cure a diversity defect that existed at removal.
- If the defect "lingered through judgment," the federal judgment must be vacated, even after years of litigation and a trial victory.
- The Court distinguished *Caterpillar* because there the jurisdictional defect was properly and finally cured before trial; in *Hain*, it was not.
- The Court also rejected the defendants' Rule 21 fallback argument, emphasizing that plaintiffs remain the masters of the complaint and ordinarily control the forum choice.
- Justice Thomas wrote separately to question the validity of the modern improper-joinder doctrine itself, potentially setting up a broader future challenge to removal practice in diversity cases.

34th Annual GOLF OUTING

March 16, 2026
Annandale Golf Club

The Capital Area Bar Association hosted the 34th Annual CABA Golf Tournament benefitting the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project on Monday, March 16, 2026, at the Annandale Golf Club. The Tournament also hosted MVLP Executive Director Gayla Carpenter-Sanders and CABA President Melissa S. Scott for introductions.

On behalf of CABA, Golf Committee Co-Chairs McKenna Cloud and Hunter Ransom thank all the Tournament's sponsors, volunteers, and participants! We also thank the CABA Golf Committee Members, Jason Weeks and Chris White, for their assistance with planning the Tournament.

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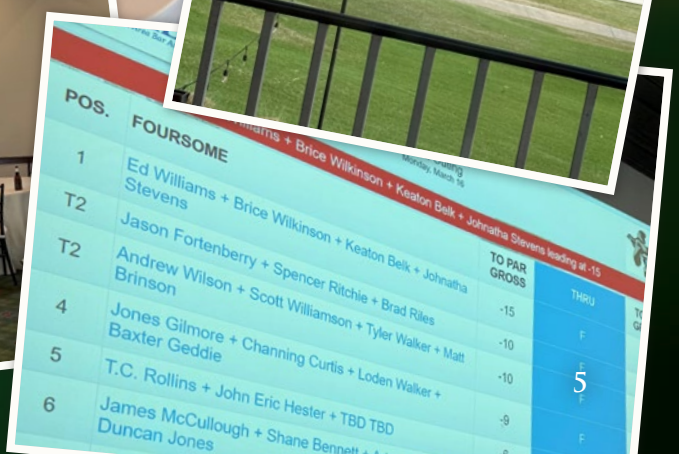


BLUE PLATE Highways

Adventures in Gastronomy in Rural Mississippi

By Chad Hammons

DESOTO DINING

I have had occasion to go to Hernando several times recently for court and other legal business. For those who haven't been to Hernando in some time or at all, it has morphed into a hybrid creature featuring Mississippi county seat charm with a strong dose of suburban growth. If you have to go to court somewhere in the wilds of Mississippi, you can do a lot worse. The courthouse—located dead center at the intersection of Hwy 51 and the main east/west artery—is one of my favorites in the entire state.

Its main door opens into a rotunda with circular stairs going up each side, depositing visitors in front of wall-sized murals adorning the second floor. These large, hand-crafted paintings depict various scenes from DeSoto County history, including one of its namesake "discovering" the Mississippi River. Another shows his burial at the river. Each of these works of art is well over 100 years old, and according to a quick Google search, was originally in the Gayoso Hotel in Memphis before being moved to the courthouse in Hernando in 1948.

All of the main trial courts, Circuit, Chancery, and County Court, are housed in the main courthouse, even though there is an annex across the street on the southwest corner of the square, where county administrative offices are located. Like any good Mississippi courthouse square, there are several places to grab lunch after a hearing. The most popular of these locations is **Windy City Grille**. Located across the street on the north side, Windy City has both bar and a restaurant section, with typical bar food and restaurant fare. After a recent Chancery Court hearing, I sampled the fish tacos, which were excellent. At least two judges were there having lunch while I was seated.

Adjacent to Windy City is another lunch place called **Underground Café**. I have not eaten there in several years, but I understand it draws a sizeable lunch crowd as well. On the opposite side of the square is **AC's Steakhouse Pub**. I had lunch there a couple of months ago with clients and found it to be a good change of pace from Windy City. It was a little more upscale and not as crowded. My impression is that it is more of a true dinner restaurant, based on its menu. It apparently has competition a couple of blocks north of the square from a place called **Fratello's Prime Steakhouse**. I have not eaten at Fratello's yet, but intend to when I get up there again in the near future.

Bear in mind, Hernando is on the far side of the southward suburban growth from Memphis. Just north of Hernando, both Olive Branch and Southaven have exploded and continue to do so. Commercial development is now apparently catching up with residential development. Multiple dining options have sprung up in Southaven, which is just a short ride away from Hernando. The back roads from Hernando to Southaven are quite scenic and still exude a pleasant rural vibe.

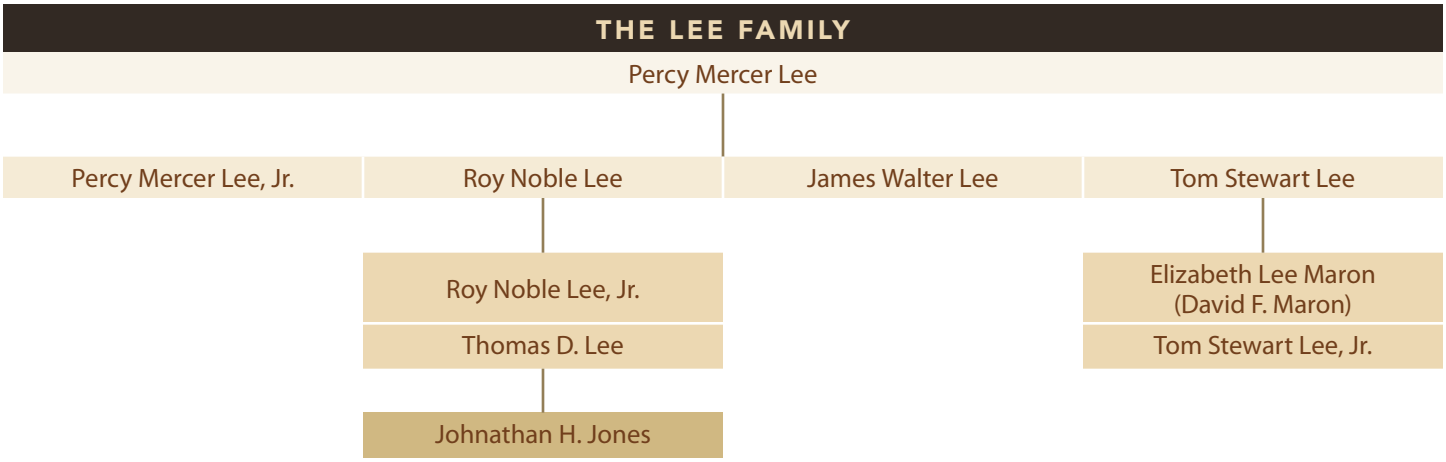
The night before my recent hearing, I had dinner with a former law partner at a place called **Firebird's** in Southaven. I had never heard of it, but it is apparently a small but growing chain. The Southaven location on Getwell Road is in a newish development centered around an old grain silo. Although the name of the restaurant leaves a little something to be desired (my mental image was a hot wings sports bar playing loud music), it seems to capture the "upscale casual" niche—not fine dining, but something more than bar food.[1] You could say it is a nicer version of Applebee's or Chili's, which would be categorized simply as "casual" restaurants.

The silo development where Firebird's is located appears to be taking off really well. Across the side street from Firebird's is a Mexican restaurant called **Tekila**. I have not eaten there yet, but it appears to be an upscale Mexican concept like Sombra or the other recent additions in the Jackson area, La Presa and Masa Mesa (reviews hopefully forthcoming).

So if you find yourself with a morning hearing in Hernando, and want to avoid the stress of getting up extra early and driving for two and a half hours, there are plenty of options for eating, and two Hilton-affiliated business hotels (Hampton Inn and Home2Suites) just off the exit, on the east side of I-55. Word to the wise though: if you have Chancery Court, get there early and sign in. Those judges have a lot of customers, and it not uncommon to sit for awhile. But if it takes all morning, you can walk out the door and find plenty of options before getting back on the road.

1. H/t to my former law partner Scot Hollis, for this description.

LEGAL FAMILIES OF MISSISSIPPI



By Jim Rosenblatt

This begins a series of articles about families of attorneys with ties to Mississippi. It is fitting that I begin this series with the Lee family—a prominent legal family with roots in Scott County.

The Lee Family

First Generation:

Percy Mercer Lee

The patriarch of the Lee family is Percy Lee who was born (1893) and raised in Ludlow, Mississippi—a small community in Scott County. He graduated from Mississippi College at the age of 18 in 1911 and worked as a school teacher and read law under Judge Whitfield (as was possible at the turn of the century). He worked as an assistant attorney general for a year, was elected mayor of Forest, and thereafter was a state district attorney for two terms, gaining notoriety for his prosecution of crimes committed on the infamous Gold Coast of Rankin County. He was elected a Circuit Court Judge (20 years) and then was elected and reelected as a Supreme Court Justice, serving from 1950 until 1966. He declined to run for reelection for a third term and served out his second term as the Chief Justice from 1964 to 1966. Chief Justice Lee had eight children, all of whom attended Mississippi College. He died at his home in Forest, Mississippi in 1969. Four of Percy Lee's children became attorneys.

Second Generation:

Percy Mercer Lee, Jr.

The oldest son, Percy Lee, did his undergraduate work at Mississippi College and attended Cumberland Law School (then located in Lebanon, Tennessee). He practiced at the Lee family law firm in Forest for a few years, but ultimately did not pursue the practice of law over the long term.

Roy Noble Lee

Roy Noble Lee—the second son of Percy Lee—also attended Mississippi College, where he eared academic honors, excelled in sports, and was elected President of the student body. Like Percy Jr., he attended Cumberland Law School and graduated with honors. He served as an FBI agent and was on a ship in the Navy during World War II. After returning home to Forest, Lee enjoyed a reputation as a skilled trial attorney, representing civil plaintiffs and criminal defendants. Following family tradition, Lee was a state district attorney and then a state circuit judge. Lee was instrumental in Mississippi College's acquisition of the Jackson School of Law while he was on the Board of Directors of his alma mater.

Governor Cliff Finch appointed Lee to a seat on the Mississippi Supreme Court in 1976. In the primary election the following summer, Lee won more than 70% of the vote, was reelected without opposition in 1984, and like his father, decided not to run for a third term. Lee served as the Chief Justice from 1987 until his retirement in 1993, becoming the only father-son combination to serve as Chief Justice. While on the Supreme Court, Lee was instrumental in the creation of the Mississippi Court of Appeals to assist with the appellate litigation workload. After his retirement, he joined Lee & Lee Attorneys in

Continued on page 8...

Forest, was active in a range of community and professional organizations, and enjoyed his hunting and fishing pursuits in the great outdoors. Lee died in 2015.

James Walter Lee

The third son of Percy Lee attended the University of Mississippi School of Law and practiced law in Forest at the family law firm. He died in 2010.

Tom Stewart Lee

The youngest child of Percy Lee — Tom Lee — was first in his class at Mississippi College, where he was a star basketball player. In 1965, he was declared the outstanding graduate of his law class at the University of Mississippi. After law school, Lee served as an Army Judge Advocate officer in the reserves while practicing law at the family law firm in Forest with a general civil and criminal practice. His varied career included serving as a youth court judge, municipal judge, and as the Scott County prosecuting attorney. In 1984, he was confirmed as a US. District Court Judge, serving in that capacity for 42 years, includingas Chief Judge from 1996 to 2003. Lee took senior status in 2009 though still maintaining an active case load. Recently Judge Lee presided at the publicized "Goon Squad" cases in the Cochran Federal Courthouse. Judge Lee has long served on the Board of Trustees for Mississippi College and headed the Law School Committee.

Third Generation:

Roy Noble Lee, Jr.

Noble Lee — son of Roy Noble Lee, Sr. — followed the family tradition by attending Mississippi College and then obtained his law degree from the University of Mississippi. Noble returned to the family law firm located on 2nd Street in Forest, a block from the downtown county courthouse. Noble recently announced his candidacy for Chancery Judge where he is unopposed.

Thomas D. Lee

Tommy Lee — son of Roy Noble Lee, Sr. — like his brother got his schooling at Mississippi College and the University of Mississippi School of Law. He and his brother Noble operate the Lee & Lee Attorneys family law firm in Forest with a general practice.

Elizabeth Lee Maron

Elizabeth Maron — daughter of Tom Lee — received degrees from Mississippi College and the University of Mississippi School of Law, and a postgraduate diploma from the University of Surrey. Elizabeth practices education and employment law at Adams & Reese, chairs their ARROW program (mentoring female attorneys), and has been designated a Mid-South Super Lawyer.

David F. Maron

David Maron — son-in-law of Tom Lee and husband of Elizabeth — came to Mississippi College to run track. He excelled academically and went on to law school at the University of Mississippi. David practiced law at Baker Donelson, served as counsel to Governor Tate Reeves, and is now the General Counsel for Community Bank. He and Elizabeth are active in a range of legal and community organizations.

Tom Stewart Lee, Jr.

Stewart Lee — son of Tom Lee — followed the familiar pattern of Mississippi College for undergraduate studies and the University of Mississippi for law school. For many years, Stewart was a defense lawyer at Brunini until he left for a solo practice as a plaintiff's attorney. He is currently an administrative law judge with the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission.

Fourth Generation:

Johnathan H. Jones

Johnathan Jones — stepson of Roy Noble Lee, Jr. — is a graduate of Mississippi College School of Law and works in the Lee & Lee Attorneys firm in Forest.

If you are part of a legal family with at least five attorneys in the family, please contact me at Rosenbla@mc.edu so I can consider your family for an article.

CABA Membership Meeting

February 17th

Topic: Raising the Bar: The Importance of Diversity in the Legal Profession

To view more photos of this CABA Membership Meeting, please visit caba.ms.

EVENT RECAP

2025 Christmas Party

CABA held its annual holiday party on December 9th at Little Effie.

Christmas Party

Event photos continued…

Christmas Party

Event photos continued…

HUNKERING DOWN UNTIL FALL

(and a shoutout to an NFL prospect from Yazoo City)

By Terryl Massey

Ah, spring. The birds are singing, the trees have burst into verdant fullness, and the Saturday hymn of lawnmowers and trimmers fills the air. My sister in Las Vegas is thrilled. She loves summer, even in Vegas, where you could roast a Thanksgiving turkey on the sidewalk. Jacqueline is cold natured, and she's been known to wear a sweater when it's ninety degrees.

On the other hand, I'm depressed. I think I have Seasonal Affective Disorder, but it has to do with more sunlight, not less. I hate everything about summer, except maybe not having to scrape ice off the windshield. I hate heat; I hate humidity; I hate bugs on my paper plate of food; and I hate the weather anchors who gloat when we've hit another heat record. Summer storms help, but my brown grass tells me we can't buy a good rainfall these days. It's a genetic issue—my ancestors were English and Irish, so I'm not programmed to live in the tropics, or the desert, as the case may be. I'm pretty determined, moreover, never to live farther south than I do now.

There's another problem with summer (I'm ignoring spring, since we only get about 5 days of it), and that's sports. Football is my game; I was watching it with my dad back in the 50s and 60s. I remember Lou Groza, Johnny Unitas, and the 1967 Ice Bowl between Dallas and Green Bay. Maybe it's the ADHD, but I like sports with a lot of movement. Soccer is great, except it takes so long for someone to score, but football is my game.

Fortunately, my husband is also a football nut, although we follow different levels of the game. He actually kind-of, sort-of, went[ish] to class at Ole Miss for a couple of semesters, so he's a solid Ole Miss fan. He believes the college game is more exciting, more pure. I tease him that it's really semi-pro, and it lost its purity a couple of generations ago. But for both of us, the end of football season feels like the funeral of a close friend, and we scramble to find other sports to fill our need to agonize over something. But what?

Well, there's the NFL draft next month, and we have a particular reason to be interested, aside from the players from Mississippi colleges. It started during COVID, when many public schools cancelled their football seasons. For a lot of kids, football is their ticket to college, so a group of boys in the Delta got together and transferred to a small private school, Greenville Christian Academy. The guys were from different schools, so they hadn't played together, but Greenville Christian became a powerhouse. We got interested in the story and went to several games, watching them beat mighty Oak Grove on a warm night, with no subs but lots of pickle juice. After the game, my husband asked a couple of the kids for their autographs, and I don't know who was more thrilled.

One of those young men is Chris Bell, from Yazoo City, who went on to play for Louisville and became recognized as one of the top wide receivers in the country. He was projected to go in the second, or maybe even the first round, until he tore his ACL last season. We'll be anxiously watching on April 23 to see how much that has affected his chances. Wherever he lands, watch out for Chris, he's going to be good. And we still have his autograph!

But back to activities called "sports" that are not football. Maybe people are most interested in games they played as a child. Obviously, I couldn't play football, and soccer didn't exist back then in the Mississippi Delta. As they used to say, we didn't know there was any-such-of-a-thing. With regard to ball sports, there was another issue involving my left eye, which doesn't really work much. I was always a lot likelier to get hit in the face with a ball than to catch it.

Despite this vision thing, in the days of half court girls' basketball, I actually played on the practice squad. Since I was on the guard side of the court, my lack of shooting skills was irrelevant. All I had to do was to get in people's way and be a general nuisance, which, apparently, I was pretty good at. Intercepting a pass, not so much. Then everybody else got their growth spurt and moved on to the high school team. (I waited until my 30s for my growth spurt, but it never happened.) At least now I can *watch* girls' basketball, which is a bit slower than the men's game, and easier to follow anyway.

There's also golf, which I've finally learned a little bit about, thanks to Hubby. It's slow, but it has the benefit of television coverage, which can always show another player teeing off while your guy is off in the rough, looking for his ball. Tennis is a no-go, despite featuring a bouncing ball. Obviously, I could never play, and I know next to nothing about the game.

And then there's baseball. Ugh. First, I've always resented the attitude of baseball fans who act like baseball is more intellectual, and, therefore, superior to football. I call B.S. Have these people never seen an NFL playbook? You can't be a dummy and play football at the college or professional level, but you can play baseball

Continued on page 13...

without even speaking English. And it doesn't take much brainpower to spit chewing tobacco.

Additionally, my biggest complaint about baseball is that it's *soooooo* slow. I figure if you started vacuuming your house between pitches at the beginning of the game, you'd be done by the fourth inning. Baseball's saving grace is that you can watch it in the air conditioning when it's 97 degrees outside. If it wasn't for beer, I don't know how anybody could watch it outside. Of course, that brings other problems—I once missed a grand slam at a Cubs game because I was in the ladies' room.

So, did I mention that I hate summer? Between heat, humidity, and baseball, I can't find much to recommend it. In fact, I could get behind some legislation moving the Fourth of July in the south to sometime in the fall. Outdoor summer weddings should be outlawed, and large fans and shade should be mandatory at crab boils and barbecues. In the meantime, I'll just hunker down until football season. And I'll go back outside sometime in September. Or October. Or whenever David Hartman can conjure up a cool spell. Until then, look for me in the air conditioning, under a ceiling fan, watching America's real game.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow Us on Facebook & X!

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 X (@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.

Correspondence regarding the newsletter should be directed to: CABA Newsletter Editor, 151 E. Griffith Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Letters to the editor must be signed, but the writer's name will be withheld upon request. Telephone inquiries should be made to the Executive Director at 601.969.6097.

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