

ALABAMA CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
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OFFICERS ELECTED & HONORS PRESENTED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montgomery, Alabama...The Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (ACDLA) recently elected officers for the 2004-2005 year at its 2004 Annual Meeting and Summer Seminar in Pensacola Beach, Florida. In addition, the statewide association named top recipients of its annual awards at the annual awards luncheon held last week.

Elected President was Jim Roberts, a Public Defender for Tuscaloosa County, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Elected President-Elect was Joe Van Heest, a Federal Defender for the Middle District of Alabama in Montgomery. Melinda Morgan Austin, a partner in the firm of Holt, Mussleman, Holt & Morgan in Florence, was elected Vice President. James J. Jeffries, Jr. of Sherman Jeffries Law Offices in Mobile, was elected Secretary, and Carlos A. Williams, a Federal Defender for the Southern District of Alabama in Mobile was elected Treasurer. Elected to the Public Defenders Representative slot was Bobby Wooldridge of the Public Defenders Office, Tuscaloosa County, Tuscaloosa. Immediate Past President is Bruce A. Gardner of Huntsville.

Re-elected to District Vice President posts were Robert Tuten of Huntsville, Randy Brooks of Anniston, John Robbins of Birmingham, Bill Blanchard of Montgomery, Lisa Clayton of Mobile, Gordon Armstrong of Mobile, Bill Kominos of Ozark and Michael Upton of Tuscaloosa.

In addition to electing officers, ACDLA also honored its members for outstanding contributions to the profession of criminal defense this past year. John Edmond Mays of Decatur, Alabama received the Association's highest honor, the Roderick Beddow Award for a lifetime of achievement in the field of criminal defense. Receiving President's Awards this year were: Richard Jaffe of Birmingham, Melinda Morgan Austin of Florence, Bill

Blanchard of Montgomery, Chris Malcom of Moulton, Bobby Wooldridge of Tuscaloosa, Arthur Madden of Mobile, Paul A. Young, Jr. of Enterprise, Joe Gallo of Daleville, Wilson Myers of Gulf Shores and Joel Sogol of Tuscaloosa.

Receiving Merit Awards this year were Richard Keith of Montgomery, Carlos Williams of Mobile, Steve Glassroth of Montgomery and Jeff Duffey also of Montgomery.

“We are very proud of the accomplishments of our members this past year,” said newly elected President Jim Roberts. “Our members work very hard to give their clients the best representation possible and we want to be sure and recognize as many of them as possible for their endless efforts,” he concluded.

The Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is a statewide trade association dedicated to strengthening the profession of criminal defense attorneys in Alabama.