

Rufus N. Rhodes, 1888-1910 | Victor H. Hanson, 1910-1945 | Clarence B. Hanson, 1945-1983
Victor H. Hanson II, 1983-2000 | Victor H. Hanson III, 2001-2009



YOUR VIEWS

Lawyers contribute much to community

I read with interest the letter in Wednesday's Birmingham News regarding Jefferson County legal expenses and the letter writer's conclusion that "greedy lawyers" are ruining the country (Your Views). While neither the letter writer nor I are privy to the specifics of Jefferson County's legal arrangements and expenses, the nature of the representation or the time spent by attorneys performing services for the county, I am well aware of the generous contributions of both time and money that members of the Birmingham legal community make to help improve the quality of life for Birmingham and its citizens.

In the aftermath of last year's tornadoes, for example, members of the Birmingham and Magic City bar associations raised more than \$160,000 for the American Red Cross for disaster assistance in our metropolitan area. The Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Program, an affiliated program of the Birmingham Bar Association, counts more than 1,300 local lawyers on its rolls, and these lawyers closed more than 900 cases last year for poor individuals — free of charge. Various sections within the Birmingham Bar raised more than \$60,000 last year, which was delivered to a variety of charities, and participated in numerous volunteer projects.

Although the letter writer is entitled to his opinion, blanket generalizations can be misleading, especially when the facts show otherwise. Service to the community is integral to the mission of the Birmingham Bar Association, and the spirit of volunteerism and generosity among members of the Birmingham legal community should not go unnoticed.

Joseph A. Fawal
President
Birmingham Bar Association

COAL ASH CONCRETE

Caution: Think Chinese drywall

I marveled at a recent article describing the possibility of replacing cement with coal ash waste in the formation of concrete ("New concrete recipe reuses toxic coal ash," The News, Jan. 16). If true, professors Xinyu Zhiang and Jialai Wang could bring a lot of publicity to Auburn University and the University of Alabama and a considerable cost savings to a badly needy, decaying infrastructure in this country.

My concern is that, especially with the use of nanotube tech-

With Beason's announcement that he would run against U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus, his betrayal now makes sense. The surrounding counties that benefited the most from Beason's actions are in Bachus' congressional district. Simply put, Beason intentionally hurt his current constituents to curry favor with voters in Bachus' district.

Beason's betrayal is a new low in Alabama politics.

W.D. McAnally
Warrior

ALABAMA FANS

Media should stop fanboying

son was best known for Birmingham civil rights Guy likely didn't know homage to someone who surely his mini-performance has witnessed a sea change, himself elderly finish his set seconds before moving gentleman for what seemed eye contact, and Guy's boy hat and sitting in a elderly African-American At one point in his speech through the cheering crowd played a blistering solo music festival in 2007 formed at the Birmingham blues guitar

When blues guitar formed at the Birmingham blues guitar

Way in which the state courts. It also illustrates of having to retry cases and sentenced to death chances of an innocent The hodgepodge system beads after the initial trial proceedings — the inmates have legal representation in not guaranteeing the and Alabama is "near capital cases; appointments require, professional cases is required; the state bar and have five death-penalty case requires that a lawyer be Among the problem charged with capital doesn't provide — law how the state provide the opinion, made the Justice Ruth Bader capital punishment is more important message Which brings us to the But Alabama's system door." would lay the default ruling. "In these circuits protect himself *pro se*," non-pennon, and he had