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M&B is a full service law firm that has attorneys who specialize in the following areas:

- Serious Personal Injury
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Call or visit martinsonandbeason.com and enter your questions. You will get confidential answers from an attorney with no obligation.

A Look Back at the Family Business

By Miriam Barnes Brennan Halsey, Doug Martinson, Sr.'s aunt

In 1932 my sister, Claudie Annetta Martinson, and my future brother-in-law, Douglas Carroll Martinson, graduated from Huntsville High School when I was 10 years old. There were very few jobs so Doug moved to Wisconsin to work on his uncle's farm. Doug returned in December of 1932 and married my sister on January 1, 1933. I cried all through the ceremony because I wanted Doug to wait for me. He was movie star good looking and had always been very kind to his sweetheart's younger sister.

Doug began working for my father in the C.E. Barnes Store on 5th Street (now Andrew Jackson Way) in Dallas Mill Village in what is now northeast Huntsville.

I vividly remember Doug ordering law books from LaSalle University in Chicago and beginning the study of law at night and on the weekends. Doug and Annetta moved into a bungalow across the street from my home and baby-sat for me a great deal of the time while my parents worked at one of their businesses in Tennessee. By this time I had started dating and one of my boyfriends was Will Halsey. Will says he remembers Doug or Annetta coming to our front porch at 11:00 P.M. and saying, "It's time to go home Will." They were like second parents to me. There was a big easy chair

in our living room and I remember Doug going to that chair (surrounded by his books) immediately after dinner. He would study there until the wee hours of the morning. He completely wore that chair out. It was thread-bare by the time he went to Jones Law School in Montgomery for three months of intense study before taking the bar examination.

When he passed the state of Alabama Bar Examination on his first try in April of 1937, it was a big event for the family. Our entire family was very proud of him. I believe he passed the bar before any of his high school friends who had also chosen to study law and attended the best law universities. Doug began practicing law part time in the office of the C.E. Barnes Store.

Doug's law practice was interrupted by WWII when the Alabama National Guard Unit he was a member of was activated. After WWII Doug returned to Huntsville and began the full time practice of law until his death in 1971.

I have seen the law practice he founded expand into eight attorneys and ten staff employees with a reputation that is second to none in north Alabama. Martinson & Beason is truly a family business that has survived for 75 years and is poised to face the next 75 years.

50th Anniversary Celebration

Congratulations are due to Doug and Kathryn Martinson on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were married on August 25, 1962, while Doug was a junior attending the University of Alabama Law School and Kathryn was a senior attending the Druid City Nursing School in Tuscaloosa. They celebrated their anniversary with a twelve-day vacation to New England, including a seven-day cruise of the New England Islands.



Oil Spill Settlement Benefits Business Owners Throughout Alabama and Mississippi



All Alabama and Mississippi business owners should be aware that they might qualify for reimbursement based on the recent BP Oil Spill Settlement. The settlement agreement provides that all businesses throughout Alabama and Mississippi— not just those located on the Gulf Coast or affiliated with tourism – could be eligible for compensation.

The agreement with BP defines the criteria businesses must meet in order to qualify for a claim. The agreement also includes a detailed financial formula to determine whether each business is actually eligible to receive compensation. No direct evidence of the spill's impact is required if a business meets the financial formula.

Again, businesses throughout Alabama and Mississippi are potentially eligible for compensation. If you own a business in Alabama or Mississippi, please contact us at 1-800-255-6534 for a free consultation about how the settlement applies to your business and the potential for a successful claim.

Caleb W. Ballew Joins the M&B Team



Martinson & Beason is pleased to announce the addition of Caleb W. Ballew as an associate attorney. Caleb practices in the areas of divorce, criminal defense, domestic relations, general civil litigation and estate litigation. He is also a certified guardian ad litem and frequently represents the rights of juveniles. Caleb was admitted to practice law in Alabama in 2010 and is a member of the Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association, the Family Law Section of the Alabama State Bar, and the Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

Caleb holds a B.A. from the University of Virginia and a J.D. from the University of Mississippi, where he graduated cum laude. In law school, he participated for his school's Moot Court team, winning a number of litigation scholarships during his tenure there. He volunteered his time with his law school's Innocence Project and worked as a research assistant for author Curtis Wilkie, on the book *The Fall of the House of Zeus*.

Caleb grew up in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina and is the oldest of three children. Caleb is also a newlywed, and is married to Kourtney Ikard Ballew, a native of Madison County and an attorney as well.

Waiting for a promotion? Take action to move ahead

You're frustrated. All your friends have been promoted, but you've been stuck in the same job for years. Are the cards stacked against you—or are you sabotaging your own prospects for advancement? Take a good look at your own behavior and eliminate these common roadblocks to promotion:

- **You're doing the bare minimum.** Even if you're not a complete slacker (another obvious obstacle to promotion), just doing your job isn't enough to get noticed and considered for advancement. Go beyond your job description to show that you're committed to the organization, not just your paycheck.
- **Your image needs work.** Are you always complaining? Do you think the dress code doesn't apply to you? Do you constantly clash with other employees, or with your own boss? No matter how good you are at your job, or how qualified you are for the one you want, managers want to promote people they can work with easily. Brush up your professional image so it fits the role to which you aspire.

- **Your manager doesn't know what you want.** Don't pester your boss for a promotion, but do let him or her know what you're interested in. A good relationship with your current supervisor can smooth the path. If you're hiding your ambitions or your accomplishments, managers will overlook your potential.
- **There's no room for growth.** Maybe you work for a small company, and no slots above your present position are open. Or maybe you do your job so well that your boss doesn't want to lose you. Don't despair or start job hunting. Look for opportunities to grow your business—new products or markets, for example—and show how you can help your organization expand. Be willing to train people in your job so you don't become indispensable; this demonstrates management potential and a commitment to your organization's long-term success.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH GAME DAY CORN DIP RECIPE

By Shannon Lilienthal

INGREDIENTS:

4 cans of Mexicorn	1/2 cup of sour cream
2 cans of rotel	1/2 cup of mayonnaise
1 bag of shredded sharp, cheddar cheese	

Mix all ingredients and eat with Fritos scoops. Best served chilled.



5 MUST-HAVE SMARTPHONE APPS

Smartphones have become an “essential” these days, but do you ever wonder if you’re using your smartphone to its full potential? You might feel overwhelmed by all of the “apps” that are available so, we’ve put together a short list for you with 5 free smartphone apps that will surely make your life a little bit easier

Evernote: This app synchronizes notes of all kinds, like text notes, audio recorded notes or voice memos, and pictures, and then makes them all highly searchable.

MyFitnessPal: Lose weight with this calorie counting app. With the largest food database of any calorie counter (over 1.8 million foods), and amazingly fast food and exercise entry, you’re sure to take off those pounds.

Team Stream: This app gives you your favorite teams’ breaking news across the web as it happens.

SmrtGuard: Locate your lost smartphone. You can remotely track--and lock--your smartphone if it goes missing.

Mint: Stick to your budget on the go. Mint’s app gives you a fast and convenient way of checking the balance of any account you have—from a checking account to your investments to your credit cards—on the fly.

OCTOBER: DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

Down syndrome is a genetic condition that causes delays in physical and intellectual development, occurring in one in every 691 live births. Down Syndrome Awareness Month is an opportunity to advocate for these children to be included in school and community activities, highlight their talents, and show that individuals with Down syndrome are more like others than they are different.

DADS INVADE THE SUPERMARKET

The long-held stereotype of the grocery store as women’s territory may be losing its grip. A study from Cone Communications reports that 52 percent of fathers are now the primary grocery shoppers in their family. And they’re not just popping out for a six-pack, either. The study’s findings include:

- **Shopping lists.** A majority of dads—63 percent—take a detailed shopping list to the store with them.
- **Coupons.** Another majority—56 percent—collect coupons and read advertising circulars when planning their shopping trips.
- **Meals.** Fifty-two percent of shopping dads plan meals for the week.
- **Research.** Twenty-four percent of fathers who shop check the background of the products they buy.



Martinson & Beason Employee Spotlight

George Beason, Jr.

George Beason recently received a certificate recognizing he’s been a member of the Society of Former Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for 35 years (1976-2011), which was written up and published in the Grapevine, the Society’s magazine.



George graduated from law school and was hired by the FBI as a Special Agent in 1969. He came back to Huntsville to practice law with his long time friend Douglas Claude Martinson in 1972. He joined the Former Agents Society in 1976 and has been a member since that time. Originally there was a chapter in Birmingham that he belonged to. George was one of the members who started a chapter in North Alabama, which meets monthly in Madison. George worked for J. Edgar Hoover the entire time he was with the FBI and was originally stationed in Omaha, NE and worked in Sioux City, IA. for a little while and in Waterloo, IA. for about a year until he was transferred to Cleveland, OH, where he served until he resigned in 1972 returning to Huntsville where he and his wife, Lynda, both grew up. George was 28 years old and had 2 children when he moved back to Huntsville. His income was reduced from \$18,000 a year with the FBI to \$7,200 practicing law, but as George said “we were living in Huntsville, Alabama and I was practicing law.”

George was born in Florence, Alabama, but grew up in Huntsville. He and future attorney, Doug Martinson, were neighbors and childhood friends. In 1966, George graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in marketing and went on to law school at the Cumberland School of Law. George has been involved with numerous civic organizations in the Huntsville area. He has served on the Land Trust and Space & Rocket Center boards and has held positions in the Sertoma civic club. Additionally, George has served on the City of Huntsville Beautification Board and authored the city parking lot ordinance. George, his wife Lynda and their three children, their spouses and six grandchildren all attend First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville.

Referrals

We want you to think of us as your law firm. If you have a legal matter that needs attention, let us know. If we can’t handle the matter, we will refer you to a firm that can. Please feel free to refer us to your friends and family for their legal needs. A referral from a former client or friend is the greatest compliment our firm can receive. We welcome the opportunity to help. Thank you!

Client's Bill of Rights

Lawyers will tell you that it is impossible to offer a guarantee in the legal business. **WRONG!** We say that law firm clients should settle for nothing less! Remember, your attorney works for you – not the other way around.

At Martinson & Beason we believe we can promise our clients quality service with personal attention. We believe that as our client you are entitled to have the:

1. Right to loyalty to you and your cause.
2. Right to be updated regularly and in a timely manner as to the progress of your case.
3. Right to our respect.
4. Right to expect competence from our firm and all who work here.
5. Right to know the truth about your case.
6. Right to prompt attention from us.
7. Right to have your legal rights and options explained in plain English without legal mumbo jumbo.
8. Right to a fair written fee agreement with our firm.
9. Right to a fair fee for the work we do.
10. Right to make the ultimate decision on your case.



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Planning a big move? Don't plan to waste money.

Moving can be a massive project, whether your new home is across the country or just on the other side of town. The costs can add up quickly, but you can stay in control of the expense with these money-saving tips:

- **Prepare a budget.** Before you start packing, calculate how much your move should cost. Include truck rental, movers, mileage, condo or apartment moving fees, utility cancellations and hookups, etc. This should help you recognize reasonable expenses and avoid surprises.
- **Downsize your possessions.** Don't pack and move everything you own. If possible, get a floor plan of your new dwelling and check on how well your furniture will fit so you don't move a couch that's too big for your living room. Be ruthless in deciding what to get rid of. You don't want to haul stuff across the country only to discard it once you've arrived.
- **Don't pay for packing supplies.** Instead of spending money on brand-new cardboard boxes for your stuff, head out to your local

recycling center, where boxes can be a big part of the material that's being dealt with. Check out your local grocery store and nearby restaurants as well. Pack with newspapers instead of using costly bubble wrap.

- **Use the post office.** Ship as much as you can instead of loading it onto a truck. Use the U.S. Postal Service's book rate to send your books to your new address. Look into rates for shipping anything you don't need right away when you arrive (out of season coats, for example).
- **Record all your expenses.** You can write off the cost of your move on your taxes, under certain conditions. Keep a paper trail of what you spend, and check IRS requirements.



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