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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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- Probate, Estates & Trusts
- Real Estate Transactions
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- Criminal Domestic Relations

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## A Reflection On 50 Years Of Practicing Law

*Doug Martinson, Sr.*

On August 26, 2014, the Board of Commissioners of the Alabama State Bar awarded me a 50th Year Certificate and Pin. Actually, I began my appreciation of the law much earlier. I became familiar with many laws, procedures, the various courts, and heavy books while working for my father from about age 12.

Many times at night after dinner, in the summer, before air conditioning, my father would say, let's go to the court house and I will teach you how to search real estate titles. What he meant was, it's too hot and crowded during the day to search titles in the musty, humid basement where all the real estate books were stored in unorganized piles and bugs and bats were active. I searched for the books and lifted the books that weighted up to fifty pounds. My father would read the books and explain what he was looking for and why. He taught me how the government land surveys were prepared with a compass, chains and links. In addition, I was in charge of the copy machine – which was distraous at the time, with the chemicals needing changing every month.

Then while in high school, college and law school I worked several summers for a construction company; then an architect as a draftsman and inspections of

structures under construction; the Dept. of Agriculture-ASCS and measured cotton, wheat and tobacco fields in Madison County using aerial photos. I met a lot of farmers, stepped over many snakes and received a reasonable pay for my efforts. I worked with Sam "Buddy" Darwin and Jerry Craig, who became life long friends.



*Vintage*

*Hamilton, AL*

During my 50 year law career, I handled many cases all over the USA and several foreign countries involving almost every factual situation you can imagine such as: business litigation concerning software on the space shuttle, clocks on computers and the predecessor to Mr. Coffee. Additionally, I handled many personal injury and wrongful death cases resulting from vehicular wrecks, construction mishaps, explosions, vessels, aircraft, trains and equipment failure. The interactions among judges, lawyers, clients and adverse parties were always interesting, but at most times stressful.

It has been an interesting and fun-filled 50 years. I learned so much about so many areas of life that it is unbelievable. I am thankful to my wife Kathryn; my sons, Doug II and Mac; the lawyers I worked with; and the many other lawyers, employees, clients and friends that have supported me in my efforts to perform to the best of my abilities.



M&B's long time employee, Darlene "Tinker" Yates, lost her battle with breast cancer earlier this year. In March, she was diagnosed with a rare and progressive type, known as inflammatory breast cancer, and succumbed to the disease two short months later. Darlene's courage throughout the ordeal was remarkable and her ability to keep a smile on her face, no matter the circumstance, will be remembered by those who knew her.

Darlene began working for M&B in 2006 and quickly made friends with the staff, the court clerks, employees at nearby firms, local restaurants, banks, and anyone else she may have run into. "She never met a stranger," say many of her friends.

In honor and remembrance of Darlene, the M&B staff formed the "Tinker's Belles" team for the 11th Annual Liz Hurley Ribbon Run. The purpose of the annual run is to increase breast cancer awareness, while raising funds for equipment and education through the Huntsville Hospital Foundation. Darlene lived to serve others, so it made perfect sense to join together and support this cause in her name.



## Caleb Smith Joins the M&B Team

Martinson & Beason is pleased to announce the addition of Caleb Smith as an associate attorney. Caleb practices in the areas of military law, veterans' benefits, Social Security, Medicaid, tax & estate planning, criminal defense and general civil litigation. Caleb was admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania in 2009 and is currently pending admission to the Alabama State Bar. Caleb holds a B.A. from Grove City College and a J.D. from Syracuse University. Additionally, Caleb is currently pursuing an LL.M. in Taxation at the University Of Alabama School Of Law.

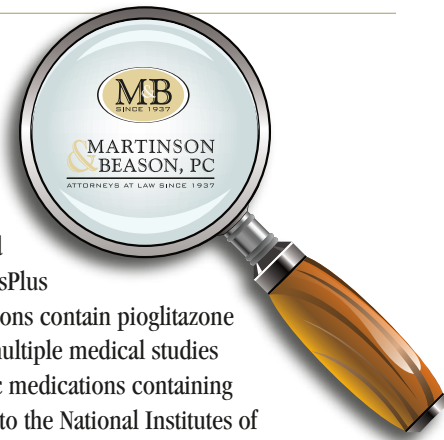
Prior to joining Martinson & Beason, Caleb served as a military officer and lawyer in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps where he advised thousands of Servicemembers and retired military members on their personal and professional legal matters. Additionally, during his military career Caleb served as the Chief Military Prosecutor, Special Assistant United States Attorney, and was named the first Special Victim's Counsel for the U.S. Army at Redstone Arsenal. Caleb resides in Huntsville, Alabama with his wife Megan and his two children, Owen and Olivia.



## Martinson & Beason Investigates...

### Actos

Martinson & Beason is concerned for any individual who was prescribed and took Actos to improve glucose (blood sugar) control in adults with Type 2 diabetes. Actos, ActosPlus Met, ActosPlus Met XR, and Duetact prescription medications contain pioglitazone intended to decrease blood sugar levels. Unfortunately, multiple medical studies have linked Actos and other thiazolidinedione antidiabetic medications containing pioglitazone with the onset of bladder cancer. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), people who took Actos and other drugs containing pioglitazone for more than a year may have an increased risk of developing cancerous tumors of the bladder. If you or a loved one has used Actos or other antidiabetic drugs containing pioglitazone and have been diagnosed with bladder cancer, please contact our office for a free and confidential consultation.



### Xarelto

Our firm is investigating cases concerning the prescription drug Xarelto. Xarelto is a blood thinner prescribed to treat deep vein thrombosis (DVT), pulmonary embolism, and reduce the risk of potentially fatal blood clots forming in post-surgical patients. Xarelto is also intended to lower the risk of stroke in patients diagnosed with Atrial fibrillation, or A-Fib. Physicians have been prescribing Xarelto as an alternative blood thinner (i.e. anticoagulant) to Warfarin. Blood thinners by design are intended to prevent dangerous blood clots that can obstruct blood flow to vital organs. Xarelto, however, can cause serious uncontrollable bleeding events, including hemorrhages and strokes. While bleeding is a common, and even intended, complication associated with anticoagulants, Xarelto may be more dangerous to patients than traditional blood thinners because no antidote exists to reverse its blood thinning effects. Consequently, patients may suffer irreversible bleeding events, including life-threatening internal and gastrointestinal bleeds. If you or a loved one was prescribed Xarelto and have suffered a serious bleeding event or other serious side effect you should consult with our attorneys regarding your legal options. The consult is free and confidential.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### BUFFALO CHICKEN CRESCENT RING



#### INGREDIENTS:

- 6 oz. of cooked chicken, finely diced
- 1 package cream cheese
- 2 tbsp Pete's hot sauce (use to taste, but 2 tbsp recommended)
- 1 can crescent rolls
- 3 tbsp melted butter
- 1 tbsp brown sugar

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a bowl, mix cooked chicken, cream cheese, and hot sauce.
2. Unroll crescent rolls and place in a large circle, as pictured above.
3. Stuff chicken dip around center of the rolled out croissants, as pictured above, and wrap each dough square around dip.
4. Bake at 375 degrees for 15-20 minutes.
5. Mix melted butter and brown sugar and brush lightly over the top of the crescent ring – bake for an additional 2 minutes.

Cut into slices and ENJOY!!

#### 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!

## Employee Spotlight on Andy Sieja

Andy Sieja began his practice of law in Dallas, Texas in 2007 having graduated from Texas Wesleyan School of Law. After law school, Andy worked in a large bankruptcy firm in Dallas and as a sole practitioner and is still licensed to practice in the State of Texas. In 2009, he and his wife, Brianna, returned to Huntsville to be closer to his family and where he attended Randolph School as a middle and high school student.



Having graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio with a B.A. in Cinema, Andy had aspirations of working in the film industry. It was only after working in a law office following college that he decided to return to school to get a law degree. While in law school, Andy was actively involved with moot court, he had internships with the Dallas County District Attorney and the Federal Trade Commission and dedicated time to the Wesleyan Innocence Project – an organization committed to exonerating the wrongfully-convicted.

Andy currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Greater Huntsville Rotary Club and on the Board of Administration of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Andy regularly volunteers with the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program and was named the Estate Planning/Probate Volunteer lawyer of the year in 2012. Andy is also the captain and coach for Huntsville's premier men's ultimate team and is actively involved in that community of athletes.

Andy handles a wide variety of legal issues including Estate Planning, Probate and Trusts, Civil and Probate Litigation, Corporate Formation, Mergers and Acquisitions, Property Disputes, and is accredited to practice before the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Andy and Brianna have a son, Oliver, who attends Jones Valley Elementary and a daughter, Edith, who is in pre-school.



In just a few weeks, Martinson & Beason, P.C. will begin sending email updates on product liability, important recalls and other urgent legal matters. If you would like to be added to our electronic mailing list, please email us at [info@martinsonandbeason.com](mailto:info@martinsonandbeason.com). Also, if you would prefer we email you a copy of our newsletter, please let us know.



## 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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## Estate Planning Pitfalls: It May Be Time To Update Your Beneficiary Designations

Have you thought about who will inherit your bank accounts or receive money from your life insurance policy in the event of your death? Do you know who is currently listed as your beneficiary? These may seem like very simple questions that can be answered rather quickly and easily, however, updating one's beneficiaries on bank accounts, life insurance policies, annuities, IRAs and brokerage accounts is one of the most neglected item on a person's "To-Do List."

It is easy to understand why such a seemingly trivial, but enormously important thing is so neglected: Life gets in the way! Over the years, people tend to collect "things" or establish new accounts or contract for different services during their lifetime. After a while, it is easy to forget what you have and who will receive it in the event of your death; especially if you have divorced and subsequently remarried or lost a family member, friend, or loved one during your lifetime.

While it is vastly important that you create a Last Will and Testament and ensure that it is up-to-date, it may be even more important to know who your

account beneficiaries are and whether they need to be changed or updated.

A person's Last Will and Testament (LW&T) is a blueprint or instruction manual for who shall inherit certain types of property, cash, or other assets of one's estate when one dies. A LW&T, however, only disposes of items classified as "probate assets." Probate assets are items which are owned solely in the name of the Decedent and do not automatically pass outside the will. Examples of probate assets are real property, a motor vehicle, a bank account without a designated payable on death (POD) beneficiary. A non-probate asset is any property or asset that may pass outside the will such as a life insurance contract payable to designated beneficiaries, bank accounts, Certificates of Deposit or other financial accounts that list a POD beneficiary.

These non-probate assets will pass to your beneficiaries by contract and not according to the provisions of your LW&T. Stated differently, those beneficiary designations trump what is written in your LW&T. Accordingly, if you have not

updated your account beneficiary designations in quite some time you may find that an ex-spouse, instead of your current spouse or other intended beneficiary, may receive the life insurance award and/or the balance of your financial and retirement accounts.

Beneficiary designations for life insurance policies, financial products and retirement accounts are designed to avoid probate by quickly and efficiently delivering those assets to their intended beneficiary. These vehicles of convenience, however, can result in inconvenience, costly litigation, and feelings of family hurt and betrayal if you are not careful. To be safe, review your account beneficiary designations at least once a year and after every major life event such as: marriage, divorce, birth of a child, and death of a loved one. Further, if you have an estate plan ensure that your estate plan is closely aligned with your account designations. Taking such steps can ensure financial security for your loved ones and avoid hurt feelings, expensive attorneys' fees, and court costs after your death.

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BBB Rating: A+



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