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*Welcome to the first newsletter of M&B. Martinson & Beason has quite a long history here in Alabama - one which we are very proud of. While much of the content in our newsletter addresses current issues, we know that our experiences have made us the firm we are today. Beginning with this inaugural newsletter, each edition will include historical information about the firm that we hope our readers will find of interest. Being the senior lawyer in the law firm, I was selected to write an Introduction to – A Brief History – Part I, which has been included in this newsletter. We welcome your feedback on our newsletter and look forward to hearing from you via comments on our Facebook page, an e-mail or a phone call. Thank you for your interest in our firm.*

**DOUGLAS CLAUDE MARTINSON, ESQ**  
**MARTINSON & BEASON, P.C.**

**Introduction To Martinson & Beason, P.C. - A Brief History: Part I** \_\_\_\_\_ *by Douglas Claude Martinson, Esq.*

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

- Serious Personal Injury
- Car, Truck & Motorcycle Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Breach of Contract & Fraud
- Probate, Estates & Trusts
- Real Estate Transactions
- Business Law

The legal roots of Martinson & Beason, P.C (M&B) unofficially began on April 21, 1932, when my father DOUGLAS CARROLL MARTINSON enrolled in a legal correspondence course, and officially on April 29, 1937, when he passed the Alabama bar examination.

Douglas Carroll Martinson graduated from Huntsville High School (HHS) in 1932, where he was Senior Class President and Captain of the football team. My mother, Annetta Barnes Martinson, was a member of the same class and the first Homecoming Queen of HHS. Of course, at that time, the Captain of the football team selected the Queen. They were married on January 1, 1933, by Rev. Alvin Lee Bates, who said he wanted to marry them “if it was the last thing he did”. Rev. Bates died two weeks later.

My father had these other milestones during his life:

On April 21, 1932, he enrolled in a correspondence course to study law at LaSalle Extension University at Chicago, Illinois. I have his text books and his personal notes he wrote during his studies in my library at home.

On February 15, 1933, he was appointed to serve as a Notary Public by the governor of Alabama.

In 1937, he enrolled in a preparatory course for three months at Jones Law School in Montgomery to study for the Alabama Bar exam.



Existing Facade



Proposed Facade

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Call or visit [martinsonandbeason.com](http://martinsonandbeason.com) and enter your questions. You will get confidential answers from an attorney with no obligation.

*continued on next page*

*Martinson & Beason Gets a Facelift*

## *A Brief History: continued*

On April 29, 1937, the Chief Justice and six Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Alabama signed a certificate stating that the Board of Examiners of the Alabama State Bar Association has certified that his “legal learning has been found by said Board



to be sufficient; and whose other qualifications for admission to the Bar have been judicially ascertained, as required by law and the Supreme Court of Alabama issued him a “License as an Attorney-at-Law and Solicitor in Chancery in all the Courts” in the state of Alabama. This was a remarkable accomplishment because he never enrolled in any college preparatory courses and never attended a full time law school. He passed the bar examination just five years after graduating from Huntsville High. At that time, he was working at A&P Grocery Store on the north east corner of Green Street and Eustis Street one block from the Madison County court house. When he received the letter stating he had passed the bar examination, the manager of A&P took him to the front door of the store and for the rest of the day introduced him to the customers as “I want you to meet my lawyer.” It was an exciting time.

On February 18, 1938, he received his Bachelor of Laws from LaSalle Extension University without having enrolled in another college or university.

On November 11, 1948, he was sworn in as the only Judge of the Inferior Court of Madison County (now the District Court of Madison County) after having been elected by a county wide vote and defeating an attorney who had held that position for many years. He served as judge until 1952.

All of the above certificates are framed and hang on the wall of the law office.

He was elected as the only lay person to serve as moderator of the Madison Liberty Baptist Association and he was ordained as a Baptist minister and preached at many churches in north Alabama. He was appointed to serve as a Trustee of Judson College, which is an all female Baptist college in Marion, Alabama.

He began a part-time law practice in the office of his father-in-law’s grocery store located on Fifth Street (now known as Andrew Jackson

Way) near Five Points in northeast Huntsville. Beginning in high school, he was a member of the Alabama National Guard. He suspended his law practice in 1941, when he began active duty with the U.S. Army.

At the beginning of WWII, Washington & Lee University (W&L) in Lexington, Virginia, was converted to a War College. As a part of his military training he attended the War College at W&L. When my son, Douglas C. Martinson, II, was accepted as a law student at W&L in 1986, my

mother gave him a panoramic photograph of my father and his fellow soldiers on the Colonnade of W&L.

After WWII ended, he was honorably discharged, returned to Huntsville, rented office space near the court house and began his law practice on a full time basis.

Part II in the next newsletter will discuss Douglas C. Martinson & George M. Beason, Jr., practicing law together for the last 38 years.

## Deer Season in Alabama

Here are the dates for deer season in most Alabama Counties.

Antlered Bucks	Unantlered Deer	Bow & Arrow
Nov. 20 - Jan 15	Nov. 20 - Jan. 31	Oct. 15 - Jan. 31

Remember your hunting license must be in your possession when hunting unless you are age 65 or older in which case you’re not required to have a hunting license. Complete information on rules, regulations, and seasons can be found on the Official Web site of the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources: [www.outdoorAlabama.com](http://www.outdoorAlabama.com)



## November is American Diabetes Month<sup>®</sup>

In 2009, the American Diabetes Association started an ambitious movement called **Stop Diabetes<sup>®</sup>**. The Association's goal is to make Americans more aware of a disease that impacts so many lives.

Diabetes affects almost 24 million children and adults in the United States, and the number is growing. An estimated 1.6 million new people will be diagnosed with the disease this year. There are two types of diabetes. In those patients diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes (formerly called juvenile diabetes), the pancreas does not produce the hormone insulin. Insulin converts sugars and starches into energy to fuel the body. Only 5-10% of all cases are Type 1: Treatment includes insulin therapy, and controlled diet and exercise.

In Type 2 diabetes (90-95% of all cases), the body does not produce enough insulin or the cells ignore the insulin produced. The end result is a buildup of glucose in the blood, leading to dangerous health issues. In many cases, Type 2 diabetes can be prevented or the onset delayed through weight loss, a healthy diet, and exercise. Type 2 diabetes may be treated with pills or insulin therapy in combination with lifestyle changes.

Left untreated, diabetes can result in serious complications, including heart disease, stroke, amputation, blindness, nerve damage, kidney disease, skin disorders, hearing loss, and others. Diabetes is more common in Latinos, African Americans, Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Asian Americans. Individuals who are obese are at higher risk for Type 2 diabetes, as are the elderly.

If you have any of the symptoms listed or have a family history of the disease, make sure you talk to your doctor as soon as possible. Diagnosis is generally simple and painless. For more information about diabetes and some great resources for those who have the disease, visit [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org) or call 1-800-DIABETES. You can live an active, normal life with the disease if it is caught and treated early.

### Diabetes Symptoms<sup>1</sup>

#### Type 1 Diabetes

- Frequent urination
- Unusual thirst
- Extreme hunger
- Unusual weight loss
- Extreme fatigue and Irritability

#### Type 2 Diabetes\*

- Any of the type 1 symptoms
- Frequent infections
- Blurred vision
- Cuts/bruises that are slow to heal
- Tingling/numbness in the hands/feet
- Recurring skin, gum, or bladder infections

\*Often people with type 2 diabetes have no symptoms

<sup>1</sup> American Diabetes Association, [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)

## Martinson & Beason Gives Back

Martinson and Beason attorney, Doug Martinson, II, has been very involved with the Downtown Rotary Club, which is one of the Top 50 largest Rotary Clubs in the world out of more than 32,000 clubs with 1.2 million members.

Eight years ago, the Club started a mentoring program called STRIVE at Butler High School to help improve the graduation rate of the students and to graduate and encourage them to go on to college or a trade school. The students are selected from the bottom half of their class as someone who will benefit from the mentoring and guidance.

Since that time, the Club has mentored over 163 students and provided approximately \$150,000 in scholarships, summer school tuition, tutoring and employment bonuses for Butler students.

Since the beginning of the program, Doug has mentored a student and has mentored a total of five students. As a direct result of the program, Butler High was able to dramatically improve their graduation rate from 63% to 82%.

Doug has been a member of the Downtown Rotary Club since 1996 and served as President in 2007. In addition, he has served as Chairman of the Foundation and on the Board of Directors. He also just stepped down from the Huntsville City Board of Education after serving for eight years, five of which he served as President of the Board. He was credited by the Huntsville Times with bringing in close to \$100 million to his District in new schools and repairs to schools in his District.

## 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.

## 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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## What is a Moment Really Worth?

*On the bulletin board of a California company, someone once posted this sign to remind everyone of how time is relative — but the value of time is priceless:*

*To realize the value of one year...*

*Ask the student who has failed his final exam.*

*To realize the value of one month...*

*Ask the mother who has given birth to a premature baby.*

*To realize the value of one week...*

*Ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.*

*To realize the value of one day...*

*Ask the daily wage laborer who has 10 kids to feed.*

*To realize the value of an hour...*

*Ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.*

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### EASY HOLIDAY CHEESE COOKIES

*From Lynda Beason -  
Wife of M&B Attorney*

*George Beason*

- 8 oz. Grated Sharp Cheddar Cheese
- 2 cups Flour
- 1 cup Margarine/Butter
- 1/4 teaspoon Cayenne pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon Salt
- 2 cups Crispy rice cereal

Combine all ingredients, except cereal, knead together until well blended. Add cereal and work together. Drop by teaspoons onto an ungreased baking sheet for about 20-25 mins @ 350°.

Yields: 4 1/2 to 5 dozen cookies.



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<http://www.facebook.com/martinsonandbeason>



BBB Rating: A+