

# Annual Meeting & Banquet

by Tracy Kane

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Members of the Nashville Bar Association gathered for the Annual Banquet this year on December 8 at the Wild Horse Saloon. In the festive atmosphere, members thanked retiring officers and board members for their service, honored those among us who upheld the honor of our profession by their commitment to the community and the bar, and welcomed new leaders of the bar all while enjoying holiday cheer with fellow members.

Following a lively reception, Executive Director Gigi Woodruff welcomed all attendees and kicked off the evening's program by reminding everyone of the Bar Association's big move to One Nashville Place in 2011. She also announced that the "It's Your Move" Capital Campaign had already raised 40% of its goal thanks to the hard work of the co-chairs, Aubrey Harwell, Jr. and Aubrey Harwell, III and the NBA Fundraising Committee, as well as the generosity of the bar membership. Prior to turning the podium over to the Judge Dan Eisenstein for the evening's invocation, Woodruff recognized the banquet's corporate sponsors – IPSCO and SunTrust – and gave special thanks to NBA President Jonathan Cole of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz for his extraordinary leadership this past year, particularly during the flood and for the historic and successful Law Day celebration.

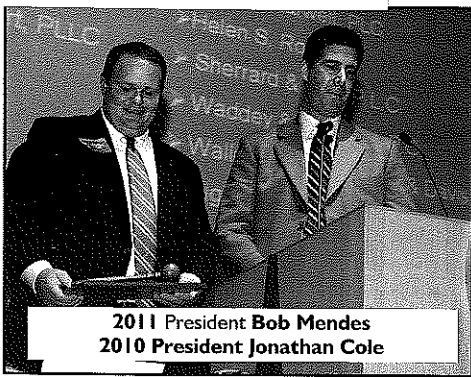
President Cole ascended to the podium to call the meeting to order and, after the membership voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes, he asked NBA Treasurer Patricia Eastwood to give the Treasurer's report, which she efficiently did so with the following statement, "We started the year in the black and we are ending the year more in the black." Following the membership's applause, President Cole recognized those retiring their membership on the NBA Board and thanked them for their service to the bar, including Ann Arney, Martha Boyd, Patricia Eastwood, Ana Escobar,

Stacey Garrett, Nikki Smith-Bartley and Jim Weatherly.

President Cole then handed the podium to this year's NBA Young Lawyers Division President Mary Taylor Gallagher who presented the YLD Enterprise Award to Colleen Sweeney and Robb Bigelow and the YLD Leadership Award to Matt Potempa. She also reported that the NBA YLD's annual programs and events enjoyed great success during 2010, including a competitive Mock Trial that resulted in sending two teams to the state-wide competition, an active Race Judicata with 13,000 participants, and two highly attended charitable events – 13th Annual Carbolic Smoke Ball and 1st Annual Arts Immersion co-hosted with the Arts & Business Council – that raised \$30,000 for area charities including CASA, Hands on Nashville to assist with flood relief and Volunteer Lawyers and Professionals for the Arts.

The 2010 Emeritus Members John L. Chambers, Richard A. Jones, Joseph L. Lackey, Jr., James F. Walsh, Jr. and the Hon. Gilbert S. Merritt, Jr. were recognized by NBA First Vice-President Martha Boyd who also presented Nashville Bar Journal awards to Tracy Kane for Contributor of the Year and Gary Shockley for Article of the Year for his Law Day article, "Counsel for the Children: Defending Freedom in the Nashville Sit-in Trials."

NBA Second Vice-President Anne Arney presented Thad E. Watkins, III with the CLE Excellence Award and recognized Jay Drescher, Paul Gontarek, Paul Hayes, Sam Payne and David Johnson for their commitment and dedication over the last 10 years to producing and presenting the fall CLE Institutes, which have developed into premiere NBA CLE programs. Arney concluded her remarks by thanking all CLE presenters for their commitment to the bar and the profession.



**2011 President Bob Mendes**  
**2010 President Jonathan Cole**

Frank Grace of Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis was recognized by Tonya Grindon as The Joseph G. Cummings, Sr. Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year while the Pro Bono Leadership Award was presented to the NBA's Modest Means Initiative.

Jim Weatherly took the podium to recognize the Mayor Karl F. Dean, this year's recipient of the John C. Tune Public Service Award, the NBA's highest honor. In humbly accepting the award and thanking the bar, Mayor Dean recalled the critical role the NBA has played in his life and noted in particular the inspiration that Jim Weatherly provided to him during law school and early in his career as he decided to move to Nashville. Mayor Dean then reflected back to this past spring to the State of Metro speech shortly before the flood wherein he told the city that he felt optimistic about Nashville and its future. Shortly thereafter, however, it rained 15 inches in 36 hours and claimed 10 lives and caused billions of dollars in damage to both public and private property. Mayor Dean remarked that, in the aftermath, he saw and was moved by all the work being done by the people of Nashville for those in the community most in need and that they do so without complaint. When he is asked how he feels about Nashville now, he stated that he tells them "I feel optimistic" because Nashville is a city of compassionate volunteers with a "get it done" attitude.

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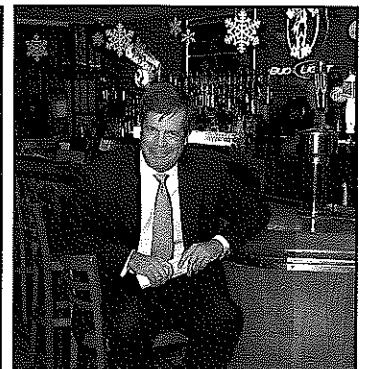
**2011 NBA Officers: John Griffin, Second Vice President; Bob Mendes, President; John Kitch, President-Elect; Barbara Perutelli, First Vice President; Bob Pope, Treasurer**



**Retiring Officers and Board Members: Nikki Smith-Bartley, Martha Boyd, Anne Arney, Ana Escobar, Jim Weatherly, Patricia Eastwood and Jonathan Cole (not shown: Stacey Garrett)**



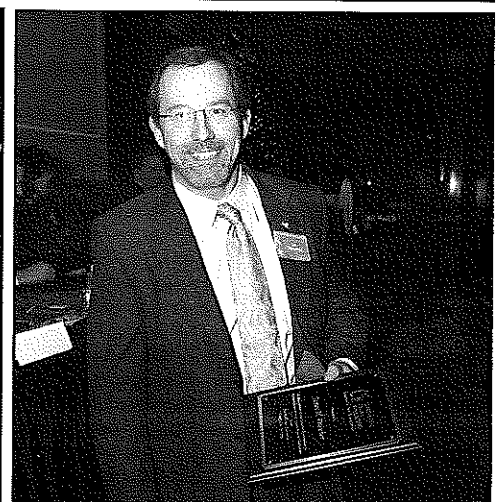
**Newly Elected Board Members: John Tarpley, Patricia Moskal, Michele Johnson, Down Deaner, Robert Boston, and Charles Grant**



**John C. Tune Award: Mayor Karl Dean**



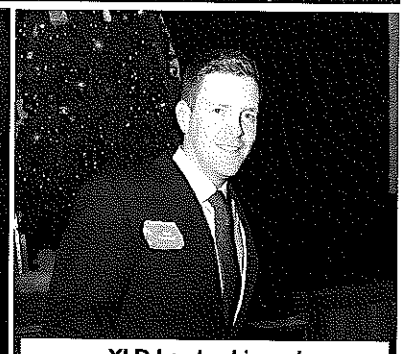
**CLE Excellence Award: Thad E. Watkins, III**



**Family Law Institute Award: Jay Drescher**



**President's Award: William (Paz) Haynes, Charles Grant and Gary Shockley**



**YLD Leadership and NBA President's Award: Matt Potempa**

Mayor Dean concluded by encouraging members of the bar to continue to do the good work of lawyers and provide legal services to all members of our community.

President Cole then concluded the awards portion of the evening by presenting the President's Awards, which went to Matt Potempa for his work and leadership during and following the flood and William J. (Paz) Haynes for his commendable work on this year's historic Law Day events. As he prepared to hand over the gavel to President-Elect Bob Mendes, President Cole received a standing ovation as he thanked the NBA staff, the Board, and his fellow outgoing Board officers for their support and tireless efforts to achieve another successful bar year.

Prior to introducing the new officers, President-Elect Bob Mendes remarked that a mentor of his encouraged him to act in his professional life in accordance with a particular motto and he was both pleased and surprised to find that the NBA had embraced this motto as its mission statement – Improving the practice of law through Education, Service and Fellowship. The President-Elect congratulated the outgoing leadership for their commitment to the NBA's mission this past year as evidenced by the NBA's flood relief efforts, the historic Law Day celebration and their commitment to a new facility to better serve the bar and our community. He pledged to continue to keep this mission as the guiding force behind his tenure in the 2011 bar year.

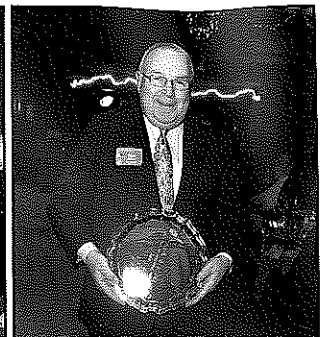
The evening was concluded with the recognition of newly-elected Board members Robert E. Boston, Dawn Deaner, Charles Grant, Michele Johnson, John Tarpley, and Pat Moskal and introduction of the 2011 Board's officers: President-Elect John Kitch, First Vice President Barbara Perutelli, Second Vice President John Griffin, Treasurer Bob Pope, Secretary Alisa Peters, and General Counsel Gareth Aden.



**NBJ Contributor of the Year:  
Tracy Kane**



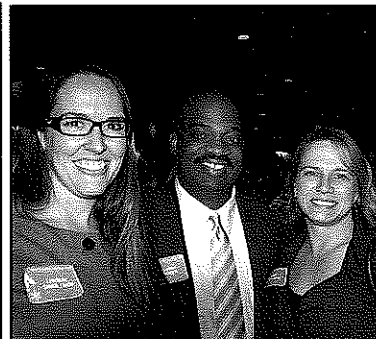
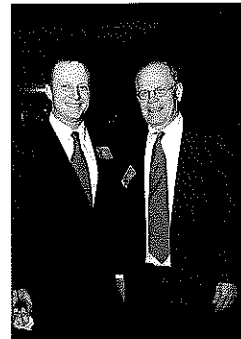
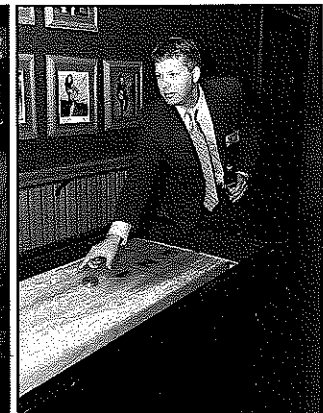
**NBJ Author of the Year:  
Gary Shockley**



**Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year:  
Frank Grace**



**Emeritus Member Award: Joseph L. Lackey, Jr.,  
Richard A. Jones and John L. Chambers**



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