



*The Sleeping Juror*, a collection of humorous stories written by Sam Crosby about his experiences as a lawyer, has sold out of a second printing and there are no plans for a third. Crosby, a Baldwin County lawyer and previous Alabama Law Foundation director, explains he began writing down his amusing experiences when, in the first year of his law career, "two very drunk men wandered in off the street to see me." One of the men asked Crosby to draft a will for the other man, explaining that "He wanna make a will and leave ever'thin' to me." Crosby continued to write and collect stories during his first twenty-four years as a lawyer in Baldwin County. In 2002, the Alabama Law Foundation published the stories in the book, *The Sleeping Juror*.

According to Crosby, "There were two purposes I hoped to accomplish with *The Sleeping Juror*. The first was to raise funds through the Alabama Law Foundation to support Kids' Chance Scholarships and funding for indigent legal services." The Alabama Law Foundation received all proceeds from the sale of the book totaling over \$31,000.

"The second," Crosby continues, "was to encourage lawyers and judges throughout the state, and country, to preserve their own funny court stories and local court history." Crosby was glad to learn that Bill Hairston of Birmingham, a past Alabama State Bar president, persuaded the Birmingham Bar Association to film senior lawyers telling local funny court stories. Also, during Crosby's tenure as president, the Alabama State Bar produced a DVD of bar leaders throughout Alabama telling funny court stories, discussing leadership principles and giving advice to new lawyers. A copy of the DVD is available through Brad Carr (brad.carr@alabar.org or 334/261-6310). Crosby hopes that if lawyers write down their experiences that the stories and humor will not be lost. He also notes that,

through a variety of circumstances, historical records can be lost, and individuals recording their own history and research can compensate for missing records. Crosby added, "I hope some of the young lawyers in the state will follow Bill Hairston's lead and start collecting funny court stories in their circuit for preservation and publication." Today, Sam Crosby acknowledges the generosity of the following Baldwin County firms who contributed to the cost of making the book available to the public:

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THE SLEEPING  
JUROR  
& OTHER BALDWIN COUNTY  
COURTROOM TALES & HISTORY

Sam Crosby wants to again thank Alabama writer Winston Groom for his kind and helpful words on the back cover, and Morris Dees for sharing his time and talent in writing the forward. Sam Crosby is not distressed about the end of the run of *The Sleeping Juror*. He is happy about the amount of money it raised for Kids' Chance Scholarship Fund and legal help for Alabama's citizens. He is heartened by new projects recording lawyers' experiences, and he hopes in "ten or fifteen years some young Baldwin County court lawyer will write a sequel." Crosby started the book with one of his favorite quotes, "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." He is content to see the project end.