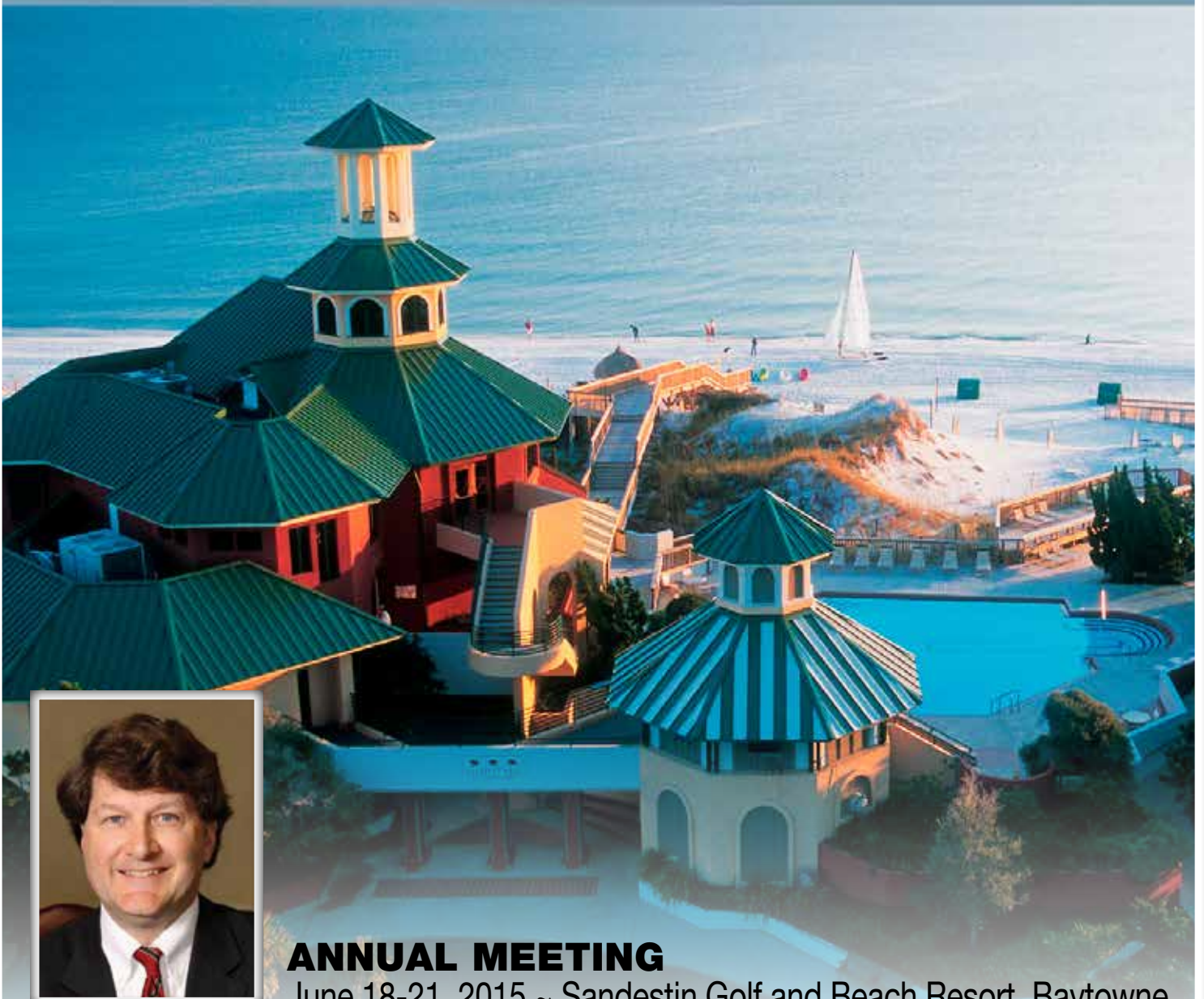


ALABAMA DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

Spring 2015 • Vol. 31 • No. 1



Michael E. Upchurch
Mobile, Alabama
President 2015-2016

ANNUAL MEETING

June 18-21, 2015 ~ Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Baytowne

BIBB ALLEN MEMORIAL TRIAL ACADEMY

August 6-7, 2015 ~ Cumberland School of Law

THE PROFESSOR

by Robert Bailey • Reviewed by Deborah Alley Smith

The Professor, the first novel by Huntsville attorney and ADLA member Robert Bailey, is a riveting story of intrigue, blackmail, betrayal and murder. Thomas Jackson McMurtrie gave up a promising career as a trial lawyer to become a law school professor at the University of Alabama at the request of his former football coach, Paul “Bear” Bryant. After 40 years of teaching evidence, Professor McMurtrie has earned a stellar reputation among the bench, bar and business communities throughout the state. Betrayed by a friend and his own failing health, however, he is forced to resign in the face of trumped-up allegations of an inappropriate relationship with a student.

Meanwhile, the young family of a life-long friend of McMurtrie’s is killed in a horrific accident with an 18-wheeler, and the friend approaches him to pursue a lawsuit against the trucking company. McMurtrie, who doubts his abilities and believes his career is over, refers the case to Rick Drake, a former student and struggling new lawyer. Drake has significant problems of his

own, including the residual effects of a past altercation with McMurtrie that was videotaped and posted on YouTube – resulting in Drake’s loss of job prospects and significant animosity toward McMurtrie.

Despite misgivings, Drake accepts the case but his efforts to uncover the truth are met with limited success. Documents are destroyed. Witnesses cannot be located or refuse to cooperate. Just when it seems that Drake has found the “smoking gun,” he runs into a proverbial brick wall; on the eve of trial, he calls upon McMurtrie to assist.

Author Robert Bailey has spun a tangled web of arson, bribery and greed. While legal writers sometimes overlook important details, Bailey gets it right – the evidentiary rulings are accurate, and the courtroom scenes are compelling and suspenseful. The characters Bailey has created are extremely well-developed and reflect both the best and worst that we encounter in the practice of law. *The Professor* is a page-turner -- a must-read for anyone who enjoys legal fiction.

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