



ALABAMA STATE BAR NEWS RELEASE

Release: Immediate

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30 LAWYERS CHOSEN FROM THROUGHOUT STATE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL STATE BAR LEADERSHIP FORUM

Montgomery, Ala., January 5, 2010 – Recognizing that young attorneys have a vital stake in the future of the state's communities, both as policymakers and in their profession, the Alabama State Bar has announced the 30 lawyers selected for Class VI of its Leadership Forum.

State Bar President Thomas J. Methvin of Montgomery (Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles P.C.) said, "The leadership forum is an innovative leadership-training program specifically geared toward increasing leadership skills among lawyers. We will share ways participants can develop these skills to better support the communities in which they live and practice their profession, encourage diversity and discuss the ethical issues that will confront them. Chief among these issues, attorneys in Class VI will learn about the state bar's efforts to help with Access to Justice for the poor, and what is their role."

This year, the state bar received 75 applications from private practitioners, government and corporate lawyers throughout the state. These applicants included practitioners in small, medium and large-size firms as well as sole practitioners.

After a rigorous selection process, 17 men and 13 women were selected for Class VI. While there is no age requirement, participants must have practiced law for not less than five nor more than 15 years.

Leadership Forum participants are selected based on their demonstration of outstanding leadership qualities and service to their communities. Methvin noted that lawyers naturally gravitate toward positions of leadership because those positions call into play their creativity and critical thinking skills. "Leaders need to have good problem-solving skills and be able to think critically. As opposed to the traditional law practice setting, which fosters competition, leadership is a collaborative process," he said.

In order to graduate from the Leadership Forum, participants are required to attend five separate training sessions including a two-day orientation program.

LEADERSHIP FORUM CLASS VI, First Add

Significant features of the program include a core curriculum which combines professional leadership techniques; seminars and experiential-based learning which is not typically found in classrooms.

They will learn from such prominent leaders as:

- U.S. Representative Artur Davis
- Bradley Byrne, gubernatorial candidate
- Dr. Wayne Flint, Auburn University
- Stephen Black, Univ. of Ala.
- Dr. David Bronner, Retirement Systems of Alabama

The 16,300-member Alabama State Bar is dedicated to improving the administration of justice and increasing public understanding and respect for the law.

-30-

Members of the Leadership Forum Class of 2010

Mr.	John	Alan	Baty	Jefferson County District Attorney's Office	Birmingham
Mrs.	Robin	Leigh	Beardsley	Sirote & Permutt, PC	Birmingham
Mr.	Kevin	Lawrence	Boucher	Mobile County Commission Legal Department	Mobile
Mr.	Steven	Michael	Brom	The Brom Law Firm, LLC	Birmingham
Mr.	Brian	Verbon	Cash	The Perkins Group, LLC	Birmingham
Mr.	Joel	Davidson	Connally	Strength & Connally, LLC	Montgomery
Mr.	Christopher	Wayne	Deering	Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC	Birmingham
Ms.	Rebecca	Garity	DePalma	White, Arnold & Dowd, PC	Birmingham
Ms.	Nicole	Self-Drake	Diaz	University of Alabama School of Law	Tuscaloosa
Mr.	Brandon	Keith	Essig	U.S. Department of Justice	Montgomery
Ms.	Glenda	Denise	Gamble	City of Tuscaloosa, Office of City Attorney	Tuscaloosa
Ms.	Monica	Grace	Graveline	Balch & Bingham LLP	Birmingham
Mrs.	Brandy	Osborne	Hambright	Hicks, Matranga, Hambright	Mobile
Mr.	Tyrell	Fleming	Jordan	Balch & Bingham, LLP	Birmingham
Mr.	Derrick	A.	Mills	Marsh, Rickard & Bryan, PC	Birmingham
Mr.	Larry	Benjamin	Morris	Starnes & Atchison, LLP	Birmingham

Mr.	Anil	Ashok	Mujumdar	Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker, LLC	Birmingham
Mr.	Andrew	Sykes	Nix	Maynard, Cooper & Gale, PC	Birmingham
Mrs.	Jennifer	Carin	Pendergraft	Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC	Birmingham
Mr.	William	Isaac	Powell	Lauderdale County District Attorney's Office	Florence
Mrs.	Angela	Slate	Rawls	Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program	Huntsville
Hon.	Katrina		Ross	Jefferson County - 10th Judicial Circuit	Birmingham
Ms.	Joi	Charisse	Scott	Christian & Small, LLP	Birmingham
Mr.	Jay	Elton	Stover	Stover, Stewart & Phillips, LLC	Gadsden
Mr.	Brian	Alexander	Wahl	Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP	Birmingham
Mr.	Todd	Brandon	Watson	District Attorney's Office - 35th Circuit	Evergreen
Ms.	Leslie	Gail	Weeks	Helmsing, Leach, Herlong, Newman & Rouse, PC	Mobile
Mr.	William	Calvin	White, II	Parkman, Adams & White, LLC	Birmingham
Ms.	Tamula	Renee	Yelling	Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP	Birmingham
Ms.	Cinda	Ruth	York	Regions Financial Corp	Birmingham