

LEADERSHIP FORUM

By Edward M. Patterson

On October 30th, the Board of Bar Commissioners approved 30 attorneys for participation in Class 6 of the 2010 Leadership Forum. The Board of Bar Commissioners also selected **Matthew Lee Huffaker** as an honorary posthumous member of Class 6. At the time of his death August 16th, Lee was a partner at Maynard, Cooper & Gale PC in Birmingham.

The application process opened in July and closed on October 2nd. The Selection Committee received 75 applications from lawyers who have been admitted to practice at least five but not more than 15 years as of January 1, 2010 based on an applicant's year of first admission to any state bar. Demonstrated leadership ability based on past accomplishments and current engagements, and an understanding of the importance of servant leadership as demonstrated in the applicant's narrative, are the most weighted factors in the selection process. The selection process is highly competitive so consideration was also given to applicants who have applied in previous years. **Christopher A. Mixon** (Class 5) chaired the 10-member Selection Committee. Other members included **Shawn T. Alves** (Class 3), **J. Chandler Bailey** (Class 5), **Sandra E. Gregory** (Class 4), **Teresa G. Minor** (Class 1), **Emily K. Niezer** (Class 5), **Valerie H. Plante** (Class 5), **Robert E. Poundstone, IV** (Class 5), **Erica L. Sheffield** (Class 5), and **Aldos L. Vance** (Class 2).

The racial and gender diversity of the class exceeds the percentages of the state bar membership as a whole. The 2010 class includes 13 females (43 percent), 17 males (57 percent), five African Americans (17 percent), one other (3 percent), and 24 Caucasians (80 percent). The average age of the class is 35.9 years. A chart accompanying this article illustrates the applicant demographics for the past six years. Forty-four of the 75 applications were from attorneys living in the Birmingham area. Class 6 includes seven lawyers working in the public sector, two public interest lawyers, one in-house counsel, three transactional lawyers, six plaintiff's trial lawyers in a large firm or solo practice, two criminal defense lawyers, and nine civil defense litigators.



Class 3 alumni Clay Martin, Huntsville, and George Parker, Montgomery, get ready to facilitate a Class 4 session on Alabama educational issues.



Tom Warburton (Class 4), Kimberly Powell (Class 2) and Cynthia Ransburg-Brown (Class 4) all of Birmingham, converse prior to Class 5 opening session.

Session Dates and Topics

Session 6.1—Orientation—"Fundamentals of Leadership," January 28-30, 2010, Marriott Grand Hotel, Point Clear (Thurs., Fri. and Sat.)

Session 6.2—"Legislative Process & Economic Development," February 23, 2010, Alabama State Bar, Montgomery and Hyundai (Tues.)

Session 6.3—"Black Belt: Struggles & Triumphs," March 18, 2010, Kellogg Conference Center, Tuskegee (Thurs.)

Session 6.4—"Leadership through Education," April 22, 2010, Alabama State Bar, Montgomery (Thurs.)

Session 6.5—"Access to Justice," May 20, 2010, Balch & Bingham LLP, Birmingham (Thurs.)

Graduation Banquet, Birmingham

The agendas of the first two sessions of the 2010 forum clearly demonstrate the quality of the programming continues to increase as alumni of the forum take ownership, responsibility and pride in furthering the purposes of the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum. ▲▼▲



Edward M. Patterson is assistant executive director of the Alabama State Bar. He is the staff director of the Leadership Forum and is a recipient of the State Bar Award of Merit.



Field trip to State Judicial Building in Montgomery

2010 CLASS PARTICIPANTS

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|------------|
| John A. Baty | Jefferson County District Attorney's Office | Birmingham |
| Robin L. Beardsley | Sirote & Permutt PC | Birmingham |
| Kevin L. Boucher | Mobile County Commission | Mobile |
| Steven M. Brom | The Brom Law Firm LLC | Birmingham |
| Brian V. Cash | The Perkins Group LLC | Birmingham |
| Joel D. Connally | attorney at law | Montgomery |
| Christopher W. Deering | Ogletree Deakins | Birmingham |
| Rebecca G. DePalma | White, Arnold & Dowd | Birmingham |
| Nicole S. Diaz | University of Alabama | Tuscaloosa |
| Brandon K. Essig | Department of Justice | Montgomery |
| Glenda D. Gamble | City of Tuscaloosa | Tuscaloosa |
| Monica G. Graveline | Balch & Bingham LLP | Birmingham |
| Brandy O. Hambright | Hicks, Matranga, Hambright | Mobile |
| Tyrell F. Jordan | Balch & Bingham, LLP | Birmingham |
| Derrick A. Mills | Marsh, Rickard & Bryan | Birmingham |
| Larry B. Morris | Starnes & Atchison LLP | Birmingham |
| Anil A. Mujumdar | Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker | Birmingham |
| Andrew S. Nix | Maynard, Cooper & Gale PC | Birmingham |
| Jennifer C. Pendergraft | Ogletree Deakins | Birmingham |
| William I. Powell | Lauderdale County District Attorney's Office | Florence |
| Angela S. Rawls | Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program | Huntsville |
| Hon. Katrina Ross | State of Alabama-10th Judicial Circuit | Bessemer |
| Joi C. Scott | Christian & Small LLP | Birmingham |
| Jay E. Stover | Stover, Stewart & Phillips LLC | Gadsden |
| Brian A. Wahl | Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP | Birmingham |
| Todd B. Watson | District Attorney's Office-35th Circuit | Evergreen |
| Leslie G. Weeks | Helmsing, Leach, Herlong, Newman & Rouse | Mobile |
| William C. White, II | Parkman, Adams & White | Birmingham |
| Tamula R. Yelling | Constangy, Brooks & Smith LLC | Birmingham |
| Cinda R. York | Regions Financial Corp | Birmingham |

LEADERSHIP FORUM APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHICS, 2005-2010

| | Class 6 (2010) | | Class 5 (2009) | | Class 4 (2008) | | Class 3 (2007) | | Class 2 (2006) | | Class 1 (2005) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------|----------------|-------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------|----------------|-------|----------------|--------------|-------|--------|---|
| | Applications | Alter. | Applications | Class | Alter. | Applications | Class | Alter. | Applications | Class | Alter. | Applications | Class | Alter. | |
| Number of Applicants | 75 | 30 | 4 | 75 | 30 | 4 | 78 | 30 | 4 | 71 | 30 | 4 | 42 | 30 | 4 |
| Male | 49 | 17 | 3 | 52 | 19 | 2 | 51 | 20 | 4 | 52 | 20 | 3 | 25 | 16 | |
| Female | 26 | 13 | 1 | 23 | 11 | 2 | 27 | 10 | 0 | 19 | 10 | 1 | 17 | 14 | |
| Black | 16 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| City: Birmingham | 44 | 19 | 3 | 31 | 8 | 3 | 34 | 13 | 4 | 34 | 12 | | 18 | 14 | |
| Huntsville | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | | 4 | 1 | | 4 | 3 | |
| Mobile | 6 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 2 | | 6 | 2 | | 5 | 2 | |
| Montgomery | 7 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 13 | 5 | | 8 | 3 | | 6 | 5 | |
| Tuscaloosa | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | 4 | 4 | |
| Other | 10 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 9 | 1 | 17 | 8 | | 17 | 11 | | 5 | 2 | |

Session 6.1—Orientation

“Alabama Needs You to Lead”

January 28-30, 2010

Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa, Point Clear

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2009

- 11:00 am–noon: Check-in and registration
- 12:00–1:00 pm: Lunch: Welcome and introductions
- 1:00–2:00 pm: **“Imagining Alabama in 2020”**
David G. Bronner, CEO of Retirement Systems of America, lays out his vision of what Alabama can achieve with strong leadership over the next decade.
- 2:00–3:00 pm: **“What Is A Leader?”**
Allison Cornelius Black, Principal Consultant, BlackBOARD Governance & Leadership Consulting
- 3:00–3:15 pm: Break
- 3:15–5:00 pm: Allison Cornelius Black (continued)
- 5:00–5:15 pm: Wrap-up and Adjourn
- 6:00–7:30 pm: Cocktails (a short walk from the hotel)
Dinner at the nearby Wash House Restaurant in Fairhope

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2009

- 7:30–8:15 am: Breakfast
- 8:15–9:00 am: **“Making Your Vision a Reality”**
University of South Alabama’s head football coach, Joey Jones, discusses the creation of USA’s ambitious football program. (This season is the team’s first.)
- 9:00 – 10:00 am: **“Why You Must Lead”**
Panel discussion concerning the moral and practical reasons why those who have the ability and resources to lead must do so. Possible panelists include:
Moderator/speaker Michael D. Knight, past president, Mobile Bar Association, and senior partner, McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge LLC
Stephen F. Black, director, Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility, the University of Alabama
Kathy Jorgensen, Methodist minister
Major General J. Gary Cooper, U. S. Marine Corp. (retired)
Former Alabama Governor Albert Brewer
- 10:00–10:15 am: Break
- 10:15 – 11:00 am: **“What’s Holding Alabama Back?”**
Why does Alabama continue to lag behind other states in some key areas? Wayne Flynt discusses problems with the Alabama constitution, as well as other historic and ongoing impediments to progress in the state, and suggests ways to overcome those obstacles.
- 11:00–12:30 pm: Lunch
- 12:30–1:15 pm: **“Effective Alabama Leadership in Action: The Renaissance of Mobile”**
Mike Dow, Mobile’s mayor from 1989 until 2005, discusses the city’s dramatic revival during his time in office.
- 1:15–2:30 pm: **“The Port of Mobile: A Gateway to the World”**
- 2:30–4:15 pm: Tour of Austal shipbuilding facility, manufacturer of military and other large watercrafts
Tour includes assembly bay for the Navy’s Littoral Combat ship and the \$170 million Module Manufacturing Facility which pre-fabricates ship components for assembly in various vessels. Facility tour followed by presentation by Austal’s President/CEO Joseph Nall, who will discuss Mobile’s opportunity to become a major shipbuilding center. (As a federal contractor, Austal is a secured site and only U.S. citizens may visit. There is a clearance process which takes approximately a month, and requires visitors to provide a passport or birth certificate.)
- 4:15–5:00 pm: Bus trip back to Grand Hotel
- 6:00–7:00 pm: Cocktails

- 7:00–9:00 pm: Dinner
Guest Speaker: United States Surgeon General Regina Benjamin
“Pick Yourself Up, Dust Yourself Off, Start All Over Again: Perseverance Is at the Heart of Leadership”

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009

- 8:30–9:30 am: Breakfast
- 9:30–10:15 am: **“Finding Common Ground in a Fractious Time”**
Current Mobile Mayor Sam Jones, the first African-American elected to that position, discusses the challenge of leading at a time when political, social and economic divisions often appear to be widening and public discourse is frequently acrimonious.
- 10:15–11:30 am: **“Practical Leadership Goals for Alabama Lawyers”**
Panel discussion: Four senior lawyers with strong leadership records discuss lessons learned from taking on leadership roles inside and outside the law, and give concrete advice about how and where younger lawyers should get involved.
Panelists:
Moderator/speaker John N. Leach, president, Mobile Bar Association
Samuel N. Crosby, ASB past president
William Lee Thuston, managing partner, Burr & Forman
- 11:30–11:45 am: Final Remarks: **“It’s Your Time to Lead”**
Edward M. Patterson, assistant executive director, Alabama State Bar
- Noon: Check-out

SESSION 6.2—Proposed Agenda

“The Legislative Process and Economic Development”

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Alabama State Bar, Montgomery

- 8:00–8:45 am: Registration and breakfast in Boardroom
- 8:45–9:00 am: Walk from ASB to State House, 8th Fl. Conference Room, Old House Chambers Room, State Capitol
- 9:00–9:10 am: Othni J. Lathram, Lara M. Alvis, D. Scott Mitchell, Emily H. Raley
Introductions and Legislative Process Overview
- 9:10–9:40 am: Representative Marcel Black, **“The Committee Process”**
- 9:40–10:10 am: Representative Paul DeMarco, **“Becoming a Lawyer-Legislator”**
- 10:10–10:40 am: Senator Rodger Smitherman, **“How the Senate Works”**
- 10:40–10:50 am: Break
- 10:50–11:20 am: Kim Adams and Suzie Edwards, tour of State House
- 11:20–11:35 am: Walk from State House back to Alabama State Bar
- 11:35–12:05 pm: Mark White, **“How to be an Advocate with the Legislature”**
- 12:05–1:00 pm: Buffet Lunch
- 12:15–1:00 pm: Congressman Artur Davis, **“The Federal Legislative Process”**
- 1:05 pm: Board touring bus and travel to Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama, LLC, Hope Hull
- 1:25–1:30 pm: Group photo in HMMA reception area
- 1:30–1:45 pm: Rick Neal, HMMA general counsel, and Christopher N. Smith, **“Welcome & Introductions”**
- 1:45–3:15 pm: Tour of Hyundai plant
- 3:15–3:30 pm: Break
- 3:30–4:15 pm: Bradley Byrne, **“Economic Development in Alabama”**
- 4:15–4:30 pm: Edward M. Patterson, **“Closing Remarks”**
- 4:30 pm: Return to Alabama State Bar
- 5:00 pm: Official group photograph