

**Serving the public is -- as it
has always been --
the cornerstone of the
American legal system . . . and
it is a primary focus of the
Alabama State Bar.**

DID YOU KNOW?

*. . . that it is commonly acknowledged
that no profession is tougher on its members
than the legal profession?*

*. . . that many of this country's
positive changes occurred because of lawyers
simply doing their jobs -- to insure fair
treatment in the workplace, accommodate the
disabled, and preserve your environment
and your civil liberties?*

*. . . that every attorney in Alabama is
required to have 12 hours of continuing legal
education every year?*

*. . . that the Alabama State Bar was the
first in the nation to adopt a code of ethics that
was later used as a model for the American Bar
Association in 1908?*

*. . . that lay members have served on
disciplinary panels since 1995?*

*. . . that an average of 60,000 hours of
volunteer time is given by attorneys each year
for ongoing public service efforts and
programs to help members better serve their
clients?*

The Alabama State Bar
is a self-funded, volunteer-driven organization
responsible for granting licenses to practice law
and for insuring the professional

conduct of Alabama lawyers. But beyond all of
those roles, its primary focus is . . .

To Serve the Public.

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

A full-time director works closely with
Legal Services Corp. of Alabama to provide
free legal services in all 67 Alabama counties to
qualified persons who cannot afford them.
Over 1,600 lawyers participate. Contact the
VLP Director at (334) 269-1515, extension
118, for further information.

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

This service provides the names of
attorneys, based on the area of law and location
in the state, to those in need of legal
consultation. A nominal fee is charged. Call 1-
800-354-6154 for referral information.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Established by a supreme court
commission, this outstanding program offers
the public a mediation option instead of going
to court. The ADR Center keeps a list of
qualified mediators statewide. Public education
programs are also available. The ADR Center
can be reached at (334) 269-0409.

ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION

Many law-related educational projects
are funded each year by the foundation.
College scholarships are awarded through its
Kids' Chance program for students who have
had a parent killed or disabled through on-the-

job injuries. For information, call (334) 269-
1515, extension 137.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

An innovative curriculum on the U.S.
Constitution is the foundation for this popular
partnership between lawyers and teachers.
Local and county bar associations across
Alabama participate at various grade levels
from K-12. The ASB provides training and
materials. For a helpful booklet on how to
start your own program, contact the Director
of Communications at (334) 269-1515,
extension 132.

LAW WEEK

May 1 is recognized nationally as Law
Day and events and activities celebrate a legal
system that continues to be envied throughout
the world. Alabama students
participate in both local and state-wide essay
and poster contests based on a Law Day
theme. Media awareness campaigns inform
and educate the public on public
service projects and programs. Special legal
information sites and telephone numbers
provide free information about legal
questions. Community awards honor
individual citizens for their contributions to
the administration of justice, while lawyers
conduct courthouse tours and speak in
classrooms across the state. Law Day
information is available at (334) 269-1515,
extension 132.

ALABAMA STATE BAR WEBSITE

Offering internet access to legal
information and public service programs of

the bar, the Alabama State Bar website also provides links to other areas of interest to the public. The ASB website is located at www.alabar.org on the internet.

PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

A series of special informational and educational programs offer schools, and civic and community groups the opportunity to learn more about the legal profession in Alabama. A video program highlighting the public service and educational programs of the state bar is available upon request. An attorney or bar representative will present the program, answer questions and provide informational brochures. In addition, a colorful and informative transparencies program on the history of the bar in Alabama is available. Contact your local bar association or the ASB at (334) 269-1515, extension 132, to schedule either program.

PUBLIC SERVICE PUBLICATIONS

This series of brochures offers information on a variety of the most popular legal topics at no charge. The publications include:

Lawyers and Legal Fees - a summary of basic information on common legal questions and procedures for the general public.

Last Will & Testament - covers aspects of estate planning and the importance of having a will.

Legal Aspects of Divorce - offers options and choices involved in divorce.

Consumer Finances or "Buying on Time" - outlines important considerations and

provides advice on financial matters affecting the individual or family.

Mediation...Another Method for Resolving Disputes - provides an overview of the mediation process in an easily understood question-and-answer format.

These publications are provided free of charge to all public and law libraries as well as to individuals. Requests should be directed to (334) 269-1515, extension 134.

CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

A variety of community projects throughout the state occur under the direction and leadership of state and local bar associations. Those programs range from campaigns for adult literacy and funding anti-drug advertising campaigns to awarding grants to charitable organizations and "Don't Drop Out" programs to keep students in school. For a referral and details on these programs, contact (334) 269-1515, extension 132.

As neighbors, as friends, as fellow citizens, we are all part of the diverse community that is Alabama today. The Alabama State Bar strive to serve the law... by serving the public.

Alabama State Bar
415 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone (334) 269-1515
fax (334) 261-6310

