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A close-up photograph of a bumblebee with a fuzzy yellow and black body, perched on a vibrant purple flower with many thin, pointed petals. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

2008: A Busy Year for the Alabama State Bar

The Alabama State Bar had many significant accomplishments in 2008. These were due to the leadership of state bar presidents Sam Crosby and Mark White as well as the work of numerous volunteers and the bar staff. The list below reflects some of those accomplishments, including updates and improvements to the bar's facilities, other than the bar's traditional regulatory and licensing operations.

1. The fourth Leadership Forum was conducted and 30 attorneys completed all sessions.
2. The fifth Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame induction ceremony and luncheon was held celebrating the induction of Howell T. Heflin, John Archibald Campbell, Thomas Goode Jones and Patrick W. Richardson.
3. CaseMaker, v. 2, was rolled out to further enhance this valuable, free research tool for bar members.
4. An orientation session was conducted for 12 new members of the Board of Bar Commissioners.
5. The Law Day poster and essay contest resulted in the entry of 323 posters and 117 essays with 27 schools from across the state participating.
6. The 129th Annual Meeting was planned and held at the Hilton Sandestin with more than 1,200 people attending.
7. The practice of hosting a breakfast during the legislative session for the lawyer-legislators was continued.
8. The sixth edition of the *President's and Leaders' Manual* was prepared.
9. Twenty-two road shows and 102 separate ethics training sessions were conducted by ASB and General Counsel staff.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Continued from page 91

10. The build-out of the third floor of the bar building and refurbishment of the second and first floors were completed.
11. The "Wills for Heroes" program was successfully rolled out statewide with clinics in Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, Dothan, Auburn, Mobile, Huntsville, Birmingham, Baldwin County, and Decatur. Almost 1,100 first-responders received free wills, durable powers of attorney and health care directives.
12. An instructional CD for young lawyers was developed featuring interviews of former state bar presidents sharing their practice experiences.
13. The first full year of *The Complete Lawyer*, an "e-zine" providing useful practice and lifestyle information to bar members at no cost, was completed.
14. Disseminated a short video to members and new admittees about benefits available to ASB members.
15. Implemented a \$200 PHV fee increase with increased funds going to the Alabama Law Foundation for civil access to justice for indigent Alabama citizens.
16. First-ever Board of Bar Commissioners' meeting was held at the University of Alabama School of Law.
17. First Professionalism Consortium was planned and conducted.
18. Three thousand nineteen, or almost one in five, members purchased licenses or special memberships online.
20. New online annual meeting registration system was rolled out.
21. Member I-Profile was developed and implemented online to allow members to select preferred method of receiving communications from the bar.
22. New policies for broadcast e-mails and e-mail list were implemented.
23. An in-house intake center for the Volunteer Lawyers Program was started with a grant from the Alabama Law Foundation.
24. A presidential initiative, "Lawyers Serving Communities," highlighting lawyers' community service through newspaper articles, was completed.
25. A full-time scanning station was set up to continue the scanning of files and documents for the bar's document management system.
26. WiFi network was installed in the bar building.
27. A new proxy firewall, storage area network and other server upgrades were completed in addition to a complete upgrade of all staff computer work stations.
28. The Professionalism Pledge and Honor Roll were made accessible online.
29. The redesigned Web site, www.alabar.org, with new functionality and security features for personal log-in was launched.
30. A mortgage foreclosure assistance program in cooperation with Legal Services Alabama was initiated.

This long list of accomplishments, along with the bar's day-to-day licensing and regulatory activities, would be impossible to achieve without excellent leaders, dedicated volunteers and a helpful staff. This list reveals that the work of the state bar is varied, but with one underlying theme—service. Three months into a new year—2009—we hope to sustain the level of service that has characterized the bar and its members for so many years. With the current economic conditions confronting our nation, state and local communities, the volunteer work and service the legal profession renders will be even more important to those we serve.



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