



THOMAS J. METHVIN

Pursuant to the Alabama State Bar's Rules Governing the Election of President-Elect, the following biographical sketch is provided of Thomas J. Methvin. Methvin was the sole qualifying candidate for the position of president-elect of the Alabama State Bar for the 2008-09 term and he will assume the presidency in July 2009.

Thomas J. Methvin

Thomas J. Methvin was born in Eufaula in 1963. Tom graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in corporate finance in 1985. He then earned his law degree from Cumberland School of Law in 1988. Tom's family has been involved in the practice of law in Alabama for over 200 years, and he always knew he wanted to be an attorney.

Tom began his legal career at Beasley Allen in 1988 representing victims of consumer fraud. In 1998, he became managing shareholder of Beasley Allen and continues to hold that position.

Tom has been a very active member of the Alabama State Bar, serving on the Board of Bar Commissioners for nine years, the Executive Council for two years and as vice president in 2005.

Tom is a Fellow in the Alabama Law Foundation and a charter member of the Atticus Finch Society. He is also president of the Montgomery Cumberland Law School Club, and serves on the finance committee for the Access to Justice Commission, formed by Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb to find new ways to provide access to justice for the poor in Alabama.

Tom is a former president of the Montgomery County Bar Association and of the Montgomery County Trial Lawyers Association. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Alabama Association for Justice.

Tom currently serves on the boards of Let God Arise Ministries, a prison ministry; Brantwood Children's Home, a home for abused and neglected children; the Center for Progress and Opportunity, which explores ways to expand opportunity for all underprivileged Americans; and the Cystic Fibrosis Advisory Panel.

Tom is married to the former Amy Agee of Birmingham, and they have two teenage sons, Rucker and Slade. ▲▼▲

A L A B A M A S T A T E B A R

Pledge of Professionalism

I believe that our judicial system binds together the fabric of our democracy. I believe that, in order to maintain our judicial system, lawyers must maintain a high degree of professional courtesy and decorum. I believe that every lawyer has a professional duty to maintain a courteous and collegiate atmosphere in the practice of law.

I believe that a courteous and collegiate atmosphere begins with me.

Therefore, I will

- never knowingly deceive another lawyer.
- honor promises and commitments made to another lawyer.
- make all reasonable efforts to schedule matters with opposing counsel by agreement.
- maintain a cordial and respectful relationship with opposing counsel.
- seek sanctions against opposing counsel only where required for the protection of my client and not for mere tactical advantage.
- not make unfounded accusations of unethical conduct about opposing counsel.
- never intentionally embarrass another lawyer and will avoid personal criticism of another lawyer.
- attempt to always be punctual.
- seek informal agreement in procedural and preliminary matters.
- recognize that advocacy does not include harassment.
- recognize that advocacy does not include needless delay.
- shake hands with the opposing counsel at the close of adversarial proceedings and will refrain from engaging in any conduct which engenders disrespect for the court, my adversary or the parties.
- be ever mindful that any motion, trial, court appearance, deposition, pleading or legal technicality costs someone time and money.
- never have ex parte communications with the court.
- stand to address the court, be courteous and not engage in recrimination with the court.
- dress in proper attire during any court proceeding, whether in the courtroom or chambers, to show proper respect for the court and the law.
- not become too closely associated with my client's activities, or become emotionally involved with my client.
- always remember that the purpose of the practice of law is neither an opportunity to make outrageous demands upon vulnerable opponents nor blind resistance to a just claim; being stubbornly litigious for a plaintiff or a defendant is not professional.

(This pledge is adapted from the Alabama State Bar Code of Professional Courtesy adopted by the Board of Bar Commissioners on April 10, 1992.)

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

