

2008

ALABAMA STATE BAR LEADERSHIP FORUM

BY B. KEITH JACKSON

Update and General Selection Criteria

In 2005, the ASB Board of Bar Commissioners initiated the ASB Leadership Forum. The Leadership Forum's missions are to: (a) Raise the level of awareness of lawyers as to the purpose, operation and benefits of the ASB; (b) Build a core of practicing lawyers to become leaders with respect to ethics and professionalism, resulting in raising the overall ethical and professional standards of lawyers in the community; and (c) Form a pool of lawyers from which the ASB, state and local governmental entities, local bar associations and community organizations can draw upon for leadership and service.

With three years of graduates, the Leadership Forum has quickly grown into its purpose. Leadership Forum alumni include a member of the state house of representatives, bar commissioners, candidates for public office, a former military officer, and a president of a local bar foundation. Ask any graduate of the Leadership Forum about his or her experience, and you will receive an enthusiastic response about the program itself and the relationships formed while a member.

The third class of the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum graduated May 17, 2007, with **Judge John Carroll**, dean of Cumberland School of Law, as the guest speaker. Graduates **William**

Wahlheim and **Paige Goldman** gave inspired responses. Each graduate received a gift commemorating their participation in the forum. In attendance were 2006-07 ASB President **Boots Gale** (who served as emcee), ASB President-Elect **Sam Crosby** and immediate past President **Bobby Segall**.

For upcoming classes, the Leadership Forum will continue to honor its mission through an expanded program designed to introduce participants to leadership opportunities throughout the state. The program for 2008 is already in the planning stages, and the Leadership Forum Steering Committee is actively exploring opportunities outside the walls of the state bar and in different geographic areas of the state. Currently under consideration are programs intended to introduce applicants to leadership opportunities with varying focuses.

If you have been a member of the ASB for more than five years, but no more than 15, please consider applying to become a member of the 2008 ASB Leadership Forum. Following receipt of all applications, the Selection Committee, appointed by the president of the state bar and comprised of Leadership Forum alumni, reviews the applications for the following criteria in making the initial selection decisions:

1. Demonstrated leadership ability based on past accomplishments and current engagements;
2. Practice diversity (criminal, civil, governmental and corporate);
3. Geographic diversity;
4. Racial diversity;
5. An understanding of the importance of servant leadership as demonstrated in the applicant's narrative; and
6. Previous application to the Leadership Forum.

Each year, the Selection Committee seeks to draw a broad and representative class of between 25 to 30 members from throughout the ASB membership. The initial class suggested by the Selection Committee is reviewed by the Executive Committee of the ASB, and the final selection is made and approved by the Board of Bar Commissioners. Alumni of the Leadership Forum are listed on the next page if you wish to contact one of them concerning their experience. ■



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Alabama Leadership Forum.