

*Samuel N. Crosby*

## Riding in the Presidential Limousine



**T**hank you for giving me the privilege of serving as your president.

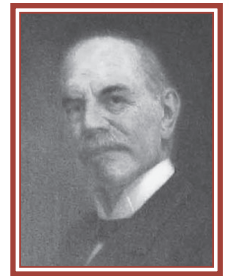
I am looking forward to riding to meetings throughout Alabama in the presidential limousine. In my case this limousine is a Toyota Camry (pictured above) with 156,000 miles on it which was formerly driven by my wife, Ann.

It is an honor that my first act as president was to select **Alicia Bennett** of Chelsea as my vice president. Thanks to the support of the superb lawyers on the board of bar commissioners, she is the first African-American woman to serve as vice president of the Alabama State Bar in its 128-year history.

Specific projects for the year which are consistent with the long-range plan and mission statement of the Alabama State Bar are set out in the outline on the next page.

You and I come from a tradition of greatness as Alabama lawyers.

In 1887, an Alabama lawyer, **Thomas Goode Jones**, drafted the first code of ethics for lawyers which served as the model for the code of ethics of the American Bar Association.



*Thomas Goode Jones*

In 1937, **Arthur Shores** was admitted to the Alabama State Bar and began his career as a nationally prominent civil rights lawyer using the rule of law to ensure equal protection for all citizens. He courageously ignored the pleas of his wife to leave the state, despite having his home fire-bombed twice, while he fought for justice and equality for all.



*Arthur Davis Shores*

In 1951, **Annie Lola Price** became the first woman to serve on an appellate court in Alabama *before* women were allowed to sit on juries in our state. At one time this Alabama judge was the highest ranking woman appellate court judge in the country.

In 1957, **Edward Friend**, one of the founding members of the Sirote firm, was promoted to brigadier general for his selfless service to our country.



Annie Lola Price



General Edward Friend

Each of these Alabama lawyers, like most of the great lawyers in the history of this state, had the same clear, simple priorities. They were leaders in their churches, synagogues and families and they put their faith first, their family second and the law third.

My goal for this year is very simple: to encourage each of us as lawyers to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God every day of our lives. ■

## July 2007–July 2008 Projects

1. Substantially increase funding for civil access to justice for indigent Alabama citizens by implementing an appropriate comparability rule and a mandatory IOLTA program.
2. Become one of the first states in the country to establish a *Wills For Heroes* program statewide to provide free simple wills, durable powers of attorney and healthcare directives through the Volunteer Lawyers Program to Alabama firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement personnel, search-and-rescue squad members, and other first responders.
3. Promote the use of teleconferences for bar committee and task force meetings to increase geographic diversity and participation by members from rural areas.
4. Support legislation both to improve the administration of justice and to create a new Alabama constitution.
5. Become the first state in the country to establish a Financial Planning Partnership between the Alabama State Bar and the Alabama chapters of the

Association of Legal Administrators and SCORE's small business counselors to provide free, one-on-one confidential law firm management assistance and confidential personal budget, debt and financial counseling to lawyers in Alabama who have been in practice less than five years. The partnership is designed to be a model for other state bars.

6. Produce and disseminate a short film to all members to ensure they are aware of benefits available to them through the Alabama State Bar.
7. Complete a five-month *Lawyers Serving Communities* campaign to publish positive contributions by lawyers in communities throughout Alabama.
8. Partner with the Commission on Professionalism to hold a conference at Cumberland Law School promoting professional responsibility.
9. Have videotape interviews conducted and preserved with certain senior members for historical and training purposes.