



2007 ALABAMA STATE BAR LEADERSHIP FORUM TURNS THREE

BY EDWARD M. PATTERSON



In recent years, the Alabama State Bar has joined a small, but growing, number of state bars to develop leadership programs designed to nurture a new generation of young lawyers for key leadership roles in the bar, community and state. Thirty leaders, among the best and brightest young attorneys, met January 25-26 at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center Grand National in Opelika for an overnight orientation retreat as the ASB gets set to conduct its third Leadership Forum. Thirteen members from the 2006 class were also on hand to greet the new forum members. ASB President “Boots” Gale said, “We’re making the state and the profession stronger by encouraging the development of leaders. Lawyers are moved naturally toward positions of leadership because it calls into play their creativity and critical thinking skills. As opposed to the traditional law practice setting, which fosters competition, leadership is a collaborative process.”

The state bar received 71 applications for the 30 positions. Keith Jackson of Birmingham, co-chair of the selection committee, told the bar commissioners who selected the final candidates, “We believe the forum is best served by having a very competitive and selective application process.” The class represents the diversity of the bar as a whole as well as the diversity of the eligible applicant pool (admitted to practice between five and 15 years). The class includes 20 men and ten women with the average attorney age being 36. In the class are plaintiff and

defense lawyers, government and corporate attorneys, a prosecutor, a district judge, and a law school professor.

Tripp Haston of Birmingham and Pamela Slate of Montgomery moderated the various sessions. Dr. Wayne Flynt, distinguished professor emeritus at Auburn University, opened the conference with a lecture and discussion of the Alabama Constitution of 1901 as set out in his most recent book, *Alabama in the Twentieth Century—The Modern South*. Dr. John Dew, director of Continuous Quality Improvement and Planning at the University of Alabama, led the class in exercises designed to determine individual leadership styles. Stephen Foster Black, director of the Institute for Ethics and Social Responsibility at the University of Alabama, challenged the class to care about progress in Alabama and suggested ways to make changes.

Across the board, participants said the orientation session exceeded their expectations. Typical comments included, “I thought the topics were timely and appropriate for our group. The balance of interactive sessions, which gave insights into opinions and personalities of our fellows, interspersed with the informal social mixers and meals, was a great way for us to segue into conversations about serious topics while meeting and getting to know one another on a social basis.” Four all-day sessions will be held this spring at the ASB with a graduation banquet in Montgomery the evening of May 17. ■

LEADERSHIP FORUM CLASS OF 2007

Shawn T. Alves	Stone, Granade & Crosby PC	Bay Minette
Reed Robertson Bates	Starnes & Atchison LLP	Birmingham
David Lee Brown, Jr.	Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart LLP	Birmingham
Joel Edward Brown	Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP	Birmingham
Laura Gibson Chain	White Arnold Andrews & Dowd PC	Birmingham
Christina Diane Crow	Jinks, Daniel & Crow LLC	Union Springs
Leatha Kay Gilbert	private practice	Birmingham
Nicholas Christian Glenos	Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP	Birmingham
Carol Paige Goldman	Energen Corporation	Birmingham
Wilson Franklin Green	Battle Fleenor Green Winn & Clemmer LLP	Tuscaloosa
Gregory Scott Griggers	District Attorney's Office	Demopolis
Frederick George Helmsing, Jr.	McDowell, Knight, Roedder & Sledge LLC	Mobile
Elizabeth Anne Sikes Hornsby	University of Alabama School of Law	Tuscaloosa
Edward Andrew Hosp	Maynard, Cooper & Gale PC	Birmingham
Robert Brent Irby	McCallum, Hoaglund, Cook & Irby LLP	Vestavia Hills
William Lovard Lee, IV	Lee & McInish	Dothan
William Richard Lunsford	Balch & Bingham LLP	Huntsville
Emily Coody Marks	Ball, Ball, Matthews & Novak PA	Montgomery
Marshall Clay Martin	Watson Jimmerson Martin McKinney Graffeo & Helms	Huntsville
Timothy Benson McCool	Kirk & McCool	Carrollton
Juan Carlos Ortega	Alford, Clausen & McDonald LLC	Mobile
George Robert Parker	Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP	Montgomery
Kimberly Till Powell	Balch & Bingham LLP	Birmingham
Sandra Beth Reiss	Ogletree Deakins	Birmingham
Braxton Paul Sherling	District Court of Coffee County	Enterprise
Ronald Howard Strawbridge, Jr.	Strawbridge, Strawbridge & Strawbridge LLC	Vernon
Paige Huddleston Sykes	Rogers & Associates	Birmingham
Melton Chad Tindol	University of Alabama Counsel's Office	Tuscaloosa
William Bernhart Wahlheim, Jr.	Maynard, Cooper & Gale PC	Birmingham
Lane Hines Woodke	U. S. Attorney's Office	Birmingham