

2019 BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS RUN-OFF ELECTION

CANDIDATE GUIDE (contested races)

Click the candidate's name below to view his/her photograph and biographical sketch (if submitted by the candidate)

25th Judicial Circuit

[Chrissy Riddle](#)

[Scott Shipman](#)

The 2019 Board of Bar Commissioners Run-Off Election will open on Monday, June 3, 2019. **All ballots must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. CT on Friday, June 7, 2019, to be counted.**

In order to access your online ballot, you will log in to your Dashboard on the Alabama State Bar website (www.alabar.org) and click the link to the online balloting site. Click [here](#) if you need assistance accessing your Alabama State Bar account.

Online balloting will be conducted by an external vendor, Election-America. All ballots are confidential and the Alabama State Bar will not have access to voter information during the election. After the close of the election, the Alabama State Bar will receive only certified election results from the vendor.

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CANDIDATE GUIDE

25th Judicial Circuit



Chrissy Riddle

J. Shane Cook, Attorney at Law, LLC

Haleyville, Alabama

NO BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY CANDIDATE

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CANDIDATE GUIDE

25th Judicial Circuit



B. Scott Shipman

Shipman & Associates, P.C.

Haleyville, Alabama

I grew up in the forest just north of Double Springs, Alabama, the 7th generation of my family to live in that neck of the woods. My father did everything from being a full-time firefighter to working in the coal mines when I was a youngster and later became an entrepreneur and small businessman. My mother worked as a secretary and later as an administrator for a home health care agency. I began working at my dad's self-serve car wash when I was twelve and learned that I didn't particularly enjoy shoveling out the drain after a livestock trailer had been cleaned.

My brother and I went to the University of Alabama as the first generation of my family to go to college. We had some measure of academic success and my brother became a mechanical engineer and I went on to law school at Cumberland. I borrowed money up to my eyeballs to pay tuition, room and board and was happy to clerk for a local firm. I made the Dean's list on occasion and managed to make the highest grade in the class in "Land Use Planning."

After law school, I took a job with a group of 3 lawyers in Athens who did primarily plaintiff's work and real estate. We also represented the local hospital and a few physicians' groups. My mentor was a fine trial lawyer named Jim Alexander who just happened to hail from Bear Creek, Alabama. Jim was a fine trial lawyer. After his death, I joined Jerry Batts who represented the City of Athens, the Athens City School Board, and various businesses. After Jerry later became a District Judge (and a fine one by all accounts), I formed a practice with 3 other lawyers and tried my hand at insurance defense work and occasionally helped one of my partners prosecute for a municipality. In 2005, I moved back home to Winston County where I have lived since and became a solo practitioner for the first time. While I have enjoyed the autonomy, I have felt the pressure of being solely responsible for all files, payroll and the electric bill.

Today my practice is mainly plaintiff's law, but I also take some criminal defense appointments, prosecute for the Town of Bear Creek, and draft the occasional will, POA, advanced directive and deed. I guess there isn't much I haven't done over my 25 years in practice. A few years ago, I began representing workers – and an occasional business - on claims of employment discrimination under Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Equal Pay Act and the Family and Medical Leave Act. Most of my pro bono work is done in workers' compensation. Workers truly need the help and the statutory limit on a worker's attorney's fees along with an archaic cap on certain benefits have driven most lawyers out of that area for good reason.

When I began working on the Board of Bar Commissioners about a year ago, I made it my mission to be a voice for the lawyers in the 25th Circuit. I have never missed a meeting. Because we primarily practice in rural areas, I made alliances with other lawyers in rural areas. Combined, we have become a force on the Commission and an effective voice for small-town lawyers practicing solo or in small firms. No longer do lawyers from larger firms in metropolitan areas dominate decisions by the Commission. I have developed ties with President Sam Irby and members of the Bar staff like Secretary Phillip McCallum and General Counsel Roman Shaul. I have been to Capitol Hill with the Bar's legislative counsel, Susie Edwards, to discuss with legislators concerns that affect our Circuit. These relationships have taken time and effort to build and will be beneficial to the lawyers in our Circuit in the upcoming full three-year term on the Commission.

President Irby placed me on two task forces: Board of Bar Examiners Restructure Task Force and the Legal Malpractice Insurance Task Force. Because I wanted to keep all lawyers in our Circuit informed, I have reported on the actions of these task forces by email and asked for input. I voiced opinions and worked to develop creative solutions. I am happy that the policies advanced by the task forces are consistent with the concerns of the lawyers in our Circuit, the Bar as a whole, and the public.

Note: Candidate professional/biographical information and photographs were due to the Alabama State Bar by Friday, April 26, 2019.

Only candidates who submitted items by the deadline are included in this guide, and all information appears as submitted by the candidate.