

# ALABAMA STATE BAR LEADERSHIP FORUM

## CLASS 15 – 2020

### Application Form

*“The most common and overwhelming problem facing us as attorneys is the de-humanizing of our profession. It is my strong belief that if we do not turn back the tide facing us in this regard, we as professionals are doomed to a fate that minimizes the value we can bring to society. The Forum continues to re-invent itself and evolve as the practice of law and the world around us changes. The Forum’s primary focus is to provide participants with the skills to effectuate changes.”* [Alumnus of Leadership Forum] Why should you change? The 2020 Leadership Forum will help you answer this question.

Applications must be completed and received by the Bar by 5:00 p.m. on **November 1, 2019**. Successful applicants will be notified the week of December 16, 2019. Class 15 will consist of no more than 30 participants.

Applicants must be in good standing with the Alabama State Bar and have practiced law for not less than 5 years and for not more than 16 years as of January 1, 2020 (based upon first admission to any state bar). **Mandatory attendance is required for the following:** Orientation and Training Session 15.1 – January 22, 2020 at 1:00 pm – January 24, 2020 at 3:00 pm, Orange Beach, Alabama; Session 15.2 – February 20, 2020 at 6:30 pm – February 21, 2020 at 5:00 pm, Tuscaloosa; Session 15.3 – March 25, 2020 at 6:30 pm – March 27, 2020 at 5:00 pm, Montgomery; Session 15.4 – April 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm – April 16, 2020 at 10:00 pm, Birmingham, with Graduation Ceremony at 7:00 pm preceded by Cocktail Party and Dinner at 6:00 pm. Spouse or one guest is invited to attend graduation without charge. Applicants are encouraged to apply **only if they commit to attend all sessions.**

Your application should contain the following components assembled in this order:

- (1) This application form, completed and signed by you and your employer if applicable.
- (2) Your Professional Resume or curriculum vitae (**not to exceed three pages**) that includes the following information:
  - a. education, work history and a short description of your practice of law (practice area, emphasis, etc.);
  - b. bar involvement – state and/or local (include any offices held and section/committee participation);
  - c. business and/or professional organization involvement (include any offices held); and
  - d. civic, charitable and/or community involvement (include any offices held);
- (3) A narrative summary (**not to exceed six pages, double-spaced**) that addresses:
  - a. why you should be selected as a participant in Class 15 of the Leadership Forum;
  - b. what you consider to be your most important contribution to the legal profession;
  - c. what you consider to be your most important contribution to the community; and
  - d. what you hope to gain from participation in Class 15 of the Leadership Forum;
- (4) One **substantial** letter of recommendation from someone not affiliated with your current employer. You are strongly encouraged to choose a recommender who knows you well and who can provide us with a detailed sense of who you are and why you would both contribute to and benefit from participation in Class 15 of the Leadership Forum. Impersonal letters of recommendation and those that merely restate the accomplishments listed on your personal resume are not helpful in the selection process. To assist your recommender, you should provide him or her with the “Special Note to Recommenders of Leadership Forum Applicants,” which is attached to this application form.

If you would like to be interviewed by a member of the selection committee after submitting your written application, please give us your best contact number. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed and completed applications may be submitted by e-mail to [leadershipforum@alabar.org](mailto:leadershipforum@alabar.org) Please send your narrative summary as a **Word document**. If you have any questions, please contact the Alabama State Bar Programs Department, (334) 269-1515, [leadershipforum@alabar.org](mailto:leadershipforum@alabar.org).

**Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum**

**Class 15 – 2020**

**Applicant Information**

*(please print or type)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Employer/Firm \_\_\_\_\_ Alabama State Bar ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street/Suite City State Zip Code

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

What is your primary area of practice? \_\_\_\_\_

Year of First Bar Admission \_\_\_\_\_ States Admitted \_\_\_\_\_

After acceptance letters are mailed, a \$850 tuition fee for each participant must be paid by January 15, 2020. Checks should be made payable to "Alabama State Bar." Members of Class 15 will be responsible for all travel and lodging costs arising from attendance at all sessions, including mandatory overnight attendance. Additionally, there will be social gatherings prior to each session. While not mandatory, the social events have contributed significantly to the overall experience of Leadership Forum participants. Any overnight lodging costs will be the responsibility of the members of Class 15.

Limited partial scholarship money may be available. If accepted to be a participant in Class 15, will you find it essential to seek scholarship assistance towards tuition fee? If so, what percentage? [If you mark 'yes' attach documentation supporting need.]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ %) No \_\_\_\_\_

The Leadership Forum was not created to be or developed as a CLE program. Applicants are discouraged to apply for admission to the Forum solely to receive CLE credit for financial reasons. However, because of the intensity and time commitment of the Forum we are offering to those members who graduate in 2020 14 hours of CLE credit which includes two hours of ethics/professionalism credit.

**Required Commitment: I understand and agree (a) to the purposes of the Leadership Forum, (b) that attendance at all sessions is mandatory and (c) that I will devote the time and resources necessary to complete the program.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant Date

**By submitting this application, I understand and agree that as part of the application process, The Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum Selection Committee and staff may contact my references and verify information provided.**

**Employer/Self-Employed Agreement**

**This applicant has the approval of this company/firm and if selected, the applicant has our full support, which includes any necessary time required to fully participate in the program. The Leadership Forum will serve formal notification of graduation status to employer.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Representative Employer

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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### Special Note to Recommenders of Leadership Forum Applicants

You have been asked to provide a letter of recommendation in support of an applicant for Class 15 of the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum. The Leadership Forum was initiated by the Alabama State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners in 2005 and has since grown and developed into a premier leadership training program for Alabama lawyers. The mission and stated goals of the Leadership Forum are as follows:

- To mold a critical mass of lawyers who will understand and appreciate the concept of servant leadership and be ambassadors for the principles associated with it.
- To form a pool of lawyers who will be leaders in the Alabama State Bar, state and local entities, local bar associations and community organizations.
- To change the trajectory of the State of Alabama through active leadership.
- To build a core of practicing lawyers who better understand the core values of ethics and professionalism and who will strive to raise the overall ethical and professional standards of the Bar as a whole.
- To raise the level of awareness of lawyers as to the purpose, operation and benefits of the Alabama State Bar.

Because of the many benefits of participation in the Leadership Forum, the selection process is highly competitive, and your letter of recommendation is very important to the Selection Committee in evaluating applicants. Applicants are evaluated entirely from a review of the application materials submitted.

In preparing your letter of recommendation, please provide us with a detailed sense of the following, in addition to any other information that you deem relevant to support the applicant:

- how you know the applicant;
- how you have observed the applicant demonstrate leadership ability through past accomplishments and/or current engagements;
- how you believe the applicant has demonstrated an understanding of the importance of servant leadership; and
- how you believe the applicant will both benefit from and contribute to the Leadership Forum if selected as a participant.

Impersonal letters of recommendation and those that merely restate the accomplishments listed on the applicant's personal resume are less helpful in the selection process. Your letter of recommendation may be any length.

We appreciate your support of the Leadership Forum.