

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This joint task force, comprised of members of the bench and the bar, is created with the goal of enhancing and improving the communication, collaboration, and overall relationship between the members of the bar and the judiciary. The goals of this task force shall be as follows:

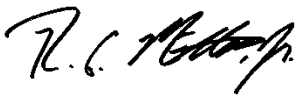
- (1) To examine issues of professionalism and civility between lawyers as well as between lawyers and judges with the goal of recommending and, if possible, implementing programs, guidelines, or seminars to improve the level of professionalism and civility in the practice of law.
- (2) To evaluate the effectiveness of the collaborative educational programs provided to the Bench and Bar and make recommendations for future educational programs that would be of interest to both the Bench and the Bar.
- (3) To examine and recommend ways in which the bar can assist the members of the judiciary in matters crucial to the administration of justice in Alabama including, without limitation, education of members of the judiciary and of the bar on issues related to judicial funding and court costs.
- (4) To examine and recommend other avenues of engagement to assist both the Bench and Bar in ways to better serve one another and the general public.
- (5) To evaluate the need for training for trial skills and trial decorum within the Bar and make recommendations on how the Bench and Bar can work together to implement that training, with a focus on lawyers with less than ten years of experience.
- (6) To review and make recommendations of any necessary changes to the Code of Professional Courtesy, which was approved by the Board of Bar Commissioners on April 10, 1992.

The task force may divide itself into such working groups as may be necessary to effectively carry out its functions. The chairperson shall appoint a chair for any working group. The task force shall elect from its membership a secretary who shall be responsible for a written record of its actions. The secretary, or a designee, shall keep minutes of all meetings of the task force, and of all working groups thereof. The original of the minutes shall be filed with the Alabama State Bar within 14 days after each meeting to be made a part of the task force's file.

This task force shall meet regularly, and shall provide timely written interim reports to the Alabama State Bar President, the Alabama State Bar Executive Committee, the Presiding Judge of the Circuit Judges' Association, and the Presiding Judge of the District Judges' Association, as the work of the task force develops. The task force shall, if possible, present an educational seminar at the joint Midyear Meeting as well as at the Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting and the judges' conference in July of 2021.

The Alabama State Bar, through its designated staff liaison, will assist the task force in carrying out its purpose.

Done this 26th day of August, 2020.



Robert G. Methvin, Jr., President
Alabama State Bar