

## PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Because of the dangers inherent in the infectious nature of COVID-19, the Supreme Court suspended all in-court in-person proceedings, including jury trials, until September 14, 2020. Subsequent to the Supreme Court's order, the judiciary has been reevaluating procedures to ensure access to the courts under the requirements of the Alabama Constitution while following the State's health and safety restrictions in light of the Governor's Proclamations regarding COVID-19.

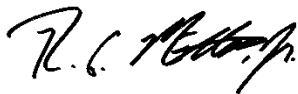
In anticipation of when the risk from COVID-19 has abated sufficiently for the Supreme Court to reinstate jury trials, the leadership of the Bench and Bar is cognizant of the need to insure that both criminal and civil demands for jury trials are met. In order to ensure an organized and expeditious return to civil jury trials, this Task Force of the Alabama Bench and Bar shall provide the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court recommendations or suggestions to promote an orderly and safe return to active civil jury trial dockets across the state.

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.

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

The task force and its working groups shall meet at the call of the chairperson or the working group chair, in person or by conference call as the chairperson and the working group chairs shall determine.

Done this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2020.



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