



SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

TOM PARKER, CHIEF JUSTICE
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MICHAEL F. BOLIN
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October 1, 2020

Dear Bar Admittee:

On behalf of the Judiciary of the State of Alabama, let me congratulate you on passing the bar examination, and especially during the historic challenges posed by this COVID-19 season. Years of your hard work and sacrifice, and probably that of others too, have brought you to this point. As a new Alabama attorney, you join nearly 18,000 members of the Alabama State Bar practicing this noble profession.

As an attorney and an officer of the court, you will play a key role in securing equal justice under the law. While our Constitution provides the right to counsel for indigent criminal defendants, and the contingent fee system may provide for some who have suffered personal injury, thousands of poor Alabama citizens remain unable to access justice in consumer, housing, employment and other types of cases based solely upon their inability to pay.

In addition to this month being your first month as a lawyer, October is designated as Pro Bono Month. The Holy Bible admonishes us that "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35). And that "to whom much is given, from him much will be required." (Luke 12:28). Furthermore, the Pro Bono Pledge signed by many Alabama attorneys states, in part:

"I pledge that my future endeavors will include time each year to render service to my community through activities such as volunteering, mentoring, participating in legal clinics, serving on boards, working in public interest or public service and providing legal services regardless of a client's ability to pay."

In your legal career you will be given numerous opportunities to fulfill that pledge to render service, but I urge you not to wait. Visit <https://www.alabar.org/programs/volunteer-lawyers-program/> to sign up for the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program right away.

Congratulations, and with your continued diligence and service toward others, I believe you will find the practice of law to be a deeply rewarding experience.

Sincerely,

Tom Parker
Chief Justice