

2021 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION

CANDIDATE GUIDE (contested races)

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

4th Judicial Circuit

[Elizabeth Hollie](#)

[Kyra L. Sparks](#)

10th Judicial Circuit, Place 8

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The 2021 Alabama State Bar Election will open on Monday, May 17, 2021.
All ballots must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. CT on Friday, May 21, 2020, 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.

2021 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

4th Judicial Circuit



Elizabeth Hollie
Legal Services Alabama
Selma, Alabama

Profile

Elizabeth A. Hollie is a resident of Dallas County and is an experienced attorney with two decades working in the legal field prior to becoming an Attorney. Elizabeth managed her own law firm, The Hollie Law Firm, before accepting a position with Legal Services Alabama where she is currently the Managing Attorney. Currently, Elizabeth practices civil, family and property litigation and desires to serve as Bar Commissioner for the 4th Judicial Circuit.

Education

Birmingham School of Law, JD, 2015

University of Alabama Birmingham, Bachelor of Arts, 2010

Experience

Legal Services Alabama 2017 – Present

The Hollie Law Firm, Owner 2016 - 2017

Affiliations & Service

Alabama State Bar (2016 – Present)

Dallas County Bar Association (2021)

Black Belt Bar Association (2018 – Present)

Alabama State Bar Diversity & Inclusion in the Profession Committee (2019-Present)

Alabama State Bar Specialization & Certification Task Force (2019-2020)

Alabama State Bar Membership Relations Task Force (2019-2020)

Magic City Bar Association (2011 – 2017)

American Bar Association (2016 - 2018)

Board Member – Glenda Davis Deese Foundation

Note: Candidate professional/biographical information and photographs were due to the Alabama State Bar by Friday, April 30, 2021. Only candidates who submitted items by the deadline are included in this guide, and all information appears as submitted by the candidate.

2021 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

4th Judicial Circuit



Kyra L. Sparks
Selma, Alabama

Kyra L. Sparks has been a member of the Alabama State Bar for 33 years and an Alabama resident since 1979. After moving to Alabama from Detroit, Kyra earned her Bachelor Degree in criminal justice from Troy State University. She went on to Tuscaloosa where she attended the University of Alabama for her Master Degree in criminal justice, and The University of Alabama School of Law for her Juris Doctor.

She began her professional career working as a law clerk; first for the Tuscaloosa County District Attorney's Child Support unit, and then for the late Honorable Robert M. Harper in Lee County, Alabama. In 1989, she began working in Mobile as a staff attorney for the Legal Services Corporation of Alabama. She was hired as the Domestic Violence Project Coordinator for the Selma office of Legal Services in 1991. She remained in that position until opening her private practice in 1995.

In the 26 years since opening her private practice she has handled a variety of cases. She primarily handles personal injury cases, represents claimants before the Social Security Administration, and indigent criminal defendants. As a criminal defense attorney she has handled over 30 capital murder cases.

Kyra was appointed as the first female municipal court judge in the city of Selma, Alabama in 1998. In addition to being the presiding judge, maintaining her practice and serving as an at-large Alabama State Bar commissioner in 2005, Kyra taught as an adjunct professor at Concordia College Selma. She went on to develop and serve as the program coordinator for Concordia's Criminal Justice Program. She became Concordia's Title IX investigator while attending Capella University's School of Public Service Leadership Ph.D Program.

She has served on the boards of several local nonprofit organizations including, the West Alabama Easter Seals and the Central Alabama Humane Society. Kyra has a passion for agricultural education. Hundred's of elementary students have been introduced to exotic animals at her farm or at their schools at no charge. Kyra is a mother and grandmother. She has a 29 year old daughter. She was a foster mom to over 15 children, one of whom, is her 15 year old son, that she adopted.

2021 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

10th Judicial Circuit, Place 8



Ashley Reitz Peinhardt

Hare Wynn

Birmingham, Alabama

Ashley's practice is concentrated in the areas of medical malpractice and she has a particular interest in birth trauma litigation. Ashley considers it an honor to stand up healthcare providers, big corporations, and insurance companies. She loves being able to be an advocate and a voice for families and children who have been victims of medical negligence.

She has had many multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements. Her first jury trial resulted in a \$15 million verdict against a gas station that sold alcohol to minors without checking for identification. Ashley argued that case in front of The Alabama Supreme Court, where the verdict was affirmed, making it the largest damages judgment affirmed in 20 years.

Leadership and community service are important to Ashley, as evidenced by her involvement with the Birmingham Bar Association, Alabama Association for Justice, Alabama State Bar, and Leadership Birmingham. Ashley was also a member of the Leadership Alabama Initiative. She was on the Executive Committee of the Birmingham Bar Young Lawyers. She was elected to the Birmingham Bar Association Executive Committee in 2019. She is a member of the Birmingham Bar Foundation Board. She served as President of the Alabama Association for Justice Emerging Leaders Board. She is a member of Class 5 of the Birmingham Bar Association Future Leaders Forum and she was also a member of Class 12 of The Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum.

Outside of the courtroom, Ashley is an Adjunct Professor at Cumberland School of Law where she teaches Trial Advocacy. Ashley has coached the Hoover High School Trial Team and HASS trial teams. She has taught public speaking and critical thinking skills at Restoration Academy, a school for at-risk, inner-city children. She loves being a mom to her six-year-old daughter, Charlotte.

Ashley received her postgraduate degree from the Cumberland School of Law, where she was active in the trial advocacy program. She was a member of Cumberland's National Trial Team, and for two years in a row, brought home the trophy in the Texas Young Lawyers Association's National Trial Competition. She also received the James H. Roberts "Best Advocate" Award.

In 2015, Ashley was selected as one of AL.com's "Women Who Shape the State," B-Metro's "Top Women Lawyers" and in Business Alabama, Top Attorneys in Alabama, as a "Rising Star". In 2016, Ashley was selected as a "Rising Star" by Birmingham Business Journal and in 2018, she was named to the publication's One To Watch: Top Influencers Under 40. Ashley has been named a "Rising Star" by B-Metro magazine since 2015. She has also been selected by The National Trial Lawyers as a "Top 40 Under 40 Trial Lawyer." She has been a Super Lawyer – "Rising Star" since 2014. Recently, Ashley was named to the Top 25 Medical Malpractice Trial Lawyers by The National Trial Lawyers and honored as a "Best Lawyer" by Best Lawyers in America®.

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2021 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

10th Judicial Circuit, Place 8



Ryan Robichaux

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings

Birmingham, Alabama

Ryan Robichaux has practiced law in Birmingham for 12 years. He is a Partner in Bradley's Birmingham office and specializes in elections, ethics, and governmental relations law. He has served on numerous committees and task forces of both the Birmingham Bar Association and the Alabama State Bar since joining the legal profession.

Ryan presently serves as the Chair of the Elections, Ethics and Government Relations Section of the Alabama State Bar, a member of the Executive Committee of the Birmingham Bar Association, and a member of the Government Relations Liaison Committee of the Alabama State Bar. He previously served as President of the Young Lawyers Section of the Birmingham Bar Association. He also participated in both the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum and the Birmingham Bar Association Future Leaders Forum. Ryan is an active member of the University of Alabama School of Law Alumni Society.

Ryan is also active in the nonprofit community. He currently serves on the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA) Roundtable, an independent research center in Birmingham that seeks to inform and improve the decision-making of state and local leaders in Alabama through objective research and analysis. Ryan is an active supporter and former member of the Advisory Council of Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School in Titusville, which combines a corporate work-study program with a high school curriculum to empower students from economically challenged communities.

If elected, Ryan would bring unique experience to the Board of Bar Commissioners (BBC). In addition to being a governmental affairs lawyer, Ryan has significant civil and administrative litigation experience. Ryan's litigation, corporate and political law experience would offer beneficial perspectives and help the BBC represent the wide range of legal practices in Jefferson County. Ryan is a member of the Bar in the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi, and his multi-state experience would also benefit the BBC.

2021 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

15th Judicial Circuit, Place 2



Sebrina L. Martin

*Montgomery Divorce Law
Montgomery, Alabama*

Sebrina L. Martin is the founder of Montgomery Divorce Law. Sebrina serves as an advocate for children and families throughout the State of Alabama in trial courts and appellate courts.

Prior to entering private practice, Sebrina was an active member of Phi Alpha Delta Distinguished Public Interest Fellow while attending Jones School of Law. She also served as a magistrate for the City of Montgomery and serves on the Quality Assurance Committee for the Montgomery County Department of Human Resources. Before practicing law, she was active volunteer with the Family Justice Center and Legal Service Alabama.

Now, she is renowned for her service to firm's clientele in that she is an American Institute of Family Law Attorneys Top Ten Female Attorney for Alabama for the 2017. Additionally, she has been recognized for her pro bono service with the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Outside the courtroom, Sebrina is active in her community and state. She is a member of such organizations as, but not limited to, the National Alliance of Mental Illness, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Business Association, the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, the Business Council of Alabama, and the Alabama Association for Justice.

Sebrina advocates for children beyond her law practice as she is a sponsor for That's My Child and a partner with the Children's First Alliance.

Sebrina is married to fellow attorney Jesse Heifner and is a member of First Baptist Church of Montgomery.

2021 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

15th Judicial Circuit, Place 2



Pat Sefton

*Sasser, Sefton & Brown
Montgomery, Alabama*

Pat Sefton is running for a second term on the Alabama State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners. Pat is the managing shareholder of Sasser, Sefton & Brown, P.C. and practices in the areas of commercial litigation, employment law, banking law and general litigation. Pat has practiced in Montgomery County for the past 25 years. He is licensed to practice in state and federal trial courts in Alabama and Georgia as well as the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Auburn University, where he was President of the Student Government Association and an officer in Sigma Nu Fraternity. He received his law degree from the University of Alabama, where he was a member of the A.B.A. National Trial Advocacy Team and the Bench and Bar Legal Honor Society.

Pat is a past President of both the Montgomery County Bar Association and the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association. He is a past Alabama State Representative to the Defense Research Institute, the largest national association of defense trial lawyers. He also has served for many years as one of the Chairs of the State Bar Character and Fitness Committee. Pat is currently serving as a Co-Chair of the Alabama State Bar Governance and Internal Operations Task Force and is a graduate of Class 2 of the State Bar Leadership Forum.

For the past ten years, Pat has been inducted into Alabama “Super Lawyers” in the area of Banking Law. He has been a lecturer for the Alabama Bar Institute’s Continuing Legal Education Programs, MCBA CLE and has made numerous presentations for national, state and local trade associations on a variety of legal issues.

For the past seven years, Pat has served as the head coach of the Ezekiel Academy boys’ soccer team and is a past member of the Ezekiel Academy Board of Directors. He and his wife, Anne, are parents of four children and attend Church of the Highlands where he has been an active member of the small groups team.

2021 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

23rd Judicial Circuit, Place 4



Christine Frieder
Huntsville, Alabama

I have been a member in good standing since 2008. My current practice focuses on family law and criminal defense law; however, I have experience in general civil practice as well. I graduated from the Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 2007, where I served as a Student Ambassador and as President of the Student Animal Law Defense Fund.

Since opening my practice in 2008, I have served on the Executive Committee for the Madison County Young Lawyers Group and was awarded Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year for 2016, a distinction also recognized that year by the Alabama State Bar. I served on the Appointed Counsel and Indigent Representation Committee from 2017-2018. I have also been the President of the Madison County Bar Association's Women's Law Section since 2016.

I want to be on the Bar Commission because the needs in Madison County are different from those of other counties. Our continuous growth combined with the bursting judicial dockets means that Madison County's resources are strained. Because I have always been a solo practitioner, I want to represent not only the more established firms but those in small and solo firms. I am a strong supporter of our appointed system for criminal defense.

I want to learn from all of the members of the 23rd Judicial District about the concerns and successes you have in your own practice areas. Together we can create a bar that is fully representative of all.

I am an avid reader and animal lover. I have lived in Huntsville the majority of my life and am proud to call it home.

2021 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

23rd Judicial Circuit, Place 4



Clay Martin
Martin & Helms
Huntsville, Alabama

Co-founder of the law firm of Martin & Helms, P.C., in Huntsville, Alabama. Born and raised in Decatur, Alabama. Obtained undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama in finance in 1992. Graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1995. While in law school, was a member of Bench and Bar Legal Honor Society and served as Vice-President of the Student Bar Association.

Currently a member of the Alabama State Bar, the Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association, the American Association for Justice, the American Bar Association, and the Alabama Association for Justice. Also, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a member of the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum, Class of 2007.

Currently serve on the Board of Bar Commissioners (1 of 4 from Madison Co.) and will serve this coming year on the Executive Committee for the Alabama State Bar. Served as President of the Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association in 2013-2014. Served as President of the American Inns of Court, Madison County Chapter 2004-2005. Served on the Board of Governors (1 of 4 from AL), as well as a State Delegate and serve currently on the National Finance Committee for the American Association for Justice. Serve on the Executive Committee for the Alabama Association of Justice. Also, served on the Madison County Judicial Commission.

Participated in the Trial Lawyers Care Pro Bono project which provided legal representation for victims making claims with the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund of 2001. Served on the Board of Directors for United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley for over thirteen years and was the Board's President in 2007-2008. Recipient of the Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association's Community Service Award in 2009. Founded and chaired Huntsville, Alabama's Annual Krispy Kreme Challenge Run as a fundraiser for UCP. In 2011, Martin & Helms, P.C., was honored with the Small Firm of the Year Award by the Madison County Volunteer Lawyer's Program. While President of the Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association, started the Bar's Legal Action Line in partnership with WHNT and formed as well as served on the committee which brought the Alabama Supreme Court to Huntsville to conduct a live hearing in front of over 1100 local high school seniors. In 2020, Martin & Helms, P.C. received the Attorney General's Cup as winners of the Alabama Legal Food Frenzy by donating the equivalent of 15,000 meals.

Married to Kim Bessiere Martin, and we are the proud parents of two girls. Met Kim in law school, and we have practiced law in Huntsville since graduating from law school. Kim serves on the managing board of Bradley Arant Boult & Cummings. Kim is also a Past-President of the Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association. We are members of First United Methodist Church in Huntsville, where we have served as teachers for the childrens' church program.

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