

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Pro Bono and Public Service Committee should promote access to justice through the governance and management of the Volunteer Lawyers Program, primarily focusing on promoting the growth of the program into all areas of the state, including, but not limited to, recruitment and recognition of volunteers. In carrying out its mission and purpose, the committee should seek assistance and cooperation of other committees and task forces of the Alabama State Bar as well as the various specialty bars and sections of the Alabama State Bar. Particular mention is made of the committee's need to work with and support outreach and communication to local and circuit bar associations in the medium and small bar associations.

The committee will also formulate a strategic plan for its work in the future to promote programs and projects that will assist in improving access to justice for all citizens of our state. This process should involve members, stakeholders and consultants in completing this process.

The committee should also investigate and if appropriate, implement other avenues of pro bono outreach and service such as limited representation models and rules, pro bono continuing education conferences to educate and engage members, and any other avenue the committee deems appropriate.

As the challenge for funding sources increases each year, the committee should identify and format its work to complement funding sources that are available to implement its work in a coordinated effort with local VLP programs throughout the state as well as with Legal Services and other entities. The goal in this charge is to maximize resources available to reach the highest and best use of volunteers in individual representation efforts as well as in clinics, and through any other form or model of service to the indigent and the poor.

The committee shall also evaluate the Natural Disaster response program in place for the Alabama State Bar and coordinate with the Young Lawyers Section of the Alabama State Bar to develop an effective Natural Disaster response program.

The committee should elect from its membership a secretary who will be responsible for a written record of its actions. The secretary, or a designee, should keep minutes of all meetings of the committee, or any subcommittee. The original of the minutes should be filed with the Alabama State Bar within 14 days after the meetings, to be made a part of the committee's permanent file.

The committee may divide itself into such subcommittees as may be necessary to effectively carry out its functions. The chairperson should appoint sub-chairs for each subcommittee.

The committee and subcommittees should meet at the call of the chairperson or sub-chair, as needed, and attendance at all meetings is necessary for continued involvement on the committee. Meetings should be held as much as possible through conference calls but the committee as a whole should meet in person at least four times during the year.

Done this 22nd day of July, 2022.



C. Gibson Vance