



Alabama State Bar

YEAR IN REVIEW

2



22-23



334.269.1515
415 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Gibson Vance
2022-23 President

I am so appreciative of the opportunity to have served as president of the Alabama State Bar over the last 13 months. This opportunity has confirmed what I already knew: Lawyers are my favorite people! More importantly, lawyers do more for their communities than any other profession. I started last summer with two goals: to take the message of the bar to its members and to put lawyer wellness in the forefront, and I am proud to say we accomplished those goals. Last summer, we set out on the Drive for Five, a 41-circuit tour of the state to promote the Lawyers Helpline and the five free hours of confidential counseling now available for all members. In total, more than 2,200 members turned out for our visits and CLE presentations.

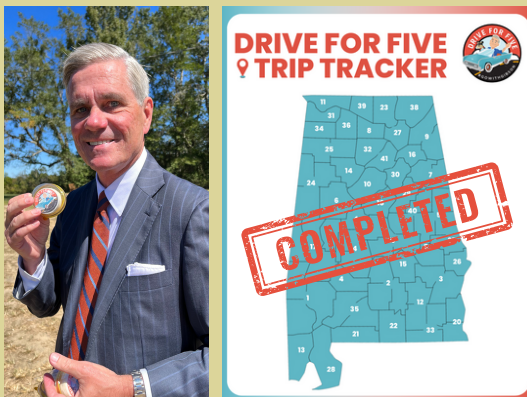
LAWYERS HELPLINE
1-800-605-8678

49 MEMBERS USED THE
LAWYERS HELPLINE
2,200+ ATTENDED DRIVE
FOR FIVE CLES

Lawyer Well-Being: The Drive for Five



Nearly 50 lawyers reached out for help and counseling through the Lawyers Helpline. As I finish this year of service to the bar, I feel optimistic about the programs in that will continue to improve the way we take care of ourselves so we can better serve our clients.



I am deeply and sincerely grateful for the many people who have helped me over the past year. I have no doubt that the Alabama State Bar will be in good hands and on a steady course with Brannon Buck at its helm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe this bar year is in the rearview mirror, and what a year it has been! I thank Gibson for his vision and endurance to see his Drive for Five initiative through to the end. Each member who attended our events saw his passion for meaningful outreach and attorney wellness. We also appreciate the help of the bar commissioners and judges who helped us take the message across the state. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Alabama State Bar as we know it today. While we began as a voluntary statewide association in 1879, the efforts of those leaders to improve the profession culminated on August 9, 1923. On that day, with the approval of an act of the Alabama Legislature, the bar became an agency of the state, making membership mandatory and allowing the Supreme Court of Alabama to regulate aspects of the profession. As we mark the centennial anniversary of your bar, I am reminded that we are, right now, charting the course for the next 100 years. I am very optimistic about the collective strengths of our elected leadership, our staff, and you – our 19,245 members – to leave a legacy that will create a vibrant future for Alabama’s lawyers. We stand ready and excited to write the next chapter of the Alabama State Bar.



Terri B. Lovell
Executive Director

Terri B. Lovell

About the Bar

The Alabama State Bar is the official licensing and regulatory agency for lawyers in Alabama. Created in 1879, we became the unified bar we are today in 1923 by an act of the legislature. Since then, ASB programs and activities have continuously served the public and improved the justice system.

Core Values



Mission

To promote the professional responsibility and competence of its members, improve the administration of justice, and increase the public understanding of and respect for the law.

Vision

To help members be their best so they can better serve others

LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

Jeff Utsey
1st Circuit

Jason Simmons
2nd Circuit

Elizabeth Smithart
3rd Circuit

Kyra Sparks
4th Circuit

Brian Strength
5th Circuit

Josh Hayes
Scott Holmes
6th Circuit

Will Broome
7th Circuit

David Langston
8th Circuit

Dana Grimes
9th Circuit

Conrad Anderson
Erik Heninger
LaBella McCallum
Andrew Nix
Ryan Robichaux
Freddy Rubio
Allison Skinner
John Smyth
Jimbo Terrell
10th Circuit

Kenneth Moore
10th Circuit
Bessemer Cutoff

Leigh Anne Landis
11th Circuit

Carmen Howell
12th Circuit

Fred Helmsing
Edwin Lamberth
Bill Lancaster
Steve Nicholas
Jim Rebarchak
13th Circuit

Richard Fikes
14th Circuit

Joel Connally
Leon Hampton, Jr.
Felicia Long
David Martin
Bobby Poundstone
Pat Sefton
15th Circuit

Brad Cornett
16th Circuit

Tom Perry
17th Circuit

Mark Boardman
Clay Carr
Anne Glass
18th Circuit

Tina Moon
19th Circuit

Cliff Mendheim
20th Circuit

Kirk Garrett
21st Circuit

Manish Patel
22nd Circuit

Mark Debro
Clay Martin
Doug Martinson
Robin Wolfe
23rd Circuit

Scott Foster
24th Circuit

Chrissy Riddle
25th Circuit

Jorja Loftin
26th Circuit

Clint Maze
27th Circuit

Lang Floyd
Steven Savarese
28th Circuit

Sally Bowers
29th Circuit

John Rea
30th Circuit

Edgar Black
31st Circuit

Matthew Carter
32nd Circuit

Bob Brogden
33rd Circuit

Jeff Bowling
34th Circuit

Bob McMillan
35th Circuit

Christy Graham
36th Circuit

Andrew Stanley
37th Circuit

Deborah Dunsmore
38th Circuit

Don Mansell
39th Circuit

Mallory Whitley
40th Circuit

Brett King
41st Circuit

Angela Kennedy
At-Large, Place 1

Raymond Bell
At-Large, Place 2

Holly Sawyer
At-Large, Place 3

Judge Chuck Price
At-Large, Place 4

Jana Garner
At-Large, Place 5

Kira Fonteneau
At-Large, Place 6

Leila Watson
At-Large, Place 7

Mitch Kemmer
At-Large, Place 8

John Stamps
At-Large, Place 9

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



Gibson Vance
President



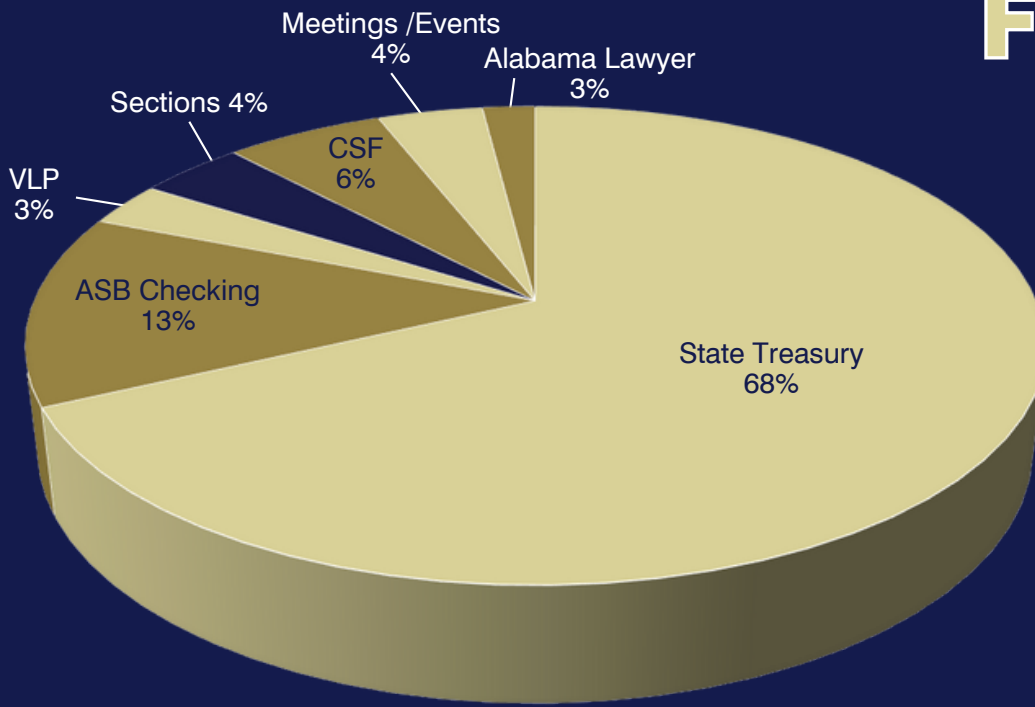
Brannon Buck
President Elect



Elizabeth Vance
President Elect



FINANCIAL REPORT



From July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, the finance department processed disbursements and receipts totaling \$8.3 million and \$9.3 million, respectively, for the ASB and its related foundations. In addition, the department monitors all invested funds.

Other duties of this department include providing reporting to meet tax and other financial reporting deadlines required by state and federal guidelines; handling all travel pre-approvals and reimbursements for the agency; formulating and submitting the annual state budget appropriation as approved by the board of bar commissioners; and compiling all required documents for examinations/audits performed by the Examiner of Public Accounts and external auditors.

Notable Achievements

- 1 Collaborated with leadership to devise a financial compliance plan to conform to current regulations
- 2 Automated the pro hac vice annual renewal fee collection process
- 3 Implemented paperless processes for report circulation
- 4 Worked with programs department to streamline the meeting registration process

HIGHLIGHTS

PRO BONO MONTH

On Oct. 1, Governor Kay Ivey signed a proclamation declaring October as Pro Bono Month in Alabama to educate the public about the extensive community work of Alabama lawyers.



ADMISSIONS CEREMONY

On Oct. 20, we celebrated more than 250 new admittees at the annual Bar Admission Ceremony in Montgomery.



MID-YEAR MEETING

The Alabama State Bar hosted a Mid-Year Meeting in Mobile, on Jan. 18-20. More than 180 lawyers attended and 23 CLEs were presented.

Attorneys who attended our Noontime Knowledge Luncheon on Thursday were inspired by retired NFL quarterback Ryan Leaf, who shared his story of addiction and the journey through his recovery.



HALL OF FAME

The Alabama State Bar inducted five new attorneys into the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame on May 5. The inductees of the 2022 class were Harold Vaughan Hughston, James Taylor Jones, Arthur Alexander Madison, Clarence Frost Rhea, and Janie Ledlow Shores.



FRED GRAY, SR. COURTYARD GROUNDBREAKING



On Apr. 19, Fred Gray, Sr. and his family joined leaders of the Alabama State Bar to officially break ground on the Fred Gray, Sr. Courtyard adjacent to the bar's offices in Montgomery. The new installations that will be constructed inside the courtyard will honor Mr. Gray and his life's work of advocating for civil rights and underserved communities.



LEGAL FOOD FRENZY

The 8th Annual Alabama Legal Food Frenzy raised \$71,679.29 to fight hunger, which equates to more than 350,000 meals for food-insecure Alabamians. In all, 44 law firms and legal organizations participated in the 2023 competition, and this year brought the largest outcome in the fundraiser's history.



Congratulations to Martin & Helms P.C. in Huntsville for winning the Attorney General's Cup, marking the fourth year in a row this law firm has won top honors.



LAW DAY: MAY 1

Gov. Kay Ivey presented the Alabama State Bar with a proclamation which highlights this year's theme, Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration.

To commemorate this year's theme, Alabama attorneys visited classrooms throughout the state, either virtually or in person, to talk to students about the profession of law, discuss the benefits of remaining civil in a disagreement, and understand the importance of civil discourse in society.



LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

The Alabama State Bar hosted a breakfast on May 18 for new legislators along with Judiciary Committee Chairs Senator Will Barfoot and Representative Jim Hill. This was a great event that gave us the opportunity to inform newly elected members of the legislature about the Alabama State Bar and how we serve the public and the profession.



MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT

19,245

ACTIVE MEMBERS

2,055

MEMBERS ADMITTED
IN THE LAST 3 YEARS

571

MEMBERS ADMITTED
FOR 50+ YEARS



CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION



190,722

NUMBER OF CLE CREDIT HOURS
AWARDED TO ASB MEMBERS



18,414

CLE COURSES COMPLETED ON-DEMAND
ON OUR FREE PROLEARN PORTAL



8,885

TEACHING CREDITS AWARDED TO ASB
MEMBERS WHO WERE CLE PRESENTERS



130

ATTORNEYS CERTIFIED TO THE
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY

65%
MALE

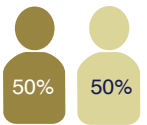


35%
FEMALE



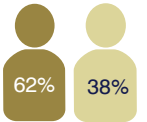
17.3%

36 OR YOUNGER



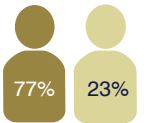
50.8%

37-59 YEARS OLD



31.9%

60+ YEARS OLD



8,739

MEMBERS INVOLVED IN
ONE OR MORE OF
THE ASB'S 31 SECTIONS

749

MEMBERS SERVING ON
ONE OR MORE OF THE
ASB'S 38 COMMITTEES
AND TASK FORCES

BAR EXAM STATS

823 TOTAL EXAMINEES

46.7% PASSAGE RATE

399 ADMITTED BY EXAM

123 ADMITTED BY UBE

57 ADMITTED BY RECIPROCITY

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

874

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED



831

COMPLAINTS SCREENED OUT

248

FORMAL INVESTIGATIONS

PRIVATE REPRIMANDS	15
PUBLIC REPRIMANDS	15
SUSPENSIONS	8
DISBARMENT	1
CONSENTS TO DISBARMENT	3
SURRENDERS OF LICENSE	2
TRANSERS TO INACTIVE STATUS	6
PROBATION*	3

*IN CONNECTION WITH DISCIPLINE



2,250+

FREE ETHICS OPINIONS*
ISSUED BY ASB'S ETHICS
COUNSEL TO MEMBERS

*INFORMAL

LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT



Hosted **6** free CLEs with an average of
202 attendees per CLE.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Alabama State Bar members have access to valuable educational programs and select discounts on products and services to benefit both your practice and work-life balance, as well as invaluable resources and information to enhance your professional success.



7 New member benefits for a total of **46**
member benefits

The ASB provides every member with Fastcase, a legal research tool. The free material provided to each member would typically cost **\$995**, but ASB members receive it for **FREE**.

Fastcase usage by ASB members:

First-time logins **900+**
Total logins **53,000+**
Total transactions **1,100,000+**

ALABAMA LAWYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ALAP provides immediate and continuing confidential help to lawyers, judges, and law students who suffer from addiction, depression, and other mental health issues. Services are strictly confidential. The sole aim of the program is recovery.

CONTACT:

(334) 517-2238

24-hours at (334) 224-6920



200+ ATTORNEYS &
STUDENTS CURRENTLY
SERVED BY ALAP

600+

HOURS OF COUNSELING
PROVIDED LAST YEAR

ASB INVOLVEMENT

LEADERSHIP FORUM: CLASS 17

Robert Baxley
Alex Caudell
Autumn Caudell
Darius Crayton
Ryan Duplechin
Jillian Evans
James Feltham
Coty Hand
Jessie Hardy
Effie Hawthorne
Irving Jones, Jr.
Kimberly King
Kristy Kirkland
Don Long, III
Meredith Maitrejean
Yawanna McDonald
Keren McElvy
Julie McMakin
Tiffany Ray
Angela Schaefer
Tiffany Smith
Claire Veal



SECTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
APPELLATE PRACTICE
BANKRUPTCY AND COMMERCIAL LAW
BUSINESS LAW
BUSINESS TORTS AND ANTITRUST LAW
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
DISABILITIES LAW
DISPUTE RESOLUTION
ELDER LAW
ELECTIONS, ETHICS, AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS LAW
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
FAMILY LAW
FEDERAL COURT PRACTICE
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS
HEALTH LAW
IN-HOUSE COUNSEL AND GOVERNMENT LAWYERS
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS
INTERNATIONAL LAW
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW
LEADERSHIP FORUM ALUMNI
LITIGATION
NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS
OIL, GAS, AND MINERAL LAW
REAL PROPERTY, PROBATE, AND TRUST
SENIOR LAWYERS
SOLO AND SMALL FIRM
TAXATION LAW
WOMEN'S SECTION
WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW
YOUNG LAWYERS

COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

ALABAMA LAWYER BOARD OF EDITORS
APPOINTED COUNSEL AND INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMITTEE
BENCH AND BAR RELATIONS
BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS
BYLAWS TASK FORCE
CHARACTER AND FITNESS
CLIENT SECURITY FUND
COURT TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE
CUBA (INTERNATIONAL) TASK FORCE
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY RULES AND ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE PROFESSION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS LIAISON COMMITTEE
INSURANCE BENEFITS
JUDICIAL CONFERENCE FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA
LAWYER IN EVERY CLASSROOM
LAWYER PUBLIC RELATIONS TASK FORCE
LAWYERS VOICES FOR SURVIVORS TASK FORCE
LAWYERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE
LEADERSHIP FORUM SELECTION & PROGRAM COMMITTEE
LEGAL FOOD FRENZY TASK FORCE
LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE
MEMBER BENEFITS COMMITTEE
MILITARY LAW COMMITTEE
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
QUALITY OF LIFE, HEALTH, AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE
SPECIALIZATION AND CERTIFICATION TASK FORCE
UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW COMMITTEE

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM



4,798

PEOPLE SCREENED FOR ELIGIBILITY

2,021

ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS ENROLLED

1,401

TOTAL HOURS OF PRO BONO SERVICE

9

WILLS FOR HEROES CLINICS HELD

52

WALK-IN OR VIRTUAL LEGAL AID CLINICS HELD

396

QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY ATTORNEYS THROUGH ALABAMA.FREELEGALANSWERS.ORG

4

FREE LEGAL AID CLINICS FOR STORM VICTIMS IN SELMA

The VLP offers you a simple, well-organized mechanism for fulfilling your professional responsibility to make legal counsel available to citizens. Equally important, our volunteer attorneys gain excellent client and courtroom experience since they are fully in charge of their pro bono cases. Cases accepted by volunteer attorneys are covered by the program's malpractice insurance.

Each year, thousands of Alabama lawyers donate their professional skills, time, and expertise to assist low-income families and individuals who cannot afford to hire a lawyer and would otherwise be unable to receive access to civil legal assistance. This pro bono work is critical for families living in poverty and highly fulfilling for the attorneys who provide the service.

Alabama has five Volunteer Lawyer Programs:
Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program
Volunteer Lawyers Birmingham
Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program
Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program
South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE



OVER 15,000 CALLS TO LRS

50 REFERRALS / DAY

There are thousands of Alabamians of moderate means who have no idea how to find a lawyer and appear to underutilize attorneys. The Alabama State Bar Lawyer Referral Service is an ideal way to assist paying clients to locate a competent attorney who charges a reasonable fee to complete a legal task efficiently and in a timely manner.

The fee for membership is \$100 per year and includes up to 10 practice areas. Additional practice areas are available for \$5 each per year. Individuals joining the service on April 1 or later will be charged \$50 for the remainder of the fiscal year and will need to renew in September to remain in the service after September 30th. Charges will not be further prorated for those who join at other times of the year.

COMMUNICATIONS



THE SCOOP E-NEWSLETTER

57.61% OPEN RATE

8,231 AVERAGE WEEKLY UNIQUE OPENS

THE ALABAMA LAWYER IS MAILED TO

MORE THAN 15,000 MAILED IN-STATE

ALL 50 STATES AND 20 COUNTRIES



16 LAWYER-AUTHORS ON AVERAGE PER ISSUE



19,000+ ISSUES MAILED BI-MONTHLY



WEBSITE

www.alabar.org

1,700,000
PAGE VIEWS

1,220,000
UNIQUE PAGE VIEWS

320,000

CLICKS ON THE "FIND A MEMBER" DIRECTORY

SOCIAL MEDIA

24,995

FOLLOWERS

Total page follows across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter

217,841

REACH

Total number of views our posts received across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

22,184

REACTIONS

Total amount of likes, comments, and shares on posts across Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn



@AlabamaStateBar



Alabama State Bar



Alabama State Bar



@alabamastatebar

STAFF DIRECTORY

Administrative

Terri Lovell, Executive Director
terri.lovell@alabar.org
Michelle Shaw, Executive Assistant
Chad Coker, Director of Operations

Admissions

Karen Laneaux, Director of Admissions
karen.laneaux@alabar.org
LaDonna Vinson, Admissions Coordinator
Sonia Douglas, Administrative Assistant

Attorney Licensing and Regulatory

Cathy Sue McCurry, Licensing and Regulatory Coordinator
cathysue.mccurry@alabar.org
Angie Fuqua, Administrative Assistant
Doris McDaniel, Administrative Assistant

Office of General Counsel

Roman Shaul, General Counsel
roman.shaul@alabar.org
Tara Shuffitt, Paralegal/Investigator
Jeremy McIntire, Deputy Chief General Counsel
Mark Moody, Assistant General Counsel
Autumn Caudell, Assistant General Counsel
Stacey Moseley, Disciplinary Clerk
Laurie Blazer, Client Security Fund Coordinator and Paralegal
Angie Burkhalter, Paralegal/Investigator
Julie Lee, Receptionist

Communications

Melissa Warnke, Director of Communications
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Olivia Walker, Communications Coordinator
Margaret Murphy, Director of Publications

Ethics Division

Tripp Vickers, Ethics Counsel
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Finance Department

Merinda Hall, Director of Finance
merinda.hall@alabar.org
Denise Perkins, Financial Assistant

Lawyer Assistance Program

Jeremy Rakes, ALAP Director
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Shannon Knight, Case Manager
Joycelyn Hill, ALAP Outreach Coordinator

Law Practice Management

Chris Colee, Practice Management Advisor
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Lawyer Referral Service

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Legislative Counsel

Suzi Huffaker, Legislative Counsel

Information Systems

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Meeting and Events

Robyn Bernier, Meetings & Events Coordinator
robyn.bernier@alabar.org
Amy Fawcett, Administrative Assistant

Volunteer Lawyers Program

Linda Lund, Director of VLP
linda.lund@alabar.org
Hilaire Armstrong, VLP Community Clinic Coordinator
Katarina Essenmacher, Alabama Bankruptcy
Assistance Project Coordinator
Debbie Harper, Intake Specialist
Carol Mott, Intake Specialist

Security and Facility

Matt Mara, Building and Security Superintendent
matt.mara@alabar.org
Stephanie Oglesby, Receptionist
stephanie.oglesby@alabar.org



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23



Alabama
State Bar