

ALABAMA LAWYER REVIEW TASK FORCE
PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Alabama Lawyer has long been the flagship magazine and communication platform for the Alabama State Bar. Thousands of members of the State Bar read every issue of *The Alabama Lawyer*, and, for many, it is their primary connection with the State Bar, other than their license.

The Alabama State Bar is a mandatory, or unified, bar. In order to be licensed to practice law in Alabama, an attorney must be a member. As a result, the State Bar must restrict its activities to matters that are germane to the legal profession and the administration of justice, and the State Bar must refrain from engaging in political speech. See, e.g., *Keller v. State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990). The State Bar must be mindful of these limitations in its communications and publications.

Because of its importance to the State Bar and its membership, it is critical to conduct periodic reviews of *The Alabama Lawyer* with the goal of improving the magazine and maintaining its status as an exemplary publication in the legal profession. This task force will, therefore, undertake to review and propose changes or modifications, if any, to the following:

- The allocation and use of financial support provided by the State Bar for magazine;
- The magazine content, including whether to incorporate and highlight more associational activities of the State Bar, along with the academic articles;
- The costs and potential cost savings to be achieved through changes in design, printing, and frequency of issues;
- The advertising pricing and the process for collecting advertising revenue;
- The processes for receipt of articles, article selection, editing practices, and corresponding with persons who submit articles for consideration by the editorial board; and
- The existing policies relating to the magazine.

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 task force shall submit a written report and recommendations to the Alabama State Bar Executive Council on or before March 1, 2024.

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

Done this 2nd day of August, 2023.



Brannon J. Buck, President 2023-2024
Alabama State Bar



C. Gibson Vance, President 2022-2023
Alabama State Bar