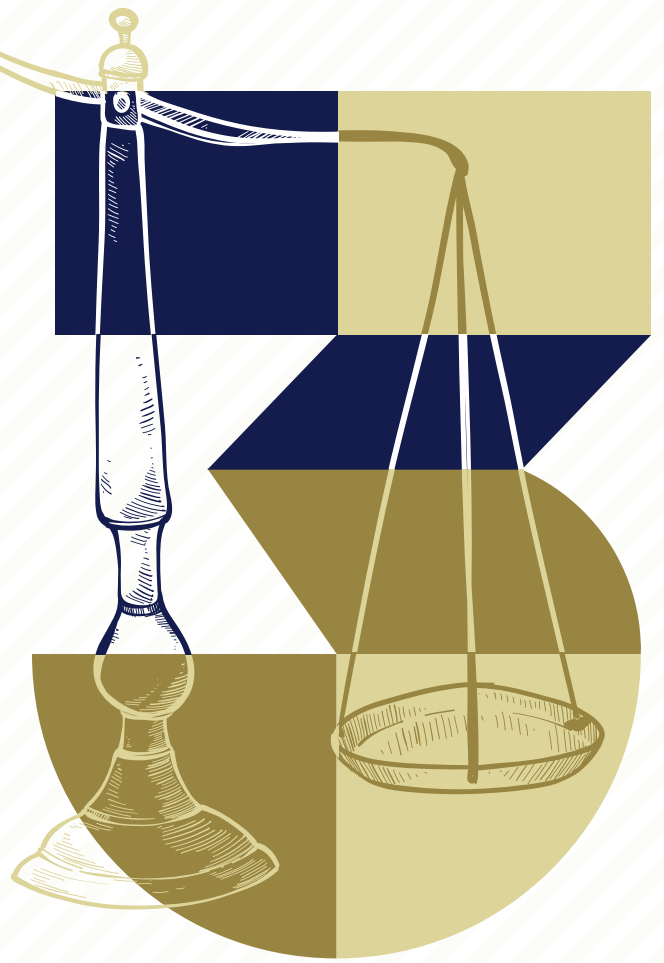
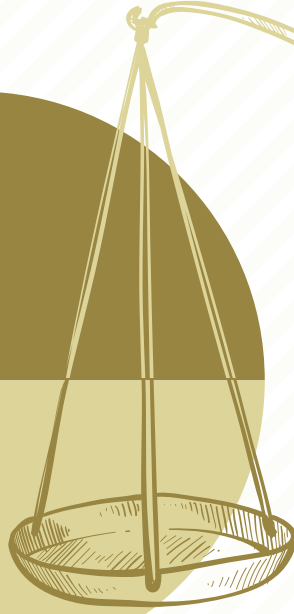




ALABAMA  
STATE  
BAR

20



YEAR IN  
REVIEW

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# BAR BY THE NUMBERS 2023 2024

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

8,914

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

955

LAWYERS SERVING AT ANY ONE TIME IN A VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

5,000+

## ASB VISION



TO HELP MEMBERS BE THEIR BEST SO THEY CAN BETTER SERVE OTHERS



19,231 ACTIVE MEMBERS

2,037 MEMBERS ADMITTED IN PAST 3 YEARS

822 MEMBERS ADMITTED FOR 50+ YEARS

## MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS



64% MALE

36% FEMALE



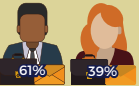
17%

36 OR YOUNGER



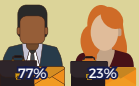
51%

37-59 YEARS OLD



32%

60+ YEARS OLD



## 2023 BAR EXAM STATS

780 TOTAL EXAMINEES

45.1% PASSAGE RATE

360 ADMITTED BY EXAM

142 ADMITTED BY UBE

54 ADMITTED BY RECIPROCITY

## OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

1276 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

791 COMPLAINTS SCREENED OUT

275 FORMAL INVESTIGATIONS



PRIVATE REPRIMANDS

19

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS

11

SUSPENSIONS

10

DISBARMENTS

14

SURRENDER OF LICENSE

0

TRANSFER TO INACTIVE STATUS

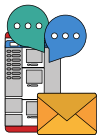
2

2250

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

\*INFORMAL

## COMMUNICATIONS



182,483 REACH

30,779 PAGE VISITS

25,655 FOLLOWERS

AMONG LINKEDIN, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND X

49

SIDEBAR E-NEWSLETTERS SENT AND READ BY AN AVERAGE OF

14,583 ASB MEMBERS EACH WEEK



THE ALABAMA LAWYER IS MAILED TO ALL 50 STATES & 20 COUNTRIES

16 LAWYER-AUTHORS ON AVERAGE PER ISSUE

19,000+ ISSUES DISTRIBUTED BI-MONTHLY

## ASB 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

## VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM



SCREENED 5,455 PEOPLE FOR ELIGIBILITY

2,034 TOTAL ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS ENROLLED

51 WALK-IN OR VIRTUAL LEGAL AID CLINICS HELD

526 QUESTIONS ANSWERED ON ALABAMA FREE LEGAL ANSWERS WEBSITE

## ALABAMA LAWYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



112 ATTORNEYS & STUDENTS CURRENTLY SERVED BY ALAP

36 NEW CLIENTS ADDED IN 2023

200

NUMBER OF COUNSELING HOURS PROVIDED LAST YEAR

## LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE



12,779 REFERRALS IN 2023

50 REFERRALS / DAY

45.3

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRO BONO HOURS WORKED PER LAWYER LAST YEAR

## CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

10,200+ HOURS OF CLE INSTRUCTION TIME PRESENTED BY ATTORNEYS

25+ LIVE ZOOM CLE COURSES HOSTED BY ASB, RESULTING IN

4,220 HOURS OF LIVE CLE CREDIT AWARDED FOR FREE TO ASB MEMBERS

12,000+ CLE COURSES COMPLETED ON-DEMAND ON OUR FREE PROLEARN PORTAL



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



**BRANNON BUCK**

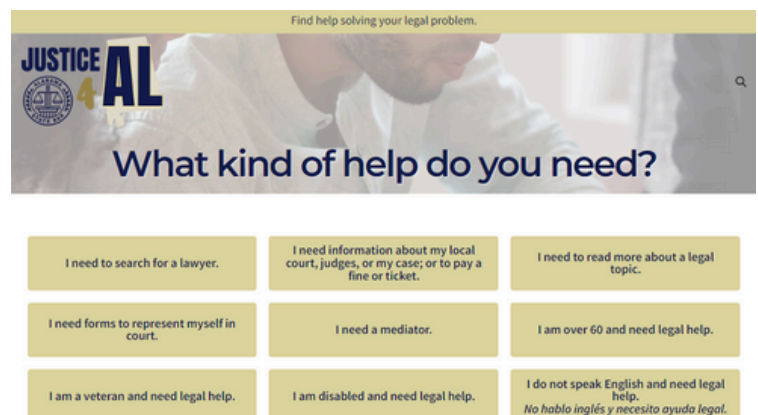
*148th President of the  
Alabama State Bar*

Thank you for allowing me to serve as president of our state bar. It has been a tremendous honor and a humbling responsibility. This year, we focused on two initiatives: promoting civility within our profession and enhancing access to legal resources for those in need through a new virtual platform. Our OutREACH tour spread the message of “Choose Civility” in Rainsville, Brewton, Demopolis, Jasper, and Montgomery where we engaged with attorneys across the state in a mini-annual meeting setting. Through panel discussions and other CLEs with local judges, bar presidents, and commissioners, we emphasized the importance of collegiality and professionalism in the practice of law.

As I pass the baton to our 149th president, Tom Perry, I have full confidence that our bar will continue to flourish under in his leadership. I encourage you to engage with the Alabama State Bar in its important work, whether through relevant practice sections, committees, or one of our many regulatory boards. We need servant leaders and enthusiastic contributors to propel our profession forward.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Brannon Buck".

Through the leadership of President Brannon Buck, the Alabama State Bar has launched a collaborative initiative that seeks to leverage technology to connect those in need with resources that already exist. The goal is to create a new internet hub for citizens needing access to justice resources.



The new Justice4AL website has been designed — not for lawyers — but for people who do not know a lawyer. It is a one-stop shop for obtaining legal assistance and accessing the court system. With easy-to-navigate prompts, a user should be able to find courthouse information, an attorney directory searchable by location and practice area, information about the Volunteer Lawyers Program, Legal Services Alabama, the Lawyer Referral Service, Free Legal Answers, self-help court forms, and many other resources.

You can find the Justice4AL flyer on page 10. We encourage you to tear it out and post it in your office to spread awareness for this initiative.



## BOARD ACTION ITEMS

### BBC MEETING | SEPT. 8, 2023

- Approved Tyler Sims to fill the vacant 40th Judicial Circuit Bar Commission seat
- Approved change to Rule 26, ARDP, to require that upon a lawyer surrendering their license, the lawyer will be required to apply to the Disciplinary Commission if they intend to work in the legal field (e.g. as a paralegal or law clerk)
- Approved the reappointment of Jeanne Rizzardi and Tom Heflin to the ALF Board
- Approved the 2023-2024 Character and Fitness Committee
- Approved the annual dues increase recommended by the Young Lawyers' Section Board from \$20 to \$30
- Approved staff compensation for FY 2024

### BBC MEETING | OCT. 27, 2023

- Approved 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees
- Approved FY 2025 budget
- Re-elected Raymond Bell, Andrew Stanley, Dana Grimes, and John Stamps to the Disciplinary Board
- Elected Will Lee and Bobby Poundstone as new members of the Disciplinary Board;
- Approved change to MCLE Rule 2.C.2 clarifying the interpretation of exemptions

### BBC MEETING | JAN. 19, 2024

- Elected Allison Skinner to the LSA Board
- Approved change to Rule II, ARGAs to require that successful applicants to the bar complete the Alabama Online Course within 60 days of passing the bar exam
- Approved the nomination of Edward Alley, Robert Matthews, and Christy Kuklinski as nominees for the Alabama Securities Commission
- Elected Halron Turner to JIC

### BBC MEETING | MAR. 8, 2024

- Elected Monica Graveline to the LSA Board
- Approved License Fee Partial Refund Policy
- Elected Chris Phung as layperson to the Disciplinary Board
- Elected Scott Hawk to the Alabama Private Investigation Board
- Approved the nomination of Hope Marshall, and the two nominees not selected from Edward Alley, Robert Matthews, and Christ Kuklinski who were previously approved to the Governor for appointment to the Alabama Securities Commission
- Approved the following members to the Legal Specialization Board: Greg Denny, Brent Irby, Erik Heninger, Freddy Rubio, Rebecca Beers, Jennifer Tompkins, Sharon Stuart, Amber James, Tracy Cary, John Civils, Grant Reese, Bryan Comer, and Vincent Swiney

### BBC MEETING | MAY 3, 2024

- Elected Terri Tompkins as 2nd alternate to the Alabama Court of Judiciary
- Elected the following members as At-Large Commissioners:
- Place 1: Angela Kennedy; Place 3: Holly Sawyer; Place 4: Chuck Price; and Place 7: Leila Watson
- Accepted the Client Security Fund Five-Year Report
- Approved ASB Awards

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reflecting on Brannon Buck's tenure as our 148th president, I thank him for his tireless dedication, leadership, and commitment to advancing our profession, expanding access to justice, and promoting civility in the legal landscape.

This year, I am proud of the strides we have made to accomplish the goals set out in our strategic plan. Some of those involved implementing improved technology at the bar, including a new member database, a new online CLE portal, a new OGC case management system, and a move to permanent bar cards. While change is never easy, the upgrades allow us to serve you more efficiently and effectively. This Annual Report highlights the many activities and achievements of our bar, its members, and its leaders over the past year. In addition, you'll find a listing of all the board's actions, as we seek to keep you informed and engaged with your bar.

As we wrap up this year at the Alabama State Bar, we look forward to the year ahead with President Tom Perry!



**TERRI LOVELL**  
Executive Director  
Alabama State Bar

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Terri B. Lovell".



# 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
- Jimbo Terrell**  
**John Smyth**  
**Andrew Nix**  
**Freddy Rubio**  
**LaBella McCallum**  
**Conrad Anderson**  
**Kitty Brown**  
**Ryan Robichaux**  
**Erik Heninger**  
10th Circuit
- Leslie Moore**  
10th Circuit  
Bessemer Cutoff
- Ralph Holt**  
11th Circuit
- Carmen Howell**  
12th Circuit
- Edwin Lamberth**  
**Fred Helmsing**  
**Bill Lancaster**  
**Steve Nicholas**  
**Suntrease Williams-Maynard**  
13th Circuit
- Richard Fikes**  
14th Circuit
- Bobby Poundstone**  
**Pat Sefton**  
**Joel Connally**  
**Leon Hampton, Jr.**  
**Felicia A. Long**  
**David Martin**  
15th Circuit
- Brad Cornett**  
16th Circuit
- Hunter Compton**  
17th Circuit
- Mark Boardman**  
**Clay Carr**  
**Doug Smith**  
18th Circuit
- J. Pratt Austin-Trucks**  
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**  
**Lynn Perry**  
28th Circuit
- Sally Bowers**  
29th Circuit
- John Rea**  
30th Circuit
- Edgar Black**  
31st Circuit
- Matthew Carter**  
32nd Circuit

- Lee Knowles**  
33rd Circuit
- Jeff Bowling**  
34th Circuit
- Bob McMillan**  
35th Circuit
- Jerome Thompson**  
36th Circuit
- Andrew Stanley**  
37th Circuit
- Deborah Dunsmore**  
38th Circuit
- Don Mansell**  
39th Circuit
- Tyler Sims**  
40th Circuit
- Jeff Sherrer**  
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
- Lisha Graham**  
At-Large, Place 6
- Leila Watson**  
At-Large, Place 7
- Mitch Kemmer**  
At-Large, Place 8
- John Stamps**  
At-Large, Place 9

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



**Brannon Buck**  
President



**Tom Perry**  
President-Elect



**Felicia Long**  
Vice President



**Terri Lovell**  
Secretary



**Raymond Bell**  
Executive Council



**Josh Hayes**  
Executive Council



**John Smyth**  
Executive Council



**Mark Boardman**  
Parliamentarian



**Chris Driver**  
Ex-Officio

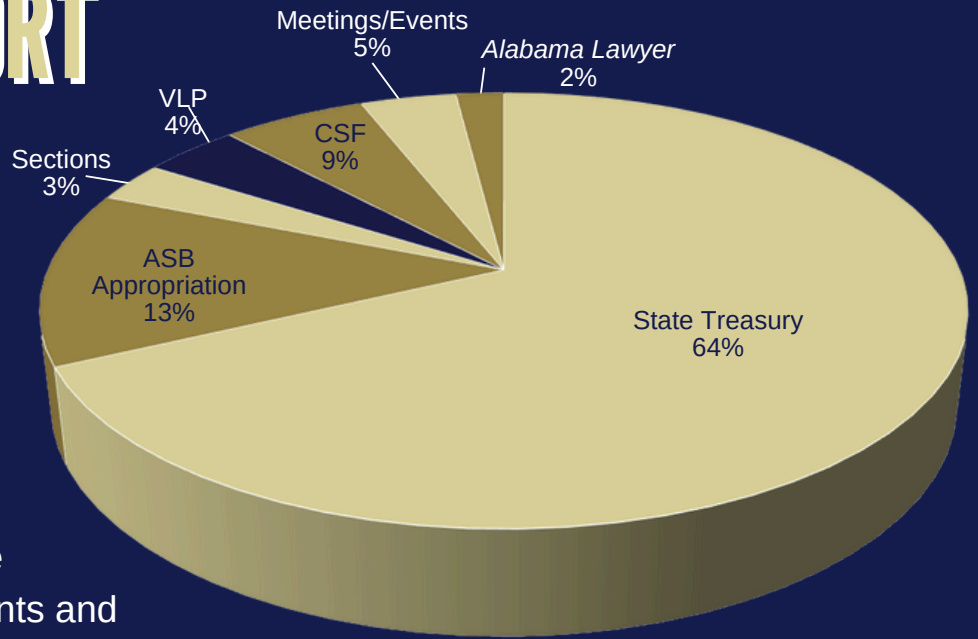


**Sam Ford**  
Ex-Officio



# FINANCIAL REPORT

The ASB finance director and financial assistant work cohesively with the officers and staff to maintain accountability over numerous fund accounts and related activities in the custody of the Alabama State Bar. From July 1 to June 30, the finance department processed disbursements and receipts for the ASB and its closely related foundation entities, totaling approximately \$9 million and \$9.2 million, respectively; coordinated with the Regions investment group to monitor \$18.9 million of invested funds; provided fundamental reporting to keep stakeholders informed of the ASB's financial performance and to meet the tax and other financial reporting deadlines required by state and federal guidelines; handled all travel pre-approvals and reimbursements for the agency; formulated and submitted the annual state budget appropriation, as approved by the board of bar commissioners; and compiled all required documents for examinations/audits performed by the Examiner of Public Accounts and external auditors.



## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1 Managed funds carefully resulting in dues remaining at \$300 for the 2024-2025 bar year
- 2 Maintained an unmodified audit opinion on the ASB financial statement audits
- 3 Maximized bank interest earnings for the ASB and implemented cost efficiencies in mailings and operations



# HIGHLIGHTS

## PRO BONO MONTH

Governor Kay Ivey proclaimed October 2023 “Pro Bono Month” in Alabama. The Alabama State Bar’s annual celebration, which officially kicked off Sunday, October 1, is a statewide effort to connect pro bono providers and attorneys across Alabama. It also is an opportunity to showcase the incredible difference that pro bono lawyers make to our state, to our system of justice, to our communities, and most of all, to the clients they serve.



## ADMISSIONS CEREMONY

On Oct. 19, we celebrated more than 250 new admittees at the annual Bar Admission Ceremony in Montgomery.



## LEADERSHIP FORUM CLASS 18



Hilaire Armstrong  
Jared C. Batte  
Anna M. Carroll  
Hudson Cheshire  
Meryl Cowan  
Freddie Effinger

Paul W. Evans  
Jack Gray  
Kaasha D.B. Griffin  
J. Harris Hagood  
Courtney B. Hall  
LaKitia M. Hall

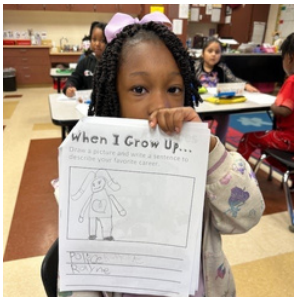
William Hovater, Jr.  
Ryan J. Letson  
Holly C. McCorkle  
Jonathan D. Morris  
Jackson M. Neal  
Margaret E. Pace

Stephen D. Palmer  
Brad Phillips  
Richard A. Rice  
Katie S. Richard  
Megan Stephens  
M. Chad Smith



## 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.



## HALL OF FAME

The Alabama State Bar inducted five new attorneys into the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame on May 3. The ceremony was held in the Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building in Montgomery. The inductees were Albert Preston Brewer, J.L. Chestnut, Jr., Thomas Logan Jones, Ralph I. Knowles, Jr., and John Williams Walker.



**JUSTICE**



**4**

**AL**

***DO YOU HAVE A  
LEGAL PROBLEM?***



**WWW.JUSTICE4AL.COM**

***WE HAVE INFORMATION!***



# STAFF DIRECTORY

## ADMINISTRATION

**Terri Lovell**, Executive Director  
*terri.lovell@alabar.org*  
**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

**Cathy Sue McCurry**, Attorney Licensing  
*cathysue.mccurry@alabar.org*  
**Angie Fuqua**, Administrative Assistant  
**Doris McDaniel**, Administrative Assistant

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Melissa Warnke**, Director of Communications  
*melissa.warnke@alabar.org*  
**Margaret Murphy**, Director of Publications  
**Olivia Walker**, Communications Coordinator

## ETHICS DIVISION

**Tripp Vickers**, Ethics Counsel  
*tripp.vickers@alabar.org*

## FINANCE

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

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

**Hunter Harris**, Information Systems Manager  
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TEAR OUT THE PAGE TO  
THE LEFT AND POST IN  
YOUR OFFICE TO SPREAD  
AWARENESS ABOUT OUR  
“JUSTICE4AL”  
WEBSITE!

## LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

**Chris Colee**, Advisor  
*chris.colee@alabar.org*

## LAWYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Shannon Knight**, Director & Case Manager  
*shannon.knight@alabar.org*  
**Joycelyn Hill**, Administrative Assistant

## LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

**John Dunn**, LRS Representative  
*john.dunn@alabar.org*

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

## OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

**Roman Shaul**, General Counsel  
*roman.shaul@alabar.org*  
**Angie Burkhalter**, Paralegal to General Counsel  
**Jeremy McIntire**, Deputy Chief General Counsel  
**Mark Moody**, Assistant General Counsel  
**Autumn Caudell**, Assistant General Counsel  
**Stacey Moseley**, Disciplinary Clerk  
**Carol Mott**, Client Security Fund Coordinator  
**Lisa Browning**, Paralegal/Investigator  
**Julie Lee**, Receptionist

## SECURITY & FACILITY

**Matt Mara**, Security & Building Manager  
*matt.mara@alabar.org*  
**Stephanie Oglesby**, Receptionist  
*stephanie.oglesby@alabar.org*

## VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

**Linda Lund**, Director of VLP  
*linda.lund@alabar.org*  
**Hilaire Armstrong**, VLP Clinic Coordinator  
**Michael Granger**, ABAP Coordinator  
**Debbie Harper**, Intake Clerk  
**Jordan Gilmore**, Intake Clerk





**ALABAMA STATE BAR**  
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**334.269.1515 WWW.ALABAR.ORG**