



SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

Dear Bar Admittee:

On behalf of the Alabama Judiciary, congratulations on passing the Alabama State Bar Examination. Your years of hard work and sacrifice -- and probably that of others who helped and encouraged you -- have brought you to this notable achievement. As a new Alabama attorney, you join nearly 18,000 members of the Alabama State Bar practicing this noble, ancient, and honorable profession. Your work, of course, is only just beginning.

As a new Alabama attorney and an officer of the court, you will play a key role in securing and ensuring equal justice under the law, regardless of your client's prominence or pocketbook. Echoing the Declaration of Independence, our Alabama Constitution of 1901, Article I, Section 1, declares, "That all men are equally free and independent; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." While our Constitution provides the right to counsel for indigent criminal defendants, and the contingent fee system may provide for some who have suffered personal injury, thousands of poor Alabama citizens remain unable to secure competent legal counsel based solely upon their inability to pay. They will need your help.

The Holy Bible admonishes us that "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35.) And: "to whom much is given, from him much will be required." (Luke 12:28.) In that spirit of gracious service, the Pro Bono Pledge signed by many Alabama attorneys states, in part:

"I pledge that my future endeavors will include time each year to render service to my community through activities such as volunteering, mentoring, participating in legal clinics, serving on boards, working in public interest or public service and providing legal services regardless of a client's ability to pay."

Through your continued hard work and service toward others, I believe you will find the practice of law to be a deeply rewarding experience. In fact, you can start now by signing up for the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program at <https://www.alabar.org/programs/volunteer-lawyers-program/>. Now, go and be the blessing that someone else needs!

Sincerely

Tom Parker
Chief Justice