

2025 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION

PRESIDENT-ELECT & CANDIDATE GUIDE (Contested Races)

Click the candidate's name below to view his/her photograph and biographical sketch (if submitted by the candidate)

10th Judicial Circuit, Place 3

[Grover Patterson Keahey, Jr.](#)

[Andrew Sykes Nix](#)

37th Judicial Circuit, Place 2 (NEW)

[Sara Gottlieb Bragdon](#)

[Melvin Arthur \(Artie\) Vaughn, II](#)

President-Elect

[John Allen Brinkley, Jr.](#)

[Jana Russell Garner](#)

The 2025 Alabama State Bar Election will open on Monday, May 19, 2025.

All ballots must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. CT on Friday, May 23, 2025, to be counted.

Balloting will be done via email link from our vendor, Election-America. The vendor will email the eligible voter pool at approximately 9:00 a.m. CT on Monday, May 19, 2025 and will also email a reminder to those who have not voted on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 and a final reminder on Friday, May 23, 2025.

Online balloting will be conducted by an external vendor, Election-America. All ballots are confidential and the Alabama State Bar will not have access to voter information during the election. After the close of the election, the Alabama State Bar will receive only certified election results from the vendor.

2025 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

10th Judicial Circuit, Place 3



Grover Patterson Keahey, Jr.

*Law Offices of G. Patterson Keahey PC
Birmingham, Alabama*

Profile

Pat Keahey is an Alabama native. His family first settled in Alabama in 1820 after leaving Scotland.

For over 34 years, Pat Keahey has handled nothing but asbestos cases in Alabama and other states. During the course of his career, he has received 18 trial court verdicts against the giant asbestos industry in favor of his fellow Alabamians.

Pat Keahey is a U.S. Army Veteran (1970-1976) and a member of the American Legion Post 134. He attended Marion Military Institute, Sewanee, and Cumberland School of Law. He is a member of the Alabama Bar Association, Birmingham Bar Association, Mobile Bar Association, the Alabama Association for Justice, and The National Trial Lawyers: Top 100.

2025 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

10th Judicial Circuit, Place 3

NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Andrew Sykes Nix
Regions Bank
Birmingham, Alabama

NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE

*Note: Candidate professional/biographical information and photographs were due to the Alabama State Bar by Friday, April 25, 2025.
Only candidates who submitted items by the deadline are included in this guide, and all information appears as submitted by the candidate.*

2025 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

37th Judicial Circuit, Place 2

NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Sara Gottlieb Bragdon

Akridge & Balch PC

Auburn, Alabama

NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE

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2025 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

37th Judicial Circuit, Place 2



Melvin Arthur (Artie) Vaughn II

Vaughn Defense LLC

Auburn, Alabama

Profile

Artie Vaughn is the founder of Vaughn Defense, LLC, a law practice based in Auburn, Alabama, focusing exclusively on criminal defense, student conduct and Title IX matters, and military defense. After earning his law degree, Artie practiced insurance defense work in Birmingham, Alabama. He commissioned into the Air Force JAG Corps in 2008 and served for over 11 years as an Active Duty Judge Advocate serving in a variety of legal roles. He handles cases in both civilian and military courts, representing service members and students across a range of administrative and criminal proceedings.

In addition to his civilian practice, Artie serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Alabama Air National Guard as a Regional Defense Counsel where he supervises and mentors defense attorneys across multiple states and provides direct representation to service members in military justice actions. His experience includes trial advocacy instruction, policy development, and leadership roles within military legal operations. Prior to founding his own firm, Artie practiced in both private law firms and military legal offices, giving him a broad perspective on the challenges facing practitioners today.

Artie is a committed member of the legal community who values professionalism, service, and the independent role of the attorney. He resides in Auburn with his family and remains active in the local bar, as well as veterans' and educational organizations.

Alabama State Bar President-Elect Candidate Profile

John Brinkley of Huntsville is running for State Bar President. He is ready to work and excited to serve. He would be honored to have your support during the voting period, May 19-23. John realizes lawyers are having to do more with less and he's committed to increasing and improving benefits and services to members.

As bar president, he plans to provide an in-person CLE for each circuit. He also intends to leverage the power of our 20,000+ members to negotiate new and better benefits and services. Finally, he will create a mentoring program to provide online tutorials from legends of our bar on the fundamentals of their practice area.

John represents a diverse clientele in his general practice including personal injury, criminal defense, and probate while being deeply involved in the legal community at both the local and state levels.

He served on his local bar's executive committee for over a decade, becoming president in 2022. His commitment to pro bono work is evident through his long-term contributions on the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program (MCVLP) Board of Directors, including two terms as chairman. He was recognized as the MCVLP's "VIP of the Year" in 2012.

At the state level, John served on the Alabama State Bar's Board of Bar Commissioners (2012-2021) and participated in its Leadership Forum. His contributions have been recognized with several ASB awards, including the Jeanne Marie Leslie Award (2016) for his dedication to the Alabama Lawyer's Assistance Program, the President's Award (2019), and the Commissioners Award (2021).

In 2024, he was elected Chairman of the Solo and Small Firm Section. In that role, he has actively delivered Alabama State Bar benefits to underserved legal communities providing programming, including ethics training sessions, and otherwise raising awareness of State Bar benefits to practitioners in nearly half the circuits.

His professional achievements include an A/V peer rating and being selected as a Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation (2022). He also is a member of the Foundation's Atticus Finch Society. In 2022, Legal Services of Alabama awarded him its Pro Bono Fairness Award.

John and his wife, Kristen, are the proud parents of ten children. He asks members to remember to vote John Brinkley for President.



John Brinkley
Brinkley Law Firm
Huntsville

Alabama State Bar President-Elect Candidate Profile

I am a solo practitioner with offices in Selma and Tuscaloosa. I have 27 years of experience as a lawyer. I spend most of my time handling civil cases, representing both plaintiffs and defendants. I also serve as a mediator in both trial level and appellate cases. My husband Paul and I have been married for 21 years and have two children. Sam is a freshman at the University of Alabama. Fair is finishing her junior year in high school. We are members of Christ Episcopal Church.

I am running for President-Elect of the Alabama State Bar because, with the years of legal practice and service to profession as outlined below, I understand the unique challenges and opportunities facing lawyers today.

As President, I will prioritize the Alabama State Bar's core mission – supporting its members so they can effectively serve their clients and communities. I also want to engage lawyers who may feel disconnected from the Alabama State Bar or wonder if the Bar truly adds value to their professional lives. I am dedicated to taking meaningful unifying actions that benefit all lawyers regardless of their firm size, practice area, or location. I will work hard to focus on practical positive solutions to make your life as an Alabama lawyer better. I would be honored to have your support.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Alabama State Bar Commissioner (2012 to 2021 and 2022 to present)
- Alabama State Bar Executive Council
- 2016-2017: President J. Cole Portis
- 2018-2019: President Sam W. Irby
- 2024-2025: President Tom Perry
- Alabama Court of the Judiciary (2019 to present)
- Alabama State Bar Disciplinary Panel (2014 to 2016)
- Alabama State Bar Disciplinary Commission (2016 to 2021)
- Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Alabama Rules of Evidence (2019 to present)
- Alabama Law Foundation Fellow (2017 to present) (Life Fellow as of 2018)
- American Bar Foundation, Life Fellow (2019 to present)
- Alabama State Bar Dispute Resolution Section, Secretary (2016 to 2017), Chair (2018 to 2019)
- Alabama State Bar Solo and Small Firm Task Force (2014)
- Alabama State Bar Solo and Small Firm Section, (2015 to present) Vice Chair (2015 to 2017), Chair (2017 to 2018)
- Alabama State Bar Litigation Section, Officer (2024 to present)
- Attorneys Insurance Mutual of the South, Inc. Advisory Board (2024 to present)



Jana Russell Garner
Law Office of Jana Russell Garner
Selma & Tuscaloosa

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Committee, Chair
- Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Celebration Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Harvesting Hope Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Finance & Audit Committee
- Alabama State Bar Fred Gray Memorial Courtyard Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission
- Alabama State Bar Women's Section
- Alabama State Bar Family Law Section
- Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program
- American Bar Association Solo and Small Firm Section
- Alabama State Bar Diversity and Inclusion Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Membership Relations Liaison Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Alafire Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Local Bar Outreach
- Alabama State Bar Government Relations Liaison Committee
- Alabama State Bar Bench and Bar Relations Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Courthouse Security & Access Task Force

- Alabama State Bar Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee
- Alabama State Bar Digital Communications Committee, Chair
- Alabama State Bar Election Certification Committee
- Alabama State Bar General Counsel Selection Committee
- Alabama Board of Court Reporting

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

- Alabama State Bar President's Award (2013)
- Pro Bono Mediator Award (2015)
- Recognition of Support by the Selma Chapter of the Links, Inc (2016)
- Al Vreeland Pro Bono Award (2018)
- Alabama State Bar President's Award (2019)
- Appreciation Award from Dallas County Court Services (2019)
- Alabama State Bar President's Award (2021)

PAST AND PRESENT ADMISSIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Alabama State Bar, Occupational License and Member in Good Standing continuously (September 1997 to present)
- United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama
- United States Judicial Panel of Multi-District Litigation
- United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division
- Dallas County Bar Association
- Tuscaloosa County Bar Association

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Mediation: Alabama State Court Mediation Roster for the following: Civil, 2010 to present; Domestic, 2010 to present; Appellate, 2010 to present; and, Foreclosure, 2014 to 2019
- Alabama Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Family Mediation Pilot Program Mediator (2012 to 2014)
- Dallas County Drug Treatment Court (2010 to present)
- Guardian ad Litem: Alabama Office of Courts Certified Guardian ad Litem (2010 to 2021)
- Cumberland School of Law, Samford University (Juris Doctorate 1997)
- Judson College (Bachelor of Art 1994)
- St. Andrews – Sewanee Episcopal School (Degree 1990)