

**BENCH AND BAR COMMITTEE**  
**PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This joint committee, comprised of members of the bench and the bar, is created with the goal of enhancing and improving the communication, collaboration, and overall relationship between the members of the bar and the judiciary. The goals of this committee shall be as follows:

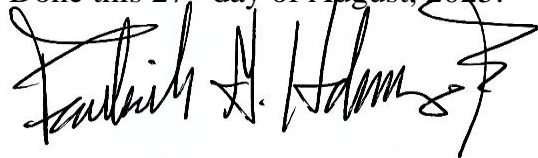
- (1) To develop CLE programs and communication strategies designed to promote and foster a culture of civility and collegiality within the legal profession in Alabama. The programs should seek to educate on the benefits of practicing law with civility and provide practical advice and training for lawyers on how to interact with opposing counsel and others with civility.
- (2) To evaluate the effectiveness of the collaborative educational programs provided to the Bench and Bar and make recommendations for future educational programs that would be of interest to both the Bench and the Bar.
- (3) To examine and recommend other avenues of engagement to assist both the Bench and Bar in ways to better serve one another and the general public.
- (4) To review and make recommendations of any necessary changes to the Code of Professional Courtesy, which was approved by the Board of Bar Commissioners on April 10, 1992.

The committee 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 committee chair shall select a person who shall be responsible for a written record of its actions. The secretary, or a designee, shall keep minutes of all meetings of the committee, 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 committee's file.

This committee shall meet regularly, and shall provide timely written interim reports to the Alabama State Bar President, the Alabama State Bar Executive Committee, the Presiding Judge of the Circuit Judges Association, and the Presiding Judge of the District Judges Association, as the work of the committee develops.

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

Done this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.



Frederick G. Helmsing, Jr. President  
Alabama State Bar