

## 2026 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION

### CANDIDATE GUIDE (Contested Races)

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

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#### 22nd Judicial Circuit

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[John M. Peek](#)

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#### 28th Judicial Circuit, Place 2

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[Jody W. Bishop](#)

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#### 31st Judicial Circuit

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[Paula B. McDowell](#)

[John A. McReynolds IV](#)

The 2026 Alabama State Bar Election will open on Monday, May 18, 2026.

**All ballots must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. CT on Friday, May 22, 2026, 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 18, 2026 and will also email a reminder to those who have not voted on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 and a final reminder on Friday, May 22, 2026.

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.

# 2026 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

## 22nd Judicial Circuit



**John M. Peek**  
*Andalusia, Alabama*

### **Profile**

John Peek is a native of Dozier and is a graduate of Dozier High School. John graduated with honors from the University of South Alabama in 1987 with a Bachelor's degree in Economics where he was a research assistant and also a resident advisor, president of his fraternity, and otherwise active on campus. John is trustee emeritus of the University of South Alabama.

John received his law degree in 1990 from the University of Alabama School of Law, and is licensed to practice law in Alabama and Florida, along with Federal Courts in the Middle and Southern Districts of Alabama, the Northern and Southern Districts of Florida, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.

John and his wife Barbara, an elementary school gifted-education teacher and former finalist for Alabama Teacher of the Year, live in Andalusia and are parents of three young men, all graduates of Andalusia High School and the University of South Alabama. He and his family are parishioners and are active at Christ the King Catholic Church in Andalusia, where John is an usher, lector and former president of the Parish Council.

John has practiced law since 1990 in Andalusia, practicing now in the Bank of Andalusia building on the Courthouse Square, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

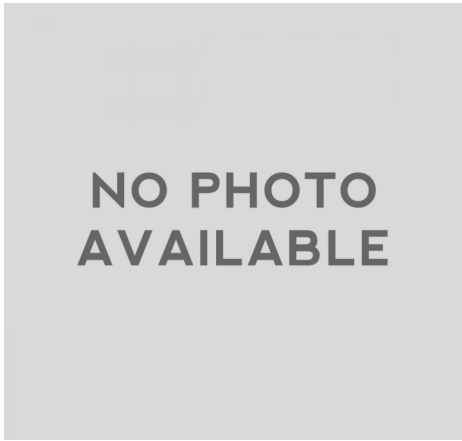
John is a former two-term member of the Board of Bar Commissioners of the Alabama State Bar, separately served as a two-term chairman of the Solo and Small Firm Practitioner's Committee, is a member of the Law Revision Division of the Legislative Services Agency (formerly the Alabama Law Institute), served on the Alabama State Bar Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission, Budget and Finance Committee and Indigent Defense and Appointed Counsel Committee.

John now serves the Alabama State Bar as a member of the UPL Committee, the Harvesting Hope Task Force and has previously served on numerous committees and task forces of the Alabama State Bar.

John is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell and is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

# 2026 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

## 22nd Judicial Circuit



**Meredith S. Peters**  
*Andalusia, Alabama*

NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE

# 2026 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

## 28th Judicial Circuit, Place 2



**Jody W. Bishop**  
Fairhope, Alabama

### **Profile**

Jody Bishop recently retired from service to the State of Alabama as a District and Circuit Judge for the last 25 years. He served as District Judge in the 28th Judicial Circuit from 2001-2013 and served as Circuit Judge in the 28th Judicial Circuit from 2013-2026. Prior to his service as District and Circuit Judge, he served as Municipal Judge for the City of Fairhope, Alabama. He is a former Assistant District Attorney for Baldwin County, Alabama and owned and operated his own law practice before assuming the office of District Judge.

Mr. Bishop is a past President of the Alabama District Judges Association and a current member and past President of the Kiwanis Club of Fairhope and the Eastern Shore. He has served as a member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama and as a member of the Fairhope Educational Enrichment Foundation. He was a former member of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, Mobile Area Council and a former member of the board of directors of Baldwin Court Services.

He is a graduate of Fairhope High School, Berry College, and the University of Alabama School of Law.

He and his wife, Laura, live in Fairhope, Alabama and are the parents of two children. They attend 3 Circle Church in Fairhope where they serve as greeters on Sundays and are active in their small group ministry.

## 2026 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

### 28th Judicial Circuit, Place 2



**Timothy D. Garner**  
*Gulf Shores, Alabama*

NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE

# 2026 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

## **31st Judicial Circuit**



**D. Edgar Black**  
*Muscle Shoals, Alabama*

### **Profile**

Born and raised in Colbert County, I am proud to still call it home. I graduated from Muscle Shoals High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Alabama. After working in the title insurance industry, I attended Cumberland School of Law, graduating in 2006. I returned to Colbert County to practice with my father, Marcel Black, and his then-partner, Jimmy Hughston. Following Jimmy's retirement, I now practice alongside my father and Jameson Hughston at Black & Hughston, where for nearly twenty years I have been fortunate to build a practice focused on real estate transactions and litigation, probate, and corporate matters. I am also a licensed Alabama title insurance agent.

I am committed to giving back to the profession and to the organizations that have supported my growth as a lawyer. I am a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a graduate of the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum, and a graduate of Leadership Shoals. I currently serve on the board of directors of the Land Title Association of Alabama and as chair of its legislative committee. In my community, I have served as president of my local Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

It has been an honor to represent the 31st Judicial Circuit as its bar commissioner for the past two terms, and I am eager to continue that service. I believe the perspective I bring — as a small-firm practitioner rooted in the community he grew up in — is valuable to the work of the Board of Bar Commissioners, and I would be grateful for your support.

# 2026 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

## 31st Judicial Circuit



**Bennett L. Pugh**  
Sheffield, Alabama

### **Profile**

#### **Education:**

- Samford University, 1982
  - B.S. Public Administration
  - Freshman Class President
  - Student Government Association, Secretary
  - Lambda Chi Alpha, Chapter President
- Cumberland School of Law, 1985

#### **Work Experience:**

- Law Clerk to Honorable E.B. Haltom, Jr, U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Alabama
- Rives and Peterson, partner
- Carr, Allison, founding partner
- Franco Signor, partner
- Fidelity Fiduciary Company, LLC, CEO (present)
- Law Office of Bennett L. Pugh (present)

#### **Professional:**

- AV Rated by Martindale Hubbell
- Fellow, College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers
- Best Lawyers in America
- Super Lawyers of Alabama
- Top Lawyers by Corporate Counsel Publication
- Top 50 Lawyers in America
- Elite Lawyers of America
- American Lawyers of Distinction
- Alabama State Bar
- Alabama Association for Justice
- Colbert and Lauderdale County Bar Associations
- Knights of Columbus, 3rd degree
- Sheffield Kiwanis

*Note: Candidate professional/biographical information and photographs were due to the Alabama State Bar by Friday, April 24, 2026.*

*Only candidates who submitted items by the deadline are included in this guide, and all information appears as submitted by the candidate.*

# 2026 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

## **34th Judicial Circuit**



**Paula B. McDowell**  
*Russellville, Alabama*

### **Profile**

#### **Education:**

- 1979 Graduate of University of Alabama
  - Accounting Major
- 1982 Graduate of University of Alabama School of Law

#### **Employment:**

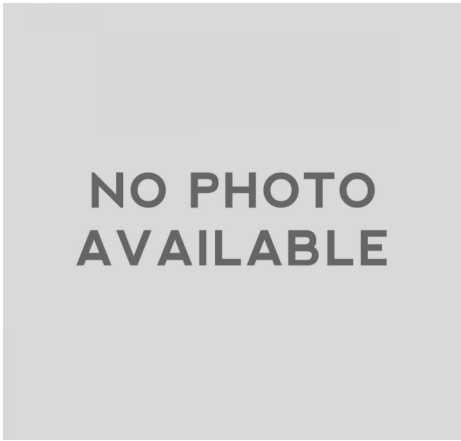
- 1983-2001 Assistant District Attorney for Franklin County Alabama District Attorney's Office
- 2001-2025 Franklin County Alabama District Judge
- 2025 — I retired as District Judge. I have now completed a forty-hour mediation training program and plan to begin working as a mediator this year.

#### **Personal Information:**

I am married to Daniel G. McDowell. He is an attorney in Russellville, Alabama. I have two children and two grandchildren.

# 2026 ALABAMA STATE BAR ELECTION | BAR COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

## 34th Judicial Circuit



**John A. McReynolds IV**  
*Russellville, Alabama*

NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE