

ALABAMA STATE BAR

Office of the President

PURPOSE AND SCOPE ORDER

Establishing the Access to Justice Task Force

Purpose

The Access to Justice Task Force is established to identify, evaluate, and recommend practical strategies to improve meaningful access to Alabama's justice system. The Access to Justice Task Force will examine barriers to obtaining legal services and develop recommendations that promote fairness, efficiency, and innovation while preserving the integrity of the legal profession and the administration of justice. Recognizing that access to justice is a shared responsibility among the courts, the legal profession, legal aid providers, law schools, community organizations, and policymakers, the Access to Justice Task Force will foster collaboration among stakeholders to strengthen Alabama's justice system, in support of the Alabama State Bar's mission of promoting justice, serving the profession, and improving public confidence in the legal system.

Scope of Work

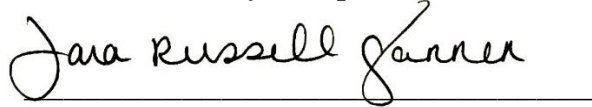
- Assess the current landscape of civil and criminal legal needs in Alabama.
- Review existing access to justice initiatives in Alabama and other jurisdictions to identify successful programs and best practices that may be adapted for Alabama.
- Evaluate opportunities to expand access to legal services through pro bono participation, legal aid partnerships, limited-scope representation, self-help resources, technology, court-based assistance programs, and other innovative service delivery models.
- Examine financial, geographic, technological, educational, and procedural barriers that prevent individuals from obtaining legal assistance.
- Strengthen collaboration among the Alabama State Bar, the Alabama Access to Justice Commission, the Alabama Supreme Court, legal services organizations, local bar associations, law schools, and community partners.
- Identify opportunities to encourage and support greater participation by Alabama attorneys in pro bono and public service efforts.
- Recommend policies, programs, educational initiatives, or rule changes that improve access to justice while maintaining high standards of professional responsibility and client protection.
- Develop measurable recommendations, implementation priorities, and metrics by which the Alabama State Bar can evaluate progress toward expanding access to justice statewide.
- Create a Civil and Criminal Subcommittee to study the above matters and establish additional subcommittees as necessary; the chairperson(s) shall appoint sub-chairs as needed.

Operating Procedures

An initial organizational meeting should be conducted within 30 days of appointment to review this Order, confirm subcommittees as needed, and set a working timeline. A written report should be filed with the President by June 30, 2027, containing the task force's findings and specific, actionable recommendations for each area within its scope. The ASB staff liaison will be available to support the work of the task force, including scheduling and communication support.

All recommendations of the task force are advisory. Final decisions on implementation rest with the President, the Board of Bar Commission, or such other body as has proper authority over the subject matter.

Done this 21st day of September, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jana Russell Garner". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jana Russell Garner, President
Alabama State Bar