

# Alabama State Bar :: 2017 Election

## Biographical Sketches of Candidates for President-Elect



### Sam W. Irby :: Fairhope

Sam W. Irby practices law with the firm of Irby & Heard, P.C. in Fairhope. After graduating from the University of Alabama School of Law, he returned to his hometown to practice law. He has always practiced as a solo or small firm practitioner.

Sam currently serves in his second three-year term on the Alabama State Bar Commission representing Baldwin County, is chair of the Solo and Small Firm Section of the State Bar and serves or has served on many State Bar committees. He is a recipient of the Alabama State Bar President's Award and Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation. For many years, he has held an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell.

Sam is registered on the Alabama State Court Mediator Roster and Alabama Appellate Mediation Roster and has been appointed to mediate cases by both the Baldwin County Circuit Court and the Supreme Court of Alabama. He currently serves as an Arbitrator appointed by a Baldwin County Circuit Judge in a pending case.

Sam serves as a member of a committee appointed by the Alabama Law Institute reviewing the Alabama Uniform Condominium Act of 1991 considering amendments to be proposed to the Alabama Legislature. He is the author of the Article published in the January 2017 issue of *The Alabama Lawyer* entitled: "Indestructible Survivorship or Destructible Survivorship: Which Form of Survivorship Is Best for Your Client?"

Sam is married to Virginia Marriott Irby and they have three children.

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### Cooper Shattuck :: Tuscaloosa

Over the last 27 years, Cooper Shattuck has experienced virtually every facet of the practice of law and service to and through our Bar. Cooper spent 20 years in private practice in Tuscaloosa, representing both plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal courts, which included work not only throughout the state, but later throughout the nation and in Puerto Rico. His firm grew to be the largest in West Alabama with Cooper as one of its managing shareholders.



He later served as Chief Legal Advisor to the Governor where he worked with and in all areas of state government. Working extensively on the aftermath of the *Deepwater Horizon*/BP Oil Spill, he led the state's efforts to assess damages done both economically and environmentally. He continued to serve as Special Counsel to the Governor for all spill-related matters when he became General Counsel of the University of Alabama System. He led the Governor's team in settlement negotiations resulting in a \$1 billion economic settlement for the state and over \$1 billion dollars in Natural Resource Damage Assessment funds, Clean Water Act (RESTORE) funds, and criminal fines and penalties.

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As General Counsel for the University of Alabama System, he also coordinated, managed, and administered legal strategies and services for the entire University of Alabama System including three campuses, its health system (including a hospital and insurer), and over 50 affiliated entities, with an operating budget of \$5.5 billion, over 38,000 employees, and a \$1.2 billion pooled investment endowment. Currently, Cooper operates his own law practice as a solo practitioner, experiencing first-hand the challenges of juggling a small business while practicing law.

During these varied and challenging professional endeavors, he has actively served our Bar. He twice served as our State Bar Vice President and is currently serving his third term on the State Bar Executive Council. He recently co-chaired the Succession Planning Task Force which resulted in Phillip McCallum as our new Executive Director. He has served as a Bar Commissioner for over twelve years and on the Disciplinary Commission and Disciplinary Panels. He was instrumental in starting the In-House Counsel and Government Lawyer Section which now boasts over 500 members. He has served on over 18 different Bar committees and task forces, most for multiple years, and chaired many of them. He served as President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Tuscaloosa County Bar and multiple terms on its Executive Committee.

Cooper is a member of the Alabama Law Institute, the Alabama Supreme Court Commission on Dispute Resolution, the Board of Trustee of the Alabama State Bar Foundation, and a Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation and the American Bar Foundation. He also served on the Board of Trustees of the Farrah Law Alumni Society and the University of Alabama Law School Foundation Executive Committee. Additionally, he has taught four different courses over fourteen years at the University of Alabama School of Law.

Cooper has served his community as a member of many local non-profit boards, including FOCUS on Senior Citizens and the Black Warrior Council of Boy Scouts of America. He is a frequent speaker on a variety of topics for CLE credits and on leadership and strengths, and currently serves as Leadership Tuscaloosa Chair. As a licensed local pastor, Cooper served on the staff of First United Methodist Church Tuscaloosa and as pastor of Propst United Methodist Church in Millport, Alabama.

Cooper graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in Economics and earned his juris doctorate from the University of Alabama School of Law. He is the proud father of three daughters, one employed in Birmingham, another studying architecture at Auburn University, and the youngest a freshman at Northridge High School in Tuscaloosa.