



# Alabama's Great Tradition of Lawyers in the Legislature: Have You Hugged Your Lawyer-Legislator Recently?

**P**art of the mission statement of the Alabama State Bar includes dedication to "improving the administration of justice." Who can help us fulfill this mission better than our members who are lawyer-legislators?

All of us are proud that we come from a profession that has produced many of the greatest legislators in the history of our country, including Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, and 25 of its 56 signers; James Madison, the primary drafter of the United States Constitution, and 22 of its 39 signers; and 36 of the 52 governors of the State of Alabama. Both of our U.S. senators from Alabama are lawyers. Six of seven members of the U.S. House of Representatives from Alabama are lawyers. We have 22 lawyer-legislators who are members of the ASB and are currently serving in the Alabama legislature.

I believe that the lawyers and judges in Alabama should support lawyers who are willing to sacrifice time away from their families and their jobs to engage in public service. Their service benefits all Alabama citizens.

At a recent meeting of state lawyer-legislators, a past president of the Alabama State Bar asked the question, "What can we do to help you?" The response of two of the legislators who have active trial practices was to "ask fellow lawyers and judges to cut us some slack" by agreeing to, or granting, continuances of trials and depositions during periods when the legislature is in session.

This seems like a reasonable request and I hope all of us involved in litigation will make every effort to comply with this request.

The ASB is encouraging lawyers to be legislators and leaders in public service through its Leadership Forum, mentoring programs and other efforts. For non-legislator members to fail to support our legislator-lawyers while the legislature is in session in accordance with their request runs counter to these other efforts by the ASB.

#### **Lawyer-Legislators (ASB Members):**

U.S. Senator Richard C. Shelby  
U.S. Senator Jefferson B. Sessions, III  
U.S. Congressman Robert B. Aderolt  
U.S. Congressman Josiah Robins Bonner, Jr.  
U.S. Congressman Spencer T. Bachus  
U.S. Congressman Robert E. Cramer  
U.S. Congressman Artur G. Davis  
U.S. Congressman Michael Dennis Rogers

#### **Alabama's House of Representatives:**

Marcel Black  
Paul Demarco  
Chris England  
Ken Guin  
Tammy Irons  
Marc Keahey  
Jeff McLaughlin  
Demetrius Newton  
Yusuf Salaam  
Cam Ward

#### **Alabama's Senate:**

Roger Bedford  
Ben Brooks  
Bradley Byrne  
Ted Little  
Zeb Little  
Pat Lindsey  
Wendell Mitchell  
Arthur Orr  
Myron Penn  
Phil Poole  
Hank Sanders  
Rodger Smitherman

— Samuel N. Crosby, Stone, Granade & Crosby, Daphne

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