

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Historically, the Lawyer Referral Service is a first line opportunity to enhance the quality of justice and access to legal services at a cost most citizens can afford, thereby increasing public understanding of and respect for the law.

However, the way the Alabama State Bar delivers these services is very outdated. Instead of creating a separate task force to review the way services are presently delivered, I want this board to actively investigating ways to better bring lawyer referral services to the general public as well as to our lawyers in the state. The board shall specifically review the historical purposes of the Lawyer Referral Service as stated in paragraph (2) of the 2016-2017 Purpose and Scope of this board, and determine if any changes need to be made in the language which sets forth what, to this date, the Lawyer Referral Service has been created to do.

This board shall investigate all resources available to it from the American Bar Association, and shall review: (1) other state models, including their use of the latest technology, (2) our current system of referral fees to the state bar, (3) the recommendations approved by the Board of Bar Commissioners in 2007 to determine current relevancy, (4) the American Bar Association PAR review report dated March 30, 2015, and (5) the current rules for the Lawyer Referral Service.

In short, this board is charged with not only sustaining the current system in place, but shall vigorously review 'best practices' throughout the country, and make a recommendation of the findings the board believes our bar can implement over a specific time period. The board shall make efforts to educate the public as well as our lawyers of the differences in what the Lawyer Referral Service can provide to the public, and what the Volunteer Lawyers Program, or other public or private legal assistance programs in place, can provide to the people of Alabama.

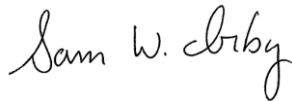
The board shall elect from its membership a secretary who shall be responsible for a written record of its actions. The secretary, or a designee, shall keep minutes of all meetings of the board, or of a subcommittee thereof. The original of the minutes shall be filed with the Alabama State Bar within 14 days after the meetings to be made a part of the board's permanent file. The board may divide itself into such subcommittees as may be necessary to effectively carry out its functions. The chairperson shall appoint a sub-chair for any subcommittee.

The board shall meet at the call of one of the co-chairs. The board as a whole shall meet no less than two times during the year.

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

The board shall submit a written report of its findings to the president no later than June 1, 2019.

Done as of July 31, 2018.



Sam W. Irby, President
Alabama State Bar