

## 2025 BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS ELECTION

### PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE GUIDE

*Click the candidate's name below to view their photograph and biographical sketch*

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#### President-Elect

[John Brinkley](#)

[Jana R. Garner](#)

The 2025 Board of Bar Commissioners Election will open on Monday, May 19, 2025. **All ballots must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. CT on Friday, May 23, 2025, to be counted.**

Online balloting will be conducted by our 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.

# Alabama State Bar President-Elect Candidate Profile

John Brinkley of Huntsville is running for State Bar President. He is ready to work and excited to serve. He would be honored to have your support during the voting period, May 19-23. John realizes lawyers are having to do more with less and he's committed to increasing and improving benefits and services to members.

As bar president, he plans to provide an in-person CLE for each circuit. He also intends to leverage the power of our 20,000+ members to negotiate new and better benefits and services. Finally, he will create a mentoring program to provide online tutorials from legends of our bar on the fundamentals of their practice area.

John represents a diverse clientele in his general practice including personal injury, criminal defense, and probate while being deeply involved in the legal community at both the local and state levels.

He served on his local bar's executive committee for over a decade, becoming president in 2022. His commitment to pro bono work is evident through his long-term contributions on the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program (MCVLP) Board of Directors, including two terms as chairman. He was recognized as the MCVLP's "VIP of the Year" in 2012.

At the state level, John served on the Alabama State Bar's Board of Bar Commissioners (2012-2021) and participated in its Leadership Forum. His contributions have been recognized with several ASB awards, including the Jeanne Marie Leslie Award (2016) for his dedication to the Alabama Lawyer's Assistance Program, the President's Award (2019), and the Commissioners Award (2021).

In 2024, he was elected Chairman of the Solo and Small Firm Section. In that role, he has actively delivered Alabama State Bar benefits to underserved legal communities providing programming, including ethics training sessions, and otherwise raising awareness of State Bar benefits to practitioners in nearly half the circuits.

His professional achievements include an A/V peer rating and being selected as a Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation (2022). He also is a member of the Foundation's Atticus Finch Society. In 2022, Legal Services of Alabama awarded him its Pro Bono Fairness Award.

John and his wife, Kristen, are the proud parents of ten children. He asks members to remember to vote John Brinkley for President.



**John Brinkley**  
Brinkley Law Firm  
*Huntsville*

# Alabama State Bar President-Elect Candidate Profile

I am a solo practitioner with offices in Selma and Tuscaloosa. I have 27 years of experience as a lawyer. I spend most of my time handling civil cases, representing both plaintiffs and defendants. I also serve as a mediator in both trial level and appellate cases. My husband Paul and I have been married for 21 years and have two children. Sam is a freshman at the University of Alabama. Fair is finishing her junior year in high school. We are members of Christ Episcopal Church.

I am running for President-Elect of the Alabama State Bar because, with the years of legal practice and service to profession as outlined below, I understand the unique challenges and opportunities facing lawyers today.

As President, I will prioritize the Alabama State Bar's core mission – supporting its members so they can effectively serve their clients and communities. I also want to engage lawyers who may feel disconnected from the Alabama State Bar or wonder if the Bar truly adds value to their professional lives. I am dedicated to taking meaningful unifying actions that benefit all lawyers regardless of their firm size, practice area, or location. I will work hard to focus on practical positive solutions to make your life as an Alabama lawyer better. I would be honored to have your support.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Alabama State Bar Commissioner (2012 to 2021 and 2022 to present)
- Alabama State Bar Executive Council
- 2016-2017: President J. Cole Portis
- 2018-2019: President Sam W. Irby
- 2024-2025: President Tom Perry
- Alabama Court of the Judiciary (2019 to present)
- Alabama State Bar Disciplinary Panel (2014 to 2016)
- Alabama State Bar Disciplinary Commission (2016 to 2021)
- Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Alabama Rules of Evidence (2019 to present)
- Alabama Law Foundation Fellow (2017 to present) (Life Fellow as of 2018)
- American Bar Foundation, Life Fellow (2019 to present)
- Alabama State Bar Dispute Resolution Section, Secretary (2016 to 2017), Chair (2018 to 2019)
- Alabama State Bar Solo and Small Firm Task Force (2014)
- Alabama State Bar Solo and Small Firm Section, (2015 to present) Vice Chair (2015 to 2017), Chair (2017 to 2018)
- Alabama State Bar Litigation Section, Officer (2024 to present)
- Attorneys Insurance Mutual of the South, Inc. Advisory Board (2024 to present)



**Jana Russell Garner**  
Law Office of Jana Russell Garner  
*Selma & Tuscaloosa*

## ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Committee, Chair
- Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Celebration Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Harvesting Hope Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Finance & Audit Committee
- Alabama State Bar Fred Gray Memorial Courtyard Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission
- Alabama State Bar Women's Section
- Alabama State Bar Family Law Section
- Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program
- American Bar Association Solo and Small Firm Section
- Alabama State Bar Diversity and Inclusion Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Membership Relations Liaison Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Alafire Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Local Bar Outreach
- Alabama State Bar Government Relations Liaison Committee
- Alabama State Bar Bench and Bar Relations Task Force
- Alabama State Bar Courthouse Security & Access Task Force

- Alabama State Bar Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee
- Alabama State Bar Digital Communications Committee, Chair
- Alabama State Bar Election Certification Committee
- Alabama State Bar General Counsel Selection Committee
- Alabama Board of Court Reporting

## PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

- Alabama State Bar President's Award (2013)
- Pro Bono Mediator Award (2015)
- Recognition of Support by the Selma Chapter of the Links, Inc (2016)
- Al Vreeland Pro Bono Award (2018)
- Alabama State Bar President's Award (2019)
- Appreciation Award from Dallas County Court Services (2019)
- Alabama State Bar President's Award (2021)

## PAST AND PRESENT ADMISSIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Alabama State Bar, Occupational License and Member in Good Standing continuously (September 1997 to present)
- United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama
- United States Judicial Panel of Multi-District Litigation
- United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division
- Dallas County Bar Association
- Tuscaloosa County Bar Association

## EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Mediation: Alabama State Court Mediation Roster for the following: Civil, 2010 to present; Domestic, 2010 to present; Appellate, 2010 to present; and, Foreclosure, 2014 to 2019
- Alabama Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Family Mediation Pilot Program Mediator (2012 to 2014)
- Dallas County Drug Treatment Court (2010 to present)
- Guardian ad Litem: Alabama Office of Courts Certified Guardian ad Litem (2010 to 2021)
- Cumberland School of Law, Samford University (Juris Doctorate 1997)
- Judson College (Bachelor of Art 1994)
- St. Andrews – Sewanee Episcopal School (Degree 1990)