

# DIXIE DIGEST

[www.alabama-als.org](http://www.alabama-als.org)

March 2025

## *A Message from our President* *Sonia Smith, CLP*



Hey AALS!

I trust that this newsletter finds you well! Time sure is buzzin' by fast!

I thank you again, MLPA for hosting this year's Winter Board meeting in Saraland. It was a wonderful time of continuing education and networking! For those of you who couldn't be with us, we missed seeing you!

I am looking forward to all that BCALP has in-store for us at the Gulf for this year's Annual Meeting. BCALP has worked hard to secure us a place to meet and kudos for the cost of the hotel room rates!! What a blessing! Please make every attempt to attend April 25-26, 2025. We don't know if/when we may have the opportunity again to convene at the beach at these *costs/rates*!!! This year's Annual Meeting registration form and room information will follow the officer's reports (in the pages that follow).

We have several AALS members who are deeply involved in assisting with the NALS 2025 Conference. Things seem to be going well but there is still much more work to BEE done! For those who have worked very diligently and earnestly to secure the speakers we have to date, **THANK YOU**- I am reminded of the quote "*Many Hands Make Light Work*"! Every little bit helps!

I will be the first to say, that I am struggling!----and I am certain many of you are as well -- with workloads being overwhelming and the needs of our own families, the burdens of those and *then you add* duties of AALS offices/committees it can just seem like it is too much! **BUT THEN I STOP** -- and the memories of those who have paved the way for this ASSOCIATION and too, their struggles with the same, KEEP ME GOING! Those more 'seasoned' members still inspire me to GROW in my career. To stay strong and plow forward through the NETWORKING, MEMBERSHIP and CERTIFICATIONS that it takes for AALS to continue a LEGACY they started!! Let us carry on what they started! Let us BEE and GROW in membership, BEE and GROW in networking and, yes, BEE and GROW in certifications.

I hope to BEE seeing you at Annual Meeting at the Gulf.



Webpage: [www.alabama-als.org](http://www.alabama-als.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/aalsalabama](https://www.facebook.com/aalsalabama)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/aalsinfo>

## VICE PRESIDENT

*Julie Nims*

Happy March y'all! I cannot believe we are already in March and Annual Meeting is next month. Where has the time gone?

PLEASE do not forget if you sponsor a new member, email, text, fax, snail mail me a copy of their application or a screenshot of their receipt and let me know you sponsored them and get into the drawings! Who doesn't like extra mullah???

I look forward to seeing everyone at Annual Meeting at the beach in April.

If you have any questions, suggestions, comments, and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

## SECRETARY

*Kristi Skipper, PP-SC*



I have not received any correspondence since my last report.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as Secretary this year. I never take it lightly when my colleagues put their trust in me, and I appreciate each of you for always supporting me in whatever roles I assume in our association. You truly are my chosen family, and I thank God every day for the blessing of having you all in my life. I look forward to serving you again sometime in the future.

## TREASURER

*Ed Clark, PP-SC*



We are getting ready to finish the current term; please submit your expense reimbursement form to me at [ebc@phm-law.com](mailto:ebc@phm-law.com) or USPS mail to my attention at:

Ed Clark  
PHMMI  
22 Inverness Center Parkway, Ste. 600  
Birmingham, AL 35242

If you have a question about your committee budget, please email me. I look forward to seeing you at the AALS Winter Board Meeting.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE: AALS MEMBERS

If your email and contact info changes, please make certain you go into your NALS account online and update your information. Your receipt of emails and information from NALS and AALS **requires your current contact info and email address**

## CHAPLAIN

Judy Whigham, PP, PLS



It was great to see everyone in Saraland for the Winter Board Meeting in January. With that said, it was bittersweet after receiving the sad news that Magan Bedwell lost her sweet father during our meeting. She and her family have been lifted up in prayer and will continue to be as they mourn their great loss. Cards were sent to Magan to let our friend and her family know they are in our thoughts and prayers.

I continue to pray over all the requests I receive and over the association, as well as all the planning taking place for the 2025 NALS Conference in Mobile later this year. As a member of the planning committee, we definitely need prayer over all the effort going into that project.

Please be assured that I am praying for each and every member and any need for which I receive a request. In that regard, I have a need that I want to share with the members. My brother, Earnest Odom, a widower, who will be 69 this month, was recently diagnosed with CLL (chronic lymphocytic leukemia). Like most little sisters, my big brother has always been a rock in our family, especially since we lost our mom and dad in 2000 and 2011, respectively. My “Bubba” is a wonderful human being, so, I really would appreciate if our prayer warriors would remember him from time to time in your prayers. We are trusting the Lord to guide him on the best treatment options and more than anything, for healing. Thankfully, it is a slow growing cancer and there are several paths for treatment. Whatever the outcome, the Lord is good, all the time.

I am very happy to report that because of the new members in the last month or so, I have been busy updating my AALS member database and was able to get the February birthday greetings sent out and have received positive feedback.

✚ *Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – KJV)*

✚ *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. (1 Corinthians 2:9 – KJV) (We really cannot imagine all the incredible glories God has in store for his children when the day approaches! What a wonderful promise from the Lord.)*

Please text or email any new prayer requests, praises or other announcements or updates to me so that I can address each one appropriately. Or, if you want me to send an e-greeting to someone, I can do that too. Send requests to me at: [jwhigham@joneswalker.com](mailto:jwhigham@joneswalker.com) and/or 251.689.9303 (cell/voice/text). Until I see you in April at the beach, please take care and know that I am praying for each of you.

## PARLIAMENTARIAN

Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS

We have one Standing Rule change to vote on at the annual meeting in April. It is listed below. It has been suggested that we make a change to the Hollis-Schultz Scholarship qualifications. Changing the qualifications do not require a vote of membership, but we will discuss the proposed change. Currently, the scholarship “...is awarded to a member of AALS or **a child or ward** of a member of AALS in need of financial assistance.” A question came up this year if child or ward included grandchild. The proposed change is to change the wording to read “... is awarded to a member of AALS or a **close relative (i.e., child, ward, grandchild, foster child, step-child)** of a member of AALS in need of financial assistance.”

This is the 30-day notification of proposed standing rule change.

## Article VI

### 6.03 Registration

B. If cancellation is made at least one (1) week prior to Annual Meeting, refunds shall be made for social event fees. Refunds for social event fees may be refunded at the discretion of the Annual Meeting Chairman if cancellation is made less than one (1) week prior to Annual Meeting. In the event of a dire emergency, i.e., sickness or death in the immediate family of a member, the entire scrip ticket can be refunded, if possible.

### **PROPOSED CHANGE:**

B. If cancellation is made at least one (1) week prior to Annual Meeting, refunds shall be made for social event fees. Refunds for social event fees may be refunded at the discretion of the Annual Meeting Chairman if cancellation is made less than one (1) week prior to Annual Meeting. In the event of a dire emergency, i.e., sickness or death in the immediate family of a member, the entire **registration** ticket can be refunded, if possible.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT NALS

[https://www.nals.org/events/event\\_list.asp](https://www.nals.org/events/event_list.asp)

### **Houston Association of Legal Professionals | Latest Twist in the Murdaugh Murders - Jury Tampering**

3/11/2025

*Time: 6 - 7 PM CT*

### **NALS of Nashville | Towards a Lighter Heart and a More Focused Mind in the Legal Profession**

3/12/2025

*Time: 12 - 1 PM Central*

### **NALS of NC | Trends in Education Law**

3/13/2025

*Time: 1 - 2 PM EST*

### **Houston Association of Legal Professionals | Mechanics' and Materialmans' Liens**

4/8/2025

*Time: 6 - 7 PM CT*



**Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel**

**64 South Water Street, Mobile, AL, USA, 36602**

Link for more info: <https://www.nals.org/page/2025conference>



# DIXIE DIGEST PATRONS 2024-2025

Melissa Cooper, CAP, BW, HR, OM, PM, RM, PLS	BLSA
Debby Holmes, PP, PLS	BLSA
Deborah Rutherford	BCALP
Susan Turner, PLS	NOCA
Alison Schemmer, PP, PLS	MLPA
Teresa Moore	BLSA
Myra Beckham, PP, PLS	BLSA
Harriet Piper	DCLSA
Barb Hanley, PLS	MALS
Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS	MLPA
Kristi Skipper, PP	MALS
Judy Whigham, PP, PLS	BCALP
Debbie Whitman	MALS

In Memory of Barbara Malone, PP, PLS  
by Judy Whigham, PP, PLS

In Memory of Talley Brathovd, PLS  
by Gina Harbison, PP, PLS

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## **BCALP - Baldwin County**

*Judy Whigham, PP, PLS*



It's hard to believe it's March already and we will be meeting at the beach in April! Time flies when you're having fun or totally overwhelmed at work, right! It has been both for me lately.

BCALP has been very busy over the past couple of months. Not only are we in GO mode for annual meeting and trying to get everything tied up with a nice little bow on that front, but we have also added to our member roster! Yay! Always happy to announce new members. We are so happy and excited to welcome our newest members, listed below:

- Paula Andrews – Operations Manager – Law Offices of Brenton McWilliams – Foley, AL
- DeeDee Foster – Probate Paralegal – Law Offices of Brenton McWilliams – Foley, AL
- Abby Jay – Paralegal – J. P. Coleman Law, LLC – Robertsdale, AL
- Nicol Santos – Legal Assistant – J. P. Coleman Law, LLC – Robertsdale, AL

I might add, too, that BCALP is going global. New member Abby Jay hails from the United Kingdom! How royally wonderful!

As is tradition, BCALP did not hold a meeting in December. We did, however, keep with tradition and have our Christmas After Party on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at Wind Creek Casino and Resort in Atmore. Members attending were Gina Harbison, PP, PLS, Deborah Rutherford, Marva Dean Little, PP, PLS, Julie Nims, Joan Latour, Jeanine Walker, and Judy Whigham, PP, PLS. We were honored to have AALS President Sonia Smith, CLP, at the party, and very happy to have former members Vickie Delorto Akin and Natasha Whigham attending as well as sweet Miss Ella Nims (Julie's mom).

To add to the fun, we had a lively Dirty Santa exchange and after a few side deals, everyone seemed to get what they wanted, and we all had a lot of fun. Thanks to our President, Gina Harbison, PP, PLS, and member Keesha O'Barr Frye, our wonderful buffet and meeting room was graciously provided by their employer, the fine folks at Wind Creek Casino. They definitely know how to make you feel special and cook amazing food! Our Christmas After Party truly is the most wonderful time of the year! 😊

Just before our Christmas After Party, we held a brief chapter business meeting.

BCALP was pleased to donate \$500 in February to the Kidz Eatz Program including funds collected at our annual Bosses Night Banquet in October as part of the AALS Charity.

Our February meeting was held on February 13<sup>th</sup> at Briquettes Steakhouse in Spanish Fort. We had a business only meeting to conduct AALS Annual Meeting planning and to hold our chapter's nominations and elections. We were very excited to have in attendance one of our newest members, Abby Jay, and guest Cadbury Warren, who works at the law firm of Shane Taylor in Mobile. We are hoping to see Cadbury at a future meeting!



Nominations and Elections were held at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting with the following officers being duly elected to the 2025-2026 term beginning May 1, 2025:

President	Deborah Rutherford
Vice President	Whitney Bell
Secretary	Tracey Creel
Treasurer	Sandra Doerr, ALP
Governor	Judy Whigham, PP, PLS

We are so excited to see new members step into leadership roles of our chapter. Tracey and Whitney, and all our new members, you are the future of BCALP, AALS and NALS!

Our March meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> at a location to be announced and no speaker has been confirmed at the time of this report. We will receive nominations for our 2024-2025 Member of the Year Award at the March meeting.

We will announce the Member of the Year at the April meeting and hold installation of officers. The meeting is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> at a location to be announced.

Please make plans to attend the 2025 Annual Meeting hosted by BCALP on April 25 and 26 at the Hilton Garden Inn – Orange Beach.



**BCALP Members & Guests attending the Christmas After Party at Wind Creek Casino, Atmore – January 4, 2025**

**Front row/photographer: Julie Nims  
2<sup>nd</sup> row L-R: Joan Latour, Jeanine Walker, Gina Harbison, Judy Whigham  
3<sup>rd</sup> row L-R: Deborah Rutherford, Vickie Delorto Akin (guest), Marva Dean Little, Sonia Smith**



**Gina Harbison and Vickie Delorto Akin @ BCALP Christmas After Party @ Wind Creek Casino – Atmore – January 4, 2025**

## **BLSA – Birmingham**

Kayla Bassett, PLS



I want to start off by thanking MLPA members for planning a great AALS Winter Board Meeting. Who would ever think South Alabama would have more snow than North/Central Alabama? Everything went as planned after we arrived in Saraland. MLPA always does an excellent job securing speakers who are current, informative and entertaining.

BLSA members have been busy since the Holidays. At the January meeting we awarded our Thomas E. Huey, Jr. Memorial Scholarship to a deserving High School Senior. We continue to have our monthly meetings at various Birmingham area restaurants and continue to support our local community charity.

BLSA members are looking forward to the Annual Meeting at the Beach in April! Annual Meeting already...where has the time gone?

Enjoy the **SPRING!** Looking forward to seeing everyone in April.

## **DCLSA - DALLAS COUNTY**

Harriett Piper, Governor Pro Tem

It's been 'snow' cold since Winter Board Meeting and I've been sticking close to the home front. But by the time you read this I'll be a year older and my children are taking me to NOLA to get there! To get to a year older that is.

I'm writing this for the Dixie Digest but I'm writing it to you, my dear AALS friends, to share my thoughts and some little crumbs of information. It's not much of a report of activities or events or for goings on. It's more of a report for 'comings on'. 'Cause NALS is 'coming on' September 29. 'Coming on' here to Mobile, Alabama.

It was so exciting to read The NALS Legal NewsBrief February 18<sup>th</sup> and see the little blurb. – a beautiful purple and green and blue and gold mardi gras mask with scales of justice earrings (I want a pair of those!) and view that gorgeous video of a Mobile celebration.

So, here's to you, AALS and NALS, my report:

Brothers Bienville and Iberville, sent by the French navy to establish a permanent colony in French Louisiana, landed on Dauphin Island in January 1702. Traveling up Mobile Bay, then making his way upriver, Bienville stopped in an area now known as 27-Mile Bluff and there he established the first European settlement in Alabama. But in 1711, after the town had twice been flooded, Bienville moved the colony to its present location of Mobile and so began the settlement of our Port City.

Some interesting information I read about the settlement of the city was in Mobile's Legal Legacy by Ben Erickson and I quote:

*“Streets were surveyed and 153 lots marked off. The town was laid out using the French toise which is equivalent to approximately 6.4 feet. Most of the blocks were 50 toise square, or 320 by 320 feet, and the lots 80 by 160 feet. Much of this initial survey is still used today and, although none of the early buildings survived the ravages of time, many French street names are still in evidence.”*

What makes it so interesting and amusing to me is the fact that Mobile was laid out so neatly over 300 years ago, some street names are the same and I still get lost! Maybe that's why I don't do real estate! And maybe that's why I haven't been asked to be a tour guide for the National Conference!

Speaking of our National Conference, attention, NALS members! We're settled in now – took us 300 years but we're ready and you won't be disappointed. Ya'll come!



## MLPA – Mobile

Danielle Baker



Goodbye Winter and Hello Spring! MLPA had a busy and unique couple of months!

First, the members of MLPA had their share of partying and fun with family and friends during December. We had our after hours Christmas party at the Original Oyster House on the Causeway. A joyful time was had by all that attended with plenty of socializing, laughing, and even a gift exchange! Sometimes there is nothing better than just sitting back, relaxing, and having a good time with friends and family after a LOOOOOONG YEAR!

We also had our monthly December meeting where an auction was held to help with donations for our Christmas project, NEST (Nurturing Children, Equipping Parents, Strengthening Families, and Transforming Communities)! Two angels, an 8-year-old girl and 17-year-old boy, were picked from the NEST tree at Dew Drop Inn. Thanks to help of our members we were able to get these angels some items from their lists, including Tiana Disney princess twin-size bedsheets, jewelry making kit, gift card to a bookstore, candy bars, and even A-1 sauce (a kid after my own heart)!

MLPA had our monthly meeting at T.P. Crockmiers where we learned about Adoption Rules and Forms from Melissa King. I would highly suggest that you find a local speaker in your area to learn about this subject because I did not realize the intricacies that went into adoption.

We were then starting to get prepared to host the AALS 2025 Winter Board Meeting in Saraland when mother nature decided to take our meeting name “WINTER” literally and provide us with a rare and beautiful sight!!



## MALS – Montgomery

Barb Hanley, PLS



Spring is right around the corner. Birds are chirping and temperatures are rising. We know what’s going on around us, but what is going on in the honeybee colony when this exciting new time blooms? Well at the MALS colony a fun night of membership, informational meeting and humming in the way of Karaoke is upon us and a plan for some time in late March or early April for this membership meeting and drive.

Let me tell you a little about the MALS colony winter months. In December our Christmas Party was a success. We snagged a table early and had fun drinks and laughter. It was a fun night during the cold winter months at

Hilltop Public House with music, dirty Santa ornament swapping and meeting with “new” members Debbie Whitman, PLS and Diandra Ruff. Side note – Diandra is studying for the PP exam. We are so excited for her. January brought Kristi and I to Mobile for the Winter Board meeting and it was a great success and lots, lots of fun. Who says that snow on the beach or major highways can slow the MALS gals down.

Also, during the winter season, the students at the Booker T. Washington Magnet High School were and are studying for their exam. We await the news of their success. Kristi Skipper, PP, PLS has offered to do a presentation about our Association and the benefits it offers. As the students’ study, please keep them in their prayers. They say you can never take prayer out of the public school system during exam season.

As spring begins to bloom, so does the honeybee life. Sweet summertime, and honey, is getting even closer and so is the Annual Meeting. We are so excited about being back at the beach that Kristi made reservations I think in December 2024! The MALS gals can’t wait to see the rest of our SWARM at the BEACH!

Finally, please remember YOU can help ease the stress of honeybees in spring by being careful about what you clean out of your garden while waiting for new growth. Dandelions, which are often looked on as a pesky weed, are an extremely important nectar provider. It’s often the honeybee’s first source of food after the long winter. Instead of weeding them, keep them for honeybees until more valuable sources bloom. Besides keeping dandelions, plant flowers native to your region. Honeybees especially love daffodils, sunflowers and honeysuckles



# NALS OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

*Susan Turner, PLS*

Hello Spring and AALS friends! Let's get this year going with better weather and good health. I understand the Winter Board Meeting was great with a good turnout and great CLE. I wish I could have been there.

NOCA is looking forward to the upcoming annual meeting at the BEACH and we are anxious to hear the tentative plans for the NALS Meeting in Mobile in the Fall. As an active member of NALS and having served on many committees over the years and as the NALS President in 2003-2004, I know that organizing and planning the National Meeting is a big task. I was honored to chair the annual meeting committee many years ago in Birmingham, so I know what is involved, and I am confident that AALS IS UP TO THE TASK!

## AALS PAST PRESIDENTS

**Let's take a look at and remember our Presidents  
who have led and helped shape our organization for 63 years.**

Doris Davis - Mobile LSA, 1963-1964  
Lu Hrabe - Montgomery LSA, 1964-1965  
Helen Sexton - Birmingham LSA, 1965-1966  
Merlene Schultz - Mobile LSA, 1966-1967  
Teresa Edmondson - Montgomery LSA, 1967-1968  
Teresa Edmondson - Montgomery LSA, 1968-1969  
Janis Davidson - Birmingham LSA, 1969-1970  
Janis Davidson - Birmingham LSA, 1970-1971  
Judy Pearson McFadden - Mobile LSA, 1971-1972  
Jane Lee - Tuscaloosa LSA, 1972-1973  
Anna Fay Shaw, PLS - Montgomery LSA, 1973-1974  
Gustava Hollis, PLS - Birmingham LSA, 1974-1975  
Evelyn Watson - Huntsville LSA, 1975-1976  
Evelyn Watson - Huntsville LSA, 1976-1977  
Juliann Overstreet - Mobile LSA, 1977-1978  
Pearl Austin - Birmingham LSA, 1978-1979  
Ruth Garrett Bailey - Gadsden LSA, 1979-1980  
Ann Haskew - Birmingham LSA, 1980-1981  
Zelda Stokes - Montgomery LSA, 1981-1982  
Jean Cochran Anderson - Gadsden LSA, 1982-1983  
Kaye Fulbright - Birmingham LSA, 1983-1984  
Faith Stevens - Mobile LSA, 1984-1985  
Terri Burdick-Tuscaloosa LSA, 1985-1986  
Terri Burdick-Tuscaloosa LSA, 1986-1987  
Barbara Reed - Mobile LSA, 1987-1988  
Janet Bradley - Calhoun County LSA, 1988-1989  
Blanche Pappas - Birmingham LSA, 1989-1990  
Lynda Matson, PLS - Birmingham LSA, 1990-1991  
Mary Jo Dennis, PLS - Birmingham LSA, 1991-1992  
Sharon Hite - Cullman LSA, 1992-1993  
Tammy Denson, PLS - Tuscaloosa LSA, 1993-1994

Susan Turner, PLS - Birmingham LSA, 1994-1995  
Ginny Cheek, PLS - Birmingham LSA, 1995-1996  
Deborah Whitman, PLS - Montgomery LSA, 1996-1997  
Barbara Malone, PLS - Mobile LSA, 1997-1998  
Beverly Lynn - Montgomery LSA, 1998-1999  
Linda J. Bishop, PLS - Birmingham LSA, 1999-2000  
Pat Tenbrink, PLS - Birmingham LSA, 2000-2001  
Linda Teague - Montgomery LSA, 2001-2002  
Pam Dunn, PLS - Birmingham LSA, 2002-2003  
Marva Dean Little, PLS - Baldwin County ALP, 2003-2004  
Marva Dean Little, PP, PLS - Baldwin County ALP, 2004-2005  
Nancy Harris, PP, PLS - Birmingham LSA, 2005-2006  
Gina Harbison, PP, PLS - Baldwin County ALP, 2006-2007  
Becky Barfield, PP, PLS - Mobile LSA, 2007-2008  
Myra Beckham, PP, PLS - Birmingham LSA, 2008-2009  
Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS - Mobile LPA, 2009-2010  
Barbara Hanley - Montgomery LSA, 2010-2011  
"Talley" Brathovd, PP, PLS - Mobile LPA, 2011-2012  
Deborah S. Rutherford - Baldwin County ALP, 2012-2013  
Tena Matthews, PP, PLS - Mobile LPA, 2013-2014  
Teresa Moore, PP, PLS - Birmingham LSA, 2014-2015  
Cheri Loyd Mobile LPA, 2015-2016  
Vicky Lundy, PP, PLS — Mobile LPA, 2016-2017  
Kay Kidd — Baldwin County ALP, 2017-2018  
Donrue "Talley" Brathovd, PP, PLS - NOCA, 2018-2019  
Ed Clark, PP-SC - Birmingham LSA, 2019-2020  
Kristi Skipper, PP-SC, PLS - Montgomery LSA, 2020-2021  
Sonia Smith, CLP — Mobile MLPA, 2021-2022  
Julie Nims, - Baldwin County ALP, 2022-2023  
Melissa Cooper, PLS - Birmingham, LSA, 2023-2024  
Sonia Smith, CLP — Mobile MLPA, 2024-2025



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## SCHOLARSHIP

*Kayla Bassett, PLS*

The AALS Scholarship and Hollis-Schultz Scholarship Rules and Applications were emailed to AALS Governors on January 9, 2025. The AALS Scholarship is awarded to a High School Senior or Student Enrolled in a School of Advanced Education. The Hollis-Schultz Scholarship is awarded to an AALS Member, Child or Ward of an AALS Member.

The deadline for applications is April 4, 2025. If you have any questions, please let me know.

## FUNDING

*Magan W. Bedwell*

*Laneay Yates, ALP*

The Funding theme for Annual Meeting will be: **Show Me Your Best Flower/Flour**

For more information regarding the theme, please contact Magan at [mwb@cunninghambounds.com](mailto:mwb@cunninghambounds.com) or Laneay Yates at [LaneayPLS@hotmail.com](mailto:LaneayPLS@hotmail.com)

## ANNUAL MEETING

*AALS Annual Meeting Co-Chairs*

*Julie Nims and Gina Harbison, PP, PLS*

### JOIN US FOR THE 2025 AALS ANNUAL MEETING AND EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE HILTON GARDEN INN, ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA

Mark your calendar for April 25-26, 2025, for the AALS 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting and Educational Conference.

Please see attached information for hotel reservations. If you have any issues reserving a room, please email Julie Nims at [jnims@raineslawfirm.com](mailto:jnims@raineslawfirm.com) and she will contact the hotel.

This will be a jam-packed weekend with education, food, fellowship, and fun. We cannot wait to see everyone. A Schedule of Events is also attached. We are still working on a few speakers and will email a finalized schedule when it is complete.

**We are happy to announce that there will be no cost for the conference. However, there is a deadline to register for the conference for April 7, 2025, to confirm a head count for food.** Be sure to email or mail your registration to **Judy Whigham, Jones Walker, 11 N Water St., Ste. 1200, Mobile, AL 36602,** [jwhigham@joneswalker.com](mailto:jwhigham@joneswalker.com).

Don't miss it! See you soon!



2025 AALS Annual Meeting and Educational Conference  
April 25-26, 2025

Hilton Garden Inn, Orange Beach, Alabama



Room Rates: Queen Beds Pool View \$189.00 per night + tax

We have a room block for Thursday night, April 24, 2025 – Saturday night, April 26, 2025  
(in case anyone wants to come a day early and stay an extra day)

Booking Link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/aalp2025annualmeeting/>

Group Code: **AALP25** (Guests can use this if they prefer to book via phone or through Hilton Honors)

**CUTOFF DATE: MARCH 25, 2025**

If the room block is full, please contact Julie Nims [jnims@raineslawfirm.com](mailto:jnims@raineslawfirm.com), and I will contact the hotel and request additional rooms be added.

Julie Nims  
Gina Harbison, PP, PLS  
Annual Meeting Co-Chairs





**REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 7, 2025**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE WK \_\_\_\_\_ HM \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (to appear on badge) \_\_\_\_\_

ATTENDING FRIDAY LUNCH YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

ATTENDING SATURDAY LUNCH YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY: Delegate  Alternate Delegate  Past State President   
First Time-Annual Meeting  AALS Past Member of Year  AALS Past New Member of Year

\*\*\*\*\*

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

NON-MEMBER MEETING PACKAGE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY LUNCH FOR GUEST(S) (NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY LUNCH FOR GUEST(S) (NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER GUEST TICKETS (NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (S) OF GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

No refunds or cancellations will be made after April 7, 2025.

Make checks payable to "AALS" and mail to:  
Judy Whigham, Jones Walker, 11 N Water St., Ste. 1200, Mobile, AL 36602  
Any questions, you can contact Judy at 251-689-9303

**MEETING PACKAGE INFORMATION FOR NON-MEMBERS**

PACKAGE ONE	Registration fee and all meals Friday and Saturday	\$ 100.00
PACKAGE TWO	Registration fee and all meals Saturday only	\$ 65.00
PACKAGE THREE	Registration only-no meals	\$ 50.00

**GUEST PRICES**

Guest Ticket for Friday Lunch	\$ 45.00
Guest Ticket for Saturday Lunch	\$ 45.00



**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**  
(Final Schedule & Speakers subject to change)  
**CLE OFFERED - 6.0 HRS**

**Friday, April 25, 2025**

- 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration
- 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Exhibitors open
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Topic:** TBA  
**Speaker:** TBA
- 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Topic:** TBA  
**Speaker:** *Brenton C. McWilliams, Esq.*
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Topic:** TBA  
**Speaker:** *Dr. David E. Wade, Chiropractor*
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Lunch with Exhibitors
- 1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Delegate Orientation
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Topic:** *Attorney Complaints & Grievances*  
**Speaker:** *Harold (Trey) A. Koons, III, Esq.*
- 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. **Topic:** *Why Should I Care About Cybersecurity?*  
**Speaker:** *Melvin Evans Chief Information Officer Hand Arendall*
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Topic:** TBA  
**Speaker:** TBA

**DINNER AND FRIDAY NIGHT ON YOUR OWN**

**Saturday, April 26, 2025**

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Exhibitors open
- 8:30 a.m. **General Assembly**
- NALS National Conference Update and Discussion**
- Break**
- Installation of Officers**
- Awards Luncheon**
- 2025-2026 First Board Meeting of Governors**

**AALS**  
**2024-2025 CHARITY**



## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2024-2025

COMMITTEE	CHAIR/CO-CHAIR	EMAIL
Audit Committee (2024-2025 Books)	Deborah Rutherford Tena Mathews, PP, PLS Debby Holmes, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:drutherford@cwlawfirm.com">drutherford@cwlawfirm.com</a> <a href="mailto:capreesmom@aol.com">capreesmom@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:debby@assetlaw.com">debby@assetlaw.com</a>
Audit Committee (2024 Annual Meeting)	Gina Harbison, PP, PLS Teresa Moore, PP, PLS Harriet Piper	<a href="mailto:gharbison@pci-nsn.gov">gharbison@pci-nsn.gov</a> <a href="mailto:teresam357@bellsouth.net">teresam357@bellsouth.net</a> <a href="mailto:harrietpiper@yahoo.com">harrietpiper@yahoo.com</a>
Bylaws, Standing Rules & Procedures Manual	Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:babs.dekeyser@att.net">babs.dekeyser@att.net</a>
Certification	Alison Schemmer, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:aks6451@aol.com">aks6451@aol.com</a>
Corporate Sponsors	Ed Clark, PP-SC	<a href="mailto:ebc@phm-law.com">ebc@phm-law.com</a>
Dixie Digest Patron Ads	Penny Castleberry	<a href="mailto:cheykaymom71@gmail.com">cheykaymom71@gmail.com</a>
Dixie Digest	Margaret Dawson, PLS	<a href="mailto:aalsdixiedigest@gmail.com">aalsdixiedigest@gmail.com</a>
Finance	Ed Clark, PP-SC	<a href="mailto:ebc@phm-law.com">ebc@phm-law.com</a>
Funding	Magan Bedwell Laneay Yates, ALP,	<a href="mailto:mwb@cunninghambounds.com">mwb@cunninghambounds.com</a> <a href="mailto:laneayPLS@hotmail.com">laneayPLS@hotmail.com</a>
Installation	Myra Beckham, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:myrabeckham@bellsouth.net">myrabeckham@bellsouth.net</a>
Legal Education (Banner & Tablecloth)	Melissa Cooper, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com">scrapbookskippy@yahoo.com</a>
Marketing/Membership	Julie Nims	<a href="mailto:jnims@raineslawfirm.com">jnims@raineslawfirm.com</a>
Member of the Year	Margaret Dawson, PLS	<a href="mailto:thistldome@gmail.com">thistldome@gmail.com</a>
New Member of the Year	none	
Nominations & Elections, Credentials	Tracy Creel	<a href="mailto:traceycreel@gmail.com">traceycreel@gmail.com</a>
Resolutions	Judy Whigham, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:jwhigham@joneswalker.com">jwhigham@joneswalker.com</a>
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Student Chapter Liaison	none	
Technology	Danielle Baker	<a href="mailto:danielle@longandlong.com">danielle@longandlong.com</a>
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