

# ALABAMA



The Alabama Legislative Orientation is hosted by the Law Institute at the University of Alabama. The orientation is facilitated by the state's Legislative Reference Service.

The program covers one and a half days of sessions with topics focused on procedural information, the judiciary and need-to-know information.

Additionally, speakers from the private sector give overviews on the state's economy, education, energy, and other issues pertinent to the upcoming session.



Southern Legislative Conference



The Council of State Governments  
Sharing capitol ideas

**Alabama Legislative  
Orientation**

December 4 - 6, 2006



Law Center  
University of Alabama

*Legislative Council and  
Alabama Law Institute*

*Host: The University of Alabama*

## ORIENTATION FOR FIRST TIME LEGISLATORS

*Monday, December 4, 2006*

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

### **REGISTRATION**

- Red Room-344 Law Center

### **PRESIDING**

- Representative Demetrius Newton  
President, Alabama Law Institute  
Vice-Chair, Legislative Council
- Senator Roger Bedford  
Chair, Legislative Council  
Vice-President, Alabama Law Institute

**1:00** **RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN  
LEGISLATORS**

- "Being Ethical in Today's Legislature"  
NCSL Video,  
Jim Sumner, State Ethics Commission

**1:30** **THINGS I LEARNED AS A NEW  
LEGISLATOR**

- Representative Robert Bentley
- Senator Quinton Ross

**2:00** **MEET YOUR STAFF**

- Greg Pappas, Clerk of the House
- Dave Avant, Assistant Secretary of Senate
- Jerry Bassett, Director,  
Legislative Reference Services
- Joyce Bigbee, Director,  
Legislative Fiscal Office
- Ron Jones, Chief Examiner,  
Examiners of Public Accounts
- Bob McCurley, Director,  
Alabama Law Institute

**2:30** **UNDERSTANDING STATE BUDGETS**

- Senator Hinton Mitchem
- Representative Richard Lindsey

**3:00 HOW COMMITTEES WORK AND BILL TRACKING**

- Representative Marcel Black
- Senator Wendell Mitchell
- Don Ladner, Staff, House of Representative

**3:20 BREAK**

**3:30 LEGISLATORS AND THE MEDIA**

- Mike Murphy, Senate Public Information Officer
- Clay Redden, House Public Information Officer

**3:50 ORGANIZATION SESSION**

(Caucuses, Committees, and Selecting Leadership)

- Senator Rodger Smitherman, for the Senate Majority Leader
- Senator Jabo Waggoner, Senate Minority Leader
- Representative Ken Guin, House Majority Leader
- Representative Micky Hammon for the House Minority Leader

**4:10 THE LEGISLATIVE RULES**

(Joint Rules, Senate Rules, and House Rules)

- Senator Jim Prewitt
- Representative Ken Guin

**4:40 THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

- Senator Myron Penn
- Representative Cam Ward

**5:00 ADJOURN**

**6:00-7:30**

**SPEAKER'S RECEPTION**

- Bryant Conference Center

**ORIENTATION FOR ALL LEGISLATORS**

**Tuesday, December 5, 2006**

**8:00 - 9:00 a.m.**

**REGISTRATION**

- Moot Court Room, Law Center

**8:30 OPENING SESSION**

**PRESIDING**

- Representative Demetrius Newton, President, Alabama Law Institute
- Vice-Chair, Legislative Council

**WELCOME**

- Dr. Malcolm Porter, Chancellor, University of Alabama

**KEYNOTE REMARKS**

- Lt. Governor-Elect Jim Folsom
- Speaker of the House Seth Hammitt
- Senate President Pro Tem Lowell Barron

**9:10** *The Beauty of North Alabama*  
*Alabama Tourism*

**9:15 RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT**

- Dr. Alan Rosenthal, Eagleton Institute, Rutgers University

**10:05** *The Variety of Central Alabama*  
*Alabama Tourism*

**10:10 GENERATIONAL CHANGES: UNDERSTANDING YOUR CONSTITUENTS**

- Dr. Breda Bova, Professor and Senior Advisor to the President of University of New Mexico

**11:00 WAYS STATES ARE MEETING THE ENERGY CHALLENGES**

- Mr. Eric Smith, Tulane Energy Institute

12:00 - 1:15

**CAUCUSES**  
(Boxed Lunches Provided by ThompsonWest Publishing)

- House Democrats - Moot Court Room
- House Republicans - Red Room (344)
- Senate Democrats - Sanford Room (284)
- Senate Republicans - Faculty Lounge (Rm. Adjacent to 344)

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

**PRESIDING**

- Senator Roger Bedford  
Chair, Legislative Council  
Vice-President, Alabama Law Institute

1:30 **ALABAMA'S ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES**

- Dr. David Bransby, Auburn University
- Dr. Nick Tew, State Geologist,  
Alabama Oil and Gas Board

2:25 *Romance of South Alabama*  
*Alabama Tourism*

2:30 **USING HUMOR IN POLITICS**

- Senator Roy Herron, Tennessee

3:10 *Alabama's Beautiful Gulf Coast*  
*Alabama Tourism*

3:15 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

- "Smart Start Initiative"  
Mr. Ashley Thrift, Chair and  
Ms. Karen Ponder, President,  
North Carolina Partnership for Children
- "Childhood Obesity"  
Dr. Frank Franklin, Director of Pediatric  
Nutrition U.A.B.
- "State of Alabama's Educational System"  
Dr. Joe Morton, Alabama Superintendent  
of Education

4:45 **ADJORN**

5:45 **TROLLEYS LEAVE SHERATON FOR  
INDIAN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**

6:00 **LT. GOVERNOR RECEPTION**

- Indian Hills Country Club

6:30 **DINNER-INDIAN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**

- Host: Lexis-Nexis
- Entertainment:
  - "The House Band"
  - Mr. Rick Bragg, University of Alabama  
Professor of Communications and  
Pulitzer Prize winning Author

**Wednesday, December 6, 2006**

**PRESIDING**

- Senator Roger Bedford

**8:30 A.M.**

**STATE OF ALABAMA'S ECONOMY**

- Ms. Joyce Bigbee, Director, Legislative Fiscal Office
- Senator Hank Sanders
- Representative John Knight

**9:40** *Festivals Throughout the State*  
*Alabama Tourism*

**9:45 ALABAMA'S OPPORTUNITIES**

- Medical Advances  
Dr. Robert Kimberly, Professor of Medicine, U.A.B.
- Alternative Sentencing & Sentencing Standards  
Judge David Rains, DeKalb County
- Alabama Transportation Infrastructure  
Mr. Jeff Thompson, U.A.H.

**10:55** *Alabama's Hidden Surprises*  
*Alabama Tourism*

**11:00 STATE OF THE JUDICIARY**  
• Chief Justice-Elect, Sue Bell Cobb

**11:30 Recess to Lunch**

**12:00 Noon**

**GOVERNOR'S LUNCHEON**

- Bryant Conference Center, Sellers Auditorium  
Host: University of Alabama

**PRESIDING**

- Dr. Robert Witt, President  
University of Alabama
- **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Governor Bob Riley

**1:30 ADJORN**

**SPOUSE AND GUEST PROGRAM**

**Monday, December 4, 2006**

**1:00 - 5:00 P.M.**

**SPOUSE HOSPITALITY LOUNGE**

President's Room  
Sheraton Four Points Hotel  
Host: Chamber of Commerce of  
West Alabama

**6:00-7:30**

**SPEAKER'S RECEPTION**

- Bryant Conference Center

**Tuesday, December 5, 2006**

**9:00 A.M.**

**VAN PICKUP AT SHERATON**

**9:15 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE CLUB**

- Red Room, Rm. 344 Law Center

**PRESIDING**

- Carol Hill, President

**INTRODUCTIONS**

**10:15 EARLY CHILDHOOD**

- "Smart Start Initiative"

Mr. Ashley Thrift, Chair and

Ms. Karen Ponder, President,

North Carolina Partnership for Children

- "Childhood Obesity"

Dr. Frank Franklin, Director of Pediatric  
Nutrition, U.A.B.

- "State of Alabama's Educational System"

Dr. Joe Morton, Alabama Superintendent of  
Education

**11:15 VIDEO OF ALABAMA TREASURE**

*Alabama Tourism*

**12:00 LUNCH - President's Mansion**

- Special Guest: Debra Ford,

Author and Founder of G.R.I.T.S.

Host: Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama  
(Transportation Provided)

## **AFTERNOON SESSION**

### **2:00 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE CLUB**

- Life as a Legislative Spouse  
Botty Thigpen and Marilyn Waggoner
- Review of the Last Four Years  
Carol Hill
- Project Considerations  
Carol Hill
- Election of Officers  
Marilyn Waggoner, Chair Nominating  
Committee

### **3:00 ELECTRONIC CHILDHOOD**

- Dr. Jennings Bryant, Ronald Reagan  
Professor of Communications, University of  
Alabama

### **3:30 ADJOURN (Van returns to the Sheraton)**

### **6:00 LT. GOVERNOR RECEPTION**

- Indian Hills Country Club

### **6:30 DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT**

- Indian Hills Country Club

**Wednesday, December 6, 2006**

**9:00 a.m.**

### **TROLLEYS LEAVE SHERATON FOR TOUR**

### **9:15 RECEPTION, COFFEE, AND TOUR**

- Child Development Center and RISE Center  
Dean Milla Boschung  
(Host: University of Alabama)

### **10:15-12:00 TOUR: UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S LUNCHEON**

- Bryant Conference Center, Soller Auditorium  
Host: University of Alabama
- **PRESIDING**  
Dr. Robert Witt, President, U of A
- **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Governor Bob Riley

## **Notes**