CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:15 Check-in – Norton Center, Birmingham-Southern College; light breakfast

8:45 Welcome in the Great Hall

9:00 Keynote: Let Justice Roll – Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb, Supreme Court of Alabama. A career-long child advocate, Alabama’s first female head of the judiciary reflects on the broader meanings of justice.

9:45 Workshop Session I

A. Medicaid long-term care reform – James Tucker, director of litigation, Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (AD-AP). New options are becoming available to states – how will Alabama respond?

B. Bridging the public transit gap for human services – Shirley Worthington, vice pres.; Ron Tanner, transportation director; and Meschelle Johnson, transportation coordinator, United Way of Central Alabama. How public, private and faith-based transit partnerships work.


D. Tax reform 101 – Kimble Forrister and Stan Johnson, ACPP. The legacy of unfairness, the breakthrough in 2006 … and what’s next for tax reform in Alabama.

E. Legislative advocacy 101 – Presdelane Harris, ACPP, and Melissa Oliver, Alabama Aries. How does the Alabama Legislature work, and how can ordinary citizens make a difference?

F. Framing messages on government – Dr. Gerald Johnson, Capital Survey Research Center. Focus groups on public school issues reveal trends and openings for public engagement.

G. Challenges facing low-income Latin Americans – Isabel Rubio, executive director, Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama. Low-wage jobs attract thousands of Latino/Hispanic workers to Alabama every year – and keep them on the margins.

H. Emerging Pre-K and Child Care Issues – Sophia Bracy-Harris, Federation of Child Care Centers of Alabama (FOCAL), and Sue McInnish, Alabama Civil Justice Foundation. Two advocates discuss the benefits and challenges of state-funded Pre-K.

10:45 Break

11:00 Workshop Session II

I. Making the case for advocacy as a justice ministry – Jim Evans, columnist and pastor, First Baptist Church, Auburn. What can we say to people who say faith and politics don’t mix?

J. Social justice and the environment – Mark Johnston, ADEM Reform Coalition; Cindy Lowry, Alabama Rivers Alliance. Why are hazardous waste dumps in poor areas? Environmental justice groups are challenging the pattern.

K. Will state Medicaid reforms help or hurt? – Judy Solomon, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, Washington, D.C. Under new federal law, some Southern states are re-designing their Medicaid programs, with troubling implications. What are the best alternatives?

L. Next steps for constitutional reform – Hill Carmichael, GBM, and Callie Greer, Southern Rural Black Women’s Initiative. Alabama’s 1901 Constitution tilts the political playing field against the poor, but people are getting mobilized.

M. What can one person do? 30 action steps – Kimble Forrister and Danny Jones, ACPP. People ask where they can start addressing the systemic causes of poverty. Two longtime organizers share ideas.

N. Engaging student activists – Stephen Black, Project IMPACT. The founding director of a new campus service organization offers his insights into what inspires and sustains student activism.

O. Building toward a moratorium on the death penalty – Staff attorney, Equal Justice Initiative; Esther Brown, Project Hope. In Alabama, race and income too often tip the scales of capital justice.

P. Out of reach: Alabama’s affordable housing crisis – Sheila Crowley, president, National Low Income Housing Coalition, Washington, D.C. What will it take to bring more decent housing within reach for low-income families?

12:00 Lunch in Great Hall Room A


1:15 Break

1:30 Workshop Session III

Q. Katrina: The Alabama experience – Teresa Fox Bettis, Center for Fair Housing, Mobile, and Edwina Bates, Portersville Revival Group. Two advocates offer an up-close view of a natural disaster and its aftermath.

R. Legislative advocacy 101 – Repeat workshop E.

S. A decent place to live: Alabama’s new landlord-tenant law – Kenneth J. Lay, housing advocate, and Barbara Lackett, staff attorney, Legal Services Alabama. Two housing advocates discuss the new rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords.

T. Money & politics: Getting serious about campaign finance reform – Representative Jeff McLaughlin, Guntersville. An Alabama legislator wants to make sure that our state government is not for sale.


V. Hard cash: The boom in predatory lending – Ansel Brown, policy counsel, Center for Responsible Lending, Durham, N.C. A national advocate assesses the problem and explores legislative solutions.

W. Developing a personal action plan – Reggie Holder, director of ministries, Highlands UMC, Birmingham. What’s next for you? A skilled facilitator helps you map out your specific plan.


2:30 Closing plenary

Speaker: Odessa Woolfolk, founding president and chair emerita, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

3:00 Adjourn
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Session 1 (9:45) A B C D E F G H
Session 2 (11:00) I J K L M N O P
Session 3 (1:30) Q R S T U V W X

I need a vegetarian meal.

Access services will be provided upon request. Please notify ACPP (800-832-9060) by Fri., Feb. 2, if these services are required.

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Let Justice Roll
Birmingham-Southern College

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Putting knowledge, skills & vision to work for a fairer Alabama
▶ A conference presented by Arise Citizens’ Policy Project and the BSC chapter of Alabama Arise

This conference has been approved for 5 continuing education contact hours by the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners. The Alabama Board of Nursing recognizes contact hours approved by the ABSWE.