

January 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Every January we hear all about New Year's resolutions. Probably, most of us make some type of resolution for the New Year, even though it may not be a serious plan of action. Whatever your resolutions for the New Year, we hope you are successful.

For the Southeast Law Institute, it is unavoidable that the beginning of the year brings new concern for what will happen in the regular session of the Alabama Legislature. Of course, we have the multitude of other inquiries for information and requests for assistance dealing with parental rights, education, and related issues. That is an ongoing year round process. We field hundreds of questions during the year and write numerous memorandums and letters.

Following an election year, with many newly elected officials, there is more uncertainty than in other years. As we look forward to the legislative session, we know there are many new energized legislators who want to do the best they can for their state. We are privileged to participate with them. We are able to provide legal insight, guidance and assistance in many ways.

The legislative session does not begin until March this year. However, we are already in motion for what will need to be done. We will be working on several bills which will include same sex issues and, though it has been a number of years, we anticipate some efforts toward gambling legislation, which may include a lottery or requesting the Governor to make a compact with the Poarch Indians to legalize their gambling operations in the state.

Of course, there will be several pro-life bills. Many legislators have indicated an interest in sponsoring bills. We believe the bills SLI has drafted and explained over the last few years are significant for the protection of women's healthcare and reduction of abortions. One indicator of that is the lawsuits that are filed against them. If the bills were innocuous, the other side would not be concerned. This month's Educational Update explains court action against one of the more important bills that has passed.

We ask you to commit with us this year to prayer for our nation, state and local governments, and specifically for our efforts. We ask you to participate financially with us, so we can participate physically

. We are grateful for the support you have provided in the past. We look forward to another year of service. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston