

January 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We hope you had a blessed and joyous Christmas season. It is always such a special time of the year and, if we treat it right, it rejuvenates us for the year to come.

We believe the year to come will bring significant tasks for Southeast Law Institute. These will be, as usual, in the legal and political arenas for the purposes of protecting religious freedom and family values. Here are a few of the things we expect.

We are increasingly receiving calls from employees of companies who are voluntarily changing personnel policies to include no discrimination for sexual orientation. This potentially puts Christians in the sights of religious discrimination. Existing federal law does not permit religious discrimination and people need to know their rights. If you are aware of anyone who has a problem with or question about this, please make referrals to us. We do not charge fees for our advice.

On the state level, however, we recently saw the City of Mobile pass a housing ordinance that forbids discrimination for sexual orientation. We expect to see more local ordinances passed, even to the point of a general one saying no such discrimination. Again, this will place Christians in the sights of religious discrimination. We need general state laws to preempt local laws in order to protect religious freedom. We have drafted examples for legislators to consider.

We believe a major gambling bill will be introduced by a Republican in the 2016 regular legislative session. We have spent over 25 years removing gambling from Alabama and now it appears that our allies of the past will now be our enemies of the future. This month's Educational Update addresses that.

The abortion issue begs our participation. We work with many groups giving legal advice on the sanctity of life. This includes advice to legislators on possible legislation. None passed last year and it is important that what is supposed to be a conservative legislature protect the rights of the unborn, as well as the elderly and infirm. We have drafted several bills that will be introduced.

We expect to spend more time this year than usual on these and other issues. Your financial support will be important to our ability to do so. Please continue to pray for us and provide financial contributions. Thank you for your support.

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston