

## 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 (ADAP).** 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.

**C. Make your letter to the editor more effective – Eddie Lard, The Birmingham News; Jim Earnhardt, The Montgomery Advertiser.** Veteran editors offer tips for crafting a strong message.

**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 Arise.** 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 Latino Alabamians – 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

**12:30 Lunchtime plenary: The political year ahead in Alabama – Bob Davis, editor, The Anniston Star.** A leading voice for progressive state government weighs the prospects for reform in 2007.

### 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 advocacy director, and Barbara Luckett, 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.

**U. The industry of violence – Rev. Tom Duley, Urban Ministry; Jim and Shelley Douglass, Mary's House, B'ham.** The social costs of state-sponsored killing.

**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.

**X. Living wage: A poverty-buster – Shay Farley, Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, Inc., and Mary Jones, ACPP board member.** People who work should not live in poverty.

### 2:30 Closing plenary

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

### 3:00 Adjourn

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FRI., FEB. 2**

**Capacity limited! Register now!**

*Registration will not be allowed at the door.*

**Cost: \$65; students \$15** (registration fee includes lunch and resource notebook) Some scholarships available. Special rate for groups of 5 or more. Call Arise for details – (800) 832-9060. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to **ACPP**. Be sure to enclose a separate registration form for each person attending.*

*Circle your workshop choices so we can make room assignments. Circle one letter per session.*

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.

*Mail this form with a check to “ACPP” for your registration fee before February 2 to:*

**ACPP**  
P. O. Box 1188  
Montgomery, AL 36101

*For more information, visit [www.arisecitizens.org](http://www.arisecitizens.org).*



P. O. Box 1188  
Montgomery, AL 36101

Thursday, February 15, 2007

# Let Justice Roll

Birmingham-Southern College



— From the 2005 Poverty & Policy Conference

*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.*

