

Legislative **UPDATE** & School Law Review



**MISSISSIPPI
SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION**

PROGRAM

April 24-25, 2023
Hilton Jackson
Jackson, MS

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Denotris R. Jackson, M.Ed., Executive Director

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James A. Keith, Esq., specializes in education and administrative / employment law. He also serves as MSBA's General Counsel. He is a widely regarded expert, both nationally and locally, on special education matters in public school systems. He often represents school districts in state and federal courts on student matters. He serves as a board attorney for several Mississippi school districts and as a resource for superintendents and school boards.



W. Briggs Hopson, III, Esq., is a partner in the law firm of Teller, Hopson & Schrader, LLP, practicing in the areas of school law, business, insurance defense, administrative, education, and health care law. A former President of the Mississippi Bar, Briggs has been a leader in numerous legal and community endeavors. He currently serves as a State Senator representing Warren, Issaquena, Madison, and Yazoo Counties. In the Senate, he serves on numerous important committees, including Appropriations (Chairman), Education, Public Health, Judiciary "A", and Energy. Briggs also serves as board attorney for the Vicksburg Warren School District and the South Delta School District.



KaShonda L. Day, Esq., joined Adams and Reese, LLP after serving as the Assistant District Counsel for the Jackson Public School District for seven years, where she provided routine legal advice and assistance to the administrative staff. She also represented the District in various litigation and administrative matters. KaShonda previously worked as a judicial law clerk and has previously served as a classroom teacher and education consultant.



Elizabeth Lee Maron, Esq., advises clients in the areas of education law and employment law. Her primary focus is defending companies and public entities in lawsuits filed by current and former employees and sometimes, in the case of education entities, by students and their families. Elizabeth works with education entities throughout Mississippi and the Southeast, including school districts, community colleges, and universities.



John S. Hooks, Esq., heads the firm's education law practice and advises schools and universities on a range of matters including federal desegregation law, employment discrimination, and civil rights claims. He has represented educational institutions in some of the most important litigation in the field of education law. John has defended more than 35 school districts against more than 1,000 claims of violating federal overtime requirements.



Roy E. Hadley, Jr., Esq., has been a trusted advisor to high growth businesses, governments, and family/closely held businesses for more than 30 years. Roy's practice, which is international in scope, includes advising clients worldwide on complex corporate transactions, particularly those involving technology, cybersecurity, life sciences, economic development, telecommunications, outsourcing and intellectual property. With a nod to our increasingly digital world, Roy provides guidance to a wide array of governments, governmental entities, and companies (and their boards) on issues related to data security and privacy.



Tom Hood, Esq., is Executive Director and Chief Counsel for the Mississippi Ethics Commission where he has worked since 2003. Prior to being promoted to Executive Director in 2006, Mr. Hood served as assistant director and counsel. During his tenure as executive director, Mr. Hood helped draft the Ethics Reform Act of 2008. Previously, Mr. Hood practiced law in the private sector and worked as a prosecutor on white-collar crime, insurance fraud, and government corruption cases.



Abigail C. Overby, Esq., serves as a Special Assistant Attorney General in the Opinions and Policy Division of the Attorney General's Office. She is involved in the researching and drafting of official opinions as authorized by Section 7-5-25 of the Mississippi Code. Abby is also part of the Attorney General's legislative team, drafting proposed legislation to support the endeavors of the Attorney General on behalf of all Mississippians.



Chris Strickland serves as the Deputy / School Resource Officer (SRO) of the Neshoba County Sheriff's Office. He is a veteran Law Enforcement Officer. He is a certified SRO and a certified D.A.R.E. Instructor. He previously served as the Safety Director and Emergency Management Director for the Leake County School District and as the Risk Management Specialist for the Mississippi School Boards Association.



Austin Gilbert, Esq., has served as the Mississippi School Boards Association's Manager of Policy Services since 2018. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and received his law degree from the Mississippi College School of Law in 2016. Before coming to MSBA, Austin was a staff attorney for the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services in both their policy and termination of parental rights divisions.



David Carter has served as the MSBA Information Technology Director since 2016. He is responsible for the security, development, and implementation of all technology assets. He developed the OAgendas online board meetings system. David has a wide breadth of IT experience, having started his career as a programmer-analyst. He is A+ certified and possesses certifications in project management, Microsoft products, and Healthcare IT.

EARLY BIRD / Monday, April 24

2:00 p.m. WELCOME

*Denotris R. Jackson, M.Ed.,
MSBA Executive Director*

2:15 p.m. AI, CHATGPT, AND DANGEROUS APPS

*David Carter, MSBA Information Technology
Director*

2:45 p.m. KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

*Chris Strickland, Deputy/SRO,
Neshoba County Sheriff's Office*

3:15 p.m. BREAK

3:30 p.m. STUDENT & EMPLOYEE MATTERS, MEDICAL MARIJUANA, TITLE IX, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

*Adams and Reese, LLP Education Team:
Jim Keith, Esq.; John S. Hooks, Esq.; KaShonda
L. Day, Esq.; and Elizabeth Lee Maron, Esq.*

5:00 p.m. ADJOURN

CONFERENCE / Tuesday, April 25

8:30 a.m. GREETINGS

Cecil J. Lizana, Sr., MSBA President

- **Musical Presentation**

*The Dynamic Voices of
Newton High School*

8:45 a.m. 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*W. Briggs Hopson, III, Esq., Mississippi State
Senator, and Partner, Teller, Hopson &
Schrader, LLP; Austin Gilbert, Esq., MSBA
Policy & Legislative Manager; and Jim Keith,
Esq., MSBA General Counsel, and Partner,
Adams and Reese, LLP*

9:30 a.m. SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHT

*Mannsdale Upper Elementary Fourth Grade
Class, Madison County School District
(pictured right)*

9:40 a.m. OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATION IMPACTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

*Austin Gilbert, Esq., MSBA Policy &
Legislative Manager*

10:15 a.m. BREAK

10:30 a.m. CYBERSECURITY AND MALWARE ISSUES

*Roy E. Hadley Jr., Special Counsel,
Adams and Reese, LLP*

11:30 a.m. ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS IMPACTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

*Abigail C. Overby, Esq., Special Assistant
Attorney General, Mississippi Office of the
Attorney General*

12:15 p.m. LUNCH

1:00 p.m. UNDERSTANDING MISSISSIPPI ETHICS LAWS

*Tom Hood, Esq., Executive Director and Chief
Counsel, Mississippi Ethics Commission*

2:00 p.m. BREAK

2:15 p.m. LEGAL Q & A: ASK THE ATTORNEYS

*Jim Keith, Esq.; John S. Hooks, Esq.; and
KaShonda L. Day, Esq.*

4:00 p.m. ADJOURN

Agenda as of April 13, 2023; Subject to change.





EARNING CREDIT HOURS

AVAILABLE CREDIT:

- **Board Members** can earn up to nine (9) continuing education hours.
- **Attorneys** can earn up to six (6) hours of CLE credit hours.
- **Superintendents and Administrators** can earn up to five (5) SEMI credit hours.
- **Business Officers** can earn up to nine (9) continuing education hours.

EARLY BIRD SEMINAR / Monday, April 24, 2023

- SIGN IN online (virtual attendees) OR register at the registration desk (in-person attendees) before the 2:00 p.m. seminar begins.
- REMAIN until the seminar adjourns to receive up to three (3) hours of credit.

CONFERENCE / Tuesday, April 25, 2023

- SIGN IN online (virtual attendees) OR register at the registration desk (in-person attendees) before the 8:30 a.m. start of the conference.
- REMAIN until the conference adjourns to earn up to six (6) hours of credit.

We're Here For You!

The mission of the Mississippi School Boards Association is to ensure quality school board performance through advocacy, technical assistance, leadership training, and information dissemination.

Thank You, MSBA Business Affiliate Program Sponsors!

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