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The latest news, views, and announcements

## Help Us Fund Research

We are raising funds for a PARCA study on how the Alabama Constitution impacts citizen well-being.

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## New Board Members

ACCR has appointed two new board members: Attorney Mike House and Political Science Professor Christopher Tyler Burks.

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## Constitutional Convention Simulation

The ACCR Board attended a Constitutional Convention Simulation at Samford University.



## Help Us Fund Research

– By Dell Witcher

**We need your help to fund research on the constitution. Please consider a tax-deductible donation at [constitutionalreform.org](https://constitutionalreform.org) or by mail with a check payable to ACCR Foundation, P.O. Box 10746, Birmingham, AL 35202.**

In 2022, Alabama citizens approved the recompilation of the Alabama Constitution which reorganized the massive document and removed racist language. That was a major accomplishment, but sadly, much more is needed to improve the fairness and effectiveness of our state government. Our flawed constitution impacts us daily in areas such as education, the economy, healthcare, democracy, liberty, and justice.

That's why Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform (ACCR) has engaged the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA) to examine the many ways our constitution impacts the well-being of our citizens. An objective, well-researched examination of the constitution will inform ACCR's mission to educate and advocate for an Alabama Constitution that protects and enhances the lives of all citizens.



## Mike House

### **ACCR welcomes Attorney House to the Board of Directors!**

House has many years of experience as a strategist and problem solver at the state and national levels. Early in his career he served as chief of staff to Alabama Supreme Court Justice Howell Heflin and was very instrumental in the passage of the Judicial Article amendment to the constitution in 1973. He went on to make his mark in Washington, leading multiple successful congressional and senate campaigns. House founded and led the legislative practices of DC-based law firm Shaw Pittman and the international law firm of Hogan Lovells. He now lives in Alabama and brings a wealth of legislative and regulatory experience to the ACCR leadership.



## Christopher Tyler Burks

### **ACCR welcomes Professor Burks to the Board of Directors!**

Burks is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Samford University where he teaches courses in American Politics, law, policy, planning, and administration. He serves on the Birmingham Planning Commission and is president of the Alabama Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. He founded Urban Analysis, a consulting firm for changemaking through policy, planning, and politics. He is passionate about the need for public transportation and continues to work on efforts to develop transportation solutions in the Birmingham metropolitan area.

## Constitutional Convention Simulation

– By Gary Dunavant

A constitutional convention simulation was held at Samford University on November 28, 2023 as part of a course on Alabama Constitution and Politics (POLS 398).

Professor Christopher Tyler Burks invited the ACCR board to observe the simulation. Students assumed the roles of delegates to the convention and were divided into committees to propose reforms to the constitution. Each committee presented their recommendations, and Professor Burks presided over the floor debate as the students discussed which proposals they wished to vote on. Eight of the ACCR board members attended, inspiring the students to do their best work.

ACCR board members enjoyed the opportunity to observe the class, and we left Samford University encouraged to see students engaged with many of the same issues and concerns that ACCR has had with the Alabama Constitution.