The Forum’s mission is to prepare Mississippi lawyers for future opportunities in leadership roles. Participants will learn what it means to be a leader. Class members will gain insight vital to leaders in the profession and in their communities. Participants will learn how to succeed not only in their law career, but also in service to professional, political, civic, and community organizations.

“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”

John F. Kennedy
The Mississippi Bar Leadership Forum

Why Should I Apply?
The Leadership Forum, The Mississippi Bar seeks to serve the legal profession by equipping participants with the vision, knowledge and skills necessary to serve as leaders in the profession and in their local communities. You will benefit personally and professionally and will be better prepared for leadership opportunities and challenges. You will have a chance to meet and interact with prominent legal and community leaders, develop leadership skills, explore long-term opportunities for leadership, and form a lifelong network.

Who Should Apply?
Mississippi Bar members who are residents of Mississippi and have been in practice for 3-10 years may apply. The selection process will be competitive based on responses to the Leadership Forum application form. Diversities such as practice type, firm size, gender, race, geography will be considered in the selection process. The applicant should have a demonstrated leadership ability based on past accomplishments and current activities. The class will consist of no more than 20 lawyers.

How Does It Work?
The program will consist of 5 sessions in Jackson on January 23, February 27, March 19, April 23 and May 14. The first 4 sessions will be held from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, and include lunch. The May session will be an afternoon session followed by a reception and dinner from 3:00 pm - 7:30 pm. One excused personal or professional absence is allowed. Applicants should apply only if they expect to fully participate and attend all sessions.

What is the Cost?
There will be a $250 tuition fee for those selected to participate. Payment plans are available and a limited number of scholarships are available.

How Do I Apply?
Must apply or be nominated as set forth in application form, including:
• your personal resume (not to exceed two pages)
• one letter of recommendation
• a narrative summary addressing why you should be selected as a participant in the Leadership Forum Class, what you consider to be your most important contribution to the legal profession and to the community, what you hope to gain from participation in the Leadership Forum, and a signed statement that you understand attendance is required for the successful completion of the program.

Applications must be received by December 19, 2019.
Leadership Forum Sessions

Session 1
January 23, 2020
MS Bar Center
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

“The Bar – What It Is & How It Works”
Join us for an in-depth introduction to The Mississippi Bar. Learn how to become more active in leadership roles in The Mississippi Bar, Young Lawyers Division, Sections, and Local Bar Associations. Establish a relationship with past Bar presidents and current leaders as you learn about the Bar. You’ll receive the Bar’s Centennial book, “A Legacy of Service,” at this session. Speakers will include: Bar President Amanda Tollison, Young Lawyers Division Past President, Bar Commissioners, and Past Bar Presidents.

Session 2
February 27, 2020
MS Bar Center
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

“The Profession – Ethics, Values, and Professionalism”
In this session, presenters will discuss civility, professional courtesy, and public perceptions. You will hear about the impact of substance abuse on legal professionals and resources available to members of the profession dealing with those issues. You’ll hear from General Counsel Adam Kilgore, MC Law School Professors, Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program, and other speakers on Professionalism.

Session 3
March 19, 2020
State Capitol Building and Carroll Gartin Justice Building
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

“Courts/Executive/Legislative”
Effective leaders are engaged, informed citizens about policies and politics. This session will focus on the Mississippi court system and current issues facing the judiciary. It will also focus on the legislative and executive branches of Mississippi government. With better understanding of how the branches operate, you will be able to navigate through state government and be more successful in your practice and community. You will meet with Lawyer Legislators, the Governor’s office, and members of the Supreme Court and staff.

Session 4
April 23, 2020
MS Bar Center
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

“Public Service – Making a Difference”
Through pro bono efforts, you can serve the Mississippians of limited means by promoting the public interest in ways no other profession can. You will gain an understanding of servant leadership. You will hear about opportunities to serve and “do good” in our state. You will learn about the educational challenges facing our State. Great leadership is the natural consequence of the primary desire to serve others. You will learn about the public service projects of The Mississippi Bar.

Session 5
May 14, 2020
Meeting, Reception and Dinner
Fairview Inn
3:00 pm – 7:30 pm

“Leadership in Your Community in the Future”
Leaders need to be knowledgeable and enthusiastic not only about their own profession and passions, but about the world around them. You will learn of the attorney’s role in the larger community in which you live – your town, state, and nation. You will hear about the general challenges facing our cities and Mississippi and what you as a leader can do to keep our state moving forward. You will meet a variety of influential Mississippi leaders and learn what sets them apart.

“Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.”

Harry S. Truman
The Mississippi Bar Leadership Forum Application Form

Applicants should submit a completed application to:
The Mississippi Bar, Leadership Forum, PO Box 2168, Jackson MS 39225 along with

a) your personal resume (not to exceed two pages),
b) one letter of recommendation and
c) a narrative summary addressing why you should be selected as a participant in the Leadership Forum Class, what you consider to be your most important contribution to the legal profession and to the community, and what you hope to gain from participation in the Leadership Forum. The narrative summary should conclude with a signed statement that you understand attendance is a requirement for the successful completion of the program. Applicants must have practiced law for not less than 3 years and for not more than 10 years.

Applications must be completed and received no later than December 19, 2019. The class will consist of no more than 20 participants. The program will consist of five sessions: January 23, February 27, March 19, April 23, and May 14. One excused unexpected personal or professional absence is allowed. Applicants are encouraged to apply only if they expect to attend all sessions.

For more information, direct all questions to Melanie Henry at mhenry@msbar.org

Name ___________________________________________ Bar No. __________________________

Employer/Firm ________________________________________________________________

Business Address ______________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip _________________________________________________________________

Business Phone ___________________________ Fax ___________________________

Email ________________________________________________________________

What is your area of practice? ________________________________________________

Year of bar admission ____________________________

Once selected, a $250 tuition fee for each participant will be due by January 23, 2020. Payment plans are available. A limited amount of scholarship money is available.

I understand (a) the mission of the Leadership Forum 2020, (b) that attendance is mandatory and (c) I will devote the time and energy necessary to make this a successful experience if I become a participant.

Signature ________________________________________ Date ____________________