

# Making Diversity's Case

why a variety of experiences makes a better law firm

At Burr & Forman, diversity is an important issue for one simple reason: a variety of opinions makes our firm better; it helps us more effectively serve our clients.

If our opinions are formed by our experiences, then you logically get a broader perspective, a greater range of opinion when you add people from differing backgrounds. You get insight into issues that might not come otherwise.

It's important to note that we don't add lawyers just to increase our percentages. We hire good lawyers first. But we are always on the lookout for talented people from diverse backgrounds. Because in the end, we must produce results for our clients, and diversity helps us do just that.

At Burr & Forman, our Diversity Committee works both internally and in the community to increase diversity in our firm and in the legal profession in general. We have many initiatives and participate in a number of public events to increase awareness of the value of diversity and to help minority students succeed in law.

Burr & Forman sponsors and participates in job fairs and clerkship programs for diverse law students and employers.

- Hosted the 2006 Southern Region of the National Black Law Students Association job fair
- Sponsored the Atlanta Bar Association Clerkship Program
- Participated in the Nashville Bar Association Clerkship Program

We sponsor a full tuition diversity scholarship at the University of Alabama School of Law.

We are actively involved as speakers, sponsors and participants in various

bar association groups, such as the National Bar Association, the Magic City Bar Association and the Women Lawyers Section of the Birmingham Bar Association. We have current and past leaders in some of these organizations.

We work with and support the South Region's Minority Business Council. One of our partners, Ricky McKinney, serves as the group's general counsel and on their board of directors.

We participate in diversity programs sponsored by the Defense Research Institute, as well as various diversity initiatives organized by state and local bar associations in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Mississippi.

We encourage diverse workplace practices. For example, we sponsor a Birmingham childcare facility, which gives discounted rates for childcare to our employees.

We work with the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce to promote diversity in Birmingham. We participate in the Chamber's Diversity Roundtable and sponsor their Diversity Summit.



800-GET-BURR | [burr.com/about/diversity](http://burr.com/about/diversity)