Quarterly Report
July 2015

Office Locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Executive</th>
<th>Elections</th>
<th>Legal</th>
<th>Finance</th>
<th>Personnel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama State Capitol</td>
<td>State Capitol</td>
<td>State Capitol</td>
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<td>State Capitol</td>
<td>State Capitol</td>
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<tr>
<td>600 Dexter Avenue</td>
<td>First Floor, Suite 105</td>
<td>Second Floor</td>
<td>Second Floor</td>
<td>Second Floor</td>
<td>Second Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery, AL 36130</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Business Services</th>
<th>Government Support</th>
<th>Information Systems</th>
<th>Authentications, Trademarks, &amp; Lands</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama State House</td>
<td>State House</td>
<td>State House</td>
<td>State House</td>
<td>State House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 South Union Street</td>
<td>First Floor, Suite 119</td>
<td>Room 226</td>
<td>Room 125</td>
<td>Room 224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery, AL 36130</td>
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Inside:
Secretary Merrill Promotes Alabama Abroad
Quarterly Accomplishments
2015 Legislative Agenda
See what's coming up in our next issue!
In April and May-June 2015, Alabama took a huge step in cultural relations with Taiwan, the Province of China, and China. From April 18-25, 2015, Secretary Merrill was invited to attend a set of meetings in Taiwan, the Province of China, that focused on geopolitical relations between the latter and the United States. The invitation was extended by the Taiwanese officials, and with the exception of some minor reimbursement, the trip wasn’t funded by the State of Alabama. Fifteen individual groups were organized for the discussion of a wide variety of topics, which include governmental relations, elections, business climate, education, cultural exchanges, infrastructure, health care, and economic development. Secretary Merrill was honored and pleased to meet President Ma Ying-jeou, who gladly received an Alabama cookbook, amongst a few other tokens, as a gift from our state. (*See photo on left page, left-hand side). The Secretary was also pleased and excited to visit Taipei and the magnificently picturesque Taroko National Park.

May 30-June 7, 2015 marked Secretary Merrill’s next cultural exchange trip, this time to the People’s Republic of China. Once again, the invitation was extended by the Chinese government, and with the exception of some, if any, minor reimbursement, the State of Alabama was not responsible for the trip’s funding. An orientation and cultural introduction commenced the event, and Secretary Merrill attended five formal meetings with the Chinese governmental and local cultural officials to discuss governmental relations, cultural exchange, economic development opportunities, and educational exchanges. The Secretary, along with a few other invited American officials, were given the opportunity to visit Beijing, Henan, which is a province located in Central China’s Yellow River Valley, and Shanghai, and the group even visited the renown Great Wall of China during their stay. (*See photo on right page, upper right-hand side).

“It was a privilege to be invited to participate in these cultural opportunities,” Secretary Merrill stated.
The 2015 Alabama State Legislative Session commenced March 3, 2015 and came to a close on June 4, 2015. This year’s Session was the first in several years where the Secretary of State has promoted an extensive list of bills. Here is an extensive, legislative package of the eight bills that passed.

**SB 148 Senator Dial/Representative Sanderford**  
**Status:** Enacted- Assigned Act No. 2015-477  
Serving as a technical amendment to the Alabama Code, in regards to the statutes that govern the presidential elections for military men and women, this bill will change the primary runoff deadline in compliance with the Federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).

**SB 210 Senator Brewbaker/Representative Givan**  
**Status:** Enacted- Assigned Act No. 2015-440  
Serving as another technical amendment to the Alabama Code, dates for the county wet/dry referendums will also comply with the federal UOCAVA standards.

**SB 229 Senator Livingston/Representative England**  
**Status:** Enacted- Assigned Act No. 2015-479  
Due to this bill’s enactment, business filing requirements will be filed directly and electronically through the Secretary of State’s Office. The program is voluntary, and other counties may participate through written consent.

**SB 240 Senator Ross/Representative Henry**  
**Status:** Enacted- Assigned Act No. 2015-239  
Dubbed by the media as the “SEC Primary” due to its act of aligning Alabama’s election with the other southern states’ elections, this bill changes the date of the presidential preference primary from March 8, 2016 to March 1, 2016. Alabama will therefore have a larger voice in the presidential election process.

**HB 41 Representative Standridge/Senator Shelnutt**  
**Status:** Enacted- Assigned Act No. 2015-41  
To assist Alabama’s seniors regarding the long lines at the polling stations, this bill will ensure that the physically disabled and those over 70 years old will move to the front of the line.

**HB 204 Representative Wingo/Senator Beasley**  
**Status:** Enacted- Assigned Act No. 2015-290  
Initially, Legislators were required to apply for free copies of their district’s registered voters list, but now Alabama Legislators will automatically receive a free copy of this list within 90 days of their appointment.

**HB 254 Representative Ainsworth/Senator Ross**  
**Status:** Enacted- Assigned Act No. 2015-459  
Secretary Merrill initially introduced this bill in the 2014 Legislative Session during his term as an Alabama House Representative. Unfortunately, the bill had died in the Senate. Now enacted, the Secretary of State may exchange free-of-charge, annual, electronic voter registration lists with other states, which will help eliminate double voting in Alabama.

**HB 323 Representative Davis/Senator Albritton**  
**Status:** Enacted- Assigned Act No. 2015-367  
This bill will ensure that County Boards of Registrars investigate reports regarding deceased voters, as well as voters who are no longer residents of a precinct.

*For more information on these and other bills on this year’s Legislative Agenda, please call Brent Beal at 334-353-7857.*
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Secretary Merrill wants to hear from you! Send him an email at John.Merrill@sos.alabama.gov

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NEXT ISSUE:
~NASS Conference 2015
~Secretary Merrill honors the Honorable Fred Gray & Dr. William Stewart

Don’t miss Volume 1 Issue 3, coming October 2015!