



# Alabama Secretary of State John H. Merrill

## Quarterly Report

### October 2015

Volume 1  
Issue 3



### Inside:

NASS Conference 2015 in  
Portland, Maine  
Secretary Merrill Recognizes  
Dr. William Stewart and the  
Honorable Fred Gray  
See what's coming up in our next  
issue!

### Office Locations:

Alabama State Capitol  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Executive  
State Capitol  
First Floor, Suite 105

Elections  
State Capitol  
Second Floor

Finance  
State Capitol  
Second Floor

Alabama State House  
11 South Union Street  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Business Services  
State House  
First Floor, Suite 119

Government Support  
State House  
Room 226

Information Systems  
State House  
Room 125

Authentications, Trademarks, & Lands  
State House  
Room 224

Stay up-to-date with  
all the latest news!

[www.sos.alabama.gov](http://www.sos.alabama.gov)  
<https://www.facebook.com/alasecretaryofstate>  
<https://www.facebook.com/JohnMerrill>  
<https://twitter.com/alasecofstate>  
<https://twitter.com/johnhmerrill>



# National Association of Secretaries of State Conference 2015



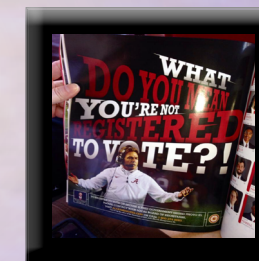
July 9-12, 2015 marked the National Association of Secretaries of State's (NASS) annual Summer Conference, which was held in Portland, Maine. Secretary Merrill and over 35 other Secretaries of State and Lieutenant Governors were invited to discuss a number of topics, which include strategic methods to promote voter registration within all 50 states, new voting technology and elections techniques, and programs, as well as state policies, concerning elections, international relations, and business-related services, amongst various other subjects. Furthermore, Secretary Merrill was invited to speak during the conference's Elections Committee Meeting, where he discussed the latest updates for the upcoming SEC Primary, which is set for March 1, 2016. "I'm excited that the citizens of Alabama will have an opportunity to make a significant impact on who will serve as the next President of the United States," Secretary Merrill stated in a press release on June 9, 2015. Governor Robert Bentley officially signed the SEC Primary bill the next day on June 10, 2015.

## Quarterly Accomplishments

Here's a quick look at some of Secretary Merrill's many accomplishments since our last Quarterly Report.

- As of September 23, 2015, Secretary Merrill has visited 48 counties, 10 states, and Taiwan and China since Inauguration Day.
- Coaches Nick Saban and Gus Malzahn have agreed to assist with voter registration methods within the state. (See pictures A & B)
- In August 2015, several presidential candidates visited Alabama. (See pictures C, D, & E)
- Secretary Merrill was chosen to participate in the National Association of Secretaries of State's Toll Fellowship Program.
- On August 12, 2015, Secretary Merrill honored Civil Rights Attorney Fred Gray for his service.

Nick Saban



A

Gus Malzahn



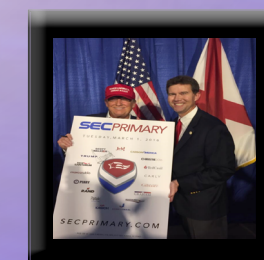
B

Ben Carson



C

Donald Trump



D

Jeb Bush



E

# Online Business Filings

## Online Business Filings (Authorized by Act No. 2015-479)

The Act allows the Secretary of State to develop an electronic filing processing program and allow any county that voluntarily chooses to participate in the program by written agreement between the county and Secretary of State. The Act further authorizes participating county commissions and judges of probate to satisfy general and local law requirements by participating in the electronic filing processing program.

In short, Act No. 2015-479 allows for the online recordation of filing activities by business and nonprofit entities. This new online capability will benefit the business community through expedited service and benefit the counties and state by decreasing public expenditures required to provide the services at the county courthouse and at the State Capitol.

## Responsibilities of the Secretary of State

- Develop an electronic process for the recordation of filings in accordance with *Alabama Code*, Title 10A and any county local law or statutory requirement
- Contracting for a service provider to supply both the counties and the Secretary of State with the filing document and all data as soon as the filer completes the filing (in real time)
- Contracting for a service provider to supply the counties with the fees appropriate to the transaction no less than twice per month
- Making the filing available as public information to the general public in accordance with *Alabama Code*, Title 10A

## Responsibilities of the County

- Execute agreement with the Alabama Secretary of State
- Provide information on any local statutory requirements relative to filing and recordation of entity filing types designated in *Alabama Code*, Title 10A
- Provide bank account information for deposit of funds
- Provide changes to any statutory of bank account information no less than 10 business days prior to a change



## Secretary of State Contact for Questions or Suggestions:

**Rebecca A. Morris**  
**Director of Business Services**  
[rebecca.a.morris@sos.alabama.gov](mailto:rebecca.a.morris@sos.alabama.gov)  
334-242-7221



# Secretary Merrill Recognizes Dr. William Stewart & the Honorable Fred Gray



Secretary Merrill awarded his third NASS Medallion Award of the year on July 21, 2015, to Dr. William H. Stewart, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at The University of Alabama. He received the award during his recognition ceremony at Archives and History before an audience of beloved family members and friends, and he certainly is deserving of such a prestigious honor. A native of Hartselle, Alabama and a current resident of Tuscaloosa, Dr. Stewart has served as a dedicated contributor to the state for over 40 years. He graduated from George Washington University and The University of Alabama, earning Bachelor's and Doctorate's degrees in Political Science and a Master's degree in Public Administration.

In later years, Dr. Stewart has worked as a Political Science Professor, Fellow of the Institute for Political and Social Science Research, and Chairman for the Department of Political Science at The University of Alabama, where he currently serves as Professor Emeritus. Furthermore, he wrote a number of **articles**, such as "Reapportionment with Census Districts: The Alabama Case" for the *Alabama Law Review*, "Local and State Government in the South" for the *Encyclopedia of Southern History*, and "Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations: Causes and Consequences of Political Change," **monographs**, such as "Voter's Guide to the 1976 Elections," "Citizen Participation in Public Administration," and "Alabama and the 1976 Presidential Election," and **books**, such as *The Alabama State Constitution: A Reference Guide 1st Edition*, *The Alabama Constitutional Commission*, and *Concepts of Federalism*, amongst various other noteworthy publications. He has also been involved with a number of consultantships throughout the state, which includes serving as the Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs.

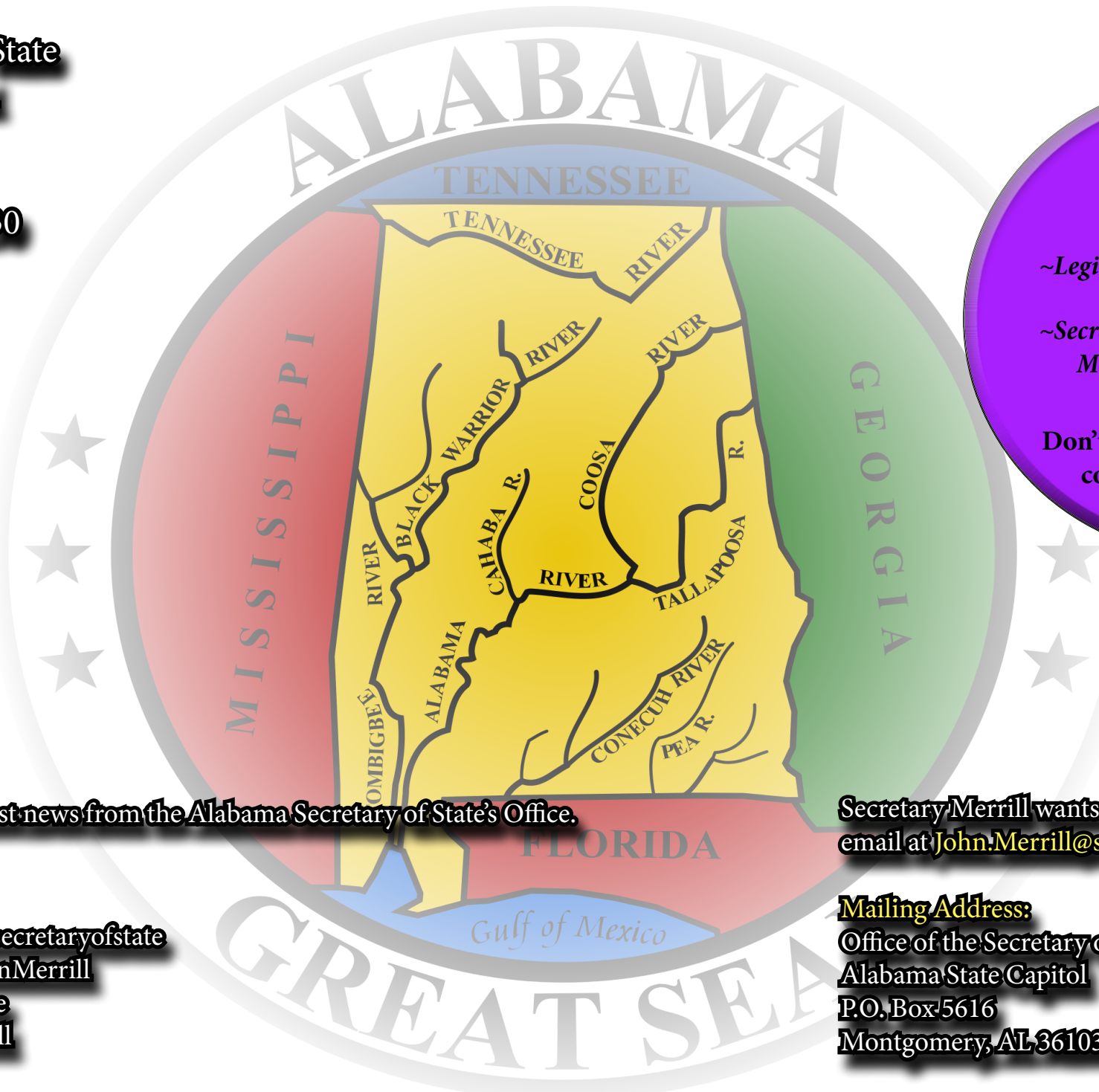
Civil Rights Attorney Fred D. Gray was honored on August 12, 2015, with Secretary Merrill's fourth NASS Medallion Award, and the occasion proved to be the most momentous. Dr. Gray, a graduate of the Nashville Christian Institute, Alabama State University, and Case Western Reserve University with several honorary Doctor of Law degrees from The University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Alabama State University, and Southwestern Christian College, significantly impacted prejudice society through his involvement with the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Movements. He represented both Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during their fight for freedom, and also handled a number of notable court cases, such as

*Browder vs. Gayle* in 1956, which was argued before the Supreme Court about the desegregation of public buses in Montgomery, *Dixon vs. The Alabama Board of Education* in 1961, which reinstated the Alabama State College's unconstitutionally-expelled students, and *Williams vs. Wallace* in 1965, which led to the protection of the Selma to Montgomery marchers. Furthermore, he is admitted to practice in multiple courts, such as the Supreme Court of Ohio, 1954, Supreme Court of Alabama, 1954, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, 1955, the Supreme Court of the United States, 1956, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 1958, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama, 1963, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, 1968, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 1982, and Tax Court, 1968. Moreover, Dr. Gray's endeavors have led to his Presidency of the National Bar Association, as well as his 2002 Presidency of the Alabama State Bar Association, serving as the first African American President of the association, amongst countless other noteworthy accomplishments.





Office of Secretary of State  
Alabama State Capitol  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Suite S-105  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
(334) 242-7200



## Next Issue:

*~Legislative Task Force*

*~Secretary Merrill honors  
Mr. Gregory P. Butrus*

**Don't miss Volume 1 Issue 4,  
coming January 2016!**

Stay up-to-date with all the latest news from the Alabama Secretary of State's Office.

[www.sos.alabama.gov](http://www.sos.alabama.gov)  
<https://www.facebook.com/alasecretaryofstate>  
<https://www.facebook.com/JohnMerrill>  
<https://twitter.com/alasecofstate>  
<https://twitter.com/johnhmerrill>

Secretary Merrill wants to hear from you! Send him an email at [John.Merrill@sos.alabama.gov](mailto:John.Merrill@sos.alabama.gov)

**Mailing Address:**  
Office of the Secretary of State  
Alabama State Capitol  
P.O. Box 5616  
Montgomery, AL 36103-5616