

For immediate release

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Governor Names Ratliff as the State's Bond Attorney

Governor Ronnie Musgrove has named Michael V. Ratliff as the State's Bond Attorney. In this position, Ratliff will be responsible for reviewing documents prepared by attorneys who represent municipalities, counties and other entities, which have the legal authority to issue bonds. He will also write his legal opinion as to whether the entities have followed proper procedures in preparing the bond issue and file the bond documents with the appropriate court.

Mike has a varied legal background in his practice of law," said Musgrove. "He will work diligently to ensure that Mississippi's interests are protected as he oversees each step in the bonding process."

Ratliff graduated from Hattiesburg High School, received his BA degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and received his law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law. He has been in practice with the firm of Matthews, Stroud and Ratliff since 1981 and became a partner in the firm in 1987.

Ratliff is a member of the Mississippi State Bar; South Central Mississippi Bar Association; American Bar Association; American Trial Lawyers Association; Past President, Young Lawyers Section of the South Central Mississippi Bar Association. He also serves as a municipal judge pro temp for the City of Hattiesburg.

"I am honored that the Governor has confidence in my abilities and I appreciate this opportunity," said Ratliff. "I look forward to participating in the process that helps drive economic progress in the state."

Community service is important to Ratliff. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg serving as former President of the club, Chairman of the 1997 District Conference and Assistant Governor of District 6840 from 1997-2000. Ratliff is also a graduate of the 1989 Leaders For A New Century Program and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Leaders For A New Century Steering Committee. He is a member of the Forrest County Industrial Park Commission and is a member of the Bi-Racial Committee

of the Hattiesburg Public Schools. Ratliff also serves on the Board of Directors for Metro Crime Stoppers, Inc.

Ratliff is married to the former Rebecca Roseberry of Hattiesburg. They are the parents of two daughters, Caroline and Claire, who are enrolled in Hattiesburg Public Schools.

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