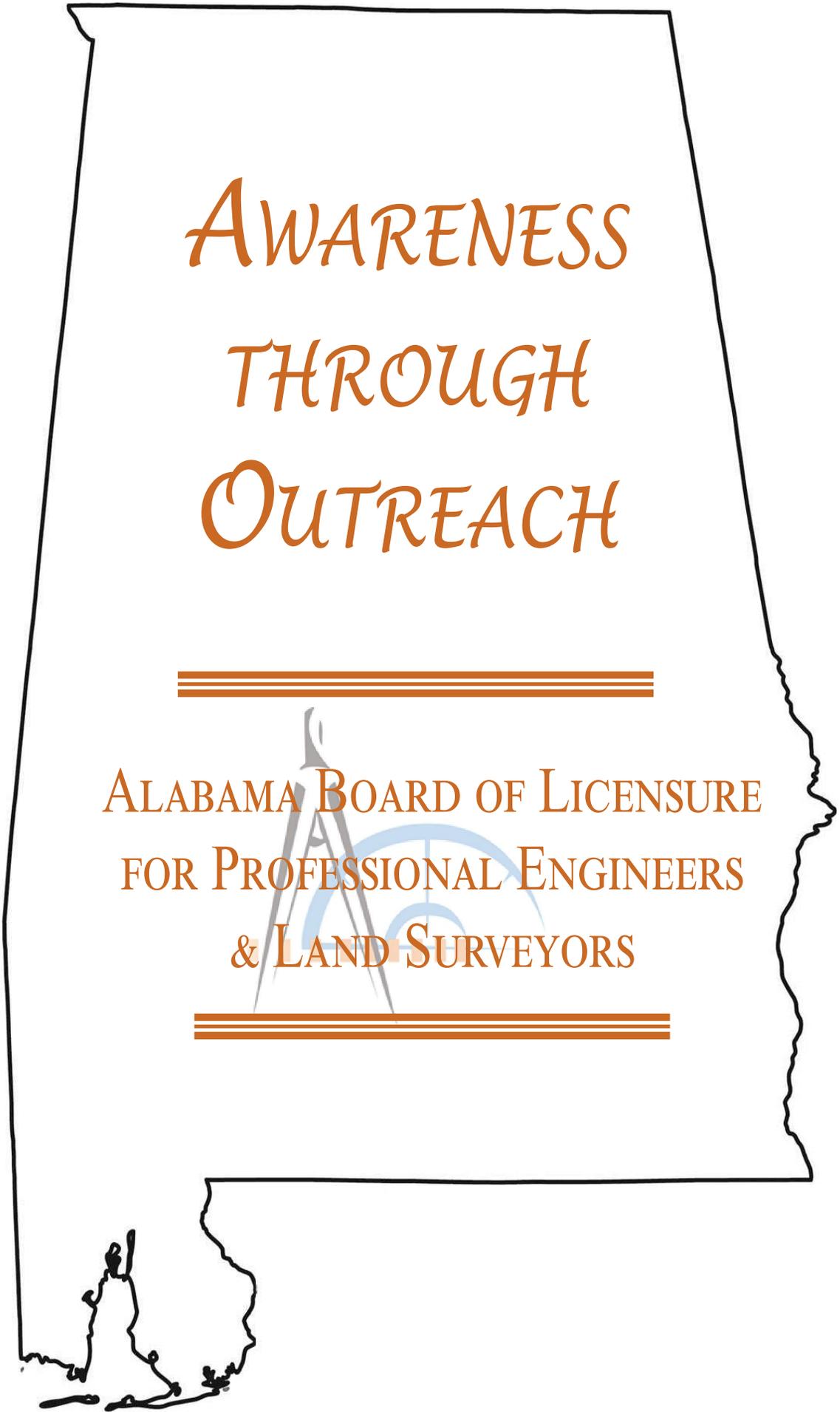




ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
& LAND SURVEYORS

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



*AWARENESS
THROUGH
OUTREACH*



ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
& LAND SURVEYORS



Alabama Board of Licensure For Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

100 North Union Street, Suite 382
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3762
Phone: 866-461-7640
Fax: 334-242-5105

**To The Honorable Kay Ivey:
Governor of the State of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama**

ELISABETH HYDE,
PE

NATHAN JOHNSON,
PLS | PE

RANDALL WHORTON,
PE

RICHARD GRACE,
PE | PLS

HELEN ADAMS-MORALES
PE

MARC BARTER,
PE

FRAZIER CHRISTY,
PLS | PE

RICK HUETT,
Executive Director

Governor Ivey:

We hand you herewith the 2016-2017 Annual Report of the Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors as provided under Title 34, Chapter 11 Code of Alabama 1975.

Respectfully submitted,

**Arthur Frazier Christy, Chair, 2016-2017
Alabama State Board of Licensure
for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors**

**Nathan G. Johnson, Secretary, 2016-2017
Alabama State Board of Licensure
for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors**





Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

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Kay Ivey
Governor

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Greetings Everyone,

Our theme this past year was "Awareness through Outreach." Our goal was to do more than just fulfill the mission to protect the public by helping safeguard life, health, and property through the licensing and regulation of persons practicing in the engineering and land surveying professions. We wanted to introduce ourselves to the state as a whole. And, I feel, by accomplishing that we have set ourselves on a path that will lead to additional "outreach" opportunities throughout the coming years.

Using the "Awareness through Outreach" mantra, we made concentrated efforts to not only reach out to member societies, as in years past, but also to members of the public by attending events in Huntsville, Birmingham and throughout South Alabama. Representatives of the BELS staff took part in Code Official, Building Inspector and Fire Marshal events to discuss our value as a resource to them as they go about their work. We attended, for the first time, Home & Garden shows in Pelham and Madison where we had the opportunity to say hello and shake hands with thousands of people who 'didn't know if they'd ever need a land surveyor, but had land that needed to be surveyed," and members of the engineering family looking to take that next career step and seek licensure.

We turned our focus to the education community speaking to groups of future engineers at the University of Alabama and land surveyors at Troy University. And, for the first time, we were on hand for the Future City Competition in Huntsville where teams of middle schoolers, parents, teachers and members of engineering and land surveying societies were brought together to answer the simple question: "What would a city, 100 years into the future, look like?"

Through our outreach efforts, we made impressions on around 10,000 people both in and outside of the engineering and land surveying community.

In terms of awareness, our enforcement program was recognized by the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) an international organization, during its annual meeting in Denver. Special Investigator Bob Herbert was presented with the CLEAR Investigative Excellence Award for his work investigating a case involving identity theft, fraudulent plans and theft by deception.

What we accomplished with "Awareness through Outreach" this past year was just the beginning. Our focus, perennially, is fulfilling our mission statement and we will continue to do that. But, with that said, going forward we expect to grow our name recognition throughout the state. We want BELS to be viewed as a resource for everyone -- licensees; government officials; business owners seeking help; the homeowner looking to purchase property and the student deciding upon a career.

Sincerely,

Rick Huett
Executive Director

our **BOARD**



Frazier Christy PLS/PE
Chair
Birmingham



Elisabeth Hyde PE
Vice Chair
Birmingham



Nathan Johnson PLS/PE
Secretary
Huntsville



Richard Grace
PE/PLS / Decatur



Randall Whorton
PE / Anniston



Marc Barter
PE / Mobile



Helen Adams-Morales
PE / Mobile

BELS consists of five professional engineers and two professional land surveyors. The five professional engineers are appointed by the Governor from a list of three persons nominated for each appointment by a committee, and the two professional land surveyors are appointed by the Governor from a list of three persons nominated for each appointment by the Alabama Society of Professional Land Surveyors. Each member of BELS must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Alabama. They must be a licensed professional engineer or licensed professional land surveyor, hold a current license, be engaged in the practice of engineering or land surveying, respectively, for at least 12 years, and have been in responsible charge of important engineering or land surveying, respectively, work for at least five years.



our **MISSION**

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BELS) was established by a legislative action in 1935. Its charter is to protect the public by helping to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare by providing for the licensing and regulation of persons in the practices of engineering and land surveying.

This purpose is achieved through the establishment of minimum qualifications for entry into the professions of engineering and land surveying, through the adoption of rules defining and delineating unlawful or unethical conduct, and through swift and effective discipline for those individuals or entities who violate the applicable laws or rules.

BELS SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

Helen Adams-Morales appointed to BELS

By Griffin Pritchard |

BELS Public Information Specialist

Helen Adams-Morales has been appointed to fill the vacant Professional Engineer position as part of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BELS). Adams-Morales late July appointment fills the open position and brings the board back to its seven-member capacity.

“I was honored,” Adams-Morales said when asked about her selection to BELS. “I knew that I had been nominated. I received a letter from Gov. Ivey.”

Adams-Morales, an Opp native currently residing in Mobile, brings 30-



plus years of engineering experience to the state’s licensing board. She becomes Gov. Kay Ivey’s first appointment to BELS and is another female appointment.

A 1977 graduate of Opp High School, the Bobcat became a Tiger when she

earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Auburn University in August 1981.

She earned her Alabama Professional Engineer License in 1987 and has held professional licenses throughout the southeast: Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Texas.

An award-winning engineer, Adams-Morales has accrued 33.5 years of engineering practice experience, with 28 years of experience in responsible charge of projects. She is a member of the 100 Women Strong Executive Committee of Auburn University’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and in 2014 was named the Mobile Area Civil Engineer of the Year by the Mobile Area Council of Engineers.

Herbert named ‘excellent investigator’

By Griffin Pritchard |

BELS Public Information Specialist

In what was probably the worst case scenario presented as a complaint to the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, longtime investigator Bob Herbert worked through the kudzu like intricacies. The work paid dividends and was recognized by those in the office, and on a national stage as he was presented CLEAR’s Investigative Excellence Award in September.

“The complexity of the investigation...” Herbert said, “originally what appeared to be a complaint on two projects – two churches – began to snowball. More information led to additional cases. Then led to talking to code officials throughout Mobile and Baldwin counties which led to additional victims.”

The CLEAR (Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation) Investigative Ex-



BELS Special Investigator, Robert “Bob” Herbert is presented the CLEAR award for Investigative Excellence for his work on the Roddy Fitzgerald / Commodore Steel case.

cellence Award recognizes an investigator who has demonstrated exceptional performance in a particular case or has a history of excellent performance beyond what is expected or required. The case being referenced is Roddy Fitzgerald/Commodore Steel which led to the heaviest fine since BELS convened for the first time in 1936 and numerous eventual felony convictions. Fitzgerald was fined \$30,000 and pled guilty to multiple counts of felony forgery, identity theft and theft for the stealing of multiple licensed professional engineers’ seals.

OUTREACH

The idea, during the 2016-2017 year, was to stop thinking of BELS as a state agency and more of a business. Once the thought began to take shape, it changed the way outreach had been done.

In years past, BELS outreach was to agency adjacent entities. Essentially, visits were made to other like-board events and professional societies.

But that changed as BELS staff ventured into the general public realm attending the Greater Birmingham Area Homebuilders Expo in Pelham, the League of Municipalities event in Birmingham and the Huntsville Homebuilder's Fall Showcase.

The goal of approaching these different groups and areas was to provide items that would bring both brand recognition and the opportunity to introduce ourselves as a resource capable of providing assistance and ease of access.

Through our efforts - and some newly purchased marketing materials - we were able to reach around 10,000 people.

But that's just the beginning.



Event	Location	Date	Role
Code Officials Association of North Alabama	Decatur, Alabama	11/14-16/2016	Exhibitor / Presenter
Future City Competition	Huntsville, Alabama	1/14/2017	BELS Bulletin article
University of Alabama: ASCE - Student Chapter	Tuscaloosa, Alabama	1/24/2017	Speaker
Greater Birmingham Area Homebuilders Expo	Pelham, Alabama	3/16-19/2017	Exhibitor
AAPGMI Conference	Auburn, Alabama	4/4-6/2017	Exhibitor / Presenter
Toastmaster's Spring Conference	Huntsville, Alabama	5/5-7/2017	Attendee
Alabama League of Municipalities	Birmingham, Alabama	5/20-22/2017	Exhibitor
Alabama/Mississippi Engineering Society Annual Meeting	Orange Beach, Alabama	5/26-29/2017	Exhibitor / Presenter
Code Officials Association of Alabama State Meeting	Fairhope, Alabama	5/19-22/2017	Exhibitor / Presenter
Association of Alabama County Commissioners (Engineer Breakout Session)	Orange Beach, Alabama	5/23-24/2017	Presenter
Huntsville Homebuilder's Fall Showcase	Huntsville, Alabama	5/25-27/2017	Exhibitor
North Alabama Fire Marshall's Meeting	Cullman, Alabama	9/22/2017	Presenter

OPERATIONS | REVENUES

	AUDITED — Fiscal Year 2017
FY 2016 Carry Forward	\$1,372,534.03
Renewals	\$226,495.00
Late Penalties	\$39,500.00
Reinstatements	\$27,370.00
Applications Licensure	\$131,065.00
Exams	\$2,000.00
Fines Civil Penalties	\$33,948.45
Civil Penalties to General Fund	(\$14,250)
Duplicate Certificates	\$300.00
Labels	\$900.00
Returned Check Charges	\$30.00
Sale of Surplus	\$208.92
TOTAL	\$1,820,101.40

SUBTOTAL OF APPLICATIONS | LICENSURE | EXAMS
\$133,065.00

SUBTOTAL FOR FINES
\$19,698.45

REVENUES TO DATE
\$1,820,101.40

SUBTOTAL OF RENEWALS | REINSTATEMENTS
\$253,865

The Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BELS) is a self-funded agency. The authorization to spend funds is granted to BELS by the state legislature through the annual passage of the General Fund Budget.

The funds needed to cover expenditures are derived from the various fees charged by BELS and the fines collected from formal disciplinary actions taken against licensees and those holding certificates. Civil penalties collected are not kept as Board funds' but are deposited to the State General Fund. By law there is a fixed amount of funds that can be carried over from one fiscal year to the next. Any excess funds over 25% of the Annual Budget are transferred to the State General Fund.



OPERATIONS | EXPENDITURES

	AUDITED — TOTAL FY 2017
Personnel Costs	\$475,572.80
Employee Benefits	\$162,648.43
Travel (In-State)	\$16,946.26
Travel (Out-of-State)	\$25,661.60
Repairs Maintenance	\$3,691.59
Rentals Leases	\$154,442.86
Utilities Communications	\$16,481.66
Professional Services	\$72,054.20
Supplies, Materials Operating Expenses	\$58,449.38
Transportation Equipment Operations	\$1,075.08
Other Equipment Purchases	\$71,254.70
TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE	\$1,058,328.56

FUND BALANCE
\$687,092.54



ENGINEERING

	Engineer Interns
Certifications Issued	232
Renewed	1,810
Total	2,042
FY 2016 Total	2,122
LOSS	80

An Engineer Intern is a person who has passed a Board approved examination in the fundamental engineering subjects, pursuant to the law and who has been certified by BELS as an engineering intern.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

	Number Given	Number Passed	% Passed	Number Failed
PE Exam	194	110	57	84

The practice of engineering is defined as any professional service or creative work, the adequate performance of which requires engineering education, training, and experience in the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical and engineering sciences to such services or creative work as a consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, design and design coordination of engineering works and systems, planning the use of land and water, performing engineering surveys and studies, and the review of construction or other design products for the purpose of monitoring compliance with drawings and specification; any of which embraces such services or work, either public or private, in connection with an utilities, structures, buildings, machines, equipment, processes, work systems, projects and industrial or consumer products; equipment of a control, communications, computer, mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, pneumatic, or thermal nature, insofar as they involve safeguarding life, health or property.

	Comity	Examination
Applications Received	620	217
Licensed	610	224

	Professional Engineers
Renewed	1
Licensed	834
Reinstated	54
Total	889
Total from FY 2016	15,725
NON-RENEWAL YEAR TOTAL	16,614



ORDER OF THE ENGINEER

The Order of the Engineer induction ceremony is held as part of the Alabama/Mississippi Engineering Society's conference. Each year a number of new Professional Engineers are fitted with a ring and sign the code of ethics that is to guide them as they begin their careers.



LAND SURVEYING

	Land Surveyor Interns
Certifications Issued	3
Renewed	12
Total	15
Total From FY 2016	16
LOSS	1

A Land Surveyor Intern is a person who has passed a Board approved examination in the fundamental land surveying subjects, pursuant to law and who has been certified by BELS as a land surveying intern.

Due to the changes in the Interns application process, it is anticipated that there will be a decrease in the number of interns being certified.

PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

	Number Given	Number Passed	% Passed	Number Failed
State Specific Exam	12	12	100	0

The practice of land surveying is defined as a professional service that includes, but is not limited to, consultation, project coordination, investigation, testimony, evaluation, planning, mapping, assembling and interpreting reliable scientific measurements and information relative to the location, size, shape, areas, volumes, or physical features on the earth, or any part of the earth, and the utilization and development of these acts and interpretation into an orderly survey map, plan, report, description, or project. Professional Land Surveyors renew on a biennial basis, FY 2016-17

	Professional Land Surveyors
Applications Received	19
Total Licensed	8

	Professional Land Surveyors
Renewed	0
Licensed	12
Reinstated	3
Total	15
Total from FY 2016	1,259
NON-RENEWAL YEAR TOTAL	1,239

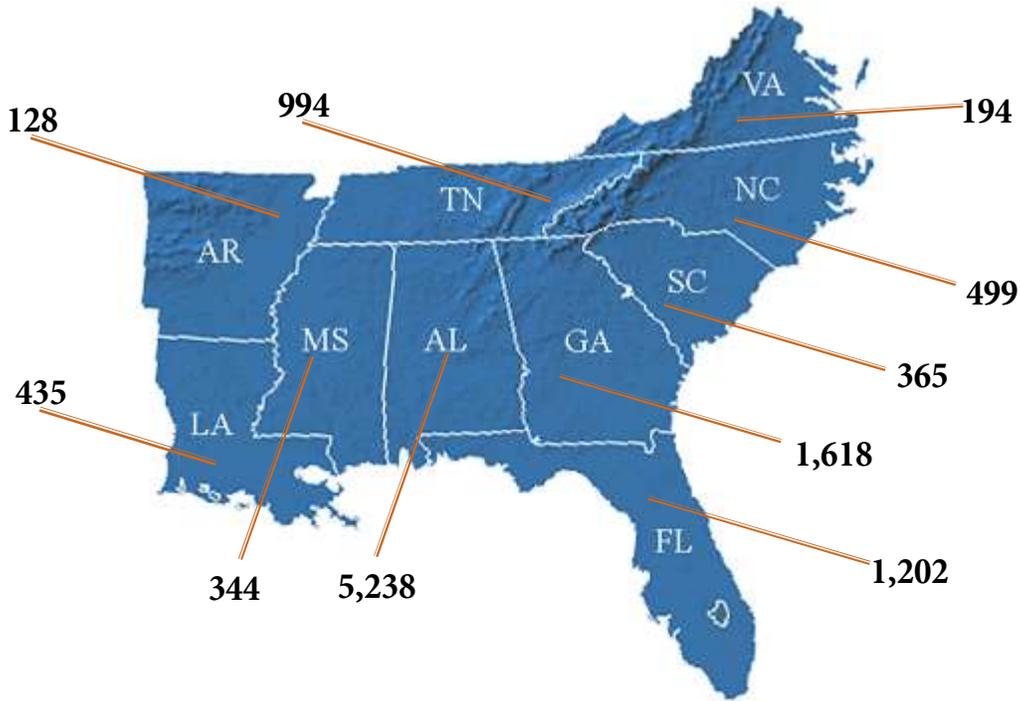
TROY GEOMATICS

Troy University's Geomatics Sciences Program was honored as one of the top in the nation by NCEES.

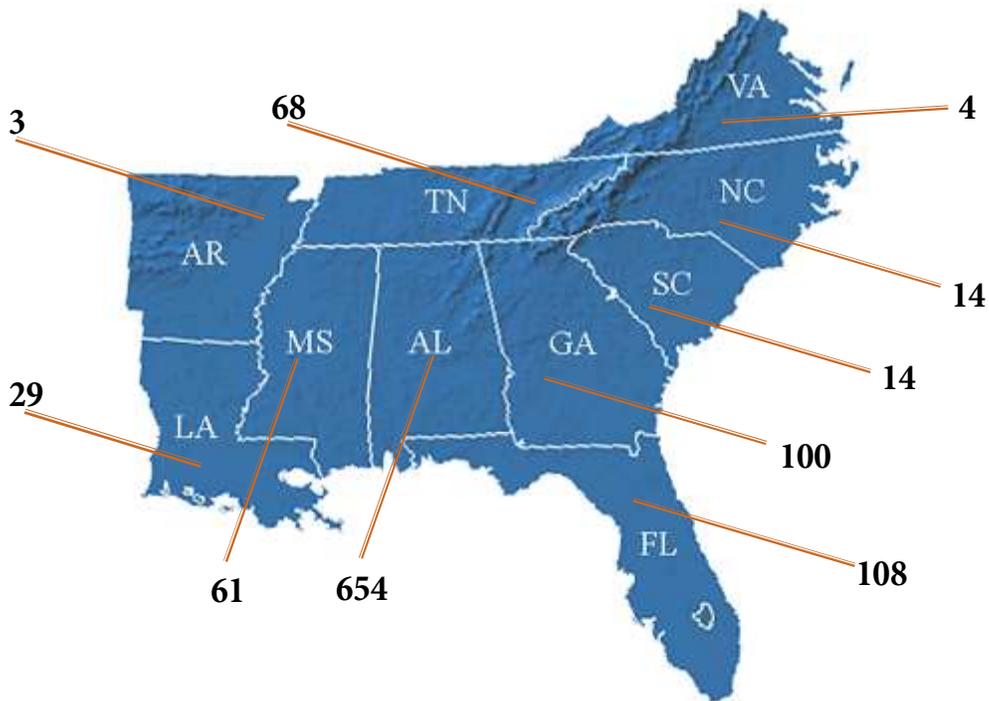


A look at our licensure community

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



Reflects the number of Professional Engineers in 2016 (15,725 in total) holding a license in the State of Alabama



PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

Reflects the numbers Professional Land Surveyors in 2016 (1,259 in total) holding a license in the State of Alabama.

CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION

	Engineering	Land Surveying
Applications Received	251	17
Certificates Issued FY 2017	221	12

A company desiring to offer engineering or surveying services to the public is permitted to do so through individual licensed Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors. Certificates of Authorization are renewed on an annual basis.

	Engineering Certificates
Renewed	2,388
Certificated	221
Reinstated	12
Total	2,621
Total from FY 2016	2,724
LOSS	103

	Land Surveying Certificates
Renewed	439
Certificated	12
Reinstated	2
Total	453
Total from FY 2016	498
LOSS	45

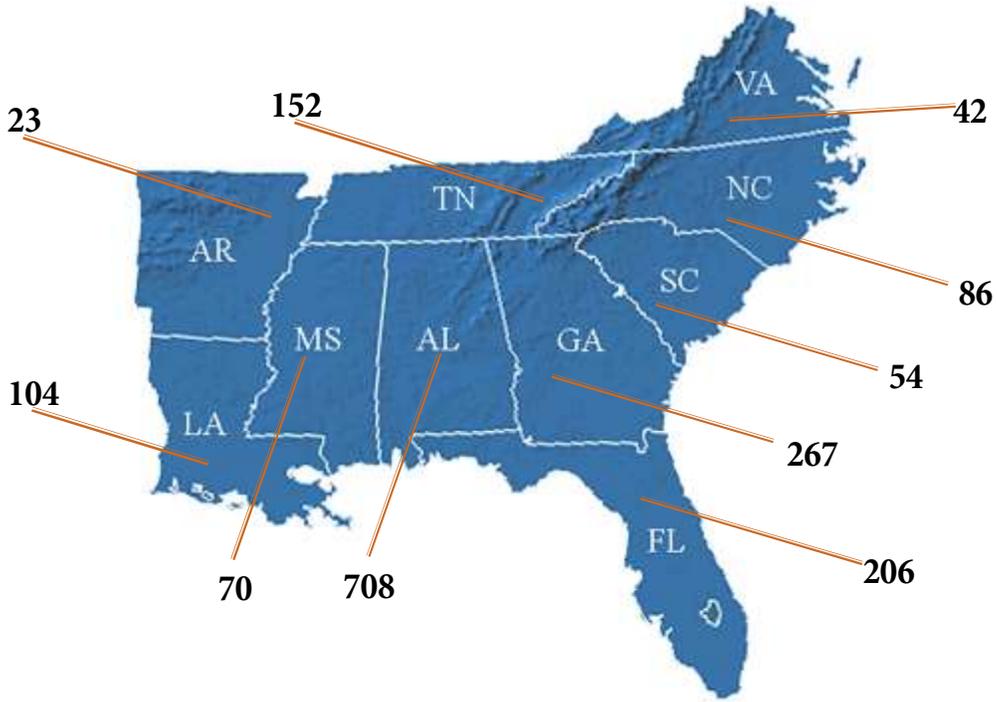


EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

Business owners in today's engineering and surveying fields are responsible for finding the best ways to utilize emerging technology. Here a land surveyor has affixed a camera to a drone and will use it to look over a tract of land. Drones are also being used by engineers and code officials to inspect rooftops and various other structures.

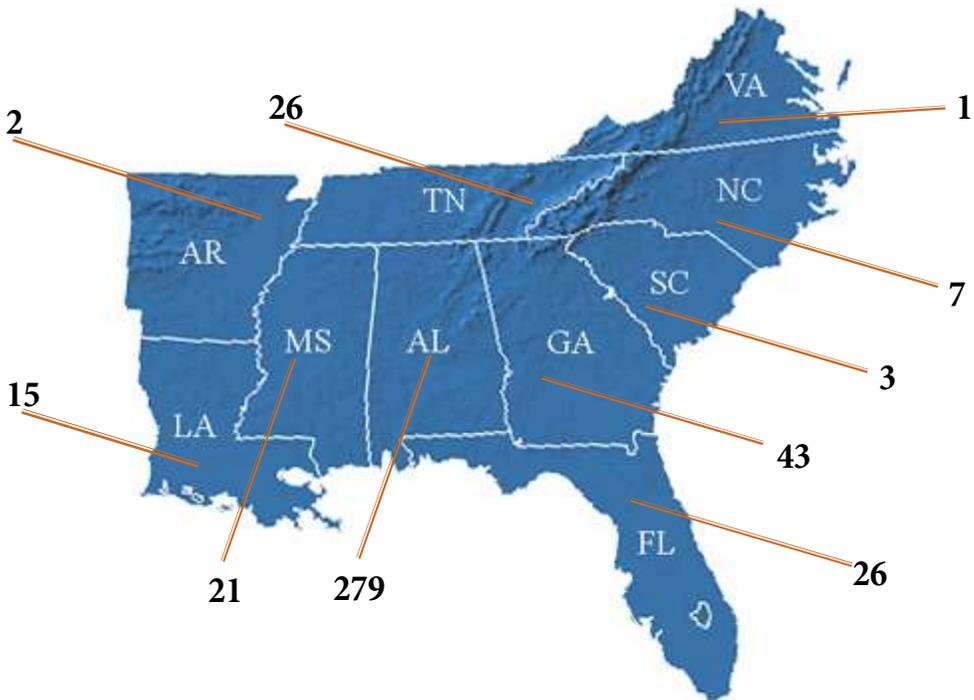
A look at the business community

ENGINEERING FIRMS



Reflects the numbers of engineering firms in 2016 (2,724 in total) from various states holding a certificate of authorization to do work in Alabama.

SURVEYING FIRMS



Reflects the numbers of land surveying firms in 2016 (498 in total) from various states holding a certificate of authorization to do work in Alabama.

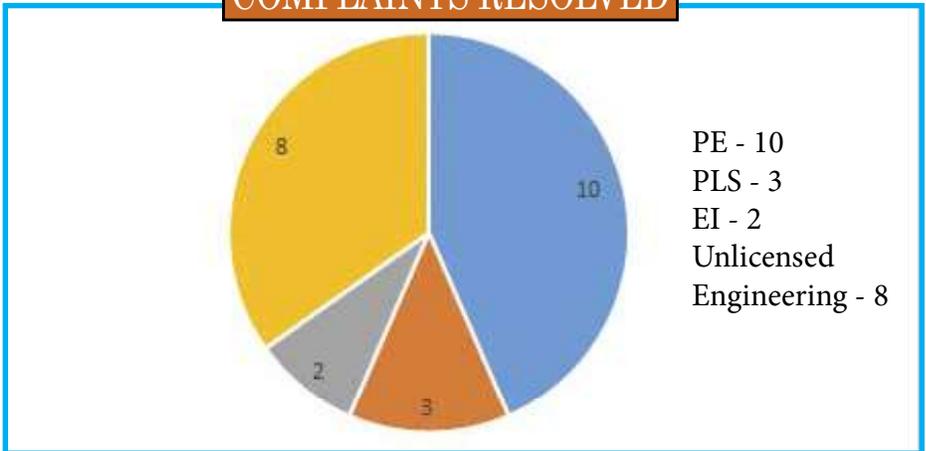
ENFORCEMENT

COMPLAINTS RESOLVED

BELS conducts investigations that result in findings of no violation and both formal and informal actions.

Informal enforcement actions result in letters of caution which are not part of the public record. Formal enforcement actions are public record and may include a fine, probation, license suspension or revocation.

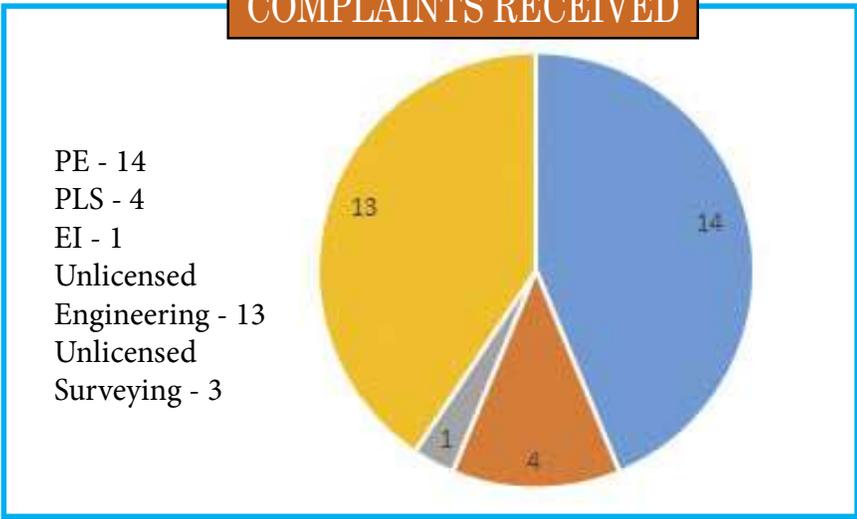
In FY 2017, BELS brought closure to 23 complaints.



COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	Professional Engineers	Professional Land Surveyors	Unlicensed Engineering	Unlicensed Land Surveying
FY 2017*	14	4	13	3
FY 2016*	9	9	9	0
FY 2015	20	12	17	2
FY 2014	17	11	3	3
FY 2013	28	6	6	2
FY 2012	15	12	11	2
FY 2011	18	20	14	0
FY 2010	21	9	17	2

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

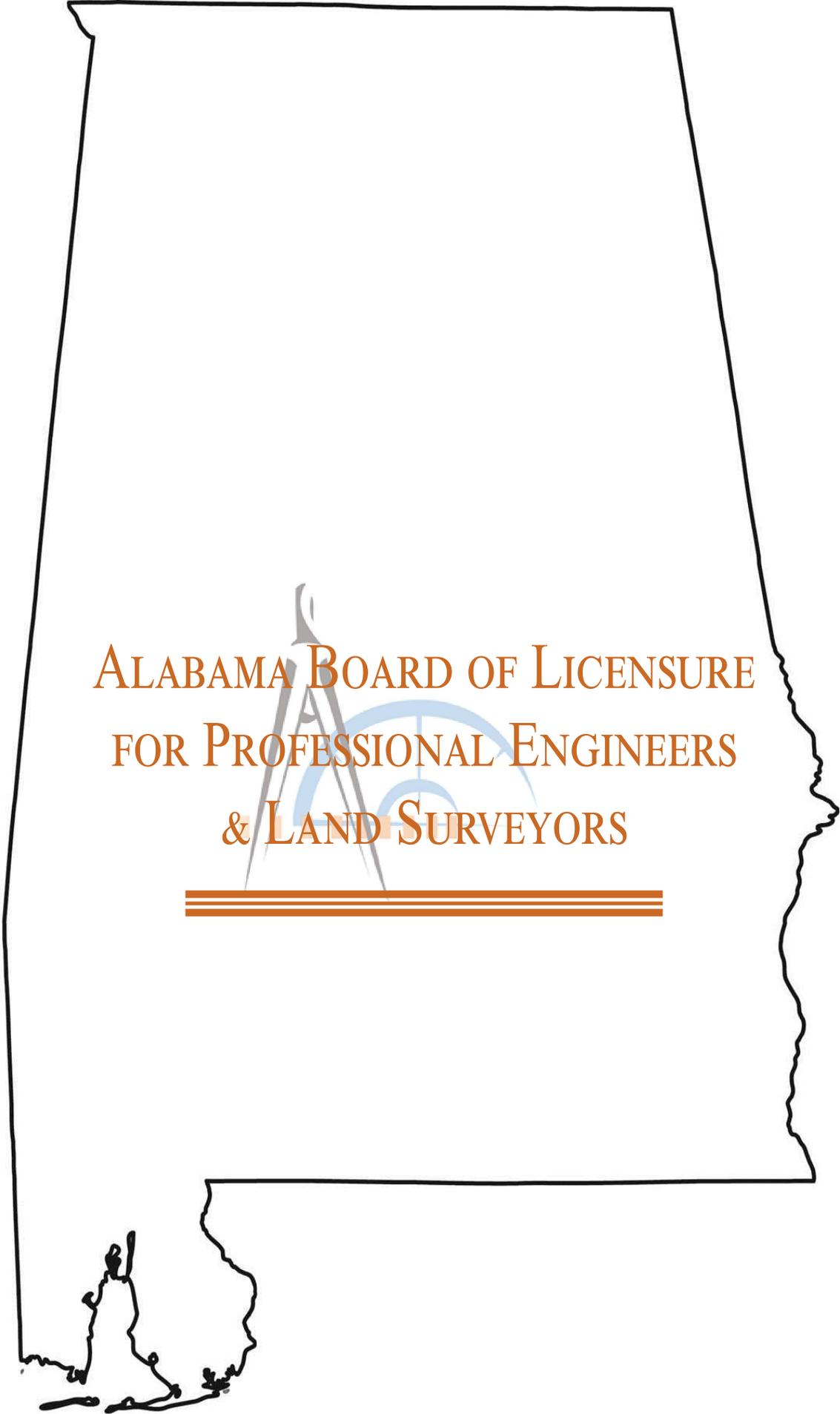


Any person may file a complaint alleging a violation of the law or rules against any individual licensee, certified intern or corporation, partnership or firm holding a Certificate of Authorization.

Complaints may also be filed against unlicensed individuals or firms that offer or provide engineering or surveying services that violate the Code of Alabama. The complaints must be in writing and be filed with the Executive Director of BELS.

In FY 2017 BELS received 35 complaints regarding professional engineers, professional land surveyors, an engineer intern, and unlicensed individuals or firms offering engineering services.

* --- BELS investigated complaint involving an Engineer Intern



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