

BELS NEWSLETTER



ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

October 2026 Edition

INSIDE:

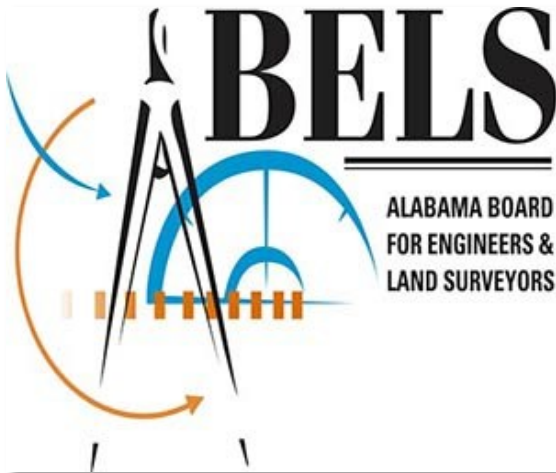
Enforcement News

FY2025-2026 Credential Stats

PO Box 304451 | Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4451 | www.bels.alabama.gov

Front Cover:

BELS



INFORMATION

BELS is comprised of nine members. Five professional engineers, two professional land surveyors, and two public members.

All members are vetted by specific nominating committees. The committees then submit a list of three names to the Governor who makes the appointment.

Board meetings are held every two months and are open to the public.

Physical Address

100 N. Union Street, Ste 382
Montgomery, AL 36104

Mailing Address

PO Box 304451
Montgomery, AL 36130-4451



NEED A SPEAKER?

We cover the following:

PDH / CEU topics include:

- Enforcement Case Studies
- Ethics
- Law and Rules

If interested please email:
robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov

OUR MISSION

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was established by 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 discipline for those individuals or entities who violate the applicable laws or rules.

OFFICE CALENDAR

Nov 11th Holiday / Office Closed

Dec 25th Holiday / Office Closed

Nov 26th Holiday / Office Closed

Jan 1st Holiday / Office Closed

Dec 1st Board Meeting

Jan 28th Board Meeting

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you have questions about how to fill out a new licensure application, register as a new firm, print your pocket card, reset your password or email address, change your name, renew a certificate of authorization, request a retired title, etc.

You can visit our website at www.bels.alabama.gov and click the “**How To**” icon. Under this section you will find step by step instructions that will address many of your questions and help you with the online process.

If you still have questions please call our office at 334-242-5568 and speak to a BELS Staff member. We will be glad to assist.

SEND QUESTIONS ABOUT

- ♦ **PE & PLS Applications, Structural Roster Designation Requests, and the ALSS Exam** to Bonnie Kelly at bonnie.kelly@bels.alabama.gov
- ♦ **Public Records Request, Renewals & Reinstatements** to Rick Huett at rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov
- ♦ **Certificates of Authorization - Applications, Amendments, or Renewals, and Engineer Intern and Land Surveyor Intern Applications** to Pam Faison at pame-la.faison@bels.alabama.gov
- ♦ **License Verification Requests.** The majority of states use the electronic verification system available on the NCEES website. Just login to your MYNCEES account and request the verification. If the jurisdiction requires a paper verification contact Rick Huett at rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENDATION



Mrs. Nanette (Nan) Baldwin was recognized at the August 13, 2026 Board meeting for her service to the Board. Nan was appointed by Governor Ivey and is the first Public Member to serve on the Board. The Senate Commendation in part stated the following:

WHEREAS, it is with great pride and special reverence, we extend our warmest commendations to Nanette Baldwin, IOM, APR, for her distinguished record of service to the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors; and

WHEREAS, in August 2019, Nanette Baldwin was appointed by Governor Kay Ivey to join the Board through unwavering leadership, she has worked to protect the public health, safety, and welfare through the licensing of individuals and com-

panies that practice the profession of engineering and land surveying within the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2026, her term of service on the Board will end; and WHEREAS, throughout her service to the State of Alabama, she has been dedicated, working with fellow board members to craft laws, rules, and codified language to help improve the professions of engineering and surveying; serving the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors in the positions of Secretary, Vice Chair, Chair, and she has worked with fellow board members, society representatives, state agencies, and the professional community to craft language with the purpose of protecting public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Commerce and Business Administration from the University of Alabama in 1980, her Master of Arts Degree in Public and Private Management from Birmingham-Southern University in 1987; and

WHEREAS, she was awarded the professional designation IOM (Institute for Organization Management) after completing the program administered by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; and,

WHEREAS, she attained the professional credential APR, from the Public Relations Society of America awarded to individuals that have demonstrated competency in the knowledge, skills, and abilities to practice Public Relations; and

WHEREAS, a woman of diligence, Nanette Baldwin is an inspiration to many; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby extend highest commendations to Nanette Baldwin, IOM, APR, as well as offer her sincere best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

NEW BOARD MEMBER



On September 25, 2026, Governor Ivey appointed Ms. Melody Lee to the Board to replace Mrs. Nanette Baldwin whose term had ended. Ms. Lee will serve as a public member and her term of service runs until August 6, 2031.

Governor Ivey's appointment letter states in part: "I appreciate you serving in this capacity , and I am confident you will render valuable service to the citizens of Alabama.

Since 2021, Ms. Lee has served as the Executive Director of Grow Southeast Alabama. It's mission is to grow the regional economy and to increase opportunities for residents of Southeast Alabama.

FY 2025-2026 CREDENTIALS ISSUED

Credential	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	<u>Total</u>
Engineer Intern	38	65	90	62	255
Surveyor Intern	3	1	3	1	8
Professional Engineer	399	321	341	218	1,279
Initial	65	50	54	32	201
Comity	334	271	287	186	1,078
Professional Land Surveyor	11	8	5	10	34
Initial	4	3	3	3	13
Comity	7	5	2	7	21
Engineering Company	90	78	56	52	276
Land Surveying Company	5	19	4	8	36

BOARD TECHNICAL ADVISORS

Board Technical Advisors (BTA) serve a vital role in the investigation of competency based complaints regarding professional engineers and land surveyors. Their expertise is a tremendous asset to the Board's investigative committee in determining if probable cause exists that a violation had occurred.

Understanding the amount of time necessary to provide an examination of documents submitted for review the Board limits the amount of reviews assigned to a BTA each year. If at all possible the BTA is also selected from a different geographical area of the State than where the violation occurred.

Also — Board Technical Advisors can earn up to ten (10) PDH's a year for their service to the Board in review of documents.

If interested, please contact Chief Special Investigator Bob Herbert at 334-242-5089 or email: robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS

In accordance with the Administrative Code of the Board, Section 330-X-13.02 Continuing professional competency activities which satisfy the professional development requirement shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Successfully completing or auditing courses college or university sponsored courses,
- (b) Successfully completing courses which are awarded continuing educational units (CEU),
- (c) Successfully completing tutorials, short courses, correspondence courses, televised courses, internet courses, or videotaped courses,
- (d) Attending seminars, in-house programs, workshops, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions or conferences.
- (e) Teaching, presenting, or instruction as described in (a) through (d) above,
- (f) Authoring published papers, articles, books, or accepted licensing examination items, and
- (g) Receiving a United States patent
- (h) Actively participating in professional or technical societies as defined in 330-X13.02(8)(f)
- (i) Serving the Board as a volunteer Technical Advisor as defined in 330-X-13-.02(8)(g)
- (j) Active participation in educational outreach activities pertaining to professional licensure or the surveying/engineering professions that involve K-12 or higher education students.

All activities as described in (a) through (j) above must be relevant to the practice of engineering or land surveying and may include technical, ethical, or managerial content. The Board does not preapprove or endorse any CPC activities. It is the responsibility of each licensee to assure that all PDH credits claimed meet the requirements as specified in 330-X-13.02.

ENFORCEMENT NEWS

Our investigators are available to answer your questions concerning routine issues that occur and relate to compliance with the Code of Alabama and/or the Board's Administrative Code. Please feel free to send them an email or give them a call with your questions or concerns.

Their Contact Information:

Chief Special Investigator Bob Herbert: robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov, or 334-242-5089

Special Investigator Bill Hamil: william.hamill@bels.alabama.gov, or 334-242-5049

Special Investigator Scotty Edwards: scotty.edwards@bels.alabama.gov, or 334-353-1047

COMPLAINT PROCESS

Complaints: Must be filed within two years of the date the violation occurred or within two years of the date of the discovery of the violation, but no later than 10 years from the date of the violation. Violations caused by fraud, deceit, or concealment are not subject to the 10-year time limitation.

A separate complaint must be filed on each individual or firm. You cannot combine multiple individuals and firms into 1 complaint.

You can only file a complaint against a Licensed Company or Unlicensed Company if it is for not having a Certificate of Authorization or no branch office on the Certificate of Authorization. If you are filing for fraud, deceit, concealment, errors in design or survey, you **MUST** file the complaint against an individual. If you file incorrectly, you will be asked to refile the complaint.

Board Powers: Title 34, Chapter 11 of the Code of Alabama grants the Board the power to reprimand, censure, place on probation, or fine (up to \$5,000 per violation) any licensee, intern or certificated firm found guilty of violations of the Chapter or the Rules of the Board. It also authorizes the Board to assess a civil penalty (up to \$5,000 per violation) to any un-licensed person or un-certificated firm found guilty of violations of the Chapter.

Property Boundary Line Disputes: The Board has no jurisdiction over property boundary line issues. This type of complaint should be submitted to the appropriate court system.

Restitution: The Board cannot require individuals or firms to provide restitution. Matters regarding restitution should be submitted to the appropriate court system.

Litigation: Complaints submitted for investigation that involve matters that have also been presented to a court for action may or may not be placed on hold pending the outcome of the litigation. The Board will make the determination on a case by case basis; however, any complaint that concerns an on-going situation that immediately adversely impacts the public health, safety or welfare will not be placed on hold.

You may call the board office at 334-242-5568 or use license search on our website to inquire if there has been any enforcement actions taken against an individual or company.

The Board must depend in large on reports from the public, engineering professionals, and land surveying professionals to help regulate the practices of engineering and land surveying in the state

More information can be found on our website at: www.bels.alabama.gov

FORMAL ACTIONS

James Harpel, PLS40196 - Complaint 2026-01

The investigation determined Mr. Harpel provided a survey that contained violations of the Standards of Practice for Land Surveying in Alabama. Mr. Harpel agreed to a consent order that required him to pay a \$1,500 fine to the Board, to pay \$554 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

Leesman Engineering & Associates Inc, ECA5367 - Complaint 2026-04

The investigation determined the firm provided engineering services for a project during the time its Certificate of Authorization for engineering was expired. The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to pay a \$500 fine to the Board, to pay \$376 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

Alberto Roman, PE50208 - Complaint 2026-07

The Board held a formal hearing in reference to charges it filed concerning Mr. Roman's license suspension in another State. An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) presided over the hearing and provided recommendations to the Board. The Board agreed with the ALJ's recommendations and found Mr. Roman guilty of the charges. The Board issued an Order that required him to pay a \$1,000 fine to the Board, to pay \$1,272 to the Board for the cost of the hearing, and the Order to be a public record.

Michael Solitro, PLS32129 - Complaint 2026-08

The Board held a formal hearing in reference to charges it filed concerning Mr. Solitro's license revocation in another State. An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) presided over the hearing and provided recommendations to the Board. The Board agreed with the ALJ's recommendations and found Mr. Solitro guilty of the charges. The Board issued an Order that required him to pay a \$1,000 fine to the Board, to pay \$1,272 to the Board for the cost of the hearing, and the Order to be a public record.

Mohammed Kibria, Unlicensed - Complaint 2026-19

The investigation determined Mr. Kibria placed the professional engineer seal of a licensed professional engineer (PE) on documents that he submitted to an approving authority without the PE's knowledge. Mr. Kibria agreed to a consent order that required him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty to the State of Alabama General Fund, to pay \$225 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

Fleacto Engineering LLC - Uncertificated - Complaint 2026-20

The investigation determined Fleacto Engineering LLC failed to obtain the necessary Certificate of Authorization for engineering prior to providing engineering services for a project in Alabama. The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty to the State of Alabama General Fund, to pay \$126 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

FORMAL ACTIONS

Open Architecture Inc, ECA51596 - Uncertificated - Complaint 2026-21

The investigation determined Open Architecture Inc, failed to obtain the necessary Certificate of Authorization for engineering prior to providing engineering services for a project in Alabama. The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to pay a \$500 civil penalty to the State of Alabama General Fund, to pay \$215 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

Chandra Franklin Womack, PE52548 - Complaint 2026-22

The investigation determined Chandra Franklin Womack agreed to an Order issued by the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors that suspended her North Carolina PE license for 12 months. She agreed to a consent order that required her Alabama PE license to be suspended until March 27, 2027, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

Craig Metzger, PE39092 - Complaint 2026-27

The investigation determined Craig Metzger was disciplined by the North Dakota State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors on December 15, 2025, and failed to notify the Alabama Board of the disciplinary action during the submission of his PE license renewal on December 18, 2025, or within the 30 days required by the Administrative Code of the Board. Mr. Metzger agreed to a consent order that required him to pay a \$200 fine to the Board, to pay \$116 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

Jose Parada, PE33955 - Complaint 2026-34

The investigation determined Jose Parada was disciplined by the Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors on February 17, 2026, and failed to notify the Alabama Board of the disciplinary action within 30 days as required by the Administrative Code of the Board. Mr. Parada agreed to a consent order that required him to pay a \$1,500 fine to the Board, to pay \$98 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

The Administrative Code of the Board, Section 330-X-14-.06 requires licensees to report certain actions by other Jurisdiction to the Alabama Board. The Rules state:

- (h) The engineer or land surveyor must provide written notification to the Board within 30 days of a disciplinary action taken against them by other licensing boards.
- (i) The engineer or land surveyor must provide written notification to the Board within 30 days of a conviction, a plea of guilty, or nolo contendere to any felony crime, or misdemeanor directly related to the practice of engineering or land surveying.

COMPLAINTS

The Code of Alabama Title 34 Chapter 11 charges the Board to investigate any complaint relating to a violation of the chapter and, if a violation is discovered, to proceed in accordance with the rules outlined. The Board received forty-six complaints and resolved twenty-nine involving professional engineers, professional land surveyors and un-licensed individuals or firms offering engineering and/or land surveying services.

FY 2025-2026	RECEIVED	RESOLVED
Professional Engineers	25	13
Unlicensed Engineering - Individual	8	9
Engineering Companies		
Unlicensed Engineering Company	6	14
Professional Land Surveyors	6	8
Unlicensed Surveying - Individual	1	2
Surveying Companies		
Unlicensed Surveying Company		
TOTAL	46	46

COMPLAINT CLOSED ACTIONS

Method Complaint Closed	Refer	No	Informal Action	Formal Action
Professional Engineers	0	2	2	9
Unlicensed Engineering - Individual	2	0	5	2
Engineering Companies				
Unlicensed Engineering Company				14
Professional Land Surveyors	0	4	1	3
Unlicensed Surveying - Individual		1		1
Land Surveying Companies				
Unlicensed Surveying Company				
Total	2	7	8	29

PS GEOSPATIAL EXAM DEVELOPMENT

NCEES is recruiting subject-matter experts to help write and evaluate questions for a new Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) Geospatial licensing examination. Earlier this year, the NCEES board of directors approved developing a licensing exam that will test geospatial surveying, mapping science, photogrammetry, remote sensing, and similar geospatial subject areas. This exam will test for minimum competency on non-boundary content for any NCEES member boards that choose to issue such a license.

Exam development volunteers for the PS Geospatial exam must have an active professional license issued by an NCEES member board, must be a subject-matter expert in the areas covered by the exam, and must be familiar with the requirements for and capabilities of candidates who are minimally qualified to practice in these areas.

Exam development meetings are hosted at NCEES headquarters in Greenville, South Carolina. NCEES funds costs associated with travel, meals, and lodging, including a travel stipend. Additionally, serving as an exam development volunteer may qualify for continuing professional competency credit for license renewal.

“Our volunteers are indispensable to developing our licensing exams,” Chief Officer of Examinations Lehmon Dekle, P.E., explained. “Working with an exam development committee is a unique way to contribute to the profession, and we are eager for the support of geospatial professionals to develop this new licensing exam.”

Individuals interested in serving on the PS Geospatial exam development committee should complete the form online at ncees.org/volunteer.

ABOUT NCEES The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying is a non-profit organization made up of engineering and surveying licensing boards from all U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since its founding in 1920, NCEES has been committed to advancing licensure for engineers and surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the U.S. public.

NCEES helps its member licensing boards carry out their duties to regulate the professions of engineering and surveying. It develops best practice models for state licensure laws and regulations and promotes uniformity among the states. It develops and administers the exams used for engineering and surveying licensure throughout the country. It also provides services to help licensed engineers and surveyors practice their professions in other U.S. states and territories. For more information, please visit ncees.org.

NCEES NEWS RELEASE

September 23, 2026

Contact: William Bowen, P.E. Exam Development Engineer
help@ncees.org