

The CAPITOL VOICE



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BUTLER | SNOW

The Mississippi Legislature has wrapped up business for the 2011 Regular Session. As predicted, the most contentious legislative battles revolved around redistricting and the budget. In the final weeks of the session, the legislature was able to agree to a budget of \$5.5 billion for Fiscal Year 2012, which begins July 1, 2011.

Legislative redistricting, however, remains unresolved. The House and Senate were unable to reach an agreement on new legislative districts prior to the end of the regular session, and at this point, it is unclear whether candidates will be running in their old districts or newly drawn districts in November. The deadline to qualify for legislative elections is June 1.

In Washington, the differences between the Republican-controlled House and the Democratic-controlled Senate have resulted in a slower pace for approving legislation and enacting laws as compared to the last Congress. So far this year, Congress has devoted much of its attention to funding the federal government for the remainder of the current fiscal year and drafting a budget for the upcoming fiscal year that begins in October.

Our Government Relations Group works diligently to keep our clients informed of the key policy issues developing in the legislative arena, and we are committed to helping our clients meet their strategic goals. Our group also assists clients through management of business development efforts. Look for more information on ways we can help with business development in the pages of this newsletter. We hope that you find *The Capitol Voice* an informative portal for state and federal government issues.



Sincerely,

Charles V. Williams*
Government Relations Director
Non-attorney government affairs advisor

Meet the Group

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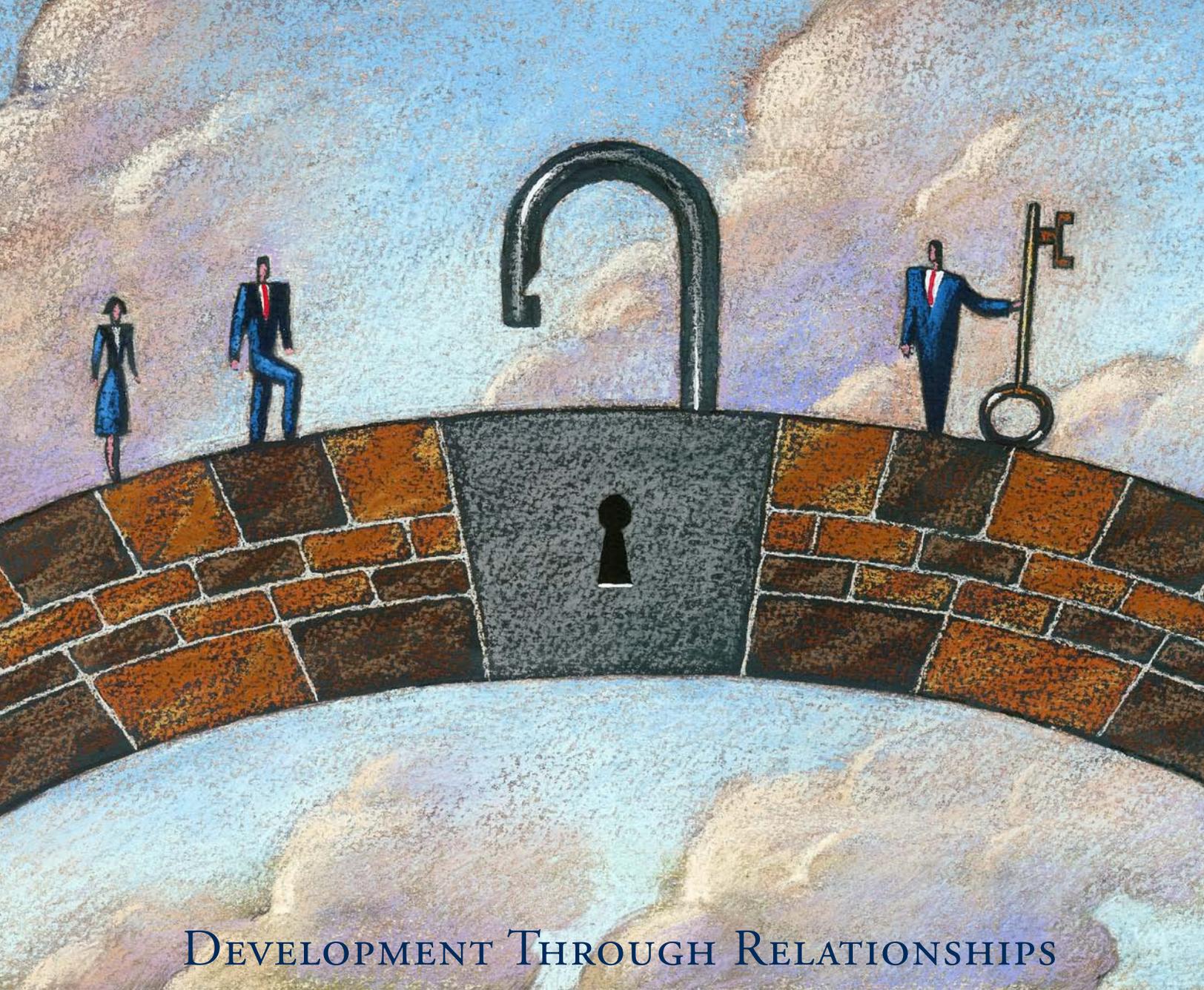


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DEVELOPMENT THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS

The Butler Snow Government Relations Group differs from more traditional lobbying groups. Our strategic approach not only includes providing traditional lobbying services for clients but also providing business development services. Because we have a wide array of contacts at every level of government and the private sector, the Government Relations Group can connect clients with key decision makers across the state, region, and nation. With our capabilities, we can also serve as a key resource for our clients by actually leading and executing business development plans. We work closely with our clients to understand key business development goals, formulate specific action plans, and ensure we regularly measure progress. Our team can develop plans for businesses of all sizes from small start-ups to mid-size firms to larger corporations. Whether we serve as a sole resource for business development activities, or enhance an internal team, the Butler Snow Government Relations team can provide valuable services that help you achieve your strategies for business growth.

In The News



(L to R) Charlie Williams, Tommie Cardin, Sen. Terry Burton, Rep. Tommy Reynolds, Caroline Sims, Sidney Allen

MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE SCRAMBLER
Butler Snow sponsored the February 16th Mississippi Economic Council Legislative Scrambler on redistricting. Senator Terry Burton and Representative Tommy Reynolds, Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Joint Legislative Redistricting and Congressional Reapportionment Committee, discussed the legislative redistricting process at the breakfast.

OFFICIAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF MISSISSIPPI LUNCHEON

The Official Women's Club of Mississippi held its monthly meeting at the offices of Butler Snow. The Club is for wives of elected political officials in Mississippi. The guest speaker at the luncheon was cartoonist Marshall Ramsey.



(L to R) Caroline Sims, Donna Dye, Art Spratlin, Pat Coggins

BAY ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY HALL DEDICATION

Government Relations Director Charlie Williams and former Bay St. Louis Mayor Eddie Favre participated in the dedication of the new \$5 million Bay St. Louis Community Hall. The Hall was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina and has been rebuilt with a Community Development Block Grant, funds provided by Rotary Clubs from around the world, and from local and private funds from Hancock County.

PEARL RIVER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Butler Snow accompanied Supervisors from Pearl River County and City Council members from Picayune and Poplarville on a legislative trip to Washington, D.C. The group met with members of Mississippi's Congressional Delegation and staff to discuss important projects and infrastructure needs for the county and cities.



Pearl River County delegation outside the U.S. Capitol Building

LUNCH AND LEARN

Butler Snow recently hosted a luncheon with featured speaker Brad Davis, State Director for U.S. Senator Thad Cochran, to discuss current and future issues facing the new Congress. Brad provided an in-depth look into pressing issues such as the current budget situation, the future of healthcare reform, and environmental regulation.

SENATE CHAPLAIN'S LUNCHEON WITH CHANCELLOR DAN JONES

Butler Snow was the primary sponsor of the first Senate Chaplain's Luncheon which was held March 17th at the University Club in Jackson. The featured speaker at the luncheon was University of Mississippi Chancellor Dan Jones.



(L to R) Sidney Allen, Laura Leigh James, Senate Chaplain Ben James, Senator Joey Fillingane

In The News (continued)

CONFERENCE WEEKEND RECEPTION

The Butler Snow Government Relations Group co-sponsored the annual Gulf Coast Delegation Conference Weekend Reception at Two Sisters Restaurant on March 26th. The reception is held annually on “conference weekend,” the weekend by which all conference reports on appropriations and revenue bills are traditionally due. Open to the entire Legislature and staff, estimates indicate there were 400 people in attendance enjoying the great weather and seafood prepared by the Department of Marine Resources.

MDA 75TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

The Mississippi Economic Development Council hosted a reception celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). Butler Snow was a Diamond Sponsor of this event. More than 700 people attended the event including the Governor, Lt. Governor, two former governors, eight former MDA directors, and numerous other elected officials and economic development leaders from throughout Mississippi.



(L to R) Don Clark, Former U.S. Senator Trent Lott, Senator Michael Watson, Senator Walter Michel

SENATE PRAYER CAUCUS BREAKFAST

Former U.S. Senator Trent Lott was the featured speaker at the recent Mississippi Senate Prayer Caucus Breakfast held at Butler Snow. Senator Lott offered insight on faith and politics to a group of 15 State Senators.

COFFEE WITH THE SENATOR

Butler Snow hosted the Madison County Business League in our conference center for their “Coffee with the Senator” series. U.S. Senator Roger Wicker was the featured speaker and over 100 guests were in attendance.



(L to R) Sidney Allen, John England, U.S. Senator Roger Wicker, Caroline Sims, Lucien Bourgeois



(L to R) Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. Gary Doer and Charlie Williams

COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS' NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Council of State Governments' National Conference was held this year in Providence, RI, and Butler Snow Government Relations Director Charlie Williams was in attendance. Agenda topics focused on issues that might arise during state legislative sessions and hot national topics such as healthcare reform and education.

Keeping Our Clients Informed on the Issues that Affect Them

2011 ELECTION UPDATE

This year, Mississippi will hold elections for statewide, legislative, and many county offices. The qualifying deadline for most of these offices was March 1st; however, due to legislative redistricting, the deadline to qualify to run for the House or Senate is not until June 1st. The primary election will take place on August 2nd, and the general election will be November 8th.

A complete list of candidates who have qualified to run for statewide or regional office is provided below:

GOVERNOR

James Broadwater (R)
Phil Bryant (R)
Dave Dennis (R)
Hudson Holliday (R)
Ron Williams (R)
William Compton (D)
Johnny DuPree (D)
Bill Lockett (D)
Guy Shaw (D)
William Oatis (I)
Shawn O'Hara (Ref)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Billy Hewes (R)
Tate Reeves (R)
Tracella Lou O'Hara Hill (Ref)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Jim Hood (D, i)
Steve Simpson (R)

SECRETARY OF STATE

Delbert Hosemann (R, i)
Ricky Dombrowski (R)
John Pannell (Ref)

AUDITOR

Stacey Pickering (R, i)
Ashley Norwood (Ref)

TREASURER

Lynn Fitch (R)
Lucien Smith (R)
Lee Yancey (R)
Connie Moran (D)
Shawn O'Hara (D)
Shawn O'Hara (Ref)

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

Mike Chaney (R, i)
Louis Fondren (D)
Barbara Dale Washer (Ref)

AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER

Cindy Hyde-Smith (R)
Max Phillips (R)
Dannie Reed (R)
Joel Gill (D)
Cathy Toole (Ref)

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER, NORTHERN DISTRICT

Brandon Presley (D, i)
Boyce Adams (R)
Marvin Cox (R)

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL DISTRICT

Lynn Posey (R, i)
Bruce Burton (D)
Addie Green (D)
Danny Ayers (I)

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER, SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Leonard Bentz (R, i)
Travis Rose (R)
Thomas Blanton (D)
James M. Buckhaults (D)
Mike Collier (D)

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER, NORTHERN DISTRICT

Mike Tagert (R, i)
John Caldwell (R)
Ray Minor (D)

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL DISTRICT

Dick Hall (R, i)
Tim Johnson (R)
Dorothy Beneford (D)
Marshand Crisler (D)

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER, SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Scottie Cuevas (R)
Tom King (R)
Larry Albritton (D)



Upcoming Conferences

Members of the Butler Snow Government Relations Group can be seen all around the state and nation as they represent clients at important conferences and legislative meetings. Look for members of our Government Relations Group and firm at these upcoming conferences:

- Mississippi Association of Supervisors Annual Convention – June 20-24, 2011 (Biloxi, MS)
- Mississippi Municipal League Annual Convention – June 26-30, 2011 (Biloxi, MS)
- Mississippi Economic Development Council Summer Conference – July 13-15, 2011 (Biloxi, MS)
- National Governors Association Annual Meeting – July 15-17, 2011 (Salt Lake City, Utah)
- Southern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting – July 16-20, 2011 (Memphis, TN)
- American Legislative Exchange Council Annual Meeting – August 3-6, 2011 (New Orleans, LA)
- National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit – August 8-11, 2011 (San Antonio, TX)
- Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Advisory Committee Meeting – August 29 – Sept. 1, 2011 (Point Clear, AL)

BUTLER | SNOW

Greater Jackson, MS | Gulf Coast, MS | Oxford, MS | Memphis, TN
Greater Nashville, TN | New Orleans, LA | Greater Philadelphia, PA

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