



Kay Ivey
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw
COMMISSIONER

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jefferson County businessman to join ADRS board

MONTGOMERY – A prominent member of the Birmingham business community has been appointed to represent Congressional District 6 on the Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services.

Charles Wilkinson, the founder and chief executive officer of Human Resource Management Inc. (HRM), a consulting firm specializing in human resource management compliance, will represent business and industry on the seven-member board. He was appointed by Gov. Kay Ivey and confirmed by the Alabama Senate.

Wilkinson is a founding member and current president of the Alabama Industry Liaison Group (ALIG), a coalition of federal contractors committed to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action.

Prior to founding HRM in 1999, Wilkinson served as vice president and director of human resources for Colonial Bank.

Throughout his business career, Mr. Wilkinson has been a vocal and tireless advocate for workers with disabilities.

His compliance work with Colonial Bank to implement requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) – done in tandem with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) – became a personal passion and resulted in the creation of his consulting practice and of ALIG, both of which assist other companies with similar interests and compliance goals.

ADRS Commissioner Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw said she is pleased with Gov. Ivey's choice.

"Mr. Wilkinson's extensive experience as a human resources professional has given him valuable insight for disability-related issues, and he has already proven himself to be a vocal and tireless advocate for workers with disabilities," Burdeshaw said. "He's a great person who has impeccable business credentials, who also happens to be the parent of a child with a disability."

Wilkinson's 11-year-old daughter, Bergen, has Down syndrome. She has been served through an array of services from ADRS.

"I feel like all of the advocacy work I have done throughout my career was preparing me for the birth of my daughter," said Wilkinson. "In turn, Bergen has helped me forge new and exciting partnerships to further recruitment and retention of persons with disabilities."

Wilkinson will be sworn in at the March 16 meeting. He fills the seat vacated by Roger McCullough, who rolled off the board last fall. He joins board members Stephen Kayes, District 1; Board Chairman Jimmie Varnado, District 2; Penny Foster, District 3; Eddie Williams, District 5; and Mitch Strickland, District 7.

The Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services appoints the ADRS commissioner to establish rules and regulations for the provision of its services. The board also directs and supervises legislative appropriations, shares information that concerns and promotes interest in disability and rehabilitation issues, and takes action to guarantee the rights of and services to people with disabilities.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

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