Legislators often ask that legislation be drafted based on model language provided by a special interest group, or from bills or statutes from other states. Crafting language that is appropriate for your code requires due diligence from researchers and drafters.

**Agenda**

2:15 – 3:15 p.m. **Speakers’ Remarks**

- Angela Alexander, senior legislative counsel, Legislative Council, Texas
- Othni J. Lathram, director, Alabama Law Institute; and interim director, Legislative Fiscal Office, and Legislative Reference Service
- Sarah Stanton, senior staff attorney, Division of Legislative Services, Virginia

3:15 – 3:30 p.m. **Questions from the Audience**

**Speaker Bios**

**Angela Alexander** is a senior legislative counsel with the Texas Legislative Council. She graduated with honors from the University of Texas School of Law in 1997 and has been with the council since 1998. Angela drafts and reviews legislation and provides legal counsel to members of the Texas Legislature in the areas of insurance regulation, property law, civil practice and remedies, and alcoholic beverage regulation. She was one of the four chief revisors of the Texas Insurance Code, a 10-year project to nonsubstantively revise the state’s insurance laws. In addition to her legislative work, she drafts and reviews contracts entered into by the Texas Legislative Council. She recently began serving a term as one of the directors of NCSL’s Research, Editorial, Legal and Committee Staff association.

**Othni J. Lathram** is the director of the Alabama Law Institute; and interim director of the Legislative Fiscal Office, and the Legislative Reference Service. Prior to joining the Alabama Law Institute, he practiced in Birmingham with a focus on complex litigation. Othni received his B.S. in Economics from Auburn University and his J.D. from the University of Alabama. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute, is a commissioner with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, and serves on the Alabama Supreme Court’s Standing Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure. He has previously served on the executive committee of the Legal Services Staff Section of the National Conference of State Legislatures and The Alabama Supreme Court’s Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee. He is the co-author of Alabama Civil Procedure: a LexisNexis Practice Guide. Othni is a member of the bar in Alabama and Texas and had been admitted to practice before federal district and circuit courts around the country. Othni is married to the former Karen Old of Birmingham and they have two children, Christopher and Anna.

**Sarah Stanton** is a senior staff attorney with the Virginia Division of Legislative Services, providing research assistance and drafting legislation in the areas of health, behavioral health, regulation of health professions, and social services and serving as the lead staff attorney for the Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions of the Virginia House of Delegates. She also staffs the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century, the Virginia Autism Council and the Virginia Disability Commission.