

ADVOCATE

Journal of the Business Council of Alabama



A Fresh Start

The Business Council of Alabama begins 2019 with a new president and CEO who has experience in both Montgomery and Washington, D.C.

The BCA board of directors at a meeting in Birmingham on Dec. 7 named Enterprise native Katie Boyd Britt as president and CEO. She will begin Jan. 2, 2019.

"Our state has made significant progress in recent years, and I am honored to have been chosen to lead BCA during this time of growth," said Britt, who will be the first female CEO of the business advocacy organization that was created in 1985.

Britt most recently was chief of staff to U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby and has been an attorney in private practice.

COVER: Alabama native Katie Boyd Britt is the new president and CEO of the 33-year-old Business Council of Alabama. The former chief of staff for Alabama's senior senator, Richard Shelby, was to begin her new duties on Jan. 2, 2019.

1: Katie Boyd Britt is received at the BCA's Dec. 7, 2018, board of directors meeting where she was unanimously approved as the president and CEO of the BCA. Pictured among the BCA board members are, left, BCA Executive Committee Member Rey Almodovar, co-founder and CEO of INTUITIVE Research and Technology Corp. of Huntsville, and, right, BCA Executive Committee Member Denson Henry, vice president production Henry Brick Co. Inc. in Selma.

2: Alabama Power Co. CEO Mark Crosswhite, incoming chairman of the BCA, welcomes BCA President and CEO Katie Boyd Britt at the BCA December board of directors' meeting.



In accepting the position, Britt said she will work to make the BCA an organization for both small and large businesses in order to help them and their employees prosper.

"I have had a window to what makes our state work and what doesn't," she said. "I've seen how positive economic development can change a region.

"BCA's successes are Alabama's successes, and our unique ability to take on big challenges

and deliver strategic results will advance our economy and best serve the men and women who make up the backbone of our state," she said. "I look forward to building on that momentum through collective efforts with our BCA members, elected officials, and business allies across the state - identifying opportunities every day in which we can provide and advance real, tangible solutions."

Britt said her initial priorities will be working with the executive committee and board of directors to develop a new long-term strategic plan for the organization; building bridges with other organizations to identify shared priorities and objectives at the state and federal levels; reaching out to all businesses in the state to better understand how BCA can bring value to their companies; bringing a new approach to working with all elected officials and policy makers at the local, state, and federal level to support pro-business, pro-economic growth policies that support all sectors of Alabama's economy - industrial, commercial, small business, tech and healthcare entrepreneurs.

Incoming BCA Chairman Mark Crosswhite, who is the CEO of Alabama Power, nominated Britt at the board meeting.



“She has all of the tools we were looking for to support the business growth across the state that will drive our economy in the years ahead,” Crosswhite said. “She also has a special ability to work with and unite people from all walks of life.”

BCA Executive Committee Member and former BCA Chairman Carl Jamison, shareholder JamisonMoneyFarmer PC in Tuscaloosa, said Britt has the qualities and experience needed to successfully move BCA forward.

“BCA has an important responsibility to its members and to our state moving forward,” Jamison said. “With Katie’s energy and experiences in Montgomery and Washington, she understands the constructive role BCA can play.”

Britt has served in a number of senior positions for Sen. Shelby, who praised Britt’s service.

“Not only did she work as my top advisor on all matters, but she also developed bipartisan relationships with lawmakers, top committee and leadership staff, and stakeholders to successfully negotiate complex issues and legislation,” Sen. Shelby said in a statement. “Katie understands the intersection of business and politics. I have no doubt that her experience in Alabama and the Senate will establish her as an

asset to BCA.”

As chief of staff, Britt managed all Washington, D.C., and state operations, including personnel and the office’s annual budget. She worked to develop bipartisan relationships with lawmakers, top committee and leadership staff, and stakeholders to successfully negotiate complex issues and legislation, directing long-term legislative strategy, plans, and tactics, which included all Alabama appropriations issues, efforts to deepen and widen the Mobile Port, and select U.S. presidential and agency appointments.

Britt and her husband, Wesley, have two children. She earned a B.A. in political science from the University of Alabama where she served as president of the Student Government Association. She earned a law degree from the University of Alabama.

Britt began working for Sen. Shelby after college and then served as special assistant to then-University of Alabama President Robert E. Witt. She earned a law degree and practiced at Butler Snow LLP in Birmingham and Montgomery, focusing on general corporate work and mergers and acquisitions. While at Butler Snow, she started and led the firm’s government

3: Katie Boyd Britt most recently was chief of staff for Alabama’s senior U.S. senator, Richard Shelby, overseeing Sen. Shelby’s duties in Washington, D.C., and in Alabama. The University of Alabama graduate was an attorney in private law practice in Birmingham.

4: BCA President and CEO Katie Boyd Britt said a strong BCA is vital for Alabama’s success both as a place to do business and as a state. She said Alabama’s diverse economy requires policies and priorities to strengthen businesses and provide opportunities for her citizens.

THE BUSINESS ADVOCATE



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affairs practice in Alabama and practiced corporate law. She also served as a member of the BCA board of directors.

Sen. Shelby named Britt chief of staff in August 2016. She served as his top advisor on all legal, policy, communications, strategy, leadership, and campaign matters, including fundraising, leadership PAC, and campaign operations.

Britt said a strong BCA is vital for Alabama's success as a state and for its residents.

"From the Tennessee Valley to the Wiregrass and then over to Mobile Bay, we have a remarkably diverse economy," Britt said. "But to ensure Alabama's future success, we must encourage policies and priorities that strengthen our businesses and provide opportunities for our citizens."

Britt, the daughter of two small business owners, said her goal is to help create conditions where Alabama businesses will succeed and help Alabama progress.

The BCA was founded from the consolidation of the Alabama Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Industries of Alabama. The BCA works to improve the state's overall business climate and serves an instrumental role in securing passage of a number of reforms in the areas of tax credits for small businesses, job creation, economic development, ethics reforms, and the public education system. **TBADV**