



For Immediate Release

BIRMINGHAM PLEDGE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES IMMIGRATION LAW FORUM

Birmingham, Ala, Sept. 16, 2011 --- The Birmingham Pledge Foundation today announced that it will sponsor an Immigration Law Forum featuring local political and community leaders, Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Junior League Building in Mountain Brook, Alabama. The Forum will focus on Alabama's new immigration law which has recently been the subject of much national and statewide attention, and will be conducted in debate and town hall meeting formats. The Immigration Law Forum is a part of National Birmingham Pledge Week, held each year to recognize Birmingham's role as the turning point of the American Civil Rights Movement.

"We have invited participants with a wide range of perspectives on Alabama's new immigration law in an effort to create a fair and open discussion of this important subject," said Birmingham Pledge Foundation Chair James Rotch. "We hope those who attend gain insight from the discussion and find common ground upon which to build."

Confirmed participants include: Birmingham News columnist John Archibald; Rob Burton, President of Hoar Construction; Scott Douglas, Executive Director of Greater Birmingham Ministries; Jefferson County Sheriff Mike Hale; Chair of the Alabama Democratic Party and former Alabama Supreme Court Justice Mark Kennedy; immigration attorney Wendy Madden; and William Ross, Cumberland Law School Professor of Constitutional Law. Other participants are expected to be confirmed as well. Former local news anchor Malena Cunningham will moderate.

Seating will be on a first come – first served basis.

The Junior League Building is located at 2212 20th Avenue South, between Hwy 280 and English Village in Mountain Brook, Alabama 35223. The Forum is free and the public is invited. For more information contact: Wade Black at (205) 254-3022.

About the Birmingham Pledge:

The Birmingham Pledge is a grassroots effort which began in Birmingham, Alabama in 1998 to eliminate racial prejudice throughout the world, one person at a time, by promoting the principles of the Birmingham Pledge. The Pledge is a personal commitment to eliminate racial prejudice from one's thoughts and actions and to discourage racial prejudice by others at every opportunity, recognizing that everyone is entitled to dignity and respect regardless of race or color. For more information, or to sign the Birmingham Pledge, visit www.birminghampledge.org.

The Birmingham Pledge Foundation:

The Birmingham Pledge Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation and conducts community outreach and educational programs including its signature event, The Birmingham Pledge Teen Conference held in September each year in cooperation with The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. For further information about The Birmingham Pledge, Birmingham Pledge Week and the Teen Conference, please contact Wade Black, Executive Director at (205) 254-3022, or visit www.birminghampledge.org.

Birmingham Pledge Week occurs annually near the anniversary of the 1963 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in which four young Birmingham girls were killed. It is designed to honor them and to recognize Birmingham's contributions to the passage of the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other aspects of the Civil Rights Movement. The Birmingham Pledge Foundation has assisted programs in all fifty states and over twenty countries. Co-chairs for Birmingham Pledge Week 2011 are Teresa Thorne, noted author and Executive Director of Birmingham's City Action Partnership, and Dr. Henry Panion, III, well-known educator, composer, arranger, producer and orchestra conductor.

For further information please contact Birmingham Pledge Foundation Board Chairman James Rotch, (205) 521-8211, or Wade Black, Executive Director, (205) 254-3022.

-- ### -- ### -- ### --