

## Panel Discussion on HB56

The League of Women Voters of Mobile is hosting a panel discussion on HB56, Alabama's new immigration law, enactment of which has been held up while the courts consider legal opposition from the U.S. Justice Department, state civil rights organizations and a coalition of religious leaders. To help the public understand the issues involved in the legislation and the concerns of those opposing it, three speakers will present their perspectives on the issue.

Mobile immigration attorney Robert Ratliff will summarize the new law. Mr. Ratliff has handled immigration cases for more than ten years and has been a speaker at local and national immigration law conferences.

Speaking on the religious opposition to HB 56 will be Fr. Edward "Ted" Arroyo, Rector of the Jesuit Community at Spring Hill College. Fr. Arroyo was the founding director of the Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola University. Since his ordination in 1975, he has been involved in education, writing, research, social action and advocacy for justice. Fr. Arroyo recently testified before the Alabama House of Representatives against HB 56. His current research interests include poverty, racism and migration issues in the Gulf Coast region of the Deep South.

Ms. Martha Rovira, Coordinator of United Methodist Church Hispanic-Latino Ministries, works directly with immigrants, assisting both those with documentation and those without. She will tell us about the undocumented immigrants living in our region. Ms. Rovira worked as the CEO of The Baldwin Clinic, the first health care clinic for migrant farm workers in Foley. She also worked with the federal East Coast Migrant Head Start Project in Baldwin County. Regardless of what happens with HB 56 in court, Ms. Rovira plans to continue assisting Hispanic immigrants in the region.

"The League of Women Voters of Mobile hopes to foster understanding and discourse of this important, complex issue through the luncheon discussion," said Jane Everest, president of the League of Women Voters of Mobile.

Please join us on Wed., Sept. 21 from 11:30am-1:00pm. at the Marriott Hotel near Bel Air Mall at 3101 Airport Blvd. The buffet lunch is \$15.00.

Please RSVP to [mmcginnis2008@yahoo.com](mailto:mmcginnis2008@yahoo.com) or 661-5274. This event is open to the public.