Alex is a native Californian but is a naturalized Alabamian. He holds undergraduate and masters degrees in economics from The University of Alabama, where he was twice named to the USA Today All-Academic Team. After teaching high school math in Lowndes County, Alabama for two years, Alex attended law school at Washington & Lee University School of Law, where he was a managing editor of the Law Review. Alex practiced for several years after graduating law school with Balch & Bingham, specializing in tax credit and economic development-related work. He remains actively engaged in civic life as a Blackburn Fellow, a director of Main Street Alabama, and a member of PARCA's Roundtable.