



2025 - 2026

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Letter from the SCBF President



Matt Rowan

"I don't know where I'm going from here, but I promise it won't be boring." --David Bowie

As we all move either eagerly or begrudgingly into the New Year, I am reminded of this quote by that great legal scholar, David Bowie. It manifests to me a great idea that we should always embrace forward movement and excitement of what lies ahead. 2026 will absolutely be great and exciting and successful (and contrary to Mr. Bowie, we DO know where we are going from here...).

By now, many of you realize this isn't our fair leader, Marisa Allen. She has graciously loaned me (no doubt with much post-decision regret) this opening letter to wish each of you a Happy New Year and set forth all the great things that the Bar Association and Bar Foundation are working on to make 2026 decidedly "not boring." I have been blessed to be your President of the Bar Foundation now for six months and remain amazed at the generosity, ability, and stunning talent present in Smith County within our legal profession. The Smith County Bar Association does a stellar job of supporting all of our legal professionals with CLE, meetings, opportunities to serve and recognition of great accomplishments. This will be exemplified in our annual Law Day celebration this year in early May. We look forward to a wonderful event that celebrates all of our hardworking legal professionals and extols the virtues of the Rule of Law – and we would like to invite each of you to support Law Day so that it can be the celebration it needs to be! Hats off to Micah Terry and Cristina Davis for co-chairing this event.

The Foundation will continue to be the arm of our bar in reaching out to the community and providing support, education and information to the public about all the ways that the legal profession can assist or encourage them. We will continue to build our scholarship fund, which is now able to provide two \$1000 scholarships to students entering college or trade school for legal related professions. We have only been able to reach these amounts due to your amazing generosity and support – thank you! But, we want to do more and need your continued help. Donations to the SCBF Scholarship fund will impact more and more students, thereby impacting the future of the Smith County legal world.

Also, please consider joining the Foundation as a member, if you have not already. We are transitioning to a membership model to create reliable funding each year to support our great events. Your membership dues go directly to fulfilling the SCBF's mission of furthering justice and promoting the rule of law and supporting opportunities such as Law Day, Constitution Day, People's Law School, Volunteer Attorney programs, scholarships, and other projects that support our community. If you have any questions or concerns about where the money is going and what we support, I am always more than happy to answer.

So, I would encourage you to continue to support the Association and Foundation with your time, talent and treasure and join us as we sprint into 2026 eagerly anticipating a wholly non-boring year!



THE SCBA WELCOMES YOU TO OUR JANUARY 2026 CLE AT WILLOW BROOK COUNTRY CLUB:

Basics of Immigration Under the New Administration



PRESENTED BY
BELINDA ARROYO
The Belinda Arroyo Law Office, PLLC

JANUARY 9, 2026

Willow Brook Country Club | 12 -1

Lunch included with registration fee.
[.25 ethics hour]



CLE Registration

If registering through our website, please make sure to log in to your member account first! If you have problems or would like to pay at the event, email Beth at ed@smithcountybar.com.



The SCBA is an accredited sponsor, approved by the State Bar of Texas, Committee on MCLE. This course has been approved in the amount of 1.0 credit hour of professional responsibility.

Make plans to attend the

Investiture Announcement

for the

Honorable Michael Davis



Monday
February 2, 2026
10a - 12p

Hollytree Country Club

6700 Hollytree Drive
Tyler, Texas

*We had an incredible
2025 Holiday Extravaganza.
Thanks to our sponsors!*

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2025 HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA



Huge thanks to Martin Walker Firm for hosting and to all of our sponsors - especially our title sponsor, Clark von Plonski Anderson, and festive sponsor, IMS Legal Strategies!







**START 2026 BY USING
YOUR SUPER POWER
FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!**

**DONATE BLOOD WITH THE SMITH COUNTY
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JANUARY 23, 2026

PLAZA TOWER

GARDEN LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM

9A - 3P



Thinking about becoming a Judge?
Take a step towards that goal at the
2026 High School Mock Trial
competitions!
Saturday, January 31, 2026



While volunteering at High School Mock Trial competitions doesn't necessarily advance one's career to the judiciary, it probably won't hurt your career, either!!!

We need volunteers to help judge and score each competition. Sessions are approximately 2 hours each. The event will be held at the Smith County Courthouse; first competition begins at 8 am.
Email Beth for more details!
beth@smithcountybar.com

2025-26 SCBA MEMBERSHIP

HELP US FILL THE PAGE - INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN!

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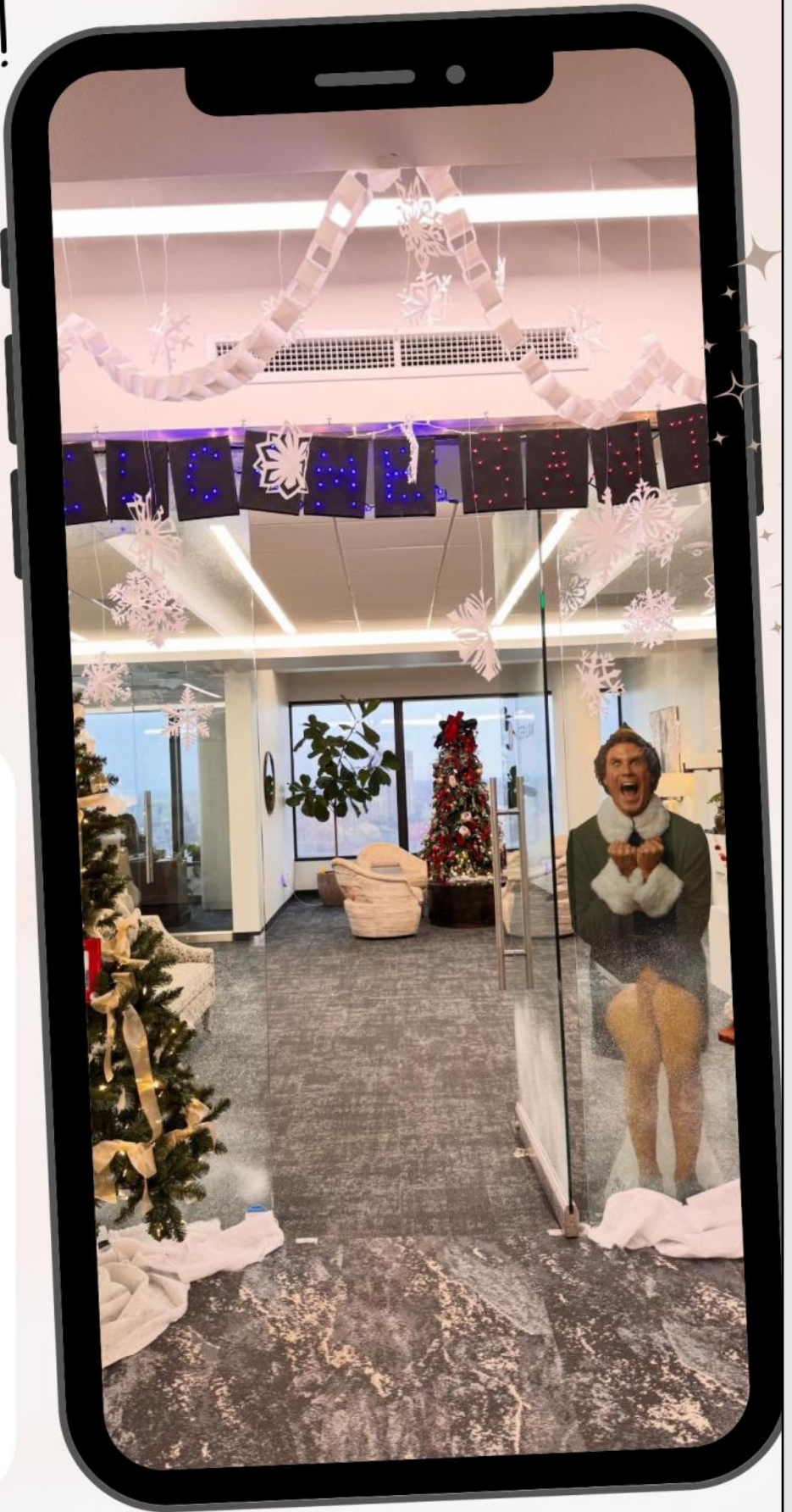
Please submit your resume and cover letter to jill@richardspenn.com or call 903-586-2544

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*complete with spaghetti and
syrup...*



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Thank you for your continued participation with and support of the SCBA.

Visit
www.smithcountybar.com
 to renew your membership
 or join a section!

Important SCB Dates

CLE

January 9, *Willow Brook Country Club*, 12 - 1p

SCYLA Board Meeting

January 15, *Genecov Room*, 12 - 1p

Joint SCBA/SCBF Board Meeting

January 29, *Plaza Tower*, 12 - 1p

High School Mock Trial Competitions

January 31, *Smith County Courthouse*, 8a-5p

**Nominations for Award of Excellence and the
 Cristy Arscott Libery Bell Award close on
 January 9!**

**Blood Drive at Plaza Tower
 January 23 (more information to follow)**

**Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce's
 Economic Outlook with Dr. Ray Perryman,
 January 15
 WT Brookshire Conference Center**



The SCBF is a 501/c/3, EIN 81-0585550

Mission Statement

Furthering justice and promoting the rule of law by providing resources and education to the community.

Interested in including the SCBF in your estate planning? Have non-cash assets and would like a charitable deduction? Give me a call - we can help!
beth@smithcountybar.com

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Thanks to all for honoring your loved ones

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