SCBA
SMITH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

The Advocate

SMITH COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

Volume 29, Issue 3

www.smithcountybar.com

2025 - 2026
Association
President
Marisa Allen
VP/ President-elect
Mishae Boren
Secretary
Meme Thomas
Treasurer
Emily Brown Gaenzle

Directors 2024 - 26
Amy Blalock
Monique Hammond
Hon. Reeve Jackson
Linda Le Jones
Archer Ramey
Nathan Thauwald

Directors 2025 - 27
Fritz Hager
Eric Kolder
Sara McElroy
Emil Mikkelsen
Kristina Ross
Morgan Wood

Ex-Officio
Nick Pesina

Foundation
President
Matt Rowan
VP/ President-elect
Leigh Hunt Goodson
Secretary
Blake Thompson
Treasurer
Will Courington

Directors 2023 - 26
Hon. Debby Gunter
Gary Traylor
Alan Wharton

Directors 2024 - 27
Hon. Nicole Mitchell
Danny Noteware
Micah John Tarry
Hon. James Worthen

Directors 2025 - 28
Christina Davis
LaRhonda Hamilton
Staton Lottmann
Matt Millslagle
Annie Northcutt
Yaziri Orrostieta
Andy Stinson
Betty Young

Ex-Officio
Mandy Nelson

Letter from the SCBA President

Marisa Allen

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union..."

You know, when the Founding Fathers wrote those words back in 1787, they must've known we'd still be debating what "more perfect" means 237 years later.

Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave men wearing wool coats, breeches and maybe a powdered wig or two, crammed into a room the size of a large school room on September 17th. That's like trying to have a family meeting at Thanksgiving, except the stakes are the future of America and everyone's wearing really uncomfortable pants.

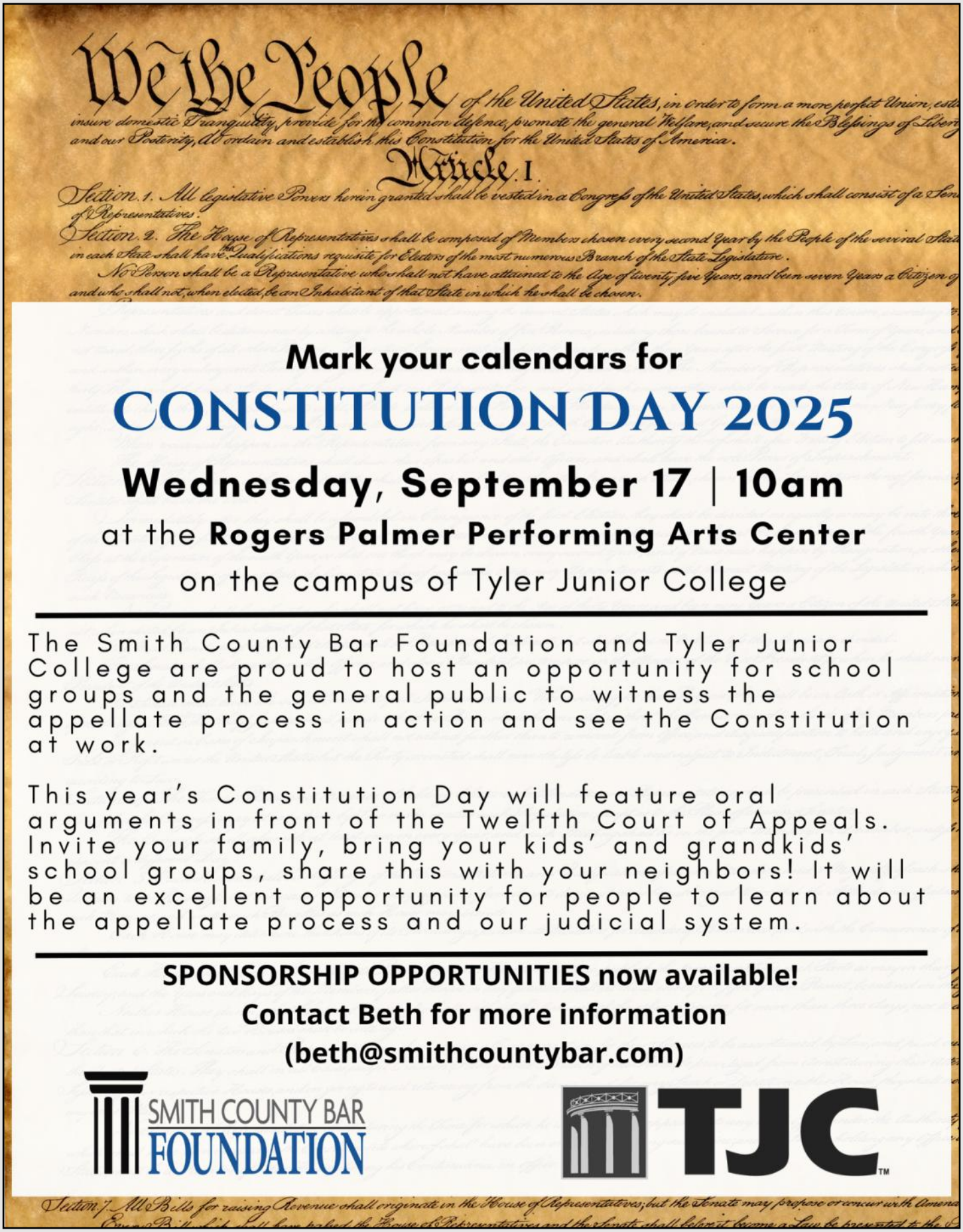
And together, they wrote a more perfect and surprisingly concise document. The U.S. Constitution has 4,400 words. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world. For perspective, that's shorter than most terms of service agreements we click "agree" on without reading.

Yet somehow, this 4,400-word document has kept us going for over two centuries.

As members of the bar, we're not just lawyers. We're guardians of this Constitution. Every time we argue a case, file a motion, or explain to a client their rights, we're participating in this grand experiment in self-governance.

Join us in celebrating Constitution Day through attending the 12th Court of Appeals oral argument, which is taking place at TJC, and together, let's show our love for the United States of America and the blessings of freedom our Founding Fathers secured for us.
The Constitution gave us the framework for everything we do: due process, equal protection, the right to a speedy trial ("speedy" might be the sometimes debatable part), and yes, even the right to remain silent—though good luck getting some clients to exercise that one.

So here's to the Constitution! May it continue to perplex law students, inspire Supreme Court justices, and keep America strong for generations to come.



Mark your calendars for

CONSTITUTION DAY 2025

Wednesday, September 17 | 10am

at the **Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center**

on the campus of Tyler Junior College

The Smith County Bar Foundation and Tyler Junior College are proud to host an opportunity for school groups and the general public to witness the appellate process in action and see the Constitution at work.

This year's Constitution Day will feature oral arguments in front of the Twelfth Court of Appeals. Invite your family, bring your kids' and grandkids' school groups, share this with your neighbors! It will be an excellent opportunity for people to learn about the appellate process and our judicial system.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES now available!

Contact Beth for more information

(beth@smithcountybar.com)

SMITH COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

TJC™

FAMILY LAW CLE

2025 Legislative Change to the Texas Family Code

September 24, 2025

321st District Courtroom

Smith County Court Annex, 200 East Ferguson, 5th Floor

12:00 - 1:00pm

(bring your own lunch)

Please join Beau Sinclair and Laura Severt for a legislative update and CLE opportunity for Family Law Attorneys and legal professionals.

- This free CLE has been approved by the Texas Bar Association and is eligible for CLE credit. The course number will be provided at the session.
- Beau Sinclair will present on the various legislative changes and subsequent impact on Family Law; Laura Severt will focus on changes that impact Child Welfare cases.
- Lawyers are encouraged to bring staff. If a lawyer is not available, staff can still attend.
- Format of the CLE will be informal and interactive.

No preregistration needed. Please sign in at the event.

Come Celebrate the

Honorable Tom Dunn

There will be a community celebration of the life of Judge Thomas Dunn on Thursday, October 16, 5pm at Liberty Hall (103 East Erwin St.).

Judge Dunn's legacy is measured not only by his legal achievements, but by the integrity he brought to each case, the respect he earned from his colleagues, and the compassion he showed to every person who stood before him. Rejoice with family and friends in the life he lived, the example he was, and the memories we share.

Mark your calendars for the 50th TAALP Joint Luncheon Honoring Area Judges!

OCTOBER 24, 2025

Hollytree CC | 11:30 - 1:30

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SANTOS VARGAS

STATE BAR OF TEXAS PRESIDENT

CONGRATS TO OUR SCBF TRIATHLETES!

Congrats to Danny Noteware, SCBF board member, Mandy Nelson (SCBF past-president) and Elizabeth Simmons (former SCBF treasurer) for competing in the Rose City Triathlon!!

OPA!!

THE SCBA IS GEARING UP FOR SOME RALLY GOOD TIMES IN NOVEMBER...

Guess what?!
We are in the kitchen, getting ready to serve up some dinking fun for our SCBA members! But we need help with our stacking and third-shot drops, so that we can pull off a great event!

If you have what it takes to be on the court and help serve up a great mystery event, be an Ace and send Beth a note (beth@smithcountybar.com)!

On behalf of committee chair and Kamikaze Krew leader, Archer Ramey

HOW CAN WE HELP?

After a major natural disaster, many attorneys and legal professionals want to use their skills and knowledge to assist those impacted. Here are tips to consider on how to volunteer following a natural disaster.

- **Follow the Lead of Local Legal Aid Providers.** Local staff are busy assessing, formulating, and implementing their post disaster plans. Local pro bono staff will make a call to action as volunteers are needed.
- **Be Patient**. While there is urgency following a disaster, the pro bono opportunities may not be immediately available. Some volunteer opportunities may be immediate, such as attending a disaster recovery center to provide initial advice and assistance; some will happen within a couple of weeks, such as assisting with FEMA appeals and the underlying issues; and some will be long term, such as foreclosure prevention.
- **Be Prepared.** Waiting for pro bono opportunities is the best time to prepare. Educational materials are available through Texas Disaster Legal Help, a collaboration between Lone Star Legal Aid, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, and Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. These materials are designed to improve the mobilization of pro bono volunteers during the immediate aftermath of a disaster. Registration is required.
- **Sign Up for Opportunities**. Pro bono opportunities will be shared in multiple locations; however, signing up for a newsletter is the fastest way to learn about them. In addition to Texas Disaster Legal Help, you can also sign up directly with Lone Star Legal Aid, www.lonestarlegal.org/volunteer. Be sure to complete the Newsletter sign-up after registering as a volunteer.
- **Consider a Non-Disaster Case**. As legal aid staff attorney resources are diverted to serving disaster survivors, other legal needs may not be met due to limited staff resources. By volunteering on a non-disaster matter, you will be assisting in disaster relief efforts.

[Article written by Jessie G. Campbell, Lone Star Legal Aid. Find out more at https.texasdisasterlegalhelp.org]

WELCOME TO THE '25-26 MEMBERSHIP YEAR
HELP US FILL THE PAGE - INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN!

Adams, Craig
Ainsworth, Jennifer
Alexander, Jon
Alleman, Mick
Allen, Marisa
Anderson, Ben
Anderson, Billy
Anderson, Roger
Arscott, Cristy

Baker, Joel
Balfour, Joseph
Beall, Tab
Beam, Joe
Bell, Patrick
Berry, John
Biggs, Kenneth
Birdsong, Lindsey
Black, Dennis
Blalock, Amy
Bonner, Ben
Boren, Mishae
Boyd, Paul
Boynton, Gaye
Bracken, Jr., Ashley
Brantley, Stafford
Bretzke, Karen
Brown, Alan
Brown, Tom
Brownlee, Kevin
Buckner, Alesha
Bufe, John
Bunt, Robert
Bush, David

Campbell, Bradley
Carian, Delia
Carroll, Marcus
Carroll, Jr., Otis
Castetter, Alex
Christie, Carey-
Clark, Collen
Cook, Randall
Cool, Lily
Coplan, Patricia
Cornelius, Jr., Bill
Correa, Lee
Cothern, Don
Cotten, Jeffrey
Courington, Will
Cowart, Tammy
Cozby, Mary Ann
Cozby, Raymond
Craft, Brian
Craig, James
Crawford, Jennifer
Crozier, Levi

Dacus, Deron
Dacus, Shannon
Daughtrey, Amy
Davidson, Don
Davis, Christina
Davis, Hon. Leonard
Davis, Robert
Deen, Jennifer
Derryberry, Daryl
DeVasto, Hon. Diane
Dickeson, Kearby
Dickey, Heath
Dillon, Candice
Dobbs, David
Dollahite, Keith
Dowdy, Alicia
Drott, Earl
Drott, Kyle
Drott, Natalie
Dutton, Kevin

Early, April
Echols, Jim
Embry, Jeff
Eskelson, Randy
Estrada, Edward
Evans, III, Jim

Farahnak, Dustin
Ferrier, Kevin
Filla, Beth
Findlay, Eric
Flowers, Celia
Fraser, Gregory
Friedson, Tyler
Frost, David

Gaenzle, Emily
Gazette, Mike
Gibbins, Daniel
Good, Terri
Goodson, Leigh
Goodwin, Grant
Grant, Ryan
Gray, Julie
Greenslade, John
Griffith, Rachael
Griffith, Hon. Sam
Griffith-Beard,
Stephanie
Gunter, Hon. Debby
Guthrie, Hon. Judith
Guy, Steven

Hager, Fritz
Hager, Sarina
Hall, Carrie
Hamilton, LaRhonda
Hammond, Monique
Hardy, John C.
Hardy, John M.
Harrison, Brett
Hassett, Shaun
Hayes, Kevin
Healy, Sean
Heaton, Hon. Taylor
Heck, Jeff
Hedrick, James
Heindel, Diane
Henry, David
Henry, Diana
Hill, Wesley
Hindman, Robert
Hogan, Mike
Holloway, Mary Jo
Hommel, Jr., Bill
Hoyle, Hon. Brian
Hudson, David
Huggler, Jim
Hughes, Karen
Hughes, Logan
Hussey, Margaret
Hyatt, Jonathan

Iglesias, David
Ischy, Ashley
Isenberg, Cecilia

Jackson, Alan
Jackson, Gary
Jones, Mike

Karr, McKellar
Kean, Steven
Keeland, Chase
Kelley, Pat
Kenner, Traci
Kent, Jarad
Killough, J. Scott
Kimmel, Greg
Kinghorn, Austin
Knight, Grace
Knowles, Jim
Kolder, Eric
Kolder, Mary
Kummerfield, Ha
Kummerfield, Nathaniel

Lackey, Jr., Walter
Lambeth, Jim
Landers, Gary
Lemons, Bill
Lindley, Justin
Locker, Ryan
Lottmann, Richard
Lottmann, Staton
Love, Hon. John

Maloney, Collin
Martin, Reid
Maynard, Hon. Sara
McArthur, Patrick
McCullough, Hon. Amy
McDonald, Hugh
McElroy, John
McElroy, Sara
McFarlin, Holly
McNally, Michael
Metcalf, Vance
Mikkelsen, Emil
Milam, Matthew
Millslagle, Matt
Minton, John
Mitchell, Hon. Nicole
Morrison, John
Mundo, Yuri
Muralidhar, Sravanesh
Myers, Sara

Navarro, Andy
Nelson, Kyle
Nelson, Mandy
Noble, Jim
Northcutt, Annie
Noteware, Danny
Nutt, Haley

Pace, John Roddy
Parker, Bill
Parker, Chad
Parker, Weldon
Parrish, Jason
Patterson, Mike
Patton, Emily
Payne, John
Perkins, James I.
Pesina, Nick
Pigg, Alan
Porter, Greg
Porter, Leigh
Porter, Madeline
Prather, Clint
Proctor, Coleman
Pullum, Deborah

Race, Deborah
Ramey, Archer
Richardson, Brian
Ritcheson, Doug
Ritcheson, Scott
Roark, Woodrow
Roberts, Bruce
Roberts, Justin
Roberts, Karen
Roberts, Randy
Robertson, Jr., Jim
Rollings, Brian
Ross, Kristina
Roosth, Sam
Rowan, Matt
Russell, Hon. Kerry

Sanders, Alan
Schoenbrun, Ron
Searcy, Hon. Joshua
Senkyr, Kristen
Shelton, William
Simpson, Tim
Sinclair, Beau
Sirianni, Casey
Sirianni, Kasey
Skeen, Jr., Hon. Jack
Sloan, Virginia
Slyter, Amanda
Smith, Greg
Smith, Nolan
Smithson, Jon
Soares, Marcio
Sorrells, Ryan
Spitzer, Steve
Stever, Bryan
Stinson, Andrew
Stutes, Ronald
Sutton, Angela

Tarry, Micah John
Thames, Glenn
Tharpe, Dallas
Thomas, John
Thomas, Meme
Thompson, Blake
Thigpen, Joe
Tindel, Andy
Traylor, Gary
Trube, John
Turner, Joseph

Underwood, Travis

VanDeventer, James
Vincent, Lance
Volberding, Wes
Volker, Richard

Waits, VaLita
Walker, III, John
Watkins, Katryna
Whalen, James
Wharton, Alan
White, Hon. Clay
Whitehurst, Bill
Whitehurst, Bob
Whitehurst, Diane
Wilkerson, Nicholette
Williams, Jim
Willis, Bryan
Wood, Jeff
Wood, Morgan
Worthen, Hon. James

Yarbrough, Trey
Yeager, Ruth

OCTOBER 6TH AT 6PM

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

423 S. BROADWAY AVE. | TYLER, TX

RED MASS

BISHOP GREGORY KELLY WILL CELEBRATE

A MASS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Red Mass is celebrated to provide an opportunity for those in the judicial and legal profession to ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they pursue peace and justice in our community, and for the faithful to pray with them and for them.

Reception to follow in Cathedral Center
RSVP to llopez@thecathedral.info

ABSOLUTE BEST CHILD VISITS

Contact: Lynn Currey (903)392-6143
absolutebestchildvisit@gmail.com
www.absolutebestchildvisits.com

Supervised Visitation/Exchange Provider and Mediation Services

Absolute Best Child Visits provides tailored visitations and exchanges designed to strengthen the bond between parents and children in safe and enjoyable environments.
Based in Tyler, our expert team is dedicated to facilitating successful visitations for parents and children.
Competitive Hourly Rates: $45.00 - $55.00/hour

Services include:

- Recorded observations of interactions during visits
- Documentation of every visit
- Intervention and stopping of visitation when necessary
- Secure virtual visitation options
- Adherence to court-mandated instructions
- Call or email to find out more.....

Lynn Currey is a dedicated and compassionate Supervised Visitation Monitor with more than 8 years of experience ensuring the safety and well-being of children during court-ordered family visitations. Skilled in observing and documenting interactions, de-escalating conflict, and maintaining a neutral and supportive environment.

ATTORNEYS FIRST INSURANCE

Their quote - $13,594.60
Our quote - $7,861.41

Call Today to see how Your Quote Compares

Attorneys First Insurance

Specialists In Professional Liability For Lawyers And Title Agents

Phone: **727-799-4321**
sam@attoneysfirst.com | debbie@attorneysfirst.com

ATTORNEYS FIRST INSURANCE

"I only wish I had found them sooner!"
Laura A. Vogel, Esq.
Licensed Real Estate Attorney

Their quote - $7,927.00
Our quote - $4,055.00

ANY LAB TEST NOW®
Dallas • Tyler

535 WSW Loop 323 Tyler
Brookside Village behind the old Chilis

Clinical, DNA, Drug & Alcohol, Forensic and Specialty Lab Testing

Partner with us to provide affordable, reliable, and court admissible testing services for your clients.

Why Partner with ANY LAB TEST NOW®

- **Forensic Testing for Legal Professionals:** Chain of custody protocols in place.
- **Accessible:** No Appointment Needed. No Doctor's Order Required.
- **Local:** We are a local collection facility, not a call center. Locally Owned.
- **Fast Results:** Most tests results in 24–72 hours (some may take longer).
- **Convenient Hours**: Open M-F 8:00am to 6:00pm Saturday 9:00am - 1:00pm
- **Transparent Pricing:** No insurance. HSA & FSA cards for eligible services.
- **Customized Pricing:** Can be tailored for your office referrals.

Services Offered:

- **Drug & Alcohol Testing:** Rapid screens and lab-based testing are available.
- **DOT Certified:** Drug and alcohol compliance testing.
- **DNA Relationship Testing:** Paternity, maternity, grandpaternity, and more.
- **General Health & Wellness:** Everything from Metabolic Panels, Cholesterol, Thyroid, Nutritional Assessments to STD screening, pharmacogenomics, heavy metals, mold/mycotoxin assessment (EMMA), and thousands of other options.
- **Specimen Collection & Phlebotomy:** Including collection services for medical kits.
- **Injectable Nutrition:** Vitamin B12, B12 Slim, Amino Blend in the Tyler office with more injections available at our Dallas Locations.
- **Custom Panels & Pricing:** We can create personalized testing panels.

www.anylabtestnow.com

Four Locations, One Goal - Your Health

3 in Dallas: Lovers Lane, Preston Road, Lakewood and in Tyler on Loop 323

SCBA
SMITH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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

Constitution Day

September 17, *Tyler Junior College,* 10a - 1p

SCBF Board Meeting
September 10, *Genecov Room,* 12 - 1p

SCYLA Board Meeting
September 18, *Genecov Room,* 12 - 1p

SCBA Board Meeting
September 25, *Genecov Room*, 12 - 1p

Red Mass
October 6, *423 S. Broadway*, 6p

TAALP Joint Luncheon for Area Judges
October 24, *Hollytree Country Club*, 11 - 1p

SCBA Office Closed
October 6—17

SMITH COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

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

Click here if you would like to honor someone with a gift to the Foundation.

Thanks to all for honoring your loved ones

Advertising

Interested in advertising in The Advocate? Call or email Beth to check out member rates and options!

The Advocate is published monthly by
the Smith County Bar Association
P.O. Box 7248, Tyler, TX 75711-7248
903-526-2700
or email: ed@smithcountybar.com
Web site: www.smithcountybar.com