



2024 - 2025

Association

President
Nick Pesina
VP/ President-elect
Marisa Allen
Secretary
Mishae Boren
Treasurer
Kristina Ross

Directors 2023 - 25
Frank Barat
Emily Brown
Jim Noble
Meme Thomas

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

Ex-Officio
Matt Millsagle

Foundation

President
Mandy Nelson
VP/ President-elect
Matt Rowan
Secretary
Leigh Hunt Goodson
Treasurer
Stephanie Morgan, CPA

Directors 2022 - 25
LaRhonda Hamilton
Alan Jackson
Betty Shu
Andy Stinson

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

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

Ex-Officio
Ron Stutes

A Letter from the President



Nick Pesina

Dear SCBA
Members,

The holiday season is here, and it's time to celebrate all we've accomplished together this year! As we reflect on the successes of 2024, I want to thank each of you for your hard work and commitment to our legal community. Your contributions make Smith County a better place for all of us.

I'm thrilled to invite you to the **Annual SCBA Christmas Party**, which will be hosted at **Martin Walker, P.C.** in downtown Tyler on **Friday, December 13**. This festive evening is one of the highlights of our year, and it's a wonderful opportunity to relax, connect, and enjoy the holiday season with colleagues and friends. Be sure to save the date—you won't want to miss it! Thank you to our generous sponsors and underwriters, our hosts, and a special thanks to the committee members handling the details.

The Christmas Party is always a special occasion filled with great food and spirits, fellowship, and

plenty of holiday cheer. It's the perfect chance to reflect on the year gone by and look forward to what's ahead in 2025.

Looking Ahead to the New Year

As the year comes to a close, I encourage you to take time to relax, celebrate with loved ones, and recharge for the new opportunities and challenges that await us in the new year. I'm excited about what we can accomplish together in 2025 and grateful to be part of such a vibrant and supportive legal community.

Thank you for your continued involvement with the Smith County Bar Association. Wishing you and your family a joyful holiday season and a very Merry Christmas. I look forward to seeing you at the party!

Warm regards,



**THE SMITH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
AND
THE SMITH COUNTY YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
INVITE YOU, A GUEST, AND STAFF TO THE ANNUAL**

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

**DECEMBER 13, 2024 | 5-8
MARTIN WALKER LAW FIRM**

111 W. FERGUSON ST., DOWNTOWN TYLER

**WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO AN
EVENING OF COMPLIMENTARY
HORS D'OEUVRES, SPIRITS, WINE, BEER,
AND FELLOWSHIP.**

**SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT SCYLA
AND ITS PROJECTS**

**FREE VALET PARKING SPONSORED BY
VELOCITY MAZDA**

SCYLA IS ON A MISSION TO SPREAD LOVE AND CHEER! PLEASE BRING A CHILDRENS BOOK OR STUFFED ANIMAL THAT WILL SHARED WITH KIDS GOING THROUGH THE LEGAL SYSTEM.

Smith County Bar's **PICKLEBALL TRIALS:** a pickleball tournament

Thanks to all who joined us at Hollytree Country Club for a fun night of pickleball! It's nice to know we have some hard-hitting attorneys!



Team CLO, otherwise known as the Twin Towers, were the big winners of the night!

But, Heatons Hitters gave them a run for their money!



Cutest Pickleballer,
Pierce Stewart!



Big Dill winners,
Team Wills & Thrills



Defective Paddle winner,
Pat O'Bryan!



Nominations are now being accepted for the 2025

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

AND THE

CRISTY ARSCOTT LIBERTY BELL AWARD

The **Award of Excellence** is given annually to a member of the SCBA who has significantly contributed in a positive way to the community and, at the same time, raised the profile of the profession. It was first presented to the Honorable Judith K. Guthrie on Law Day 2007.

The Liberty Bell Award, officially renamed the **Cristy Arscott Liberty Bell Award** in 2020, is given to an outstanding non-lawyer in Smith County who has made the most selfless contribution to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of justice in his or her community. The Award recognizes community service that promotes a better understanding of government, encourages a greater respect for the law and the courts, stimulates a deeper sense of individual responsibility to help citizens recognize their duties and rights, contributes to the effective functioning of our institutions of government, and instills better understanding and appreciation of the law.

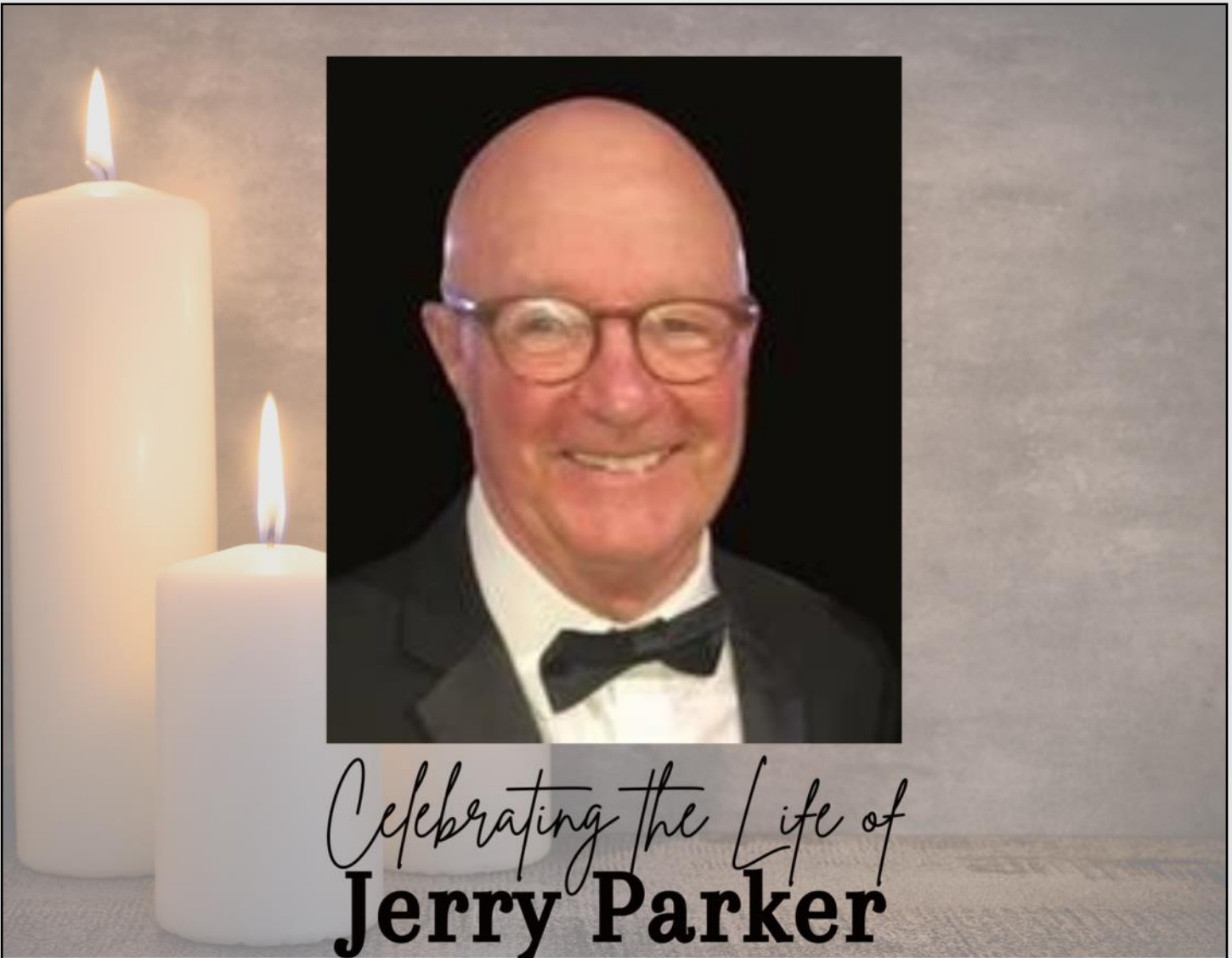
NOMINATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE SMITH COUNTY BAR OFFICE OR EMAIL BETH FILLA AT ED@SMITHCOUNTYBAR.COM BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025.

FORMER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE HONOREES

Hon. Judith K. Guthrie, 2007
Mike Coker, 2008
Deborah Race, 2009
Ron Vickery, 2010
Hon. Diane V. DeVasto, 2011
Jim Huggler, 2012
Shannon Dacus, 2013
Tom Brown, 2014
Rosemary Jones, 2015
David Hudson, 2016
Robert H. Wilson, 2017
Tab Beall, 2018
Ron Schoenbrun, 2019
Debby Gunter, 2020 - 2022
G. Patrick Black, 2023
John C. Hardy, 2024

FORMER LIBERTY BELL AWARD HONOREES

Rev. Dr. David A. Galloway, 2000	
Children's Advocacy Center, 2001	
Casa for Kids, 2001	
Hon. Larry Craig, 2002	Vanessa E. Curry, 2010
Bridgette Franklin, 2003	Clay Alexander, 2011
Betty Whitten, 2004	Donna Ashby, 2012
Lynn R. McGinnis, 2005	Mike Lantz, 2013
David M. Long, 2006	Sheriff Larry Smith, 2014
Sheriff J.B. Smith, 2007	Janice Caldwell, 2015
Cristy Arscott Keul, 2008	Michael Morton, 2016
Dee Brock, 2009	Terri Smith, 2017
	Lana Peacock, 2018
	Lois Rogers, 2019
Cristy Arscott Liberty Bell Award Honoree	
	Barbara Bass, 2020-2022
	Tyler Junior College, 2023
	Denise Hawk, 2024



Celebrating the Life of **Jerry Parker**

The Smith County Bar Association was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Jerry Parker on November 12. Jerry was a native Tylerite and developed a successful and expansive law career here. His legal legacy continues through the work of his sons, nephew, and other family members who followed in his foot steps.

Jerry received his undergraduate degree from Stephen F. Austin University, where he was a successful collegiate golfer, and went to law school at the South Texas College of Law. His first job brought him back to Tyler to work at the District Attorney's office.

We are truly grateful for the indelible mark Jerry has made on our community and our profession! The family would appreciate any memorials to be directed to PATH.

ON BEHALF OF TAALP,
Thank you!

to the sponsors of the 49th annual Joint Luncheon, honoring our area judges!

Joel Baker

Tab Beall

Boyd, Boyd and Giddens

Carroll Maloney Henry & Nelson, PLLC

Michael K. Hogan

Hommel Law Firm PC

David Hudson

Hon. Reeve Jackson

Peter G. Milne, PC

Mike Patterson

Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, LLP

Potter Minton, a professional corporation

Ramey & Flock, PC

Roberts & Roberts

Starr Schoenbrun & Comte PLLC



BELL RINGING WITH THE BAR

A huge thank you to our bell ringers who showed up to support the Salvation Army - especially Marshall Mitchell, who charmed passers-by in his little puffer jacket and pulled in the sympathy donations!



**Didn't have a chance to
ring the bell for the
Salvation Army?
Show some SCBA
support and give through
our virtual kettle!**

<https://givesalvationarmytexasorg/team/619722>





ATTORNEYS FIRST INSURANCE

Attorneys First Insurance is a professional liability agency located in Palm Harbor, Florida. We sell one product - Lawyers Professional Liability Insurance. That product is also called Malpractice Insurance, or Errors and Omissions Insurance.

I am the sole owner of the agency. My partner, Deb Prendergast and I work very hard to help our clients find liability insurance at a price that makes sense for them. Our goal is to save a firm 20 - 40% of what they are currently paying.

10 years ago, I was asked to represent several great insurance companies in Texas. Since then, Attorneys First Insurance has become the agent for several hundred law firms across Texas. Our specialty focus is on small firms, 1-20 lawyers. If a lawyer is respirating and a member in good standing with the Texas Bar, we can find them malpractice insurance!

Visit our website - www.attorneysfirst.com; email me at sam@attorneysfirst.com; or call 727-799-4321.

Sam Cohen, founder

2024-'25 SCBA MEMBERS

WHO'S MISSING? INVITE YOUR FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES TO JOIN THE FUN!

Ace, Michael
Adams, Craig
Ainsworth, Charles
Ainsworth, Jennifer
Alleman, Mick
Allen, Adam
Allen, Marisa
Alworth, Charles
Anderson, Ben
Anderson, Billy
Anderson, Elizabeth
Anderson, Lawrence
Anderson, Roger
Antunez, Eric
Arnold, Charles
Arroyo, Belinda
Arscott, Cristy

Baker, Joel
Balfour, Joseph
Baranowski, Carl
Barat, Frank
Barkley, Alicia
Bass, Hon. Bill
Beall, Tab
Beam, Joe
Bell, Patrick
Berry, John
Biggs, Kenneth
Birdsong, Lindsey
Black, Dennis
Blackshear, Patricia
Blalock, Amy
Bonner, Ben
Booterbaugh, Lexie
Boren, Mishae
Boyd, Paul
Bracken, Jr., Ashley
Brannon, Dwight
Brantley, Stafford
Bretzke, Karen
Brown, Alan
Brown, Tom
Brownlee, Kevin
Buckner, Alesha
Bufe, John
Bunt, Robert
Bush, David
Butts, Reagan

Cambra, Chris
Carr, Jaclyn
Carroll, Jr., Otis
Carroll, Marcus
Castetter, Alex
Chilek, Jared
Christie, Carey-Elisa
Clardy, Gus
Clark, Charles H.
Clark, Colleen
Comte, Faye
Cook, Randall
Cool, Lily
Coplan, Patricia
Cornelius, Jr., Bill
Cothern, Donald
Cotten, Jeffrey
Coward, Tammy
Cozby, Mary Ann
Cozby, Raymond
Craft, Brian
Craig, James
Crawford, Jennifer

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

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

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

Gaenzle, Emily
Gazette, Mike
George, Sam
Gibbins, Daniel
Good, Terri
Goodson, Leigh
Greenslade, John
Griffith, Rachael
Griffith, Hon. Sam
Griffith-Beard, Stephanie
Guerrero, Jacob
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
Hast, Patrick
Hauch, Hannah
Hawk, Kenneth
Hayes, Kevin
Healy, Sean
Heaton, Hon. Taylor
Heck, Jeff
Hedrick, James
Heindel, Diane
Henry, David
Henry, Diana
Hill, Wesley

Hindman, Robert
Hoffman, Manny
Hogan, Mike
Holloway, Mary Jo
Hommel, Jr., Bill
Hoyle, Hon. Brian
Hudson, David
Huggler, Jim
Hughes, Karen
Hughes, Logan
Hussey, Margaret

Iglesias, David
Ireson, Lansford
Ischy, Ashley

Jackson, Alan
Jackson, Cameron
Jackson, Gary
Jackson, Hon. Reeve
Jarrel, Jr., Willis
Johnson, Price
Jones, Linda Le
Jones, Mike

Karr, McKellar
Kean, Steve
Kelley, Pat
Kenner, Traci
Kent, Hon. Cynthia
Kent, Jarad
Killough, J. Scott
Kimmel, Greg
Knowles, Jim
Kolder, Eric
Kolder, Mary
Kummerfeld, Ha
Kummerfeld, Nathaniel

Lackey, Jr., Walter
Lambeth, Jim
Lea, Kelly
Lemons, Bill
Lindley, Justin
Locker, Ryan
Lottmann, Richard
Lottmann, Staton
Love, Hon. John
Luedecke, Kaley

Machicek, Lucas
Maloney, Collin
Martin, Reid
Maynard, Hon. Sara
McArthur, Patrick
McClain, Thomas
McCullough, Hon. Amy
McElroy, John
McElroy, Sara
McFarlin, Holly
McNally, Michael
Metcalfe, Vance
Millsagle, Matt
Mims, Bobby
Minton, John
Mitchell, Hon. Nicole
Moore, Alicia
Moran, Congressman
Nathaniel

Morrison, John
Muralidhar, Srav

Navarro, Andy
Neeley, Hon. Greg
Nelson, Kyle
Nelson, Mandy
Noble, Jim
Northcutt, Annie
Noteware, Danny
Nutt, Haley

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

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

Salinas, Melannie
Schmidt, Wesley
Schoenbrun, Ron
Searcy, Hon. Joshua
Senkyr, Kristen
Shelton, Karen
Shelton, William
Simpson, Tim
Sinclair, Beau
Skeen, Jr., Hon. Jack
Slyter, Amanda
Smith, Greg
Smith, Kelsi
Smith, Nolan
Smith, Zachary
Smithson, Jon
Soares, Marcio
Sorrrells, Ryan
Spitzer, Steve
Staggers, Walta
Steuer, Bryan
Stinson, Andrew
Stovall, Laci
Stutes, Ronald
Sutton, Angela

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

Underwood, Travis

VanDeventer, James
Vasquez, Amanda
Vickery, Ron
Vincent, Lance
Volberding, Wes
Volker, Richard

Waits, Valita
Walker, III, John
Watkins, Katryna
Wharton, Alan
White, Hon. Clay
Whitehurst, Bill
Whitehurst, Bob
Whitehurst, Diane
Wilder, Bill
Wilkerson, Nicholette
Williams, Jim
Willis, Bryan
Wilson, Hon. Robert
Wood, Jeff
Wood, Morgan
Wood, Nicole
Worthen, Hon. James
Wulf, Cheryl

Yarbrough, Trey
Yeager, Ruth
Young, Betty



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

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

We have auto renew!

Important SCB Dates

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA!!

December 13, *Martin Walker Law Firm*, 5 - 8 pm

SCBA Board Meeting

December 19, *ETCF conference room*, 12-1p

**Christmas holiday -
 Smith County Courthouse closed!**
 December 24 & 25

**New Year's Day -
 Smith County Courthouse closed!**
 January 1



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