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Letter from the SCBA President



Marisa

February 10, 1790.

The Senate confirmed James Iredell as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. He was 38 years old. He'd never been to law school. Law schools themselves were in infancy. He'd read law under a mentor, passed the bar, built a career defending the Constitution in North Carolina.

Now he had a new job; help build the federal judiciary from scratch.

Here's what that looked like in 1790. The Supreme Court didn't have a building. They met in the Royal Exchange in New York, then moved to Philadelphia, then various spaces in the Capitol. For the first year, they didn't have cases. The justices just showed up and organized.

But the real work was circuit riding. Supreme Court justices didn't just sit in one place. They traveled. Iredell drew the Southern Circuit—North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia. Roads were terrible. Inns were worse. He'd ride for weeks hearing cases, then ride back.

It killed him. The travel destroyed his health, and he died in 1799 at 48. Nine years on the Court. More time on horseback than on the bench.

But here's what matters: he showed up. Every circuit. Every session. Because somebody had to prove the federal judiciary could work.

Iredell wrote one of the most important dissents in Supreme Court history. In *Chisholm v. Georgia*, he argued that states couldn't be sued in federal court without consent. He was the only justice who said that. Three years later, the states ratified the

Eleventh Amendment, and Iredell's dissent became the law.

That's what an independent judiciary looks like. A justice writes what he believes the law requires, even when outvoted. The Court decides. The people respond through the constitutional process. The system works.

The rule of law isn't self-executing. It requires people to show up and do the work even when it's hard. Iredell rode circuit until it killed him because the alternative was letting the federal courts fail.

We've got it easier than Iredell. Courthouses. Paved roads. Computers. But the job's the same: show up, do the work, keep the system running. An independent judiciary doesn't maintain itself. It requires bar associations, lawyers, judges to defend it, support it, use it properly.

Iredell understood that in 1790. We should understand it now.

And here's the practical part: doing our part means showing up. Not just to court, but to the bar. A strong bar doesn't happen because we pay dues. It happens when we bring people in, show up to CLEs, and make this community worth joining.

My challenge: bring someone to our next CLE. A young lawyer. A solo practitioner too busy to get involved. Someone who doesn't know what they're missing. Show them why this matters. Help them join.

Iredell rode circuit until it killed him to build a system that would last. We can invite a colleague to lunch and a CLE.



**THE SCBA WELCOMES YOU TO OUR FEBRUARY CLE
AT WILLOW BROOK COUNTRY CLUB:**

EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE 2026



If you thought changes in 2024 were exciting, wait until you find out what's happening now!

PRESENTED BY
ERIC KOLDER
KOLDER LAW FIRM, PLLC

FEBRUARY 13, 2026



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.



People's Law School is a free, community-focused program designed to educate the public on timely and important legal issues. Through a series of engaging sessions led by local experts, attendees gain practical knowledge on a wide range of "hot legal topics" that affect their everyday lives.

Have an issue you would like to present?
Want to get your name in front of the community?
We are looking for presenters and sponsors!

Sponsor Levels

- **Dean's List sponsor – \$1,000**
 - Title sponsor, includes logo on certificates, signs, etc.
- **Bluebook sponsor – \$500**
 - Includes logo on signs and agendas.
- **Scho Pro sponsor – \$100**
 - Help make sure folks don't fail!

Volunteers

- **Course instructors**
 - Have an area of expertise you would like to share? Let us know!

Call or email Beth to sign up (beth@smithcountybar.com)



BLOOD *Drive*



Nancy from Dallas, TX
Blood Recipient



Receive a
**75th Anniversary
Sweatshirt***

Friday, February 27, 2026

9 am – 4 pm

Plaza Tower

Lower Level RM 0006

110 N. College Street



Schedule your Appointment!

Hosted by the Smith County Bar Association

903-526-2700

ed@smithcountybar.com



CarterBloodCare.org

800-366-2834 | Text CBCDonate to 999-777

*While supplies last. Appreciation gifts may be substituted for a different gift.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

SINCLAIR LAW OFFICE

MARCH 5, 2026



400 S. BROADWAY

5:00 – 8:00 PM

**PLEASE
WEAR
PURPLE
OR WHITE**

#GIVETOGAIN

CLE **BREAKING TRADITION AND BUILDING LEGACY:
HOW WOMEN LAWYERS BUILD LAW FIRMS**
MCLE CREDIT 1 HOUR

We will gather at the corner of Broadway and Houston, for the unveiling of Tyler's newest beauty in the box installation, celebrating the Honorable Judith K. Guthrie (remarks and group photo at 5:30 pm). Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres reception with free CLE to follow inside Sinclair Law Office.



SAVE THE DATE

2026

LAW DAY CELEBRATION

May 1, 2026
Cascades Country Club
5:30 - 7:00 pm

Mark your calendars for an evening celebration of our Smith County legal community, most especially Mr. Otis Carroll, Jr., the 2026 Justinian Honoree.



This non-association training opportunity is provided for informational purposes due to its relevance to legal professionals interested in or working with human trafficking issues.



February 19, 2026
Zoom event, 11:00 - 12:30 pm

This survivor-led panel will explore the immediate and long-term needs of individuals exiting human trafficking through lived experience and practical insight. Panelists will challenge common misconceptions about recovery and highlight what the first moments after exit truly feel like, which needs are most urgent, and where systems often fall short.

The conversation will also examine how survivor needs evolve over time, the importance of autonomy and decision-making, and the role you play in supporting long-term healing, stability, and community connection.



Register through Unbound Now



**2026 Mock Trial Champions -
Amicus Tyler
(Good Shepherd/Homeschool)**

So grateful to all of these folks...

2026 MOCK TRIAL VOLUNTEER JUDGES

Carey-Elisa Christie
Thad Davidson
Jacob Guerrero
Ken Hawk
Bill Hommel
Lans Ireson
Alan Jackson
Hon. Reeve Jackson
Matt Millslagle
Jim Noble
Danny Noteware
Emily Patton
Deborah Pullum
Matt Rowan
Laura Severt
Wes Volberding

2026 MOCK TRIAL COMMITTEE

Mishae Boren, Mock Trial Co-Chair
Jim Huggler, Mock Trial Co-Chair
Meme Thomas, Mock Trial Co-Chair
Mary Jane Dean, Region 7 Coordinator

2026 Mock Trial Competition

January 31, 2026
Smith County Courthouse





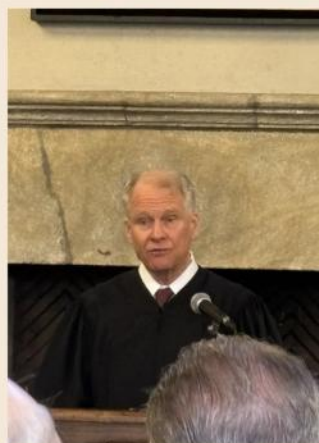
SCBA AT THE NCBP/ABA MID-YEAR MEETING

The Smith County Bar Association was proud to be a part of the contingent of local Texas bars that welcomed the National Conference of Bar Presidents and the American Bar Association at the mid-year meeting in San Antonio!



CONGRATS TO JUSTICE DAVIS ON HIS INVESTITURE!

Justice Michael Davis was welcomed to the Twelfth Court of Appeals on Monday, February 2, during his investiture at Hollytree Country Club.



2025-26 SCBA MEMBERSHIP

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

Adams, Craig
Ainsworth, Jennifer
Alexander, Jon
Alleman, Mick
Allen, Adam
Allen, Marisa
Ames, Amy
Anderson, Ben
Anderson, Billy
Anderson, Roger
Arroyo, Belinda
Arscott, Cristy

Baker, Joel
Balfour, Joseph
Barkley, Alicia
Bartles, Cate
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
Burton, CJ
Bush, David

Camp, Carrie
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
Coward, 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, Hon. Michael
Davis, Robert
Davis, Stafford
Deen, Jennifer
Derryberry, Daryl

DeVasto, Hon. Diane
Dickeson, Kearby
Dickey, Heath
Dillon, Candice
Dobbs, David
Dollahite, Keith
Donnell, Michael
Dowdy, Alicia
Drott, Earl
Drott, Kyle
Drott, Natalie
Dutton, Kevin

Early, April
Echols, Jim
Embry, Jeff
Eskelson, Randy
Estrada, Edward
Evans, Ill, 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
Guerro, 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
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
Jackson, Hon. Reeve
Jones, Linda
Jones, Mike
Jordan, Kyle

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

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

Machicek, Lucas
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
Millsagle, Matt
Millsagle, Mollie
Mims, Bobby
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

Orrostieta, Yaziri

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

Salinas, Melannie
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
Soin, Robert
Sorrells, Ryan
Spitzer, Steve
Stewart, Reann
Stever, Bryan
Stiffler, Krystina
Stinson, Andrew
Stutes, Ronald
Sutton, Angela

Tarry, Micah John
Thames, Glenn
Tharpe, Dallas
Thauwald, Nathan
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, Ill, 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
Wulf, Cheryl

Yarbrough, Trey
Yeager, Ruth
Young, Betty

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**Associate Attorney – Real Estate / Oil & Gas Litigation**

Tyler, Texas | Full-Time | Entry-Level

About Flowers Davis, PLLC

Flowers Davis has been a well-established, full-service law firm based in Tyler, Texas, with a strong regional reputation for over thirty years. The firm's attorneys concentrate in real estate, oil and gas, business, and general litigation matters. We pride ourselves on providing practical, results-driven legal solutions while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and client service.

Position Summary

Flowers Davis is seeking a motivated, detail-oriented **Associate Attorney** to join our **Real Estate and Oil & Gas Litigation** team. This position is ideal for a recent law school graduate or a young attorney looking to gain hands-on experience in complex litigation and transactional matters in East Texas and beyond.

Responsibilities

- Assist partners and senior attorneys in all phases of litigation, including discovery, motion practice, depositions, hearings, and trial preparation.
- Conduct legal research and draft pleadings, motions, briefs, and correspondence.
- Review and analyze real estate and oil and gas title documents, contracts, and related materials.
- Communicate effectively with clients, opposing counsel, and court personnel.
- Participate in strategy sessions and contribute to case development and management.

Qualifications

- J.D. from an accredited law school or near graduation from an accredited law school.
- Licensed to practice law in Texas, or awaiting bar results with intent to become licensed in Texas.
- Strong research, writing, and analytical skills.
- Excellent attention to detail, organization, and communication.
- Interest or background in real estate and oil & gas law preferred, but not required.
- Eagerness to learn, collaborate, and grow within a team-oriented environment.

What We Offer

- Competitive pay and benefits package.
- Mentorship from experienced litigators and real estate/oil & gas practitioners.
- Hands-on courtroom and client experience early in your career.
- Supportive work environment with opportunities for professional growth and advancement.

How to Apply

Please submit your resume, cover letter, law school transcript, and writing sample to cas@flowersdavis.com

WILSON, ROBERTSON & VANDEVENTER, P.C.
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

WE ARE HIRING

Wilson, Robertson & VanDeventer is hiring an Associate Attorney.

The Wilson Firm is a full service law firm providing representation to East Texans for more than 85 years. Practice areas include litigation, banking, real estate, oil and gas matters, and business general counsel work. Compensation based upon experience.

PLEASE SEND RESUMES AND INQUIRIES TO
JOCELYN LEIFER AT JCARNATION@WILSONLAWFIRM.COM

**Twelfth Court of Appeals
State of Texas
Job Vacancy Notice Staff Attorney**

Position Available: Staff Attorney (Full-time position, 40 hours per week)
Location: Tyler, Texas
Opening Date to Submit Applications: January 30, 2026
Application Deadline: Until filled
Position Available: February 2, 2026

Position Attractions:

Staff attorneys at the Twelfth Court of Appeals assist in the research, analysis and resolution of legal issues that affect lives and influence Texas Jurisprudence. The Court's knowledgeable and dedicated justices, friendly, competent staff, and comfortable surroundings enhance this intellectually challenging and stimulating work experience. Staff attorneys at the Twelfth Court of Appeals are important members of a judicial team committed to the highest standards of judicial excellence. (*State Benefits after a minimum of 90 days.*)

General Responsibilities:

This position requires intensive legal research and analysis of complex legal and factual issues, the preparation of well-organized, carefully crafted legal memoranda and draft opinions under the direction of the Court's justices, attendance at oral arguments, and participation during pre and post-submission conferences with the justices.

Prerequisite Qualifications:

- An active Texas Law License
- Law journal or acceptable alternative writing experience
- At least 3 years legal experience as a licensed attorney
- Proficient in computer and word processing skills
- Experience using internet legal research sources, e.g. Westlaw
- The ability to communicate clearly and effectively; prioritize work assignments; follow instructions; and meet deadlines with minimal supervision
- Prior appellate court experience is preferred

Note: The following Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) codes are generally applicable to this position: 27A, 27B, 27, 250X, LGL10, 04, 4402, 4405, 4406, 4407, 4408, 4409, 4410, 44, 51JX, 92J0, 51, RI. Applicants must fully complete the summary of experience to determine if minimum qualifications are met. Additional Military Crosswalk information can be accessed at http://www.hr.sao.texas.gov/Compensation/MilitaryCrosswalk/MOSC_Legal.pdf.

**Twelfth Court of Appeals
Job Vacancy Notice Staff Attorney
January 30, 2026
Page 2**

Application Procedures:

Submit the following items by mail, delivery service or in person to the Clerk of the Court (*faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted*)

- Completed State Job Application (www.twc.state.tx.us/jobs/gvjb/stateapp.pdf)
- Resume with complete history of employment and a list of personal references
- A brief writing sample (no more than 10 pages)
- Law school transcript (a certified copy may be submitted at a later date)

Mail To: Katrina McClenny, Clerk of the Court
Twelfth Court of Appeals
1517 W. Front Street, Suite 354
Tyler, Texas 75702

Interviews: By invitation only

The Twelfth Court of Appeals participates in E-Verify. The Twelfth Court of Appeals does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment, or provision of services. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, any requests for reasonable accommodation needed during the application process should be communicated by the applicant to the Clerk of the Court.



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

February 13, *Willow Brook Country Club*, 12 - 1p

SCBF Board Meeting

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

SCBA Board Meeting

February 26, *Genecov Room*, 12 - 1p

Blood Drive

February 27, *Plaza Tower*, 9a-4p

Smith County Courthouse and the
 SCBA office will be closed on
 February 16 for President's Day



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

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