



2024 - 2025

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A Letter from the President



Nick Pesina

Dear SCBA
Members,

As we welcome November, it's the perfect time to pause and appreciate the many things we have to be grateful for, both within our professional circle and beyond. This month is a reminder of how fortunate we are to be part of a community that supports one another, strives for justice, and finds ways to make a difference every day.

October brought several wonderful opportunities to come together, from Pro Bono Week to Paralegal Day, and I want to thank each of you who joined in. Whether through service, recognition, or camaraderie, your involvement makes SCBA stronger and more impactful. You truly bring the spirit of this season to life.

Halloween also brought a bit of lighthearted fun! Thanks to everyone who sent in photos of costumes, decorations, and office festivities. We'll be sharing a few here to keep the smiles going.

Mark Your Calendar:

Pickleball Trials: November 13

Get ready for a little friendly competition at the Pickleball Trials at Hollytree Country Club! Join us for fun, laughter, and maybe even some new friendships.

Smith County Bar Association 2024 Holiday Extravaganza: Dec. 13

Save the date! A familiar host, Martin Walker P.C., will welcome us to their new office.

Ring the bell for the Salvation Army: December 3

Sign up and join us on Dec. 3 to ring the bell for the Salvation Army! Watch for more information from Beth.

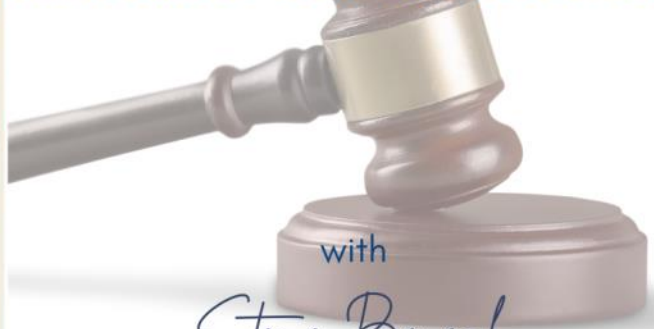
Thank you for being part of the SCBA family. Your dedication and kindness embody what this season is all about, and it's a privilege to be on this journey together. Here's to a meaningful November and a wonderful start to the holiday season!

Warm regards,





2024 TAALP JOINT LUNCHEON HONORING OUR AREA JUDGES!



with

Steve Benesh

State Bar of Texas President

November 5, 2024 | Hollytree Country Club



SCBA'S SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN 2024





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

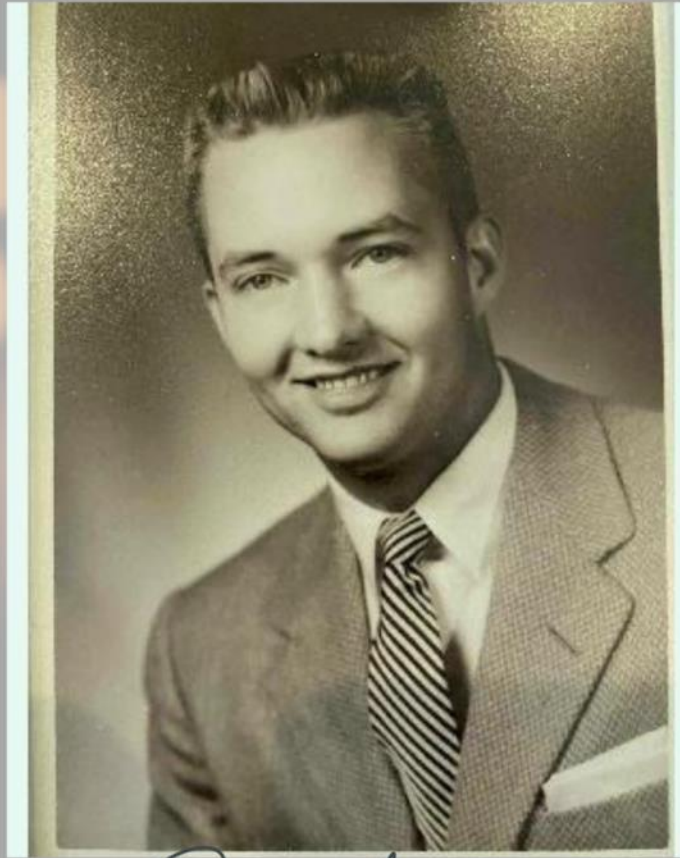
Rev. Dr. David A. Galloway, 2000
Children's Advocacy Center, 2001
Casa for Kids, 2001
Hon. Larry Craig, 2002
Bridgette Franklin, 2003
Betty Whitten, 2004
Lynn R. McGinnis, 2005
David M. Long, 2006
Sheriff J.B. Smith, 2007
Cristy Arscott Keul, 2008
Dee Brock, 2009
Vanessa E. Curry, 2010
Clay Alexander, 2011
Donna Ashby, 2012
Mike Lantz, 2013
Sheriff Larry Smith, 2014
Janice Caldwell, 2015
Michael Morton, 2016
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
Richard Grainger

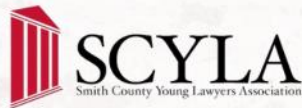
The Smith County Bar Association is deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Richard Grainger on November 1. Richard was not only a cherished and valued member of our legal profession, but a passionate, tireless advocate for our entire East Texas community. Richard's legal career spanned six decades, starting with the Ramey firm in 1960 and ending with his own practice that focused on mediation - a skill he honed after decades of representing large and small clients, and after years of representing other attorneys in various Bar roles! We are proud to have honored his incredible service with the prestigious Justinian Award in 2013. After a private ceremony for the family, a celebration of life service will be planned.



Remembering Frank McClendon, Jr.

The Smith County Bar Association would like to express our sincere condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Frank McClendon, Jr., on his passing Oct. 28. Frank Jr. was born and raised in Tyler, and was the last of his family to grow up in The Bonner-Whitaker-McClendon house (listed on the National Register of Historic Places). His education and legal career took him all over the world - 35 countries and 30 US states. He finally came back to his hometown in 2019 and was able to spend these last years near his sister and other family and friends.

A graveside service will be held in Oakwood Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the historic Bonner-Whitaker-McClendon house at 806 W. Houston St. 75702



SCYLA WOULD LIKE TO FORMALLY THANK THE 2024 - 2025 "FOREVER YOUNG LAWYERS"

Joel Baker
Joseph Balfour
Amy Blalock
Carey Christie
Patricia Coplan
James Craig
Jennifer Crawford
Shannon Dacus
Christina Davis
Craig Daugherty
Alicia Dowdy
April Earley
Beth Filla
Daniel Gibbins
Leigh Hunt Goodson

Hon. Sam Griffith
Hon. Debby Gunter
Hon. Judith Guthrie
Fritz Hager
Sarina Hager
Shaun Hassett
David Henry
Mary Jo Holloway
Jim Huggler
Alan Jackson
Nathaniel Kummerfeld
Richard Lottman
Staton Lottman
Collin Maloney

Hon. Sara Maynard
Hon. Nicole Mitchell
Kyle Nelson
Mandy Nelson
Danny Noteware
Mike Patterson
Deborah Race
Woody Roark
Hon. Kerry Russell
Kristen Senkyr
Beau Sinclair
Marcio Soares
Bryan Stever
Glenn Thames
Al Thigpen
Alan Wharton

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A "FOREVER YOUNG LAWYER" AND
SUPPORTING OUR NEXT GENERATION OF ATTORNEYS,
EMAIL BETH AT ED@SMITHCOUNTYBAR.COM TO LEARN MORE.

**TUESDAY
Dec. 3rd**



Can't ring? Scan to give to our virtual kettle, or visit:
<https://givesalvationarmytxas.org/team/619722>

We are ringing the bell for the Salvation Army this year!!! Join us December 3 in front of
Andy's on the downtown square for an hour of ringing fun!
And, there may be a prize for whoever has the most ringers - SCBA, SCBF, or SCYLA!!!

- Step 1: Log in to www.registertoring.com
- Step 2: Select "I'm ringing with a group."
- Step 3: Enter Group Code "Smith County 2024" and click submit.
- Step 4: Choose your shift
- Step 5: If you have an account with the Salvation Army, log in. If you don't, please create one and fill in your information.
- Step 6: Show up for your shift and have fun!!

Questions? Email beth@smithcountybar.com

NOW HIRING!!!



Starr
Schoenbrun
& Comte

**Starr Schoenbrun & Comte
in Tyler is seeking a civil
litigation attorney to assist
with personal injury and
commercial matters.
Experience preferred, but
not required.**

**Send resume and writing
sample to Steven Comte at
steven@sscfirm.com**





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
Booterbaugh, Lexie
Boren, Mishae
Boyd, Paul
Bracken, Jr., Arthur
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
Cothorn, 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
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
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McCullough, Hon. Amy
McElroy, John
McElroy, Sara
McFarlin, Holly
McNally, Michael
Metcalf, 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
Sorrells, 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

Adoption Day

November 8, *Green Acres Student Center*

November CLE

November 8, *Willow Brook CC, 12:00-1:00*

Veterans Day

November 11 (Smith County Courthouse closed)

SCBF Board Meeting

November 13, *Genecov Room, 12-1p*

Pickleball Tournament

November 13, *Hollytree Country Club, 5-8p*

SCYLA Board Meeting

November 21, *Genecov Room, 12-1p*

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

December 3, *Andy's on the Square*

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA!!!

December 13, *Arcadia Building/Martin Walker Firm, 5-8pm*

**Thanksgiving holiday -
 Smith County Courthouse closed!**
 November 28-29



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

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