SCBA
Smith County Bar Association

The Advocate

SMITH COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

Volume 29, Issue 4

www.smithcountybar.com

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Letter from the SCBA President

Marisa Allen

"Equal Justice Under Law"

You know those four words carved into the Supreme Court building? They're not just fancy decoration. They're a promise—one that doesn't come with an asterisk saying "only if you can afford it."

October 19-25 marks National Pro Bono Celebration Week, a time when we recognize something lawyers have known since the profession began: justice shouldn't have a price tag. Sure, we all need to pay our bills (and our malpractice insurance, and our CLE fees, and that software subscription we forgot we had), but we also took an oath that went beyond our bottom line.

Here's the thing about pro bono work—it's not charity. It's what keeps our entire system from being just a fancy courthouse with a "No Poor People Allowed" sign out front. Every time you take on a pro bono case, you're making sure those words "Equal Justice Under Law" actually mean something.

So many Americans face legal problems every year without any legal representation. That's like trying to perform surgery on yourself using WebMD—you could, but we all know how that's going to end.

So here's where you come in. This October, we're launching the Keep Tyler Rosey Pro Bono. Challenge. Track your pro bono hours and turn them in to Beth Filla (email her at beth@smithcountybar.com) by the end of the month. The lawyer who contributes the most hours wins a red velvet rose bundt cake—hand crafted by me in my kitchen—because champions of justice deserve their just desserts, and if we're keeping Tyler beautiful one pro bono hour at a time, we might as well do it with cake.

As members of the Smith County Bar Association, we're not just practicing law. We're fulfilling that promise carved in marble and written in our professional responsibility rules. We're ensuring that "We the People" really does mean all the people.

So dust off that rose-themed cake plate and get those hours in. Let's show Tyler what we're really made of (besides coffee, stress, and an encyclopedic knowledge of the Texas Rules of Evidence).

Here's to equal justice, pro bono service, and the sweetest reward a lawyer could ask for: knowing that you made a difference (and also cake).

Keep Tyler Rosey, y'all.

You and your staff are cordially invited to the

50th Annual Joint Luncheon

Honoring Area Judges

hosted by the

Tyler Area Association of Legal Professionals
Smith County Bar Association, and
Smith County Young Lawyers Association

Guest Speaker

Santos Vargas
President
State Bar of Texas

50th Anniversary

CLE credit is available.

Hollytree Country Club
Friday, October 24, 2025
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Single Reservation: $35.00
Reserved Table-NEW (Placard with firm/business name, seats 10 people): $400.00

Reservations must be <u>received</u> by:
Thursday, October 16, 2025

Please make checks payable to:
<u>TAALP - Joint Luncheon</u>

Mail reservation payment to (NEW ADDRESS):

PO Box 8613
Tyler, TX 75711
taalplunch@gmail.com

To become a sponsor of this event, please see the following page.

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.

The Smith County Bar Foundation's Constitution Day event invited students to learn about the judicial process and the enduring importance of the U.S. Constitution. (Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

From Class to Court

Area students observe democracy in action on Constitution Day

JENNIFER SCOTT

Nearly 200 students from area high school and Tyler Junior College witnessed the importance of the Constitution as they watched the 12th Court of Appeals deliberate real cases as part of a special program hosted by the Smith County Bar Foundation for Constitution Day.

On a day meant to celebrate the nation's founding document, the lesson wasn't in a textbook but in a courtroom setting.

"I think it's important to recognize and appreciate the Constitution for what it is," said Matt Rowan, president of the Smith County Bar Association. "It's a living document that daily gets modified in good ways to help all of us as citizens be able to conduct good government."

Why Constitution Day matters

Observed each year on Sept. 17, Constitution Day marks the anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787. Schools, civic groups and government agencies often use the day to highlight the nation's founding principles and the continuing role of the Constitution in American democracy.

The Constitution established the framework for the federal government, outlining the separation of powers among the three branches, guaranteeing individual rights.

CONSTITUTION DAY >> PAGE 6A

Smith County Bar Association President Matt Rowan speaks to students during Wednesday's Constitution Day event at Tyler Junior College. (Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

FIND UP-TO-DATE COVERAGE OF EAST TEXAS AT TYLERPAPER.COM

"he creation waits in eager expectation for e sons of God to be revealed." (Romans 8:19)

Weather High Low

Partly sunny See the Tyler-East Texas 3-day forecast

Stocks DOW +172.85 NASDAQ

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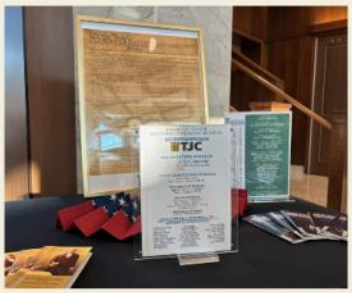
2025 CONSTITUTION DAY

with

12th Court of Appeals

September 17, 2025 | Tyler Junior College



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

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Worthen, Hon. James

Yarbrough, Trey
Yeager, Ruth
Young, Betty

Get your racquets ready for the Smith County Bar's

PICKLEBALL TRIALS

a pickleball tournament

WEDNESDAY
NOV 12

Hollytree Country Club
5:30 - 8:30
$25/person
$50/2-person team

Register at www.smithcountybar.com/donate

Thanks to our sponsors!*

Allen-Lottmann-Kimmel

Pesina Law Firm

Files Harrison & Millslagle

Wharton Law Firm

*contact Beth for sponsorship opportunities

Check-in starts at 5:15. Courts open for warm-ups at 5:30.

Games will start at 6:00.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar available.

For SCBA members and guests.

for more information -
beth@smithcountybar.com, or call 903.526.2700

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Smith County Bar was representing at the Spirit of Kourage luncheon!

Former SCBA president, Matt Millslagle, celebrating a Hole In One!

Leadership Tyler alum enjoying another incredible Leadership Live program!

OCTOBER 6TH AT 6PM

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

423 S. BROADWAY AVE. | TYLER, TX

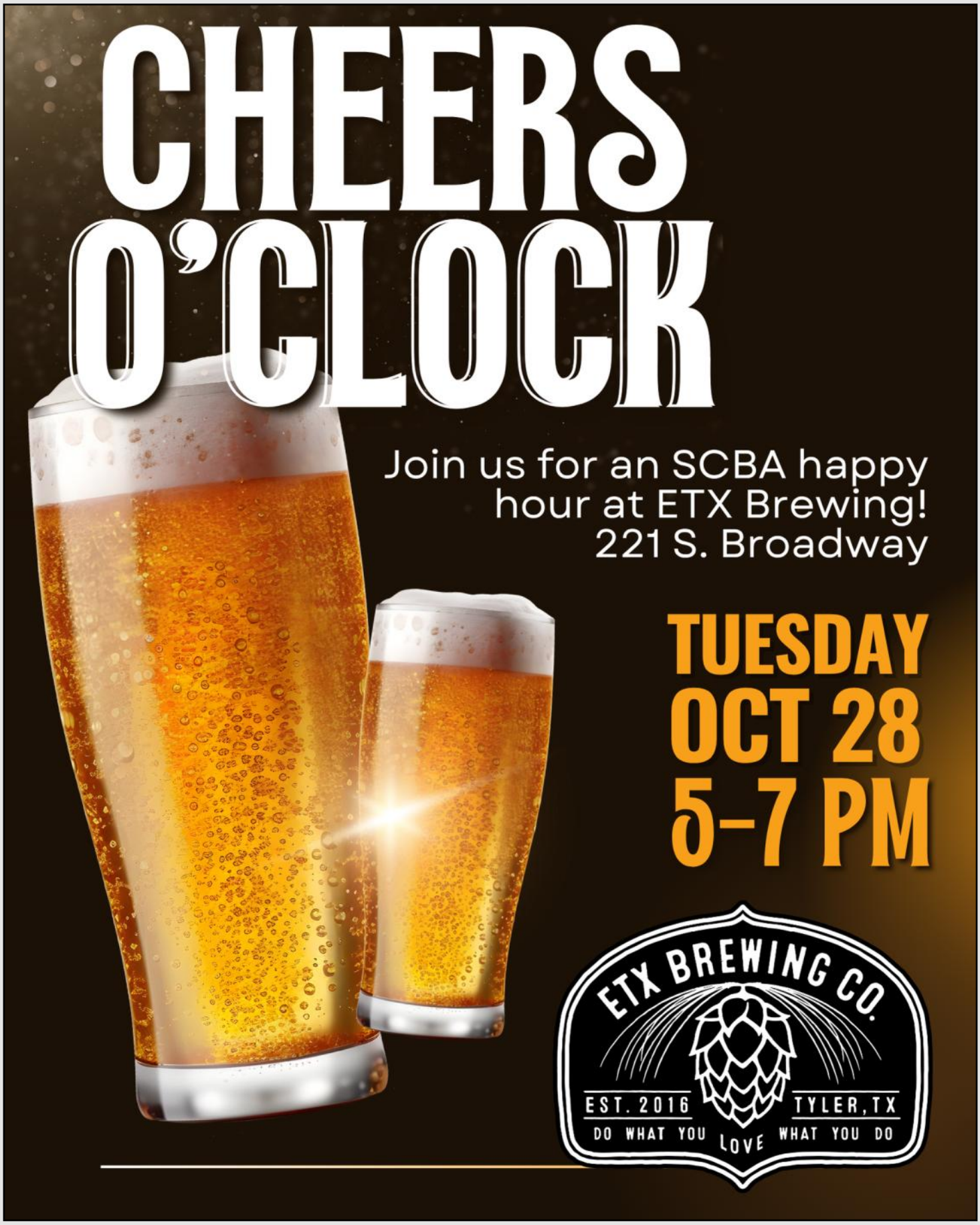
RED MASS

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


CHEERS O'CLOCK
Join us for an SCBA happy hour at ETX Brewing!
221 S. Broadway
TUESDAY
OCT 28
5-7 PM
ETX BREWING CO.
EST. 2016
TYLER, TX
DO WHAT YOU LOVE WHAT YOU DO

NEW LAWYERS INDUCTION CEREMONY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 10:00AM
BASS CONCERT HALL
2350 ROBERT DEMAN DR.
AUSTIN, TX

The Supreme Court of Texas has confirmed Monday, November 3, 2025, for the statewide induction of new lawyers at the Bass Concert Hall in Austin. The State Bar cordially invites local bar associations, young lawyer affiliates, and other specialty groups to attend and bring information about their organizations to the new lawyers. We expect about 1,000 new lawyers and guests to attend. The ceremony will take place on the Orchestra Level.

If you wish to have a table for your organization or send materials for us to put out at the SBOT table, please respond to this email by 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 10th, so that we can make arrangements for tables and chairs in the exhibit area. If you're planning to send materials but do not want a designated table, please have them delivered to us no later than Friday, October 24th.

Caryn Truitt, CMP
Events Manager, Marketing & Outreach | State Bar of Texas
Office: (512) 427-1513 | Email: Caryn.truitt@texasbar.com

IT IS NATIONAL PRO BONO MONTH

We are thankful for all of our volunteer attorneys!

ERIC ANTUNEZ
JOHN BERRY
ALEX CASTETTER
CAREY CHRISTIE
RAY COZBY
HON. DIANE DEVASTO
NATALIE DROTT
LEIGH HUNT GOODSON
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JACOB GUERRERO
FRITZ HAGER
SARINA HAGER
MONIQUE HAMMOND
KEN HAWK
SEAN HEALY
MIKE HOGAN
BILL HOMMEL

Be sure to track your pro bono hours this month and send to Beth by 3pm on October 28 for your chance to win this beautiful cake! Winner to be announced at the SCBA happy hour at ETX Brewery (need not be present to win).

JIM HUGGLER
LANSFORD IRESON
STATON LOTTMAN
KALEY LEUDECKE
SRAVANESH MURALIDHAR
JIM NOBLE
DANNY NOTEWARE
NICK PESINA
BRIAN RICHARDSON
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JOE THIGPEN
MEME THOMAS
RON STUTES
AMANDA VASQUEZ
WES VOLBERDING
ALAN WHARTON
BILL WHITEHURST
CHERYL WULF

KEEP CALM
and let the
PARALEGAL
handle it!

TEXAS PARALEGAL DAY
OCTOBER 23, 2025

Since 1993, October 23 has been recognized by the State of Texas as Texas Paralegal Day.

Please take some time and THANK this incredible group of professionals for all that they do for us and our legal system!

ATTORNEYS FIRST INSURANCE

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Our quote - $7,861.41

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Laura A. Vogel, Esq.
Licensed Real Estate Attorney

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Our quote - $4,055.00

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- **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.

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- **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

SCBF Board Meeting
October 8, *Genecov Room,* 12 - 1p

SCYLA Board Meeting
October 16, *Genecov Room,* 12 - 1p

SCBA Board Meeting
October 30, *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

Happy Hour
October 28, *ETX Brewery*, 5 - 7p

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!

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