

AABA-LAW



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2017 SPRING INSTITUTE

The Amarillo Area Bar Association's Spring Institute is right around the corner, and you do not want to miss it this year! Please mark your calendar now for May 5 (Cinco de Mayo!) and May 6 (the lesser known Seis de Mayo!).

Consistent with our brand new tradition, the seminar will be held on Friday morning, May 5, this time at the Amarillo College West Campus Lecture Hall. The Underwood Firm will provide its usual excellent breakfast, and then you can enjoy our three great speakers: Judge Clinton Averitte, and a pair of speakers from Dallas, Michael Maslanka and Levi McCathern. Judge Averitte will speak on the topic, "All You Want to Know About What Happens in Chambers But Were Afraid to Ask: A Judge's Guide to Practicing Effectively in Federal Court." Judge Averitte will leave some time at the end of his presentation for questions. Our second speaker, Michael Maslanka will speak on the topic, "What Every Lawyer Should Know About the Arts: The Art of Client Counseling, The Art of Dealing with Opposing Counsel, and The Art of Professionalism in the Practice of Law." Hello ethics credit! Our final speaker, Levi McCathern will speak on,

"Legal Lessons Learned from Representing the Dallas Cowboys." These speakers will be very informative and entertaining.

Enjoy our speakers while earning some easy CLE credit hours, and then head over to Ross Rogers Golf Course for lunch and the golf scramble. We will have beer and numerous prizes for our participants. Put on your best sansabelt slacks and join us for great fun. Happy Cinco de Mayo!

On Saturday night we will meet at the Amarillo Country Club for a great night out! We will begin with a cash bar Cocktail Hour from 6 to 7 pm (music by Sherry Jensen). Dinner starts at 7 pm followed by a short but special business meeting to induct the new officers and directors, award a scholarship, and recognize our latest Charles L. Reynolds Award recipient. And then at 8 pm, the band Moondog will hit the stage with its excellent blend of favorites and original music. These guys are great. Once the band starts, drinks will be free until we run out of money. Given the many generous law firm sponsors, that could be a while!

You should fill out and return your registration and mark your calendar for this wonderful event. See you there!

"We have extended a special invitation to all of our attorneys who have been licensed to practice law for 50 years or more to attend our AABA lunch meeting on April 13 at the Amarillo Club."

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"This year, United States Magistrate Judge Clinton E. Averitte is the well-deserving recipient of this prestigious award."

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By: Mark Logsdon

50 YEARS AGO...

Fifty years ago it was 1967. According to Wikipedia, the following noteworthy events occurred during that year:

- the Doors' self-titled debut album was released,
- The Green Bay Packers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs 35-10 in Super Bowl I,
- Astronauts Gus Grissom, Edward Higgins White, and Roger Chafee were killed in their spacecraft during a launch pad test (which was the subject of one of our superb recent lunch meeting seminars),
- the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was enacted,
- Jimmy Hoffa began his 8 year sentence for attempting to bribe a jury,
- the Six Day War was fought in the Middle East,
- Thurgood Marshall was confirmed and sworn in as the first African-American Justice of the United States Supreme Court,
- The Carol Burnett Show premiered on CBS, and
- Closer to home, a good number of our outstanding local attorneys were practicing law.

When I stop to think about how much our world, our country, and the Texas Panhandle have changed since 1967, it is amazing to know that a good number of our own have been practicing and working to better our profession and our community one client, one case, and one matter at a time in all the years since. And, some of our "50 year lawyers" were in the profession well before 1967.

The Amarillo Area Women's Bar Association is excited to announce that Justice Eva Guzman of the Texas Supreme Court will be speaking at the Amarillo Club on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 11:45 a.m. The topic will likely be a Supreme Court Update. More details will be circulated by email blast closer to the event. Please make plans to attend!

We have extended a special invitation to all of our attorneys who have been licensed to practice law for 50 years or more to attend our AABA lunch meeting on April 13 at the Amarillo Club. I hope that you will make every effort to attend the April 13 AABA lunch meeting and help us to honor our attorneys who have been licensed for at least the past 50 years.

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7TH COURT OF APPEALS UPDATE

By Chief Justice Brian Quinn

*Took son and grandson fishing!
You should too.*

SAVE THE DATE

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**TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL INSTITUTE
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Professor Edward J. McCaffery
Professor Lee Schwemer
Michael V. Bourland
Clay Stribling
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2017 RECIPIENT OF THE CHARLES L. REYNOLDS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE CLINTON E. AVERITTE

The Amarillo Area Bar Association (AABA) awards the Charles L. Reynolds Lifetime Achievement Award to an area lawyer or judge with a distinguished legal career who has also made a substantial contribution to the community, the legal profession and to the AABA. The recipient exhibits the knowledge, wisdom, integrity, ethics and professionalism possessed by the late Chief Justice Reynolds. This is the highest award bestowed by the AABA upon one of its members. This year, United States Magistrate Judge Clinton E. Averitte is the well-deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

Judge Averitte grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, where both of his parents were educators. He initially attended Texas Christian University, before transferring to the University of Texas, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1971. In 1974, Judge Averitte received his Juris Doctor from Southern Methodist University School of Law where he was selected to the Order of the Coif.

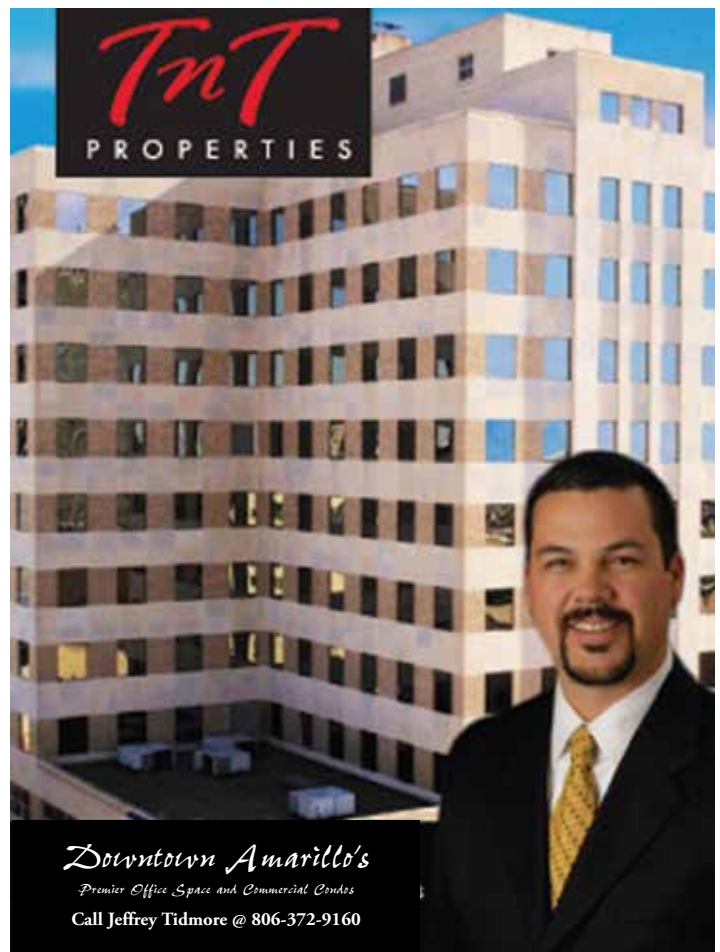
From 1974-1977, Judge Averitte was employed as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas. He then entered private practice with Hiersche, Martens and Averitte in Dallas where he represented both civil plaintiffs and defendants, as well as some criminal defendants. In 1979, Judge Averitte joined the Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney's office under then-District Attorney John Montford, where he served as the chief prosecutor for the Business Crimes Division. In 1980, he accepted a position as an Assistant United States Attorney in Lubbock, where he handled civil and criminal cases in Lubbock, Amarillo and San Angelo. In 1985, Judge Averitte moved to Amarillo to open the city's first U.S. Attorney's office. He served as the head of that office until 1987, when he was selected to be the first full time United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Amarillo Division. In June 2017, Judge Averitte will have served thirty years with honor and distinction as our Magistrate Judge.

On July 31, 2017, Judge Averitte will hang up his robe and put away his gavel, having announced his intention to retire after thirty-plus years of dedicated service to the Court. Judge Averitte has been recognized as a fair and impartial judge with a passion for justice as reflected by his receiving high marks in all areas of a Judicial Evaluation Poll conducted by the AABA. The courtesy he has exemplified during "those" phone calls to civil lawyers to announce their appointment in a federal criminal case surely cannot be replicated. His retirement will leave a hard-to-fill void on the bench.

Judge Averitte served as President of the AABA from 2012-2013, and has served in numerous judicial

organizations and on court committees, both locally and nationally. Not only has Judge Averitte tirelessly devoted himself to the practice and administration of the law, he has graciously given his time and energy for the betterment of the Amarillo community. He has served as President of the Golden Spread Council for the Boy Scouts of America (2014-2016) and continues to serve on the board. He has also served as President of the Downtown Kiwanis Club (2003-2004) and continues to be a member. Judge Averitte and Vicki, his wife of more than thirty-four years, are actively involved at First Presbyterian Church. They also support an annual event, the "Mile for Kyle," a one-mile fun run named in memory of their son Kyle, who was a police sergeant in the Dallas area. The event raises funds for a foundation in Kyle's name that presents scholarships to students interested in law enforcement.

Judge Reynolds would be proud and honored that Judge Averitte is receiving the award created in his name. Please join us on May 6, 2017 at the AABA Spring Institute dinner where we will present Judge Averitte with this well-earned and well-deserved award.



YOUNG LAWYER OF THE MONTH: JOSEPH HINTON



Joseph Hinton

Joseph H. Hinton moved to Amarillo from south Mississippi in early 2016. He studied history as an undergraduate at the University of Mississippi and the University of Southern Mississippi where he developed a fond affection for the role that the rule of law has played throughout our nation's storied past. Joseph moved to Texas as quickly as possible. While a student at Baylor University School of Law, Joseph was a member of the Federal Bar Association National Moot Court Competition Team and the American Bar Association Client Counseling Competition Team. As a student at Baylor Law, Joseph received several honors, including being named to the Order of the Barrister, qualifying as a quarterfinalist team and second place overall advocate at the Baylor Dawson & Sodd Moot Court Competition, and finishing as a finalist at the Baylor Client Counseling Competition (where he lost to his girlfriend, a fellow Amarillo attorney herself).

After graduating from law school, Joseph clerked for Burdett, Morgan, Williamson & Boykin, LLP. Upon passing

the Texas bar exam on his first attempt, Joseph began practicing as an associate attorney with Burdett, Morgan, Williamson & Boykin, LLP. Passionate about serving and interacting with clients, Joseph practices in the fields of wills and trusts, probate, business law, and non-profit and church law.

During his free time, Joseph likes to hike Palo Duro Canyon, root for his Ole Miss Rebels and Baylor Bears, and spend time with friends and family. Grateful for a chance to serve Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle, Joseph strives to carry out his firm's mission of client-focused results.



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AAYLA UPDATE

By Shane Brooks

We recently held our Not Quite Vegas CLE at IDK. We had good attendance, good beverages and very informative and entertaining speakers. I want to give a big thanks to our speakers, Shyla Buckner, Jeremi Young and Tim Williams. If you weren't there, you missed a great time.

In other news, it is almost time for the Annual AAYLA Bunny Hop



AMA-LAW is published monthly from September through May by the Amarillo Area Bar Association.

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Contact Us

For more information about your local area bar association or for address changes, contact Janet Byars, Executive Director, at:

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e-mail: director@amarillo-bar.org
Phone: 806-371-7226

Also visit our website at www.amarillo-bar.org for information and links to both local and state-wide legal resources.



5K on April 15th at Thompson Park. Registration will start at 8:15 and the hopping will commence at 9:00 a.m. sharp. If you think the Turkey Trot at Thanksgiving is important for burning off all the turkey you eat later that day, just think how much more you need to run the Bunny Hop before you put yourself into a sugar coma from eating all of your kids' and grandkids' Easter chocolate. Another great reason to come out is that this year's race will benefit our local Legal Aid, and we all know how great of a cause that is. So, take a break from calculating Monday's tax payment, come burn off some pre-Easter calories and help us raise some money. You'll receive a complimentary set of bunny ears and have a chance at taking pictures with an Easter Bunny in a headband that will surely take away any Tax Day blues. It is a fun event for the entire family so bring your whole crew and any others who might be interested. If you haven't received signup information for the race, email Tyler Topper at topper@bmwb-law.com to learn how to sign up today.

Also, don't forget about the Annual AAYLA Easter Egg Hunt at the Potter County Courthouse on Friday, April 14th at 4pm. Remember to go to www.amarillobunny.com to participate in the annual Bunny Contest benefitting AAYLA where you donate funds in the name of the lawyer you'd most like to see dressed up as the bunny for the egg hunt. Kick the weekend off right and bring the kids out to hunt for eggs and get their picture with the lucky winner of the Bunny Contest. Lots of candy and



refreshments are guaranteed, so make plans now to attend.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about AAYLA, please contact me anytime at shane.brooks@sprouselaw.com or 806.349.4717.

The AABA Nominating Committee will present the following slate of officers and directors for election at the next Membership Luncheon on April 13, 2017:

SLATE OF AABA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2017-2018

President	Chris Jensen
President-Elect	Brad Howard
Vice-President	Joby Mills
Sec/Treasurer	Matt Sherwood
Directors	Terms Expire 2018: Bobby Ramirez Josh Woodburn Audrey Mink

Additional nominations may be made by submission of a petition to the Secretary/Treasurer at least 5 days prior to the election. Such petition shall be signed by 5 or more regular members of the AABA and shall designate the name and office of one or more regular members to be placed among the list of nominees.

AABA History Quiz

WIN A ROLLING BRIEFCASE!

Be the first to correctly answer the question below and send your answer to jsterling@bf-law.com and you will win a rolling briefcase provided by the State Bar of Texas.

Question: Who was the President of the Amarillo Bar Association in 1957?

March Answer: Fred Griffin
March Winner: N/A





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Terms Expire 2018

Christy Drake
Jennie Knapp
Brian Farabough

J. Shane Brooks, AAYLA President
Janet Byars, Executive Director
Jonathan Sterling, Editor of AMA-LAW Newsletter

YOUR BAR EVENTS - APRIL 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	AABA Bar Luncheon, Main Dining Room, Amarillo Club 13	AAYLA Easter Egg Hunt, Potter County Courthouse 14	AAYLA Bunny Hop 5K 15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						