

AMA-LAW

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A PUBLICATION OF THE AMARILLO AREA BAR ASSOCIATION

50 YEAR LAWYERS HONORED



Back row: Eddie Scott, Don Jackson, Jim Besselman, James Doores, Robert Templeton, Walter Wolfram.

Front row: Oth Miller, Dee Miller, Don Patterson, Charles Aycock, Tom Morris.

These distinguished attorneys were honored at the AABA Luncheon on April 12, and were recognized for at least 50 years in the practice of law. Nita Dyslin of Lovell, Lovell, Isern and Farabough was gracious once again to provide the photograph.

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YOUR BAR EVENTS - MAY 2018

Spring Institute - May 4-5

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“As I celebrate (or survive) another birthday and prepare my final article for AMA-Law, I am reminded how fast time flies.”
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“Interested in an opportunity to get your feet wet in appellate practice? Or in a different opportunity to help a client pro bono?”
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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By: Chris Jensen

Time Flies.

"How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?" Dr. Seuss. As I celebrate (or survive) another birthday and prepare my final article for AMA-Law, I am reminded how fast time flies. It seems your Executive Committee just had its summer meeting and now the bar year is coming to a close. As one year comes to an end, we prepare for the beginning of the next. The AABA elected new officers and directors for the 2018-2019 bar year at our April luncheon. Our new directors will be Laura Hale, Thomas McMillian, and Robyn Nance. Matt Sherwood will again serve as our Secretary Treasurer. Jennie Knapp will serve as Vice President. Joby Mills will serve as President-Elect and Brad Howard will become President. The AAYLA has also elected the following officers for next year: Courtney White (President), Richard Biggs (Vice-President), Thomas McMillian (Treasurer), Brittany Taylor (Secretary) and Tyler Topper will be Past-President. The AAYLA Directors will be: Tyler DiMarino, Taylor Kelley, Cho Sherwood, Ben Doyle, Cole Brown, Alex Yarbrough, Grant Gibson, Joe Hinton, Chelsie Kidd, Leslie Lowe, Tom Knapp, Tyler Alley, Alysia Cordova, Matthew Stringer, Matthew Meriott, Paige Wells, Jacob Jacobson and William Biggs. When you see these folks, please thank them for their service to our profession. I think the AABA and the AAYLA will be in good hands.

As I look back over the prior year, I think the AABA had a good year. The Executive Committee updated policies and procedures. The AABA also sponsored local and affordable CLE. The Bar has updated its online directory and website. We are publishing a new pictorial directory. The AABA has reinvigorated the Special Concerns Committee. Because of the hard work of many, we celebrated Red Mass and a Christmas party. We raised funds for scholarships while having a great time at the Wine Dinner. We solved the mystery of the law library and its fees and addressed some issues with e-filing. Speaking of time flying, we celebrated the careers of those who have practiced law for over 50 years. We have had great speakers at our monthly luncheons. We will conclude the bar year with the Spring Institute. These and other achievements were only made possible by the dedication and work of many people.

I want to thank Christy Drake, Brian Farabough, and Jennie Knapp who are completing their two year service to the AABA as Directors. I also want to thank Audrey Mink, Bobby Ramirez and Josh Woodburn who are finishing their first year of service as directors and who will return to the Executive Committee for their second year. I also want to thank Meg

Morley for her continued efforts to bring CLE opportunities to Amarillo. We welcomed Erica Beacom as the new Editor of the AMA-Law and she has done a great job in her new role. I want to recognize Tyler Topper (AAYLA) and John Talley (Criminal Defense) for their dedication to their organizations in addition to their efforts on behalf of the AABA. I would also like to thank Mark Logsdon for his input as Past President. Matt Sherwood deserves thanks and appreciation for serving as Secretary and Treasurer. I also appreciate Joby Mills for his "can-do" attitude and all of the work he is doing behind the scenes for our Spring Institute. I also want to extend a special thanks to Brad Howard for his service as President-Elect. Brad did a great job bringing luncheon speakers and was always willing, with a great attitude, to cover for me when the practice of law interfered with my duties as President. I also want give a special thanks to Janet Byars. She has done a great job serving you as the AABA Executive Director. She is always prepared, thinks ahead, and makes the jobs of the Executive Committee very easy.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for the privilege of serving as your bar president this past year. I have enjoyed the opportunity. I have also enjoyed getting to know and working with a great group of people who are willing to give back to the profession. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for the AABA. "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." Mother Teresa.



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7TH COURT OF APPEALS UPDATE

By Chief Justice Brian Quinn

A shift in focus for this month. Justice Campbell wants to talk with you about a program the court recently made available to lawyers. I'll harp at you next month. Now from Justice Campbell:

Interested in an opportunity to get your feet wet in appellate practice? Or in a different opportunity to help a client pro bono? Whether you're an old hand at civil appellate work, or a lawyer who's interested but hasn't had a chance to prepare an appellate brief, we have good news for you.

Our court has begun participation in the Pro Bono Program operated by the Appellate Section of the State Bar of Texas. The Amarillo Area Bar Association and the Lubbock Area Bar Association co-sponsor the pro bono program in our district.

Here's how the program works. It applies to civil cases only. On the docketing statement filed with the court, the pro se individual checks the box indicating he or she would like to be represented by a volunteer lawyer. The notice of appeal and other documentation is sent to the Appellate Section pro bono committee, which screens the cases. If a case passes muster and the client qualifies as indigent, the email list of volunteer lawyers is notified about the case, and volunteers solicited. The Section's committee, not the court, selects cases for participation and matches cases with volunteer lawyers. If more than one lawyer on the list indicates interest in representing a particular client, the

Section's committee selects the lawyer.

Signing up is easy, free and painless. And it's risk-free. Just because you sign up and begin receiving emails about cases needing representation, you don't have to respond and volunteer. You can just lurk on the email list and look at the cases as they go by. And it's not burdensome. You can expect to receive maybe one email a week.

For more information, go to the Pro Bono Representation by Volunteer Lawyers tab under the Practice Before the Court heading on the court's website, www.txcourts.gov/7thcoa.

We hope you'll give it a try.

Childress Professional Office Suite for Rent

Offices for lease in a professional office suite on first floor of recently restored downtown Childress historic building. The lease would include one or more private offices with access to shared furnished lobby and large furnished conference room, 2 full bathrooms and shared full kitchen. Offices and conference room wired for data center level high-speed Internet service. The existing tenant is a small Austin law firm.

**For more information contact
Jerry Keys with Pease River
Ventures at 512-681-3749 or jkeys@mathesonkeys.com.**

AABA History Quiz **WIN A ROLLING BRIEFCASE!**

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

Question: What Texas university opened the first law school in the state?



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Navigating Your Financial Future

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YOUNG LAWYER OF THE YEAR: THOMAS McMILLIAN

The Amarillo Area Young Lawyer's Association is excited to announce the selection of Thomas McMillian as its Young Lawyer of the Year for 2017-2018. Mr. McMillian has exemplified exceptional work ethic and commitment to the legal profession through his work on the AAYLA Board of Directors. Mr. McMillian went above and beyond with regard to his coordination of the AAYLA Las Vegas CLE, which had record attendance

this past February. He is a mainstay in attendance at Bar events and has gone above and beyond the call of duty in volunteering for service in coordinating activities and service events for the AAYLA.

Although Mr. McMillian has been repeatedly asked to leave the Potter County Attorney's Office, the Potter District Attorney's Office, and the 7th Court of Appeals due to his imperious fondness for bow ties, model airplanes, and wiener dogs, his colleagues have expressed effervescent praise for his legal acumen and trial skills. He attributes all he knows to the exemplary mentoring of Ben Doyle and Joey Parsons. Congrats Thomas!

The Amarillo Area Women's Bar Association announces the following proposed slate of officers and directors for the 2018-2019 bar year:

President: Pam Gleaso
Vice Pres.: Blair Oscarsson
Secretary: Claire Grammer
Treasurer: Maggie Adams
Past-President: Joni Paul

Directors:
Leah Davis
Andrea Slater Gulley
Stephanie James
Courtney White

AAWBA Members may vote on the proposed slate of officers and directors at an upcoming meeting to be announced very soon.




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images courtesy The Amarillo Public Library

OLD LAWYER OF THE YEAR: JOHN MOZOLA

This year John Mozola was selected as “Old Lawyer of the Year.” There is no doubt that John qualifies as old – he’s reluctantly come to admit that himself. However, it is not his age that makes John worthy of recognition, but rather his contributions to the practice of law in the Amarillo area.

For those who don’t know him, John was raised in Houston, Texas, in a blue collar family. John’s father was a carpenter. Because of the Great Depression, John’s mother dropped out of junior high to support her eight siblings. Despite their humble background, John’s parents instilled in John a work ethic that would define his career and become the bane of generations of future associates who hoped to spend the occasional weekend outside of the office.

In all his endeavors, John is known for his tenacity and persistence. As a child, he took up tennis as a way to escape baseball practice coached by an overbearing brother-in-law. Although lacking any private training, John practiced tennis so frequently that he earned a tennis scholarship from the University of Texas, was twice captain of the tennis team, and was consistently recognized as the team’s best player. After his undergraduate tennis career, John went on to even greater success at the University of Texas School of Law, where he was awarded Order of the Coif.

John came to Amarillo in 1973 where he joined the Underwood firm, and eventually became a partner. In 1990, John, along with Harlow Sprouse and others, formed the “Sprouse & Mozola” firm, which continues its existence now as Sprouse, Shrader, & Smith. After almost 10 years, John left his eponymous firm and joined Mullin Hoard & Brown, meaning that John has been a partner of many (if not most) of the civil litigators in Amarillo.

To write this article, your author sought the opinions of a number of attorneys who had practiced with, against, or adjacent to John Mozola. John’s partners uniformly praised his tenacity and work ethic. One downstate lawyer described his litigation style best: “John does his own legal briefing, and refuses to let others do it for him. My big firm ways of having multiple lawyers work on a case always rub John the wrong way. When John argues the law, it is law he personally found, read, and briefed.” An Amarillo lawyer compared his litigation style to that of a pit bull – once John has latched on to a winning argument, he won’t let it go until he has what he came for.

John’s legal career has been extremely successful. At one time, the Mullin Hoard & Brown website advertised that John had recovered over \$200 million as plaintiff’s counsel by trial or settlement – which must be true, as the internet never lies. But his colleagues speak more of his dry humor than his exceedingly long list of victories in court. For example: John considers himself to be knowledgeable about men’s fashion

and isn’t hesitant to share his “knowledge.” One prominent Amarillo attorney recounted a story of working as a first year associate for John. He said, “I was called into his office and told that I needed a piece of urgent career advice. Asking what it was, John informed me that my suit, my tie, and my shirt were all patterned, and that a lawyer at his firm could only wear two patterns at once. I was wearing three, which was too many.”

Another one of his colleagues recalled how, when the Sprouse & Mozola firm started, John was extremely concerned about his partners’ appearance. One partner in particular, Jerry Smith, had a penchant for wearing suits that weren’t current enough for John’s tastes. In order to keep Mr. Smith up-to-date, John started gifting ties for his use. This practice expanded through the firm until John found himself giving his surplus ties to virtually all of his partners (and some associates, too). His partner said the “gifting” slowed – but didn’t stop – when nearly the entire Sprouse & Mozola firm wore a John Mozola-gifted tie on the same day. (And in full disclosure, your author can attest that his office has a drawer where John’s surplus accoutrements are stored to this very day.)

Suffice it to say, your author has heard numerous stories regarding John’s fashion sensibilities. However, each of these conversations ends with a near-conspiratorial question. John is red/green colorblind. How on earth can he pull off such an elaborate wardrobe which frequently includes red and green?

John is a devout Christian and an avid evangelist. John regularly sponsors speeches and conferences on Christian Apologetics with his church, Westminster Presbyterian. John is also a skilled gardener, and has combined his faith and his green thumb by personally maintaining Westminster’s garden for over 20 years. John’s piety has not gone unnoticed, and some of his colleagues have it as a challenge. One Austin attorney said that he “spent years trying to get John to voice a profanity. The only time I was successful was when I made a large contribution in John’s honor to the Hillary Clinton campaign.”

John is being honored is because of his non-sartorial contributions to the Amarillo legal community. In addition to co-founding a successful firm and partnering at two others, John has a reputation for taking young lawyers under his wing. John’s former associates populate virtually every firm in town, which speaks to the quality of his mentorship. Moreover, John has actively fundraised for West Texas A&M, his church, and numerous Christian apologetics ministries. John is therefore recognized by the Amarillo Area Young Lawyer’s Association and the Amarillo Area Bar Association for his decades of mentoring young associates, for his unflappable congeniality, and for his dedication to the Amarillo community.



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Jennie Knapp	Josh Woodburn
Brian Farabough	Bobby Ramirez

Tyler Topper, AAYLA President
Janet Byars, Executive Director
Erica Beacom, AMA-LAW Editor

ZIMMER SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FALL 2016 GRANTS ANNOUNCED

The trustees of the Kelln Zimmer Memorial Scholarship Foundation have announced that Sam Allen is the recipient of the Spring 2018 Kelln Zimmer Memorial Scholarship.

Sam is completing his second year at Texas Tech School of Law, where he is a staff member of the Texas Tech Law Review. He is a graduate of Dalhart High School and the University of Texas at Austin.

The Kelln Zimmer Memorial Scholarship honors Kelln Zimmer, a Texas Tech Law School graduate and Amarillo native who died in 2010 following a seven year battle with breast cancer. She was an associate with Underwood at the time of her passing. Kelln Zimmer Memorial Scholarships are awarded to full-time students of Texas Tech University School of Law who are from the Amarillo area or who attended Amarillo College or West Texas A&M University.

"Kelln was a great student, a fabulous lawyer, and above all else, an inspiration to every person she met," said foundation trustee and childhood friend, Ed Dowdy.

Ms. Zimmer served as managing editor of the Texas Tech Law Review. Before law school, she was a traveling consultant for Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, for which she also served as chapter president at Texas A&M – College Station.

The Kelln Zimmer Memorial Scholarship Foundation is a tax exempt charitable entity whose funding comes exclusively from individual donations. Foundation trustees have opened a new application period for Fall 2018 grants. Application information will be distributed locally and through the Texas Tech School of Law financial aid office.



Sam Allen

AABF SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Amarillo Area Bar Foundation is pleased to announce that Sam Allen, Abby Brown, Molly Madsen, and Bailey DeBerry are the recipients of the 2018-2019 AABF scholarships. Sam was raised in Dalhart and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with an economics degree. He is currently attending Texas Tech University School of Law. Abby was born in Pampa, graduated from Tascosa High School, and attended Amarillo College. She received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Colorado and a Master of Science in Personal Financial Planning from Texas Tech University. She currently attends the University of North Texas College of Law. Molly is the recipient of the Chris Coppedge Memorial Scholarship. She grew up in Amarillo and attended Amarillo High School. She graduated from Texas Tech University with a civil engineering degree and is currently attending The University of Texas School of Law. Bailey hails from Canyon and graduated from West Texas A&M University with a psychology degree. She will begin her legal studies next year at either the University of Texas School of Law or Texas A&M University School of Law. Each scholarship is \$2,500 for the 2018-2019 academic year. Congratulations to this year's recipients.