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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2025 – Growth and Mergers

I am excited to announce NBTA's continued growth with the addition of our ninth board certification program. On February 3, the ABA House of Delegates approved our application and NBTA now has an accredited board certification program in immigration law.

I want to thank the following leaders who have worked over many years to bring this certification program to fruition:

Kari Ann Fonte
Daniel Chen
Charles Shane Ellison
Charles Kuck
John Pratt
Luis Rodriguez
Bill Stock
Carmen Arce
Charles Foster
Antonio Nierras
Dilip Patel
Heather Prendergast
David Stoller

Also, a special note of appreciation to former President Jack McGehee, who believed this is the most important specialty area and started the process.

And a merger makes eleven...

Just like in the movie Spinal Tap, our amplifier volume can't stop at ten. We need to amplify the importance of board certification, and we need a knob that goes up to eleven.

ABPLA has a long and proud board certification legacy, tracing its history back to 1972 in Detroit, Michigan. Both ABPLA board certification programs will become part of NBTA's structure and programming. We are looking forward to welcoming ABPLA members to NBTA.

Growth is Our Collective Goal

We believe NBTA members are critical to future growth. We are looking at multiple ways to bring the next generation of board-certified attorneys into our organization. We need your help in identifying those attorneys who make great candidates for any of our specialties. For those nearing or considering retirement, perhaps you help us find your successor. With your help, NBTA remains a strong, viable and important organization.

[Click Here to Help](#)

CLE Program

NBTA is excited to announce its opening slate of educational offerings beginning on Thursday February 20th @ 10:00 am PST/11:00 am MST/12:00 pm CST/1:00 pm EST. Roger Futerman, NBTA board-certified in Criminal Law with over 25 years of experience, will present Luck or Luck: That is the Question: The importance of minutia awareness in the courtroom. NBTA will offer CLE credit and its Certified Litigation Excellence (CLE) program is free to NBTA members.

We have exciting NBTA CLE webinars scheduled for March and April as well – see story inside this newsletter for details. Watch for future announcements via email as well. We are excited to continue this member benefit for all.

Want to serve on an NBTA Committee?

Three NBTA committees accepting nominations from our membership:

1. The Public Affairs Committee

- a. This committee's work focuses on NBTA's communications, membership and advocacy work and agenda.

2. The Emerging Attorneys Committee

- a. This committee focuses on NBTA's work with law schools, law students and attorneys in the first 15 years of practice with the goal to educate and increase board certification and membership with the NBTA, including any new trends in the practice of law.

3. The Specialization Committee

- a. This committee's work focuses on continuous assessment of current NBTA certifications, identifying and vetting proposed NBTA certifications, liaising with the ABA, other accrediting agencies and professional associations to better achieve our mission.

[If you wish to nominate yourself or another NBTA member, please fill out the nomination form.](#) The NBTA Nominating Subcommittee will review all committee member applications and send approved nominees to the Board of Directors for approval.

**Introducing Elizabeth Green Lindsey,
NBTA President 2024-2026**

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in Chicago on November 10th, Elizabeth Green Lindsey took over as President of the National Board of Trial Advocacy from Tracy Walter McCormack. Elizabeth has been on the Board of Directors since 2017, serving in the capacity of Vice President and President Elect.

Elizabeth is a Partner with the law firm of Harrison LLP in Atlanta, Georgia where she exclusively practices family law. She is board certified in Family Law Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Elizabeth is a Past President of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML). As a Fellow of AAML, she was awarded Fellow of the Year in 2018 and has chaired and served on many committees. She is also a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and a Diplomate in The American College of Family Trial Lawyers. She served as President of Georgia Chapter of AAML. She is also a Fellow in the International Academy of Family Lawyers.

She served as Chairperson of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia and is a Master in the Charles Longstreet Weltner Family Law Inn of Court.

Elizabeth received her J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law. Since entering practice, she has been recognized repeatedly by Best Lawyers, Georgia Trend magazine in an annual list of top lawyers, determined by the votes of other lawyers, as one of Georgia's "Legal Elite." She has been listed in Super Lawyers as one of Georgia's "Top 100 Lawyers" and as one of Georgia's "Top 50 Women Lawyers." Elizabeth is frequently asked to lecture on family law topics for various legal organizations.

She was named the 2022 Lawyer of the Year in Family Law Atlanta by Best Lawyers of America.



Outgoing Tracy McCormack remarked, "It is bittersweet to say goodbye as your President. It has been my honor and privilege to serve you for the last two years. Thank you for affording me this opportunity. I leave you in excellent hands. Elizabeth Lindsey will be the perfect leader we need now. She brings her experience as prior President of the AAML and her dedication to board certification."

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*Rear Row (L-R) Past Presidents Keith Clifford & Jim Richardson
Front Row (L-R) Immediate Past President, Tracy McCormack; Steve Wizner; President Elizbeth Lindsey*

STEPHEN WIZNER, BOARD MEMBER & DEAN OF FACULTY STEPS DOWN

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marked by one constant - Stephen Witzner. He has been a critical, integral and valued part of the organization. His wisdom, understanding of the law, insights and passion for justice helped drive our organization. This past November, Stephen stepped down from the NBTA Board of Directors and his official capacity as Dean of Faculty.

Immediate Past President Tracy McCormack said, "we say goodbye to our longtime friend, board member, mentor and head of our Exam Committee, Steve Witzner. If you are board certified, Steve played a role in that process. For 43 years, Steve has developed and maintained the integrity of our testing process. His dedication to our members and the public we protect has been unparalleled. Thank you, Steve. May you enjoy a well-earned retirement."

Steve's career began as a trial attorney with the United States Department of Justice. His work would eventually lead him to join the faculty of the Yale Law School serving as instructor, supervisor and administrator. He taught: Trial Practice, Evidence, Ethics in the Practice of Law, Disability, Immigration and other subject areas. Steve was instrumental in the development of Yale's prominent law student clinical programs.

With NBTA, he started in 1981 as an Examiner. He joined the Board in 1987 and was the Dean of Faculty for 32 years, beginning in 1992. In 1999, he received the Theodore I. Koskoff Award for Outstanding Contributions to Trial Law Specialization and Certification from NBTA.

Reflecting on Steve's tenure, Past President Jack McGehee remarked, "Steve set the standard as my confidant, go-to person for all things and expert for all exam matters in all states. He quickly became a trusted friend. His need to help those in need was embedded in his DNA. I tried to emulate it, as others should. The world needs more Steves."

Phyllis Culp, Assistant Dean of Faculty concluded, "Steve Witzner has served with dedication, wisdom and knowledge of how to best serve the public by providing qualified attorneys. He embodied the mission of the NBTA in his many roles through his work with the NBTA to help consumers by recognizing and promoting those attorneys who had achieved excellence in legal advocacy. I have been honored to serve with him."

Meet Elizabeth Collins, Director of Examinations and State Accreditations

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...ing NBTA. In April of 2024, I come to the organization by way of sunny Florida where I reside with my son. I bring years of accreditation, education, and compliance experience. My work has been primarily in healthcare. I am a Registered Nurse and obtained my bachelor's degree in social science in 2025 and a bachelor's degree in nursing in 2011. In my former position at Baptist Health, Manager – Practice Transformation, I was hired to create and manage a clinical education and training department for over 65 outpatient clinics. In addition, I managed Baptist Primary Care's Patient Centered Medical Home recognition and was an active part of several system wide committees. I have previously worked as a Senior Accreditation Specialist for the American Nurses Association and my clinical background is in perioperative services and clinical education. I was the education chair for the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nurses and the first recipient of the Baptist Health Nurse of the Year Award for Outpatient Services. I am excited to be a part of this dynamic organization.



Board Members: John Blumberg, Mike Kelly & Rob Wendt

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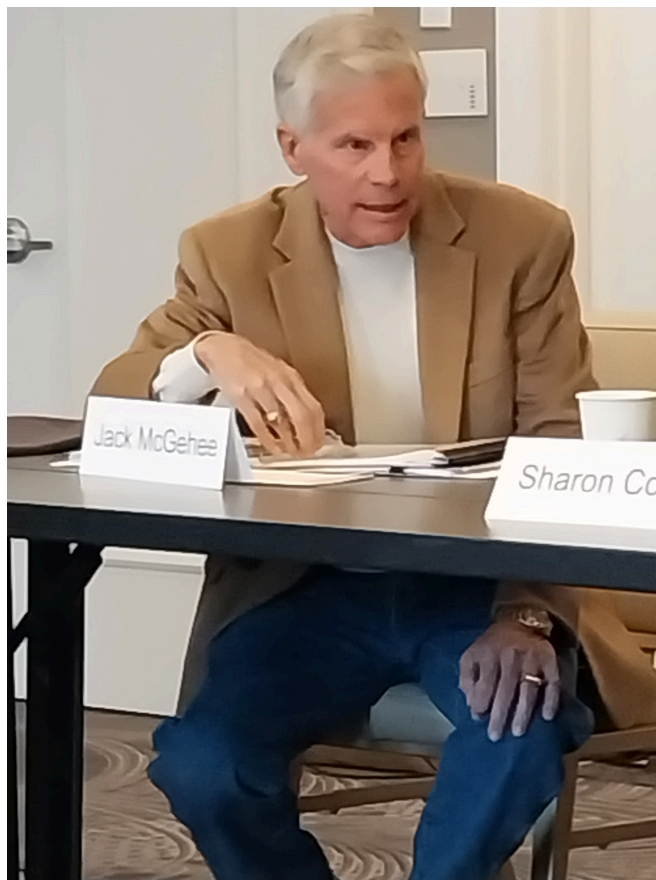
President Lindsey welcoming Chicago NBTA Board Certified Attorneys at the Board of Directors Dinner



Kathryn Snapka, Board Member

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Eric Bland and Ronald Richter present "Lessons Learned from the Alex Murdaugh Murder Trial" as part of the NBTA & ABPLA CLE



Jack McGehee, President 2016-2018

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New Members

The National Board of Trial Advocacy would like to congratulate and welcome the following attorneys who are now nationally board certified. They are Tested, Proven-Excellence. This list is current as of February 11, 2025.

Civil Trial Law

Brian Hinton | Anderson, Crawley & Burke, PLLC | Ridgeland, MS

Brian Plummer | Herman Law | Calabasas, CA

Criminal Trial Law

Jacob Blizzard | Blizzard & Zimmerman, PLLC | Abilene, TX
David Chee | United States Attorney's Office | Tampa, FL

Francis Sullivan | Office of the State Attorney | Panama City, FL | 14th Judicial Circuit of Florida

Family Trial Law

Brendan Hammer | Brendan Hammer, Of Counsel | Chicago IL

Tony Potter | Potter Law Office LLC | Wichita, KS

Truck Accident Law

Rob Beard | Rainwater Holt and Sexton | Little Rock, AR

Robert Byrne | Martin Wren, P.C. | Charlottesville, VA

Katherine McArthur | McArthur Law Firm | Macon, GA

L. Blade Thompson | Blade Thompson LLC d.b.a. BLADE INJURY LAW | Atlanta GA

2024 NBTA President's Awards



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The purpose of the President's Awards is to recognize members of NBTA for their unique accomplishments and efforts which deserve to be known to our entire membership, the legal profession, and the communities that they work in. Each year multiple awards are given in each of the following categories.

- **For the Legal Field:** An accomplishment or outcome that will affect the legal field. It may be a new strategy, a verdict with an impactful outcome, creating an awareness of an issue, setting a standard or righting a wrong.
- **For the Community:** A project or initiative that makes a positive change in the community where the attorney practices and lives.
- **For NBTA:** A single effort or a body of work that furthers NBTA's mission to protect those in legal need through specialization accreditation

Here are the President's Awards Recipients:

A Bernard Bays | Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher | Honolulu, HI

Joseph Camerlengo | The Truck Accident Law Firm | Jacksonville, FL

Christy Crowe Childers | Childers & McCain, LLC | Macon, GA

Mark G. Daniel | Daniel, Moore, Evans, Biggs, Decker, and Smid | Fort Worth, TX

James D Diamond | Law Offices of James Diamond | Norwalk, CT

Nick Rice | Rice Caperton Rice | Memphis, TN

Andrew R. Young | The Law Firm for Truck Safety LLP | North Olmsted, OH

To learn about the honorees go to: <https://www.nbталawyers.org/presidents-awards-page/>

We will be excepting nominations beginning July 1, 2025 for the Fall presentation.

NBTA Certified Litigation Excellence



Webinar Series

Thursday, February 20 @ 10:00 am PST/11:00 am MST/12:00 pm CST/1:00 pm EST.

Luck or Luck: That is the Question: The importance of minutia awareness in the Courtroom
Presenter: Roger Futerman

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[TA members. This presentation is appropriate for all attorneys.](#)[Translate](#) ▼

1.00 MCLE Credit 1.00 Ethics Credit Accreditation from the Texas Bar Association

[Click Here to Register](#)

Thursday, March 13 @ 10:00 am PST/11:00 am MST/12:00 pm CST/1:00 pm EST.

Bad Facts: Making Lemonade From Lemons

Presenter: Quentin Brogdon

This series is free to NBTA members. This presentation is appropriate for all attorneys.

Thursday, April 17th @ 10:00 am/Pacific/11:00 am-Mountain/Noon-Central/1:00 pm-Eastern

Fearlessly Cross-Examining Difficult Witnesses

Presenter: Patrick Malone

This series is free to NBTA members. This presentation is appropriate for all attorneys.

If you have any questions, please contact Roger Daily at rdaily@nbtalawyers.org.

NBTA Spring Examination Date:

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Deadline to Register for Examination:

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

**Mock Exams will be open and available to take any time between:
Saturday, April 12th - Saturday, April 26th, 2025.*

The latest someone will be able to take the mock exams is on Saturday, April 26th, 2025, if they want to sit for the Saturday, May 10, 2025, Exam.

[Click Here to Fill Out Registration & Pay for Exam](#)

**If you are already an applicant but have not paid for the exam, you can click the link and log into your file. You will be able to register/pay for the exam in the area that you submitted the application.*

**SPRING 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 28-29TH, 2025 - SAN DIEGO, CA**

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