



# 2024-2025 TYLA President-elect Candidates

The Texas Young Lawyers Association Board of Directors approved the nominations of **Michael Hanson**, of Richmond, and **Alyson A. Martinez**, of Laredo, as 2024-2025 president-elect candidates. This year, nominees for president-elect are from nonmetropolitan counties. Biographies of the candidates are featured here. Interviews with the two candidates will be included in the April issue. Votes for TYLA president-elect and district directors can be cast via paper ballot or by voting online from April 1 to April 30. On April 1, attorneys eligible to vote will be mailed an election packet, including a paper ballot and campaign brochures. Attorneys may either submit their paper ballot via mail or vote online using the information provided. The deadline to cast ballots is 5 p.m. CDT on April 30.



**Michael Hanson**  
*Richmond*

Michael Hanson is a Texas prosecutor and judge advocate for the Texas Army National Guard. He serves TYLA as vice president and director for District 21. Having practiced criminal law for nine years, Hanson has experience in misdemeanors and felonies. His primary focus now lies in juvenile law, veterans' treatment court, and felony animal cruelty cases, where he advocates passionately for justice. He has over 60 jury trials.

In 2022, Hanson was deployed overseas as the military justice adviser, supervising the 36th Sustainment Brigade legal team. The team's efforts ensured 100% accountability of actions and continuous progress supporting the serviced commands, consisting of over 40 commands across 10 countries in the CENTCOM region, including over 100 administrative investigations.

A highlight in Hanson's career occurred in 2019, when he went to Africa, joining Lawyers Without Borders to support its wildlife crime trial advocacy training. In November, he trekked Nepal's Mount Everest Base Camp route to raise money for Child Legacy, a nonprofit repairing water wells in rural Malawi. Hanson credits his wife, Jihye, for her unwavering support that has been instrumental in his success. Above all, his favorite job is being a father to his two children, Stella and Wyatt.



**Alyson A. Martinez**  
*Laredo*

Alyson A. Martinez, a native of Laredo, is the first attorney in her family, graduating from Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Commencing her career at the Webb County Public Defender's Office, she represented justice-involved, indigent individuals. Currently, Martinez serves as the director of the Webb County Community Supervision and Corrections Department in Laredo and Zapata. In addition, she is the legal adviser for the Probation Advisory Committee of Texas.

In 2020, Martinez served as president of the Laredo-Webb County Bar Association. Her leadership extended to the State Bar of Texas after participating in the 2020 cohort of LeadershipSBOT. Martinez has represented District 19 of TYLA for three years, earning recognition for her contributions including the President's Award of Merit in 2023.

She dedicates her spare time to community service, having served as a board member for the Laredo Center for the Arts and Voz De Niños. Martinez is an alumna of American University's WeLead Program, the LBJ Women's Campaign School, and the New Leaders Council, where she remains actively engaged.

Outside her many commitments, Martinez cherishes moments with her family and loved ones. Her multifaceted involvement reflects a deep commitment to both the legal profession and the betterment of her community.

# 2024-2025 TYLA Executive Committee Election

At the January meeting of the Texas Young Lawyers Association Board of Directors, the following members were approved to run for the specified offices. A ballot was provided to all TYLA directors, and the winner of each race is listed below in the left-hand column.

## CHAIR-ELECT



### David R. Hagan

David R. Hagan is the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division representative to the Texas Young Lawyers Association Board of Directors for District 26 (North Texas) and previously served as the elected director from District 1 for four years from 2019 to 2023. He is a solo practitioner based in Longview, where he also serves on the Teen Court Board of Directors. Hagan and his wife,

Mallory, are the proud parents of two dogs, five cats, and one beautiful baby boy, Harrison Ross Hagan.



### Ryan R. Bauerle

Ryan R. Bauerle is a partner in Goranson Bain Ausley in Plano, where he practices family law. He serves as the TYLA director for District 4. Bauerle is certified in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and a fellow in both the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and International Academy of Family Lawyers.

Bauerle is a graduate of LeadershipSBOT, serves on the State Bar of Texas Public Affairs Committee, the Collin County Bar Association Board of Directors, and is a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. He also serves on the American Bar Association Family Law Section Council as its Region V representative. Bauerle lives in McKinney with his wife, Laura; 5-year-old twins, Blake and Kate; and 7-month-old son, Jack.

## VICE PRESIDENT



### Ashton Barrineau Butcher

Ashton Barrineau Butcher is a corporate partner in Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in Dallas, where she represents private equity firms, public and private companies, and other strategic investors in a variety of corporate and mergers and acquisitions matters. Her transaction experience covers a variety of industries, including convenience retail,

manufacturing, aggregates and ready-mix concrete, technology, health care, financial services, media, retail, and hospitality. She serves as the TYLA director for District 5, Place 4 and currently chairs the Public Service Committee. In 2023, Butcher was recognized with the Outstanding First Year Director Award. When not billing her time in six-minute increments, she enjoys solving *New York Times* crossword puzzles, sewing quilts, and hanging out with her spouse, twin 5-year-old boys, cats (Jenny and Sybil), and dog (Sammy).



### Garrett S. Brawley

Garrett S. Brawley is a trial attorney with Beck Redden in Houston, where he helps clients navigate a variety of commercial disputes around the country. He is the large city at-large director for TYLA, where he serves as vice chair of the National Trial Competition Committee and serves on the State Moot Court Competition Committee. Brawley has also served on the Public Service Committee, where he focused on

the *How Texas Courts Work* project. He is a graduate of the LeadershipSBOT class of 2021, serves on the University of Texas School of Law Houston Young Alumni Steering Committee, and is a fellow with the Texas Bar Foundation. He has lived in Houston with his wife, Maranne, and their boxer mix, Audrey, since his clerkship with U.S. District Judge Alfred H. Bennett in 2016.

## SECRETARY



### Garrett Coutts

Garrett Coutts is a partner in Brady & Hamilton in Lubbock and practices primarily in estate planning, probate, real estate, energy, business entities, and agricultural law. He grew up in Pampa and received his bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor from Texas Tech University. Coutts' siblings are also Red Raiders and his mother was a Tech Parent of the Year. During undergraduate studies, he worked in Washington,

D.C., for U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway and for Saleh Law. During law school, Coutts worked for McCleskey, Harriger, Brazill & Graf and McWhorter, Cobb, & Johnson and clerked for the statutory Probate Court No. 2 of Dallas County (Hon. Ingrid M. Warren). He began his legal career at McCleskey Harriger Brazill & Graf and joined the Brady & Hamilton team in 2019.



### Austin W. Stevenson

Austin W. Stevenson is an assistant city attorney with the city of McAllen. His practice focuses on municipal law, state and federal civil litigation, in-house general counsel, and advising nonprofit organizations, as well as land use and zoning. Stevenson is a graduate of the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas and holds a Juris Doctorate from Southern Methodist University

Dedman School of Law. He is the immediate past chair of Leadership McAllen and the current TYLA District 13 director. In his spare time, Stevenson likes to travel, play with his dog, and eat tacos.

## TREASURER



### Armin Salek

Armin Salek is the executive director of the Youth Justice Alliance. His passion for legal education started with the University of Houston Street Law program. Through Street Law, Salek served as a guest instructor at a high school where he inspired students to dream of legal careers. That transitioned into work as a full-time law teacher. After establishing the first high school legal aid clinic, he received the

Rather Prize for Education Innovation (2019) and was named the Austin ISD High School Teacher of the Year (2020) and Texas Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year (2021). Salek then completed his Master of Education Policy from Harvard (2021) and established the Youth Justice Alliance, which provides four-year, paid fellowships for aspiring first-generation lawyers.



### Jenna Castleman

Jenna Castleman serves as director of contracts for Alterman, Inc., a construction engineering company based in San Antonio that has been in business for 100 years. She is a proud graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law and served as the president of the Federal Bar Association of San Antonio's Law School Division. In addition to serving on the Texas Pattern Jury Charges—Malpractice, Premises &

Products Committee, Castleman serves TYLA as a director for District 18, Place 1 and as vice-chair of the TYLA Member Services Committee. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering at San Antonio's Alamo City House Rabbits and is a life member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.