



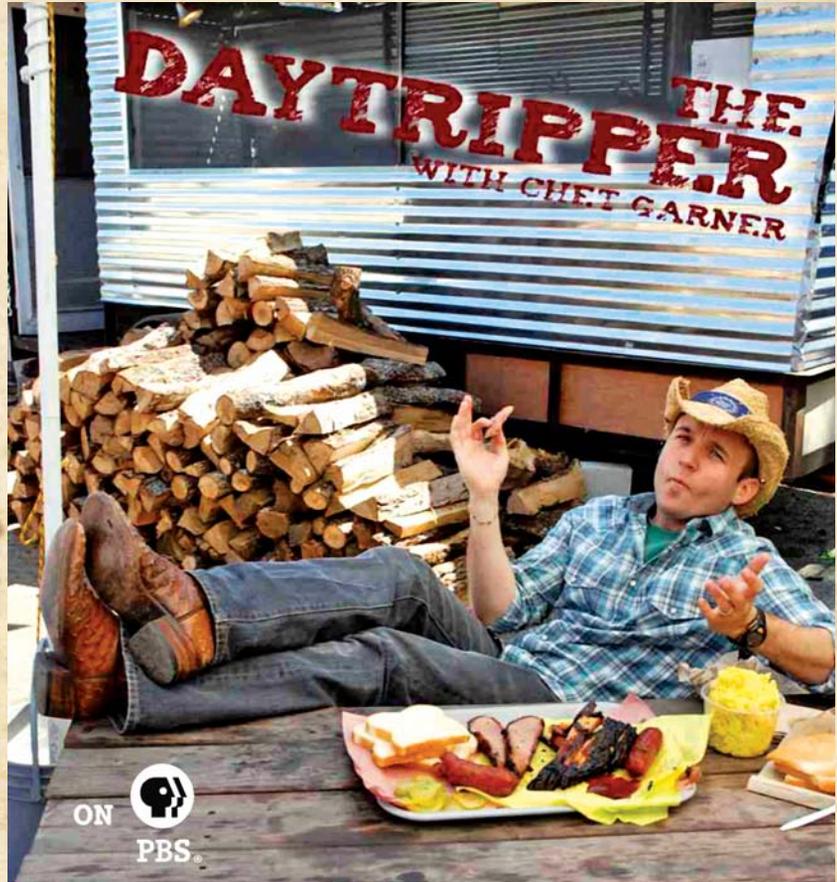
# A QUICK FIX OF ADVENTURE

As an attorney, Chet Garner didn't have time for long vacations. On the rare days when he could sneak away from the office, Garner would explore small towns, local barbecue joints, and state parks. Now, he's daytripping for a living.

Garner, formerly of the Austin office of Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. and first in his class at Baylor Law School, left behind a career in law to produce, host, and film his own television show. *The Daytripper* is an "outdoorsy, Texas-centric, barbecue-eatin', state-park-swimming travel show" that airs on PBS stations throughout the state. The show has three main components — food, outdoor activities, and culture — and covers everything from chowing down on burgers in Waco to mountain biking in the Hill Country. "Basically," Garner says, "all the things a Texan could do in a day's time."

Garner has always been interested in Texas travel. "Small towns, big towns — every place has some sort of story that paints a better picture of the town," he says. During his law firm days, he noticed there was no local programming that covered Texas day trips. "There were some great shows on," Garner says, "but none of the shows were what I was looking for." Armed with an undergraduate degree in film, a video camera, and a healthy sense of adventure, Garner decided to create his own program. "I saw a niche for a show, so I thought, 'By golly, I'll do it! At a minimum, at least I'll like to watch it.'"

*The Daytripper* debuted on Austin's PBS station as *The Austin Daytripper* last fall. As ratings grew, so did interest in expanding into new markets. Today, *The Daytripper* airs in College Station, Killeen, Waco, Houston, Dallas, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and Austin, and boasts sponsors like Rudy's Country Store and Bar-B-Q, outdoor clothing company Patagonia, and Austin's Live Oak Brewing Company. Garner



Chet Garner, host of PBS's *The Daytripper*.

has won acclaim as a host and as a Texas travel expert — recently, he was asked to help compile *Texas Monthly's* list of the state's top 50 barbecue joints and burger spots.

Garner says that even though hosting *The Daytripper* is miles away from being an attorney, law school prepared him for his current job. "There are a thousand moving pieces in producing and starring in a TV show. Being a lawyer, I got used to having a lot of irons in the fire at once. Fulbright & Jaworski was incredibly supportive when I was leaving to do the show. In fact, they were one of my first sponsors. Everyone in the Austin office got really excited about it."

The point of the show, Garner says, is to inspire Texans to "go out and do something. It only takes a weekend, or

even a day, to sneak away from the office for a quick fix of adventure." A day's drive can take you a world away. "When you get to these destinations, you might as well be across the country," Garner says. "In fact, many people travel from across America to go to these places." This season, *The Daytripper* will explore the backroads, historic locations, and best-kept secrets of Waco, Bastrop, Burnet, Luling, Shiner, and Fredericksburg.

And what is the favorite destination of the daytripper himself? "I'm amazed at how many people haven't been to Enchanted Rock," Garner says. "It's one of the most beautiful natural wonders and has to be on every Texan's list." For showtimes, and to see what else is on Garner's list, visit [www.daytripper.com](http://www.daytripper.com). ☼



# Just One Kind of Folks

There was a moment two years ago when Bryan attorneys **Phil Banks** and **Shane Phelps** stood on opposite sides of a courtroom and were about to come to blows. “We were right there in front of the jury,” Phelps says. “We were nose to nose.” Banks, a private practitioner, and Phelps, a Brazos County first assistant district attorney, did not let their heated argument escalate further, but the two lawyers were quite unhappy with their behavior.

Now very good friends, the two were spurred by the incident to look deep inside and change what they felt was a “dysfunctional” time for their legal community (scandals rocked the courthouse). “We both felt very bad about it,” Phelps says. “We thought, ‘How did we get to this point?’ But once we looked at each other as human beings instead of as adversaries, we were professional and respectful to each other.”

From that heated moment in the courtroom grew Atticus Finch Day in Brazos County. Celebrated on April 28, the birthday of *To Kill a Mockingbird* author Harper Lee, a group of attorneys dress in seersucker suits, drink lemonade, and read from her famous novel. This year’s celebration attracted 40 attorneys, an increase from the first Atticus Day, and included Atticus Finch cookies. An invocation and keynote speaker topped off the day’s event, which was sponsored by the Brazos County Bar Association. “Atticus was a childhood hero of mine,” Phelps says. “I

reread *To Kill a Mockingbird* and decided to rededicate myself to the ideals embodied by Atticus Finch and give more than lip service to them.”

Banks agrees. He says that although Atticus Finch is a fictional character, he represents very real ideals. Banks’ grandfather, W.E. Neeley, was the Brazos County attorney in the 1920s. Much like Atticus, he went against the grain in order to uphold the rule of law. At one point, Banks says, his grandfather was defeated in an election because of his refusal to join the Ku Klux Klan because he didn’t think it was the right thing to do. Atticus Day, Banks says, helps attorneys remember what Atticus Finch stands for. “As lawyers, we lose sight that we should be civilized and straightforward

and cordial with other attorneys as part of our work ethic. I think that resonates with members of the bar. To me, that’s what Atticus is all about,” he says.

Banks and Phelps say that the courthouse environment is much more civil than it was a few years ago. Both are hesitant to attribute the change to Atticus Day, but add that if every one in the legal community embraces what Atticus Finch stands for, the legal system will once again be viewed by the general public as an ideal system. “Our friendship, more than everything else, is a good representation of what Atticus Day — and our profession — are all about,” Phelps says. “We can be adversaries in the courtroom and still be respectful and effective.” ❖



Bryan attorneys Shane Phelps, left, and Phil Banks hold Atticus Finch Day.

## TEXAS PEOPLE

**Mary Evelyn McNamara**, an associate of Brown McCarroll, L.L.P. in Austin, was named to the Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas Board of Directors. McNamara has volunteered her pro bono services to VLS clients for more than five years and has coordinated Brown McCarroll’s participation in the VLS Family Law Clinic since 2008.



**Ann Ryan Robertson**, an associate of Ajamie, L.L.P. in Houston, was appointed by the U.S. State and Commerce departments as a member of the U.S. delegation to the NAFTA Advisory Committee on Private Commercial Disputes.



The Anti-Defamation League awarded **Jim Sales**, of counsel to Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P. in Houston, the Karen H. Susman Jurisprudence Award. The award is given annually to a lawyer committed to equality, justice, fairness, and community service.



**Mark A. Shank**, a partner in Gruber, Hurst, Johansen, Hail, L.L.P. in Dallas, was selected by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization to a three-year term as a member of the Civil Trial Law Exam Commission. The Commission is responsible for updating professional specifications for commercial litigators in the state, as well as drafting and grading the associated certification exams. Shank also was elected to a one-year term as chair-elect of the board of the Dallas Bar Foundation.

