



2025-2026 TYLA President-elect Candidates

The Texas Young Lawyers Association Board of Directors approved the nominations of **Ashton Barrineau Butcher**, of Dallas, and **Armin Salek**, of Austin, as 2025-2026 president-elect candidates. This year, nominees for president-elect are from metropolitan 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 by voting online from April 1 to April 30. On April 1, attorneys eligible to vote will be emailed instructions on how to vote online and a link to information on the candidates. The deadline to cast ballots is 5 p.m. CDT on April 30.



Ashton Barrineau Butcher

Dallas

Ashton Barrineau Butcher, a first-generation college graduate and the first attorney in her family, is a corporate mergers and acquisitions partner with Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in Dallas, where she has built her career over the past 10 years. She is the current vice president of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and has been awarded both the Outstanding First Year Director Award and the Outstanding Director Award for her exceptional service to Texas young lawyers.

Beyond her professional commitments, Barrineau Butcher treasures her role as a mom to her 6-year-old twin boys (and her dog and two cats). A dedicated advocate for community building, service, and mentorship, she serves as co-chair of the Akin Women's Initiative and partner liaison to the Akin Associates Committee, consistently attains Akin pro bono honor roll status, and mentors law students through the SMU Mustang Exchange program.

Ashton is also an active leader in her local bar associations, including as an ex officio director of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers. In 2024, she was selected for the Dallas Bar Association's WE LEAD women's leadership program.



Armin Salek

Austin

While studying at the University of Houston Law Center, Armin Salek volunteered as a law instructor in Houston ISD. Unfortunately, the high school students' description of lawyers involved firms they could not afford, legal aid they did not qualify for, and language barriers between their parents and effective counsel. Motivated by this experience, Salek returned to Austin and launched the first high school legal aid clinic, allowing him to both teach and provide free legal support. For that work, he was named the Austin ISD High School Teacher of the Year and the Texas Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year. After completing his Master's in Education from Harvard, he returned to Texas and established a four-year, paid fellowship for aspiring first-generation lawyers.

In addition to serving on the Texas Young Lawyers Association Board of Directors, Salek serves on the State Bar of Texas Law Focused Education Committee, the Houston Young Lawyers Association DEI Committee, the American Bar Association Commission on Youth at Risk, and the Austin Young Lawyers Association Board of Directors. He also co-chairs the Austin Law Related Education Committee and the Barbara Jordan Inn of Court's community service program. He previously represented Texas in the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division assembly.

2025-2026 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



Chase Newsom

Chase Newsom is a Dallas-based trial lawyer handling wrongful death, personal injury, and commercial disputes nationwide. He devotes his practice to lawsuits that need to be tried to a judge or jury. Prior to working with Brooker Law, Newsom worked in Houston with a nationally renowned trial lawyer, where he handled cases involving 18-wheeler crashes, plane crashes, refinery explosions, maritime incidents, and birth traumas.

Immediately after law school, he completed a one-year term as a law clerk for the late Hon. Mary Lou Robinson of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.



Sushant Mohan

Sushant Mohan is a partner in BakerHostetler, where he focuses his practice on complex commercial and business litigation. Prior to law school, he worked as an accountant and continues to hold a Texas CPA license. Mohan is a director for the Texas Young Lawyers Association, where he co-chairs the State Moot Court & Paperchase Competition Committee. He also serves on the board of directors of the Garland Walker American Inns of Court and as the South Regional Lead for Leadership Council on

Legal Diversity (LCLD). In his free time, Mohan enjoys running around with his 5-year-old son and teaching him to ride a bike, ski, and to have a good time. He is an outdoor enthusiast and loves to explore the increasingly accessible world.

VICE PRESIDENT



Jenée A. Durán

Jenée A. Durán is an associate general counsel to the Texas Tech University System in El Paso. She is the TYLA director for District 14 and vice chair of the Communications Committee. Durán is a member of the LeadershipSBOT 2022-2023 cohort and the Texas Bar Journal Board of Directors Committee, a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and is active in local bar organizations, including the El Paso Young Lawyers Association, El Paso Women's Bar Association, and the

George A. McAlmon American Inn of Court. She is also secretary for Mija, Yes you can, an El Paso nonprofit organization focused on women's empowerment. She is a proud Texas Tech University School of Law and New Mexico State University alumna. Durán enjoys time with her partner, Kyle, their three rescue dogs and cat, reading, and trying to curate the perfect playlist.



Hanna Lee

Hanna Lee is an attorney with West, Webb, Allbritton & Gentry in College Station, where she practices civil litigation. She has experience in several practice areas, including commercial litigation, administrative and higher education law, professional liability, and property disputes. Lee received her bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University and her J.D. from Baylor Law School. She served as a Title IX adviser for Texas A&M and is currently a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation

and a member of the Brazos County Bar Association. Lee is the TYLA director for District 2, where she serves on the Bylaws & Policy Manual Committee, National Trial Competition Committee, and the State Moot Court Competition Committee.

SECRETARY



Anietie Akpan

A proud alum of St. Mary's University School of Law, Anietie Akpan is director, corporate counsel for Mattress Firm, where she represents the company in commercial, omnichannel, and merchandising transactions and supports its corporate give back initiatives. She represents Houston as TYLA District 6, Place 5 director, currently serving as chair of the Programming Committee. In 2024, she was recognized by TYLA with the Outstanding First Year Director Award. A tireless advocate of nonprofits and

volunteering, she is a former chair of the Houston Young Lawyers Association Pro Bono & Service Committee, former vice chair of TYLA's Public Service Committee, a 2023 graduate of LeadershipSBOT, and is a fellow of the Houston Young Lawyers Foundation, Houston Bar Foundation, and Texas Bar Foundation.



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 co-chair of the National Trial Competition Committee and vice chair of the State Moot Court Competition Committee. Brawley has also served on TYLA's 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 of the Texas Bar Foundation. Brawley 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.

TREASURER



Ruby N. Boone

Ruby N. Boone is the deputy city attorney for the city of Victoria serving as the legal adviser for a number of city departments and commissions. She is a graduate of St. Mary's University and holds a J.D. from Texas Tech University School of Law. Since 2019, Boone has been involved in the Victoria County Bar Association Board of Directors in various leadership roles. In 2024, she was elected as a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and is now a six-year member of the Texas Bar College. Beyond

her professional commitments, Boone enjoys time with her fiancé, Harlan O. Jones, and taking her six-year-old rescue dog, Todo, to the Riverside Dog Park in Victoria.



Garrett Coutts

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 received his bachelor's degree and J.D. from Texas Tech University. Prior to a legal career, Coutts worked in Washington, D.C., for U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway and for Saleh Law. During law school, Coutts clerked for Lubbock law firms and the statutory Probate Court No. 2 of Dallas County (Hon. Ingrid M. Warren). He began his practice at McCleskey Harriger

Brazill & Graf, joined Brady & Hamilton in 2019, and was named partner in 2024. Coutts is a speaker and author for various legal-education events across the state and nation.