NATIONAL BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCACY
NBTA
ESTABLISHED 1977

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Opening Doors to a Collaborative Future

In my last message to you, I announced the launch of NBTA's first ongoing series of education programs. To date, we have hosted three webinars, which included CLE credits. Over the summer, we will assess our processes and improve them for a slate of webinars beginning in the fall. We are proud to offer these courses to the membership at no cost. We have grand designs for the future of NBTA's Certified Litigation Excellence program, bringing even greater benefit to you.

Today, I have the pleasure of announcing the next phase of NBTA's plan to create its improved community culture. In April, the NBTA Board of Directors approved a proposal allowing general members to be nominated to serve on NBTA committees. In recent months, NBTA's governing committee structure has undergone significant change, which will drive the organization's strategy and mission.

There are three specific 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 early career attorneys in the first 20 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

We look forward to this new collaborative effort to achieve our mission and strengthen our organization. **If you wish to nominate yourself or another NBTA member, please fill out the form.**

Open committee positions are limited.

The NBTA Nominating Subcommittee will review all committee member applications and send approved nominees to the Board of Directors for approval.

In other news, we are excited to announce that the ABA Committee on Specialization approved our application for board certification in Immigration Law. We await final approval by the ABA House of Delegates this summer. Board certification in Immigration Law will be our ninth specialized area of law.

I enjoyed speaking before the Vermont Trial Lawyers Association at their June annual meeting in Middlebury, VT. I am honored to represent NBTA and speak on the benefits of board certification. Together, we will spread the word about our mission and recruit the next generation of board-certified attorneys.

If you would like NBTA leadership or staff to be part of national, state or local meetings, please fill out this form. Your programs represent our best opportunity to recruit new members and demonstrate the power of the organization and its board certification program.

Board of Directors Meeting

The National Board of Trial Advocacy Board of Directors held their 2024 Spring Meeting on April 26 & 27 in Philadelphia. Day One focused on the adoption of priorities in each of the individual new and restructured committees of Finance, Public Affairs, Emerging Attorney, Governance, Specialization, SPC Standing and Exam. President Elect, Elizabeth Lindsay said, “the setting of the priorities will provide our organization with continuity.”

Day Two brought the entire board together for reports from staff and committee leadership. Included was strategic planning, collaborations with membership, implementation of the NBTA Certified Litigation Excellence webinar series, launch of the NBTA 1.1 marketing efforts and discussion of new initiatives for consideration. We will be taking action on our discussions and driving the mission forward.

The continuity of committed NBTA Presidents.

Back Row/Left to Right: Jim Wren (*Past President*), Jack McGehee (*Past President*), Keith Clifford (*Past President*)
Front Row/Left to Right: Tracy McCormack (*President 22-24*), Elizabeth Lindsey (*President Elect 24-26*) & Kathie Perry (*Vice President*)

Eighty-nine combined years of devoted staff and board member service to NBTA:

Gwen Arcangelo (24), Steve Wizner (44) and Julie Tomasetti (21)

Board Members: Justin Kahn, Karen Roberts & Sara Jacobson

Board Members: Bill Jungbauer, Wendy Weiss, Janet Frankel & Rob Wendt

Board of Directors Dinner

While NBTA is a national organization with Directors coming from across the country to participate in twice yearly meetings, our BOD Dinner provides an opportunity to hear specifically from the local members at the meeting destination. By inviting them to join us, we can get valuable insights into regional legal issues, acquire understanding of local stakeholders and provide networking opportunities. Attending from Greater Philadelphia:

- **Jack Delany**, Marshall Dennehey, P.C., Philadelphia, PA
- **John Mifka**, John F. Mifka, Attorney at Law, Marlton, NJ
- **Michael Ferrara, Jr.**, Ferrara & Gable, Cherry Hill, NJ
- **Bruce Stern**, Stark & Stark Attorneys at Law, Princeton, NJ

MICHAEL FERRARA

Spotlight on NBTA Members

We are excited to announce NBTA members Steven C. Laird and Daniel J.T. Sciano as two of the Texas Watch Champions of Justice honorees for 2024! Texas Watch, a non-partisan citizen advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that corporations are accountable to their customers Every year, they celebrate those who have dedicated their careers to pursuing justice, accountability, and defending our constitutional right to Trial by Jury. They are outstanding individuals who have made a lasting impact in our communities and courts. This Fall, they will honor the Champions at the annual award luncheon in their respective cities.

Steven C. Laird

Daniel J.T. Sciano

New Members

The National Board of Trial Advocacy would like to congratulate and welcome the following attorneys who are Tested, Proven-Excellence. This list is current as of July 25, 2024.

Civil Trial Law

Mark S. Brown | Arthur Chapman Kettering Smetak & Pikala, P.A. | Minneapolis, MN

Eric J. Ryberg | Habush Habush & Rottier S.C. | Madison, WI

Civil Practice Advocacy

Adam R. Credeur | Law Office of Kenneth W. DeJean | Lafayette, LA

John Corey Sucher | Bull Attorneys, P.A | Wichita, KS

Family Trial Law

K.O. Herston | Herston Law Group, PLC | Knoxville, TN

Keela Johnson | Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, PC | Troy, MI

Christina R. Mincy | Mincy Law, PLLC | Chattanooga, TN

Patent Litigation

Mark M. Supko | Crowell & Moring LLP | Washington, DC

Truck Accident Law

Robert S. McEvoy | Truck Wreck Justice PLLC | Chattanooga, TN

Katie Nealon | Munley Law | Scranton PA

2024 NBTA President's Awards

All nominations must be received no later than August 9th, 2024.

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 will be given out in each category.

An NBTA member may be nominated in any of the three areas. A separate nomination form is required for each area.

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, set a standard, right a wrong. etc. It should have an impact that extends beyond a local area or specific case.

For the Community: A project or initiative that makes a positive change in the community where the attorney practices. It can be accomplished through the legal work of the attorney or through a social or legal cause that the lawyer champions. It can be a single event or something ongoing.

For NBTA: A single effort or a body of work that furthers NBTA's mission to protect those in legal need through specialization accreditation or raises the professional level and quality of attorneys through the promotion of NBTA goals or board certification.

The winners will be recognized on Saturday, September 21st, 2024 at 1:00 EDT via Zoom

Make Your Nomination Here

NBTA Certified Litigation Excellence

NBTA
Certified Litigation Excellence
OUR LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM

This past Spring, we successfully launched NBTA Certified Litigation Excellence, a live webinar series. This new initiative was driven by your attorneys seeking education opportunities that would be relevant and valuable to add to their certifications. These FREE webinars for NBTA members are designed to empower, enhance, and elevate by presenting leading attorneys, judges, and experts from the legal field to discuss important topics. Our presentations were:

Legal AI is Here – Are You Ready?

Presenter – BETSY GREYTOK, Vice President, and Associate Counsel for Foundation Models – IBM

Moderator - TRACY WALTERS MCCORMACK, NBTA President

The Top Things that Judges Wish Attorneys Knew

Presenters – JUDGE JAMES COLAW, Eighth Circuit Court of Florida, Criminal

JUDGE CHARI KELLY, Third District Court of Appeals

JUDGE MELLISA S. MAY, Indiana Court of Appeals

Moderator - TRACY WALTERS MCCORMACK, NBTA President

Five Timely Topics in Legal Ethics

Presenter – JAMES MCCORMACK, Attorney for Legal Ethics, Legal Malpractice and Attorney Licensure

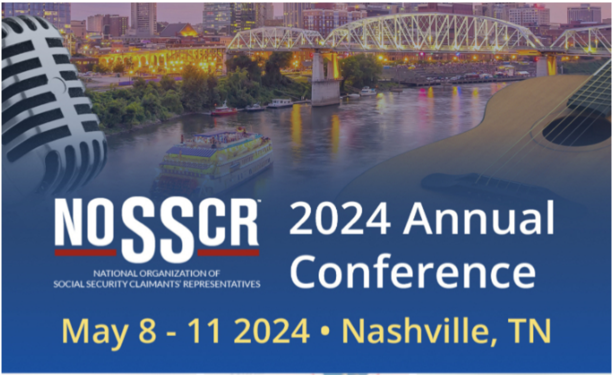
Moderator - Justin Kahn, NBTA BOD

Based on the positive feedback we received, we are looking forward to resuming and expanding the series this Fall. Details to come soon. If you would like to present a webinar, know of someone who you would like to see or would like to suggest a topic – please fill out this form:

Click Here for the Form

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

NBTA Members at NOSSCR in Nashville


NOSSCR
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMANTS' REPRESENTATIVES
2024 Annual Conference
May 8 - 11 2024 • Nashville, TN

Legal Research

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Legal research is taking on a new meaning at NBTA as we investigate attitudes towards Trial Advocacy and Accreditation. An initiative by Executive Director, John Hedstrom and President Tracy McCormack will examine how early career attorneys think of specialization, board certification and the arc of their careers. Moderated by NBTA BOD Jim Wren with input from University of Texas Department of Sociology Professor Mario Venegas has completed three focus group sessions.

The targeted groups are comprised of attorneys with diverse ethnicity/race, gender, geography, practice areas, kinds of firms (big law, government, public interest, small firm, sole practitioner, etc.)

and years of licensure. Feedback gleaned at the sessions will be used to construct a survey that will be distributed nationally. The results will help us better inform NBTA on the relevance of specialization in the contemporary legal environment, the impediments to acquiring board certification and how to best attract new membership.

Board Certification in Immigration Law

The ABA Standing Committee on Specialization has recommended the granting of accreditation to the Immigration Law program of the National Board of Trial Advocacy. This resolution is on the Consent Calendar of the ABA House of Delegates where it will be voted on August 6th as part of the ABA Annual Meeting.

NBTA Next Examination Date:

Saturday, November 2nd, 2024

Deadline to Register for Examination:

Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

Mock Exams will be open and available to take any time between: October 4th, 2024 – October 18th, 2024. The latest someone will be able to take the mock exams is on October 18th, 2024 if they want to sit for the November 2nd, 2024 Exam.

Click Here to Fill Out Registration & Pay for Exam

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