

Nomination Form: Matthew J. Kolodoski

Section Representative to the Board of Directors

Term 2018-2021

1) Provide your candidate's name, affiliation and full contact information, including email address and phone:

Matthew J. Kolodoski
Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP
700 North Pearl Street
Twenty-Fifth Floor - Plaza of the Americas
Dallas, Texas 75201
Email: mkolodoski@thompsoncoe.com
Phone: 214-880-2808
Fax: 214-871-8209

2) I am nominating this person as a SMALL/LARGE (circle or underline) Section Representative to the Board of Directors. (There are currently two open positions: one Large Section Representative and one Small Section Representative).

3) This candidate is a member of the following section:

Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Section (formerly Individual Rights & Responsibilities Section).

4) Briefly describe your candidate's personal background, character and contributions to their community.

Matthew Kolodoski is a native Texas who graduated from the University of Houston and then SMU Dedman School of Law. He has a long history of community service and community involvement, which began as an Eagle Scout in his youth and then continued into his practice of law. While at SMU, Matthew contributed to the community by working with the Innocence Project of Texas and as a student attorney (and then Chief Counsel) in SMU's Civil Law Clinic, where he represented low-income individuals in civil rights, consumer litigation, tenant advocacy, and other litigation matters in both state and federal courts. Because of his community involvement, Matthew was selected as a 2013 Ziegler Fellow at SMU Dedman School of Law.

Since becoming licensed, Matthew has also consistently provided pro bono representation and became a member of the Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas from 2014 to 2016. He is also a Life Fellow and active member of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Foundation, where he is active on both the Scholarship and Grant Committees. Additionally, Matthew is an active member of the Vivaldi Patron Circle of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

5) Describe your candidate's professional achievements and commitment to the legal profession.

Matthew Kolodoski is an experienced litigation attorney in Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP's Dallas office, where he works in the firm's nationally recognized insurance litigation and coverage group. His practice focuses primarily on the defense of nationwide insurance carriers in insurance-related matters, coverage disputes, and bad faith and extra-contractual liabilities litigation. He has represented numerous insurers in first-party commercial and homeowner property cases involving significant hail and windstorm damage in state and federal courts throughout Texas. In addition to his litigation practice, Matthew is also an experienced appellate attorney, having successfully represented clients before various courts of appeal throughout Texas. He also has extensive experience advising clients on commercial property coverage issues in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma.

Before joining Thompson Coe, Matthew completed a two-and-a-half-year federal clerkship with the Honorable Irma C. Ramirez in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas in Dallas, where he worked on various cases involving civil rights, commercial litigation, employment, and intellectual property disputes as well as complex procedural issues. Additionally, Matthew worked with noted Constitution law scholar and Dean of Berkeley Law, Erwin Chemerinsky on a cert petition to the United States Supreme Court.

Matthew has also written several articles on constitutional law, employment law, and litigation matters and has presented continuing legal education classes on a variety of topics. He recently authored an article on *The Future of Collective Arbitration: Reconciling the FAA with the NLRA, FLSA, & Other Federal Rights* that was published by the University of Texas School of Law. Finally, Matthew is actively involved in the William "Mac" Taylor American Inn of Court, Dallas Bar Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, and the DAYL Foundation.

6) Describe your nominee's participation in State Bar projects, including contributions to your Section.

Matthew Kolodoski is a past Chair of the Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Section (formerly Individual Rights & Responsibilities Section). His greatest accomplishment was beginning and being the force behind the section's recent name change, which was part of his overall plan to modernize the section (including revise and update the section bylaws), provide value to section members, and increase membership. He is also the head of the section's Wiseman Award Selection Committee, which honors one Texas lawyer each year for outstanding contributions to the civil rights and liberties of Texans, and has worked as the sections main liaison with the Texas Journal on Civil Liberties and Civil Rights at the University of Texas School of Law.

Additionally, Matthew was the Course Director for both the 11th and 12th Annual Bill of Rights Courses, which is co-sponsored by the Civil Rights & Civil Liberties Section and the LGBT Law Section, in addition to being on the planning committee of the course for several years. He is also scheduled to present at the course this May on the constitutional issues associate with public monuments. And he has previously presented on topics including *Private Prisons:*

Constitutional Litigation Against Non-State Defendants, Obscenity: Is Anything Obscene Anymore?, and First Amendment Rights of Public Employees.

Finally, Matthew has worked for several years with the Appellate Law section in planning and hosting the joint Appellate Law-Civil Liberties & Civil Rights CLE event at Annual Meeting. And he has previously spoken at the event.

In short, Matthew has been an integral part of the Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Section for several years and he made it his mission to build a strong foundation for the section to move into the future. He has and continues to be active to the section. Myself and the other members of the Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Section know that he will bring that same drive and dedication to the Small Section Representative to the Board of Directors.

7) Provide your full contact information including email address and phone.

Jay Forester
ABA YLD Rep. for District 26 (North/West Texas)
Section Chair, Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Section of the State Bar of Texas
Forester Haynie PLLC
1701 N. Market St. #210
Dallas, TX 75202
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Phone: 505-386-7449

8) Please verify that you have discussed the duties and purpose of this position with your candidate and have verified they are willing to serve in this capacity, if elected.

Yes, I have discussed the duties and purpose of this position with Matthew Kolodoski. He is incredibly excited about the position.



Jay Forester
ABA YLD Rep. for District 26 (North/West Texas)
Section Chair, Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Section of the State Bar of Texas

Matthew J. Kolodoski

Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP
700 North Pearl Street, Twenty-Fifth Floor, Dallas, Texas 75201
mkolodoski@thompsoncoe.com | 214-880-2808 (direct)

EXPERIENCE

Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP **Dallas, TX**
Associate Attorney, October 2017 – Present

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas **Dallas, TX**
Law Clerk to the Honorable Irma C. Ramirez, June 2015 – September 2017

Mackoy Hernandez Qualls Brown & Zahn, LLP **Frisco, TX**
Attorney, September 2013 – June 2015

EDUCATION

Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law **Dallas, TX**
Juris Doctor, May 2013

University of Houston **Houston, TX**
Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude, May 2010

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Author & Presenter, *Constitutional Issues of Public Monuments: Are Any Monuments Safe?*, 12th Annual Bill of Rights Course, TexasBarCLE (May 24, 2018) (forthcoming).
- Co-Author, *The Future of Collective Arbitration: Reconciling the FAA with the NLRA, FLSA, & Other Federal Rights*, 22 TEX. J. ON C.L. & C.R. 153 (2017).
- Co-Presenter, *Top Ten Things Every Law Clerk Should Know*, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, 2017 Fall Seminar for Judicial Law Clerks (October 3, 2017) (with U.S. Magistrate Judges Jeffrey L. Cureton and Rebecca Rutherford).
- Author & Presenter, *Private Prisons: Constitutional Litigation Against Non-State Defendants*, 11th Annual Bill of Rights Course, TexasBarCLE (May 26, 2017).
- Co-Presenter, *Waivers of Class Action/Collective Action in Arbitration Agreements*, Dallas Bar Association, Labor & Employment Section Meeting (May 15, 2017).
- Co-Author & Co-Presenter, *First Amendment Rights of Public Employees*, 10th Annual Bill of Rights Course, TexasBarCLE (May 27, 2016).
- Author, *U.S. Supreme Court Update*, The College Bulletin, Texas Bar College (Fall 2015).
- Author & Moderator, *Obscenity: Is Anything Obscene Anymore?*, 9th Annual Bill of Rights Course, TexasBarCLE (May 29, 2015).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

Civil Liberties & Civil Rights (formerly Individual Rights & Responsibilities) Section, State Bar of Texas (*Immediate Past Chair*, 2017–2018; *Chair*, 2016–2017; *Chair-Elect*, 2016; *Secretary-Treasurer*, 2015; *Wiseman Award Selection Committee Head*, 2016–Present), Dallas Bar Association (2010–Present), Dallas Association of Young Lawyers (2010–Present), DAYL Foundation (*Life Fellow*, 2017–Present; *Scholarship Committee Member*, 2017–Present; *Grant Committee Member*, 2018), Texas Bar College (2014–Present), Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas (2014–2016), William “Mac” Taylor American Inn of Court (*Associate Member*, 2015–Present)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Vivaldi Patron Circle, 2017–Present

ADMISSIONS

Texas, Minnesota, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas