

Section Representative Nomination Questionnaire

1. Nominee

**Hon. Michael Davis
Palestine, Texas 75801**

2. There is one medium section representative and one large section representative position open this year. Select the position you are applying for:

I am applying as a member of the Judicial Section for the medium section representative to the State Bar Board of Directors.

3. List which section(s) you are a member of.

I am a member of the Judicial Section, Litigation Section, Family Law Section, and the Criminal Justice Law Section.

4. If applicable, list any positions you held within your section(s) and what years you served.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Judicial Section. My term began in 2024.

5. Briefly describe your personal background, character, and contributions to your community.

Born and raised in Palestine, Texas, I grew up working behind the counter in my parents' local Western Auto Store. Following high school, I proudly served our country in the United States Air Force for six years. My military service made an enormous impact on my life, affording me the opportunity to live abroad, travel, and gain many new experiences—all of which, instilled a strong work ethic and a deep sense of service to others.

Following my military service, I completed my undergraduate degrees at Texas State University, graduating *summa cum laude*, with majors in Philosophy and Psychology. I went on to attend the Texas Tech University School of Law, where I was a member of the Texas Tech Law Review and the Board of Barristers.

I chose to return to my hometown to begin my career in law. My practice centered around civil and estate litigation but also encompassed many other areas of law. In 2017, I was appointed to the 369th District Court, which encompasses Anderson, Cherokee, and Leon counties. I currently serve as the Local Administrative Judge for Anderson and Cherokee counties.

Through both faith and profession, I believe there is a duty to serve and to help improve our communities. I am deeply involved in my local communities and in the State Bar of Texas. I have many years of experience serving on a variety of boards within my judicial district—primarily municipal and non-profit organizations. My past service includes Chair of the Palestine Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals (prior to taking the bench), the board of directors of the Palestine YMCA, and the board of directors for Palestine Meals on Wheels. I currently serve as Chair of the Crisis Center of Anderson and Cherokee counties and in the Rotary Club of Palestine. I also devote time to mentoring local high school students.

I am married to Sandy McReynolds Davis. Sandy is a registered nurse who works as the Risk Manager at Palestine Regional Medical Center. We have three children—Ashley, William, and Lauren.

6. Describe your professional achievements and commitment to the legal profession.

Since law school, I found my passion in helping others in the courtroom, and accordingly, my professional background centered on litigation. In practice, I enjoyed the opportunity to help people through some of the most difficult situations in their lives. Moreover, I also took great pride in my pro bono work to help others obtain the representation they needed in those situations. As mentioned previously, I was appointed to the 369th District Court in 2017. I enjoy the challenges of the position and most especially, making a difference in my three counties.

Some of my professional recognitions and achievements include being selected to attend the 2012 American Board of Trial Advocates National Trial College, taught at Harvard Law School. I also was selected as a member of the 2013 LeadershipSBOT class for the State Bar of Texas. This experience initiated my involvement with the State Bar and helped introduce me to some of the most phenomenal people on my journey. Following the LeadershipSBOT program, I started serving on the Local Bar Services Committee. My tenure on this committee was from 2013 through 2023, and I served as Chair of the committee from 2019—2023. I also began serving on the Administration of the Rules of Evidence Committee in 2019. In addition, I was recognized as a recipient of the Bob Black Bar Leaders Award in 2017 for my commitment to local bar associations by the Texas Tech School of Law Alumni Association. Following my tenure as Chair of the Local Bar Services Committee, I was selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Judicial Section.

In 2023, I started teaching courses as an adjunct professor at the Texas Tech School of Law to mentor young law students and give back to our profession. I teach two courses each year—Trial Advocacy and Negotiation Workshop. This has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career, next to my service to the judiciary.

7. Describe your participation in State Bar projects, including contributions to your section.

My service and experiences in the State Bar taught me the importance of this organization to our legal profession. Along with the state bar service mentioned above, I am a Fellow in the Texas Bar Foundation and have taken part in numerous state bar initiatives over the years, including hosting student civics education programs and legal clinics for veterans.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the Judicial Section, I also am a member of the Website and Technology Committee. Along with my colleagues in the Judicial Section, our efforts are focused on working collaboratively to provide a strong voice for the judiciary to both the legislature and the public.

8. Please acknowledge that you are aware of the duties and purpose of this position, and verified you are able to serve in this capacity, if elected.

Yes, I am aware of the duties and responsibilities of this position and will be able to fully serve, if elected.



JUDGE MICHAEL DAVIS

EDUCATION

Texas Tech University School of Law, Lubbock, TX
Doctor of Jurisprudence

May 2008

Awards and Achievements

- Regent's Academic Scholarship
- TEXAS TECH LAW REVIEW
 - Outstanding Student Article Award, 2006-2007
- American Bar Association National Arbitration Champion, 2008
- Board of Barristers
 - Order of the Barrister, 2008

Publications

- Charles M. Davis, Comment, *A Lost Will, a Photocopy of the Original, and "Two Snakes in the Grass": Is it Time to Update Section 85 of the Probate Code?*, 40 TEXAS TECH L. REV. (2007).

Texas State University-San Marcos, TX
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology & Philosophy, *summa cum laude*

December 2004

Awards and Achievements

- Jack Martin Political Communication Scholarship and Internship
- National Dean's List; Texas State Dean's List – College of Liberal Arts
- College of Liberal Arts Academic Excellence Award
- Alpha Chi National College Honor Society

Publications

- Charles M. Davis and Booker Franklin, Essay, *Just War Theory Reconsidered*, presented in a working group during the May of 2005 Law and Justice in a Global Society Conference, sponsored by the 22ND World Congress of Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy in Grenada, Spain

PROFESSIONAL

Judge, 369th District Court of Texas
Anderson, Cherokee, and Leon Counties

Nov 2017 – Present

- Local Administrative Judge, Anderson and Leon Counties

Adjunct Professor, Texas Tech University School of Law
Lubbock, Texas

Aug 2023 – Present

Courses

- Trial Advocacy
- Negotiation Workshop

Associate, The Law Offices of Jim Parsons
Offices in Palestine, Athens, Tyler, Crockett, and Dallas, Texas

Sep 2008 – Oct 2017

Practice Areas

- Civil and Estate Litigation, Business and Commercial Law, Corporate Defense, Family Law, and Wills and Trusts

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND HONORS

Bar Admissions

- United States Supreme Court, Federal Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Texas Supreme Court, and all Texas State Courts

Professional Memberships & Committees

- The State Bar of Texas
 - Past-Chair, the Local Bar Services Committee, 2013–23
 - Member, the Administration of the Rules of Evidence Committee
 - Member of the following State Bar of Texas Legal Sections:
 - Judicial, Litigation, Family Law, and Criminal Law
- Member, Texas Association of District Judges
- The Honorable T. John Ward Inn of Court
- Anderson County Bar Association; Past-President, 2010–17

Awards and Honors

- Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation
- 2020 Texas Tech University School of Law Rising Star Award
- 2017 Texas Tech University School of Law Bob Black Bar Leaders Award
- 2013 LeadershipSBOT Class
- American Board of Trial Advocates National Trial College
 - 2012 Graduate Fellow, taught at Harvard Law School

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Panel Member, *Drafting Documents to Persuade the Judge: A View from the Bench* (December 2023)
- Author and Presenter, *Evidentiary Considerations: Practice Tips from the Bench*, State Bar Annual Meeting 2023: Family Law CLE (June 2023)
- Panel Member, *Creating Healthy Habits, Beyond Wellness: Finding and Maintaining Attorney Wellness* (December 2022)
- Speaker, *Effective Trial Advocacy: Importance of the Opening Statement*, 44th Annual Tim Evans Texas Criminal Trial College (August 2021)
- Author and Presenter, *A View from the Bench*, Smith County Bar Association (September 2020)
- Author and Presenter, *Summary Judgment: Basics and Practical Uses of the Mini-Trial*, 22nd Annual Summer School: Sun, Sand, and CLE for the General Practitioner (July 2020)

CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Crisis Centers of Anderson and Cherokee Counties
 - Board President, 2019 – Present
- Rotary Club of Palestine, Texas
 - Member, 2009 – Present; Past-President, 2017-18

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Air Force

Sep 1995 – Aug 2001

Electronic Security Systems Program Director, Aviano Air Base, Italy

Alarm Response Team Leader, Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota

MILITARY HONORS AND DECORATIONS

- Airman Leadership School Distinguished Graduate Award; Air Force Commendation Medal; Air Force Achievement Medal; National Defense Medal; Air Force Good Conduct Medal; Kosovo Campaign Medal with combat device; Humanitarian Medal; Marksmanship Ribbon with device; NATO Medal