



**Award Criteria, Guidelines & Selection Procedure 2021**

**Trial Lawyer of the Year:**

1. Excellent advocate
2. Distinguished career
3. Superb reputation of high ethics and fair play
4. Recent outstanding trial results
5. Service to ABOTA and exemplification of its ideals
6. Nominees must be practicing lawyer at the time of selection

**Jurist of the Year:**

1. Committed to preserving and improving the jury trial system.
2. Knowledge of the law
3. Preparation and timely rulings
4. Evenhanded administration of the rule of law
4. Requires professionalism from all lawyers.
5. Maintains open and accessible relationships with the bar.
6. A nominee should be a sitting judge at the time of selection.

**TEX-ABOTA Champion of Civil Justice**

1. Promotion of a better understanding, appreciation, and respect for the civil justice system
2. Courage and perseverance in pursuing improvements in the civil justice system beyond the person's own interests

**Lifetime Achievement Award:**

1. Outstanding contributions to TEX-ABOTA
2. Insight, vision, leadership, and continued faithful participation in the organization

This award is not intended to be given every year, but rather occasionally when merited to honor remarkable service to TEX-ABOTA.

*It is preferred that the award recipients attend the Annual Dinner in Santa Fe on Saturday TEX-ABOTA. TEX-ABOTA may reimburse the recipients of the award for the recipient's airfare and hotel, the recipient's spouse or significant other's airfare, and provide \$100 per diem for expenses.*

**Nomination Procedures for Awards**

Nomination letters should be sent to Chairperson for the award, along with any supporting documentation. The chairpersons for 2021 are as follows:

Champion of Civil Justice – Pete Patterson

Jurist of the Year – Justice Ken Molberg, Judge Caroline Baker

Trial Lawyer of the Year – Brad Parker

1. Someone must speak on behalf of each nominee at the board meeting designated for voting on the awards.

2. Nominations can ***only be made by Chapters.***
3. Eligible voters for each chapter include the *immediate past-president, president, vice president, and 2 designated National Board Representatives.* In the event that a chapter has not notified the TEX-ABOTA President of the designated voting representatives for the annual awards before the meeting of the annual award voting, it shall be presumed that the chapter has designated the National Board representatives present.
4. Eligible voters **must** attend the meeting in person or by phone.
5. Ties may either be decided in additional ballots, or if they are different courts (Appellate, etc.) more than one award may be presented.
6. In the event a person serves in more than one capacity eligible to vote, he or she may cast only one vote.
7. Proxy votes are not permitted.
8. The voting shall be strictly confidential. Only the winner will be announced, not the actual vote count.
9. The President of TEX-ABOTA and the Executive Director shall tabulate the ballots.