

AMERICAN
BOARD
OF TRIAL
ADVOCATES
San Antonio Chapter



TEXAS TOP VERDICTS

Editorial Board

Richard Orsinger
Mary Wilson
Patricia O. Alvarez

In this issue...

- Richard Orsinger chats with six Texas-ABOTA "Top Verdict Attorneys."
- Richard Orsinger interviews Patricia O. Alvarez on learning from plaintiff attorneys.
- President's Corner.
- Masters in Trial Information.
- Calendar of Events.

For a list of the 2019-2022 Top Verdicts in Texas, [click here](#).

A Houston Jury Awards \$352 Million To The Family Of A Paralyzed
Airport Worker



Randy Sorrels, a Houston ABOTA attorney, represented Ulysses Cruz against Allied Aviation Fueling and its driver, Reginald Willis.

"If you knew the injuries, you'd wonder why it wasn't more," Randy told Law.com. *"This was not a runaway jury."*

In this video, Randy explains how he presented his clients' damages to the jury and why the jury was not a runaway jury. To view the settlement video presented at mediation by the Sorrels Law Firm, [click here](#). For Randy's resume, [click here](#). For the jury's verdict, [click here](#).

A Dallas Jury Awards \$33.5 Million in a Products Liability Case



Bob Hilliard, a Corpus Christi ABOTA attorney, chats with Richard Orsinger about his trial strategy in *Siegel, et al. v. Yamaha Golf-Car Co., et al.* and touches on life lessons he feels prepared him as a trial attorney.

Bob asked that we share Dex's Story, a story of empathy, resilience and courage, and a story that he takes to heart when representing his clients. [Click here to watch Dex's story](#).

To view Bob's resume, [click here](#). To view Bob's list of complex litigation cases, [click here](#). To view the judgement and jury verdict in *Siegel*, [click here](#).

A Cuero Jury Awards \$40,145,909 Against A Trucking Company



In *Kulik, et al. v. Stallion Production Services LP, et al.*, Houston ABOTA attorneys Don Kidd and Jim Perdue, Jr. represented Lloyd Kulik. Don and Jim were hired a year after the accident but their perseverance to obtain physical evidence paid off. With the help of a biodynamic expert, evidence left inside Kulik's pickup truck and components of the vehicles, the jury resolved the issue of liability in Kulik's favor.

Don and Jim chat with Richard on their quest to recover evidence thought to be lost, how they used that evidence at trial, and their trial strategy.

For Don Kidd's resume [click here](#). For Jim Perdue, Jr.'s resume, [click here](#). For the final judgment and jury verdict, [click here](#).

Ray Thomas Tries Two Cases Back To Back In Hidalgo County. In Each Case, The Juries Awarded Over \$70 Million



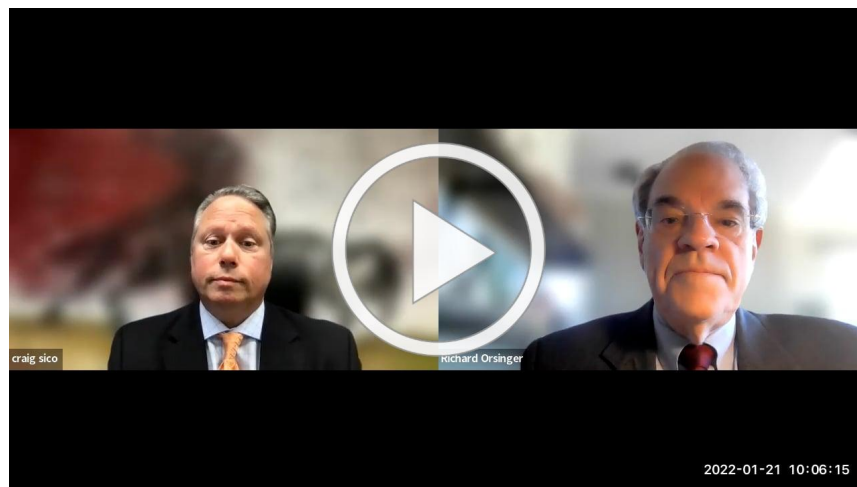
Ray Thomas is an ABOTA attorney from McAllen ([click here](#) for his resume). Like many other ABOTA masters in trial interviewed by Richard Orsinger, Ray has successfully prosecuted a multitude of cases in South Texas. In his chat with Ray, Richard Orsinger touched on two very different cases Ray tried back-to-back: *Lozano v. JNM Express LLC* and *Sustainable Products Services, LLC v. Scrap Metal Services, LLC, et al.*

Lozano was a trucking case where the jury awarded Ray's client \$80,005,006 ([click here for the verdict](#); [click here for the punitive damages verdict](#)). In *Sustainable Products*, a breach of contract and fiduciary case, the jury awarded his client \$70,200,000.00 ([click here for the verdict](#)).

Ray is dedicated to his heavy South Texas trial practice, his family, especially his granddaughter, and his ranch!



Craig Sico Chats About His \$301 Billion Verdict In A Corpus Christi Dram Shop Case And A \$40.5 Million Verdict In A NM Trucking Case



Craig Sico, a Corpus Christi ABOTA trial attorney, obtained a \$301 billion verdict in *Anderson v. Beer Belly's Sports Bar*. Although Craig and his clients will likely never collect the default verdict, he and two other lawyers used this case to remind the community of the horrific costs of drunk driving and the irresponsibility of bars.

"There is no justification for alcohol servers to blatantly ignore TABC rules designed to protect the public, which was the cause of these tragic losses" stated Craig in a press release. [Click here](#) for the press release.

In *Kathryn Armijo v. Werner*, a Santa Fe County, NM, jury returned a verdict of \$40.5 million for a negligent training claim. Richard Orsinger chats with Craig about this verdict, his trial strategy, what he has learned from all his cases and his future plans.

For Craig Sico's resume, [click here](#). For the special verdict in the *Armijo* case: [click here](#) for the first part and for the second part [click here](#).

Comments from Patricia O. Alvarez



Richard Orsinger chats with Patricia Alvarez, a San Antonio ABOTA member, about her career as a defense attorney and the lessons she learned from the plaintiff's bar. For Patricia's resume, [click here](#).

President's Corner

Hello to all our members! I hope everyone is staying safe and adjusting to this new "normal." Despite these trying pandemic times, our local ABOTA leaders have been quite active and planning events for the year. In case you haven't heard, we are very excited to learn that we have been nominated for Chapter of the Year by National ABOTA for the second time in a row! The conference will be in the Windy City of Chicago on May 14, 2022 and all are invited. We'd love to have a strong San Antonio contingency there showing our pride! To register, [click here](#).

In more local news, it's time to nominate potential candidates for our local ABOTA chapter, if you know any attorneys that you believe qualify and would like to nominate for membership, please reach out to Hella V. Schuerman at hella@sch-lawfirm.com.

In other news, I'd like to announce the appointment of Alex Katzman as our new ABOTA Foundation liaison. Alex will be keeping us informed and up to date with all news and events dealing with the Foundation and helping us be more knowledgeable and involved with such a great Foundation. If you have any questions about the Foundation or would like to be involved, please reach out to Alex at alex@katzmanandkatzman.com.

Keep in mind that our Judge Chat with Judges David Canales, Norma Gonzalez and Ron Rangel will take place this coming Thursday, February 17 at 4pm via zoom. Please make an effort to attend as we're striving to show our judges the involvement and importance of this organization. Get to know our local judges in a more social setting and feel free to ask them questions. The more the merrier!

In line with becoming a constant presence with our local judges, we are planning a summer Judicial Forum to get to know the candidates of all political parties once the primaries are finalized. This will involve a question and answer session between the candidates and our members. Stay tuned for more details and don't forget that early voting in our local primaries has begun! Go vote for the candidates you support and encourage other to follow your lead!

The Masters in Trial Program is scheduled for April 22 at the San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk. This is a great opportunity for lawyers in your law firm to witness a live trial with jury deliberation by the top San Antonio, Corpus Christi and Rio Grande trial attorneys (see flyer below). [To register click her](#).

Lastly, our social committee is planning an April happy hour to get us all back together and in person in an outdoor setting. Stay tuned for more details and hope to see everyone soon!

My very best, Javier Espinoza, President SA-ABOTA



Presented by the San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and Rio Grande Valley Chapters of ABOTA

Learn from the MASTERS

April 22, 2022 | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk
889 E Market St. San Antonio, TX 78205

Trial Teams

Plaintiff Team



Defense Team



Course Directors



Judge Presiding



Jury Consultant



Schedule

7:30 am	Registration
8:00 am	Introduction & Welcome
8:30 am	Opening Statements
9:10 am	Examination of Plaintiff
9:50 am	Refreshment Break
10:00 am	Examination of Plaintiff's Witness
10:40 am	Examination of Plaintiff's Expert
11:20 am	Examination of Defendant
12:00 pm	Lunch - Civility Matters (1 Hour Ethics)
1:00 pm	Examination of Defendant's Safety Director
1:40 pm	Refreshment Break
1:50 pm	Examination of Defendant's Expert
2:30 pm	Closing Arguments
3:10 pm	Jury Deliberation
4:00 pm	Panel Discussion on Strategy & Technique
4:30 pm	Happy Hour

Sponsors



Registration Links & Pricing Information

ABOTA MIT Registration

https://www.abota.org/Online/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=TXMIT22&WebsiteKey=cf62e51b-adeb-4305-b268-feec25031834

\$249 Early Registration

\$299 Regular Registration (In-Person or Virtual Option)

\$50 Student or Judge

\$150 Young Lawyer (Less Than 5 Years) or Government Lawyer

Hotel Registration

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1636418024678&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

\$189 USD / Per Night

For More Information Contact: Dennis Peery | d.peery@tylerpeery.com

CALENDAR

ABOTA

Judge Chats: Every Third Thursday of the Month at 4 p.m.
TEX-ABOTA's Talk Tuesdays: Every First Tuesday of the Month at Noon.

March 3-4, 2022: Trial Strategies Seminar in New Orleans, LA

March 4, 2022: TEX-ABOTA Board Meeting

April, 2022: SA-ABOTA Happy Hour

April 22, 2022: Masters in Trial in San Antonio

April 23, 2022: TEX-ABOTA Board Meeting

May 13-14, 2022: National ABOTA Meeting in Chicago, IL (to register, [click here](#))
Summer 2022: SA-ABOTA Judicial Candidate Forum
June 16-19, 2022: TEX-ABOTA Meeting in Santa Fe, NM
June 19, 2022: TEX-ABOTA Board Meeting
June 20-25, 2022: ABOTA Trial Academy
August 5-6, 2022: National ABOTA Meeting in Montreal, Canada
September 22-October 4, 2022: International Trip Cruise (British Isles, France, Spain and Portugal)
December, 2022: SA-ABOTA Christmas Party (to be announced)