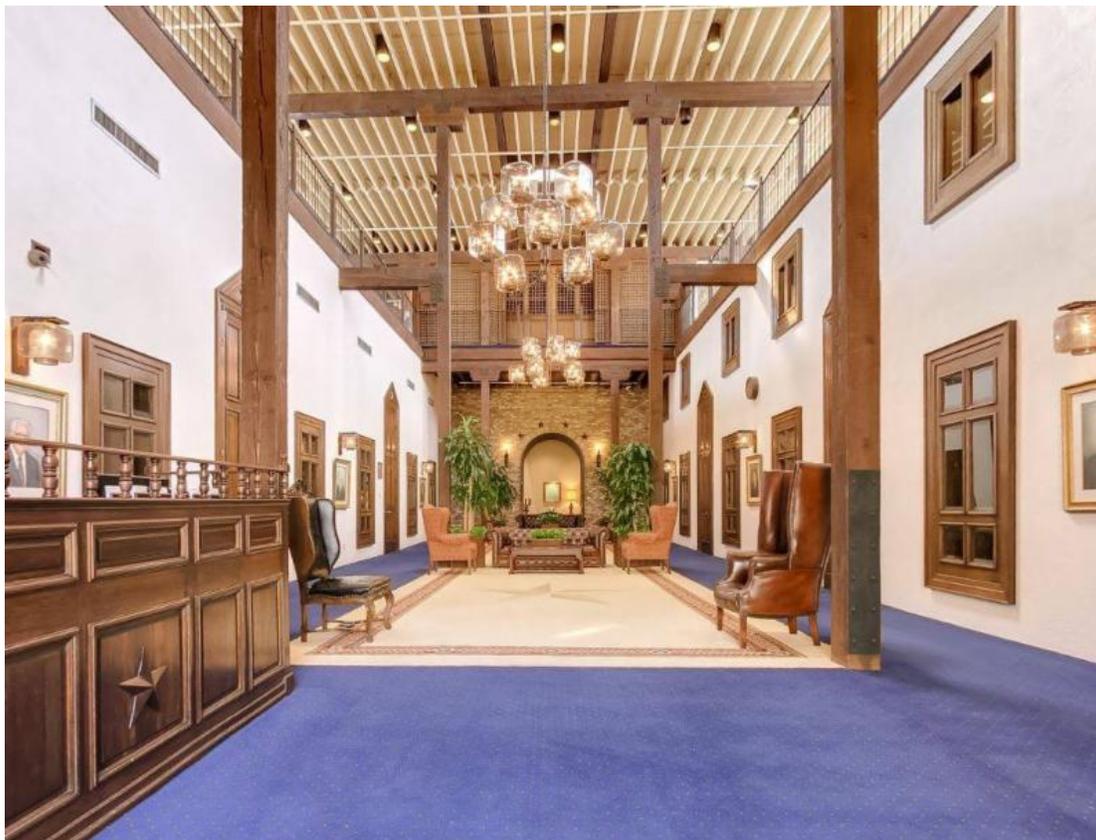




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For the Record

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5TH ANNUAL TEXT FREE TEXAS SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST AVAILABLE TO TEENS WHO PLEDGE NOT TO TEXT AND DRIVE

This April marks Abraham Watkins' 5th Annual Text Free Texas Scholarship Contest. To coincide with Distracted Driving Awareness Month, our firm invites driving age students from

local high schools to participate in our contest by submitting pledges to not text and drive. This year our firm extended the scholarship opportunity to Bellaire High School, Northside High School, Westbury High School, and Wisdom High School. At the end of the month, our attorneys will review all pledges, and the student with the best pledge from each high school will receive a \$250 scholarship. The four scholarship recipients will be announced during the first week of May.

The attorneys of Abraham Watkins have seen the devastating consequences of distracted driving. Our Text Free Texas Scholarship Contest was created to raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving, particularly among teens, the most vulnerable age group. Although distractions affect drivers of all ages, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States. The most common form of distraction in distracted driving related accidents is the use of cellphones, specifically for texting, emailing, social media, and the internet. Over eight people are killed and 1,161 injured daily in the United States in crashes involving a distracted driver. Although our scholarship contest is geared towards teens, we encourage all drivers to personally pledge to remain text free while driving. For more information about our firm's annual scholarship program, visit TextFreeTexas.com.



NEW ASSOCIATE JOINS ABRAHAM WATKINS



Abraham Watkins is proud to welcome Michelle Ciolek to the firm as an Associate. She joins us from an insurance defense firm where she gained valuable experience representing insurance carriers in cases involving fraud, uninsured/underinsured motorist claims, insurance bad faith, and other related matters. Her current practice focuses primarily on representing individuals and families in a wide range of civil litigation areas, including personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, product liability, motor vehicle accidents, and workplace injury.

Ms. Ciolek graduated *cum laude* from Syracuse University in 2009 with a degree in political science and history. Following her undergraduate studies, she attended South Texas College of Law Houston on a Dean's Merit Scholarship. While in law school, Ms. Ciolek was named to the Dean's Honor List and received three separate CALI Awards for the highest grade in the class. She also clerked for three plaintiff's law firms. In 2012, she earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law Houston and received membership in the Order of Lytae. [Learn More](#)

CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT OBTAINED FOR FAMILY OF CHILD KILLED IN TRAGIC ELECTROCUTION AT CONROE RESORT

Firm Partner Randy Sorrels recently obtained a confidential settlement for the family of Andrew Orvis, an 8-year-old boy, who was electrocuted at the Piney Shores Resort on Lake Conroe on July 20, 2014. The wrongful death lawsuit was filed in Dallas County against SilverLeaf Resorts, Inc., operating company of the Piney Shores Resort.

Andrew Orvis was at the Piney Shores Resort when he fell from a dock where he had been sitting and dipping his feet into the lake's water. He was immediately pulled from the water by his father and given CPR at the scene by both his father and later Montgomery County EMS and Conroe Fire Department. Andrew was then airlifted to Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, where he was pronounced dead. [Learn More](#)



ABRAHAM WATKINS VOLUNTEERS AT HBA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD



Attorneys and staff of Abraham Watkins spent last Saturday together building the Houston Bar Association's (HBA's) 20th Habitat for Humanity House. Each spring, the HBA joins Houston Habitat for Humanity through sponsors and volunteers to build a home for low-income Houstonians. Firm Partner Benny Agosto, Jr. served as Build Captain on Saturday, and was responsible both for recruiting the volunteers and serving as the point of contact for that day's build. Saturday's build marked Mr. Agosto's

second consecutive year in that role, and was the latest in a history of service as Build Captain that stretches back to several prior years as well. Thank you to all of our Abraham Watkins volunteers as well as the Foundry Church volunteers who helped make Saturday's build efforts a success!

ANALYSIS OF TEXAS SUPREME COURT OPINIONS

For the past decade, firm attorney Jay Jackson has published a Supreme Court Update that analyzes every decision rendered by the Texas Supreme Court. During the last several years, firm attorney Brian Humphrey has co-authored the paper with Mr. Jackson. This update—which is submitted as part of several Continuing Legal Education Courses (such as the State Bar of Texas' 2016 Advanced Personal Injury Law Course)—includes all cases from the preceding year or more. In 2015, Mr.



Jackson was honored by the College of the State Bar of Texas with the Franklin Jones Best CLE Article Award for the Texas Supreme Court Update that he presented at the State Bar of Texas' Advanced Personal Injury Law Course in 2014. Abraham Watkins welcomes the opportunity to share the current paper with you: you may download it [here](#). This paper contains all of the opinions from 2015 and 2016. In addition, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Humphrey plan to issue a paper analyzing all of the 2017 decisions by the Texas Supreme Court. If you would like a copy, please email Jay Jackson at jjackson@abrahamwatkins.com; he will be pleased to put you on the email distribution list.



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