



# ForteRead

## ABRAHAM, WATKINS, NICHOLS, SORRELS, AGOSTO & FRIEND

### Sammy Ford Becomes Seventh Board Certified Attorney in the Firm



Abraham Watkins proudly announces that attorney Sammy Ford has become Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS). Mr. Ford's success on the Board Certification exam increases Abraham Watkins' number of Board Certified lawyers to seven - the most of any Houston Plaintiffs Personal Injury law firm.

To be eligible for consideration for Board Certification, an attorney must have been in practice for at least five years and must have at least three years of meaningful experience in his or her specialty area. Only 9 percent of Texas' 90,000 lawyers achieve board certification, and less than 2 percent of Texas attorneys have earned the right to be called a specialist in personal injury trial law. [Read more.](#)

### Recent Changes to Texas Rules of Civil Procedure

*By: Randy Sorrels*

The Texas Rules of Civil Procedure have recently undergone several changes that significantly affect the day-to-day litigation practice. Most of the changes center around the technology advances that have occurred over the last few years. We want to set out some of the most important ones that are in effect as of January 1, 2014:



1.) Prior to the changes, when a document was served on another party via fax (called "telephonic document transfer" in the TRCP), three days

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**UPCOMING SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

would be added to the time the other party had to respond. Under the new revision, the responding party can NOT add three days to the deadline to respond if the item is received via fax. This change occurs in Rule 4 and Rule 21a(c) of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

2.) Rule 21 now requires that every pleading (trial and appeal) contain at least one attorney's email address in the signature block on documents electronically filed. This is found in Rule 57 of the TRCP and TRAP Rules 6.1(c), 6.2, and 9.1.

3.) Rule 21a has been expanded to allow service of documents on other lawyers via email at the email address provided in the signature block.

4.) Rule 21 states that documents that are served, filed or issued by a court or clerk is considered signed if there is "a /s/ and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear, [read more](#).

## Firm Sponsors Battle Buddy 57: Event Raises Over \$12,000 for Texas Children's Hospital



Abraham Watkins is committed to serving both clients and the community. Most recently, the firm was the proud title sponsor of Battle Buddy 57, a fundraising effort in Houston benefitting Texas Children's Hospital.

Battle Buddy 57 raises funds for the Olivia Grace Stevens Endowment Fund for Neonatology, which is named for a four-year-old Houstonian who was born with a rare chromosomal deletion that caused her to spend the first 57 days of her life in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Texas Children's Hospital. Because of the care she received from her medical team while at Texas Children's, Olivia is a thriving little girl. [Read more](#).

## Benny Agosto Jr. Delivers Commencement Address at South Texas College of Law

In recognition of his status as a distinguished alumnus of South Texas College of Law, and an influential member of the legal community, Firm Partner Benny Agosto Jr. was invited by Dean Donald Guter to deliver the commencement address at the College's December graduation ceremony.

Mr. Agosto has proudly served South Texas College of Law in a variety of roles. He has sponsored and judged STCL mock trial competitions, spoken to classes and at CLEs hosted at the College, and is a former member of the South Texas College of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors. He has also been recognized for his monetary donations to STCL, having been named to the inaugural South Texas College of Law 1923 Society for his lifetime gifts to the school, including the Benny and Nikki Agosto Children's Waiting Room in the Randall O. Sorrels Legal Clinics, and the Bernardino and Marina Agosto Scholarships, given annually to Hispanic graduates. [Read more](#).



JAN. 31 -

### **SAMMY FORD**

"Mass Torts Breakout: Litigating in the Mass Torts Media Spotlight," Environmental, Mass Torts, & Products Liability Litigation Committees' Joint CLE Seminar, American Bar Association, Colorado

FEB. 26 -

### **CHELSIE KING GARZA**

Speed Mentoring Event, Houston Bar Association Gender Fairness Committee, Abraham Watkins

## Save the Date!



**What:** Allied Advocates Foundation's 2nd Annual Sporting Clays Tournament

**When:** Friday, May 2nd

**Where:** Rio Brazos Hunting Reserve - Simonton, Texas

**Why:** To support Peach Outreach, a non-profit committed to raising awareness about uterine cancer and other gynecological cancers, and funds to support research and education to advance early diagnosis, treatment and the quality of life of patients.

**Contact:** [Daniel Horowitz](#)



**What:** MABATx 9th Annual Luncheon

**When:** Wednesday, August 20th

## Eight Firm Attorneys Named to Houstonia's Top Attorneys List



Abraham Watkins is proud to announce the selection of firm attorneys Nick Nichols, Randy Sorrels, Benny Agosto Jr., Daniel Horowitz, Mo Aziz, Jay Jackson, Chelsie King Garza, and Brant Stogner to Houstonia Magazine's Top Lawyers 2013 list. Within the list, our firm is represented in the following practice areas: Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice, Business/Commercial Litigation, Product Liability, Oil/Gas/Energy, Admiralty and Maritime, Aviation and Aerospace, Real Estate, Labor and Employment, Insurance, and Consumer Protection.

Houstonia worked closely with AVVO, a company that rates attorneys across the nation on factors such as experience, education, training, speaking engagements, published works, awards, and peer endorsements, to determine the top attorneys of Houston. This list is intended to serve as a guide for those seeking legal counsel.

To view the complete list of attorneys on Houstonia's Top Lawyers 2013 list, click [here](#).

**Where:** Double Tree Hotel - Houston

**Why:** To award scholarships to outstanding law students who best exemplify leadership, commitment, justice, and equality within the Hispanic community and beyond

**Contact:** [Benny Agosto Jr.](#)

Real Trial Lawyers. Real Results.

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