



**Arkansas**Bar  
ASSOCIATION

*Tradition. Integrity. Trust.*

## **About the Arkansas Bar Association**

The Arkansas Bar Association, established in 1898, is a voluntary bar association with over 5,000 attorney members. For over a century, the Association has been enhancing the lives of Arkansas citizens, the operation of the state's judicial system, reform of state laws, and the professionalism of lawyers.

The activities of the Arkansas Bar Association are accomplished through its volunteer members, which are organized among committees and sections and supported by a staff of ten. The Association's office is located in the Arkansas Bar Center on the banks of the Arkansas River at 2224 Cottondale Lane in Little Rock.

The officers of the Association include a President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair of the Board of Governors. Each officer's one-year term begins at the conclusion of the Association's Annual Meeting. The Association is governed by a House of Delegates and Board of Governors (idea for HOD & BOG page-- have links for meeting reports). The Young Lawyers Section consists of all members of the Association under the age of 36 or who have been admitted to the practice of law five years or less.

The Arkansas Bar Association has sponsored new statutory laws and progressive constitutional amendments, and has increased support for the Arkansas judiciary. As far back as 1910, the Association had committees on law and law reform, as well as uniform state laws. Frequently, the Association has initiated law reform measures or has been the catalyst to secure their passage in partnership with other advocates for improved laws. The Association works closely with leaders in the judiciary and the Arkansas General Assembly to improve Arkansas's legal system.

Since the 1970s, the Arkansas Bar Association has emphasized the improvement of access to the legal system for low-income and elderly Arkansans. The Association has fought to secure and maintain federal funding for legal services for the poor and has encouraged all attorneys to participate in pro bono programs through which volunteer representation is provided. Additionally, the Association played the leading role in establishment of the Arkansas Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Foundation by the Arkansas Supreme Court in the 1980s. The foundation administers the IOLTA program, which provides another source of funding for legal services.

Continuing legal education (CLE) is important for all attorneys, and the Arkansas Bar Association and its volunteers produce over twenty-five CLE seminars each year. Additionally, practice handbooks on different areas of the law are produced by association members with expertise in the specific areas. Beginning in 2007, the association sponsors a new and comprehensive law-related education program with initial emphasis on high school-age children. In addition, the High School Mock Trial project offers students throughout Arkansas an unparalleled opportunity to learn about our country's judicial system with a hands-on learning experience as they work with lawyers, judges and others in the legal system.

\*Information provided from Don Hollingsworth's report on the Association for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=4555>

## 2011-2012 Arkansas Bar Association Officers



**Tom D. Womack**  
**President**

Tom D. Womack of Jonesboro was sworn in as the president of the Arkansas Bar Association on June 10, 2011. Mr. Womack is the president of Womack, Landis, Phelps & McNeill, P.A. in Jonesboro. Mr. Womack is currently a member of the Association's Board of Governors and has served as chair of the Probate and Trust Law Section and the Tax Law Section. He has been honored with the Charles L. Carpenter Award for his exemplary service to the Association. He has served multiple terms on the Association's House of Delegates and was a member of the Executive Council. He is a longtime Sustaining Member of the Association. He is a Sustaining Fellow of the Arkansas Bar Foundation. He is also a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel where he serves on the Professional Responsibility Committee and is the past Arkansas State Chair. He is a past president of the Craighead County Bar Association. He is a longtime member and trustee of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Jonesboro. He is a board member and has served as chair of the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce. He is currently a director of the Arkansas Children's Hospital Foundation and has served as director of the Arkansas Community Foundation. Mr. Womack obtained his undergraduate degree in accounting from Arkansas State University with distinction and his Juris Doctor from the University of Memphis School of Law.



**Charles L. Harwell**  
**President-Elect**

Charles L. Harwell of Springdale assumed the office of President-Elect at the Annual Meeting. Charlie is a partner in the firm of Cypert, Crouch, Clark and Harwell. He has been an attorney for more than 29 years, all at the same firm. His professional time is divided between litigation and non-litigation matters. Charlie is active in the Association serving on several committees. He currently chairs the Sustaining Member Committee and has served on the Finance Committee for 12 years. He is a tenured delegate of the House of Delegates having served two separate stints of six years each. He served a term on the Executive Council and recently finished serving two terms on the Board of Governors. Charlie was honored with the Charles L. Carpenter Award for his exemplary service to the Association. Charlie is a graduate of the University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science and Arts and received his Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. For many years, Charlie has provided pro bono services, both as organized through the Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly and for individual clients whose need was apparent. He has also served on the boards of a number of non-profits through the years. He recently retired as President of the Board of Life Styles, an organization serving the developmentally disabled of Northwest Arkansas. He acts as its attorney on a pro bono basis as well.



**Harry A. Light**  
**Board of Governors Chair**

Harry A. Light of Little Rock was appointed chair of the Association's Board of Governors. He is a partner with Friday, Eldredge & Clark LLP. He practices in the areas of bankruptcy, creditors' rights, commercial litigation and trademark/copyright applications. Harry has previously served six years as a member of the Board of Governors and is a tenured member of the House of Delegates. He has received two Golden Gavel Awards from the Association—in 2009 for his work as chair of the Annual Meeting and in 2010 for his work as co-chair of the Annual Meeting Task Force. He also served as chair of the Technology Committee for four years and has served on the Debtor/Creditor Law Committee and Financial Institutions Section. Harry has served as the mayor of Cammack Village since 1995 and served as city attorney from 1994-1995. He has served as president of the Central Arkansas Rescue Effort for Animals, Inc. since 1998. He has served on the Board of Directors of Metroplan since 1995 and on the Board of Directors for Arkansas Better Business Bureau since 2002. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida with honors and his Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

## 2011-2012 Arkansas Bar Association Officers



**Brian M. Clary**  
**Young Lawyers Section**  
**Chair**

Brian M. Clary has been named Chair of the Young Lawyers Section. Since 2006, Brian has represented the State of Arkansas as a deputy prosecuting attorney in Saline County. He handles a general felony caseload for the office. Brian was elected to the YLS Executive Council in 2008 and has served on the Association's Leadership Academy, Membership Development, and Long Range Planning Committees and the Editorial Board for Handbooks. He is also a member of the Saline County Bar Association. Brian is a native of Memphis, TN. He completed his undergraduate degree at Rhodes College in Memphis and received his law degree with honors from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law. At Bowen, Brian served as member of the Law Review Editorial Board and as a representative on the Student Bar Association. Brian was recently selected to join Bowen's Alumni Board.



**Sean T. Keith**  
**Parliamentarian**

Sean T. Keith of Rogers was appointed Parliamentarian of the Association. Sean has served on the Arkansas Bar Association Board of Governors for the past nine years. He has served on numerous Association committees including the Legislation, Judicial Nominations, Governance, Long Range Planning, and Membership Development Committees. He works at his firm in Rogers, Keith Miller Butler Schneider & Pawlik, PLLC, that was founded in 1995 with partner Andrew Miller. His practice focuses on catastrophic car wreck, mass torts, drug injury and consumer class actions. Sean is a past president of the Benton County Bar Association. He is involved in his community as a Board Member of the Susan G. Komen Ozark Affiliate, former member of the Board of Directors for Rogers Rotary Club, Commissioner on the Rogers Public Library and Trustee for his church, Central United Methodist in Rogers. He completed his undergraduate degree at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, and received his Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.



**F. Thomas Curry**  
**Secretary**

F. Thomas Curry of Arkadelphia has again been elected to serve as Secretary. Tom is a partner with McMillan, McCorkle, Curry & Bennington, LLP. He is a former Governor of the Board of Governors and tenured member of the House of Delegates. Tom received a Presidential Award in 2010 for his extensive service to the Association and for his work as Secretary. He received a Golden Gavel Award in 2006 for his work as chair of the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee. Tom is currently serving as the President of the Arkansas Bar Foundation and has served as its Secretary/Treasurer and Vice President. He is a Sustaining Fellow of the Foundation. He is a member of the International and Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel. He received his bachelor's degree from Henderson State University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law School. Prior to entering private practice, Tom served five years on active duty with the U.S. Army, Judge Advocate General's Corps and retired from the U.S. Army Reserve at the rank of Colonel.



**William A. Martin**  
**Treasurer**

William A. Martin has again been elected to serve as Treasurer. Col. Martin served as executive director of the Association for 13 years and was its Secretary/Treasurer for the nine years and Treasurer for the past two years. Martin was a member of the Association's House of Delegates for four years and has served as chair of the Finance Committee since 2000. He is a Sustaining Member of the Association and the Arkansas Bar Foundation, a member of the Board of Directors of the Pulaski County Bar Association, treasurer and past secretary of the Pulaski County Bar Foundation, and served seven years as a Board of Trustees member of the National Conference of Bar Foundations including four as its treasurer. Martin received a Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas before entering the United States Air Force where he was a lawyer for 28 years moved through the ranks from second lieutenant to colonel. During that time he also earned an MBA from Arizona State University.