

**Courthouse Access Badges
Texas Lawyers' Briefcase
Financial Transparency
No Bar Dues Increase**



Randall O. Sorrels

**Candidate
President-Elect
State Bar of Texas
Full-Time Lawyer**

www.RandyforTexasLawyers.com

Who is Randy Sorrels?



Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz

Randy is a double board certified, full-time practicing lawyer who also manages a 13-lawyer law firm. As the managing partner for 20 years, he deals daily with law firm issues such as budgeting, finances, growth, personnel, and all types of challenges – including natural disasters like when Hurricane Harvey flooded his firm’s office with 12 feet of water.

Randy was born into a military family, where his father served two tours of active duty in Vietnam. His dad retired as a Colonel from the United States Army and today, at age 86, volunteers twice a week at a local hospital. His father’s examples of service have instilled in Randy a passion to serve others.

By age 17, Randy was managing a retail store and learning the values of consensus building, problem solving and, most importantly, the absolute importance of first class customer service.

Randy was an NCAA Academic All-American soccer player at Houston Baptist University. He graduated with honors while still working his retail job. He has since been awarded the HBU Distinguished Alumnus Award, is a member of the HBU Walk of Honor, and the soccer field at HBU is now named the Randall O. Sorrels Soccer Field.

He attended South Texas College of Law Houston – again graduating with honors while working all three years. He was a member of the law review and national mock trial program. Today, Randy serves on the law school’s Board of Directors and has received its highest award – The Dean’s Medal. He was also awarded the inaugural Public

Service Award. There are 19 legal clinics housed in the Randall O. Sorrels Legal Clinics at his alma mater, including the recently opened Animal Law Clinic. Randy believes in giving back.

Randy’s Legal Career

After law school, Randy joined Fulbright & Jaworski. There he first began doing pro bono work and getting involved in the organized bar. In 1990, Randy joined what is now known as Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz. He has been

the firm’s managing partner for the last 20 years. When Randy undertook the responsibility of managing partner, the firm’s diversity was non-existent. Currently, half of the firm’s partners and half of the firm’s lawyers are gender or racially diverse.

His Interests Are Our Interests

Randy has a vested interest in a better bar – both professionally and personally. His wife is a lawyer who spent most of her career at a large international law firm. His son-in-law is a director at a mid-size law firm. His college sophomore twins aspire to become lawyers. Randy also has a daughter with her master’s degree in elementary education and now teaches second grade; and his other daughter will obtain her master’s degree in speech-language pathology in May.

He has a Track Record of Leadership

The State Bar of Texas needs a leader to represent all lawyers. Randy has a proven leadership track record of finding common sense solutions and building consensus to achieve the best results. He accomplished this while serving as President of the Houston Bar Association, Chair of the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation, President of the Houston Trial Lawyers Association and President of the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists. Several organizations have recognized Randy for his calm leadership during times of crisis, such as when he was awarded the Presidents’ Award by the State Bar of Texas for his leadership in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He brings a level of experience that will enhance our State Bar.

A Long Track Record of Distinction

Practice:

- Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz, Partner (1990-present)
- Fulbright & Jaworski, Associate (1987-1990)

Certifications:

Texas Board of Legal Specialization:

- Personal Injury Trial Law
- Civil Trial Law

National Board of Trial Advocacy:

- Civil Trial Law
- Civil Pretrial Practice Advocacy

Education:

- J. D., South Texas College of Law Houston (1987)
Magna Cum Laude
- B.A., Houston Baptist University, 1984 Magna Cum Laude

Leadership Positions:

- President – Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists (2014-2015)
- Chair – Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation (2014-2015)
- President – Houston Bar Association (2005-2006)
- President – Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. (2003-2004)
- President – Houston Trial Lawyers Foundation (2000-2001)
- President – Houston Lawyer's Referral Service (2000-2001)
- President – Houston Trial Lawyers Association (1999-2000)
- Director – South Texas College of Law Houston (2013-2018)
- Trustee – Texas Bar Foundation (1997-2000) (2009-2012)
- Trustee – Texas Supreme Court Historical Society (2009-2012)
- Commissioner – Texas Access to Justice Commission (2009-2012)
- Director – State Bar of Texas (1994-1997) (2006-2009)

Awards and Honors:

- South Texas College of Law Houston – (2013) Dean's Medal
- South Texas College of Law Houston Alumni Association – Public Service Award (2006)
- South Texas College of Law Houston – Randall O. Sorrels Legal Clinics
- Houston Baptist University – (2009) Distinguished Alumnus Award
- Walk of Honor – Houston Baptist University (2009)
- State Bar of Texas – Presidents' Award (2006)
- Presidents' Award – Houston Bar Association (2007)
- Judge Sam Williams Award – State Bar of Texas (2010)
- Woodrow B. Seals Award – Outstanding Young Lawyer of Houston, Houston Young Lawyers Association, (1999-2000)
- Top 100 – Texas Super Lawyers List (2007-2017)
- Texas Super Lawyers (2003-2017)
- The Best Lawyers in America, Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs (2012-2018)
- The Best Lawyers in America, Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs, (2011-2018)
- Outstanding Legal Article Award – Houston Bar Foundation (2017)
- Gold Remi Award – The Houston International Film Festival (2016)

Officer and Director Positions:

- Vice-President – Texas Association of Civil Trial & Appellate Specialists (2013-2014)
- Treasurer – Texas Association of Civil Trial & Appellate Specialists (2012-2013)
- Secretary and Treasurer – Texas Trial Lawyers Association Executive Committee (2012-2013)
- Second Vice President – Houston Bar Association (2000-2001)
- Treasurer – Houston Bar Association (2003-2004)
- Secretary – Houston Bar Association (2001-2002)
- Director – Houston Bar Association (1998-2000)
- Director – Texas Trial Lawyers Association (1994-present)

I am Randy Sorrels



Randy and his family: (l to r) Alex, Stephanie, Randy, Darby, Garrett, Ashley & Logan

I am Randy Sorrels. I want to serve you as the next President-Elect of the State Bar of Texas. For the past 30 years, I have actively practiced law, been involved in access to justice programs, and enthusiastically worked to improve our profession. My approach is simple: create a disciplined plan, use common sense, put clients and lawyers first, and work hard. I will use these principles at the State Bar to achieve the most good for our lawyers and profession.

When I vote, I want to know exactly who the candidate is and exactly what the candidate is going to do if elected. I ignore labels and look at what the candidate has done in the past and what his or her ideas are for the future. Then I vote for the person whose track record and ideas will likely provide the most good for the most people.

Since I expect candor from the politicians I vote for, you will receive it from me. Here are the three areas I will address.

1. **Expand CUSTOMER Service**

The State Bar should put its customers first – Texas lawyers. If a State Bar program exists, it should do so to improve our lives and our profession. I will scrap programs and budget allotments that don't put lawyers first. I will listen to you, learn from you, and brainstorm with you to design pathways to advance your practices and lives. Then, I will establish State Bar programs that bring these ideas to life. I intend to implement a program to provide *Statewide Courthouse Access Security Badges*, to establish the *Texas Lawyers' Briefcase* (a repository resource for all practices), *expand the Ethics Helpline* staff and implement several other specific ideas discussed on my website.

2. **The State Bar MUST Operate like a Business**

With a \$50 million budget, the State Bar must be run like a business. This requires *disciplined fiscal responsibility* coupled with *increased transparency* for our members. Every financial decision must be made with Texas lawyers in mind. If elected, I will review each department, program, and policy to ensure that our funds are being used efficiently and effectively. And I will find ways to save money. In fact, I promise there will be **NO DUES INCREASE** during my year as President.



Randy and Chuck Sorrels celebrating Chuck's volunteer work at Memorial Hermann Hospital

3. **Protect YOUR Rights**

I will fight any attack on our right to regulate our profession, any effort to convert the Bar into a state agency, and any attempt to limit our self-governance. There are those in our profession who seek to control the State Bar to advance their own personal agendas or personal interests. I pledge to be an independent voice for all Texas lawyers – not just for those who seek to limit the sphere of influence to a privileged few.



Randy, Alex and Gio (their rescue dog) at the Randall O. Sorrells Legal Clinics (South Texas College of Law Houston)

My policy is to always be accessible. Email me at rsorrells@abrahamwatkins.com or call me on my cell phone (713-582-8005). I'm happy to talk to you about anything relevant to this race, the State Bar or our profession. I know what I hope to do as your Bar President. I'd love to know what you want. So let me hear from you.

Independent Leader • Innovative Thinker • Common Sense Problem Solver



Randy Sorrells

Candidate President-Elect State Bar of Texas

Before you vote, research the candidates. You can find more about me on my website. But don't stop there. Google me. You will find out the different ways I have been involved in advocating for lawyers during the last 30 years. I remain committed to improving our Bar.

- *Statewide Courthouse Access*
- *Texas Lawyers' Briefcase*
- *No Dues Increase*
- *Grievance Verification*
- *E-File Consistency*
- *Faster Ethics Hotline Response*
- *Access to Justice Champion*

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