



**Trial Lawyer, Jurist and Champion of the Seventh Amendment**  
**Award Criteria, Guidelines & Selection Procedure**  
Revised 01/2412

**Trial Lawyer of the Year:**

1. Candidate is an Excellent Advocate
2. Candidate has a distinguished career
3. Candidate has a superb reputation of high ethics and fair play
4. Candidate has participated in an outstanding result

**Jurist of the Year:**

1. The Judge is committed to preserving and improving the jury trial system.
2. The Judge is knowledgeable, prepared, and rules in a timely manner.
3. The Judge follows the rules of law and applies them evenhandedly.
4. The Judge demands professionalism from all lawyers.
5. The Judge maintains open and accessible working relationships with the trial bar.

**TEX-ABOTA Champion of the 7th Amendment Award\***

1. A non-lawyer professional in Texas; (Teacher, Journalist, paralegal, legal secretary, etc.)
2. One or more individuals who, in the course of their careers, consistently fosters understanding, preservation and respect for the jury trial system through public awareness.

**Selection (Champion of the 7th Amendment Award):**

1. Nominations sent to Committee Chairman, along with support documentation (examples of work, CV, etc.)
2. Someone must speak on behalf of each nominee at the board meeting prior to the Annual Dinner.
3. Nominations are discussed and voted on at the board meeting prior to the Annual Dinner.

**Guidelines (Lawyer & Jurist)**

1. Any or all of the criteria would be considered in arriving at the selection, giving weight to the various factors. In this way, a person's career, general background as a lawyer, as well as one or two recent results would be considered. The person should be a practicing trial lawyer at the time of selection.
2. The lawyer must be a member but need not be involved in ABOTA, although the person's contribution to ABOTA in the past would be something that would be considered.
3. The *chapter, or at least the chapter executive committee*, should form a group to nominate persons for the awards and the president need not be solely involved.
4. Nominated persons will not be carried over from year to year; they must be re-nominated. Persons previously nominated can be nominated again.
6. Each nominee should be nominated by a separate written document including a curriculum vitae and any other information concerning the nominee. These documents should be submitted to the respective Committee Chairpersons *not later than three weeks before the voting meeting.*\*\* Nominations are discussed and voted on at the board meeting prior to the Annual Meeting.

*Continued on Page 2*

**Selection (Lawyer & Jurist):**

1. Nominations can only be made by Chapters and someone must speak on behalf of each nominee.
2. First ballot voting shall be a first, second and third choice.
3. Ties may either be decided in additional ballots, or if they are different courts (Appellate, etc.) more than one award may be presented.
4. Only members of the TEX-ABOTA Board of Directors will be allowed to vote (in person and via phone).

*\* This award replaced the Journalist of the Year award in April, 2010, due to the difficulty in finding journalists who felt they could accept the award without it appearing to be a conflict of interest.*

*\*\* The Annual Meeting and Dinner was moved to June 18<sup>th</sup> for 2011 and will be held at the Santa Fe CLE Meeting. Therefore, the nomination window is shortened.*