



## **SAYLA 2018-19 Board Election - Candidate Bios (listed alphabetically, in 100 words or less)**

### **President-Elect**

#### **Chris Mazzola**

My name is Chris Mazzola and I am running for President-Elect of SAYLA. I have had the distinct pleasure of serving on the Board of Directors for the past three (3) years. Currently, I serve as the SAYLA Vice President. During my time on the Board of Directors, I have been part on the Community Service committee helping plan, organize, and run the SAYLA Scramble. Every year, with the help of my fellow committee members, we have reached record-breaking numbers in terms of the monetary donation made to the tournament's beneficiary. Last year, SAYLA's \$20,000.00 donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters was the largest donation in SAYLA's history. As President-Elect, I will continue to carry out SAYLA's community focused initiative and make sure, as an organization, SAYLA's primary focus is bringing value to our membership.

### **Vice President**

#### **Jessica A. Estorga**

Jessica A. Estorga is a Partner at Rogers Garcia Patton, PLLC and practices primary in the areas of Family Law and Criminal Defense. Ms. Estorga has been a SAYLA board director since 2015 and is currently serving as this year's Treasurer. During her time on SAYLA she has served on the community service, professional development and social committees, during which she established SAYLA's Season of Service. Ms. Estorga hopes to continue her service to the board in the position of Vice President.

#### **Collanne West**

Collanne West is the Director for Alumni Relations at St. Mary's School of Law where one of her main priorities is alumni engagement. Collanne also does some development work and serves as liaison to the Law Alumni Association's Board of Directors. Prior to her time at St. Mary's, Collanne was a Briefing Attorney for Justice Marialyn Barnard of the Fourth Court of Appeals. She currently serves as the Secretary for SAYLA.

## **Treasurer-Elect**

### **Fernando Gireud**

Fernando Gireud was born in El Paso, Texas and graduated from St. Mary's School of Law in 2010. He has been practicing law since 2010 and is currently is a partner at the firm Gireud Hobbs, PLLC, which focuses on Immigration, Criminal Defense, and Family Law. Fernando has been a member of the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association since 2013 and a director on the board since 2016. He has also served on the golf committee, overseen new website design, and has been a part of the record-breaking donations made by SAYLF over the last couple of years.

## **Secretary**

### **Jorge Mares**

Jorge Mares graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio and earned his J.D. from Florida Coastal School of Law, where he received a Pro Bono Honors Award. After law school, Jorge returned to San Antonio and joined the Watts Guerra LLP team in August of 2013. Currently, Jorge is actively involved commercial litigation, intellectual property, and personal injury law. Jorge is a recipient of both the Super Lawyers' Rising Star Award and the Texas Top 10 Under 40 Award. He has served as a SAYLA director since 2016 working extensively on SAYLA's pro-bono efforts.

## **Directors (4 Open Positions)**

### **Georgina Buckley-Graham**

I am an associate at Naman Howell Smith & Lee PLLC. I would like to be a director because I would like to get more involved with the legal community in Bexar County and join an organization at a higher level in order to make a positive impact. Additionally, I feel that an organization like SAYLA really helps young lawyers in their transition from law student to bona fide lawyer, and the mentoring aspect of SAYLA is part of what makes our organization great.

### **Brandon Cook**

Brandon is a registered patent attorney with Gunn, Lee & Cave, P.C. Brandon's practice involves civil litigation with a focus on intellectual property and business disputes, patent and trademark prosecution, and administrative disputes before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Brandon is a member of the San Antonio Bar Association, the San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and the Patent Committee for the State Bar of Texas. Brandon grew up in piney woods of northeast Texas, but he and his wife Meagan now call San Antonio home. In his free time Brandon enjoys playing ultimate frisbee and walking his dog.

**Herbert S. Hill**

After graduating from GW Law in 2013, I returned to my hometown of San Antonio to begin my legal career as an associate at Curl Stahl Geis, P.C., where I practice commercial litigation. I have been an active member of SAYLA since 2014, and participated in the inaugural SAYLA Leadership Seminar and Workshop in 2015. I am also a member of the 2017-2018 LeadershipSBOT class, and this year became a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. Outside of the legal community, I serve on the Vestry (Board of Trustees) of Christ Episcopal Church, including as the Secretary in 2017. If elected as a Director, I hope to use my experience and leadership skills to further the mission of SAYLA and to serve the local bar.

**B. Colin Hobbs**

Brett "Colin" Hobbs was raised in Southeast Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University and is a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie class of 2006, whoop! He graduated from St. Mary's School of Law in 2010. He's a partner at Gireud Hobbs, PLLC, where he's a partner. His firm focuses on Criminal Defense, Family Law, and Immigration. He's been a member of the SAYLA since 2013 and is active within the organization. His law firm has sponsored teams in the SAYLF Golf tournament each year and has helped sponsor several happy hours to help promote the organization and fundraising.

**Matthew J. McGowan**

Matthew is an associate at the San Antonio law firm Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen, Benson & Jones, LLP, where he has practiced since he received his bar license in 2015. Matthew practices in the areas of civil litigation, civil appeals, and bankruptcy. Matthew is a graduate of Texas A&M University School of Law, class of 2015. Matthew's personal interests include mountain biking, chess, jogging, and spending as much time as possible with his girlfriend Whitley and their big-headed dog Margaret.

**Travis K. Riley**

I have been an active member of SAYLA since 2012 and I currently serve as a Director on SAYLA's board. As a Director and member of SAYLA's professional development committee, I have helped organize and coordinate programs such as the Courthouse Tour and Judicial Reception, War Story Wednesdays, Swearing-In Ceremony, the Writing Workshop, and monthly luncheons. I am also an associate at Cokinos|Young, where my practice is focused predominately on construction litigation. Prior to joining Cokinos|Young, I clerked for the Hon. Henry J. Bemporad, US Magistrate Judge, Western District of Texas. I am a 2015 graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law, and I am licensed to practice law in Texas and Colorado.

**Danielle N. Rushing**

My name is Danielle N. Rushing, and I am an associate at Curl Stahl Geis, P.C., where I practice commercial litigation in federal and state courts. SAYLA affords young and newly licensed attorneys numerous community service, educational, networking, and professional development opportunities, all of which are key components to a young attorney's success. As a Director, I would like to expand SAYLA's professional development opportunities and implement a formal mentor-mentee program. I am honored to be a part of the San Antonio legal community, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the SAYLA Board of Directors. Thank you for your consideration.

**Wesley A. Williams**

I was born and raised in San Antonio and love this city I call home. I attended Health Careers High School, the University of Texas for undergrad, and the University of Houston for law school. I returned to San Antonio after graduating from law school in 2016 and began working at Hornberger Fuller & Garza as an associate, where I practice corporate, securities and real estate law. As a firm believer in the value and import of its programming, I have been actively involved in SAYLA since I started practicing, and desire to get more involved moving forward.