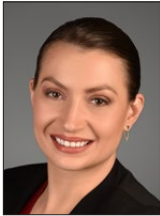


BUZZ

August 2024



Amanda F. Hobbs

BROWN & FORTUNATO announced that attorneys **AMANDA F. HOBBS** and **IAN S. MARABLE** have joined the firm. Amanda Hobbs is a Senior Attorney in the firm's Health Care Group. Prior to joining B&F, Amanda served as in-house counsel at a leading academic medical institution, managing litigation and Texas Medical Board matters. Amanda has extensive experience in representing physicians and other health care providers in medical malpractice lawsuits. Amanda received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Texas at Arlington, then attended Baylor University School of Law, graduating cum laude. She is based in Dallas



Ian S. Marable

and is a member of the State Bar of Texas and the Dallas Bar Association. Ian Marable is a member of the firm's Litigation Group. Prior to joining B&F, Ian worked as an Assistant District Attorney in the Texas Panhandle where he served as lead counsel in many felony jury trials and successfully obtained numerous convictions. Ian received his bachelor's degree in journalism from Texas Tech University and Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado Boulder School of Law. Ian is based in the firm's Amarillo office and is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the Amarillo Area Bar Association, and the Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association.



DR. DAN PETERSON, previously the dean of the College of Health, Arts and Sciences at Oregon Institute of Technology, is now the dean of the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and at **WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**. Peterson, who earned a Ph.D. in interpersonal communication from Ohio University and his bachelor's and

master's in communications from Brigham Young University, has spent the bulk of his career at Oregon Institute of Technology, working his way up from professor to dean. He previously taught at Missouri State University.

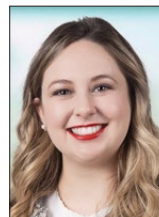
NORTHWEST TEXAS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM (NWTHS) has been named by U.S. News & World Report as a **2024-2025 BEST HOSPITAL**. Northwest Texas Healthcare System ranked in Heart Attack and Heart Failure among U.S. News' 2024-2025 edition of Best Hospitals.

WILL DURRETT is now a Sales Associate with **REPUBLIC RANCHES**. An Amarillo-based expert with decades of experience managing his family's cattle, ranching, and



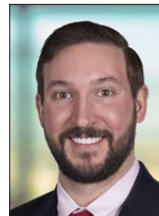
Will Durrett

hunting operations in the Texas Panhandle and Eastern New Mexico, Will's deep passion for land and livestock makes him an invaluable asset in farm and ranch sales throughout the Panhandle and New Mexico. Will graduated from Baylor University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology and Environmental Studies. After college, Will moved home to Amarillo and began working in the family farming, ranching and real estate business. Will has managed his family's cattle, ranching, and hunting operations in the Texas Panhandle and in Eastern New Mexico since the early 2000s. In 2012, Will also began marketing and delivering cattle as a Marketing Representative with Superior Livestock Auction. To date, he has helped over 200 ranching operations in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma and Kansas market and deliver cattle. The relationships and trust with so many friends, neighbors, cattle buyers and fellow cattle producers are what Will values the most about his job marketing cattle. He is passionate about the land and livestock he and his family have had the opportunity to steward.



Courtney White

THE UNDERWOOD LAW FIRM announce that **COURTNEY WHITE** and **AARON SMITH** recently joined the firm's Amarillo office. Courtney joins Underwood's Municipal Law practice. She has significant experience working with government entities and served as Assistant City Attorney to the City of Amarillo for seven years prior to coming to Underwood. During her time with the City, Courtney advised on employee civil service appeals, disciplinary appeals, and procurement issues. She drafted ordinances and prosecuted class C misdemeanors.



Aaron Smith

Courtney was named Young Lawyer of the Year in 2019 by the Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association and received the Texas Young Lawyer Association's President's Award in 2023. Courtney earned her J.D., *cum laude*, from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Wake Forest University with a degree in Economics. Aaron Smith joins Underwood after serving as Chief Law Clerk to the Honorable Matthew Kacsmaryk, U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Texas, Amarillo Division. During his tenure with the court, Aaron worked on both civil and criminal trials, including national-profile cases. Aaron earned post-graduate degrees in theology and business administration, which have contributed to his ability to navigate complex litigation issues. Aaron earned his J.D. from Baylor Law School. He graduated from Bellarmine University Rubel School of Business with a M.B.A., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a M.A. in Theological Studies, and Illinois Wesleyan University with a B.A. in Political Science.



DOUG LIPINSKI is the new Vice President for Athletics at **WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**. Lipinski has been a deputy director of athletics at Grand Valley State University, in Allendale, Michigan, the leading Division II intercollegiate athletics program in the nation. Lipinski earned a bachelor's in advertising and public

relations and a Master of Public Administration at GVSU. He was a four-year member of the varsity baseball team and spent the subsequent four years as an assistant to coach Steve Lyon before moving into administrative roles. "Doug is one of the most highly regarded leaders in athletics with extensive experience in areas such as marketing, broadcasting, personnel management, facilities planning, student-athlete development, compliance and external relations," said **DR. NEIL TERRY**, WT's provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "He is the perfect person to guide future WT strategic initiatives in the increasingly complex world of collegiate athletics." Lipinski will begin his WT duties August 28th.



JOE N. "BUZZ" THORP, a cowboy who has worked on ranches from Tennessee to Montana and New Mexico to Texas, will be the sixth recipient of the **RANCHING HERITAGE ASSOCIATION (RHA) WORKING COWBOY AWARD** presented during the annual **NATIONAL GOLDEN SPUR AWARD HONORS** on Saturday, October 5, at the

Lubbock Memorial Civic Center in Lubbock, Texas. Individual tickets for the National Golden Spur Award Honors will go on sale to the public August 8. For event details visit goldenspurhonors.com. "The RHA Working Cowboy Award is designed to recognize an outstanding individual who makes his living primarily horseback, caring for livestock on a daily basis," said **JIM BRET CAMPBELL**, executive director of the Ranching Heritage Association and the National Ranching Heritage Center. "Buzz Thorp represents all of the facets of the working cowboy award. He is a cowboy's cowboy, a teacher and a true representative of our cow-country values." Thorp worked for his father, B.F. Thorp, in Throckmorton County in Texas while growing up. He also cowboeyed for his uncles and cousins during that time. He worked for the Muleshoe Cattle Company while attending Texas Tech University, where he graduated with a degree in animal husbandry in 1954. Recognized as an outstanding stockman, horseman and teacher, at age 91, Thorp continues to be in demand to day-work on neighboring ranches, including the R.A. Brown Ranch.



XCEL ENERGY has named three of its Texas-based directors as regional vice presidents over the company's core grid operations in the Panhandle and South Plains regions of Texas and in eastern and southeastern New Mexico. **DAVID LOW** has been promoted to regional vice president of Texas and New Mexico power plant operations.

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Additionally, **CORY WOOD** and **CASEY MEEKS** have been named regional vice presidents for Transmission Operations and Distribution Operations respectively.



Cory Wood



Casey Meeks

Low and Wood are based in Amarillo while Meeks operates from Lubbock.

ADRIAN J. RODRIGUEZ is president, Xcel Energy-New Mexico, Texas.

The **XCEL ENERGY FOUNDATION** awarded \$346,000 to 38 nonprofits in Texas and New Mexico in recognition of the good work community groups are performing in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Career Pathways, Environmental Sustainability and Community Vitality.

WHITAKER REAL ESTATE has partnered with **STORYBRIDGE** to expand **DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY** to children in **ARMSTRONG COUNTY**. The Imagination Library is a recognized book-gifting program that partners with local nonprofit organizations to provide a free book in the mail every month for children from birth to their 5th birthday. Storybridge has provided this program to Potter and Randall County children since 2021. Lee and Leslie Whitaker heard that that Storybridge was looking for a financial partner to bring the program to the children of Armstrong County and they were eager to help. Currently, Storybridge has over 8,000 children enrolled in the program and has been the largest Imagination Library provider in Texas for almost 3 years. Storybridge Director is **CHANDRA PERKINS**.



NORTHWEST TEXAS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM (NWTHS), welcomed **HARVEY TORRES** as the new Chief Financial Officer. A graduate of the University of Houston, Harvey has more than 25 years' experience in hospital finance and is significantly experienced in systems development and implementation with established best

practices. He has served on the Texas Department of Health Mentorship program, Texas Association of University and College Auditors and other non-profit organizations. *AW*