

## NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELASE

For more information contact: Brian Tyson at (800) 932-2682 briant@abota.org

# ABOTA PRESENTS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO DALLAS LAWYER LEWIS R. SIFFORD

2007 National President honored at National Board Meeting with organization's highest honor

SAN FRANCISCO (Jan. 25, 2018) — The American Board of Trial Advocates presented its highest honor — the Lifetime Achievement Award — to former ABOTA National President Lewis R. Sifford at the organization's National Board of Directors Meeting on January 20 at the Ritz Carlton in San Francisco.

The ABOTA Lifetime Achievement Award honors those whose leadership efforts have advanced the preservation of the right to trial by jury guaranteed by the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. Sifford is the founding officer of Sifford, Anderson & Company in Dallas and a longtime ABOTA member. He was admitted into the invitation-only association in 1990 and has been active ever since, including serving as President of the Dallas chapter in 1994, President of TEX-ABOTA (all Texas chapters) in 1999 and National President in 2007. He is the ninth recipient of this award in the organization's 60-year history.

"On occasion, one among us comes along whose service to ABOTA and to its principles is so exceptional, so selfless, so lengthy and so committed that we recognize them with the highest honor we can bestow," said National President Cynthia McGuinn when presenting the award.

Mr. Sifford has been a mainstay within ABOTA and has served as chair or co-chair of numerous committees. He has served on ABOTA's Executive Committee multiple times, as well as the Presidential Task Force, co-chair of Save Our Juries, chair of Professional Education Committee, and many others. He is currently a Trustee for the ABOTA Foundation.

"I am deeply honored to receive this wonderful award, but my greatest honor has been the opportunity to serve with so many outstanding men and women and to share with them our association's messages of ethics, civility and professionalism in the practice of law and the preservation of the Seventh Amendment," said Mr. Sifford. "I offer my sincerest

gratitude to all of them and my hope that I may always be mindful of the significance of this award and live an impactful life in honor of it."

Mr. Sifford was also the recipient of the ABOTA Foundation's Mark P. Robinson Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 — only the second ever recipient. In 2010, Mr. Sifford served on the faculty of the inaugural ABOTA National Trial College, held on the campus of Princeton University and later at Harvard Law School in 2012, 2014, and 2016. He is slated again as faculty for the 2018 National Trial College at Yale Law School and is an active speaker at many other continuing legal education programs across the country. His speeches on ethics, professionalism and trial practice continue to resonate with new and experienced trial lawyers.

When presenting the award, Ms. McGuinn quoted Woodrow Wilson: "You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand."

"Lewis has never forgotten his errand," she continued. "ABOTA has no better representative, no better friend and no one more deserving of this award."

## **About the American Board of Trial Advocates**

Founded in 1958, ABOTA is an invitation-only national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges. ABOTA and its members are dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the civil jury trial right provided by the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. ABOTA membership consists of more than 7,600 lawyers — equally balanced between plaintiff and defense — and judges in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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## Lewis R. Sifford

## **HONORS AND AWARDS:**

Mark P. Robinson Lifetime Achievement Award, 2012
Texas Super Lawyers, Texas Monthly, 2003-2017
The Best Lawyers in Dallas, D Magazine, May 2001, May 2003, August 2004
Texas Trial Lawyer of the Year, ABOTA, 2000
Certificate of Excellence in Law Focused Education, State Bar of Texas, 1998
National Masters in Trial Award, ABOTA, 1997

#### PROFESSIONAL OFFICES HELD:

Trustee, ABOTA Foundation, 2018
National President, ABOTA, 2007
National President-Elect, ABOTA, 2006
National Vice President, ABOTA, 2005
National Treasurer, ABOTA, 2002 to 2005
President, TEX-ABOTA, 1999
National Board Member, ABOTA, 1995 to Present
President, ABOTA, Dallas Chapter, 1994

#### **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Faculty, Academy of the Advocate, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, 2014

Leon Jaworski Fellow, Baylor Law School, 2012

Faculty, ABOTA National Trial College at Harvard Law School, 2014

Faculty, ABOTA National Trial College at Harvard Law School, 2012

Faculty, ABOTA Trial College at Princeton University, 2010

Faculty, American Bar Association/Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section;

National Trial Academy, National Judicial College; Reno, Nevada, 2004, 2005 and 2007

Legal Ethics Committee, Dallas Bar Association, 1991-1992

Adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy, Southern Methodist University -

Dedman School of Law, 1986 - 2006

Instructor, Dallas Bar Association Trial Skills Course, 1985 to 1990

Faculty, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Southern Regional Trial Program,

Southern Methodist University - Dedman School of Law, 1985 to 2000

Prosecutor, Dallas Bar Subcommittee of the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee,

State Bar of Texas, 1982-1991

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:**

State Bar of Texas

American Bar Association

American Board of Trial Advocates, Diplomate

American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow

International Academy of Trial Lawyers

Litigation Counsel of America

- Barrister, Order of Centurions
- Barrister. Order of Certus
- Member, Diversity Law Institute
- Member, The Trial Law Institute

American College of Legal Medicine

College of the State Bar of Texas

**Dallas Bar Association** 

Texas Bar Foundation

Fifth Circuit Bar Association

## ADMITTED TO PRACTICE:

State of Texas

United States Supreme Court

United States Court of Appeals - Fifth Circuit

United States District Courts for Northern. Southern and Eastern Districts of Texas

United States Tax Court

Supreme Court of the State of Texas

## **EDUCATION:**

Baylor University, Waco, Texas, B.A., 1971

Baylor University School of Law, Waco, Texas, J.D., 1972