

# **ABOTA Annual Banquet Features Honored Guests and Speaker**

The 50th Floor of the Devon Tower was the setting for this year's annual meeting and banquet of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. This year's featured speaker was the Honorable Timothy DeGuisti, U.S. District Judge of the Western District of Oklahoma. Tulsa County District Judge Jefferson Sellers was honored as Oklahoma's Judge of the Year and Dan S. Folluo, of Rhodes, Hieronymus, Jones, Tucker and Gable was recognized for his service as Oklahoma Chapter President for 2012. Other notable guests in attendance were U.S. District Judges Lee West and Vicki Miles-LaGrange of the Western District and Judge Terry Kern of the Northern District Federal Court; Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Noma Gurich, Oklahoma Civil Court of Appeals Judges John Fisher and Robert Bell; Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge David Lewis; Oklahoma County District Judge Bryan Dixon; Oklahoma City University President and former Tenth Circuit Judge Robert Henry, and Dean Valarie Couch from The Oklahoma City University Law School. The evening was capped off by a vocal performance by several members of the Oklahoma City University School of Music.

ABOTA is a national organization whose membership includes judges and trial lawyers who are dedicated to professionalism, civility, and preservation of the civil jury trial system in America.

**The Oklahoma Chapter's elected officers for 2013 include G. Calvin Sharpe, President;** William R. Grimm, President Elect; Gary Homsey, Treasurer; Jim Jennings, Secretary; and Monty Bottom, National Board Representative.

Newly admitted members for 2012 were Tulsa Attorney William Fiasco and Oklahoma City Attorney Kayce Gisinger. Oklahoma

City Attorney Jim Jennings was elevated to the rank of "advocate" within the organization.

Those members of the bar who are interested in joining ABOTA in its quest to promote civility in the courtroom while preserving the right to jury trial are encouraged to visit ABOTA's website at [abota.org](http://abota.org) for a listing of qualifications for membership.