

Locke Liddell & Sapp's Public Law Practice Named Best Among Texas Law Firms Second Year in A Row; Robert Miller Ranked No. 18 of 50 Top Lobbyists in State



January 26, 2005

## Good Friends in High Places: Lobbyists Make the Connection for Maximum Sway

By Mike Hailey  
Capitol Inside Editor

Successful lobbying requires good connections - and the partners at the Locke Liddell & Sapp law firm wanted to make sure they had all the bases covered before the Texas Legislature convened this year. The Houston-based firm's public law team felt good about the relationships it had in the offices of Governor Rick Perry and House Speaker Tom Craddick - and Locke Liddell partner Bruce LaBoon was in the process of moving to Austin where he had good connections in Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst's office as well. Feeling sufficiently plugged in with the state's top three Republican leaders, the law firm made it a full sweep by hiring an African-American member of the State Democratic Executive Committee to round out its lobby team. With some innovative thinking, serious contacts and no stones unturned, the number one lobby law practice in Texas one year ago is now even better.

Locke Liddell is a blue ribbon winner for the second year in a row as *Capitol Inside* unveils the 3rd Annual Texas Lobby Power Rankings to conjunction with the opening of the 79th regular session and the start of our third year in the online political newsletter publishing business ...The public law team at the Locke Liddell law firm leads the list of law firm lobby practices thanks in part to strong relationships that its top lobbyists have with the governor, the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House...

| TOP LAW FIRM LOBBY PRACTICES |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1                            | <a href="#">Locke Liddell &amp; Sapp</a><br>Brian Cassidy, Gary Compton, Bill Jones,<br>Michael Harris, Bruce LaBoon, Yuniedth |

|    |  |
|----|--|
|    | Midence, Robert Miller, Alan Waldrop   |
| 2  | <b><u>Akin Gump</u></b><br>Tom Bond, Sandy Kress, Demetrius McDaniel, John Pitts, Jody Richardson, Barry Senterfitt                            |
| 3  | <b><u>Hughes Luce</u></b><br>Jack Erskine, Myra Leo, Denice Marchman,<br>Larry McGinnis, Marc Shivers  |
| 4  | <b><u>Gardere Wynne Sewell</u></b><br>Elton Bomer, Steve Koebele, A.W. (Woody) Pogue, Carl Richie, Mark Vane, Kimberly Yelkin                  |
| 5  | <b><u>Jackson Walker</u></b><br>Trey Blocker, Kathy Hutto, Ed Small  |
| 6  | <b><u>Vinson &amp; Elkins</u></b><br>Darrick Eugene, Brian Feld, Kimberly Frost, Susan Harris, John Howard, Elizabeth Rogers, Joe Bill Watkins |
| 7  | <b><u>McGinnis, Lochridge &amp; Kilgore</u></b><br>Gaylord Armstrong, Campbell McGinnis, Keith Strama  |
| 8  | <b><u>Bracewell Patterson</u></b><br>Jim Chapman, Shannon Ratliff II, David Thompson, Jill Warren  |
| 9  | <b><u>Baker Botts</u></b><br>Tristan Castaneda, Pamela Giblin, Robert Strauser   |
| 10 | <b><u>Loeffler Tuggey Pauerstein Rosenthal</u></b><br>Allen Beinke, Becky Klein, Lisa Mayes  |
| 11 | <b><u>Hance, Scarborough, Wright, Ginsberg</u></b><br>Kent Hance, Robert Floyd   |
| 12 | <b><u>Winstead, Sechrist &amp; Minick</u></b><br>Robert Bass, Janis Carter   |
| 13 | <b><u>Kemp Smith</u></b><br>Clyde Alexander, Thomas Forbes   |
| 14 | <b><u>Thompson &amp; Knight</u></b><br>Victor Alcorta  |
| 15 | <b><u>Bickerstaff Heath Smiley Pollan</u></b><br>Patty Akers, John Donisi, Myra McDaniel   |

## LAW FIRM LOBBY PRACTICES

Locke Liddell has become the go-to law firm for lobbying needs for Houston power players such as Bob Perry, John Nau and Landry's restaurant CEO Tilman Fertitta in the city where the firm is based. Bruce LaBoon has moved to Austin where he enjoys a good working relationship with the lieutenant governor's office much like Robert Miller, the firm's public law chairman, does across the rotunda with House Speaker Tom Craddick's office. Locke Liddell attorney Bill Jones was Governor Rick Perry's general counsel until joining the law firm in late 2003. The firm has other members on the inside having a hand in the development of legislation on issues ranging from transportation to tort reform. Last year Locke Liddell reached beyond its Republican image and enlisted SDEC member Michael Harris for its public law team. Harris, a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee, used to practice law with House Speaker Pro Tem Sylvester Turner, who's one of the Democrats' most influential legislators at a time when there's a shortage of those.

Locke Liddell's approach to lobbying has been described as "cutting edge" for Texas - and one of its many innovative moves has been the establishment of a full-service communications department to help clients keep on top of the action affecting them at the state Capitol while facilitating media and public relations that will bring in even more business for the Austin office and others around the southwest. Locke Liddell began breaking ground in this area about three years ago when it hired Julie Gilbert, a former Houston Post reporter who handled press for Houston METRO, to be its director of strategic communications. But Gilbert doesn't just knock out press releases and clip stories out of newspapers to circulate to the staff. She's actually part of a team that meets with clients and helps them design individual gameplans suited for their particular communications needs. This service has enhanced an integrated approach that makes it easier for lawyers who are lobbyists to be proactive instead of trying to do damage control and try to undo legislation after the fact.

| TOP HIRED GUNS |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1              | <b>Bill Messer</b><br>Texas Lobby Group, Former State Representative, Speaker Tom Craddick Transition Team Member, Former House Calendars Chair, Former Texas Legislative Council Finance Chair |
| 1              | <b>Mike Toomey</b><br>Texas Lobby Group, Former Chief of Staff to Governors Rick Perry and Bill Clerments, Former State Representative  |
| 3              | <b>Neal T. "Buddy" Jones</b><br>HillCo Partners, Former State Representative, Former Executive Assistant to Speaker Gib Lewis   |
| 4              | <b>Rusty Kelley</b><br>Public Strategies, Former Executive  |

|    |  |
|----|--|
|    | Assistant to Speaker Billy Clayton,<br>Former House Sergeant-at-Arms   |
| 5  | <b>Elton Bomer</b><br>Gardere Wynn law firm, Former State Representative, Former Insurance Commissioner, Former Secretary of State                 |
| 6  | <b>David Sibley</b><br>Former State Senator, Former Waco Mayor, Former Senate Economic Development Chair   |
| 7  | <b>Randy Erben</b><br>Former Office of State-Federal Relations Director, Former Asst. Secretary of State   |
| 8  | <b>Frank Santos</b><br>Santos Alliances, Former National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators Consultant, Former State House Aide                  |
| 9  | <b>Nora Del Bosque</b><br>Sister to Speaker Tom Craddick's Chief of Staff Nancy Fisher, Former State House Aide, Former House Appropriations Clerk |
| 10 | <b>Stan Schlueter</b><br>The Schlueter Group, Former State Representative, Former House Ways and Means Chair                                       |
| 11 | <b>Gordon Johnson, Rob Johnson</b><br>Johnson & Johnson Law Firm, Sons of legendary parliamentarian Bob Johnson                                    |
| 12 | <b>Demetrius McDaniel</b><br>Akin Gump Law Firm Partner, Former Department of Agriculture Special Assistant, Former State House Aide               |
| 13 | <b>Galt Graydon</b><br>Graydon Group, Former Senate Aide, Former Senate Investigating Committee Counsel  |

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 14 | <b>Ron Lewis</b><br>Former State Representative, Former House Natural Resources Chair   |
| 15 | <b>Gib Lewis</b><br>Business Partners LTD, Former House Speaker, Former City Council Member                                     |
| 16 | <b>Clint Hackney</b><br>Former State Representative, Former House Elections Chair, Former House Energy Chair                    |
| 17 | <b>J.E. "Buster" Brown</b><br>Former State Senator, Former Senate Natural Resources Chair, Former Assistant District Attorney   |
| 18 | <b>Robert Miller</b><br>Locke Liddell Law Firm Partner, Former Houston METRO Chairman, Former State Senate aide                 |
| 19 | <b>Gaylord Armstrong</b><br>McGinnis Lochgridge & Kilgore, Campaign Finance Consultant, Former Congressional Aide, Bush Pioneer |
| 20 | <b>Andrea McWilliams, Dean McWilliams</b><br>Former Legislative Aides to Democratic and Republican Members, Bush Pioneers       |
| 21 | <b>Mignon McGarry</b><br>Former State Senate Aide   |
| 22 | <b>Don Gilbert</b><br>Former Health & Human Services Commissioner, Former MHMR Commissioner                                     |
| 23 | <b>Walter Fisher</b><br>Former Senate Parliamentarian, Former House Parliamentarian, Former Legislative Director for Texas      |

|    |   |
|----|---|
|    | Municipal League  |
| 24 | <b>Patricia Shipton</b><br>Former Legislative Director for Gov. Rick Perry  |
| 25 | <b>Jack Roberts</b><br>Former Deputy Comptroller  |
| 26 | <b>Steve Bresnen</b><br>Former General Counsel to Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, Former Aide to Comptroller Bob Bullock                    |
| 27 | <b>Jerry "Nub" Donaldson</b><br>Former State Representative, Texas Civil Justice League Chairman                                  |
| 28 | <b>Joe Bill Watkins</b><br>Vinson & Elkins Partner, Former Executive Asst. to Texas Attorney General, Veteran Campaign Strategist |
| 29 | <b>Jim Warren</b><br>Former Aide to Secretary of State, Campaign Consultant   |
| 30 | <b>Nick Kralj</b><br>Former Aide to Ben Barnes as Speaker and Lt. Gov., Former Quorum Club Owner                                  |
| 31 | <b>Bill Siebert</b><br>Former State Representative  |
| 32 | <b>Joe Garcia</b><br>Garcia Group   |

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 33 | <b>Charlie Evans</b><br>Former State Representative   |
| 34 | <b>Al Erwin</b><br>Former PUC Commissioner, Former Advisor to Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst   |
| 35 | <b>Jill Warren</b><br>Former Asst. AG, Former State Senate Aide, Former State House Aide, Former State House Candidate, Former State Liaison to National Association of Attorneys General |
| 36 | <b>Karen A. Johnson</b><br>Infrastructure Solutions, Former Asst. AG, Bush Pioneer, Bush Mighty Texas Strike Force Leader   |
| 37 | <b>Chris Shields</b><br>Austin Legislative Services, Former Aide to Governor Bill Clements and Secretary of State Jack Rains  |
| 38 | <b>Marta Greytok</b><br>Greytok Consulting Group, Former PUC Commissioner, Former Taylor Lake Village Mayor   |
| 39 | <b>Steve Holzhauser</b><br>Former State Representative  |
| 40 | <b>Billy Phenix</b><br>Former Aide to Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, Former State Senate Aide  |
| 41 | <b>Marc Rodriguez</b><br>Husband of Daughter of Gov. Rick Perry's Legislative Director Dan  |

|    |  |
|----|--|
|    | Shelley  |
| 42 | <b>Deborah Ingersoll</b><br>Legislative Solutions  |
| 43 | <b>Mario A. Martinez</b><br>Former State House Aide  |
| 44 | <b>Gilbert Turrieta</b><br>Former Houston Chamber of<br>Commerce and Texas Medical<br>Association Official, Former LBB<br>Examiner |
| 45 | <b>Louis Bacarisse</b><br>Former Aide to Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock  |
| 46 | <b>Susan Longley</b><br>Former Aide to Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock  |
| 47 | <b>Bill Pewitt</b><br>Bill Pewitt & Associates   |
| 48 | <b>Ron Hinkle</b><br>Former State House Sergeant at<br>Arms, Former Texas Department of<br>Commerce Official                       |
| 49 | <b>Chuck Rice</b><br>BITL Partner, Former State Senate<br>Aide, Former Texas Hospital<br>Association Legislative Director          |
| 50 | <b>Gordon "Doc" Arnold</b><br>Former State Representative, Former<br>Executive Assistant to Speaker Gib<br>Lewis                   |

