

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



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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	Locke Liddell & Sapp Brian Cassidy, Gary Compton, Bill Jones, Michael Harris, Bruce LaBoon, Yuniedth

	Midence, Robert Miller, Alan Waldrop
2	<u>Akin Gump</u> Tom Bond, Sandy Kress, Demetrius McDaniel, John Pitts, Jody Richardson, Barry Senterfitt
3	<u>Hughes Luce</u> Jack Erskine, Myra Leo, Denice Marchman, Larry McGinnis, Marc Shivers
4	<u>Gardere Wynne Sewell</u> Elton Bomer, Steve Koebele, A.W. (Woody) Pogue, Carl Richie, Mark Vane, Kimberly Yelkin
5	<u>Jackson Walker</u> Trey Blocker, Kathy Hutto, Ed Small
6	<u>Vinson & Elkins</u> Darrick Eugene, Brian Feld, Kimberly Frost, Susan Harris, John Howard, Elizabeth Rogers, Joe Bill Watkins
7	<u>McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore</u> Gaylord Armstrong, Campbell McGinnis, Keith Strama
8	<u>Bracewell Patterson</u> Jim Chapman, Shannon Ratliff II, David Thompson, Jill Warren
9	<u>Baker Botts</u> Tristan Castaneda, Pamela Giblin, Robert Strauser
10	<u>Loeffler Tuggey Pauerstein Rosenthal</u> Allen Beinke, Becky Klein, Lisa Mayes
11	<u>Hance, Scarborough, Wright, Ginsberg</u> Kent Hance, Robert Floyd
12	<u>Winstead, Sechrist & Minick</u> Robert Bass, Janis Carter
13	<u>Kemp Smith</u> Clyde Alexander, Thomas Forbes
14	<u>Thompson & Knight</u> Victor Alcorta
15	<u>Bickerstaff Heath Smiley Pollan</u> 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	Bill Messer Texas Lobby Group, Former State Representative, Speaker Tom Craddick Transition Team Member, Former House Calendars Chair, Former Texas Legislative Council Finance Chair
1	Mike Toomey Texas Lobby Group, Former Chief of Staff to Governors Rick Perry and Bill Clerments, Former State Representative
3	Neal T. "Buddy" Jones HillCo Partners, Former State Representative, Former Executive Assistant to Speaker Gib Lewis
4	Rusty Kelley Public Strategies, Former Executive

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

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

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

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

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

