

INTRODUCTION

Nikki Taylor

Good Evening, I'm Nikki Taylor.

As chair of this event, it is my great privilege to welcome you to the 2011 Five Outstanding Young Dallasites Awards Banquet. Tonight's honorees include a chief legal officer, attorney, senior vice president/legal counsel, philanthropist, and project manager. But more than just their professional accolades, these individuals are actively working to build up our community.

To help us recognize these honorees, we're pleased to welcome Adam Vanek, 2010 Texas Junior Chamber President, as our Emcee. Adam is quite active in the Dallas community, serving in various leadership capacities for professional organizations: including the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, Park Cities Rotary Club, Leadership Dallas, and the Dallas Bar Association. Please help us welcome our emcee, Adam Vanek. (Lead applause)

Adam Vanek

Thank you, Nikki. It's my honor and privilege to be here at the Five Outstanding Young Dallasites Awards Banquet. This award, presented annually by our hosts, the Dallas Junior Chamber of Commerce, recognizes five amazing young professionals. Our honorees have distinguished themselves professionally and through substantial contribution to our community, including social improvement to major contemporary problems, cultural achievement, influencing public opinion, economic innovation, technological contributions, and/or philanthropic contributions.

(Feel free to add any desired audience warm-up, story, etc.)

Beyond Dallas, FOYD honorees are eligible to compete at the state and then the national level, for the *Five Outstanding Young Texans* and the *Ten Outstanding Young Americans* awards respectively. Last year, we are proud that two of our 2009 FOYD honorees were named amongst the 2010 *Five Outstanding Young Texans*.

- Mark Melton (point out Mark and lead applause) and...
- Michael Morath (point out Michael and lead applause)

Tonight we are excited to have the honorable Craig Watkins join us as our keynote speaker. Craig Watkins was elected District Attorney of Dallas County in November 2006, becoming the first African American District Attorney in Texas. Under Watkins' leadership, the Dallas County D.A.'s office has achieved a 99.4% conviction rate, and has focused on protecting the most vulnerable in our society by locking up sex offenders and child predators. Watkins' internationally recognized conviction integrity program uses DNA technology to put the guilty in prison where they belong. During the past four years, Watkins' steadfast commitment to the integrity of criminal justice in Dallas has garnered national and international attention. His Conviction Integrity Unit has reviewed more than 300 cases and helped free 25 wrongly convicted inmates! Educated in the Dallas ISD, Watkins graduated from Prairie View A&M University and later earned his law degree from Texas Wesleyan University. Watkins and his wife, Tanya, live in Desoto and have three children – Chad, Cale and Taryn.

Please help me welcome District Attorney Craig Watkins to the stage. (Lead applause) (After Watkins makes his remarks, return to stage) Now, to tonight's honorees... (Transition to handing out awards)

HONOREE INTRODUCTIONS

John Ansbach

Our first honoree, John Ansbach, is chief legal officer for Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Through his work, John is devoted to stopping drunk driving, supporting the victims of this violent crime and preventing underage drinking. His portfolio of work and dedication to the community earned him the following honors: *Dallas Business Journal* named him one of their "40 under Forty" in 2011, *D CEO Magazine* named him as an Outstanding Corporate Counsel Finalist in 2010, and he was named a Marshall Memorial Fellow in 2011.

John has been an active member of the community through his volunteer activities and currently serves as the president of the General Counsel Forum – Dallas chapter. He also serves in various capacities on a number of other boards, including: Association of Corporate Counsel, Dallas Bar Association, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and the Texas Association of Business. Surprisingly, John still finds time to lecture at Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law and previously lectured at The University of Texas' School of Law.

Mr. Ansbach was nominated by Caren Lock Hanson, regional vice president and general counsel at TIAA-CREF. His nominator writes:

"John and I were on a trial team together, and we would get sent out to try cases together," she said. "When you get sent to a little town, you get to know someone well, and certainly I have seen his litigation skills. He is incredibly intelligent and a hard worker and never leaves any stone unturned. You can always count on him to have novel approaches."

Our esteemed honoree, John Ansbach.

(Lead applause)

John gives 3 minute acceptance speech. Adam, Nikki and Chris shake his hand, give him plaque and pose for picture.

Heath Cheek

Our next honoree, Heath Cheek, is an associate with the firm of Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP where he represents Fortune 500 companies, small businesses, and individuals with complex commercial litigation including antitrust, labor and employment, patent and trade secrets, real estate, and securities. Heath had the great honor of serving on the North Texas Super Bowl XLV Host Committee where he and his committee of 100 were tasked with selling game and sponsorship packages through the NFL On Location program. Not only did he meet expectations, he exceeded them, resulting in setting a new record for the program!

Locally, Mr. Cheek founded and serves as chairman of the Texas Tech Quarterly Business Briefing, an event that provides scholarships to economically-disadvantaged, Dallas County students attending Texas Tech University. Over the past three years, Heath has raised \$65,000 in scholarships for dozens of students, many of whom would not be able to attend college if it weren't for this aid.

Mr. Cheek was nominated by Andrea Gage, recruiter for Texas Tech University. His nominator writes:

"You may notice that most of Heath's involvement revolves around providing scholarships to needy students and there is a reason for that. Heath is a first-generation college graduate who grew up on a farm in the small West Texas town of Chillicothe. Due to drought and several years of bad crops, Heath's parents were not able to provide money for Heath's college education. Nevertheless, through the generosity of scholarship donors, Heath was able to attend Texas Tech University and, eventually, Baylor Law School. Heath has always viewed those scholarships as 'loans' that he intends to pay forward to high school students who experience similar hardship."

Welcome, Heath Cheek to the stage.

(Lead applause)

Heath gives 3 minute acceptance speech. Adam, Nikki, and Chris shake his hand, give him plaque and pose for picture.

Carl Pankratz

Our third honoree, Carl Pankratz, is senior vice president/legal counsel for Capital Title of Texas, LLC where he oversees the legal department, manages 200+ employees, and works with developers, lenders, and attorneys to ensure transactions go smoothly. Despite his busy career, Carl is dedicated to making his city of residence, Rowlett, great. In June 2011, Mr. Pankratz was elected to the Rowlett City Council, Place 3 in a run-off election against an incumbent.

In the community, he serves on the Legal/Risk Management committee for Big Thought, the board of directors for Helping Restore Ability, the steering committee for the Tower Club's annual Charity Classic fundraiser and his firm's pro bono committee. He also volunteers with the North Texas Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and is part of the United Way Young Leaders Society's Engagement Committee, where he encourages and recruits local young professionals to support the United Way. And, this is only a partial list of Carl's numerous involvements, but rather than listing all of them, let me conclude with the words of Laurie Harris, Membership Director of Tower Club:

"I personally have never known anyone under the age of 40 to be elected to a City Council, much less someone under 30. It is a true testament that the citizens of Rowlett would put that much faith in someone so young. Carl has proved to be an active and vital member of Tower Club as well as a good friend to all he meets. Carl Pankratz is very worthy of this award and I highly recommend him to the selection committee."

Our next honoree, Carl Pankratz.

(Lead applause)

Carl gives 3 minute acceptance speech. Adam, Nikki, and Chris shake his hand, give him plaque, and pose for picture.

Sarah Polley

Our next honoree, Sarah Polley, is executive director at Vickery Meadow Learning Center; VMLC assists adults in some of the most impoverished areas of Dallas change their lives by teaching them to read and write in English and the center helps their young children get a head start in school by teaching them reading skills. Under Sarah's leadership, VMLC's budget has more than tripled, and the organization expanded to a second campus in West Dallas. Sarah has shepherded VMLC through these tough economic times and made it stronger than ever.

In the community, Sarah serves on the steering committees for Literacy Coalition of Greater Dallas and With One Voice Immigration Coalition. Ms. Polley was recognized at the SMU Women's Symposium with the 2010 Profile in Leadership Award and she is a graduate of the Dallas Regional Chamber's Leadership Dallas.

Her nominator, Wilson Aurbach, speaks of Sarah's dedication to the non-profit:

"I have been on the Board of Directors with Sarah since 2007, and I have been consistently impressed by the results she obtains and the methods she uses. Sarah has to work with everyone from busy executives to full time empty nest volunteers and knows just how to handle every situation. Overall, I do not know anyone who serves humanity more effectively every day than Sarah."

Join me in welcoming Sarah Polley.

(Lead applause)

Sarah gives 3 minute acceptance speech. Adam, Nikki, and Chris shake her hand, give her plaque, and pose for picture.

Jeremiah Quarles

Our final honoree, Jeremiah Quarles, is a Project Manager for the Office of Economic Development for the City of Dallas. In this role, he has established a profound reputation in his industry as he has influenced several businesses to stay and/or grown their operations in the City of Dallas, thus, producing millions of dollars for the city. Mr. Quarles is highly respected in the community as is evidenced in his involvement with several area agencies and organizations. As a member of Urban Financial Services Coalition, Jeremiah has spearheaded efforts to provide a school based financial literacy course, facilitated by our organization at Southern Dallas schools, in order to fight against financial “illiteracy” in these underserved communities. He quickly demonstrated his leadership skills, earning him the president-elected role as chapter programs assistant vice president.

Akilah Wallace, colleague, nominated Jeremiah for this distinction. *She wrote,*

“I don’t just believe...I know Jeremiah Quarles will make an excellent addition to your Five Outstanding Young Dallasites because he stands out amongst young professionals in the Dallas community thanks to his unwavering capacity to serve young people and mentor other young professionals. On a lighter note, it is rare that I meet a young professional with as many national accolades, business accomplishments and personal success as Jeremiah who still displays such a humble attitude & presence. I am honored to nominate Mr. Jeremiah Quarles as a Five Outstanding Young Dallasite, because the recognition is well deserved!”

Our final honoree, Jeremiah Quarles.

(Lead applause)

Jeremiah gives 3 minute acceptance speech. Adam, Nikki, and Chris shake her hand, give her plaque, and pose for picture.

Ladies and Gentlemen, join me in one final round of applause for all our honorees.

(Lead applause)

Now, I’d like to turn it over to DJCC’s President, Mr. Chris Kobler.

CLOSING

Chris

Thank you, Adam, and again congratulations to our Five Outstanding Young Dallasites. Award nominations were solicited from the community and reviewed by an independent panel of judges. The judges here with us tonight are...

Judges (Point toward each judge and they'll wave from the crowd)

- Mike Dietz, 2006 Dallas Junior Chamber of Commerce President and Bronze Sponsor of tonight's event
- Raj Narayanan, 2008 FOYD Honoree and 2009 Five Outstanding Young Texans Honoree
- Robert Witte, 2007 FOYD Honoree, 2008 Five Outstanding Young Texans, and now one of the 2009 Ten Outstanding Young Americans.

Sponsors

Tonight would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors.

Our Presenting Sponsor is AT&T

Our Gold Sponsors

- Dallas Business Journal
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Our Bronze Sponsors

- Texas Instruments
- Mike Dietz

Committee Members

And, last, but certainly not least, since late Spring, our committee members have worked hard to produce tonight's event.

Please help us thank:

- Meredith Clinton
- Ponce Duran
- Chris Kobler
- Jennifer Mills
- KeShia Simmons, and...
- Tiffany Vanek

Thank you all for being a part of tonight's event and helping us recognize the best and brightest young Dallasites. Now, we'd like to invite you to join us in the Foundation Room for a post-celebration party. You can step just across the foyer and take the elevator upstairs. If you still have drink tickets, you'll want to use them in this room before going upstairs. Again, many thanks and we look forward to seeing you at next year's Five Outstanding Young Dallasites Awards Banquet!