

2020 ALABAMA STATE BAR PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE PROFILE



Taze Shepard

Sparkman Shepard & Morris, P.C.

Huntsville, Alabama

Taze Shepard's forty-year legal career reflects his belief that every Alabama lawyer can be a servant-leader in their community – dedicated to helping their fellow lawyers as well as their clients.

Taze started his career working alongside his grandfather, former Senator John Sparkman. Today, he's the senior partner in the three-lawyer firm of Sparkman, Shepard & Morris, P.C., in Huntsville, which includes Taze's partner and son, Ty Shepard. Taze has handled commercial litigation from copyright infringement to equipment lease disputes and serves as a federal trustee in bankruptcy, administering Chapter 7, Chapter 11, and Chapter 12 cases. Currently, Taze often serves as debtor's counsel in negotiated workouts and Chapter 11 reorganization cases for a variety of individual professionals and small companies who are facing large judgments or tax liens.

Taze's service to the Alabama State Bar is well-known throughout the state. He has served as Vice President of the Bar, received the 2019 Albert Vreeland Pro Bono Award for his efforts on behalf of legal aid organizations, and is in his sixth year as a member of the Board of Bar Commissioners. Taze has twice co-chaired the State Bar's Government Relations Liaison Committee and served as Chair of the Solo & Small Firm Section for two terms.

Through those leadership roles, Taze organized focus sessions that provided Alabama lawyers with the opportunity to discuss pertinent issues like technology challenges, work stress, ethics, and how the State Bar can better meet the needs of its members. He grew the SSF Section into the Bar's largest and most active section by developing free and low-cost CLE events held around the state and online, including the 2019 Probate Practice CLE events attended by nearly 1,000 attorneys; an active ListServ® used to mentor and discuss legal issues; a growing library of legal forms and articles; a new Lawyer Wellness Program; and an upgraded, user-friendly website. Taze is currently organizing a series of 2020 Alabama District Court Practice CLE events in eight locations.

In addition to his commitment to the State Bar, Taze is serving his second term as Vice President of Legal Services Alabama, has served as President of the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program, and has served as President of the Huntsville/Madison County Bar.

Taze is a Fellow and member of the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Law Foundation, which makes IOTA grants to legal aid organizations. Because Taze is deeply dedicated to legal aid, he brought leaders together in a summit meeting to discuss improving court administration to assist low-income debtors in Alabama. Next, Taze organized a series of meetings of legal aid groups on the delivery of pro bono services to low-income Alabamans. The results were compiled in the Access to Justice Report he delivered at the State Bar's 2018 annual meeting and the 2019 Winter Conference of Alabama Circuit and District Judges.

As a father of five and grandfather of six, Taze takes an active interest in Alabama youth and education. This includes his work with Junior Achievement and Big Brothers/Big Sisters and his two terms as President of the Schools Foundation in Madison County. Taze is a former Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of Athens State University, was an elected member of the State Board of Education, served as Chair of the Governor's Commission on School Violence, and was Vice-Chair of the Board of the Alabama Space Exhibit Commission (Space Camp).

Taze and his wife, Pamela Lang Shepard, live in his family home in downtown Huntsville. In addition to his legal career, Taze and Pamela run a small business together.