



SANTOS VARGAS TAKES THE REINS AS SABA PRESIDENT

By Paul Curl

After following an indirect path, a persistent interest in law led Santos Vargas to a legal career in San Antonio, where he has become, as of August 1, 2018, president of the San Antonio Bar Association.

A native of Port Arthur, Texas, Santos is the son of Mexican immigrants who never had the opportunity to receive a formal education in their home country. Santos is the first person in his family to receive a college degree.

After graduating from Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School in Beaumont in 1995, Santos entered New Mexico Military Institute, which he attended for one year. Santos then transferred to St. Mary's University, where he completed college and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in political science in 1999.

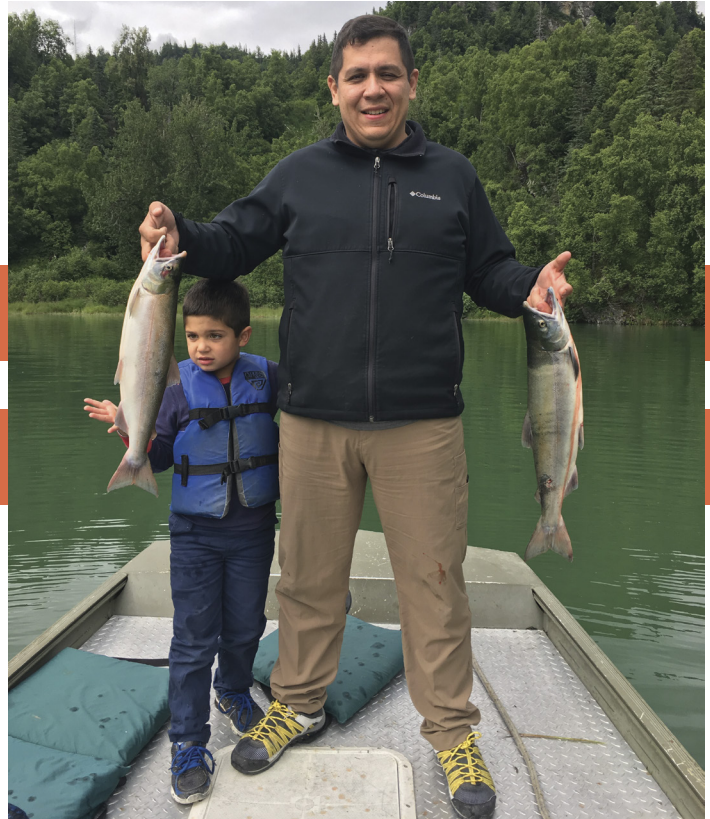
Santos then spent the next two years in other pursuits, including working in the life insurance division of USAA. The lure of a legal career proved irresistible, however. Santos opted to apply to law schools on the East Coast and was accepted to Syracuse University College of Law.

During law school, Santos was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Syracuse Law & Technology Journal*. Santos also held summer internships for two United States District Court judges and held summer clerkships at Cox & Smith and Matthews & Branscomb, two firms that later merged and eventually became Dykema. After obtaining his law degree from Syracuse in 2004, Santos joined the merged firm of Cox Smith Matthews as an associate in its commercial litigation section.

Santos was then introduced to the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association by his mentors at Cox Smith Matthews, Ramon Molina and Marty Truss. Marty Truss would later serve as president of SABA himself. Santos became active in SAYLA,



In October 2017, Santos and Patty Vargas celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary in southern France. This picture was taken on the coastline in Cassis.



despite a heavy workload as a new litigation associate. Santos was elected to SAYLA's board and later became its president.

After approximately three years at Cox Smith Matthews, Santos was ready for another adventure, so in 2007 he formed his own practice. Santos continued to practice commercial litigation as a solo attorney for several years.

During his time at Cox Smith Matthews, Santos became a close friend of attorney Sara Davis, who is married to attorney and former federal prosecutor, Jason Davis. Sara introduced Santos to Jason, and they kept in touch through the years. In 2010, Jason Davis co-founded The Davis Group, P.C. and reached out to Santos about joining the firm. In early 2011, Santos joined the firm, which now goes by Davis & Santos, P.C. Santos is currently a partner at Davis & Santos, and represents individuals, financial institutions, business entities, trusts, and estates in a variety of complex business and fiduciary litigation.

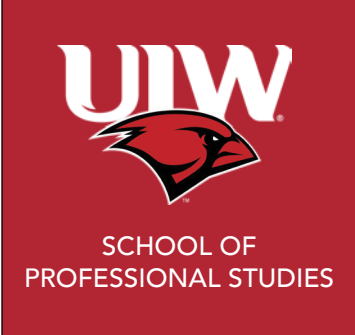
Santos's main goal as incoming SABA president is to increase member engagement by giving SABA members more opportunities to interact in person and online. A side effect of this, he believes, will be to increase membership by giving lawyers even more reasons to join SABA.

SABA is already planning multiple new joint networking events with other bar organizations, which will be scheduled throughout the upcoming membership year. One new program through which Santos hopes to increase opportunities for member engagement is "UnWined," a program through which SABA members are given opportunities to plan and host social events at their homes or offices, with financial and marketing assistance from SABA. The hosts and guests get to network, and the hosts get to promote their practices at the same time.

TOP LEFT: Santos and Patty celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary in Monte Carlo, TOP RIGHT: Santos and his son Santos Vargas, Jr. enjoying salmon fishing on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula in July 2018, ABOVE: The Vargas children at their home in the Texas Hill Country. From left: Laura Evelyn Vargas (age 8), Santos Vargas, Jr. (age 6) and Lucia Esperanza Vargas (1 month).

Santos also hopes to increase opportunities for member engagement by establishing an online network through which SABA members can interact and exchange questions and ideas. In addition, Santos hopes to vastly expand SABA's existing efforts to secure discounts for its members from both law related and non-law related vendors in the San Antonio area, and to create a more formal resource through which SABA members can access information relating to vendor discounts.

In addition to his bar service with SABA and SAYLA, Santos has served on various other boards and committees and is a graduate of Class 34 of Leadership San Antonio. Santos is also



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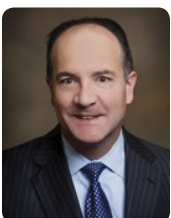


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currently Chair of the State Bar of Texas's Local Bar Services Committee, which organizes the annual State Bar of Texas Bar Leaders Conference, and which serves as a liaison between the State Bar of Texas and local bar organizations throughout the State.

Somehow finding time for a personal life, Santos is married to attorney Patricia R. Vargas, who is Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law, and practices at Duncan, Bressler, & Liu, Inc. Santos and Patricia have three young children, Laura, age 8, Santos, age 6, and the newest member of their family, Lucia, who was born shortly before this article was published. In his personal time, Santos enjoys spending time with his family, cooking, hunting, fishing, and hiking. ❖



Paul Curl is managing shareholder of Curl Stahl Geis, PC, specializing in business and commercial litigation. He is Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.



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