

CURRICULUM VITAE OF JOHN V. McSHANE
Distinguished Trial Lawyer Emeritus • Collaborative Lawyer
(brought Collaborative Family Law to Texas in 1999) •
• Certified Life Coach • Lawyer Wellness, Mental Health and
Suicide Prevention Advocate • Legal Ethics and Professionalism Expert •
• Systems Change Agent •

John V. McShane is one of the top divorce lawyers in Texas and has represented numerous celebrities, sports figures (including a number of Dallas Cowboys) and entrepreneurs. As stated by his client of 25 years, Dallas oil titan and billionaire T. Boone Pickens – “You can’t do any better than John McShane. He has fought many battles for me, and we have never had a loss. We have a long history of winning together.”

John has also been successful in handling many high-profile criminal cases and hundreds of professional disciplinary cases brought by regulatory boards against lawyers, physicians, dentists, etc. John has been board certified as a specialist in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1981 (only approximately 5% of Texas lawyers are board certified in a field). John was also board certified in Criminal Law from 1980 until 2004 (less than 2% of Texas lawyers are board certified in two specialties). John scored the second highest grade in Texas on the Criminal Law Board Certification examination.

John has received numerous recognitions for excellence in the practice of law, including: being named as a Texas Super Lawyer from 2003 through 2021 by Texas Monthly Magazine (the top 5% of Texas lawyers); named as one of the top six divorce lawyers in Dallas by D Magazine; rated AV Preeminent in Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers; named in Best Lawyers in America; selected as one of the top 100 lawyers in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex by Texas Monthly Magazine.

John’s achievements have also been profiled in newspapers, magazines and journals including the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the Dallas Morning News, the Fort Worth Star Telegram, the Texas Lawyer, the Texas Bar Journal, the Montana Law Journal and a lengthy profile in the American Bar Association Journal entitled “The Passionate Practitioner”. John has also been interviewed on dozens of radio and television programs. His courage and tenacity were profiled in the pilot of the television program “Unstoppable Spirit”.

John has a passion for legal ethics and professionalism, which led to his service in the disciplinary system of the State Bar of Texas for decades. Former Dallas District Judge Dee Miller stated: “John McShane is the standard bearer for ethics and professionalism among Texas lawyers.” He has held various offices within the system, including: Member of Grievance Oversight Committee of Supreme Court of Texas; Chairman, State Bar of Texas Professionalism Enhancement Program; Member and

Past Chair of the Dallas district grievance committee of the State Bar of Texas (also chaired an investigatory panel and evidentiary hearing panel of the district grievance committee).

John also drafted rehabilitation friendly revisions to the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, including the Lawyer Disability Provisions. John has given hundreds of lectures on legal ethics and professionalism to local and state bar associations, law schools, continuing education conferences and in-house at law firms. These lectures were given throughout the United States and in a number of foreign cities including: Lisbon, Portugal; Amsterdam, Netherlands; Zurich, Switzerland; Edinburgh, Scotland; Sydney, Australia; Melbourne, Australia; Brisbane, Australia; and Quebec, Canada.

For over 45 years, John has been a passionate activist and advocate for lawyer/law student wellness. After a serious and nearly fatal bout with acute alcoholism in the early to mid-1970's, John achieved sobriety which has endured for 45 years. As he surveyed the landscape of the legal profession with a clear mind, it was evident that there was an epidemic of alcoholism and drug addiction among his colleagues.

In an effort to combat this plague, John initiated and co-founded Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers ("LCL") of Dallas in January of 1978. This organization is a confidential support group for lawyers impaired by alcohol and/or drug addiction which meets in downtown Dallas every Thursday at noon. This organization became the prototype for other such LCL groups throughout Texas and the United States. Today there are literally hundreds of LCL groups operating throughout the nation. Although the LCL support groups were initially meant to help alcohol and/or drug-addicted lawyers, judges and law students, the groups now welcome legal professionals with any type of impairment, including depression, anxiety, gambling addiction, sex addiction, eating disorders, etc. These lawyer support groups also led to the formation of Lawyers Assistance Programs (LAPs) in every state in the nation. Between the local LCL meetings and the activity of the LAPs, there is now a robust network of resources for impaired lawyers in the United States.

John was one of the prime movers in the formation of the Texas Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) in 1990. It was at this time that John greatly expanded his focus on lawyer wellness to include, in addition to alcohol and drug issues, stress management, depression, anxiety, resilience, relationships, process addictions (sex, food, gambling, pornography) and systemic changes conducive to lawyer wellbeing.

It became obvious to John that lawyers would be happier and healthier if the systems in which they worked were less toxic. For this reason, John became a healing systems change agent within the legal profession.

For Texas divorce lawyers, John discovered and brought Collaborative Family Law to Texas. This is a much less adversarial and therapeutic system of re-structuring families. John co-organized the first training for Collaborative Family Law in Dallas in

January of 2000. He and his law partner, Larry Hance, formed a non-profit organization, The Collaborative Law Institute of Texas (now known as Collaborative Divorce Texas), to promote Collaborative Family Law in Texas. The Collaborative Law Institute started with only John and Larry and grew to over 500 members in a short time. John and other members of the Collaborative Law Institute (now Collaborative Divorce Texas) were instrumental in getting the first collaborative law statute in the world passed through the Texas Legislature in 2001, despite the heavy opposition of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association. John gave pivotal testimony at the hearings on the proposed statute in the Texas House of Representatives.

For Texas criminal defense attorneys, John created the “Recovery Defense” to be used in alcohol and drug-related cases. This model emphasized proving through expert witnesses that drug addiction and alcoholism are diseases rather than moral defects, getting the client into a rigorous rehabilitation program and presenting the disease concept and the recovery to the judge or jury in mitigation of punishment. This unique approach to substance abuse-related criminal cases proved hugely successful and helped change the lives of many drug addicts and alcoholics, as well as their families. It was described in newspapers such as The Dallas Morning News, the Wall Street Journal and USA Today. These articles resulted in John being interviewed on numerous radio and television programs and his being invited to teach his method to criminal defense attorneys throughout the nation. John is currently writing a textbook on the “Recovery Defense” and developing a certification program for lawyers wishing to become Certified Recovery Defense Practitioners.

John also initiated reforms to the Texas lawyer disciplinary system by helping to change the culture of disciplinary hearings so that decision makers became more compassionate toward lawyers with impairment. John also initiated new policies to make the disciplinary process more conducive to lawyer rehabilitation while continuing to protect the public.

John developed multiple workshops on lawyer wellness which he presented throughout the United States and internationally. During this period of John’s career, he was conducting approximately 50 lawyer wellness workshops per year – both nationally and internationally.

In early 2003, John suffered a severe bout of clinical depression. The depression at times immobilized him and made it very difficult for him to work. He was acutely suicidal for several months. Fortunately, the depression lifted in late 2003, and John realized that God had prepared him for yet another ministry in the field of lawyer wellness.

Statistics indicate that lawyer depression and anxiety is now an even more pernicious problem than lawyer substance abuse. The suicide rate among lawyers has reached epidemic proportions. In order to combat this disturbing trend among lawyers, John founded another non-profit organization, the Professional Wellness Institute. The Professional Wellness Institute sponsors the Monday Night Group, which is a support

group for lawyers suffering from depression, bipolar disorder and anxiety disorder. There were five members of the original Monday Night Group. Under John's leadership, the group has now grown from 5 members to approximately 150 members in Dallas alone. Today supporting and advocating for depressed and suicidal lawyers is John's primary calling.

John has received a number of awards relating to these activities including the State Bar of Texas Service Award, the State Bar of Texas Presidential Citation, the Texas Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Ralph A. Mock Lifetime Contribution Award, the State Bar of Texas Presidential Commendation and being recognized by the Texas Lawyers Assistance Program as a Lawyer Wellness Trailblazer in recognition of his 45 years of service to his colleagues.

TESTIMONIALS

"His seminars and speeches are dynamic, fearless and inspiring, and his individual presence is clear, conscious and healing. In short, John talks the talk and walks the walk." – Don P. Jones, Division Director, Strategic Planning, State Bar of Texas; Former Executive Director, Texas Lawyers Assistance Program.

"John McShane is gifted, talented, entertaining, educational, enlightening and passionate about the topic of enhancing quality of life for busy professionals. It was a great joy to meet and get to know this guy." – Judge Vic Fleming, Little Rock, AR.

"John McShane changed my life. I walk taller today. I'm less afraid. I'm confident and I know how to communicate my confidence to people . . ." -- William C. Meili, Attorney, Dallas, TX.

"Absolutely brilliant! Soulful. You have a powerful life force. You're the kind who will change the world." – Nancy Newman, Attorney, Farmington Hills, MI.

"Trying to summarize a 40-year law career isn't easy, so I'm going to focus on a period that is important to me – the few years where you saved my life. Looking back, 1996 was the start of the darkest period in my life. I had lost my company, my best friend and his wife in a tragic car wreck, and was going through a bitter divorce. You saved me with your wise legal counsel and, of course, with sound personal advice and, perhaps most importantly, your friendship. I give you a lot of credit for all the good that has happened to me the past decade. You know I named my most recent book *The Luckiest Guy in the World*. Know this: The day I met you ranks high on the list of luckiest days of my life." -- T. Boone Pickens, Texas oil titan and billionaire and John's client for 25 years.

"John McShane is a great detail man and a great big-picture man. He's a visionary and an idealist who is also extremely thorough in exploring all of the possibilities." – The Honorable Dee Miller, Former Dallas District Judge.

“John simply operates on a whole different level than other lawyers I’ve been involved with. Just knowing him saved me.” -- Garry Weber, Dallas Investor, Former Dallas City Councilman, Former County Judge of Dallas County Commissioner’s Court, prominent philanthropist and client.

“He’s a person who can cut right through everything to your heart and soul and pull you through. I went on to do five national TV shows thanks to John.” -- Paula McClure, Emmy Award Winning TV Journalist and former client.

“John McShane is a man of outstanding character who has worked tirelessly as a trial lawyer for over fifty years. He is particularly known for his efforts to promote the mental health within the legal community. He has personally founded two initiatives, “*Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers*” (“LCL”) and “*The Monday Night Group*” (“MNG”), that have touched the lives of hundreds of lawyers struggling with depression, anxiety, substance abuse and other mental illnesses. He also partially funded the Monday Night Group. What he has done for the legal profession through the countless hours he has dedicated to LCL and MNG is nothing short of remarkable.” – Jim Burnham, Former President, Dallas Bar Association.

“Anyone who knows John and who has listened to his presentations over the years on the subject of addiction and mental illness is fully aware he has not only talked the talk, but walked the walk. All of us who have dealt with addiction or mental illness issues in our lives and in the lives of our friends and families know John has been a leader in the fight surrounding these issues and, more importantly, in the attempts to assist literally hundreds of individuals by getting them into recovery and working with them through the recovery process. In short, John has taken his substance abuse and mental illness issues, and his recovery program to create a ripple effect which has had a positive impact on hundreds of lawyers. In short, no one has done more for our profession in the area of substance abuse and mental illness than John McShane.” -- Al Ellis, Former President, Dallas Bar Association.

“You are a special person with a heart as big as Texas and you are an amazing leader!” – Michael Hurst, Immediate Past President, Dallas Bar Association.

“You are a giant – a huge presence in the work of helping our fellow lawyers!” – Trey Apffel, former President of State Bar of Texas and current Executive Director of State Bar of Texas.

“No one has done more to assist impaired lawyers in Texas than John McShane.” – Dickey Griggs, Immediate Past President of Texas Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers.

“John brought to Texas the most significant thing in my practice life – collaborative law. John is the consummate professional, in my opinion. I am so proud to call him my friend.” – Gay G. Cox, Attorney and respected leader of Collaborative Family Law movement in Texas, and for whom Texas Collaborative Law’s highest award, The Gay G. Cox Memorial Award, is named.

“Without your help I would not have known the rare joy of knowing that I COULD make something of myself, not only personally but financially. More than any of my teachers, my parents or any of the other role models in my life, your enthusiasm and positive ‘can do’ attitude propelled me into some of the biggest achievements of my life.” – Terry Costa, Dallas entrepreneur, Owner of Terry Costa, Inc., and former client.

“As my attorney, confidante, trusted advisor and friend for over 40 years, John McShane has been a major transformational force in my life and my career. When I was tried on a false criminal charge, his scathing cross-examinations decimated the testimony of the lying police officers. John befuddled the prosecutor with deft legal maneuvers and mesmerized the jury during his spellbinding summation. The jury found me ‘not guilty’ after only ten minutes of deliberation! Before I was employed as a television news anchor, I was a reporter and my duties included covering trials and interviewing lawyers. I have never encountered a lawyer who comes close to matching John’s courtroom prowess. John also skillfully negotiated multiple contracts which resulted in me being blessed by becoming one of the highest compensated and most watched on-air personalities in the North Texas market. Additionally, John has served as my confidante and problem-solver for over four decades. His calm demeanor, wise counsel, compassion and creative problem-solving skills have helped me and my family successfully navigate a number of crisis situations. During the O.J. Simpson trial, much was made of the many lawyers included in Simpson’s ‘dream team.’ I will be eternally grateful that I have my own personal ‘dream team’ all wrapped up in one amazing lawyer -- the incomparable John McShane.” ~ Lola Johnson, former Channel 8 News Anchor, Dallas, TX

“I live and practice in Aspen, Colorado. My practice focuses on high net-worth cases and high-conflict cases. Over the 32 years that I have practiced in the field of family law, I have worked with attorneys from New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Miami, Los Angeles, Dallas and many other large cities throughout the country. The attorneys I have worked with have been very experienced and highly regarded by other attorneys practicing in the area of family law. In 2015, I had the privilege of co-counseling with John V. McShane of McShane & Davis, LLP in a high net-worth, high-conflict post decree case in Aspen, Colorado. Of the many attorneys with whom I have tried cases, John McShane ranks as the very best and brightest. John McShane is the most professional, ethical and effective trial attorney with whom I have had the privilege to practice. It was a privilege and a pleasure working with John McShane throughout this very difficult case. His professionalism and high ethical standards were matched by his enormous concern and empathy for our client. Trying a case with him in Aspen was one of the highlights of my professional career.” ~ Jeremy Bernstein, Trial Lawyer, Aspen, CO

“John, I consider you a good friend, a relentless advocate and a great defender of my recovery. You are a brilliant attorney and have done an incredible job for me for many years. You represented me with the highest levels of honesty, integrity and professionalism.” ~ J.G., former divorce client

Expert Witness Engagements and Testimonials

John has been retained as an expert witness on legal ethics and legal malpractice by plaintiffs, defendants, grievance respondents and insurance carriers with a number of these engagements involving multi-million-dollar legal claims. Sample testimonials are as follows:

“The expert witness report John McShane prepared on behalf of my client was the most comprehensive, thorough and hard-hitting report I have seen in my career.” – Ross Sears, Trial Lawyer, Houston, TX

“I retained John McShane as an expert witness in a complex, high-conflict case. He was aggressively deposed by opposing counsel. It is my opinion that he gave the best expert witness deposition I have observed.” – Don Godwin, Trial Lawyer, Dallas, TX

“When John McShane testifies as an expert witness, it is like the voice of God coming from the witness stand.” – Honorable David Hanschen, Former Family Court District Judge, Dallas, TX

John’s Church Involvement

- Member of All Saints Catholic Church
- All Saints Men’s Club
- All Saints Disability Ministry
- All Saints Adoration Ministry
- Guest lecturer to congregation on topics relating to relationships, marriage and spirituality
- Presentations to students at All Saints Catholic School
- Pastor and personal confessor: Father Alfonse Nazzaro, Pastoral Administrator, All Saints Catholic Church
- Professional Advisor, The Catholic Foundation
- Member, St. Thomas More Society of Dallas Catholic Lawyers

Education, Professional Affiliations and Memberships

- Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, St. Mary’s University, 1964.
- Doctor of Jurisprudence, University of Texas School of Law, June 1967.
- Law License issued by the State Bar of Texas, September 18, 1967.
- Member, State Bar of Texas - Family Law Section, Criminal Law Section and Collaborative Law Section.
- Member, (Family Law Section and Small Firm Section) American Bar Association.
- Member, Dallas Bar Association – Family Law Section
- Texas Association of Board Certified Family Law Specialists.

- Board of Directors, Texas Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers
- Co-Founder and former president of Dallas Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers
- Founder and president, Professional Wellness Institute
- Founder and president, McShane Solutions, LLC
- Co-founder and member of Board of Directors of Collaborative Law Institute of Texas (now Collaborative Divorce Texas).
- Sustaining member, Dallas Bar Foundation
- Sustaining member, Texas Bar Foundation
- Selected as a member of the College of the State Bar of Texas (membership requires rigorous study and scholarship. Only 8% of Texas lawyers are selected. The motto of the College is “Professionalism Through Education”).
- Certified Professional Life Coach (certified through Hudson Institute, Santa Barbara, CA) Coaching specialties: quality of life enhancement, top performance, resilience, depression and substance abuse recovery, suicide prevention and relationships (for men only).
- Member, Dallas Bar Association Standing Committee on Equality
- Member, International Coaching Federation – North Texas
- Member, The National Speakers Association of North Texas
- Member, American Association of Suicidology
- Member, Creative Problem Solving Institute

John’s Family

Family: Former wife of 38 years and treasured close friend, Rosalie McShane; beloved children Shannon McShane Bradshaw and Andrea McShane, loved and admired son-in-law Andrew Bradshaw; precious grandchildren Evan Bradshaw, Aaron Bradshaw and Avery Honigblum; exalted great-grandchildren: Audrey Honigblum and Holden Honigblum, and terribly spoiled grand-dog “Ryder”.

Contact Information: P.O. Box 800041, Dallas, TX 75380; 214/728-1832;
john@johnvmcshane.com