

# A History of Webb, Stokes & Sparks

## San Angelo, Texas

The law firm now known as **Webb, Stokes & Sparks** traces its roots to a friendship forged through shared service, education, and values. Founding partners **Tom Webb** and **Aubrey Stokes** met as students at Baylor Law School in the years following World War II. Both men were able to attend law school through the GI Bill of Rights after serving honorably in the United States Navy—Aubrey as a fighter pilot flying missions from aircraft carriers, and Tom as a radar operator. Their wartime experiences instilled in them a lifelong commitment to discipline, service, and justice.

United by a deep belief in advocating for injured individuals and holding wrongdoers accountable, Webb and Stokes formed a strong West Texas legal partnership in **1960**. That partnership not only endured, but grew steadily, becoming one of the most respected personal injury law firms in the region for more than **65 years**.

## Early Years and Office Locations

From **1960 to 1964**, the firm operated on the ground floor of the historic **St. Angelus Hotel** in downtown San Angelo.



St. Angelus Hotel

When the hotel was razed in 1964 to make way for the construction of Central National Bank, the firm relocated to the **Continental Fidelity Building** at **17 South Chadbourne Street**, where it leased offices for the next fifteen years.



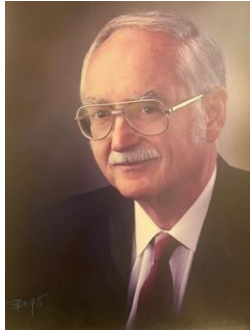
Continental Fidelity Building

In **1979**, Webb, Stokes & Sparks acquired property at **314 West Harris Avenue**. After extensive renovations and new construction, the firm moved into its new headquarters—a location that has remained the firm’s home ever since and stands as a lasting symbol of its permanence and commitment to San Angelo.



Present Location

## Founding Partners



### Tom Webb (1926–1996) Founding Partner

A founding partner, Tom Webb was a highly respected trial lawyer who devoted his career to personal injury law. He graduated from **Hardin-Simmons University**, where he was a champion debater and competed in the National Debate Championships at West Point, New York. A **cum laude** graduate of **Baylor Law School** in 1949, Tom achieved the highest score in the state of Texas on the bar examination.

After beginning his legal career in Abilene—where he also served as an Abilene City Councilman—Tom moved to San Angelo around 1960 to join forces with Aubrey Stokes. Over the course of his career, Tom served as **President of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association** and was among the first attorneys in Texas to become **board-certified in personal injury law** by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He was a member of the International Academy of Trial Attorneys.



### Aubrey Stokes (1921–1990) Founding Partner

Aubrey Stokes was known for his tenacity, integrity, and unwavering dedication to justice. He graduated from **Texas Wesleyan College** before attending **Baylor Law School**, where he met Tom Webb—beginning a friendship and professional relationship that would last a lifetime.

After earning his law degree in 1950, Aubrey moved to San Angelo and served as **Tom Green County District Attorney for the 51st Judicial District** from 1953 to 1957. As district attorney, he prosecuted one of the most infamous murder cases in Texas history, *State of Texas v. Harry L. Washburn*. Washburn was convicted of planting a bomb that killed his aunt, and the trial became the **first televised trial in Texas**, and likely the world.

When Aubrey left public service, he and Tom Webb formed the firm of **Webb & Stokes**, focusing their practice on personal injury law and the representation of injured Texans.

## Growth and Expansion

In **1973**, **Sam D. Sparks** joined the firm, bringing new energy and leadership. Shortly thereafter, he became a partner, and the firm was renamed **Webb, Stokes & Sparks**, a name that has endured for decades.



### **Sam. D. Sparks (1944-2020)**

Raised in **Van Horn, Texas**, Sam Sparks was a standout athlete who went on to play football at **Sul Ross University**, where he was a three-year starter and letterman. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1967 and his law degree from the **University of Texas** in 1970. After briefly practicing personal injury law in Jasper, Texas, Sam returned to West Texas to join Webb and Stokes.

Sam was deeply involved in both the legal profession and the community. He served for several years as a **Director of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association**, was a **San Angelo Independent School District Board Member** for six years and received numerous honors from Sul Ross University. In 2006, he was named a **Sul Ross Distinguished Alumnus**, and in 2011 he was

inducted into the **Sul Ross Athletic Hall of Honor**—the only alumnus to receive both distinctions.

## **Additional Partners and Continued Legacy**

The firm continued to grow with the addition of dedicated attorneys who would become partners and leaders within Webb, Stokes & Sparks:

- **Max Parker** began working with the firm in **1977** and was named a partner in **1981**.
- **Guy Choate** joined the firm in **1982** and became a partner in **1984**.
- **Mary Noel Golder** joined the firm in **1985** and was named a partner in **1988**.
- **Carlos Rodriguez** was hired in **2003** and became a partner in **2008**.
- In **2025**, **Jason Sosa** was named a partner after joining Webb, Stokes & Sparks in **2023**.

## **Today**

From its beginnings as a two-lawyer partnership founded by World War II veterans to its current form as a multi-generational law firm, Webb, Stokes & Sparks has remained steadfast in its mission: **to fight for the rights of injured people across West Texas**. Rooted in service, strengthened by experience, and guided by integrity, the firm continues to build on a legacy that began more than six decades ago in San Angelo, Texas.