

Weekend at TMS



Bombardier Learjet 550: Scott Sharp, left, wins the pole. The race is at 8:30 tonight on ESPN2.

Sam's Town 400: Todd Bodine spins his way to a record-tying fourth victory in the truck series.

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PROFILE

He's one of the most interesting and respected lawyers in Texas. He hates losing — and it's not something he does often. And celebrity clients? Well, 'Mad Dog' Joe Turner has had his fair share.

An attorney with bite



Austin defense attorney Joe Turner doesn't shy from the limelight that comes with representing celebrities.

STAR-TELEGRAM/TOM PENNINGTON

His clients know him as Mad Dog. And it's quite a list of clients: singer Willie Nelson, actor Matthew McConaughey, a Branch Davidian survivor. Joe Turner, a one-time prison guard who argued his way into law school, may not seek the spotlight, but it keeps finding him nevertheless. Turner, who started his career as a prosecutor earning less than \$15,000 a year, tries to outwork opposing attorneys while making the case that his client isn't so different from those sitting in the jury box. "My job is getting jurors to understand the case from the perspective of the accused. Get them thinking, 'You know, that could happen to me,'" he says. "When they start seeing it in those terms, you're halfway home." **Staff writer David Casstevens reports, 9B**

Some of Turner's famous clients


Willie Nelson

The case: Singer was found asleep in his car, remains of a hand-rolled cigarette in the ashtray.

The result: Drug

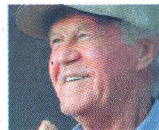
charges were dropped after judge ruled evidence was illegally seized.


Matthew McConaughey

The case: Police found the actor dancing nude and playing bongos.

The result: Marijuana charge was

dropped. McConaughey pleaded guilty to violating noise ordinance and paid \$50 fine.


Billy Joe Shaver

The case:

Charged with aggravated assault and possessing a firearm. Witnesses say the

singer fired at Billy Bryant Coker.

Status: Shaver has not been indicted.