

# INSIGHT

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES, PROTECTING JUSTICE

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CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT THE 2013 ANNUAL DINNER

## NOW

is the best time to be a Texas Bar Foundation Fellow! We are looking to the 2013-2014 bar year with optimism and excitement.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FELLOWS CHAIR

### Our Work is Possible Because Of YOU!



It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the 2013-2014 Fellows Chair of the Texas Bar Foundation. Last year was a tremendously prosperous year and I am confident we will continue the success throughout this year. Because of your hard work and generosity, we welcomed 485 new Fellows, 177 new Life Fellows and added 153 Sustaining Life Fellows.

With more than 8,000 members, your dedication has made the Texas Bar Foundation the largest charitably funded bar foundation in the nation. Your gifts are growing the endowment and ensuring that the Foundation's work continues long into the future. Because of you, we funded more than \$825,000 to 67 organizations during the 2012-2013 grant cycle, and we are projected to award the same amount this year.

As Fellows, we share a common goal, to enhance the rule of law and system of justice in Texas. When you make a gift to the Texas Bar Foundation, you make a difference far beyond your contribution. After reading the letters of thanks included in this issue of Foundation Insight, I am inspired to do more, but I need your help. We continue to look for organizations whose work is in line with our mission. Children who need protection from violence; families who need to secure the future of a disabled family member; immigrants eager to be citizens; judges who continue to learn so they can do their work excellently—these are the people the Texas Bar Foundation supports. Please assist us by encouraging your favorite nonprofit to apply for a grant. I am counting on you, and so are our grantees.

**\$825,000**  
**TO SIXTY-SEVEN**  
**ORGANIZATIONS**

I am so proud of the Fellows – your enthusiasm and dedication is exceptional. You are in an esteemed group of lawyers who not only were nominated by their peers in recognition of excellence, but who responded to that honor by undertaking the financial commitment that accompanied the nomination.

Thank you again for your support of the mission of the Texas Bar Foundation. By joining our efforts, you have made a difference, and together we will continue to make an impact on the lives of Texans.

Harper Estes  
*Fellows Chair*



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2013 TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION AWARD WINNERS



PICTURED IN THE PHOTO, Front Row L to R: Wayne Fisher- Outstanding Fifty Year Lawyer Award, Jerry Johnson- Outstanding Fifty Year Lawyer Award, John Browning- Dan Rugeley Price Memorial Award  
Back Row L to R: John D. Ellis Jr.- Texas Bar Foundation Board Chair, Claude Ducloux- Lola Wright Foundation Award, John Eckel- Outstanding Fifty Year Lawyer Award, Doug Alexander- Gregory S. Coleman  
Outstanding Appellate Lawyer Award, Alan Feld- Outstanding Fifty Year Lawyer Award, Tracy Christopher- Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Jurist Award, George Chapman- Outstanding Fifty Year Lawyer Award,  
Josiah Daniel III- Outstanding Law Review Article Award, Sharon S. Millians- Texas Bar Foundation Fellows Chair Not Pictured: Joseph (Sib) Abraham Jr.- Outstanding Fifty Year Lawyer Award, Marshall Searcy-  
Ronald D. Secrest Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award

## Outstanding 50 Year Lawyers

The Outstanding 50 Year Lawyer Award was the first award established by the Texas Bar Foundation in 1974. The award recognizes attorneys whose practice spanned fifty years or more, and who adhere to the highest principles and traditions of the legal profession and service to the public.

**Joseph (Sib) Abraham, El Paso**  
**George C. Chapman, Dallas**  
**John E. Eckel, Galveston**  
**Alan D. Feld, Dallas**  
**Wayne Fisher, Houston**  
**Jerome W. (Jerry) Johnson, Amarillo**

## Ronald D. Secrest Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award

The firm of Beck, Redden & Secrest, L.L.P. established the award in honor and memory of Mr. Secrest, a gifted trial lawyer and a founding partner of the firm. The award recognizes a trial lawyer who, in his or her practice, has demonstrated high ethical and moral standards and has demonstrated exceptional professional conduct, thus enhancing the image of the trial lawyer.

**Marshall Searcy, Fort Worth**

## Dan Rugeley Price Memorial Award

The Dan Rugeley Price Memorial Award was established by friends and family and endowed

through the Texas Bar Foundation in June 1996. The award celebrates Dan's life as an outstanding lawyer who devoted himself completely to any task he undertook. The recipient exemplifies the qualities of an accomplished legal writer and researcher, a talented and dedicated practicing lawyer, a servant of the profession as a volunteer and an advocate on its behalf. The recipient exhibits an unreserved commitment to clients and to the practice of our profession, and it demonstrates dedication to the Bar and service to the public with the same commitment, dedication and zeal which defined Dan Price's life and work.

**John G. Browning, Dallas**

## Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Jurist Award

In 1987, the Texas Bar Foundation created the Outstanding Jurist Award to honor an active Federal or State Judge. In 1995, the Foundation received a bequest to the endowment from the estate of Mrs. Samuel Pessarra in honor of her late husband for the purpose of funding the Outstanding Jurist Award. The recipient must have served on the bench for a minimum of 10 years and exhibit an exceptionally outstanding reputation for competency, efficiency, and integrity.

**Tracy Christopher, Houston**

## Lola Wright Foundation Award

Established in 1985 in honor of Coleman Gay,

this award honors an attorney who exemplifies the highest standards of professional ethics. The award is presented in recognition for outstanding public service in advancing and enhancing legal ethics in Texas.

**Claude Ducloux, Austin**

## Outstanding Law Review Article Award

The Outstanding Law Review Article Award honors a law review article published by one of the Texas law schools.

**Josiah M. Daniel, III, Dallas**

## Gregory S. Coleman Outstanding Appellate Lawyer Award

The Gregory S. Coleman Outstanding Appellate Lawyer Award was established in 2011 by Yetter Coleman LLP in honor and memory of its name partner, Gregory S. Coleman. The award celebrates the high ideals and standards that Greg demonstrated in his appellate practice and personal life. The recipient should exhibit an outstanding appellate practice while maintaining a strong commitment to providing legal services for the underserved. Dedication to mentoring young attorneys should be evident as well as a strong moral compass to guide both professional and personal pursuits.

**Douglas W. Alexander, Austin**

# 2013 Annual Dinner

A SPECIAL THANKS  
TO OUR ANNUAL  
DINNER SPONSORS

## CELEBRATING



## SUCCESS

Sharon Millians and Marshall Searcy

**O**n June 21st, more than 450 Fellows, family and friends gathered in Dallas to celebrate a year of tremendous success for the Texas Bar Foundation. The sold-out, black-tie event honored the recipients of the most prestigious legal awards in Texas and the contributions of all Fellows. It was an evening of great food, fun and fellowship.

Judge Mike Snipes, our guest speaker from the Specialized Veterans Court for Dallas County shared how the Texas Bar Foundation has positively affected their program. The Veterans Court aims to increase access to mental health and addiction management for those veterans with felony and misdemeanor offenses by diverting veterans directly into VA treatment, thus reducing jail time, costs and criminal recidivism, while improving mental health recovery and successful re-entry into the community.

Fellows Chair Sharon Millians conducted brief business items including recognition of the new Board of Trustees Officers and the election of the new Fellows Officers:

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICERS:

- G. Thomas Vick, Jr., Chair
- Tim W. Mountz, Chair-elect
- Jeanne C. Collins, Secretary-Treasurer
- John D. Ellis, Jr., Past Chair

### FELLOWS OFFICERS:

- Harper Estes, Chair
- Randall O. Sorrels, Chair-elect
- David Copeland, Secretary
- Sharon S. Millians, Past Chair

Ms. Millians was pleased to announce that as of June 21st, the Bar Foundation elected 485 new Fellows during the 2012-2013 bar year and that the Foundation's efforts have resulted in an unprecedented amount of grants this year.

After recognizing the award winners, guests were entertained by the vocal and musical stylings of ZuZu Peddals.



- Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend
- Arnold, Knobloch & Saunders, L.L.P.
- Baker Botts L.L.P.
- Beck Redden LLP
- Bracewell & Giuliani LLP
- CenterPoint Energy
- Cozen O'Connor
- Cunningham Darlow LLP
- Exxon Mobil Corporation
- Haynes and Boone, LLP
- Hunton & Williams LLP
- Law Office of James W. Huggler
- Law Office of Seth Kretzer
- Lynch, Chappell & Alsup
- McKool Smith
- MehaffeyWeber, P.C.
- Norton Rose Fulbright
- State Bar of Texas
- Texas Tech University School of Law
- Texas Young Lawyers Association
- The Jackson Law Firm, PLLC
- The Underwood Law Firm
- Thompson & Knight LLP
- Vick Carney & Smith LLP
- Vinson & Elkins LLP
- Wayne Fisher
- Winstead PC



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

## Special Thank You Notes from Recent Grant Recipients



To make your contribution, call (512) 480-8000 or look for this icon on [www.txbf.org](http://www.txbf.org).



### HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE?

Have you visited our website? Update your contact information, learn more about our grantees, or make a pledge payment at [www.txbf.org](http://www.txbf.org).

Please visit the Texas Bar Foundation on LinkedIn and Twitter!



### A Special Thank You from Kim Parker, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations South Texas College of Law

A \$9,000 technology grant received in May from the Texas Bar Foundation is streamlining the operations of South Texas College of Law's Randall O. Sorrels Legal Clinics. Housed in a spacious new facility on the college's campus in downtown Houston, the clinical program provides crucial legal assistance to hundreds of low-income Houstonians while equipping South Texas students with practical legal skills they can use in their future careers.

The grant has funded the clinics' purchase of six desktop scanners and seven Legal Files software licenses and maintenance agreements. Both types of technology will be used by staff and students alike.

"Having an individual scanner at each workstation improves our accuracy in scanning," says clinic senior attorney fellow Emily Bohls. "It's much more efficient than struggling to use one centrally located scanner. And students will be able to utilize these scanners too, so that they can learn about file management."

The Legal Files licenses, which will be provided to both new attorney fellows and students, will increase the clinics' efficiency as well. "The new attorneys will be linked into our database," says Bohls. "Allowing each person working on a case to access our database will free up the time of existing attorneys and paralegals, enabling them to efficiently manage their own dockets." And students will learn how to manage the cases they are working on, she adds.

"This generous grant allows us to expand our programs and serve more Houston-area residents needing legal assistance," says Bohls. "Many thanks to the Texas Bar Foundation for supporting South Texas College of Law and our Randall O. Sorrels Legal Clinics."

### A Special Thank You from Julia Cuba, Executive Director GENaustin

The Texas Bar Foundation has renewed its support of GENaustin's 180 Program to support the salary of the Program Manager. GENaustin's 180 Program works with girls who have entered or are at high-risk of entering the juvenile justice system. 180 reaches girls at their first offense and helps them get back on track. The program provides girls with support for tough issues they face such as making and keeping positive relationships; assertive vs. aggressive communication; handling issues with authority; teen dating violence/abuse and dating relationships; drug use and abuse; mother/daughter relationships; goal setting; and future planning.

According to a third-party evaluation:

- Girls who attend 180 have higher school attendance and get in less trouble
- 180 is having a positive impact on girls' ability to handle conflict/stressful situations
- The majority of girls learn how to avoid risky behavior & build goal setting/communication skills

GENaustin's 180 Program is making an impact on girls like Jasmine. When Jasmine was 14 years old, her father became incarcerated and she was kicked out of her abusive home. She moved in with her aging grandmother in a different school district. In her new school, Jasmine sought out friends but was immediately introduced to drugs. Responding to the pressure to fit in, she began smoking marijuana, and wound up in court for possession. After joining GENaustin's 180 Program, Jasmine returned to school, re-engaged with her academics, and found a new set of friends.

**"I am SO thankful for the 180 program. Talking with the other girls made me realize I'm not alone. I was headed down the wrong path and I feel like I have re-discovered myself. 180 helped me turn my life around."**

**—Jasmine**

## FELLOWS SPOTLIGHT:

# Celebrating Three Generations of Texas Bar Foundation Fellows



Jack Jackson, Alan Jackson and Reeve Jackson

One lawyer is a member of the Greatest Generation and on June 4, 1944, was a pilot flying paratroopers into France. He went on to earn a law degree from the University of Texas and had a general practice in his hometown for more than 50 years. Now, retired, except for the occasional probate matter, he was honored by receiving his local bar association's Justinian Award in 2009.

The second lawyer also earned his law degree from the University of Texas and served in the Air Force Judge Advocate General, rising to the rank of Colonel before retiring. He joined his father in general practice for fifteen years before moving to the U.S. Attorney's Office where he now serves as chief of the criminal division.

The third attorney graduated from the Texas Tech Law School as a member of the National Order of Barristers. He prosecuted and defended criminal cases in East and Central Texas before becoming the youngest lawyer in the state to achieve board certification in both criminal law and criminal appellate law.

All three lawyers have been tremendously involved with their local bar associations, serving on law day committees, speaking at CLE's, and volunteering with Young Lawyers. All three are involved with their churches and other non-profit organizations. Their stories individually are remarkable. The fact that they are from the same city in East Texas makes their story unusual. But what makes Jack, Alan, and Reeve Jackson truly unique is that they are the only three-generation family of attorneys who are all fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation.

Now accepting  
**NOMINATIONS**  
for the 2014  
Texas Bar  
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Awards  
Program

For more information,  
visit [www.txbf.org](http://www.txbf.org) and  
click on the following image:



## WE'VE MOVED!

We are delighted  
to announce that  
the Texas Bar  
Foundation office  
has relocated.

Our new address is:  
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Austin, TX 78701



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# INSIGHT

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### 2013-2014 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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