I was the first.



## ATTORNEY RESOURCES TO PROMOTE CIVICS EDUCATION

When Lisa Tatum was sworn in as president of the State Bar of Texas, she became the first African American to hold the position, marking an important moment in bar history. While proud to be a first, Tatum recognizes that it was the many historic firsts who came before her that made her opportunity possible.

What is a first? A first is someone whose creative invention changed the world forever, whose brave spirit opened doors for others or changed the way the world is viewed, or someone who took a chance to be a leader when the odds might have been stacked against him or her. Historic firsts paved the way for others to become a first.

Texas elementary students are required to know many firsts in U.S. and Texas history as part of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards. Thanks to President Tatum's creative vision and passion for education, the State Bar of Texas launched *I was the first. Vote for Me!*, a multimedia project educating students about historic figures while incorporating lessons in reading, math, citizenship, and voting. The website, texasbar.com/iwasthefirst, includes animations of historic figures, curriculum materials for teachers, and links to other resources for students, teachers, and attorneys. In addition to the web-based materials, an e-reader and hard-copy book are available and can also be accessed in PDF format from the website. The book and animations are prepared in both English and Spanish.

This tool kit includes information about TEKS standards for social studies curriculum, opportunities throughout the school year to celebrate various historic figures, grade specific information, educational games related to the program, and resources for attorneys who wish to take the program into a classroom.

The State Bar of Texas hopes that *I was the first. Vote for Me!* provides Texas teachers the tools they need to educate and inspire Texas students to become the next historic first.

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