

The 12th Court of Appeals celebrates 50th anniversary

The 12th Court of Appeals celebrated its 50th anniversary during a Nov. 21 reception at the Willow Brook

Country Club in Tyler. The 12th Court of Appeals is one of 14 intermediate courts across Texas and serves Smith County and 16 surrounding counties. The current justices are Chief Justice James T. Worthen, Justice Sam Griffith, and Justice Brian Hoyle. The court was created by the Texas Legislature in 1963. Above, from left: Justice Sam Griffith, Justice Brian Hoyle, Justice Bill Bass, Justice Tom Ramey, Justice Leonard Davis, Chief Justice James T. Worthen, and Justice Diane DeVasto.

Access to Justice Foundation celebrates 30 years of service

On Jan. 23, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation kicked off its 30th anniversary celebration with a distinguished panel discussion on the history and significance of access to justice. David Smith, chair of the LBJ Library Future Forum, and Catherine Robb, of counsel to Haynes and Boone and granddaughter of the late President Lyndon Baines Johnson, welcomed guests to the event, followed by an introduction by Lamont Jefferson, the chair of TAJF's 30th anniversary committee. Panelists Rep. Pete Gallego of the 23rd District of Texas, Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Hecht, and Harvard Law School Dean Martha Minow examined the importance of lawyers in rural towns, the recession's impact on the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts Program, and the role that law schools can play in encouraging increased access to legal services.

Attorneys must include email addresses on e-filed documents

With the continued implementation of the Texas Supreme Court's e-filing mandate, attorneys are reminded to include their email addresses on all e-filed documents, including petitions, pleadings, and motions. This is required in the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 21(f)(2) and 57. Documents uploaded to third-party Electronic Filing Service Providers should already have the email address(es) noted. When this information is omitted from e-filed documents, clerks can have a difficult time serving attorneys electronically and communicating other important messages.

Texas Lawyer's Creed supported by Council of Chief Justices

On Jan. 13, the Council of Chief Justices adopted a resolution supporting the Texas Lawyer's Creed—A Mandate for Professionalism. Originally implemented by the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in November of 1989, the creed was reaffirmed by the courts in April 2013. This reaffirmation has been one of the main initiatives of State Bar of Texas Immediate Past President Buck Files. Chief Justice of the 12th Court of Appeals James T. Worthen played a role in encouraging it among members of the bench. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the creed. In adopting the resolution, the Council of Chief Justices—an association of the chief justices of the 14 Texas courts of appeals—noted that it "shares the goals of eradicating abusive tactics within the practice of law and promoting respect and confidence in the legal profession."



Native American Law Section holds CLE conference

The Native American Law Section of the State Bar of Texas held its annual CLE conference on Jan. 17 at the Texas Law Center in Austin. State Bar President Lisa M. Tatum, who has Chickasaw and Cherokee heritage, was presented with a martial eagle feather as a sign of honor. Another

highlight of the conference was a session on sovereignty led by Gregory A. Smith, partner in Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker in Washington, D.C., as well as a ceremony of traditional Native American singing, drumming, and dancing. Shannon Speed, an associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin, received the section's Lifetime Achievement Award, and Jo Ann Battise, a former member of the Tribal Council of Alabama Coushatta, received the Tom Diamond Award of Excellence. Above: A member of the Eagle Point Singers performs a traditional dance during the Native American Law Section's CLE conference at the Texas Law Center.

Legal Services Corporation panelists discuss equal justice

The Legal Services Corporation, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, hosted special panel sessions at the courtroom of the Supreme Court of Texas on Jan. 24. LSC Board Chairman John G. Levi and Dean Ward Farnsworth from the University of Texas School of Law introduced the panels, which focused on the importance of access to justice, as well as technological innovations that facilitate access to justice. Panelists included judges and legal service leaders from across the nation.

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