LAURELS

If you have a listing for **Laurels**, please mail it to *Texas Bar Journal*, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487; fax it to (512)427-4107; or send an email to tbj@texasbar.com.

South Texas College of Law Professor **Mark E. Steiner** has received a second Fulbright Award opportunity to teach at the University of Latvia during the 2010–11 school year. Selected by the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, Steiner will teach American legal history and comparative consumer law. In 2005, Steiner taught in Taiwan as a Fulbright Scholar.

Stephen W. Stewart, founding partner in the Stewart Law Firm in Austin, was honored with the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Medal of Honor for his support of Crime Victims First and his outstanding service to victims/survivors of crime.

Howard Nations, of the Law Firm of Howard Nations in Houston, received the Clarence Darrow Award at the Mass Torts Made Perfect Conference in Las Vegas. The award, which is given to attorneys who have demonstrated conviction in their work and exceptional courage in the face of adversity, is given out every year by Florida attorney, radio talk show host, and CNBC commentator Mike Papantonio.

The U.S. Department of State commended **Kevin O'Gorman** and **Efren Olivares**, a partner and associate, respectively, in the Houston office of Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P., for their "extraordinary assistance" to an applicant under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Carol Vance, a retired senior partner in Bracewell & Giuliani, L.L.P., was honored with the Champions for Justice award by the Texas District and County Attorneys Foundation.

Maria-Vittoria "Giugi" Carminati, an associate of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, L.L.P. in Houston, has become a Fellow of the Houston Young Lawyers Foundation.

The El Paso Bar Association awarded **Clinton Cross**, a prosecutor with the criminal unit of the El Paso County Attorney's Office, its Outstanding Senior Attorney of the Year Award. Cross was honored for his many years of service to the El Paso legal community.

Harris County District Clerk **Loren Jackson**, of Houston, was awarded the Torch of Liberty by the Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association. Jackson was recognized for using novel and innovative technology to make significant changes to the district clerk's office, resulting in taxpayer savings and granting greater access to court records and documents.

Diane Sumoski, a partner in Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, L.L.P. in Dallas, received the Louise Raggio Women's Legal Advocate Award, given annually by Legal Aid of North-West Texas. Sumoski was recognized for her many years of service and upholding the organization's mission of exceptional advocacy on behalf of women.

Texas-licensed **Mark Manulik**, a shareholder in Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt in Portland, Ore., has become a member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

The Federalist Society honored Solicitor General of Texas **James C. Ho** with the Lee Liberman Otis award, given to an alumnus of University of Chicago Law School who best applies Federalist Society principles to his or her legal career.

Supreme Court of Texas Justice **Eva Guzman** has become a member of the South Texas College of Law Board of Directors. Guzman is a 1989 graduate of South Texas.

Jeff Ray, a partner in Ray, Valdez, McChristian and Jeans, P.C., received this year's Outstanding Lawyer of the Year Award from the El Paso Bar Association.

Diana Valdez, an associate of Scott-Hulse, P.C., was named the 2010 El Paso County Legal Support Association Boss of the Year in recognition of her leadership skills and contributions to the legal community as a whole.

Keri N. Petzold, senior e-discovery counsel to Altep, Inc., was elected 2010-11 director of the Women in eDiscovery Houston Chapter.

Sara Beth Cockerham, an attorney at IBM Corp. in Austin, was named to the board of Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas.

Bradley R. Stephenson, a San Antonio private practitioner, was appointed by Secretary of Health & Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to a four-year term as a member of the National Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Advisory Council of the National Institutes of Health.

David C. Courreges, an attorney with De Leon & Washburn, P.C., was elected 2011–12 president of the St. Mary's University Law Alumni Association. Courreges will be the youngest to serve as president in more than 25 years.

Al Ellis, of counsel to Sommerman & Quesada, L.L.P., was selected as the Dallas Lawyers Auxiliary 2010 Justinian Award recipient for outstanding volunteer and community service.

The El Paso Probate Bar Association named its new officers: **Rene Ordonez**, president; **Alexander Neill**, vice president; **Stancy Stribling**, secretary; **Lina Sena**, treasurer; **Meryl McCoy**, social chair; and **Sandra Moore-Duarte**, MCLE chair. ✪