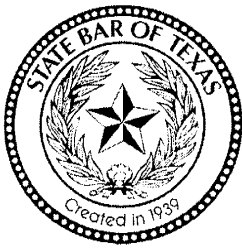


D



The Nancy Garms Memorial Award

The State Bar of Texas established The Nancy Garms Memorial Award in 1995 to honor an attorney or judge who emulates her tireless service to the State Bar of Texas Law-Focused Education programs. Nancy was the first female president of the Amarillo Bar Association and an adjunct professor at West Texas A&M University. She was appointed Court Master for the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region of Texas in 1992. Nancy served as president and longtime board member of Law Focused Education, Inc., a 501C3 non-profit organization of the State Bar of Texas.

The **Nancy Garms Memorial Award** is given for demonstrating a deep commitment to civic education and engagement through promotion of Law Focused Education programs in Texas. Evidence of this commitment should be seen either through his/her place of employment or volunteer work in Law Focused Education activities.

Purpose: To acknowledge an attorney or judge who shares Nancy Garms' commitment to Law Focused Education programs which promote civic education and engagement.

Eligibility

- Must be a licensed attorney or judge in the state of Texas in good standing.
- Individuals only, no groups or organizations can be nominated.

Nomination packet must include the following:

- Letter of recommendation by the person nominating the candidate.
- Applicant's resume.



DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION

Office of The
President

March 6, 2017

State Bar of Texas
Law Focused Education Committee
1414 Colorado Street
Austin, TX 78701

Sent Via E-mail:
Jan Miller - jmiller@texasbar.com

RE: Nomination of Stephen W. Gwinn for the Nancy L. Garms Memorial Award

Dear Ms. Miller:

I am submitting Stephen W. Gwinn for the 2017 Nancy L. Garms Memorial Award for Law Focused Education and hope the Law Focused Education Committee will consider him for this honor.

While the Dallas Bar Association is a local bar association, it has had the privilege of administering the state mock trial competitions throughout Texas since 1979. Over 150 teams and more than 2,000 students from across the state participated in the 2017 competitions and the program continues to grow each year.

The success of the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition is due in large part to Steve's commitment to the program. Steve has participated in the Dallas Bar Association's High School Mock Trial Committee for over 26 years, has served as an officer on the Committee for the past 18 years, and has chaired the Committee since 2004. He has attended the National Mock Trial Championship for the past 16 years as a representative of the winning Texas team and many times at his own expense. Over the past two decades, Steve has taken on virtually every task involved with mock trial, including writing the case, judging, score-keeping, coaching, and more. Additionally, Steve's family foundation provides financial support to the program each year.

Steve has an enormous sense of dedication to mock trial. He has spent much of his time each year writing the cases to carefully address current legal issues to heighten the students' understanding of the principles of equal justice for all. Steve has coordinated a diverse committee to work with him in preparing the cases each year, including a former law professor, plaintiff lawyers, and defense lawyers. Each year the case content rotates between civil and criminal.

In 2007, Texas and the Dallas Bar Association were honored to host the National Mock Trial Competition. Steve was instrumental in planning the fundraising and the student activities, including a

Page Two – Stephen W. Gwinn

rodeo and a dance with an all-lawyer band. The educators and the law-related education coordinators are still talking about the memorable experience they and the students had in Dallas.

Steve is committed to training the students each year with a Saturday morning clinic. He carefully plans the case he will present to the students so that they learn basic skills for mock trials, including court room procedures, advocacy, and critical thinking. Steve also has compiled helpful materials for teachers, coaches, and advisors.

Steve's outreach to school districts and his interest in growing the Texas program has seen him give up his law practice for the day, to fly to another city to help educators start a mock trial program.

Steve's sense of humor at the competitions and the luncheons is legend. The students and teachers enjoy his corny jokes and his love for the competition is always apparent.

Steve has demonstrated exemplary dedication to the mock trial program, to the students who participate in it, and to the parents, educators, and the volunteers. I can think of no better person for this prestigious award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rob Crain".

Rob Crain

STEPHEN W. GWINN, ESQUIRE

Steve.gwinn@swbell.net
3427 Asbury Street
Dallas, Texas 75205
(214) 526-9828 [home]
(214) 460-9332 [cell]

LEGAL MEMBERSHIPS

State Bar of Texas Number 08657100; May, 1991

Licensed to practice before the U. S. District Court of Appeals, 5th District 07/05/1991

Licensed to practice before the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Texas 1993-2003

Licensed to practice before the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas 05/20/1991

Licensed to practice before the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas 09/20/2004

Board of Directors – Texas Law Focused Education, Inc. (Texas Bar Association) – 2006 - 2012

Executive Committee – Dallas Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates 2015

Member of the Texas Bar Association

Member of the Dallas Bar Association

Member of the Tarrant County Bar Association

Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation

Sustaining Life Fellow of the Dallas Bar Foundation

Member of the William ‘Mac’ Taylor American Inn of Court; Secretary/Treasurer ‘11-14, Counsellor (current)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

November 30, 1992 SUZANNE I CALVERT & ASSOCIATES, Dallas, Texas (f/k/a Paul B. Van Ness)

To present House Counsel for State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company

- Insurance Defense and subrogation law practice
- 100% Litigation practice; Bodily Injury Claims and Property Damage
- Foundation Arbitrations dealing with homeowner property claims
- 46-13 record (77.97%) in District and County Court 1st chair jury trials
- 60-19 overall (75.95%) 1st chair jury trial record (includes JP trials)

September, 1990 BENNETT & KURTZMAN, Dallas, Texas

- to October, 1992
- Areas included personal injury, collections, family law, labor relations, bankruptcy and criminal defense
 - First Chair on several personal injury claims ranging from simple injury to severe and debilitating injury arising from automobile accidents.

July, 1991 to STEPHEN W. GWINN, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Dallas, Texas

- October, 1992
- Solo and In-House counsel for the Goodman Group, Inc.
 - Primary focus on collection and liquidation of FDIC insured debt, but included commercial litigation for the various member corporations.
 - Collections practice involved a growing portfolio of over \$8,000,000 in debt, managing a collections staff and conducting all legal appearances.

June, 1988 to TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, Austin, Texas

- August, 1988
- Summer Clerkship
- Duties included docket clearing, legal and procedural research for the department head of the Litigation Department of the AG's Office.

EDUCATION HISTORY

Legal: SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, Dallas, Texas
Juris Doctor, May, 1990

LAW SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Mock Trial Competition - 1989 FINALIST
- 1988 Semi-Finalist
Moot Court Associate Justice - 1989
Competition - 1988
Member Delta-Theta-Phi Legal Fraternity (1989 - present)
ABA Student Division 1987-1990
Texas Bar Student Division 1987-1990
Law School Follies (1989-1990)
Intramural Softball Champions (1988)

Undergraduate: SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, Dallas, Texas
Bachelor of Business Administration, May, 1986
Majors: **Finance** and **Business Information Services**

MISCELLANEOUS AWARDS AND HONORS

Eagle Scout, Bronze Palm - BSA Troop 70, Dallas, Texas
Adjunct Professor – SMU Dedman School of Law (Trial Advocacy)
Professional Musician - Percussion
Texas High School Mock Trial Committee; Chair since 2004
- Jo Anna Moreland Outstanding Committee Chair, Dallas Bar, (2007)
Editor of the High School Mock Trial problem - State and National

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS, PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Soccer, music, history, geography, travel, medicine, computers.
- Active member of Highland Park United Methodist Church
- Family: Wife, Tina and sons Logan & Landen

