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A Resolution Honoring Judge Joel B. Bennett

Whereas *Joel B. Bennett has been a licensed Texas attorney since November 11, 1977,*

Whereas *Judge Bennett served our country as a lieutenant in the United States Air Force from 1971 to 1974,*

Whereas *Judge Bennett is respected for his wide-ranging professional experience, including his work as an assistant county attorney, a real estate title researcher and examiner, a private practitioner, and a drug court judge,*

Whereas *Through his firsthand experience as assistant Travis County attorney, Judge Bennett saw how the sale and use of drugs destroyed lives, and committed himself to addressing that scourge and restoring its victims,*

Whereas *Judge Bennett sought and obtained appointment in 1993 as the first judge of the Travis County Adult Drug Diversion Court, a position he held until 2012,*

Whereas *During his career on the bench, Judge Bennett strove to create an environment in which defendants renounced their former drug use—often giving them second chances and letting them stay in the program longer than the required one-year term—because he believed drug courts could change lives, redeem individuals, and better society,*

Whereas *Judge Bennett is credited with building a visionary program that achieved national recognition and influence, as well as using his expertise to help other jurisdictions create and effectively operate drug courts,*

Whereas *Judge Bennett has been an active member of his profession and community, serving as president of the Texas County Association of Drug Court Professionals, former board member of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, officer of the Austin Black Lawyers Association, and trustee of Mount Olive Baptist Church, among other roles,*

Be It Therefore Resolved *that the State Bar of Texas honors Judge Joel B. Bennett with this resolution for his groundbreaking work on drug courts, his commitment to the legal profession, his outstanding service to the people of Texas, and his unquenchable confidence in the ineradicable self-worth of all people.*

Resolution Adopted *this 21st day of April 2017 by the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors in Austin, Texas.*

*Frank Stevenson, President
State Bar of Texas*

*Tom Vick, President-Elect
State Bar of Texas*

witnessed by

*Jose "Joe" Escobedo, Jr., Chair of the Board
State Bar of Texas*

*Michelle Hunter, Executive Director
State Bar of Texas*

A Resolution Honoring Patricia “Trisha” Graham

Whereas Patricia “Trisha” Graham has served for 25 years as the first full-time Executive Director of the Tarrant County Bar Association,

Whereas Mrs. Graham initially entered the legal profession in 1973 when she took a job as a legal secretary,

Whereas Mrs. Graham achieved her NALS Professional Legal Secretary certification in 1988, became a National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) Certified Legal Assistant in 1990, and earned her NALA Legal Assistant Specialist certification in Civil Litigation in 1991, all while working effectively for various law firms,

Whereas Mrs. Graham made outstanding contributions to several law-related organizations, serving as Executive Director for the Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association (TCYLA), Executive Director of the Tarrant County Bar Foundation (TCBF), President of the Fort Worth Legal Secretaries Association, President of the Johnson County Legal Secretaries Association, and Recording Secretary for the Texas Association of Legal Secretaries,

Whereas Since 1992, Mrs. Graham has committed the full measure of her energy, insight, and wisdom to serving the Tarrant County Bar Association and to strengthening the broader community as a whole,

Whereas In 2010, when State Bar of Texas President Terry Tottenham asked local bar associations to join the statewide Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans initiative, Mrs. Graham and her staff eagerly undertook primary responsibility for Tarrant County’s efforts, which resulted in the delivery of essential legal assistance to hundreds of veterans and their families through the program,

Whereas Mrs. Graham set the highest standards of ethics, integrity, and professionalism in her service to the Tarrant County Bar, TCYLA, and TCBF, as reflected by the numerous awards earned by those organizations while under her guidance,

Whereas Mrs. Graham has been called “a shepherd to Tarrant County lawyers and judges,” reflecting her stature within that legal community and the depth of sincere regard, appreciation, and fondness its members feel toward her,

Be It Therefore Resolved that the State Bar of Texas honors Patricia “Trisha” Graham with this resolution for her commitment to legal profession and her exemplary service to the Tarrant County Bar Association, as well as to many other law-related organizations and programs throughout the state of Texas.

Resolution Adopted this 21st day of April 2017 by the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors in Austin, Texas.

Frank Stevenson, President
State Bar of Texas

Tom Vick, President-Elect
State Bar of Texas

Jose “Joe” Escobedo, Jr., Chair of the Board
State Bar of Texas

witnessed by

Michelle Hunter, Executive Director
State Bar of Texas

A Resolution Honoring Patrick A. Nester

Whereas *Patrick A. Nester has been a licensed Texas attorney since January 1976 after earning his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law,*

Whereas *Mr. Nester has been a distinguished employee at the State Bar of Texas for nearly four decades where has been called “a Bar executive of the highest caliber,”*

Whereas *Mr. Nester, who began working for the Bar in 1978, eventually rose to become Director of the State Bar Professional Development Program and of the Member Services Division,*

Whereas *Mr. Nester was awarded numerous honors, including the prestigious Gene Cavin Award for Excellence in Continuing Legal Education in 1993 and several State Bar of Texas Presidential Citations,*

Whereas *Mr. Nester contributed outstanding leadership to law and law-related organizations, including service as president of the International Association for CLE in 1994-95 and earning the title of life fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation in 1999,*

Whereas *Mr. Nester was named to the 2015 Fastcase 50 list of “the smartest, most courageous innovators, techies, visionaries, and leaders in the law,”*

Whereas *the only pursuit at which Mr. Nester has not excelled is retirement, as he initially retired from the Bar in 2000, returned to serve again in July 2001, and was promoted to Deputy Executive Director in July 2016,*

Whereas *Mr. Nester is truly a giant in the CLE and bar association world whose advice is widely sought after and whose expertise is nationally recognized,*

Whereas *Mr. Nester’s wisdom, thoughtfulness, and effectiveness make him an exceptional leader, a respected mentor, a matchless role model, and a peerless friend to many State Bar staff members and volunteers,*

Be It Therefore Resolved *that the State Bar of Texas honors Patrick A. Nester with this resolution for his commitment to the legal profession and extends its utmost gratitude for his outstanding service to the people of Texas and his resolute support of the State Bar and its programs.*

Resolution Adopted *this 21st day of April 2017 by the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors in Austin, Texas.*

*Frank Stevenson, President
State Bar of Texas*

*Tom Vick, President-Elect
State Bar of Texas*

*Jose “Joe” Escobedo, Jr., Chair of the Board
State Bar of Texas*

witnessed by

*Michelle Hunter, Executive Director
State Bar of Texas*

