



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.

3-29-18

To the Law Focused Education Committee and Law Focused Education, Inc. Board of Directors:

I would like to nominate Ryan Turner for the Nancy Garms Award. Ryan has been a supporter of the Law-Related Education program for many years. When the idea to create a summer institute dedicated to the study of the Texas court system, the LRE Department asked Ryan for his help. Ryan was instrumental in creating the outline of the program and created materials on landmark Texas cases so teachers would have something to take back to their classrooms. He has continued his support of this program by serving as an institute speaker every year.

In 2017, Ryan spoke at the Law-Related Education Conference where he presented his paper **THE PRINCIPLE OF FUNDAMENTAL FAIRNESS-The 14th Amendment and Local Governance** to the teachers. The session was very well received.

Ryan's deep commitment to civic education and his engagement in Law Focused Education make him an outstanding candidate for the Nancy Garms Award.

Kevin Vela

RYAN KELLUS TURNER

Ryan Kellus Turner is General Counsel and Director of Education for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. Prior to joining the Center in 1999, he served as Briefing Attorney for Judge Sharon Keller at the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Mr. Turner obtained his juris doctorate from Southern Methodist University School of Law. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with highest honors from St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas, where he now teaches as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences. In 2004 and 2013, he was the recipient of the School's Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award and a finalist for the University Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award in 2014.

Mr. Turner previously served as a Special Assistant County Attorney for Kendall County. He is currently Deputy City Attorney for the City of Dripping Springs and also serves as a Substitute Associate Judge on the Austin Municipal Court.

In 2011, he was an advisory member on the Texas Judicial Council's Juvenile Justice Committee. In 2012, Mr. Turner was named Co-Chair of the Texas Judicial Council Legislative Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice. He is current an advisory member on the Texas Judicial Council's Pretrial Justice Committee.

A native Texan, Mr. Turner was raised in the north Texas town of Vernon. He is the co-author of the books *Lone Star Justice: A Comprehensive Overview of the Texas Criminal Justice System* and *The Municipal Judges Book*.