

A Resolution Honoring James L. Branton

Whereas James L. Branton, a past president of the State Bar of Texas and a champion of professionalism, passed away at the age of 83 on July 19, 2021,

Whereas Mr. Branton became a Texas lawyer in 1962 after earning his juris doctor at the University of Texas and was co-founder of Branton, Hall, Rodriguez, Cruz, where he focused primarily on personal injury litigation,

Whereas Mr. Branton served as State Bar president in 1994-1995, during which time he advocated for increased attorney professionalism and adherence to the Texas Lawyer's Creed,

Whereas Mr. Branton served on the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors from 1984 to 1987 and on numerous State Bar committees including the Grievance, Professionalism, Pattern Jury Charge, and Administration of Justice committees,

Whereas Mr. Branton served on the Texas Supreme Court committees that drafted the Texas Evidence Code and the Texas Lawyer's Creed,

Whereas Mr. Branton was a Texas Bar Foundation Life Fellow, served on its board of trustees from 1987 to 1990, and served as chair of the board in 1989-1990,

Whereas Mr. Branton was a past president of the San Antonio Bar Association, San Antonio Trial Lawyers Association, Texas Trial Lawyers Association, International Society of Barristers, and American Board of Trial Advocates San Antonio Chapter,

Whereas Mr. Branton served as treasurer for the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism and was a founding member of the Texas-Mexico Bar Association in 1994,

Whereas Mr. Branton was certified in personal injury trial law and civil trial law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and served as a TBLIS director from 1990 to 1993,

Whereas Among his many recognitions, Mr. Branton was named Trial Lawyer of the Year by the eight Texas Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates and received the Luther Soules III Award for Outstanding Service to the Practice of Law from the State Bar of Texas Litigation Section,

Be It Therefore Resolved that the State Bar of Texas posthumously honors James L. Branton with this resolution for his outstanding service to the State Bar of Texas and numerous other legal organizations and his unwavering commitment to professionalism and the legal profession as a whole.

Resolution Adopted this 24th day of September 2021 by the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors.

*Sylvia Borunda Firth, President
State Bar of Texas*

*Laura Gibson, President-Elect
State Bar of Texas*

*Santos Vargas Chair of the Board
State Bar of Texas*

witnessed by

*Trey Apffel, Executive Director
State Bar of Texas*