THE TEXAS BAR JOURNAL

SHORT STORY CONTEST 2014

AFTER MANY PHONE CALLS, EMAILS, AND LETTERS asking about the status—and hopeful return—of the *Texas Bar Journal* Short Story Contest, we decided it was time to bring it back. A one-year hiatus proved long enough; numerous writers—and readers—were clamoring for creative prose. Many of this year's entries were humorous, some even heartfelt, and then there were those that lingered on the mind for days. We'd like to extend an appreciative thank you to the 55 authors who submitted stories this year.

To keep the contest fair and impartial, we removed author names from each entry, replacing them with numbers. Two panels of judges faced the challenging task of selecting the winners, and for each round, the same evaluation form was used for consistency. Eleven entries advanced to the final round, which was judged by Mike Farris of Dallas, DeDe Church of Austin, and John G. Browning of Dallas. The winner, "Final Descent," by Stephanie S. Tillman, earned the highest number of points.

We have published the first-, second-, and third-place winners on the following pages. We hope you enjoy these creative short stories as much as we did. To listen to a podcast reading by the authors, go to texasbar.com/shortstory.

FINALISTS

Please congratulate these attorney-authors for making it through the competitive first round of judging to the finals.

Final Descent, by Stephanie S. Tillman
Closing Argument, by Kimberly Simpson
My Generation, by Jason Steed
The Bottom Drawer, by Gerald G. Francisco
Lilac Surprise, by Marvin E. Sprouse III
The Duel, by Drew Crownover
Paying His Bar Dues, by Tim Sralla
Crowley's New Client, by Gregg Mayer
Viable, by Charles R. McBeth
Driving Through, by Kevin M. Faulkner
The Swamp, by Gene L. Jameson