

*State Bar of Texas
President Cindy
Tisdale receives
2023 Dan Price
Award for
outstanding
contributions to
Texas family law*



State Bar of Texas President Cindy Tisdale was honored with the 2023 Dan Price

Award by the State Bar of Texas Family Law Section. This award highlights her accomplishments within the realm of Texas family law as well as her impact on the Family Law Section over the past year.

Tisdale, a partner in Goranson Bain Ausley, is known for her expertise, unwavering commitment to clients, and credentials as a family lawyer practicing across Midland, Fort Worth, Granbury, and the surrounding areas. She served as chair of the State Bar of Texas Family Law Section from 2017 to 2018, chair of the Texas Bar Foundation from 2017 to 2018, and chair of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors from 2013 to 2014. She is among an exclusive group of family lawyers who are members of the invitation-only American Board of Trial Advocates. Tisdale is a fellow with the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She is certified in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and is a frequent author and presenter at legal continuing education seminars.

FRANK STEVENSON RECEIVES DALLAS BAR FOUNDATION'S 2023 FELLOWS JUSTINIAN AWARD

Frank Stevenson, of counsel to Locke Lord in Dallas, was honored with the 2023 Fellows Justinian Award by the Dallas Bar Foundation, or DBF. The award recognizes a lawyer who excels in the practice of law and who has shown a commitment to volunteer and to professional service. Stevenson will receive the award during the DBF's Fellows Luncheon on October 25, 2023. Stevenson served as president of the State Bar of Texas from 2016 to 2017 and as chair of its board of directors from 2012 to 2013. He is a past president of the Western States Bar Conference, a consortium of the state bars of the 15 most westerly states. He is also former chair of the DBF, a past president of the Dallas Bar Association, a trustee of the Texas Bar Foundation, and a member of the American Bar Association's House of Delegates.

DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION NAMES CHARLA ALDOUS A LIVING LEGEND

The Dallas Bar Association, or DBA, has named trial lawyer Charla Aldous among its Living Legends, highlighting her major courtroom wins, career successes, and legal strategy. The DBA's Living Legends series honors Dallas lawyers who have vaulted to the forefront of the profession through dedication and courtroom success. Other DBA Living Legends include former Supreme Court of Texas Justice Deborah Hankinson, Senior U.S. District Judge Barbara M.G. Lynn, and renowned appellate lawyer Nina Cortell. During her career, Aldous, founder of Aldous\Walker in Dallas, helped win a \$37.6 million verdict on behalf of a young woman who was paralyzed while riding in a minivan with a dangerous seat belt system, according to a press release. That verdict was one of four totaling \$20 million or more that Aldous and the firm secured within a 90-day period. In 2022, she also helped secure a \$21 million verdict in a botched anesthesia case, the largest medical malpractice verdict in Texas that year, according to a press release. "I don't consider what I do as a profession, I really consider it to be a calling," Aldous said in a press release. "It's a calling to help those that need me. I would like to be remembered as a lawyer that made a difference in people's lives."

LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS CELEBRATED FOR IMPROVING LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO LOW-INCOME TEXANS

Bar associations from around the state were honored for their commitment to access to justice issues on July 22 during the 2023 State Bar of Texas Local Bar Leaders Conference in Houston. Terry O. Tottenham, a commissioner on the Texas Access to Justice Commission and past president of the State Bar of Texas, presented the Deborah G. Hankinson Awards on behalf of the commission during the conference. The Jefferson County Bar Association was selected as winner for Division I, which includes bars with fewer than 500 members. The Austin Bar Association was selected as winner for Division III, which includes bars with 2,000 or more members.

LOCAL BAR LEADERS CONFERENCE EMPHASIZES SECOND CHANCES, RECOVERY FROM BURNOUT

At the 2023 State Bar of Texas Local Bar Leaders Conference in Houston in July, about 200 attorneys spent their weekend exchanging ideas for driving up membership and engagement for their own bar associations. They also got to hear and offer feedback on the latest in a bevy of high-priority issues such as succession planning and the need for legal clinics for veterans. The keynote speakers emphasized second chances and recovery from burnout. "The last time I saw Judge [Richard G. Kopf], my daughter was running off with the gavel he used to sentence me," Shon Hopwood said during the opening luncheon. Hopwood's first stint with the law began with a 10-year sentence in federal prison after he was convicted and sentenced by Kopf in 1998 for robbing banks in Nebraska. Backed by a prison law library and a determination to find ways to reduce his sentence, Hopwood became an unlikely, go-to law expert behind bars, preparing cases for fellow inmates and being granted certiorari petitions twice by the U.S. Supreme Court. Since his release, he earned a law degree in Washington State, clerked for Judge Janice Rogers Brown at the D.C. Circuit, and is now a professor of law at Georgetown University. Hopwood's talk at the luncheon rode on a theme of rehabilitation and redemption. Saturday's keynote luncheon centered on bouncing back from burnout. Mark Yarbrough, a former 20-year district attorney out of Lamb County, described his collision course of exhaustion that began with the death of his daughter, Ashley, in 2004, and coincided with a seven-year case that shoved his motivation even further down the shelf. Yarbrough's anti-burnout holistic system centers on faith, family, friends, exercise, escape, and loads of Adam Sandler movies, exemplified by his playing scenes from the titular character's "happy place" in *Happy Gilmore*. Save the date for next year's conference, which returns July 26-27, 2024, at the Westin Galleria in Houston. **TBJ**