



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UNT DALLAS COLLEGE OF LAW

UNT LAW SCHOOL OPENS COMMUNITY LEGAL AID CENTERS

The UNT Dallas College of Law announced the creation of two community lawyering centers to provide legal services to underserved areas of Dallas County. Law students will staff the centers alongside supervising attorneys from the Dallas County Dispute Resolution Center. The downtown and South Dallas centers are a partnership between the college, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, the Dallas County Public Defender's Office, and Legal Action Works.

From left: Maria Thomas-Jones, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas; Cheryl B. Wattley, UNT Dallas College of Law; Lynn Pride Richardson, Dallas County Public Defender's Office; and Angela Downes, UNT Dallas College of Law.

FORMER U.S. SOLICITOR GENERAL TO KEYNOTE AT JOHN HEMPHILL DINNER

Former U.S. Solicitor General Paul D. Clement will be the keynote speaker at the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society's 21st Annual John Hemphill Dinner on September 9 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin. Clement, a partner in Bancroft in Washington, D.C., served as the 43rd solicitor general from 2005 to 2008.

The Texas Center for Legal Ethics will present an award recognizing a Texas appellate lawyer or judge who demonstrates the highest level of professionalism and integrity. Proceeds from the dinner support the society's archival and educational programs, including its journal and book publishing projects.

For ticket information, go to texascourthistory.org or email tschs@sbcglobal.net.

TEXAS BAR COLLEGE PRESENTS 2015 AWARDS

The Texas Bar College recently honored four attorneys for their achievements in the legal profession. Richard L. Spencer, a lawyer with Dow Golub Remels & Beverly in Houston, received the 2015 Jim Bowmer Professionalism Award. Hon. Jane Bland, a justice of the 1st Court of Appeals in Houston, and Laura Lee Prather, a partner in Haynes and Boone in Austin, received 2015 Franklin Jones Jr. CLE Article Awards for outstanding achievement in continuing legal education. Russell Blair Ross, an attorney in Houston, received the 2015 Steve Condos Most CLE Hours Award for attending a total of 709 hours of continuing legal education.

SMU's new center to research problems with criminal justice system

The Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law announced the creation of a criminal justice reform center funded by \$7 million in donations. The new Deason Family Criminal Justice Reform Center will support research and educational programs dealing with issues such as wrongful convictions, over-incarceration, and the ethical treatment of those going through the criminal justice process. The combined donations come from the Deason and Charles Koch foundations—each giving \$3.5 million over a five-year period.

Legislative subcommittee to meet

The State Bar Legislative Policy Subcommittee is tentatively scheduled to meet August 18-19, 2016, to discuss all legislative proposals that have been properly submitted for consideration by the committee. To request a copy of the proposals or for questions regarding the August meeting, contact the State Bar Governmental Relations Department at govt.relations@texasbar.com or (800) 204-2222, ext. 6826.

CCA turns 125

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals will celebrate its 125-year anniversary September 22. Former Presiding Judges John F. Onion Jr. and Michael J. McCormick, as well as current Presiding Judge Sharon Keller, will speak at the event when court is called to order at 11 a.m. in the Court of Criminal Appeals courtroom inside the Supreme Court building in Austin. State Bar of Texas members and the public are invited to attend.



Houston-area legal community recognizes pro bono efforts

On May 2, the Harris County judiciary and Houston Bar Association presented their Bench Bar Pro Bono Awards, which were established eight years ago to encourage pro bono work in the area. Harris County Administrative Judge Robert Schaffer of the 152nd District Court and Houston Bar Association President Laura Gibson presented the following awards: Vinson & Elkins (large firm), Gibbs & Bruns (midsize firm), Coane and Associates (small firm), Exxon Mobil Corp. Law Department (corporation), and Lan T. Nguyen of Shortt & Nguyen (individual). **TBJ**