



# Keeping Texas Entertaining

In the past 10 years, Texas' film industry has raked in more than \$1.2 billion. Last year, Texas ranked third among video game-producing states in the nation. Texas musicians are increasingly gaining national recognition. Let's face it, Texas is a powerhouse in the nation's entertainment industry. Austin attorney **Mike Tolleson** has been there just about every step of the way. Ever heard of the Armadillo World Headquarters, famous for kick-starting the Austin music scene in the 1970s? Tolleson was a co-founder. How about the Texas Music Association? He was a co-founder of that, too. He later served as its president when it successfully lobbied the Legislature to create the Texas Music Commission, which eventually morphed into the Texas Music Office.

After graduating from law school at Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1968, Tolleson moved to England to study international law at the University of London and the London School of Economics. But, the long-time music fan had ulterior motives for moving: He wanted to work with Apple Records, the record label founded by The Beatles. Just as Tolleson started getting acquainted with people at the record label, it disbanded. So, he opted to return to his native Texas to help build a thriving entertainment scene. Though there were many Texas musicians gaining national recognition, most had to move out of state to develop national recording careers. "Texas has always been such a great resource for talent," Tolleson says. "I felt I could come back and help make it possible for Texas talent to stay in Texas and stay close to their roots."

And so, in 1970, Tolleson hooked up with the only band in Austin with a major label contract and they launched the Armadillo World Headquarters, a 1,200-capacity concert venue. Any law that he did practice was related to the

Armadillo for the first few years. "In those days, there weren't any entertainment lawyers in Texas that I could find and no organized entertainment industry," he says. "In the beginning, even other attorneys had lots of questions about what entertainment law was." But as the music, film, and art industries in Texas grew, so did the need for entertainment lawyers.

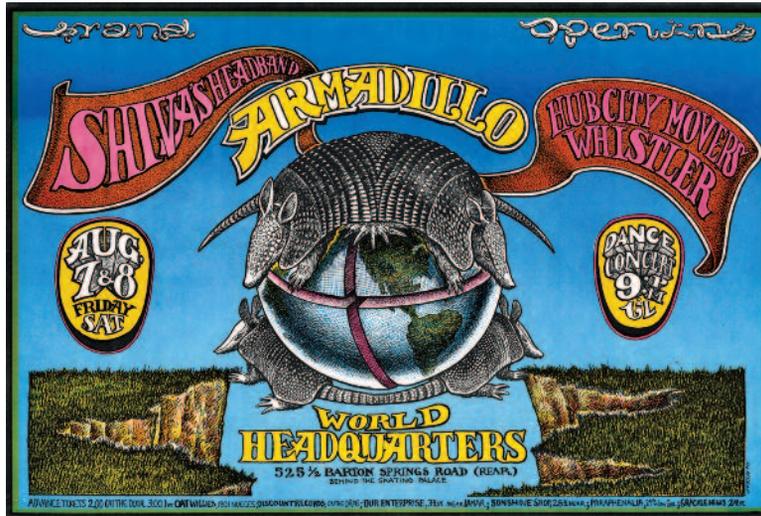
Recognizing this, Tolleson and Dallas attorney Chuck Pauley suggested that the State Bar form a section that focused on entertainment and sports law. The section was created in 1989. Still, Texas entertainment and sports lawyers had to travel — mostly to Los Angeles, Nashville, or New York City —

to attend CLE courses. So, Tolleson developed and coordinated the first Entertainment Law Institute in March 1991.

For 40 years, Tolleson has worked to legitimize the practice of entertainment law in Texas and build an industry. This year, the Entertainment and Sports Law Section is honoring Tolleson with its Texas Star Award, which honors an attorney who has, over the course of his or her career, made a major contribution to the practice of entertainment law. But Tolleson is not finished. He says he's looking into establishing an entertainment law board certification program. If he succeeds, Texas will be the first state with such a program.

Though Tolleson's client list boasts many high-profile musicians, film productions, computer game companies, and entertainment venues, he says practicing entertainment law is not all glitz and glamour. "Getting paid is often a challenge," he laughs. "But, I love working with talented people and the challenge of balancing art and commerce."

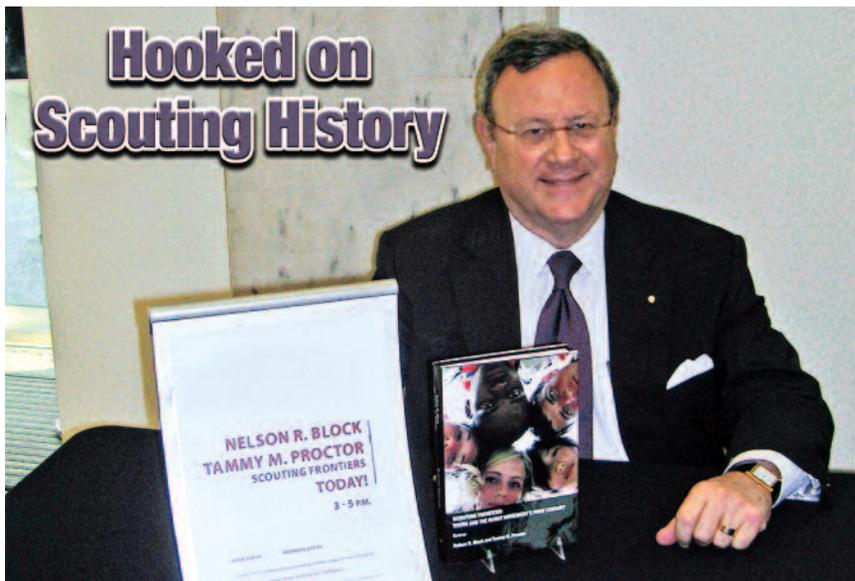
The annual Entertainment Law Institute will be held Oct. 7–8 in Austin. For more information, visit [www.teslaw.org](http://www.teslaw.org).



Grand Opening – Armadillo World Headquarters by Jim Franklin. Courtesy of Texas Poster Art Collection, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, the University of Texas at Austin.



Mike Tolleson



Houston attorney and Scouting history scholar Nelson Block signs copies of his book at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

**D**uring the centennial celebration of the Boy Scouts of America, held in Washington, D.C. in July, Houston attorney **Nelson Block** sat at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery and signed copies of the book he co-edited, *Scouting Frontiers: Youth and the Scout Movement's First Century*. "It was an honor to be invited to be a featured speaker at the Smithsonian," Block says, before adding drily, "I became an expert on where the first floor bathrooms were located, as people kept asking me all day."

The book is just part of Block's long career devoted to researching and writing about Scouting history. A shareholder in Winstead, P.C. and the pro bono attorney for the Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scouts of America, Block was a Boy Scout growing up. "I was lucky enough to be part of a very old troop that was founded in 1922. We had a library full of books on Scouting history." When Block was 13, he attended the National Boy Scout Jamboree, where he met Bill Hillcourt, a prominent Scouting scholar. Hillcourt, the author of the biography of the Scouting movement founder, became a mentor to Block. "Then I was off and running," Block says. "And completely hooked on Scouting history."

It's a history that, according to Block, is rich and remarkable. The Scouting

movement was founded in 1907 by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, an English hero of the Second Boer War — who Block describes as "a combination of Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf and Indiana Jones." Lord Baden-Powell envisioned Scouting as a global brotherhood. "Most boys didn't have a chance to be a part of anything worldwide except Scouting," Block says. "He wanted to show that boys from all backgrounds could work and live together."

Block's work with Scouting history aims to bring the subject into the academic mainstream. In 2008, he helped organize a symposium at Johns Hopkins University. More than 30 sociologists, anthropologists, and historians from 10 countries spoke about topics as diverse as Scouting in Damascus between the world wars, masculinity and Scouting in Australia, and Muslim Scouting in Wales. Block's book, *Scouting Frontiers*, features 15 of the papers from the conference.

Today, Scouting is in all but four countries and a quarter of a billion people have been involved in its 103-year history. "I love showing Scouts the history behind the activities they love," Block says. "For something that was started by a soldier, Scouting is very much about cooperation and tolerance. It's a movement for peace." ✪

## TEXAS PEOPLE

**Ernest Aliseda**, managing attorney to the Loya Insurance Group and a municipal judge for the City of McAllen, was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas Military Preparedness Commission. His term will expire Feb. 1, 2015. The commission advises the governor and Legislature on defense-related issues, prepares an annual report for state leaders, and helps base commanders prepare for the next round of base realignment evaluations.



**Marc Meyer**, principal in the Law Office of Marc Meyer, P.L.L.C. in The Woodlands, was appointed as the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division liaison to the ABA Health Law Section for the 2011-12 bar year. In addition to his legal career, Meyer is licensed as a registered nurse and paramedic.



**Allan Van Fleet**, a shareholder in Greenberg Traurig, L.L.P. in Houston, was named chair of the American Bar Association Section of Antitrust Law. Within the section, Van Fleet has served as vice chair, committee officer responsible for oversight of 27 substantive committees, delegate to the ABA's House of Delegates, and chair of committees on legal ethics and professional responsibility, business torts and unfair competition, and continuing legal education.



Gov. Rick Perry appointed **Callie Vivion-Matthews**, an attorney and subcontract administrator senior for the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics F-16 International Procurement/International Technical Assistance Program in Fort Worth, to the Texas Council on Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders. Her term will expire Feb. 1, 2011. The council makes recommendations to the Legislature and state agencies to ensure the needs of people with autism and other pervasive developmental disorders and their families are addressed.

