Texas Gavel Award Winners

The State Bar Public Affairs Committee presented the 2011 Texas Gavel Awards to honor journalistic excellence that helps foster public understanding of the legal system. The awards were presented Aug. 12 at the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas annual conference in Austin. The honorees were Kevin Krause and Ed Timms of the *Dallas Morning News*; Linda P. Campbell of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*; Kathy Cruz of the *Hood County News* (Granbury); Logan Carver of the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*; and Jeremy Roebuck of the *McAllen Monitor*. Pictured (from left) are **Bill Ogden**, incoming Public Affairs Committee chair; Cruz; Campbell; Roebuck; Krause; Carver; and **Paul Watler**, the outgoing committee chair (not pictured — Timms).

DALLAS BAR HOSTS FILMMAKER BURNS

On Aug. 17, during a program at the Belo Mansion, Winstead, P.C. shareholder **Talmage Boston**, right, interviewed acclaimed documentary filmmaker Ken Burns about his new PBS series, *Prohibition*. The Dallas Bar Association, DBA Business Litigation Section, and the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth co-sponsored the event. *Prohibition* airs on PBS stations beginning Oct. 2.

TASK FORCE PUBLIC HEARINGS DATE ANNOUNCED

Per House Bill 79, passed in the Special Legislative Session this summer, the State Bar has appointed the Task Force on Additional Resources for Complex Cases to develop rules to determine whether a civil case requires additional resources for efficient judicial management. The task force was to post its draft rules on the State Bar website (**texasbar.com**) by Oct. 1 and is soliciting public comment through the website and through public hearings scheduled for Oct. 13. Hearing locations will be posted on the website. The Texas Supreme Court will review the task force's recommendations and promulgate rules by May 1, 2012. For more information, contact Ray Cantu at (512) 427-1506.

TAJF GRANTS ASSIST LEGAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS

Thanks to the $377,950 raised at the Texas Access to Justice Commission's Champions of Justice for Veterans Gala in April, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation awarded grants to bar association and legal aid providers to assist with programs that provide civil legal aid for veterans and their families. Grantees include the Houston Bar Foundation, Jefferson County Bar Foundation, Fort Bend Lawyers Care, Cathedral Health & Outreach Ministries, Lone Star Legal Aid, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, San Antonio Bar Association's Community Justice Foundation, Tarrant County Bar Foundation, Texas Civil Rights Project, and Texas Legal Services Center.

TEXAS | ACCESS *to* JUSTICE FOUNDATION

Three grantees — the Houston Bar Foundation, Jefferson County Bar Foundation, and Fort Bend Lawyers Care — have joined forces to form the Veterans Legal Initiative, a 14-county coalition in southeast Texas to expand access to legal services to a veteran population of approximately 350,000. The coalition will work to recruit and train attorney volunteers and to set up veterans legal advice clinics in the area.

STATE BAR WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES

The State Bar recently hosted a delegation of two dozen participants in the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. Participants were part of a three-week tour to study the U.S. judicial system. In Austin, the group met with State Bar leaders at the Texas Law Center and then visited the Texas Supreme Court, where they heard presentations by Senior Justice **Nathan Hecht** and Dallas lawyer **Peter Vogel**.