THE TEXAS BAR JOURNAL PRESENTS

2010 Short Story Fiction Writing Contest

The variety of entries submitted to the *Texas Bar Journal* Short Story Fiction Writing Contest is always surprising. From funny to bizarre to heartbreaking, Texas attorney-authors have a flair for writing stories that are never boring. We thank the 49 authors who submitted stories this year.

Two panels of judges faced the challenging task of selecting the winners. We thank our judges for enthusiastically, graciously, and attentively reviewing the entries. In the preliminary round, three pairs of judges received 16 entries to review (two of the judges received 17). Each judge selected three stories from his or her group to advance to the final round of judging. Both rounds of judging were blind; authors' names were removed from the stories before the judges received their copies. Sixteen entries advanced to the final round. A panel of three judges read those stories: **Harper Estes** of Midland, **Kendall K. Hayden** of Dallas, and **Edward L. "Chip" Wilkinson** of Fort Worth. Each judge completed an evaluation form for each finalist, awarding points for quality of story (10 points), quality of writing (10 points), and qualities left to the judges' discretion (10 points). Our winner, *Lucky Day* by **Caryn L. Carson**, earned the highest number of points in the final round of judging.

On the following pages, you will find the top three winners, plus one honorable mention, in the *Texas Bar Journal*'s fourth Short Story Fiction Writing Contest. We hope you enjoy reading these creative short stories as much as we did.

Making it through a competitive initial round of judging, these Texas lawyer-authors should be congratulated for earning a spot in the finals of the *Texas Bar Journal*'s fourth Short Story Fiction Writing Contest. Their stories are can be found online at **www.texasbar.com/tbj**.

Legal Dating by Monica Berry
Lucky Day by Caryn L. Carson (FIRST PLACE)
The Perfect Husband by David Colley
Sweating the Socratic Method by Samuel R. Dagley
Water Rights by Suzanne Quinlan Davis
The First Morning of My Life by Paula deWitte
The Woman Who Loved Atticus by Lyn Fenwick (SECOND PLACE)
The Move to the New Office by Frank J. Gonynor (HONORABLE MENTION)
Processing Freedom by E. Stephanie Hebert
The Day I Entered Into the Holy Sanctuary by George S. "Steve" Hebert
Psalm 82 by Barbara Hutzler
Slider by John B. McAdams
Catfish Carl's by William Moore
For Carey by Douglas K. Norman
Acceptance by D. Greg Stroud (THIRD PLACE)
Friends by Ron Uselton

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