

Texas Lawyers Auxiliary, an organization affiliated with the State Bar of Texas, is proud to announce the winner of the **2009 Texas Lawyers Auxiliary Law-Related Education Teacher of the Year Award**. The recipient was chosen from applications submitted throughout Texas by public and private high school teachers. The winner was selected based on their innovation, dedication and inspiration in the field of law-related education. Judges were chosen from attorneys throughout the state. Each year the winner is presented a \$1,000 cash (check) award and framed certificate at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in June.

Congratulations to the 2009 Teacher of the Year!

Cynthia Knox, an English/language arts teacher in the Austin Independent School District, was selected to receive the **TLA LRE TOY Award in 2009**. She teaches at Travis County Leadership Academy and Travis County Day School in Austin. Her 37-year career began as a kindergarten teacher and slowly progressed to high school. Her students have all been involved in the legal system from a young age. They are either on probation or incarcerated at a county youth facility. She has worked at the Austin I.S.D. Alternative Learning Center, the Travis County Juvenile Detention Center, the Leadership Academy, the Phoenix Academy, the Travis County Day School, & Shoal Creek Hospital Treatment Center. These facilities serve young men and women as a discipline alternative educational program when they have either committed an offense on their home school campus or have been adjudicated by the juvenile justice court system.



Cynthia advocates for her students and supports them as they make their way through the legal system. She has taught herself the intricacies of the legal system and, using her skills as a master teacher, attempts to pass on that information to her young students and their families. She incorporated the Street Law Program from the University of Texas Law School and then took her students to Law Day at the U.T. Law School so they could see firsthand where the student volunteers were learning. By incorporating the legal knowledge she has learned into her curriculum, she established an interest and a place for the law in her classroom. Her students even talk about having a legal career. As Lead Middle School Transition Facilitator, she has been instrumental increasing communication among the students, parents, educators, counselors, and other professionals such as probation officers and attorneys. She creatively teaches reading for understanding by using the Bill of Rights. Her students hone their verbal skills when they discuss their rights and responsibilities. By combining the English Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills with the law-related educational Street Law Program, Cynthia is able to bring the real world into the classroom.

From 1991 to the present, she has served as president and treasurer of the Texas Classroom Teacher Association. She has been a presenter at many state conferences. Her many awards include Teacher of the Year for the Alternative Schools in 2009.

TLA is thrilled to honor this caring and dedicated teacher!