

PROCLAMATION OF THE TEXAS DAY OF CIVILITY IN THE LAW AS SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 BY THE TEXAS SUPREME COURT AND THE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

In conjunction with the State Bar of Texas, we, the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, jointly proclaim September 17, 2021 as *The Texas Day of Civility In The Law* in the State of Texas.

On that day, we urge all lawyers to participate in programs, whether virtually or in person, at bar associations around the State of Texas that will commemorate and focus upon the spirit and aspirations set forth in the Texas Lawyer's Creed.

Further, we urge all lawyers to conduct themselves and provide legal services with the utmost courtesy, professionalism, and civility toward their clients, judges, adversaries and opposing counsel, peers, and colleagues alike.

The Texas Lawyer's Creed was adopted by the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals by order of November 7, 1989, reaffirmed on March 26, 2013, and amendments were approved through February 1, 2016. In adopting the Creed, we reminded lawyers of the importance that they perform all their duties in an ethical, professional, and civil manner, when we said in part,

“The conduct of a lawyer should be characterized at all times by honesty, candor, and fairness. In fulfilling his or her primary duty to a client, a lawyer must be ever mindful of the profession's broader duty to the legal system.”

Civility is at the heart of the Texas Lawyer's Creed and is the hallmark of a professional. “Civility” was adroitly described by Justice Anthony Kennedy of the United States Supreme Court in these words. “[Civility . . .] is not some bumper-sticker slogan, ‘Have you hugged your adversary today?’ Civility is the mark of an accomplished and superb professional, but it is even more than this. It is an end in itself. Civility has deep roots in the idea of respect for the individual.” Justice Anthony Kennedy, 1997 Speech, ABA Annual Meeting.

We urge all lawyers to act with civility to preserve our system of justice and to embrace the principles espoused by the Texas Lawyer's Creed as they vigorously represent their clients. In these difficult and unprecedented times, civility and collegiality within the profession and the justice system are as meaningful and essential as ever before.

Signed this 5th day of February, 2021.

Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice
Eva M. Guzman, Justice
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice
John P. Devine, Justice
James D. Blacklock, Justice
J. Brett Busby, Justice
Jane N. Bland, Justice
Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice

Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge
Barbara Hervey, Judge
Bert Richardson, Judge
Kevin P. Yeary, Judge
David Newell, Judge
Mary Lou Keel, Judge
Scott Walker, Judge
Michelle M. Slaughter, Judge
Jesse F. McClure, III, Judge