

# PROCLAMATION OF THE TEXAS DAY OF CIVILITY IN THE LAW AS APRIL 14, 2023 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 April 14, 2023 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 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 and reaffirmed on March 26, 2013. 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. Today, civility and collegiality within the profession and the justice system are as meaningful and essential as ever before.

Signed this 24th day of January, 2023.

Nathan L. Hecht, Chief 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  
Evan A. Young, 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