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Foreword

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FOREWORD

Kerry P. Fitzgerald

How could I not be both honored and humbled at an invitation to write the Foreword for this issue of the Annual Survey of Texas Law? The SMU Dedman School of Law is a prestigious institution—its faculty respected and admired, its students bright and industrious.

I can say “thank you” by being appropriately brief, as in short, the layman’s understanding of that term.

Many years ago, I read a glowing tribute about a lawyer who had many accomplishments to his name. He had a big heart and was highly principled. The superlatives never seemed to stop. I agreed with the assessment save and except for one observation: this lawyer was not one of a kind but rather an example of the breed of lawyers nurtured in Texas.

After some years on the appellate bench I have come to believe we are blessed in Texas, and specifically at SMU, with a tsunami of legal talent primarily concerned with the equities of the law, not simply mastering the black letter law. Our Bar is most interested in maintaining the integrity of the legal profession, discerning morally right resolutions, and fostering fair treatment under the law in our pursuit of justice.

The law students we encounter through various intern programs, the law professors we visit with, and the practicing attorneys we encounter daily in trial and appellate courts are testaments to this struggle to maintain high ethical standards and to insure basic fairness.

This issue of the Annual Survey of Texas Law was planned by an editorial board intent on drafting a diverse group of lawyers, judges and professors whose reputations for honor and integrity are excellent and whose mission it would be to address meaningful developments, patterns, and trends in different areas of the law in a manner genuinely helpful to the legal community. The Board clearly succeeded. I have every confidence this issue will educate and inspire each of us.

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Articles

