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## Tribute to Professor Beth Thornburg

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# TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR BETH THORNBURG

*William V. Dorsaneo, III\**

IT is my distinct pleasure to have Professor Beth Thornburg as a friend, law school colleague, and co-author on many publications during our long careers at SMU Dedman School of Law.

As shown in her CV, during the first part of her scholarly career at SMU, she focused her work on Texas civil practice subjects for primary use in teaching law school courses in Texas civil procedure. During these early years, she also prepared multiple book chapters contained in a multi-volume text entitled the *Texas Civil Trial Guide* for use by lawyers and other professionals engaged in civil trial practice. More recently, Professor Thornburg and I have co-authored a civil procedure book for use by law students concerning practice and procedure in federal courts entitled *Questions and Answers: Civil Procedure*, which is now in its fifth edition.

During her long career at SMU Dedman School of Law, Professor Thornburg received many teaching awards. For example, in the 1990s, Professor Thornburg received the coveted Dr. Don M. Smart Award for Excellence in Teaching. Thereafter, in 2013 she received the University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award at SMU. In 2014, she received the Peruna Professor Award at SMU Dedman School of Law. Finally, in 2016, she received the SMU Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor Award.

Professor Thornburg has also written and published articles on the scope of discovery<sup>1</sup> and particularly work product<sup>2</sup> that have made and still make important contributions to the subjects covered in the articles.

Without question, Professor Thornburg has established herself as a first-rate procedural intellect whose work has enriched the educational experience of many students and whose work has contributed greatly to the growth and development of Texas law.

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1. *E.g.*, Elizabeth G. Thornburg, *Giving the “Haves” A Little More: Considering the 1998 Discovery Proposals*, 52 SMU L. REV. 229 (1998); William V. Dorsaneo III & Elizabeth G. Thornburg, *Time Present, Time Past, Time Future: Understanding the Scope of Discovery in Texas Courts*, 29 HOUSTON L. REV. 245 (Summer 1992).

2. *E.g.*, Elizabeth G. Thornburg, *Rethinking Work Product*, 77 VA. L. REV. 1515 (1991).

