Column

Executive Editor's Page
By David A. Furlow
When judicial history is involved, justices and judges have front-row seats. Submit an article for the Journal and let us help you realize your vision. Read more...

Feature

18th Annual Hemphill Dinner Draws Record Attendance
Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Was Keynote Speaker
An armchair dialogue between former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson was the highlight. Read more...

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L. P. HARTLEY BEGAN HIS NOVEL *The Go-Between* with the lines, “The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there.” Please let the *Journal* stamp your passport to the past by submitting an article.

A **journal friendly to writers.** As we learned on September 11, 2001, we can all witness history as it happens, for better or worse. When judicial history is involved, lawyers and judges have front-row seats. Two friendly editors, Lynne Liberato and I, will introduce you to a staff dedicated to realizing your vision.

**No reason to be shy.** If anyone believes that Texas’s best lawyers, justices and judges have egos the size of a Ten Gallon Hat, service as an editor of the *Journal* will dispel that myth. As an editor I have found that even the best and brightest may insist that they lack the qualifications to write judicial history. Whether they are the writers or the subjects of someone else’s writing, they have something important to say. In other words, YOU have something important to say.

**No fancy cameras needed, either.** The easiest way to put your ideas in print is to ask a few questions of someone with knowledge of the court, write down the answers, and send us the interview. When I asked recently appointed Justice Jeff Boyd if I could interview him, he ushered me into his office. He did not object to my well-worn Nikon. Will Fleming’s excellent interview with Justice John Devine began with a similar request. Why not send us a judicial interview?

**Scholars are welcome, too.** Judge Mark Davidson contributed an excellent two-part series analyzing a case about the ownership of Padre Island: *State v. Balli*, 173 S.W.2d 522 (Tex. Civ. App.—San Antonio, 1943), *aff’d*, 144 Tex. 195, 190 S.W.2d 171 (Tex. 1944), *cert. denied*, 328 U.S. 852 (1946), *rhg. denied*, 328 U.S. 880 (1946). Judge Davidson showed how that case embroiled the Texas Supreme Court in controversy when it expanded from three justices to nine. University of Houston Professor Tasha Lea Willis analyzed centuries of arbitration in Texas. Dylan Drummond demonstrated how *Dallam’s Digest* preserved early Texas law. And Josiah M. Daniel described how Governor Dan Moody’s commitment to reform improved the lives of all the state’s lawyers, as well as their reputations.

Since the past is a foreign country, why not travel there with the *Journal*? If you’d like to join us, please send your draft article to me at davidfurlowhistory@gmail.com.

— David A. Furlow, Thompson & Knight
AN ARMCHAIR DIALOGUE between former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson was the highlight of the Society’s 18th Annual John Hemphill Dinner. About 500 appellate attorneys, judges, their spouses and other members of the community filled the Grand Ballroom of the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin on Friday, June 14, to listen to Justice O’Connor reminisce about her nomination and service as the first female justice on the nation’s highest court.

The evening began with a welcome by Society President Warren W. Harris, followed by the raising of the flag by the Bedichek Junior Marine Corps color guard. The Junior Marines, who drill under the leadership of Sgt. Darrick A. Norton, recently garnered a first-place Spirit Award in national competition.

Justice O’Connor’s interview with Chief Justice Jefferson was convivial, informative, and interspersed with laughter and applause. Topics varied from opinions on equal rights and judicial elections to stories about serving with Thurgood Marshall and visiting with Margaret Thatcher and Nelson Mandela. O’Connor talked about her early years in her native El Paso and summers on her parents’ cattle ranch in Arizona, which was part of the 1854 Gadsden Purchase. She also noted that, upon graduating third in her class at Stanford University Law School, she had tremendous difficulty getting an interview, much less a job, at dozens of law firms because she was a woman. Indeed, the only legal position she could secure immediately after graduation was working for free for an Arizona county attorney, where she shared an office with his secretary. Her eventual rise to the nation’s highest court was an achievement appreciated by everyone at the dinner.
Justice O’Connor also introduced the audience to her *iCivics* web project, which has developed innovative online educational materials on governance for use by public school classrooms throughout the U.S. Anyone interested in exploring the *iCivics* website may do so by going to www.icivics.org.

Justice Nathan L. Hecht gave a witty introduction of the two newest justices to join the Texas Supreme Court—Justice Jeff Boyd, appointed by Gov. Perry in 2012 to replace Justice Wainwright, and Justice John P. Devine, elected in 2012 after winning the Republican primary over Justice David Medina.
Presentation of the 5th Annual Chief Justice Jack Pope Professionalism Award began with comments by Jonathan Smaby, Executive Director of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics. Judge Jennifer Elrod presented the judicial professionalism award to Judge Patrick Higginbotham of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, and Chief Justice Jefferson gave the attorney award to Dallas attorney Nina Cortell of Haynes and Boone.
David Beck, Chair of the Society Fellows, reported on the activities and accomplishments of the Fellows, including the donation of a rare copy of Harbert Davenport’s 1917 *History of the Supreme Court of the State of Texas*.

Along with thanking Macey Reasoner Stokes for her contributions as chair of the Dinner Committee, outgoing president Warren Harris thanked Executive Director Bill Pugsley for his nearly 15 years of service to the Society. As announced in the Summer issue of the eJournal, this was Pugsley’s last Hemphill Dinner; he will be leaving the Society at the end of June.
Justice Paul Green, Court liaison to the Society, administered the oath of office to incoming president Douglas Alexander. Alexander noted the four newest members elected to the Board of Trustees—Bob Black, Ben L. Mesches, William W. Ogden, and Cynthia K. Timms—and recognized Warren Harris for his outstanding leadership over the past year.
**PRE-DINNER RECEPTION WITH JUSTICE O’CONNOR**

Prior to the beginning of the Hemphill Dinner, Society Fellows, members of the Court, and other guests met with Justice O’Connor in the Four Seasons San Jacinto Room for a private reception.

Clerk of the Court Blake Hawthorne and his wife Wendy Herval speak with Justice O’Connor

Former Texas Solicitor General James Ho and Justice O’Connor

Fred Hagans introduces his daughter Lindsay to Justice O’Connor
The Society also took advantage of the occasion to capture a historic photo in which Justice O’Connor was surrounded by every female justice who has ever served a term on the Supreme Court of Texas. Pictured (seated l-r) are: former Justice Rose Spector, former Justice Ruby Kless Sondock, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, former Justice Barbara Culver Clack, former Justice Priscilla Owen, (standing l-r) Justice Eva Guzman, former Justice Deborah Hankinson, former Justice Harriet O’Neill, and Justice Debra Lehrmann. This is the first time all eight of the female justices have ever gathered together.

Dinner guests may review and purchase photos taken by freelance photographer Mark Matson during the private reception and the Hemphill Dinner by going to the following link: http://texascourthistory.photoshelter.com/gallery/2013-Hemphill-Dinner/G0000ZiRxixCQgwY/
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