

TEXAS LEGAL LEGEND: TOM MORRIS
Induction April 24, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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At noon on April 24, 2017, the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas will induct Tom Morris as a Texas Legal Legend at the Mark and Becky Lanier Auditorium at the Texas Tech School of Law.

Morris began attending the University of Texas Law School, but in 1941 – during his final year of law school – he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was called up after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and he served four years in the Navy, flying airplanes off an aircraft carrier in the Pacific Ocean. After that, he returned to finish his final year of law school, graduating in June of 1946. At the University of Texas, he was a member of Chancellors and Order of the Coif and served on the editorial staff of the *Texas Law Review*. After graduation, Morris served two years on the faculty at the University of Texas Law School teaching torts, property, and legal argument and writing, and serving as faculty director of the *Texas Law Review*. He was one of the first professors to teach African American students at the law school. Later, he began practicing law in Harlingen in June 1948 and moved to Amarillo in September 1949.

Morris's practice today is at the Underwood Law Firm in Amarillo, where he has focused on litigation covering a broad spectrum of cases, including commercial law, employment law, insurance defense, oil and gas, patents and property law. His most famous case on appeal is *Graham v. Deere*, a major patent decision of the United States Supreme Court in 1966.

Morris was elected to Fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1973. In 2001, he received the Chief Justice Charles L. Reynolds Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2005, he was honored by the Texas Bar Foundation as one of five outstanding Texas lawyers with more than 50 years in practice.

Texas Legal Legends is a project of the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas. Its purpose is to memorialize the stories of many legendary lawyers who have practiced in Texas and to use those stories to enhance the public's understanding of the historical importance of law students and lawyers to emulate Legends like Morris by serving others and making a difference – not just a living. Morris and the other Legends are prime examples of lawyers who have spent their professional careers serving others and taking on challenges that are much bigger than themselves.

Past Legends inductees include:



THE LITIGATION SECTION
of the State Bar of Texas

1. Joe Jamail
2. Joe Reynolds
3. Harry Reasoner
4. Barbara Aldave
5. Carolyn Dineen King
6. Gibson Gayle, Jr.
7. LA Bedford
8. Jerry Goldstein
9. Adelfa B. Callejo
10. Broadus Spivey
11. Blackie Holmes
12. Craig Washington
13. Scott Baldwin
14. Royal Furgeson, Jr.
15. Forrest Bowers
16. Bob Black
17. George Chandler
18. Mary Lou Robinson
19. Ruby Sondock
20. H. Ron White

Videos highlighting the careers of these individuals are available on DVD and on the Litigation Section's website: <http://tinyurl.com/TexasLegalLegends>.