

TEXAS LEGAL LEGENDS

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 serving others and making a difference – not just a living. Legends like Roy R. Barrera, Sr. are prime examples of lawyers who have spent their professional careers serving others and taking on challenges that are much bigger than themselves.



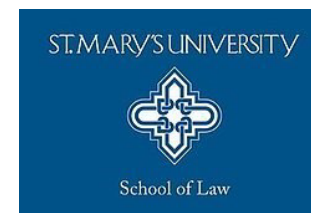
TEXAS LEGAL LEGENDS

INDUCTION

ROY R. BARRERA, SR.

Thursday, September 29, 2022
St. Mary's University School of Law

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Roy R. Barrera, Sr. was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, except for a brief period when his family lived in Seguin, Texas. In high school, he was a member of Jr. ROTC, earning the rank of Major and an Eagle Scout. Not surprisingly, he joined the Army after graduating from Fox Tech High School in 1944. He was serving in the Philippines when WWII ended. After discharge from the service, he enrolled at St. Mary's University, earning his law degree in 1951.

After graduation, Barrera joined the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, where he practiced with Anthony Nicholas. He argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1957 on behalf of the state in *Alcorta v. Texas*, a case in which Barrera remained counsel through 19 appeals. In 1957, the two friends opened the law firm of Nicholas and Barrera. The firm exists today as one of the longest operating law firms in Texas. Barrera retired from the practice of law in January at the age of 94 but continues to run his ranch on the outskirts of San Antonio.

Barrera has dedicated his work and life to the service of others. As a young man, he integrated a local San Antonio theater when he refused to move to the "Mexicans only" section of the theater. Governor John Connally tapped Barrera to serve his state as Secretary of State in 1968. In 1969, taking a wildly unpopular position, he represented Felipe Orta, a young man accused of murdering a highway patrolman. In his storied career, Barrera represented hundreds of persons and entities facing the power of the state in the criminal justice system.

Barrera has won numerous awards for his service to San Antonio and the legal community including the 2020 Reynaldo G. Garza Lifetime Achievement Award from the State Bar of Texas.

INDUCTION CEREMONY HONORING

Roy R. Barrera, Sr.

AS A TEXAS LEGAL LEGEND
STATE BAR OF TEXAS, LITIGATION SECTION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022
Noon

St. Mary's University School of Law
University Center – Conference Room A
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Texas

WELCOME
OVERVIEW OF THE LEGENDS PROGRAM
AND CRITERIA

Rob Ford, Co-Chair, Texas Legal Legends
Committee

VIDEO PRESENTATION

WHY ROY BARRERA IS A TEXAS LEGAL
LEGEND

Hon. Xavier Rodriguez

INTRODUCTION OF ROY BARRERA

Rebecca Simmons

REMARKS

Roy R. Barrera, Sr.

CLOSING

Rob Ford