

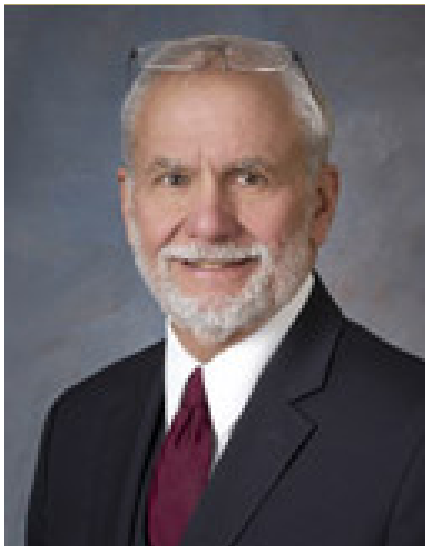
Applauding 45 Years of Board Certification

Forty five years ago, the very first Board Certified attorneys in Texas were sworn in for the first specialty areas launched by TBLS — Labor and Employment Law, Criminal Law and Family Law. Today, there are 25 specialty areas for attorneys and 8 specialty areas for paralegals. Out of the 7,300 Board Certified Texas attorneys, several with multiple certifications, there are only 34 that have been with TBLS since the beginning.

We had the chance to hear from a few of these attorneys on what it means to them to be Board Certified for 45 years.

Buck Files

Buck Files (Criminal Law), Partner of the Files Harrison Law Firm in Tyler, Texas, was a TBLS Board Member, Chair of the TBLS Criminal Law Advisory Commission and 2012's Tom Garner Award recipient for Distinguished Service to TBLS.



Buck Files



Buck and his wife Robyn Files

"In 1980, I went to Colorado Springs to appear pro hac vice to reduce bail for a client. I checked in with the judge's secretary, gave her my business card and went into the courtroom to wait for my case to be called. Instead, I was summoned to the judge's chambers where he and the prosecutor were waiting for me. Before I could sit down, the judge asked, "What is this Board Certified — Criminal Law all about?" For the next half hour, I gave them an overview of our Texas legal specialization program and then returned to the courtroom. Never have I been treated so cordially and with such deference. I am proud to say that this is just one of many occasions throughout my career where my Board Certification provided significant value to my case. It was clear that my client benefitted by having a Board Certified lawyer that day." — Files

Frank Herrera

Frank Herrera (Labor and Employment Law, Civil Trial Law and Personal Injury Trial Law), Founder of The Herrera Law Firm in San Antonio, Texas, served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the New American Alliance, Inc., received the Peter Torres Jr. Community Service Award from the Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar of Texas and has been named one of the 25 Most Influential Hispanic Lawyers in the United States by Latino Leaders Magazine.



Frank Herrera



Son and law partner, Jorge Herrera, law Partner Laura Tamez and Frank

"I had the privilege of having been among the first to attain legal Board Certification in Texas. First, I was certified in Labor and Employment Law followed by Personal Injury Trial Law and Civil Trial Law. Being Board Certified in these fields allowed my clients to have a sense of assurance that my advice had sound foundation. Equally as important, when asked to speak at seminars in these fields, it assured my fellow lawyers that my opinions had sound foundations. I highly recommend Board Certification to any Texas attorney considering applying." — Herrera

Curtis Marvin Loveless

Curtis Marvin Loveless (Family Law), Partner of Loveless & Loveless, Attorneys at Law, L.P in Denton, Texas, established the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists and was on the Texas Supreme Court committee that established the child support and possession guidelines that became part of the Texas Family Code.



Curtis Loveless



Curtis and his daughter and law partner, Darcy Loveless

"When starting my legal career, I handled a variety of legal matters — everything from traffic tickets to cases involving family law, criminal defense, civil litigation and an occasional auto accident. In those days, most older attorneys did not want to handle divorce and family law matters so I got a lot of referrals and enjoyed it. When the specialization program began, it offered me an opportunity to stand out in that area. Though there was some skepticism over legal Board Certification when it started, once I got Board Certified in Family Law, my law practice flourished. As legal matters have become more complex, the need for expertise by an attorney has greatly increased and Board Certification has helped raise the standards of legal service provided to clients. Board certification creates opportunities for young attorneys who aspire to provide superior legal services to clients. — Loveless



Let's Congratulate ALL 45-year Board Certified Attorneys!

Criminal Law

Roy R. Barrera (San Antonio)
Kenneth E. Blassingame (Dallas)
Charles E. Campion (San Antonio)
Jose A. Ttony) Camales (Corpus Christi)
Buck Files (Tyler)
Michael Roy Gibson (El Paso)
Gerald Harris Goldstein (San Antonio)
Ronald Leroy Goranson (Dallas)
James Harold Kreimeyer (Belton)
Donald Lane (Burnet)
Edward A. Mallett (Houston)
Jerry W. Melton (Dallas)
Ebb Bailey Mobley (Longview)
Jimmy Phillips (Angleton)
Michael M. Phillips (Angleton)
Stephen P. Takas (Windcrest)
Edward S. Topek (Houston)

Labor Law

Bennett W. Cervin (Dallas)
Edward B. Cloutman (Dallas)
Hugh E. Hackney (Dallas)
Frank Herrera (San Antonio)
Eric H. Nelson (Houston)

Family Law

Phillip C. Friday (Austin)
Donn C. Fullenweider (Houston)
L. A. (Al) Greene (Zapata)
David Greenfield (Austin)
James R. Handy (Hurst)
Robert J. Kern (Sugar Land)
John Robert King (McAllen)
Curtis Marvin Loveless (Denton)
Charles J. Michael (Houston)
Charles H. Robertson (Dallas)
Marian S. Rosen (Houston)
Harry Lee Tindall (Houston)