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## Preface

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## PREFACE

This is the last print edition of the Annual Survey of Texas Law, which, in a way, makes it an exceptional edition. It is different and unique, which in Texas is often a cause for celebration. The mythos of exceptionalism has long characterized Texas.<sup>1</sup> As Paul Burka once observed in *Texas Monthly* (the “national magazine of Texas”), for better or worse, most Texans buy into the idea that Texas is different—“that we do not have to conform to the normal rules in order to succeed.”<sup>2</sup> The Annual Survey of Texas Law, in a way, leans into this story. The Survey is a reflection of Texas exceptionalism and a window into it—a special edition of the SMU Law Review dedicated solely to Texas law that traces state legal developments and offers insight into its future. Next year, the Survey will move to an online-only format, making it different from not only past Surveys, but also from its sister publications at SMU. We hope that by being accessible online, the Survey will continue to distinguish itself as exceptionally useful for Texas practitioners. Until then, please enjoy this year’s edition of the Survey. We hope you find it, well, exceptional.

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I owe a great many thanks to Katie Cristina and James Bedotto, the 2013–2014 Associate Texas Survey Editors, for the long hours they logged prepping Survey articles for publication. Ms. Cristina and Mr. Bedotto set a high bar for the final product, and attained it. Their cheerful, easygoing demeanors made them very easy to work with, and I truly cannot say enough about the job they have done.

I would also like to thank Justin Wheeler, the 2012–2013 Texas Survey Editor, as well as Laurel Brewer and John Carse, the 2012–2013 Associate Texas Survey Editors, for their contributions to this year’s Survey. Mr. Wheeler made himself easy to reach even with the notoriously difficult Texas Bar Exam looming, and the advice and tips he gave made my transition from Staff Editor to Survey Editor much less bumpy.

Donnaise Baldwin deserves an extra hearty thank you in producing this year’s Survey. Ms. Baldwin is the tie that binds Survey after Survey. When one graduating class leaves and another class takes over, Ms. Baldwin is there with wisdom, a friendly smile, and a calming presence to help guide student editors.

We would also like to thank this year’s Survey authors, both for contributing to the Survey and for being very flexible in working with us.

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1. MICHAEL ARIENS, *LONE STAR LAW: A LEGAL HISTORY OF TEXAS* 2 (2011) (commenting on the “Texas exceptionalism” viewpoint in Texan history and analyzing the impact exceptionalism has had on state law development).

2. Paul Burka, *The Secret of My Secession*, *TEXAS MONTHLY*, June 2009, <http://www.texasmonthly.com/story/secret-my-secession>.

Lastly, we owe a special thanks to our family and friends. Your patience, support, and encouragement in walking through law school with us—including law review!—make the road easier to travel.

Sincerely,

Brandon Bellows, *2013–2014 Texas Survey Editor*

Justin Wheeler, *2012–2013 Texas Survey Editor*