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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

*Kay Bailey Hutchinson**

THE law plays a fundamental role in the lives of the people of Texas. Because of this central role, it is important that the law be both clear and uniform. The recognition of these objectives prompted the establishment of the *Annual Survey of Texas Law* in 1967. Since its inception, this special edition of the *SMU Law Review* has aided Texas lawyers in synthesizing a complex body of case law and statutes and annual changes that affect practitioners, academics, and the citizens of our state.

Through the years, the *Annual Survey of Texas Law* has become a touchstone of certainty. Its utility may be seen everyday in courtrooms, as judges and clerks consult it in drafting opinions, and in law offices, where predictability is paramount in the efficient administration of legal advice. No other publication is as adept or more consistent in handling the huge volume of changes, from statutory overhauls to judicial modifications, that inundate the Texas legal profession every year.

I am proud of the *Survey's* positive impact on Texas jurisprudence. I commend the *SMU Law Review* and its endeavor, the thirty-first edition of the *Annual Survey of Texas Law*. It fulfills the lofty charter initially set by Justice Robert Calvert in the first *Survey*: "to winnow sound principles of law from decided cases to light the way for the courts in search for justice."

I also have a special pride in *SMU Law Review*, since my husband, Ray, served as Associate Editor in 1958.

* United States Senator, R-Texas. Since 1995 Senator Hutchinson has served as a deputy Majority Whip. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. Senator Hutchinson is a former Texas State Treasurer and was elected twice to the Texas House of Representatives. Senator Hutchinson was named 1997 Texan of the Year by the Texas Legislative Conference, and named to the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1997.

