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Introduction

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ANNUAL SURVEY OF TEXAS LAW

INTRODUCTION

Recognizing the problems of the increasing complexity of our laws and the severe time limitation of both the bench and the bar, the students and faculty of the Southern Methodist University School of Law, in 1967, established as an annual project, the *Annual Survey of Texas Law*. This project has continued through the years and has become increasingly important as an effective tool to both the bench and bar in the development of our system of laws. The value of this continuing survey is enhanced by the distinguished members of the bar who have contributed articles over the years. Of great importance is the continuity of authors for specific areas of the law: Dean Page Keeton on Torts, Dean Charles O. Galvin on Wills and Trusts, Harvey L. Davis and Royal H. Brin, Jr., on Insurance Law, Roy R. Ray and Frank W. Elliott on Evidence, Joseph W. McKnight on Family Law and Matrimonial Property, and many other able contributors, who over the years have aided in this significant undertaking.

As in previous years, the contributors to this volume are a distinguished cross-section of the legal community. The legal profession is indeed indebted to these dedicated individuals who give of their time and talent in contributing to this project which is of benefit to the entire legal profession.

With the development of legal thought over the past decade in both the federal and state systems has come a plethora of legislative enactments, case law refinements, and procedural requirements of which the practitioner and the judiciary must be cognizant. This *Annual Survey* should serve as a bellwether to present in concise form the present state of the law. Only by having such an anchor to guide us can we marshal the future development of the law in a way which satisfies the needs of society.

The judgments rendered by the Texas Supreme Court not only resolve disputes between the litigants, but also our opinions help mold whole areas of law. The articles contained in the *Annual Survey* provide broad backgrounds in the various fields so that we can evaluate how the result of a particular opinion will relate to other similar problems. Justice in the particular case is certainly to be desired, but so is uniformity of the law.

By the publication of this *Survey*, Southern Methodist University School of Law has provided an opportunity for all members of the legal profession to remain abreast of the development of the law. It is indeed a valuable and concise volume for our continuing legal education. For this I commend the Editors of the *Southwestern Law Journal* and express the gratitude of the Texas legal profession to the *Journal* and the law school.

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