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## Introduction

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# ANNUAL SURVEY OF TEXAS LAW

## INTRODUCTION

### I.

Lawyers take seriously the practice of law, take pride in their work, and feel a professional responsibility to their clients; therefore, they must keep abreast of recent developments in the law. This is no simple task under present day circumstances.

The lawyer is bombarded almost daily by offers of legal courses, seminars, and publications and services to educate and keep him informed. While I am sure that most of these offers are worthwhile, many of them take him out of his office, are time consuming, or they present an in-depth study in a specialized field. I am certain that most offices of Texas lawyers contain volumes of treatises and articles that the lawyer intends to read to satisfy his genuine desire to be knowledgeable of current developments. However, there is always more reading material available than can possibly be covered. The accelerated pace of business in our world today is reflected in the pace of the lawyer, who is under heavy pressure to immediately satisfy his client's needs. The client's problems seem to be increasingly complex, and yet there seems to be less time for legal research. This situation accentuates the need for comprehensive surveys and summaries of the law.

Aside from the needs of lawyers to keep apprised of the continuing changes in the law for the purpose of counseling with clients, the lawyer should be advised as to developments in the law in order to maintain his important role in the administration of justice. The lawyer's professional responsibility extends not merely to clients or to the public, but to the profession itself. In order to contribute to the body of the law and participate in its development, some understanding of what has happened recently is essential. The system of American jurisprudence is under attack from many sources. Lawyers are able to meet this attack if they have some knowledge and understanding of the law, not just what it is, but understanding in terms of how and why it came about, its traditions, how it has undergone change and what it has to offer to the changing society of our day. How can the lawyers effectively defend our system, make needed changes, and indeed improve it without knowing its current trends?

For the fourth year, the Board of Editors of the *Southwestern Law Journal* have rendered a great service to the legal profession by the publication of the Annual Survey of Texas Law. While, because of space limitations, it may not be the complete answer to all of the continuing educational needs of Texas lawyers, it does provide a most important tool for keeping the lawyer informed of the important cases and legislative develop-

ments in the major fields of Texas jurisprudence. The editors of the *Journal* are to be commended, and we express our gratitude to the *Southwestern Law Journal* for this contribution to our profession.

*Morris Harrell*  
President-Elect  
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## II.

Mr. Harrell has stated well the case of today's lawyer striving to keep abreast of the multitude of developments in the law. The law schools have joined with the practicing members of the profession in providing seminars, institutes, short courses, refresher outlines, digests, and the like to assist the practitioner in doing his work efficiently and effectively. Lawyers do take pride in their work, and yet must struggle continually to maintain proficiency even in those certain fields in which they specialize.

The editors of the *Journal* are to be congratulated once again for the publication of this Survey issue of Texas law. Here in one issue are collected the major developments in the basic areas of the law of the state. This is a significant contribution to student, professor, practitioner, and judge, all of whom are grateful to the editors for providing this useful tool of legal research.

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