

Bernard O. Dow



The Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section of the State Bar of Texas is particularly proud to announce that Bernard O. Dow is the first recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award to a Distinguished Texas Real Estate Attorney.

Bernie graduated from the University of Texas with a bachelors of arts degree, Phi Beta Kappa and with honors, in 1954 and from the School of Law in 1956. He served in the United States Air Force from 1956 to 1959, where, as a first lieutenant, was an instructor of military law at the Air University Command. He then joined the predecessor firm to Dow, Cogburn & Friedman, P.C. and currently heads the transaction department.

The highlights of Bernie's legal career are legion. He has been certified in Commercial Real Estate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1983 (the first year in which the certification examination was given) and has chaired the Board's exam commission for real estate law. In 1994, the College of the State Bar of Texas honored him with the first annual Award for Texas Lawyer Professionalism. He has chaired the Houston Bar Association Real Estate Law Section and is or has been a member of the American Law Institute, the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, the Council of the State Bar of Texas Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section, the College of the State Bar of Texas, the Houston Real Estate Lawyers' Council, and the Texas College of Real Estate Attorneys. He is a fellow of the American, Texas, and Houston Bar Foundations. His rating in the Martindale-Hubbell Legal Directory is "a v", and he is listed in Best Lawyers in America in the category of real estate law.

Bernie's record of contributions to the continuing legal education of Texas lawyers is likely unmatched. He has chaired numerous seminars and continues to be a prolific writer and speaker, with his bibliography of publications and lectures exceeding sixty entries. At an age when many lawyers are content merely to attend continuing legal education programs, Bernie continues to write and present substantively challenging papers. Many of his articles have become the standard source on their specific topic.

Diane Dillard, chair of the Section, presented the award to Bernie at the Ft. Worth session of the Advanced Real Estate Law Course on July 13, 2000. In his acceptance remarks, Bernie recalled watching his father examine titles while sitting at the kitchen table and then reflected on his long and illustrious legal career. His wife Helen and the two of their three children who are lawyers attended the presentation. Their other son, a doctor, was travelling in Europe and could not attend.

Bernie is a fine lawyer and gentleman and has set a high standard for future recipients of this award. The Section is fortunate to have had the opportunity to honor Bernie in this manner.