J. Chrys Dougherty



At the annual advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course meeting in Dallas in June, two legendary estate planning and probate lawyers, contemporaries, received the Second Annual Lifetime Achievement Award for the Outstanding Probate Attorney presented by the Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Council.

Chrys Dougherty of Austin, born 1915, received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas and law degree from Harvard Law School. Chrys speaks Spanish and French (and English), has served as President of the State Bar of Texas, and has chaired many councils and commissions relating to lawyers public service responsibility, legal problems of the elderly, tax, estate and trust law, as well as serving on the boards of the University of Texas Law School Foundation and Texas Supreme Court Historical Society.

Chrys' biographical sketch establishes his vast experience in pro bono and public service matters. As President of the State Bar, he pioneered pro bono legal services for Texas. A co-founder of the Austin firm of Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, Chrys is now retired from active practice, but still involved in bar activities. In 1989, the Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas established a special award called The J. Chrys Dougherty Award granted to lawyers in Central Texas who best demonstrate Chrys' commitment to insure equal access to justice for all. Chrys helped to found Texas Appleseed, which is a part of the national Appleseed Foundation, an organization of private lawyers that involves itself in public interest issues. Texas Appleseed has selected the promotion of racial diversity and fair immigration policies as its priorities, two issues near and dear to Mr. Dougherty since his graduation from Harvard Law School.