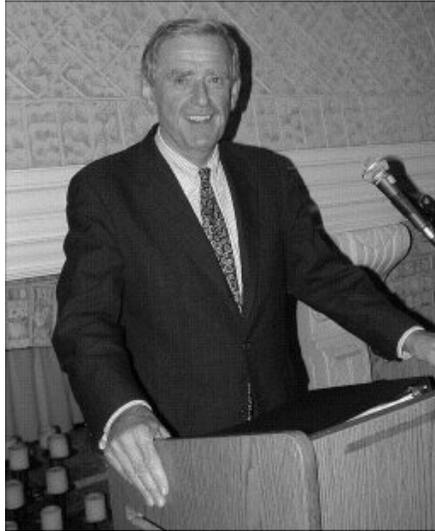


Stanley M. Johanson



The Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section has awarded its Fifth Annual Distinguished Probate Lawyer Lifetime Achievement Award to Professor Stanley M. Johanson, of Austin, Texas.

Stanley received his Bachelor's degree in engineering from Yale University. He attended law school at the University of Washington, where he was the editor-in-chief of the Washington Law Review. He received his LLM in 1963 from Harvard Law School, where he was a Teaching Fellow.

Stanley moved from Harvard directly to the University of Texas School of Law, where he has been on the faculty since 1963, teaching estate planning, wills & probate, and property. He has received numerous impressive accolades as a law school professor. He received Teaching Excellence Awards from the University of Texas School of Law in 1968, 1972, 1973, and 1986, and he received Ethics Teaching Awards in 1989 and 1992. He was elected to the inaugural class of the University of Texas Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 1995 (when he was one of only twelve members elected from the University faculty of over 1,600). In 1997, he received the Treat Award for Excellence, awarded by the National College of Probate Judges, recognizing Stanley's reputation for excellence among law professors in wills and trust law throughout the entire country.

He has taught at a number of law schools outside of Texas, having served as a visiting professor at University of Chicago Law School, Florida State University College of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Indiana University School of Law, University of North Carolina School of Law, University of California at Los Angeles School of Law, University of Utah College of Law, and the University of Washington School of Law.

Stanley's influence as a teacher has extended far beyond the law school class. Every summer, he lectures attorneys preparing for bar exams around the country. His popularity as a teacher is reflected by the fact that he is asked to teach these courses in California (Community Property), Illinois (Wills), Massachusetts (Wills), Michigan (Wills and Trusts), New York (Wills), Texas (Community property, Family Law, Guardianship, Estate Administration, Wills and Trusts), and Virginia (Wills and Trusts).

Stanley has been very active in State Bar activities for many years. One of the Section Council's starting points in preparing its legislative package during each legislative session for many years has been to review "Stanley's memo," making suggestions for topics to consider in the upcoming legislative session. Innumerable legislative amendments over the years have had their genesis in "Stanley's memos."

Publications written by Stanley include "Wills, Trusts & Estates (co-authored with J. Dukeminier) (7th ed. 2005), a law school casebook used at over 120 American law schools, Gilbert's Law Summary on Wills (2003), and Johanson's Texas Probate Code Annotated (2004).

Stanley has been instrumental in teaching thousands of attorneys even beyond his teaching in the classroom and at bar review courses. Stanley is an incredibly popular speaker at estate planning seminars in Texas and throughout the country. He is uniformly one of the most sought after speakers anywhere in the country on estate planning topics. He has spoken on a wide variety of topics over the years, and is a popular speaker around the country to discuss the latest estate planning current developments. For many years (to be more precise, about three decades), he taught a weeklong course every summer, giving a comprehensive review of a wide range of estate planning issues for practicing attorneys. His sharp wit and sense of humor, together his wealth of knowledge and wisdom, put him in a class by himself as a lecturer at legal education seminars.

Stanley's many contributions have been recognized by in other ways that are reflected by his numerous professional activities. His impressive professional activities include American Law Institute, Academic Fellow of American College of Trust & Estate Counsel, Fellow of the International Academy of Estate and Trust Law Counsel, Academic Fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel, Texas Academy of Probate Lawyers, Tax Management Advisory Board of the Bureau of National Affairs, Austin Trust Company Development Board, and Merrill Lynch Attorney Advisory Board. For many years, he has served Of Counsel to Vinson & Elkins L.L.P.

Perhaps more important than all of these impressive credentials is that Stanley has made a real difference in the professional lives of many many attorneys. When the award was presented to Stanley at the State Bar Advance Estate Planning Institute, the person who introduced Stanley asked the audience to raise their hands if Stanley taught them in law school at any time. Well over one-fourth of the hands went up. No doubt, many of those are practicing in the estate planning area today as a result of the way that estate planning came alive in Stanley's courses.

Shortly after receiving the award at the Advanced Estate Planning Institute, Stanley celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with Gerrie (Cunningham) Johanson.

We all owe a great debt to Stanley for his many contributions as a teacher, author, lecturer, and commentator on legislative reform issues. We are honored to present him as the recipient of this year's Distinguished Texas Probate Lawyer Lifetime Achievement Award.

Steve Akers
Dallas, Texas