

## J. Cary Barton



J. Cary Barton can argue any point of law on any side for any length of time . . . and the amazing thing is that he is usually right. I have served with Cary on the Real Estate Forms Committee of the State Bar of Texas since 1991; Cary has served since 1986 and is the senior member. The Forms Committee consists of 26 real estate lawyers from across the State who meet periodically to develop and draft the forms and related commentary that are published in the Real Estate Forms Manual. Many a time the Committee has agreed upon the wording of a document and is ready to move on when Cary says, “Have you considered the *Such and Such* case?” Not only we had not considered it, we hadn’t heard of it. Cary would then explain the *Such and Such* case and we would have to change the wording. All of this with a great sense of humor and a lot of laughter.

It was, therefore, particularly gratifying to me that Cary Barton was selected to receive the Distinguished Texas Real Estate Lawyer Lifetime Achievement Award for 2003 from the Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. The award was presented to Cary by Chair-Elect Doug Becker at the Advanced Real Estate Law Course in San Antonio on July 10, 2003. The previous recipients of this award are Bernie Dow, Jim Wallenstein and Bill Gibson. Cary is now in very good company.

Cary wasn’t always in the dirt business. After graduating from Baylor University in 1962, Cary went to Harvard Law School, graduating in 1965. He spent the next two years in Washington, D. C., first, with the Federal Power Commission, and, second, with the United States Tax Court as an advisor to Judge William N. Drennen. After two years in Korea with the Air Force, Cary finally landed in Corpus Christi where he began practicing tax law.

In the realm of a tax practice, certain real estate transactions found their way to Cary's desk. After doing several real estate transactions, he decided that slinging dirt was fun and decided to devote his practice solely to real estate.

After tours of duty with law firms in Austin and San Antonio, Cary founded his own firm in 1991. The firm is now known as Barton, Schneider & Russell, L. L. P., and is one of the premier real estate law firms in San Antonio.

In addition to practicing law full time and being the dean of the Real Estate Forms Committee, Cary also devotes significant expertise and time to the CLE Circuit. Since July of 1991, Cary has written articles and given talks at various CLE venues a staggering 51 times. The most impressive, in my opinion, is the presentation to the Real Estate Council of San Antonio in March of 2001, entitled *Commercial Purchase and Sale Agreements: A Comparative Analysis of Suggested Initial Drafts of Contracts for Sellers and Buyers*. Two commercial purchase and sale agreements were presented, one favoring the buyer and one favoring the seller. As I said, Cary can argue any side or position for any length of time.

Cary Barton is indeed a worthy member of the elite group of recipients of the Distinguished Texas Real Estate Lawyer Lifetime Achievement Award.

Robert Harms Bliss  
Dallas, Texas