

J. Thomas Eubank

The Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section has awarded its Third Annual Distinguished Probate Lawyer Lifetime Achievement Award to J. Thomas Eubank, of Houston, Texas.

Tom was born in Port Arthur, Texas in 1930, received his Bachelor's degree from his beloved Rice University, and obtained his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law, where he served as an editor of the Texas Law Review. Tom joined Baker & Botts in 1954, where he became a driving force. He was the head of the business and estate planning department for 25 years, and served as a member of the Executive Committee. He retired in 1990 as a Senior Partner, and currently practices with Baker Botts as Senior Counsel.

Tom's leadership abilities are illustrated by his leadership positions and contributions to various prestigious professional organizations. Tom has been quite active in the American Bar Association Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section. As a representative of that Section, he served on the Joint Editorial Board for the Uniform Probate Code (1972-1986), and in 1977-1980 he testified before the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Ways and Means Committee about income, estate, and gift taxation, various reform measures, and the repeal of carryover basis. Tom served as the Chair of that Section in 1978-1979.

Tom has also been active in the leadership of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He served as the President in 1984-85 and as President of the ACTEC Foundation in 1986-1989. He was selected in 1986 to deliver the prestigious Trachtman Lecture that is presented annually at the ACTEC Annual meeting. In addition, Tom served as the Chair of the Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section of the State Bar of Texas in 1972-73 and has been active with various other professional organizations, including the American Law Institute, the International Academy of Estate and Trust Law, the American Bar Foundation, and the Texas Bar Foundation.

Tom has also shared his leadership skills and judgment with a wide variety of other organizations in the community. He is a very active supporter of Rice University, having served as a member of the Board of Governors (1985-1991), the Alumni Association President (1979-1980), recipient of the Gold Medal from the Alumni Association (1992), School of Engineering Advisory Council member (1990-1998), and an adjunct professor of the graduate business school. Tom has served as a member of the board of directors of the Sentinel Trust Company (1997-2002) and of River Oaks Bank & Trust Company.

We are all indebted to Tom for his stellar contributions to the trust and estate field, and we are honored to present him as the recipient of this year's Distinguished Texas Probate Lawyer Lifetime Achievement Award.