

William W. Gibson, Jr.



William W. Gibson, Jr. (pictured at left receiving award from Section Chair, Bob Bliss) has been honored with the 2002 Lifetime Achievement Award as a Distinguished Texas Real Estate Lawyer by the Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section the State Bar of Texas. Like Bernard O. Dow and James A. Wallenstein, the recipients of this award in 2000 and 2001, Bill exemplifies the attributes of knowledge, fellowship, and service to Texas lawyers that are the hallmarks of lawyers of this caliber.

Bill was born in Amarillo and educated at the University of Texas, receiving a B.A. in government in 1954 (Plan II) and an LL.B. with honors in 1956. He was a member of the Order of the Coif and an editor of the Texas Law Review. He practiced law with Gibson, Ochsner, Harlann, Kinney, & Morris in Amarillo as an associate and partner from 1956 through 1965. He joined the faculty of the University of Texas School of Law in 1965, where he has remained to the present, being the Sylvan Lang Professor of Law since 1983. He has also served the School of Law as Associate Dean for Administration and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and took a leave of absence in 1971-73 to serve as an attorney advisor to the Federal Power Commission. Over the years, he has taught highly regarded course in real estate transactions, real estate finance, Texas land titles, fraud and mistake, insurance, wills and estates, Texas procedure, and professional responsibility. He is responsible for having trained many of the finest real estate lawyers in this state.

Bill has published widely in his areas of interest and expertise and has been active in the Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section and with the Real Property Division of the Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section of the American Bar Association. He was a member of the Council, Secretary-Treasurer, and Vice-Chairman of the Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section and chaired the Section in 1971. He was President of the Junior Bar of the State of Texas in 1964-65. He has been honored by numerous organizations, having been named a charter member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, an academic fellow of the American College of Probate Counsel, a

charter member of the Texas Real Estate Academy, and a recipient of the Leon Green Award by the Texas Law Review Association, and having a presidential scholarship in law endowed in his name by the Texas Law Review Association.

In addition to his academic and bar activities, Bill will be remembered for his contributions to continuing legal education in Texas. He was one of the founders of the Mortgage Lending Institute, which was named in his honor several years ago, and was the presiding officer of the seminar from 1968 through 1993 (except for 1972 when he was serving with the Federal Power Commission). As Bob Bliss, current chairman of the Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section, commented while presenting the award, Texas lawyers can thank Bill for helping to establish the standards of continuing legal education in Texas. Through the Mortgage Lending Institute, Bill encouraged Texas lawyers to come together to share their knowledge and experience by writing, presenting, and publishing papers that are at the same time scholarly and practical, providing access to a wealth of knowledge that is not shared in many other states. We should each thank Bill whenever we sit in a seminar, listen to the speaker, and say to ourselves, “I did not know that!” and then when we refer to the articles time and time again for the real “continuing” legal education.

Bill has challenged each of us to learn more about our practice of law and to share our knowledge with other lawyers. He has helped to change the way we approach the law—and this award is a tribute to what he has done for each of us.