

# TEXAS LAWYER

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## Professional Excellence

LIFETIME  
ACHIEVEMENT,  
LAWYERS ON  
THE RISE &  
ATTORNEYS  
OF THE YEAR

**IT'S OUR PLEASURE TO PRESENT THE HONOREES OF** our 2016 Professional Excellence Awards, which celebrates Lifetime Achievement honorees, Lawyers on the Rise and the Attorney of the Year finalists.

In this special section, we honor 18 Lifetime Achievers—attorneys and judges who have devoted their lives to the Texas legal community. The honorees have made significant marks in deciding cases, government service, building and maintaining firms, handling all manner of matters in private practice, representing the poor, and fighting for civil rights. We feel these attorneys represent the very best the Texas legal community has to offer.

For our Lawyers on the Rise we looked at lawyers 40 and under who are excelling in their practice areas. They should be innovators, developing unique practice niches, amassing robust books of business, demonstrating strong

leadership qualities, showing expertise in litigation or transactional work, and committing themselves to pro bono, charitable and professional volunteer work.

We also recognize three outstanding lawyers for their work last year—Chad W. Dunn, partner, Brazil & Dunn, Houston; Daniel K. Hagood, partner, Fitzpatrick Hagood Smith & Uhl, Dallas; and Paul Yetter, partner, YetterColeman, Houston. We will be honoring the three finalists and announcing our Attorney of the Year at our Professional Excellence event Sept. 13 at the Belo Mansion in Dallas.

We congratulate the outstanding honorees featured in these profiles. A special thanks to the TL staff and freelance writers Mary Alice Robbins, Bill Jeffreys, Mary Smith Judd, Francisco Alvarado and Carlos Harrison for their work on these profiles.



## Jennise Stubbs

PARTNER  
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON  
HOUSTON

**JENNISE STUBBS' OLDER SISTER IS A LAWYER.** "That was for her," she says. "I was going to medical school."

Then in college Stubbs took a political science class, realizing she was more interested than previously believed in how laws apply to everyday life, and equally to all.

A trial lawyer and partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Stubbs specializes in medical device products liability lawsuits, effectively

combining her scientific interests and aptitude with the law. She also is the firm's Houston administrative partner, leading the office's recruiting, business development, community involvement and personnel management.

In 2014, Stubbs employed a novel strategy in a mass tort case, resulting in dismissals of 368 cases in that court, and later jurisdictions as well.

Stubbs' client was the manufacturer of polypropylene mesh material, sold to companies that manufactured vaginal mesh devices. Stubbs argued that the client was not the end manufacturer, but rather a biomaterial supplier. And as such, under the federal Biomaterials Access Assurance Act (BAAA), could not be held liable for defects in the implantable device. The Philadelphia court agreed.

"The statute doesn't apply to a lot of manufacturers, and it hasn't been interpreted very often," Stubbs says.

Looking back, she says the biggest challenge was the hoops they had to jump through to prove that the mesh was a biomedical material. The decision, however, "changed the litigation."

**SHOOK**  
HARDY & BACON