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Hall's Standards of Review in Texas Foreword.

Wallace B. Jefferson

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FOREWORD

HALL'S STANDARDS OF REVIEW IN TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE WALLACE B. JEFFERSON*

W. Wendell Hall received the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award from the State Bar of Texas Appellate Section on Friday, September 11, 2009 (his birthday). Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson presented the award and shared these words about Mr. Hall:

A lawyer achieves an honored legacy when his work brings more than victory for a client, when he is concerned less with profit than with excellence and integrity. The legacy is deserved when a young lawyer can say "it's ok to concede a weak point now and then," and when an older lawyer is persuaded that rules of procedure should evolve when change is more likely to produce just outcomes.

Wendell Hall does not lecture to us, he inspires enlightened advocacy in us. We want clear standards from our courts; we adopt rules that reduce litigation costs. We temper our passion

* Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas.

and respect our opponents. We face adversity with dignity and grace.

Those are the standards we have all observed in Wendell. I try to emulate them today. Our profession is better because Wendell Hall joined it and served it. Today, on behalf of the State Bar of Texas Appellate Section, I am pleased to present the Section's Lifetime Achievement Award to Wendell Hall.

Wendell began his career as a briefing attorney for Presiding Judge John F. Onion Jr. of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, and then took a judicial internship with the United States Supreme Court. Those experiences led him to appellate law practice at a time when the specialty was in its infancy. He became one of the biggest names in appellate law and led the nationwide appellate team at Fulbright & Jaworski (appearing as counsel in well over 300 state and federal appellate decisions), and is now a retired partner of Fulbright's. Associates who have grown up in his shadow now appear regularly before Texas appellate courts.

Wendell was the Chair of this Section in 1999 and 2000 and has served in a variety of capacities throughout the years. Not only has he represented the appellate bar and this Section well, but his scholarship has helped guide us all for years. His *Standards of Review in Texas* law review article is a must-read for any appellate practitioner. He has been cited repeatedly by appellate courts, including the Texas Supreme Court, as a noted authority. For his contributions, he received the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award from St. Mary's University School of Law in 2005.

That's the professional stuff. We also honor Wendell for his feisty sense of humor. Just walk up to him and say "Hello, Vice President Cheney," and you'll see what I mean. In tribute to Scott Brister, I looked Wendell up on Wikipedia, which touts Wendell as "the red-haired music maker" and "the pineapple picador," but I am not entirely sure the reference is to our good friend.

In his many years of practice, those who worked with him, those who opposed him in Court, and judges before whom he has argued know Wendell as a fierce advocate and a kind man. It doesn't get much better than that.

For his scholarship, his advocacy, his humor, and his perseverance, it is my great honor and privilege to present the [State Bar of Texas Appellate] Section's Lifetime Achievement Award to our friend, Wendell Hall.¹

1. Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson, Supreme Court of Texas, Remarks at the State Bar of Texas Appellate Section Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony (Sept. 11, 2009) (on file with the St. Mary's Law Journal).