

## **TASK FORCE ON INDIGENT DEFENSE**

Post Office Box 12066  
Austin, Texas, 78711-2066

512-936-6994 (Voice)

**For Immediate Release**  
December 12, 2007

**Contact: James Bethke**  
512-936-6994

### **TASK FORCE ON INDIGENT DEFENSE GIVES AWARD TO DON HASE**

AUSTIN – Today the Task Force on Indigent Defense awarded the Robert O. Dawson Indigent Defense Distinguished Service Award to Don Hase, a Tarrant County criminal defense attorney.

The Robert O. Dawson award honors and acknowledges the late Professor Dawson's outstanding contributions and symbolizes his lasting impact on the Texas Fair Defense Act and the Task Force. Each year the award recognizes outstanding service by a group or an individual to improve the way Texas provides counsel for its poorest citizens accused of crimes.

Mr. Hase received the award for 2007 for his efforts to improve indigent defense in Tarrant County.

"He is a public-minded individual who devotes his time and energy to benefit the legal system," said Presiding Judge Sharon Keller of the Court of Criminal Appeals, who chairs the Task Force.

Brent Carr, judge of the Tarrant County Criminal Court No. 9, described Mr. Hase as a "statesman" and "tireless advocate."

"Not only does he render outstanding service to his clients, he seeks to improve the quality of the practice of law," Judge Carr said. "To know Mr. Hase is to hope that our profession will have many more like him."

The Honorable Sharen Wilson, judge of Tarrant County Criminal District Court #1, also praised Mr. Hase's efforts and explained that "His innovative solutions improved the system in Tarrant County and the State."

Mr. Hase, a partner in the Ball and Hase law firm in Arlington, is a 1981 graduate of the Texas Tech University School of Law. He first joined the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office after graduation, prosecuting felony, misdemeanor and juvenile cases. He is a past president of the Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and member of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and the Arlington Bar Association.

Additional information available at Task Force's web site:

<http://www.courts.state.tx.us/tfid/>