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December 14, 2007

**Contact:** Abby E. Dozier  
Communications Specialist  
PH: 817.212.4061

## Chief Justice John Cayce Addresses Graduates

**FORT WORTH, Texas** – Chief Justice John Cayce of the Court of Appeals for the Second District of Texas at Fort Worth was the keynote speaker at the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law fall Hooding Ceremony on Friday, Dec. 14, at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Fort Worth.

Focusing on the *pro bono* component of law practice, Chief Justice Cayce spoke to graduates about recent declines in public service by lawyers. While recognizing the monetary demands young legal professionals face, he encouraged the pursuit of *pro bono* work despite these potential challenges.

“Must these financial considerations make such a difference?” Chief Justice Cayce asked. “I don’t think they should. What you gain spending time in public service work will reward you.”

Chief Justice Cayce also talked about the role lawyers have as teachers of the general public, telling graduates they need to reach out and educate others about the general rule of law.

“I believe the best way for you to teach is through example,” Chief Justice Cayce said. “With every action and inaction, you send a message about the justice system. Do what you can to teach others. Those of you who take my words seriously will win a prize of infinite value.”

The law school presented 32 graduates with the juris doctor degree. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Vickie Rainwater presented each candidate with a purple academic hood, the color of which represents a discipline in law. Degrees were presented by Interim Dean Cynthia L. Fountaine and conferred by university president Dr. Harold G. Jeffcoat.

Graduates Donald DeDitius and Leah Frazier were honored for accomplishments during their time at Texas Wesleyan. DeDitius received the Equal Justice award for his 389 hours of *pro bono* service, the highest number of hours completed by any member of the class. Frazier received the MacLean Boulware award for her dedication to programs such as High School Law Day and Teen Court.

Chief Justice Cayce is a Fort Worth native who got his start in the legal field as a briefing attorney for Justice Charles Barrow of the Supreme Court of Texas. He has served as a member of the Supreme Court Rules Advisory Committee and the Texas Judicial Council. In 1996, he was chosen by his peers to serve a one-year term as Chair of the Council of Chief Justices of Texas. He was appointed by then-governor George W. Bush to serve as Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas in *In Re George* 28S.W. 3d 511 (Texas 2000). He was reappointed to the supreme court in 2005 by Governor Rick Perry in *Hyundai Motor Co. v. Vasquez* 189 S.W. 3d 743 (Texas 2006).

Chief Justice Cayce is currently serving his third term for the Court of Appeals for the Second District of Texas.

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