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Symposium Week Features Trial Law Advice

FORT WORTH, Texas – With the goal of providing current law students insight on issues that matter most to present-day practitioners, trial lawyers in both civil and criminal practice participated in Texas Wesleyan University School of Law's Trial Advocacy Symposium Week, Sept. 22-26.

Organized by the Board of Trial Advocates, the week included two days of panel discussions and concluded with a trial techniques workshop. Events on Monday and Wednesday featured Fort Worth and Dallas trial lawyers who served as panelists to provide guidance and advice for students interested in pursuing a career in the various areas of trial work. Friday's workshop, hosted by the Tarrant County Trial Lawyers Association, focused on all areas of trial work.

Director of advocacy programs Vince Cruz said he was honored that the participating lawyers volunteered their time for the symposium.

"These are among the most well-respected lawyers in Texas," Cruz said. "Some are even recognized nationally as experts in their field. I think the participation by these attorneys demonstrates our local legal communities' recognition of Texas Wesleyan as a law school committed to quality advocacy training."

Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins '94 attended the lunchtime criminal law panel on Sept. 24. While he was not expected to appear, Watkins provided a welcomed surprise and, he offered words of advice along with the speakers, Joe Shannon, chief of the economic computer crime unit in Tarrant County; Heath Harris, chief prosecutor for the gang prosecution unit in the Dallas County district attorney's office; and Chris Curtis, federal public defender in the northern district of Texas.

Also serving as panelists for the week were Dallas attorneys Katie Anderson, Andrew Leonie, Jennifer Ellis, Karen McCloud, and Barry Moscovitz; Fort Worth attorneys John W. Proctor, George Parker Young, Jeff Cureton, Peter Fleury, Michael Heiskell, and Jack V. Strickland; and Decatur attorney Michael A. Simpson.

Participating attorneys represented firms including Strasburger & Price; Thompson, Coe, Cousins, & Irons; and Haynes & Boone. Additionally, attorneys from the Tarrant County District Attorney's office and Attorney General's office participated in the symposium events.