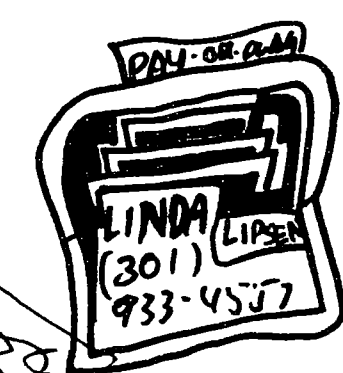
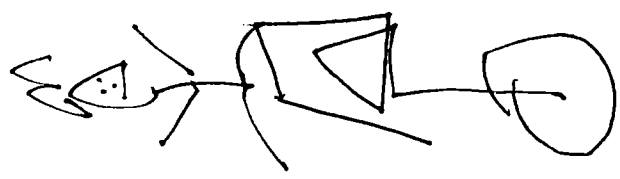


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Linda Vito

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THE LAW OFFICES OF
FRANK L. BRANSON, P.C.

FRANK L. BRANSON
DEBBIE DUDLEY BRANSON
GEORGE (TEX) QUESADA
JERRY M. WHITE
ROBERT D. CRAIN
WILLIAM B. CURTIS
THOMAS J. FARMER
CHARLES E. MOODY

18TH FLOOR
HIGHLAND PARK PLACE
4314 COLE AVENUE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75205-4185

214-522-0200
D/FW METRO: 972-263-7452
FAX: 214-521-5485

OF COUNSEL

TED Z. ROBERTSON
J. HADLEY EDGAR, JR.

November 24, 1999

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Dawn Woollen
Executive Assistant to Bruce R. Lindsay
The White House, 2nd Floor, West Wing
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Dawn:

Please find attached the brochure for TTLA's 50th Anniversary Meeting on December 10, 1999, in Houston. Also enclosed is a draft article regarding Joe Tonahill who will be our keynote speaker and is one of my true Texas heroes. The focus of his talk will be that maintaining a successful plaintiff's practice is challenging today, but trial lawyers have *always* faced challenges. My CV is included as well.

I have a few additional thoughts that may be helpful as follows:

(1) Hartley Hampton is the current President whom I will succeed. He's been a great fundraiser for TTLA and the President may want to recruit him for Hillary's Senate campaign.

(2) Don Bowen (Houston trial lawyer) is a great Democrat that I believe the President probably knows or, at least, has met. He's been very active with the DSCC and is close to Senator Tom Daschle. Don has recently been diagnosed with inoperable cancer. He has been instrumental in moving me into TTLA's leadership. If appropriate, it would be particularly meaningful to offer prayers and support for Don and his wife, Latimer. *pancreatic
assume he
will be in
attendance*

(3) I don't think the President will need any further information on me, but please feel free to call if he does. I have a laser-like focus on getting \$2 million raised for our Legislative Victory Fund to insure we keep the Texas House and retake the Senate -- so that we have a chance at fair redistricting plans. No one knows better than the President how important Texas is in this regard. We're also constructing a new building on my watch and planning the start-up of a new Internet company!

I am very, very appreciative of the President's offer to do this video. The bill for the costs associated with the video should be sent directly to me at the above address. If additional information is needed prior to Monday, please feel free to call me at home at 214/891-0921 or you can call Willie Chapman, Communications Director for TTLA, at his home, 512/258-2629 or contact him by pager, 512/606-0074.

Thank you so much for your help and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Debbie D. Branson
Debbie D. Branson

DDB\dh

① → grew up in Arkansas — started law school
Retired sup ct justice in Arkansas → Judge Dudley
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I am pleased to join you on this very special day, for the Texas Trial Lawyers Association's 50th Anniversary Meeting and Debbie Branson's swearing in as president.

Because of the TTLA's work, the legal landscape is vastly different than it was in 1949. Joe Tonahill, today's keynote speaker, worked to implement a jury wheel, ensuring a more diverse jury pool. In 1974, the Comparative Responsibility Act became law, giving plaintiffs greater recourse; and workers compensation laws have evolved to protect employees, not just the employers. All of this has been accomplished in the first 50 years...I look forward to seeing what is accomplished in the next 50!

I would like to congratulate my good friend, Debbie Branson, on being sworn in as president of the TTLA. On a personal note, Hillary and I have known Debbie for a long time, and I can't tell you what her friendship has meant to us. I honestly can't think of a better person, and lawyer, to lead the TTLA into the 21st century.

Last, but not least, I would like to offer my thoughts and prayers to Dan Bowen, and his wife Latimer, as they face Dan's illness together. God bless you both in this very difficult time.

To the members of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, congratulations on an important first 50 years, I wish you the best as you move into the 21st Century with Debbie Branson at the helm. Texas, and the nation, is a better place because of your work.

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Debb Branson
Branson

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DEBBIE DUDLEY BRANSON

4514 Cole Avenue

Eighteenth Floor

Dallas, Texas 75205

Ph: 214/522-0200

Fax: 214/521-4012

email: debbranson@aol.com

LAW PRACTICE

- Licensed to practice in Texas and Arkansas.

Law Offices of Frank L. Branson, P.C., Dallas, Texas, 1983 - present

- Litigation strategy including focus groups, attitudinal surveys, voir dire, witness preparation, argument, and jury de-briefing.
- Oversight of case management and expenses.
- Various administrative matters including health care insurance for firm, establishment of §401(k) plan and transfer of assets from pension and profit sharing plan, miscellaneous personnel and business issues.

Arnold, Lavender, Rochelle, Barnette & Franks, Texarkana, Arkansas, 1980 - 1983

- Engaged in the general practice of law.

EDUCATION

Arkansas State University, B.S.E. 1977, Student of Special Distinction

University of Arkansas, J.D. 1980, Distinguished Law Student Award

University of Texas at Dallas, M.S. 1993

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Participation and leadership in various professional organizations including:

Texas Trial Lawyers Association

- President-Elect (1999).
- Treasurer, Executive Committee - Officer of the organization directly responsible for management of budget (1996 - 1998).
- Board of Directors - Oversees direction and operation of organization (1994 - present).
- Trustee, TTLA Benefit Trust - One of the trustees responsible for management of Trust purchasing and providing health care insurance coverage for member participants (1996-97). Trust terminated in 1997.
- SMU Law School Chapter Advisory Board (1998 - present).

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Association of Trial Lawyers of America

- Vice-Chair, List Committee (1999-2000)
- Key Persons Committee (1998-99)
- List Advisory Committee (1998-99)
- ATLA PAC Board of Trustees (1999-2002)
- 1999 Wiedeman/Wysocki Award
- Sustaining Member

Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association

Arkansas Bar Association

American Bar Association

State Bar of Texas

Dallas Bar Association

- Publications Committee - 1990

Dallas Women Lawyers Association

College of the State Bar of Texas

112th American Inn of Court, Dallas

American Society of Writers on Legal Subjects

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GUBERNATORIAL AND PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

Appointments to statutorily and legislatively created state and federal agencies:

Securities Investor Protection Corporation (1995 - present)

- Vice Chair, Board of Trustees. Appointed by President Bill Clinton. Agency established to promote public confidence in the nation's securities markets by guaranteeing the return of property within certain limits to investors if securities firms fail. SIPC is a member-financed, private, nonprofit corporation.
- Chair, Budget Committee. \$70 million projected revenue (1998); \$1.1 billion reserve.

Chair, Select Committee on Rate and Policy Form Regulation (1994)

- Appointed by Governor Ann Richards. Interim committee established to study insurance rate and policy form regulation in the state of Texas including:
 - 1) Effects of changes in insurance regulation previously made;
 - 2) Degree of competition in insurance industry; and
 - 3) Availability of motor vehicle insurance, number of uninsured drivers, and number of drivers insured through TAIPA to determine if certain geographic areas are under served.

Texas Judicial Council (1992-1997)

- Appointed by Governor Ann Richards. Agency charged by statute with studying and gathering statistics on the organization, rules, procedures and practice, work accomplished, results, and uniformity of the discretionary powers of the state courts and methods for improvement.

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PUBLICATIONS

Co-author of various articles relating to trial techniques and demonstrative evidence for such magazines as *TRIAL*, *Litigation* and *Products Liability*. Editor of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association *Forum* from 1991-1994.

CIVIC, CHARITABLE, POLITICAL

Contributor to various organizations which represent commitment to social and political issues involving women, child abuse, choice, and the election of Democrats. Currently, leadership roles are limited to the following:

Dallas Women's Foundation

- President, 1999
- President-Elect, 1998 (Executive Committee)
- Chair, Nominating Committee, 1997 (Executive Committee)
- Board of Directors, 1994 - present

Planned Parenthood

- Secretary, 1998 - 1999 (Executive Committee)
- Investment Advisory Committee, 1998 - present
- Board of Directors, 1995 - present

Women's Leadership Forum (Democratic National Committee), Texas Chair, 1997 - present
Garry Mauro for Governor Campaign, Finance Chair, 1998

REPRESENTATION OF ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Democratic National Committee, Managing Trustee, 1992-93; 1996-97

Emily's List, Majority Council; Trustee, 1996

League of Women Voters of Dallas

Dallas County Democratic Party, Finance Council

Dallas Democratic Forum, Advisory Board

National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Board of Directors, 1993-96; Chair, Long Range Planning Committee, 1995; Co-Chair, Campaign for Healthy Families-Board Fund Division, 1996

Dallas CASA, Special Advocate for two foster children

Leadership Council-Campaign for Equal Access 2000, 1999

Contact 214, Telephone Counselor 1992; Board of Directors, 1992-93; Chair, Distinguished Lecture Series, 1994

AIDS Interfaith Network, Board of Directors, 1993

Junior League of Dallas, Sustainer

Daughters of American Revolution, Public Relations Chairman, 1991, 1992; Corresponding Secretary 1992-94

HONORS

Leadership America - 1997

Leadership Dallas - 1994

1996 Women in Leadership Conference, Honorary Chair

Who's Who Among Rising Young Americans

Who's Who Among Notable American Women

Nominee for Laurel Award

PERSONAL

Married to Frank L. Branson, owner of the law firm of Frank L. Branson, P.C., which began in 1981 and specializes in personal injury litigation. Frank is an avid hunter, golfer and antique gun collector. Debbie enjoys hiking, reading and adding to her various antique collections. They enjoy international travel and experiencing the cultural differences of people around the world. The Bransons have two children: Jennifer, 27, and Buck, 25, one a graduate of and the other a law student at Southern Methodist University Law School.

DRAFT ARTICLE FOR TILA BRIEFCASE

The Honorable Joe Tonahill, Keynote Speaker at TILA's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration in Houston on December 10th, will draw his remarks from a remarkable breadth of experience and accomplishments.

Most widely known for representing Jack Ruby in the Oswald murder trial in 1964, Mr. Tonahill also successfully defended clients in a 1954 murder case that was reported in Time magazine. Among his legal "firsts" are the largest wrongful death verdict in the world affirmed at the time (Miller v. Permenter in 1950) and the first traumatic cancer case ever affirmed (Travelers Ins. Co. v. Rowand in 1952).

All along the way, Joe Tonahill has taken a lead role in advancing the profession. When the association that became TILA was formed in 1949, Tonahill was not only there for the meeting, but along with Maury Maverick, Sr. helped put the whole affair together.

That group was comprised of several pioneers of the plaintiff's practice in Texas. At the time of the meeting, trial lawyers had few friends, and Texas families had few protections. Third party liability was non-existent, civil juries were chosen by a jury commissioner system, even 1 percent negligence barred plaintiffs from recovery, injured workers had few allies against irresponsible employers and asbestos companies poisoned people across the globe with immunity.

Mr. Tonahill helped bring together those first pioneers who have given Texas trial lawyers a rich legacy of protecting Texas families. Since that first meeting in 1949, those pioneers worked together to establish third party liability, the Comparative Responsibility Act of 1974 and a myriad of other tort protections gained through both case law and legislative action.

Graduating from Washington College of Law in 1941, Mr. Tonahill's legal career took a backseat to United States Navy service in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Born in Hughes Springs, Mr. Tonahill chose another East Texas town, Jasper, as the place for his law practice. Partnering with his University of Texas classmate Joe Fisher (now the Honorable Judge Fisher, Federal Judge in the Eastern District), Mr. Tonahill started down the successful career he continues today.

A sustaining member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America since 1946, Tonahill is also a co-founder of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and the International Society of Barristers.

Between trials and trail blazing in the legal field, Joe Tonahill and his wife Violet (now deceased) raised six children and became stalwarts of the community in Jasper.

When the time came to choose the best person to keynote TILA's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, there was no choice. Joe Tonahill is a living legend.

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TRIAD JASPER

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JOE H. TONAHILL
Jasper, Texas 75951
(409) 384-2501

Married to Violet Smith (1941-1997, deceased); six children; Episcopal Church; Dorn Hughes Springs, Texas; Graduate, Port Arthur High, 1932;

Pre-Law, University of Texas; LLB Washington College of Law, 1941; Delta Kappa Epsilon (U.T.); Sigma Nu Phi (Legal-WCL);

Admitted to the Texas Bar, 1941; member, Supreme Court of Texas Bar;

Member: Eastern, Southern, Western and Northern U. S. District Courts Bars;

Member of U. S. Court of Appeals Bar, Fifth Circuit, U. S. Supreme Court Bar;

Honorary Life Member and Past State Vice-Commander, American Legion (Texas); U.S. Navy, W.W.II, Seavice in 3rd, 5th, and 7th Fleets in Pacific;

Life Member, East Texas Peace Officer's Association;

Life Member, U.T. Ex-Students' Association;

Life Fellow and Sustaining Member, Texas Bar Foundation;

Member, American Trial Lawyers Association and former Governor thereof for Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida 1955-56; Sustaining Member since 1946; Governor 1992-95; Honorary Life Member American Trial Lawyers Association;

Member, American Board of Trial Advocates;

Co-Founder & Charter Member, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers;

Co-Founder & Past President, Texas Trial Lawyers Association, 1951-52;

Co-Founder, International Academy of Trial Lawyers, former Director, and Chairman of its Executive Committee;

Co-Founder and former Director, International Society of Barristers;

Past President of First Judicial District Bar Association, 1951;

Director, State Bar of Texas, 1958-61;

Chairman, Tort and Compensation Section, State Bar of Texas, 1961-62;

Former lecturer for University of Texas law School's Law-Science Institute on medico-legal problems;

City Attorney, Jasper, Texas 1947-1985; Chairman Board, First National Bank, Jasper, Texas, 1947-1985;

Chief Texas Counsel in defence of Jack Ruby, which trial was selected by Associated Press and UPI as the top news story for 1964 (Case reversed for Ruby) 407 S. W. 2d 793);

Travelers Ins. Co. v. Rowand, 197 F. 2d 283 (5 Cir.). First traumatic cancer case ever affirmed (1952);

Miller v. Permenter, 243 S.W. 2d 459 (1950). Largest wrongful death verdict in the world affirmed at that time;

Who's Who in Texas Today, Member, "Two Thousand Men of Achievement" (London);

Who's Who in American Law;

War Horse Award, 2/89, Southern Trial Lawyers Association in New Orleans;

selected in the Best Lawyers in America, 1989 -

Champion of Justice Award, Stalwarts of American Trial Lawyers Association, Chicago, 1994.

Blackstone Award, Jefferson County, Texas, Bar Association Law Day May 1, 1998.

James Hall Lutz
associates

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Honoring the Past, Looking to the Future.

**TEXAS TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
A RETROSPECTIVE OF THE
FIRST FIFTY YEARS
1949-1999**



Lindsey Laster

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To the members of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, congratulations on an important first 50 years, I wish you the best as you move into the 21st Century with Debbie Branson at the helm. Texas, and the nation, is a better place because of your work.

Michael
Woodman

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