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**STATE BAR OF TEXAS RECOGNIZES DAVID HALPERN WITH THE  
2016 NANCY L. GARMS MEMORIAL AWARD**

DALLAS (June 16, 2016) — The State Bar of Texas will present attorney David Halpern with the Nancy L. Garms Memorial Award at its 2016 Annual Meeting in Fort Worth. This award is given to an attorney or judge who demonstrates commitment to law-focused education programs and civic engagement.

Halpern is assistant general counsel for Texas A&M University and a national board member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. In 2009, he founded the Teachers Law School, an ABOTA Foundation program that connects legal professionals with educators to provide seminars and roundtables on civics concepts for the classroom.

The ABOTA Foundation has organized more than 40 TLS programs across the country. Topics include separation of powers, judicial independence, education law, and the importance of trial by jury. These presentations give teachers the tools to help their students better understand and appreciate the value and relevance of the American legal system.

Halpern practices in the areas of student affairs and litigation. Prior to joining the Office of General Counsel at Texas A&M, he served as an assistant attorney general for the State of Texas for 19 years. Halpern is on the extended faculty at the University of Texas School of Law, the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, and he has served as teaching faculty for the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Supreme Court's Permanent Commission for Children, Youth, and Families, and the National Association of Attorneys General.

Halpern's dedication to civics education follows the footsteps of the Nancy L. Garms Memorial Award namesake. Garms was the first female president of the Amarillo Bar Association and an adjunct professor at West Texas A&M University. Her tireless dedication to civics education was reflected in her service as president and longtime board member of Law Focused Education, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization of the State Bar.

## **ABOUT THE ABOTA FOUNDATION:**

The ABOTA Foundation is the educational arm of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Founded in 1958, ABOTA is a membership organization of more than 7,500 civil trial attorneys who have been invited to join because of their outstanding trial skills, integrity and civility in the courtroom. ABOTA members are almost evenly divided between plaintiff and defense attorneys. The Foundation's mission is to educate young Americans about the right to trial by jury and other constitutional liberties. The ABOTA Foundation has created the *Justice by the People* curriculum (10 lesson plans available free on the Scholastic website at [www.scholastic.com/americanjustice](http://www.scholastic.com/americanjustice)), the James Otis Constitution Day Lectures, and the Teachers Law School. The Foundation is also a lead sponsor of the National High School Mock Trial Championship and has partnerships with leading civic education organizations.

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