



NEWS RELEASE

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ABOTA FOUNDATION'S TEACHERS LAW SCHOOL RECEIVES NABE LEXISNEXIS COMMUNITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AWARD

NEW YORK (August 10, 2017) — The National Association of Bar Executives has awarded the LexisNexis Community & Educational Outreach Award to the ABOTA Foundation for its Teachers Law School® program. The award will be presented at the NABE Annual Meeting in New York City on August 10, 2017.

The LexisNexis Community & Educational Outreach Awards honor outstanding public service and law-related education programs by member bar associations and foundations. The criteria for the award includes degree of innovation, quality, effectiveness, scope and duration of the program.

The ABOTA Foundation's inaugural Teachers Law School took place in Austin, Texas, in 2009, created by ABOTA member and assistant general counsel for Texas A&M University, David G. Halpern, who will represent the organization at the award ceremony.

“Maybe because I’ve been a government lawyer my entire career, I wanted to do something about a growing disconnect between the people and their government,” said Mr. Halpern. “With the help of a rock star teacher (Jim Furgeson), a judge (Judge Cathy Cochrane), and the State Bar of Texas (Jan Miller), we assembled some of Texas’ finest trial lawyers and judges who breathed life into legal topics that not only resonated with Texas teachers, but inspired them to share with their students the value and relevance of the law and our legal system.”

With the increased emphasis on science, math, technology and literacy education, social studies is afforded less attention, and ultimately far fewer resources. The civics education resource gap has negatively impacted our nation's students, a fact made clear in the 2014 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results, which showed a startling 77% of students aren't proficient in civics. The Teachers Law School helps fill a portion of that gap by offering teachers both content and resources for their classrooms.

Over the last eight years, the curriculum for the Teachers Law School has evolved to incorporate relevant issues and the program has expanded its reach to more than 20 states across the country. Sessions are designed as roundtables, workshops, seminars or lectures and

cover topics that address the judicial system, education law and other relevant civics-oriented issues. ABOTA Chapters work with the ABOTA Foundation to facilitate the programs across the country every year, with an emphasis on catering to teacher feedback, addressing timely topics, and helping teachers meet new state or federal education requirements that pertain to civics.

"This is great honor for the Foundation and the dedicated volunteers who have contributed to the success of TLS programs," said Richard H. Middleton, president of the ABOTA Foundation. "We thank all who have contributed over the years to make this a successful program."

Learn more about the ABOTA Foundation's civic education resources and initiatives at ABOTAcivics.org.

ABOUT ABOTA:

Founded in 1958, ABOTA is a membership organization of more than 7,600 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 ABOTA Foundation is the educational arm of the American Board of Trial Advocates. The Foundation's mission is to educate America's youth about the right to trial by jury and other constitutional liberties. The ABOTA Foundation has created the *Justice by the People* curriculum, the James Otis 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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