

A Pledge

Completion of the State Bar Building marks another milestone in the history of the legal profession of Texas.

That the building stands as a visual pledge of the profession's collective responsibility is the belief expressed in many of the congratulatory messages received by the State Bar.

Governor Shivers' message is reproduced below, and letters of congratulation from other leaders of the profession follow.



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
AUSTIN, TEXAS
December 2, 1953

ALLAN SHIVERS
GOVERNOR

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
STATE BAR OF TEXAS:

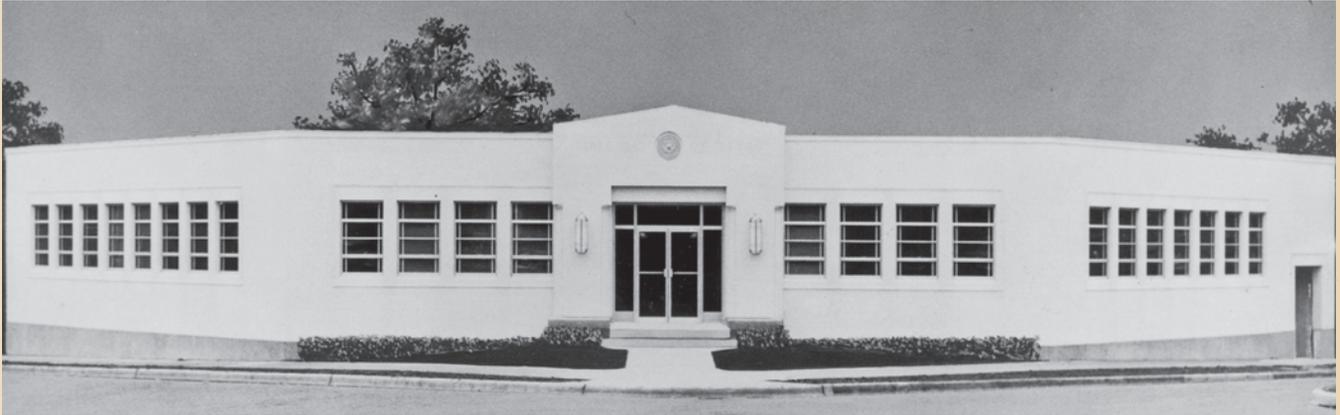
The opening of the new headquarters building of the State Bar of Texas is a grand occasion for the lawyers of Texas. It signifies the realization of a dream the members of the legal profession in Texas have shared for many years. It is a living memorial to our predecessors.

I know this fine building will make all of us even more proud of our membership in the State Bar of Texas.

With heartiest congratulations to all who made this accomplishment possible, I am

Sincerely yours, .

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan Shivers".
ALLAN SHIVERS



The building provides adequate working facilities for the State Bar staff, but more than that, the building stands as a magnificent memorial to the great legal figures of the state.

Milestone

by WILLIAM J. JAMESON, *President, American Bar Association*

For many years the State Bar of Texas has been one of the outstanding Bar Associations of the country. You are now approaching another milestone in the dedication of the State Bar headquarters building at Austin.

Once again the lawyers of Texas have demonstrated their interest in the work of the organized Bar and the support of their state association through providing this fine new building.

I need not remind you that the State Bar of Texas has furnished many conspicuous leaders of the American Bar Association. It was, of course, a Texas lawyer—Bob Storey—who assumed the leadership in promoting the campaign for the American Bar Center now under construction, and which will provide new headquarters for the Association.

By reason of our own experience, we can appreciate the more your noteworthy accomplishment, the value and importance of your new building, and the opportunity for increased service which the new facilities will provide.

On behalf of the American Bar Association I congratulate the State Bar of Texas on this outstanding achievement, and the vision of its leadership in planning for future service.

Symbol

by JOHN E. HICKMAN,
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas

The completion of the Texas Bar Center is a significant event in the history of our bar. Our gratitude is due the far-seeing members of the bar who conceived the idea of erecting this home, to the committee who assumed the responsibility of making that

dream a reality, and to all who so generously contributed of their means to that end.



John E. Hickman

Principal value

The event will lose its significance, however, if, having completed this lovely structure, we fail to recognize that its principal value lies in the fact that it is to stand as a symbol of the ideals of a great profession.

I like to regard it as a symbol of two important truths. The first is that notwithstanding the different groups into which our bar has been classified in these days of specialization, there still abides the spirit of unity among its members and devotion to the traditions and ideals of our profession.

This building should stand as a constant reminder to all of us that the practice of law, no matter what the field, is a profession in the true sense in which it is defined by Dean Pound. His definition of a profession is: "An organized body of men pursuing a learned art in the spirit of a public service."

The second truth is that it should signify that the bar recognizes its corporate responsibility to the public. To the lawyers there has been committed the important task of serving as stewards of the legal rights of all people. That commitment imposes upon us as a group a great responsibility, the neglect of which may be fatal to our whole legal system.

May this building stand as a symbol of professional solidarity and pride and of a sense of our collective responsibility. If it does, it will be a fitting memorial to the lawyers who have erected it and to those who have gone before us. Otherwise, they have labored in vain who builded it.

Sacred Challenge

by JOHN BEN SHEPPERD, *Attorney General of Texas*

Hearty congratulations to the leaders of the State Bar of Texas whose foresight and initiative have led to the building of the State Headquarters. The Headquarters Building is a milestone in the development of a strong Texas Bar and will enable Texas lawyers to cherish and improve the Texas law system that rests in our hands.

The Law has been called the guardian of civil liberty, and lawyers have been given the charge to serve as vanguards of the Law. With such deep responsibility for the freedoms and fair treatment of the people of Texas and the nation resting in our hands, the Texas Bar has a sacred challenge and lasting obligation to do all it can to ramify our structures of liberty and justice.

Monument

It must be our hope and determination that this new building will represent the fine ideals and ethics of our profession and that its walls will be so filled with echoes of our efforts that it will become a monument to the principles to which we adhere.

The new building is a landmark in the progress of the state organization and is a credit to the hard work and perseverance of the leaders of our State Bar. The eyes of Bar Associations over the nation are focused on this accomplishment, just as the Eyes of Texas are looking with pride and approval. May we prove faithful to the goal represented by this building and keep the foundations of liberty and justice in Texas firm and steadfast.

Fulfillment

by H.N. GRAVES, *Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals*

Ever since the beginning of the publication of the TEXAS BAR JOURNAL, I have read with interest each issue as it appeared and have followed very closely its campaign for the building of the State Bar building in Austin.

The editors are to be congratulated upon the high plane on which they have kept this JOURNAL as well as for the many appreciated articles that have appeared therein from time to time.

Home for the bar

As the fulfillment of the Texas lawyer's dream draws nigh, it is with a feeling of pride and pleasure that we will be able to say to our brethren throughout the Union that we have at last secured a home for Texas lawyers in our capital city.

The great expectations that we had upon the passage of the statute relative to the State Bar Association are now nearing

fruition due in a great measure to the secretaries' efforts as well as the combined labors of our officers and employees therein.

The Bar's Anchor

by ROBERT G. STOREY, *Dean, Southern Methodist Law School*

No statewide professional organization can function efficiently without a permanent home. All the lawyers in Texas should be justly proud of the new and permanent headquarters of the State Bar of Texas. I extend the heartiest congratulations of the faculty of our Law School to the officers and directors of the State Bar of Texas for the successful completion of the new building.

A most favorable development in our profession is the fellowship and mutual respect evident among all members of the profession in achieving common objectives for the improvement of the profession and the administration of justice. There is no longer any chasm between the judiciary, the practicing lawyers and members of law school faculties. On the contrary, there is mutual respect. The new home of the State Bar of Texas will further the common labors of all members of the profession. It will provide a proper meeting place for committees and representatives of the three groups of the profession who will be continually striving for improvement of our substantive law and procedure.

The new State Bar Building will be an anchor for the State Bar of Texas and a workshop for our profession.

Expanded Services

by PAGE KEETON, *Dean, University of Texas Law School*

The members, officers and directors of the State Bar of Texas are to be congratulated upon a splendid accomplishment, and on behalf of our faculty I wish to express our good wishes for the expanded services to the Bar which your new facilities will make possible.

With the leadership that the State Bar of Texas already has, and the new facilities that it will now have, I am sure that the Bar will continue to grow and distinguish itself.

United Response

by ABNER V. MCCALL, *Dean, Baylor University Law School*

The lawyers of Texas are to be congratulated upon the completion of the State Bar headquarters building.

We all know that lawyers by training and practice are independent. Probably no other profession is so difficult to organize for a joint effort. There are too many individualists. Their independence is indispensable for the proper performance of their duties to their clients. But their reluctance to organize and work in closer union often prevents the accomplishment of worthy objectives which could be attained by their combined influence. The influence of a truly integrated bar would be tremendous. Great progress along many lines could be accomplished by combined effort.

This fine headquarters building will contribute to closer union and greater influence in fields where lawyers should not contend against each other but work together for common ends. The united response which has produced this building promises a greater program for the organized bar in the future.

Forward Stride

by ERNEST A. RABA, *Dean, St. Mary's University Law School*

Law schools are vitally interested in the activities of the State Bar; annually hundreds of its graduates become members thereof. The law student and the young graduate alike are alert to each progressive step of the State Bar. The new State Bar Building in Austin is another emphatic forward stride.

Please accept the congratulations of the St. Mary's University School of Law of San Antonio, Texas, on your achievement.

Symbolic Building

by A.A. WHITE, *Dean University of Houston Law College*

Out of a feeling of great pride I should like to congratulate the State Bar of Texas and particularly its officers, other leaders and contributors on the completion of the magnificent "Home Office" of the State Bar of Texas. My only regret is that it cannot be seen and its significance understood by every inhabitant of our state.

The feeling out of which my congratulations come is not alone that this new building is good for the lawyers of Texas. My conviction is that it is also good for the people of Texas. If a society of substantial freedom is to be sustained by us, the supremacy of law must be maintained. That idea brought us from under the arbitrary rule of kings and it is the only idea that will keep us from falling prey to the new order of despots.

But supremacy of law cannot be a supremacy founded upon blind devotion. It must be a supremacy based upon understanding by laymen as well as lawyers; upon a belief in the rightness and selflessness of the law and those who practice it.



Modern hanging brass light fixtures from Finland complement the mural in the Strickland Lounge. [Original photo unavailable, this image shows the room a few years after the dedication.]

Sustained respect

Thus I am interested in the new State Bar Building and congratulate the State Bar upon its completion as a symbol to laymen and lawyers alike of the good and right principles and processes for which the law stands and to which lawyers devote themselves. It is hoped that it is only one of a continuing series of acts by the State Bar of Texas that will so lift up the law and its administration that it will draw to it the sustained respect of every Texan.

The Bar's Home

by E.E. TOWNES, *Dean, South Texas College of Law*

Throughout the years the desire of the normal American citizen, and particularly of the citizen of Texas, has been to own his home. This characteristic has contributed much to the stability of our citizenship and the preservation of our country and our liberties.

The State Bar of Texas, collectively, now has a home of which we can all be rightly proud. I pray that this home will serve to bring the lawyers of the state closer together and strengthen our spirit to work together for the stability of our country and the maintenance of our honorable profession upon the basis of highest ideals and principles.

United purposes

May the fact that the lawyers of Texas have this beautiful home be of great assistance to those who have to do with the training of future lawyers, in impressing them with the honor and united purposes of the profession which they are seeking to enter.

I congratulate sincerely the State Bar of Texas upon the completion of this wonderful project.

From the January 1954 Texas Bar Journal