

# IN MEMORIAM of BEVERLY TARPLEY

by

## **The Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association**

**Whereas**, on February 14, 2016 in Abilene, Texas Beverly Tarpley passed from this world at the age of 85 years; and,

**Whereas**, Beverly Tarpley served as an honored chair of the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar in 1997-1998, and as an esteemed member of the Council from 1993 through 1996, exhibiting superior judgment, grace, good humor, and wisdom; and,

**Whereas**, through decades of faithful and exemplary service as a volunteer Beverly Tarpley chaired numerous teams conducting inspections of American law schools, producing fair, unbiased, and thoroughly professional reports upon which the Accreditation Committee and the Council could rely with confidence; and,

**Whereas**, Beverly Tarpley enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin at the young age of 15, and earned her Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from that esteemed institution of higher education; and,

**Whereas**, Beverley Tarpley was the only woman in her law school class, became licensed to practice law at the age of 21, and was the first woman lawyer in Abilene, Texas, commencing in 1951 a long, fruitful, and stellar legal career; and,

**Whereas**, Beverly Tarpley brought great credit to the legal profession by her exemplary career as a lawyer and counselor, and by her many contributions to her community, state, and nation in the finest traditions of the profession, including:

- Serving as the chair of the National Conference of Bar Examiners and as a member of its Board of Trustees;
- Being the first Texas woman and the youngest person in the nation to argue a case before the United States Supreme Court;
- Being the first woman appointed to the Texas Supreme Court Rules Advisory Committee;
- Being the first woman appointed by the Texas Supreme Court to the Texas Board of Bar Examiners, and as the first woman chair of the board;
- Serving as a member of the House of Delegates of the ABA;

- Serving as the first woman president of the Abilene Bar Association;
- Becoming a life fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and of the American Bar Foundation;
- Serving on the board of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, and as a charter-year honoree of Pathfinders which, recognizes Abilene women who have led their professions;
- Leading the Abilene Philharmonic Foundation as chair;
- Contributing in myriad other ways to her community and its betterment; and,

**Whereas**, Beverly Tarpley was universally known for her incisive mind, rock-solid integrity, eloquence, kindness, and graciousness toward all who enjoyed the privilege of knowing her;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association, by and under the authority of this Council, marks the passing of a remarkable woman, lawyer, and friend, saddened by her loss but grateful for having been associated with her; and,

**Be it Further Resolved**, that the Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar express its most sincere condolences to the family of Beverly Tarpley, and that the Managing Director of the Section be directed to deliver copies of this Resolution to the children of Beverly and her beloved husband Dick Tarpley who predeceased her; and,

**Be It Further Resolved**, that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this Council and retained as a permanent feature of its records.

**Adopted by Unanimous Acclamation at the meeting of the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association at Phoenix, Arizona this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.**