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Texas Appleseed Names State's Legal Professionals to Receive Top Honors *13th Annual Good Apple Dinner Occurs Nov. 20 in Austin*

AUSTIN, Texas — A Supreme Court justice, law firms and a legal organization will be the 2014 honorees at the Good Apple Dinner, an annual gala hosted by Texas Appleseed that honors leaders in the legal profession.

Texas Appleseed, a nonprofit devoted to ensuring social and economic justice for vulnerable Texans, will present the awards on Nov. 20 to highlight the honorees' continued contributions in the communities they serve.

Former Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson is this year's Good Apple, and will receive the 2014 *J. Chrys Dougherty Good Apple Award*. Chief Justice Jefferson has been an unwavering advocate in seeking equity for all Texans, especially for the poor and for those without a voice. He is a nationally respected jurist, and he made Texas judicial history as the Court's first African-American justice and chief justice, receiving a unanimous appointment by the Texas Senate in 2005. He was elected Chief Justice in 2006 and re-elected to a full term in 2008. During his tenure, he and the Court worked with other branches of government to fund access to justice programs, and he successfully urged the Legislature to reform juvenile justice. During his time on the bench, Jefferson also served as president of the Conference of Chief Justices, an association of chief justices from the 50 states and U.S. territories. Chief Justice Jefferson embodies the spirit of advocacy by continuing to assist with major projects and issues that will help regular Texans. Texas Appleseed salutes him for his tireless work on behalf of all Texans, especially the less fortunate.

George Brothers Kincaid & Horton, LLP will receive the 2014 *Pro Bono Leadership Award*. The firm has spearheaded vital work on the issue of payday and auto title lending reform. It has taken on individual cases, conducted pro bono legal research, and is representing Texas Appleseed in an open records case regarding payday and auto title lenders' third-party financiers.

Additional Honorees

- Two law firms — **Vinson & Elkins LLP** and **The Vernon Law Group** — will be recognized for their pro bono work in taking on truancy cases in Texas for children without hope of receiving representation.
- **The State Bar of Texas** will be recognized for their support in training attorneys who represent some of the state's most vulnerable children — children in the foster care system. Attorneys are receiving free, quality, up-to-date legal education to help children find permanent homes sooner.

Texas Appleseed will also commemorate the life and work of **J. Chrys Dougherty** (1915-2014), one of the founders of Texas Appleseed.

Save the Date

The Good Apple Dinner will be held Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, at the Four Seasons hotel in Austin. It is a statewide event that attracts leaders of the legal community, from law firms to public officials to community advocacy organizations. Sponsorship information, including tickets and table reservations, are available by visiting www.TexasAppleseed.net or by contacting Susan Harry at sharry@texasappleseed.net.

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About Texas Appleseed

Texas Appleseed is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote social and economic justice for all Texans by leveraging the skills and resources of volunteer lawyers and other professionals to identify practical solutions to difficult, systemic problems. www.TexasAppleseed.net