

**Robert O. Dawson**

**VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARD 2024**

*Sponsored by the Juvenile Law Section*

**About the Award**

This award goes to an individual who has unselfishly devoted time to the cause of juvenile justice, specifically, in Texas. Persons deserving nomination are those who advocate for justice for juveniles in Texas; those who promote legislation advancing the juvenile justice system in the state; or those who advance the development or expansion of juvenile justice programs, funding, or access to other innovative options or approaches designed to improve the State's juvenile justice system and benefit the youth it serves. Nominees may include employees of public, private, or non-profit organizations, elected or appointed officials, or private citizens.

**About the Award’s Namesake**

Professor Robert O. Dawson passed away February 26, 2005, at his home in Fentress, Texas at the age of 65. Bob Dawson held the Bryant Smith Chair in Law at the University of Texas School of Law, where he taught for 37 years. He served as the Director of the Criminal Defense Clinic from 1974 through 1998 and was the co-director of the Actual Innocence Clinic since its inception in 2003.

Professor Dawson’s vision and leadership were a prominent force in juvenile justice across the state for many years. He was the primary draftsman of the 1995 legislation reforming juvenile justice in the state of Texas and continued to draft much of the juvenile justice laws in all subsequent legislative sessions prior to his passing.

In addition to criminal and juvenile law, Professor Dawson was passionate about equine law. He and his wife, Jan, founded the American Association of Horsemanship Safety in Fentress and co-taught a course related to equine law at Texas State University in San Marcos.

Professor Dawson was not only a scholar but also a compassionate human being. This state was privileged to have had Professor Dawson grace us with his knowledge and sense of humor. The field of juvenile justice will forever be indebted to his commitment, service, spirit, and loyalty. It is within each of us to continue his legacy; as we move forward, our vision must always be in the best interest of the children.

**Nominations**

Nominations for the 2024 award are due by **January 12, 2024**. The 2024 Robert O. Dawson Visionary Leadership Award will be presented at the 37th Annual Robert O. Dawson Juvenile Law Seminar, which will be held at the Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis Resort in Galveston, Texas, February 25-28, 2024.

To nominate an individual for consideration, please submit the Robert O. Dawson Visionary Leadership Award Nomination Form to Cyndi Porter Gore at [cgore@cityofallen.org](mailto:cgore@cityofallen.org) and John Gauntt, Jr. at john.gauntt@bellcounty.texas.gov on or before **January 12, 2024**.



**Robert O. Dawson**

**Visionary Leadership Award**

*Sponsored by the Juvenile Law Section*

*Awarded Annually*

**Call for Nominations**

This award goes to an individual who has unselfishly devoted time to the cause of juvenile justice, specifically, in Texas. Persons deserving nomination are those who advocate for justice for juvenile in Texas; those who promote legislation advancing the juvenile justice system in the state; or those who advance the development or expansion of juvenile justice programs, funding, or access to other innovative options or approaches designed to improve the State's juvenile justice system and benefit the youth it serves. Nominees may include employees of public, private, or non-profit organizations, elected or appointed officials, or private citizens.

**Who is submitting this nomination?**

Name:

Phone:       E-mail:

Organizational Affiliation:

**Who are you nominating?**

Nominee:

Phone:       E-mail:

Organizational Affiliation:

**Description:** In 500 words or less, please describe how your nominee has advocated for the cause of justice for juveniles in Texas; promoted legislation advancing the juvenile justice system in the state; and/or advanced the development or the expansion of juvenile justice programs, funding, or access to other innovative options or approaches designed to improve the State's juvenile justice system and benefit the youth it serves. In addition, you may attach up to two pages of supporting documentation (i.e., letters of recommendation, newspaper articles, awards, etc.).

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**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: January 12, 2024**

Send completed nomination to [cgore@cityofallen.org](mailto:cgore@cityofallen.org) and [john.gauntt@bellcounty.texas.gov](mailto:john.gauntt@bellcounty.texas.gov)