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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gabrielle Navarrette
(512) 480-8017

**TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION GIVES SENIOR JUSTICE DEBRA LEHRMANN,
SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS, STATEWIDE RECOGNITION**

Each year, the Texas Bar Foundation honors those who exemplify the highest standards of the legal profession. This year, Senior Justice Debra Lehrmann, Supreme Court of Texas, has been selected as the recipient of the 2025 Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Jurist Award from the Texas Bar Foundation.

The Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Jurist Award honors an active or retired Federal or State Judge with an exceptional reputation for competency, efficiency, and integrity. Established in 1995 through a bequest from Mrs. Samuel Pessarra, the award commemorates her late husband, a Baylor Law graduate and past president of the Brazoria County Bar Association.

Justice Debra Lehrmann is the Senior Justice on the Supreme Court of Texas and the Court's longest-serving woman Justice in Texas history. A trial judge in Tarrant County for 23 years prior to her 2010 appointment to the Court, she has served the bar in leadership capacities on both state and national levels.

She is past chair of the ABA Family Law Section, a commissioner on the Uniform Law Commission, and a member of the American Law Institute. She was inaugural chair of the SBOT Child Protection Law Section and is past president of the Lochridge Inn of Court, an emeritus member of the Mahon Inn of Court, and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, the Texas Bar Foundation, and the Tarrant County Bar Foundation.

She has received numerous awards, including the University of Houston's Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Lectureship in Legal Ethics Jurist-in-Residence, the Champion for Children Award, the Texas Women Lawyers Pathfinder Award, the Child Protection Law Section Founder's Award, the Texas Bar Foundation's recognition for Best Law Review Article, the CASA Scott Moore Award, and the Eva Barnes Award.

A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Justice Lehrmann graduated from The University of Texas with high honors, received her J.D. from UT School of Law, and received her LL.M. degree from Duke University. She and her husband, attorney Greg Lehrmann, have a wonderful family: two sons, who are both practicing lawyers; a daughter-in-law; and three grandchildren.

Senior Justice Lehrmann will be publicly recognized at the Texas Bar Foundation Annual Dinner held on June 20, 2025, at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort in San Antonio. The University of Texas School of Law will receive a \$1,000 scholarship donation in honor of Senior Justice Lehrmann.

Since 1965, distinguished Texas attorneys serving as Texas Bar Foundation Fellows have come together to drive positive change and support communities across the state. Their generosity has made the Texas Bar Foundation the largest charitably funded bar foundation in the nation, awarding over \$28 million in grants. These funds support nonprofit organizations dedicated to enhancing the rule of law and the justice system in Texas, with a focus on legal assistance for the underserved, the administration of justice, ethics in the legal profession, legal research and education, and strengthening public understanding of the judiciary.

Becoming a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a member of the State Bar of Texas. Less than one percent of Texas attorneys are invited to join each year, acknowledging their significant contributions to the legal profession and their dedication to service. To learn more about the Texas Bar Foundation, its Fellows, and the lasting impact made, visit www.txbf.org.

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