FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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At 11:45 A.M. on Thursday, November 14, 2019, the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas will induct James (“Jim”) B. Sales as a Texas Legal Legend at South Texas College of Law Houston in the Joe M. Green Auditorium. The induction will be followed by a reception sponsored by Norton Rose Fulbright.

Sales was born and raised in Weimar, Texas. He attended the University of Texas at Austin for his undergraduate studies. There, he was involved with the Naval ROTC program which led to him earning his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. After earning his B.S. degree in 1956, Sales served with the Third Marine Corps Division. Following his military service, Sales attended the University of Texas School of Law where he received the Order of the Coif.

Following graduation in 1960, Sales joined the Houston office of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP and earned a respected reputation as a brilliant Texas trial lawyer and advocate for justice. In 1979, he was appointed head of the office’s Litigation Department, a position he held until his retirement. He also served as a member of the Executive Committee, and currently serves as Of Counsel to the firm now known as Norton Rose Fulbright.

As Sales will tell you, some of the most meaningful work he has done has been in the public interest and pro bono sector. In the early 1980s, as President of the Houston Bar Association, Sales helped launch the Houston Volunteer Lawyers program and the Houston Bar Foundation to provide legal assistance to low-income residents in Harris County. In 2003, the Supreme Court of Texas appointed Sales to chair the Texas Access to Justice Commission to advance the mission of ensuring that all Texans - regardless of economic circumstance or status - have access to the justice system and the rule of law. The Commission established the annual James B. Sales "Boots on the Ground" Award to be presented to lawyers who have devoted a significant part of their career providing legal assistance to poor and low-income Texans.

In addition to his efforts to broaden the scope of services available to all Texans, Sales also took up the mantle for those within the legal profession. As Texas State Bar President, Sales acknowledged a lack of women and minority representation on the Board of Directors and led efforts to create three advisory Board positions to ensure women and minority participation in all State Bar-related matters. Further, to address a concern with the prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse within the legal profession, Sales led the State Bar’s efforts to establish the Texas Lawyers’ Assistance Program which assists and helps rehabilitate lawyers confronting substance-related issues.

Sales’ stellar leadership and inspirational service at the local, state and national levels have led to his receipt of many prestigious awards over his storied career, including the University of Texas School of Law Lifetime Achievement Award, the American Bar Foundation Outstanding Service Award, the National Conference of Bar Presidents’ Outstanding Fellows Award, the Anti-Defamation League’s Karen H. Susman Jurisprudence Award, the Texas Appleseed Good Apple Award, the American College of Trial Lawyers’ Samuel E. Gates Litigation Award, and the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists’ Lifetime of Excellence in Advocacy Award. Sales has been included in the roster of the Best Lawyers in America since 1989, and has been elected and served in numerous positions, including President of the State Bar of Texas, Trustee of South Texas College of Law Houston, and Chairman of the Texas Bar Foundation. He also was selected as a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Sales has dedicated his work and life to the betterment of others within Texas and within the profession. Throughout his career, he has seen a need and taken strides to address the same. It is his spirit for service and genuine concern for the well-being of others that are the embodiment of the term “Legal Legend.”
Texas Legal Legends is a project of the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas. Its purpose is to memorialize the stories of many legendary lawyers who have practiced in Texas, and to use those stories to enhance the public’s understanding of the historical importance of law students and lawyers making a difference – not just a living. Legends like Jim Sales are prime examples of lawyers who have spent their professional careers serving others and taking on challenges that are much bigger than themselves.

The complete list of Legends inductees includes (in order of induction):

1. Joe Jamail
2. Joe Reynolds
3. Harry Reasor
4. Barbara Aldave
5. Carolyn Dineen King
6. Gibson Gayle, Jr.
7. L.A. Bedford
8. Jerry Goldstein
9. Adelfa B. Callejo
10. Broadus Spivey
11. Blackie Holmes
12. Craig Washington
13. Scott Baldwin
14. Royal Furgeson, Jr.
15. Bob Black
16. George Chandler
17. Mary Lou Robinson
18. Forrest Bowers
19. Ruby Sondheim
20. H. Ron White
21. Lloyd P. Lochridge
22. Patton G. “Pat” Lochridge
23. Tom Morris
24. Harriet Miers
25. Carolyn Wright
26. James R. Harrington
27. Dicky Grigg

Videos highlighting the careers of these individuals are available on DVD and on the Litigation Section’s website: http://tinyurl.com/TexasLegalLegends.