



Harry Reasoner,  
the 2003 Good Apple Dinner Honoree

## 2003 Good Apple Dinner: A Resounding Success

NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED PEOPLE filled the ballroom at the Four Seasons Hotel to pay tribute to Harry Reasoner and in recognition of Texas Appleseed's work. In addition to luminaries from the State, the University of Texas and its Law School, several judges were in attendance.

Recognized as one of the country's best and most influential lawyers, Harry Reasoner

has made an impact on the legal profession as a top flight trial and appellate lawyer, antitrust advisor, and Managing Partner of one of Texas' leading law firms, Vinson & Elkins, L.L.P. But it is for his service to the public that Texas Appleseed honored Mr. Reasoner with the 2003 Good Apple Award. Mr. Reasoner exemplifies what it means to be a "part time public interest lawyer."

Numerous individuals stepped forward to speak proudly on the many accomplishments and passions of Harry Reasoner. Allan Van Fleet, Texas Appleseed former Board Chair and partner at Vinson & Elkins, L.L.P., emceed the evening. Chancellor Mark Yudof of the University of Texas highlighted

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## Fighting on Many Fronts

### Fair Defense for Persons with Mental Illness

AS TEXAS APPLESEED'S 2000 *Fair Defense Report* revealed, the Texas criminal justice system can often be unfair to defendants with mental illness. This is especially true if the person's court-appointed attorney does not know how to recognize mental illness or understand the special laws, procedures, and mechanisms that apply to persons with mental illness.

To address this issue, Texas Appleseed created educational handbooks both for persons with mental illness and the attorneys that represent them. In the last two years, the handbooks have been widely distributed and presented to legal, family, and advocacy groups all over the state. In fact, our attorney handbook has been used in required mental health attorney training

in two large urban counties and in voluntary training in most other large Texas counties.

A recent addition to Texas Appleseed is law clerk Jesús Muñoz, a graduate of Stanford Law School, who is distributing our newly produced Spanish-language handbooks to attorneys and clients. All handbooks can be acquired by contacting the Texas

Appleseed office or through our website, [www.texasappleseed.net](http://www.texasappleseed.net).

We launched a project this past Spring in Dallas County to create a separate list of specially trained lawyers who would handle cases in which the defendant has a mental illness. We will be working more with county

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Jerry Grammar (left) presenting Annette LoVoi, Allan Van Fleet, Raman Gill, Michael Lowenberg, and Allene Evans with the 2003 Ring of Honor Award from the Mental Health Association in Texas.

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## Looking Back

*Letter from the Former Chair*

It's been an awesome two years at Texas Appleseed. Our dedicated staff, directors, and partners have done wonders with this seedling of an organization.

Our Fair Defense Project turned to implementing the Texas Fair Defense Act, the 2001 Appleseed achievement that one commentator called "the most important indigent defense legislation in the last twenty years." Along with the Equal Justice Center, Hanna Liebman Dershowitz and Raman Gill drafted Model Rules for courts to follow in fulfilling their new duties and graded counties on the jobs they did. Hanna and Raman wrote handbooks for lawyers and families dealing with juveniles and persons with mental illness accused of crimes. These handbooks, published by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, have been overwhelmingly popular, with new orders coming in constantly from around the state. Directors Mike Lowenberg and Allene Evans made particularly significant contributions to these projects. My special thanks to Houston Endowment and the Meadows Foundation for their additional support.

For these efforts, we were proud to receive the State Bar of Texas' W. Frank Newton Award in 2002 in recognition of Outstanding Contributions in Provision of Access to Legal Services to the Poor and the Mental Health Association in Texas' Ring of Honor Award in 2003.

We sought to protect persons with mental retardation from executions they cannot comprehend. We were more successful in the editorial pages of Texas' leading newspapers than we were in the halls of the Texas legislature.

We spoke out, along with others, when state budget slashing left Texas' most vulnerable children without funds to treat mental disorders. Our words were heard and Governor Perry restored a portion of the Children's Health Insurance Program funds for mental illness.

A recent success in the *Finanzas Sin Fronteras* – Banking Without Borders – project, spearheaded by Ann Baddour and Annette LoVoi, secured passage of a statute in Texas to require businesses to disclose clearly the fees they charge and the exchange rates they use for cross-border money transfers. We worked with banks and government officials to encourage acceptance of the *matricula consular*

as identification acceptable to open bank accounts, and we worked with consular officials to try to make the *matricula* more available and secure. In this project, we have worked with the Appleseed Foundation in D.C. and the newest Appleseed Center in Mexico City. To support this work, Appleseed received a grant from the prestigious Ford Foundation.

Our Diversity Scholars program continues to provide the opportunity for minority students to take the Kaplan LSAT preparatory course. The feedback from the 180 students who have benefited from this program is truly heartwarming.

I have been encouraged by the growing list of Texas Appleseed financial supporters. And I was overwhelmed by the success of our first two annual Good Apple Dinners honoring founding director and now Chair Emeritus J. Chrys Dougherty in 2002 and Harry Reasoner this past November. Amy Loar, Annette LoVoi, Holly Doggett and Tom Herod deserve special thanks for these events.

I can't say enough about the Texas Appleseed staff. Their work is prodigious in quantity and quality. They are a beacon for other Appleseed centers; so much so, that the national Appleseed Foundation has tapped our Executive Director, Annette LoVoi, to be its national Field Director, seeking to replicate Texas Appleseed's success across the country.

If I listed all the reasons I am so proud of Texas Appleseed, I would easily exceed the half page Jordan Vexler allotted me. So I will close with how pleased I am to leave the organization in the capable and dedicated hands of new Chair Mike Lowenberg of Dallas.

It has been a singular honor and privilege to have worked these last two years with Texas Appleseed.

**Allan Van Fleet**  
*Immediate Past Chair*



## Expanding Our Reach

*Letter from the Incoming Chair*

I recently sat down with Annette LoVoi to look over her draft report on Texas Appleseed's accomplishments. Although I have been around since our birth in 1996, I was startled at the depth and breadth of our programs and of our successes. We have had a major impact in Texas. The wonderful recent public recognition of our work from the Mental Health Association in Texas and from the State Bar of Texas in 2002 will only create more opportunities for Appleseed.

Annette's leadership and vision are having an impact beyond the Texas border. Working with Annette and the Appleseed staff is a pleasure and a privilege.

We have tapped into only a small piece of the power of the private bar. I want to use my term as Chair to expand our reach, as we continue to leverage the skills and resources of lawyers and firms across Texas to take on some of the state's most important legal and social issues.

Becoming the head of an organization which has Chrys Dougherty as a Founder is, of course, both a great honor and a serious challenge. Allan Van Fleet, and Greg Huffman before him, did a great job of leading us in tackling some tough issues. I have been inspired by their commitment and their contagious energy and enthusiasm, and I am excited at the opportunity to build on their work.

**Michael Lowenberg**  
*Board of Directors Chair*



## 2003 Good Apple Dinner

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Mr. Reasoner's involvement in the University of Texas, particularly his pro bono work on the Hopwood case. Senator Rodney Ellis then emphasized the influence Mr. Reasoner has had in his career as well as his dedication to diversity both professionally and personally. Preceding Mr. Reasoner's gracious acceptance speech, his close

colleague, Joe Jamail, noted the need for organizations like Texas Appleseed and applauded our efforts.

We are proud to report that 34 firms and individuals sponsored this event. Their contributions will be well invested in future Texas Appleseed social justice projects that Harry Reasoner has continually advocated.

**Amy Loar**  
*Program Manager*



Joe Jamail, Walter Umphrey, Harry Reasoner, and Senator Rodney Ellis enjoying the 2003 Good Apple Dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin, Texas.

Special thanks to the many firms and individuals whose support made the 2003 Good Apple Dinner a great success.

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# Promoting Voter Education

## Part of the Texas Electoral Reform Process

TEXAS APPLESEED HAS BEEN actively involved in the State planning process for implementing the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). HAVA was signed into law in the fall of 2002. Key requirements include: a statewide voter registration database, a provisional voting system, and handicap accessible voting machines in every precinct. The Act provides funding for updating punch card and lever voting systems and additional funding to offset the costs of new standards that all voting systems and elections administrators must meet. Among the activities that the funding may support is voter education.

Texas Appleseed has focused its efforts on ensuring that voter education receives suffi-

cient attention in the implementation of HAVA in Texas. When HAVA became law, neither the State nor counties received specific funding for voter education. Texas Appleseed issued a report in January of 2003, entitled, "Making Every Vote Count: Voter Education in a Time of Transition," that was appended to the 2003 Texas House Elections Committee Interim Report. The report has also been distributed to State elections officials and HAVA Advisory Committee members. We recently completed additional research to promote the importance of voter education in the State elections planning process. The report and supplemental materials include a survey of counties that have implemented touch button or touch screen voting systems and a general survey documenting the state of voter education in 40 Texas counties. The materials focus on meeting the needs of non-English speaking voters and isolated voting populations.

Through submitting comments on drafts of the State HAVA implementation plan and bringing together a coalition of public interest groups, we have been successful in making voter education a key part of the Texas State Plan. As a result of these combined efforts, the voter education funding allocation was increased to a minimum of two million dollars. We recently submitted comments on proposed rules to implement provisional voting, a key component of the HAVA legislation. We will continue working to ensure that a voter education system that serves the needs of all Texans is implemented and that other provisions of HAVA are implemented in a manner that best serves the interests of Texas voters.

**Ann Baddour**  
*Program Manager*

## Fighting on Many Fronts

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officials in Dallas County this year to make the vision of a separate list a reality.

Just two months ago, we approached officials in Travis County about starting a Mental Health Public Defender's Office in Austin. We believe that a MHPD office, staffed with highly trained lawyers and social workers, will offer more consistent quality

representation to defendants with mental illness, in contrast to the varying, and sometimes inadequate representation defendants now receive.

We hope to expand our separate wheel and MHPD initiatives to other urban counties in Texas this year so that more defendants with mental illness can get the legal representation they deserve – and need.

**Raman Gill**  
*Staff Attorney*



Texas Appleseed's Whitney Peoples, Ann Baddour, Amy Loar, and Neal Daugherty celebrating the Ring of Honor Award on the Mental Health Association in Texas' Town Lake Cruise.

*"Thou shalt not ration justice."*

– Judge Learned Hand

# You Can't Argue With Numbers

## The Mexican Immigrant Population in Texas is a Growing and Untapped Market for Financial Institutions

This fall, Texas Appleseed launched a project to help Texas banks and credit unions reach out to the Mexican immigrant market to provide expanded access to financial services and credit. We have conducted outreach to banking and credit union trade organizations and are helping them with their work in assisting their members to successfully serve the Mexican immigrant population in Texas. We also plan to form partnerships with specific financial institutions that are committed to serve this market, to guide them in their efforts and facilitate the process of expanding community outreach and adjusting service options to meet community needs. We are grateful to the Ford Foundation for its generous support.

## Mexican Immigrant Population in Texas and Major Urban Areas 1990-2000

	1990	2000	Percent Change
TEXAS	907,432	1,879,369	107%
Austin	15,573	61,948	298%
Brownsville	26,380	42,075	59%
Dallas	75,507	208,688	176%
El Paso	103,079	132,271	28%
Fort Worth	26,068	64,469	147%
Houston	132,596	273,567	106%
McAllen	19,534	26,089	34%
San Antonio	63,214	96,674	53%

Source: US Census

Mexican immigrants are important to the financial services industry, as they are to the Texas economy as a whole. The 2000 Census estimates that nearly 2 million Mexican immigrants (individuals born in Mexico) live in Texas – some nine percent of the total Texas population. They have more than doubled since 1990, and, as the chart below shows, there is significant growth in their numbers in major urban areas.

Four of the largest Texas urban areas experienced an immigrant growth rate of more than 100 percent over the last decade. In Austin, the Mexican immigrant population tripled. In Dallas, it nearly doubled and in Fort Worth it increased by nearly one and a half times. Even in cities with historically large Hispanic populations, the Mexican immigrant population experienced a big jump. In Brownsville and San Antonio, the population increased by over 50 percent.

This population surge has already had an impact on banking in Texas. A recent article in the Austin American-Statesman showed that of Austin's three largest banks, only one gained market share from 1998 to 2002. That bank is also one of the most active and successful in marketing to Mexican immigrants.

As we move ahead with our work, we are planning to conduct surveys of the target community to understand which financial services the target community needs and why those who are unbanked have been reluctant to use mainstream financial services. We will also survey organizations and financial institutions that use alternative underwriting criteria to issue home mortgage loans. We hope to leverage these resources to facilitate the process of change in financial institutions, to move from viewing service to this population as a Community Reinvestment Act obligation to viewing it as simply a good business decision.

**Ann Baddour**  
Program Manager

## Texas Appleseed Staff

### Annette LoVoi, Executive Director

Annette LoVoi was selected in 1996 as the first Executive Director of Texas Appleseed. Annette was previously appointed by the Governor of Texas to create an Ombudsman Office to execute projects leading to policy and management change in government practice. Annette also represented the State Comptroller in the final implementation of what was then the largest government benefits electronic transfer program in the United States. Annette was a member of the National Performance Review conducted by the Vice President's Office. Annette holds a Master of Public Affairs Degree and was the commencement speaker at her 1980 graduation from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

### Raman Gill, Staff Attorney

Raman Gill has been involved with efforts to aid implementation of the Texas Fair Defense Act and to improve the representation of persons with mental illness in the criminal justice system. She has clerked for judges on both the state and federal level and is a former assistant public defender. Raman holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Texas at Austin and is a graduate of New York University School of Law.

### Ann Baddour, Program Manager

Ann Baddour works on our Electoral Reform, Remittances and Banking Without Borders projects. Ann has a Master of Public Affairs Degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs and a Master Degree in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and is a former Fulbright Scholar.

### Amy Loar, Program Manager

Amy Loar manages the Diversity in the Legal Field Project, and works on the Fair Defense Mental Health and Juvenile Projects and general administration. Amy has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government and Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin.

# The Private Bar Working in the Public Interest

This concept was once a dream for Texas Appleseed. But because of the hard work of firms mentioned in our newsletter, this dream has become a reality. Texas law firms are giving generously of their time, their knowledge, and their resources to create a forum for the legal profession to come together to make social justice change in our state.

Lawyers of all stripe—defense and plaintiff, urban and rural, large firm, solo practitioner and academic—have lent their wise counsel and support to our projects. The Texas Appleseed Board today includes lawyers from many of our state’s most prominent law firms, as well as leading figures in public law and academia.

When you and your firm join Texas Appleseed, you also join a national network of legal talent from companies such as The Washington Post, BellSouth, Prudential Financial, and AOL Time Warner, and partners in firms such as Shearman & Sterling;

Cravath, Swaine & Moore; Covington & Burling; and Latham & Watkins. Lawyers donating time and talent, not just dollars.

In this way, Texans can see that the legal profession is ready to help persons with mental illness, indigent criminal defendants, immigrants in need of financial services, and the many individuals without voice in the current system.

Across the country, Appleseed centers find the greatest needs in a community, tackle their root causes, and craft lasting solutions. Reforming the juvenile justice system. Strengthening public education. Protecting consumers from predatory lending. Making systemic changes. Because you can count the seeds in an apple, but you never know how many apples you can grow from one Appleseed.

And Appleseed is growing internationally. General counsels of Mexican multinational companies and leading private and public

interest attorneys have recently come together to form Mexico Appleseed. To foster mediation. To improve educational opportunities for all.

Appleseed is a powerful and growing network building a better society. Locally. Nationally. Globally.

We invite you to join us.

**Annette Lovoi**

*Executive Director, Texas Appleseed*



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