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# Texas Lawyer Announces Its 2015 Extraordinary Minorities in Texas Law Winners

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What makes the 20 lawyers on this list so extraordinary? In a word: impact. The Texas Lawyer editorial department began the four-month selection process by asking readers to nominate licensed minority Texas attorneys who have had an impact in the state within the past five years. We read each of the nearly 200 nominations, then did our own research to arrive at the list of 20 influential lawyers.

Although there are many Texas attorneys that could be part of this list, we feel the following 20 attorneys profiled have made significant contributions to law and lawyering in Texas.

The publication featuring profiles of these extraordinary lawyers will publish Aug. 30. A special award luncheon will be held in their honor at the Belo Mansion in Dallas on Nov. 18.

## **Congratulations to the selected lawyers!**

- Manuel Berrelez, partner, Vinson & Elkins, Dallas
- Jas S. Braich, partner, The Willis Law Group, Dallas
- A. Shonn Brown, partner, Gruber Hurst Elrod Johansen Hail Shank, Dallas
- Tiffany Burks, assistant district attorney and deputy chief in the criminal division, Tarrant County Criminal DA's Office, Fort Worth
- Mimi Coffey, attorney, The Coffey Firm, Dallas
- Lacy Durham, tax manager, Deloitte Tax, Dallas
- Ernest Gonzalez, assistant U.S. attorney, Eastern District of Texas, Plano
- Brent Goudarzi, managing partner, Goudarzi & Young, Gilmer
- Dilen Kumar, associate, Weil, Gotshal & Manges, Dallas

- Veronica Lewis, partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Dallas
  - Albert J. Li, general counsel, compliance officer, Otto Bock HealthCare North America Inc., Austin
  - Tahira Khan Merritt, attorney, Law Office of Tahira Khan Merritt, Dallas
  - James Payne, partner, Provost Umphrey, Beaumont
  - Gordon Quan, managing partner and cofounder, Quan Law Group, Houston
  - Ravi Sandill, judge, 127th District Court, Houston
  - Arnold Shokouhi, managing partner, McCathern, Dallas
  - Lisa Tatum, attorney, LM Tatum PLLC, San Antonio
  - Edward Valdespino, partner, Strasburger & Price, San Antonio
  - Hoang Quan Vu, partner, Gardere Wynne Sewell, Houston
  - Phyllis Young, partner, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, Houston
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