



The Justice Joe W. Henry Memorial Award for Outstanding Legal Writing

The Write Stuff

We're celebrating the Tennessee Bar Journal's first 40 years all year! In each issue we will look back at an area of life in the law to see how the TBJ covered it. This month we examine the Journal's writing competition, the Justice Joe W. Henry Memorial Award for Outstanding Legal Writing.

Twenty-four years ago — after 16 years of *Tennessee Bar Journals* — writers who were filling up its pages were given another incentive to write besides the fame and fortune that usually follows publication in the *Journal*.

An award was established to honor the “lawyer who writes the most outstanding article that is published in the *Tennessee Bar Journal*,” wrote Ronald Lee Gilman in announcing the award in 1982. “The purpose of the award is to encourage practicing Tennessee lawyers to write scholarly yet practical articles for the *Journal* that will be of maximum benefit to the members of our bar.”

To be eligible for the award the writer had to be a TBA member “primarily engaged in active legal practice.” Full-time judges and faculty were not in the running,



WHAT?? Only one woman has won the Joe Henry Award so far. Monica Allie receives the plaque from President Dan Breen in 1997 for her article “The New Adoption Law in Tennessee: A Controversial, Sweeping Reform.” Pam Reeves, who was to become the TBA’s first woman president, looks on.



Joe B. Jones,
1981-82



William L. Harbison,
1984-85



David Raybin,
1982-83



John B. Phillips Jr.,
1986-87



Jack W. Robinson,
1983-84



William D. Evans Jr.,
1988

Disclaimer about likenesses

The photos you see here are, for the most part, the ones that were current at the time the writer won the award (and were published then in the *Journal*), so yes, there may have been some, uh, changes in the interim. It does seem that some of them were in high school at the time. We are aware that these are not recent photos.

So please do not comment to award winners when you see them if you believe there has been any change in their appearance over the years, and do not write a letter to the editor about it.

Justice Joe W. Henry Memorial Award Winners

1981-82	Joe B. Jones
1982-83	David Raybin
1983-84	Jack W. Robinson
1984-85	William L. Harbison
1985-86	James F. Eggleston
1986-87	John B. Phillips Jr.
1987	Lewis L. Laska
1988	William D. Evans Jr.
1989	Donald F. Paine
1990	Robert L. McMurray
1991	Marshall L. Davidson III
1992	Lucian T. Pera
1993	D. Alexander Fardon
1994	Shelby R. Grubbs
1995	David A. Burkhalter
1996	Monica L. Allie
1997	Donald F. Paine
1998	Robert W. Ritchie
1999	Timothy S. Bland and Thomas J. Walsh
2000	Frank Watson III
2001	Dan W. Holbrook
2002	Bob Lype
2003	John P. Williams
2004	To be announced in next month's <i>Journal</i> !

Note that in 1987 the award changed from the bar's fiscal year to a calendar year. Articles are judged from that calendar year and given the following year at the TBA's convention.



Donald F. Paine
1989 and 1997
The only person to win the award twice



Alex Fardon,
1993



Robert L. McMurray, 1990



Shelby Grubbs,
1994



Marshall Davidson, 1991



Robert W. Ritchie, 1998



Lucian T. Pera,
1992



Timothy S. Bland, 1999

although their submissions “will continue to be encouraged.”

The award was established by the TBA Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Publications Committee. Gilman was its chair that year, 1982. The first award was given in 1982, but encompassed articles from fiscal 1981-82. In 1987, the competition was judged using articles based on a calendar year.

This award is unusual in that the winner receives \$500 with the plaque, the only TBA award to do so.

The judging

Three people always judge the Joe Henry Award, as set up by the board in 1982: the president of the TBA; the chief justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, or an appellate judge designated by the chief justice; and the dean of Memphis State, University of Tennessee or Vanderbilt law schools (on a rotating basis), or a faculty member designated by the dean.

This year's competition was judged by TBA President Charles Swanson, Chief Justice Frank F. Drowota and Dean Tom Galligan of UT.

Its namesake

The award was named for the late chief justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, Joe W. Henry, “a practicing lawyer, a scholar, and a writer with a rare talent for clear, forceful and often dramatic wording,” the announcement says. Henry was elected to the court in 1974 and died June 9, 1980.

Guidelines

To be considered, articles (in addi-

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Lewis Laska, left, receives the Joe Henry Award from President Landis Turner in 1988.

Joe W. Henry Award

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tion to the author meeting the criteria) “are expected to be well-written, practical (either as a concise guide to a substantive legal area or a “how-to-do-it” example of legal work), and of general interest to the Tennessee bar.”

Still working for us

It’s not coincidence that many of these winners are still writing for the *Journal*. They’re that good.

Most of the magazine’s columnists are former Joe Henry winners: Dan Holbrook, who writes “Where There’s a Will,” Don Paine, who writes “Paine on Procedure,” David Raybin, who writes “Criminal Law,” and Tim Bland, who writes “Take This Job.”

The competition

When the award began, the *Journal* was quarterly. There were about 11 articles considered for the award. It soon became bimonthly, pushing the number of eligible articles up. In this year’s competition, which encompasses 12 issues, there were closer to 20 articles considered.

We have a winner!

Who won the Joe Henry Award this year? We can’t say. If you are at the Lawyers Luncheon, June 17, during the TBA Annual Convention in Knoxville, you will find out. If you can’t make it there, pick up the July *Tennessee Bar Journal* to learn which was the best article of 2004. ♣

— Suzanne Craig Robertson



Shelby Grubbs, left, receives the Joe Henry Award from President Harris Gilbert in 1995.



Frank Watson III, sits with his father, Frank Watson Jr., after the younger Watson received the Joe Henry Award in 2000.



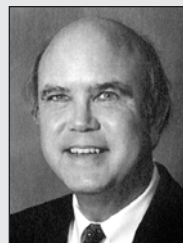
Thomas J. Walsh, 1999



Dan Holbrook, 2001



Bob Lype, 2002



John Williams, 2003



2004
To be announced
June 17 at the
TBA Convention

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