

# TEXAS VS. THE WORLD!

Yes, they hate us. Should we care? *by MIMI SWARTZ*

JULY 2004

# Texas Monthly

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SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

## TEXAS RISING STARS

# Super Lawyers

2004

**7** POINTS  
OF LAW FOR  
CONSUMERS

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planning, adoption  
and more

**THE RISING STARS  
OF TEXAS LAW**

A comprehensive listing  
of great young lawyers

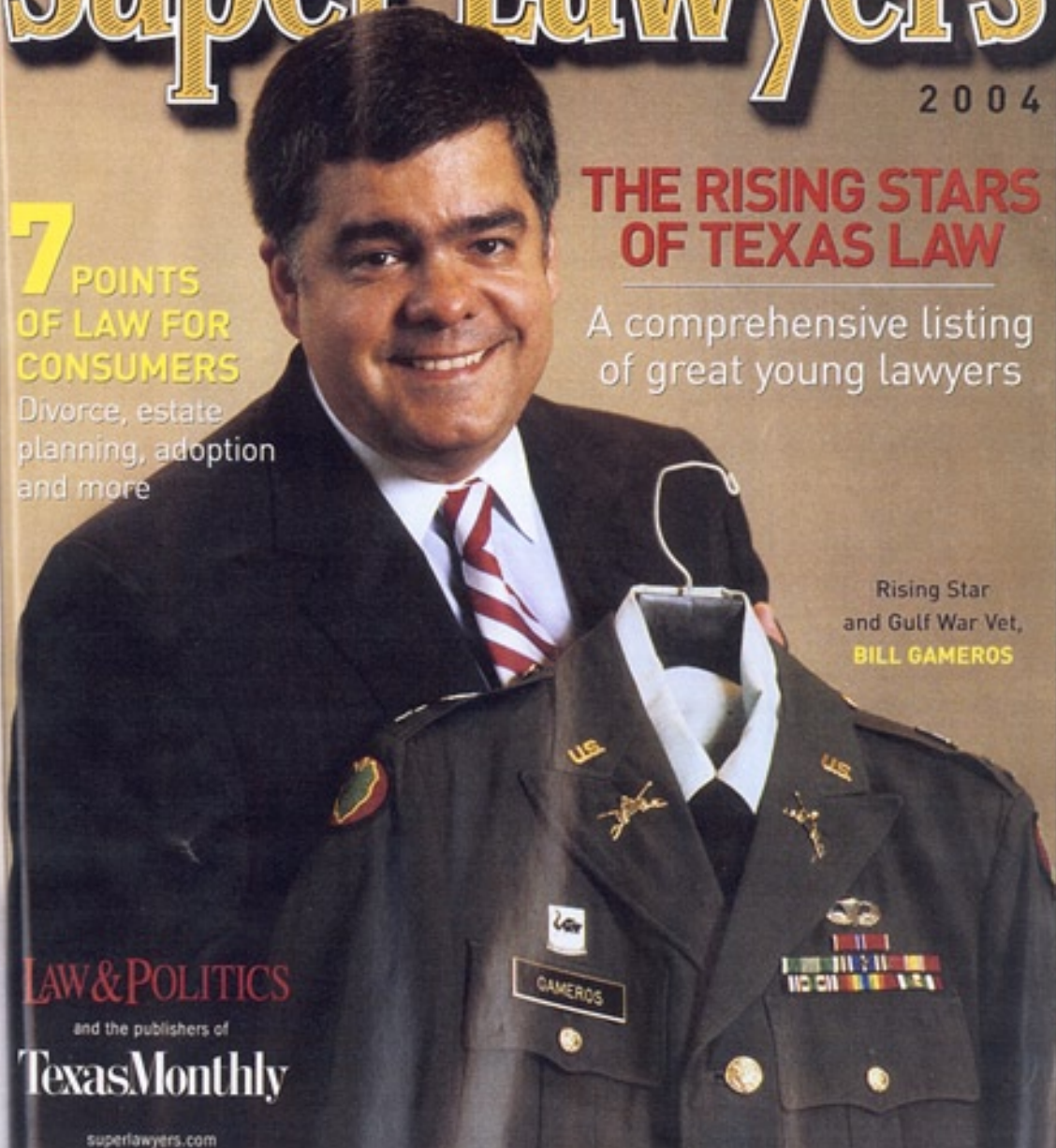
Rising Star  
and Gulf War Vet,  
**BILL GAMEROS**

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## HOW WE SELECT RISING STARS

# 1

### SURVEY OF SUPER LAWYERS

In January of 2004, we mailed ballots to all 2003 Texas Super Lawyers (Texas Super Lawyers comprise 5% of the Texas Bar. They were selected based on our 2003 survey sent to more than 65,000 Texas lawyers, as well as extensive independent research of credentials, a blue ribbon review process and our own final review and check of good standing).

We asked the Super Lawyers to name the best lawyers who are 40 years-old or younger, or have been practicing 10 or fewer years. We specified that they vote only for lawyers whom they have personally observed in action, whether as co-counsel, opposing counsel, etc.

Each ballot had the name of the 2003 Texas Super Lawyer on it. Only ballots properly verified by that attorney (with signature and attorney registration number filled in) were counted.

Each Rising Star nominee was given a score based on the number and type of votes received. Votes received from lawyers in other firms were awarded significantly more points than votes received from lawyers in the same firm.

# 2

### THE RESEARCH PROCESS

In addition to the general survey, our attorney-led research staff reviewed the credentials of Texas attorneys meeting the Rising Stars criteria and assigned points based upon defined evaluation criteria.

Our staff also conducted research on candidates to ensure Texas Rising Stars nominees are properly licensed, in good standing with the Bar, and have no history of disciplinary actions.

# 3

### THE FINAL SELECTION PROCESS

The point totals from the general survey and research process were added to arrive at a final point total.

The final point totals were then segregated by firm size (small, medium, and large). Top point-getters from each of the three firm size categories were selected to identify the top emerging Texas Rising Stars, consisting of the top 2.5 percent up-and-coming Texas attorneys.

The list of Texas Rising Stars includes attorneys in private practice, as well as attorneys in non-private practice, such as prosecutors, in-house counsel and public service lawyers.

Texas Rising Stars are listed by Practice Area beginning on page S-10.



This is a listing of all Texas Rising Stars, arranged by primary area of practice. This listing should not be construed to mean a lawyer is a certified specialist in the indicated practice area. Page numbers in **RED BOLDFACE** indicate a profile on the specified page.

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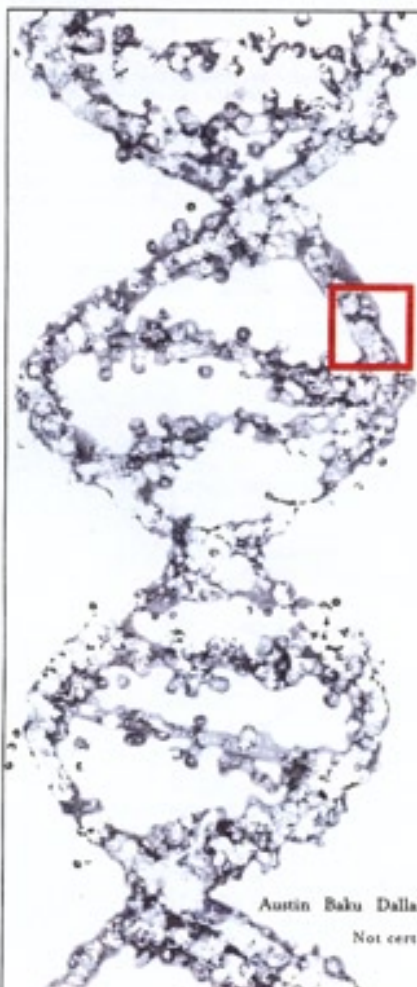
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OR A STATE OF MIND.  
FOR OUR ATTORNEYS,  
IT'S PART OF THEIR DNA.**

Baker Botts congratulates  
our sixty Rising Stars.

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Tom Cook, a partner in the Dallas office of Zelle, Hofmann, Voelbel, Mason & Gette, L.L.P., specializes in complex products liability and litigation primarily representing companies and insurers in catastrophic losses. He has litigated and arbitrated matters involving products liability, construction defect, professional negligence, employee fraud/theft and securities, achieving many significant awards and settlements. Tom also has substantial experience in high-exposure insurance and reinsurance coverage disputes. Tom's interest in environmental law has led to representation of plaintiffs in groundwater and soil contamination cases. Tom is actively engaged in CLE speaking and writing.

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A former Asst. District Attorney; Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He is an accomplished criminal defense trial lawyer, who has received numerous "Not Guilty" jury trial verdicts for his clients. He has successfully defended individuals who were wrongfully charged with the following offenses: Murder, Capital Robbery, Sexual Assault, Possession and Delivery of Drugs, Assault and Driving While Intoxicated, to name a few. He is respected by his professional peers, judges and clients. He is competent to handle State and Federal appeals of any criminal case. This "Star" credits his success to his competent staff, investigators and hard work ethic.



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Michael DeGuerin, Jr. has built his defense of the accused, combined with his clients. An associate with Foreman, Nugent, Michael grew up watching Foreman's chair as his father (Mike I. (Dick DeGuerin) built their reputation. Michael obtained his J.D. from Saint was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1995. Foreman, DeGuerin and Nugent in 2 Briefing Attorney for the Texas Court (Judge Baird), an associate with Joseph Austin, and an Assistant Federal Public

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Austin England's practice involves the representation of plaintiffs and defendants in commercial litigation matters, including construction litigation and employment litigation. Prior to founding Veon & England, L.L.P., Austin practiced with a mid-size defense-oriented law firm, served as an associate in-house counsel for an international manufacturer of telephone equipment and practiced with a small commercial litigation and commercial transaction law firm. He also represents individuals, small businesses, as well as insurers and self insureds in product liability, general negligence defense, insurance coverage and extra contractual claims.

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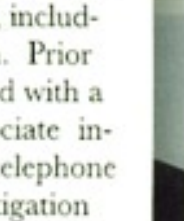


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San Antonio native and serves as the partner in charge of his firm's San Antonio office. For over 20 years he has vigorously served his clients' interests in banking and finance, commercial litigation and business organizations. His clients include financial institutions, major corporations and estate developers, appreciate his hands-on approach to facilitate their business activities. Mr. Farrimond's time is split between his law practice, his church and his community.

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