

News

Dallas Bar Association

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Dallas Bar Salutes Excellence in Legal Reporting

KXAN, Austin, Takes Home the Award!

The Dallas Bar Association hosted the 2021 Stephen Philbin Awards this spring and the winner has been selected—congratulations to the KXAN, Austin, investigative team of **David Barer, Arezow Doost, Josh Hinkle, and Chris Nelson**. In selecting the winners, judges consider educational value, accuracy, resourcefulness, as well as the journalist’s initiative in pursuing the story and the story’s contribution to public debate.

The KXAN team’s story “Locked in Limbo,” highlighted the struggle of mentally ill men and women in Texas’ county jails.

A summary of the story: “Incapable of standing trial, they wait in line behind hundreds of other people—sometimes over a year—for a bed in a state hospital to get help they need. As Texas’ population booms, leaders have recognized this problem is also growing, but their efforts to shrink the backlog have failed. In 2019, the number of people stuck on the waitlist—with cases stalled and constitutional rights possibly violated—reached historic levels. KXAN highlighted families caught up in this system and the state’s struggle for solutions.” View the whole story at <http://lockedinlimbo.com>.

The Philbin Awards were established in 1983 in honor of Stephen Philbin, an active member of the Dallas Bar Association and a leading authority on media law, who lost his battle with leukemia in 1982. The competition is state-wide, and the winner receives a \$5,000 cash award.

The winners will be recognized at the Dallas Bar Foundation’s Fellows Luncheon on Thursday, November 11, 2021.

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The Dallas Bar Association is a professional, voluntary organization of more than 11,000 Dallas-area attorneys. To find out more, visit www.dallasbar.org.