

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **PIRKEY BARBER'S LOUIS PIRKEY TO RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED LAWYER AWARD**

Austin Bar Foundation Recognizes Intellectual Property Law Pioneer for Career and Service

AUSTIN, TEXAS (Nov. 10, 2014) Pioneering Intellectual Property attorney Louis T. Pirkey has been selected as one of two recipients of the Austin Bar Foundation's Distinguished Lawyer Award for 2015. The award is given annually to an Austin-area attorney in practice for more than 30 years in recognition of his or her significant contributions to the profession and the community. It is the highest award given by the association.

Pirkey pioneered the private practice of intellectual property law in Austin when he relocated his practice to Austin in 1977. He is a founding member of trademark specialty firm Pirkey Barber PLLC where he continues to maintain a thriving practice.

"Lou Pirkey is a true legend in the field of trademark law," said Steve Meleen, managing member of Pirkey Barber. "His accomplishments on behalf of his clients are too numerous to count, but his contributions outside of the courtroom are just as important. Humble, generous, and a true gentleman, Lou has worked tirelessly to help shape the field of trademark law at a national level and has been a role model and mentor to generations of young lawyers, including all of us at Pirkey Barber."

Pirkey has protected the trademark interests of companies, individuals, and institutions large and small, including pro bono work for arts and religious groups among others. In the process, he has protected the valuable brands of some of Texas and America's most notable institutions and corporations including The University of Texas, 3M, HEB, Pillsbury, Burger King, ExxonMobil, Medtronic, Dell, Haagen-Dazs, H.J. Heinz, TGI Friday's, and Baylor University.

The *National Law Journal* has called Pirkey "the nation's foremost trademark litigator." *Texas Lawyer* magazine named him a "Legal Legend" and in 2010 included him on its list of "The 25 Greatest Texas Lawyers of the past Quarter Century."

Despite a busy schedule, he has always given generously of his time and counsel to young lawyers and influenced a generation of attorneys as an adjunct professor of trademark law at The University of Texas School of Law for 20 years.

Pirkey served as president of the 15,000-member American Intellectual Property Law Association. He was a member of the U.S. delegation to several conferences on trademark reform convened by the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, and was also a member of the U.S. Trademark Review Commission which proposed revisions of the federal trademark statute enacted by Congress in 1988.

Pirkey will receive the award at the Austin Bar Foundation's annual gala at the Four Seasons Hotel on January 31, 2015.

"I am humbled to receive this award," Pirkey said. "I've been extremely fortunate to have a long career in a field I enjoy, working with smart, talented colleagues and peers who have made it a pleasure. To be recognized by such a distinguished group is a high honor."

**About Pirkey Barber PLLC**

Pirkey Barber is one of the few firms in the United States specializing exclusively in the field of trademark, copyright, and unfair competition law. Founded in 2006, the firm's lawyers have represented clients in hundreds of cases in the United States in federal court, before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and under ICANN's dispute resolution policies. Clients include many Fortune 500 companies as well as universities and small businesses. Pirkey Barber counsels clients on all aspects of trademark and copyright law. For more information, please visit: [www.pirkeybarber.com](http://www.pirkeybarber.com).

**Media Contact:** Kate Miller Morton | 512-291-6491 | [kate@columbuscomm.com](mailto:kate@columbuscomm.com)