

generally, public service to the defendant, and quality of life. The biggest motivator was public service, and Wright explores an interesting component to that: the notion that prosecutors are motivated not just by a desire to help victims of crime, but also a desire to be fair with respect to the defendant (I'm paraphrasing). Indeed, he notes that "the overall frequency of this narrative contrasts sharply with the common academic assertion that prosecutors rarely display compassion for defendants."

I can't say I am surprised by that twist he didn't see coming. My experience with Texas prosecutors is that first and foremost, you seek justice for victims and citizens, but you spend a good deal of time figuring out (along with the loyal opposition) what is best for the defendant. In other words, you take the job of "minister of justice" to heart. I'm proud to serve you. ❁

## Noteworthy

### Law & Order Award winner



*State Rep. Joe Moody (D-El Paso) recently received his TDCAA Law & Order Award for the work he and his staff did last legislative session on criminal justice and public safety legislation. Moody, a former prosecutor who served as chairman of the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee last session, remains on that committee this session but now also serves as House Speaker Pro Tem. Pictured at the award presentation in the state capitol are (from left to right): Travis County Asst. DA Amy Meredith, TDCAA Executive Director Rob Kepple, State Rep. Joe Moody, Montgomery County Asst. DA Tiana Sanford, TDCAA Director of Governmental Relations Shannon Edmonds, and Tarrant County Asst. CDA Vincent Giardino.*