

★ SUMMER 2008 ★

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OUR MISSION

Texans for Lawsuit Reform is a volunteer-led organization working to restore fairness and balance to our civil justice system through political action; legal, academic, and market research; and grassroots initiatives. The common goal of our more than 16,000 supporters is to make Texas the Beacon State for Civil Justice in America.

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In Memoriam: Michael S. Stevens



Michael S. Stevens

The New Testament enjoins us to keep our minds focused on “whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable.” (Phil. 4:8) Michael Stevens, a person of deep faith, heeded that admonition. He led a true, noble, righteous, lovely and admirable life. We in Texans for Lawsuit Reform deeply mourn the recent and untimely death of Michael Stevens, our friend and longtime colleague.

Michael was an accomplished business person and an inspired civic leader. But the center of his life was his family and his faith. He was absolutely devoted to his wife, Kim, and their three grandchildren. Michael’s enormous compassion touched many lives, and each person he touched felt enriched by the experience.

We agree with former Houston Mayor Bob Lanier, who observed that Michael was a “great and exceptionally smart man who did everything he could for his family, church and city. We are all better off for the time he spent with us.”

Michael literally lit up a room when he walked into it. His bright smile was infectious. He lived life with enormous energy. He was fun to be with. He was central to TLR’s efforts to form a fair and balanced civil justice system.

Michael was involved in TLR almost from the beginning. He served on TLR’s executive committee and was a member of the TLR PAC board. He played a key role in the passage of House Bill 4, the most comprehensive tort reform bill ever passed in the U.S., and Proposition 12, which brought long-needed medical liability reform to Texas, assuring that even poor communities would have access to physicians and health care.

In addition to lawsuit reform, Michael was committed to a wide range of volunteer projects to improve his community and the world. Michael led the development of more than one billion dollars of public or non-profit projects, including the Rice Lofts, the Hilton Americas Convention Hotel, the Houston Astros Minute Maid Park, and the Houston Texans Reliant Stadium, all of which contributed to the revitalization of Houston – and he did it all pro bono.

Michael was recently appointed by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst to the Sunset Advisory Commission, where he anticipated making a lasting difference in our state government’s structure and efficiency. He actively served on the Board and Executive Committee of Baylor College of Medicine, the Greater Houston Partnership, the Governor’s Business Council, and the Board of Directors of the Memorial Hermann Foundation. He also served as a Deacon of the Second Baptist Church of Houston.

We will greatly miss you, Michael. We will never forget your passion for the many great causes for which you worked tirelessly and selflessly. We will always remember your smile – and all that it stood for.

Dick Weekley
Chairman & CEO

Leo Linbeck
Senior Chairman

Dick Trabulsi
President

Hugh Rice Kelly
General Counsel