

2012 Distinguished Service Award Recipient

The Distinguished Service Award was created in 1981 by the Barton Community College Foundation to recognize individuals who have shown genuine regard for, and have performed outstanding service to Barton Community College. The Barton Foundation Board of Directors selects the recipient from nominations received. The Foundation is pleased to announce **H. Lee Turner** as the 2012 Distinguished Service Award recipient.

On December 10, 2002, Great Bend lost a renowned former citizen and Barton Community College lost a dear friend and supporter. Lee Turner, often referred to as the dean of Kansas trial lawyers, practiced law in Great Bend after earning his law degree from the University of Kansas in 1952 until 1994 when he moved permanently to Boulder, Colorado.

Mr. Turner tried more than 1,700 cases before juries and despite his growing and always busy practice he always found time to promote integrity, ethics and fairness in the practice of law. To this end, he was founder of the American Law Firm Association, founding member of the American Bar Association's Section of Economic of Law Practice and the Kansas Defense Lawyers Association. He was also the originating chairman of the ABA's Special Committee on Legal Assistants, and for more than 13 years served as a faculty member of the National Trial Advocacy Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

It was Lee's profound passion for continuing education and his deep seeded belief that ongoing training in technical instruction of a professional quality was necessary to assure the pursuit of excellence in law enforcement that led to his generous donation to Barton Community College to establish the Lee Turner Lectureship Series.

The annual income from this endowment is used to provide one or more annual guest lecturers to instruct students in Barton's law enforcement program and personnel in the city, county and state law enforcement agencies in Barton and adjoining counties. In addition, as funds are available from income they are used to offset the tuition and fees of each participant. The Lee Turner Lectureship Series was established in 1983 and since 1996 when official records were kept, the series has served 2,105 participants.

If there was one thing that Lee felt stronger about than the law it was his loyalty to his friends and his love and devotion to his family. He married Elizabeth Dillon in 1951 and they were blessed with 6 children; one son, Chase Turner, five daughters, Deborah Carney, Stephanie Turner, Shelley Schlender, Cynthia Latham, and Fernanda Litt and 12 grandchildren. The Foundation is grateful to Lee Turner for his vision, foresight, and desire to further the academic excellence of Barton Community College. We are proud to honor Lee Turner with this prestigious award. We continue to feel his loss and will always be honored to celebrate a life so well lived.