TEXAS LAWYER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2016

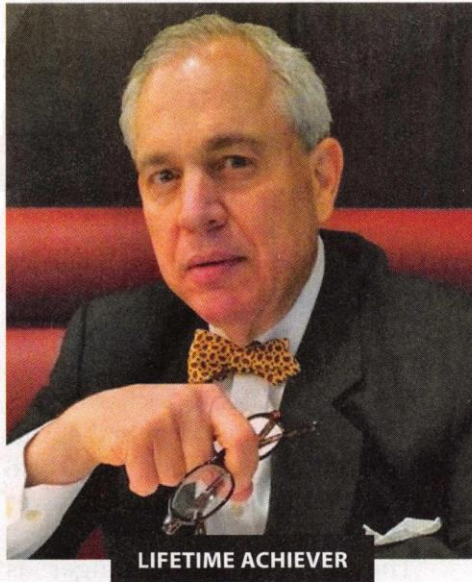**LIFETIME ACHIEVER**

Christopher Nolland

MEDIATOR AND ARBITRATOR,
LAW OFFICE OF CHRISTOPHER
NOLLAND, DALLAS

CHRISTOPHER NOLLAND IS A PIONEER.

While others find their passion in existing areas of practice, Dallas-based Nolland has been a trailblazer, one of the first in the nation to recognize the need for a new legal specialty dedicated solely to negotiating conflict resolutions. A mediator and arbitrator since 1993, Nolland forged an innovative practitioner's path that cuts between mediator and litigator—the special settlement counsel.

Unlike a mediator, the settlement counsel serves as the primary negotiator for one of the parties in a dispute, seeking the best settlement possible for his client. In this nonneutral capacity, Nolland has tackled more than 100 cases and developed a national practice involving complex business and fiduciary disputes including major trust and probate litigation, director and officer litigation, and partnership and closely held business litigation.

It now accounts for more than half of his practice.

In addition to his settlement counsel practice, Nolland has handled more than 2,000 mediations and numerous arbitrations focusing on large, complex, multifaceted disputes.

His cases read like a who's who of Texas' powerful and wealthy. He has represented a client in a $470 million lawsuit against the Bass family and stepped into estate battles involving one of Harold Simmons' daughters, one of Mary Kay Ash's granddaughters, and Houston billionaire Howard Marshall III and Anna Nicole Smith.

He also helped the liquidating trustee and former directors and CEO of BearingPoint Inc. settle their countersuits in the wake of the $2.3 billion consulting firm's demise, effectively ending a legal battle that appeared destined to go on for years.

And he's passing those skills on to a new generation of lawyers. He has taught a full semester course on negotiation at SMU Dedman School of Law for nearly two decades.