

DEDICATION AND INTRODUCTION

This newest edition of the Texas Motor Vehicle Dealer Manual is enthusiastically dedicated to Carol Kent, current Director of our Compliance Education Section and former director of the Motor Vehicle Division's Enforcement Section. For more than 18 years Carol has tirelessly dedicated her efforts to the principal that education of our licensees and other stakeholders is a critical element of a successful enforcement program. Carol, who is recognized nationally as an expert in her field, has accomplished more in the area of dealer education than anyone in the state. Her creation and development of the very popular dealer training seminar, now in its twelfth year, has been followed by her creation of training programs for household goods movers, law enforcement agencies, county tax offices and numerous manuals and pamphlets to assist both licensees and the public. With her retirement this year, we all lose a very talented teacher, a skilled attorney, and a great friend.

The purpose of this manual is to provide prospective and current motor vehicle industry licensees as well as other stakeholders with an easy-to-use overview of Texas motor vehicle dealer licensing and operating laws. Please understand that the laws themselves, both statutes and the department's rules, are controlling and should be consulted first in the event of an apparent conflict between a statute or rule and what is presented in this manual.

Our goal is that licensees comply with the laws regulating the industry. Our belief is that a better understanding of those laws will result in increased compliance and creation of a level playing field for those operating in the industry. To that end, our staff stands ready to assist with any questions you may have regarding the laws. Licensees are also encouraged to keep up with changes in the law through regular attendance of continuing education presentations made by the division and by the dealer associations.

This manual will necessarily be updated on a regular basis to keep up with changes in the law. Input from the users of the manual has always been valuable to staff in producing what is hoped to be a valuable tool to better serve our licensees and other stakeholders. Accordingly, comments or suggestions for improving the manual are always most welcome.

November, 2011

William P. Harbeson
Director, Enforcement Division
Motor Vehicle Division