



Jesús “Frank” de la Teja
Guest Speaker in Brenham Washington-on-the-Brazos
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Born in Cuba on 17 July 1956, Jesús F. de la Teja immigrated to the United States in 1963. He earned the B.A. and M.A. degrees from Seton Hall University, before coming to the University of Texas at Austin in 1981 to pursue doctoral studies in Latin American History. While at U.T. he served as a research assistant to the novelist James A. Michener. He completed his dissertation on Spanish colonial San Antonio in 1988. From July 1985 to August 1991 de la Teja worked in the Archives and Records Division of the Texas General Land Office. Since September 1991 he has been a member of the faculty at Texas State University, where he is now chairman of the History Department. Married and the parent of two, De la Teja makes his home in Austin, Texas.

De la Teja has published extensively on Spanish, Mexican, and Republic-era Texas. His books are: *San Antonio de Béxar: A Community on New Spain’s Northern Frontier* (University of New Mexico Press, 1995), winner of a San Antonio Conservation Society Book Citation and the Sons of the Republic of Texas Presidio La Bahía Award; and *A Revolution Remembered: The Memoirs and Selected Correspondence of Juan N. Seguín* (2nd ed. Texas State Historical Association, 2002), for which he won a Sons of the Republic of Texas Summerfield G. Roberts Award. He served as co-editor on *Choice, Persuasion, and Coercion: Social Control on Spain’s North American Frontiers* (University of New Mexico Press, 2005). He also has chapters in a number of books, including: “‘Only Fit for Raising Stock’: Spanish and Mexican Land and Water Rights in the Tamaulipan Cession,” in *Fluid Arguments: Five Centuries of Western Water Conflict* (University of Arizona Press, 2001); “‘A Fine Country with Broad Plains—The Most Beautiful in New Spain,’ Colonial Views of Land and Nature,” in *On the Border: An Environmental History of San Antonio* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2001). His most recent article is “Ramón de Murillo’s Plan for the Reform of New Spain’s Frontier Defenses,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (April 2004). Other journals in which his work has appeared include the *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Inter-American Cultural History*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, and *Historia Mexicana*. His most recent works are a co-authored college-level history textbook, *Texas: Crossroads of North America*, for Houghton Mifflin (2004) and a co-authored high school U.S. history textbook, *American Anthem*, for Holt, Rinehart and Winston (2007).

Currently, de la Teja is book review editor for the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* and serves on the editorial advisory boards of the Library of Texas, the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, and the *New Mexico Historical Review*. He served as managing editor of *Catholic Southwest: A Journal of History and Culture* from 1991 to 2005. Aside from consulting on a number of legal cases involving Texas land grants, he has collaborated on documentaries and educational videos and served as a consultant on the Texas State History Museum and the John Lee Hancock film, *The Alamo*.

An honorary admiral in the Texas Navy since 1990, he won the Southwest Texas State University Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activities in 1996 and the Carlos Eduardo Castañeda service award from the Texas Catholic Historical Society in 1997. He was inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters in 2000, was elected a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association in 2001 and of the Texas Catholic Historical Society in 2002, and was elected to membership in the Philosophical Society of Texas in 2007. Governor Rick Perry appointed him the first State Historian of Texas in March 2007 and he is the 2007-2008 president of the Texas State Historical Association. In March 2008 he will receive the Americanism Medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution.