**Mike Cochran**

(University of North Texas)

As an Associated Press correspondent based in Fort Worth, Mike Cochran covered Texas, particularly West Texas, uncovering unusual stories, interviewing offbeat characters and reporting on dark crimes and deep secrets. He covered the John F. Kennedy assassination, Lee Harvey Oswald's funeral, the Jack Ruby trial, the University of Texas sniper, the U.S. space program, various political scandals, tornadoes, the Mexico City earthquake, the Challenger explosion, Branch Davidian siege and several of the state's high-profile murder trials. He has written two books, Texas vs. Davis (about the murder case of Fort Worth billionaire T. Cullen Davis) and And Deliver Us From Evil (a trilogy of true-crime stories). He won a Katie Award in 2000.