

Baylor Law.

DOCKETCALL

Fall/Winter
2021-22

Endowed & Annual

SCHOLARSHIP

DONOR

RECOGNITION



*“There is an appointed
time for everything.
And there is a time for
every matter under
heaven...A time to
mourn and a time
to dance.”*

– Ecclesiastes 3:1,4



A poignant illustration of this biblical verse unfolded early in September 2021 when Baylor Law celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the opening of the Sheila & Walter Umphrey Law Center, and in the days immediately following mourned the passing of Walter Umphrey.



Dean Brad Toben reflected, “Through the years, Walter and Sheila, quietly and outside the view of the public, have been in the business of creating opportunity—especially educational opportunity—for others. They recognize how they have been blessed, and in turn, they have returned that blessing to others. Walter often noted that their philanthropy to Baylor Law was, as he put it, “the best money that Sheila and I have ever spent,” because it was for education.

In both celebration of Walter and Sheila (married 61 years!) and to honor our collective history, Baylor Law asks that you buttress Walter and Sheila’s philanthropic commitment to the law center that reflects the excellence of our program and—so important, indeed critical—law student scholarships. Your generosity will support critical law student scholarship needs and capital updates to the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center. The updates will provide additional, dedicated space to vital student services, and to academic and career support.

Will you join the legacy of Walter and Sheila’s commitment to Baylor Law? All gifts ensure the continued excellence and vitality of Baylor Law’s renowned programs as we embark on our second century of training generations of Baylor Lawyers.

Contact Kristine Bridges, Director of Development
for Baylor Law at Kristine_Bridges@baylor.edu,
call **254.710.8537**, or visit baylor.edu/law/give.

Baylor Law.

DOCKETCALL

Volume 150
Fall/Winter 2021-22

BAYLOR LAW ALUMNI
MAGAZINE



*Endowed &
Annual*

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RECOGNITION 4

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Friendship
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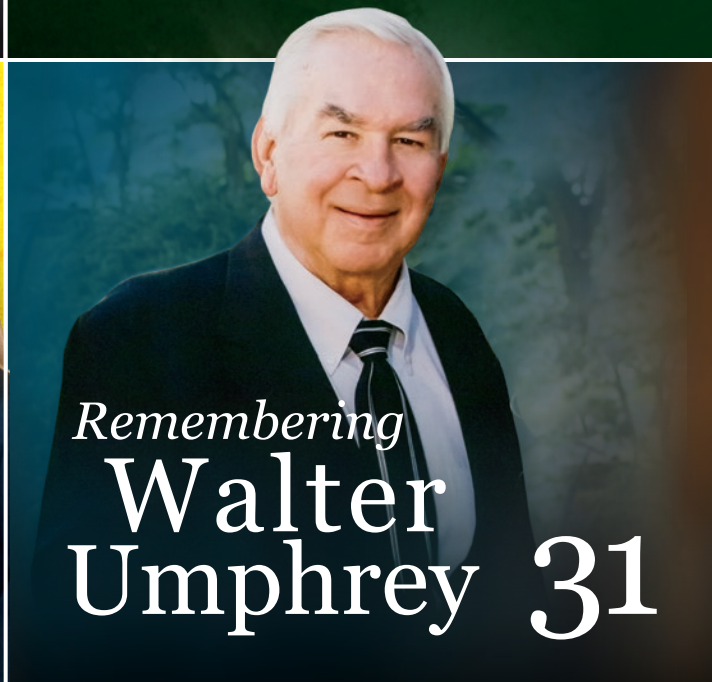
*Baylor Law
Alumni
Association*

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Sustaining
Lifetime Members,
Lifetime Members, &
Sustaining Members



A
Season
of Change

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Remembering
**Walter
Umphrey 31**

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Baylor Law.

DOCKETCALL

Docket Call is published by Baylor Law for its alumni, faculty, staff, students, supporters, and friends.

Established in 1857, Baylor Law was one of the first law schools in Texas and one of the first west of the Mississippi River. Today, the school has more than 7,800 living alumni. It is accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools.

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Nonprofit postage paid in Waco, TX.

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A Message from Dean Toben

*“... in everything give thanks; for this is
God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

– 1 Thessalonians 5:18

At Baylor Law, we stress to our students that lawyering is about solving human problems and meeting human challenges.

These problems and challenges arise from all manner of human endeavor. A family is breaking apart. An insurer denies a claim. A client’s liberty may be at stake. A business is failing. A landowner’s access to water is impaired.

Even the positive events of human endeavor often call for the acumen, skills, and counseling of lawyers. A patent application is filed. A business start-up needs capital. A couple adopts a child. An entrepreneur acquires land for development. A client provides for his or her family’s future through estate planning.

The problems and challenges that require the skills of a lawyer are innumerable. At Baylor Law, we enjoy seeing our former students—Baylor Lawyers—serve in a panoply of capacities in the public and private sectors. Through selfless service and through leadership—two themes that are integral to our work with, and messaging to, our students—we prepare our students to step into a profession. Ours is a profession in which we serve with the imprimatur of the state. Baylor Lawyers are positive contributors to the human condition. They leave indelible marks on those whom they serve and lead. In doing so, they strengthen the fabric of our society and nation. And...that is a need now felt acutely.

This issue of the *Docket Call* brings together our tribute to those who as servants invest in our school and our students. Our work, and that of our students, would not be possible without

the selfless dedication of our alumni and friends who make what we do at Baylor Law possible. And what we do is effectively and consistently prepare lawyers who recognize that to be a lawyer is a calling—a calling to serve and a calling to lead no matter where one’s life journey goes.

*“Service is the rent we
pay for being. It is the very
purpose of life, and not
something you do in your
spare time.”*

– Marian Wright Edelman

Founder of the
Children’s Defense Fund

Over the past years significant progress has been made in undergirding the financial resources of Baylor Law, and we continue to strive towards our goal of making Baylor Law a school where any qualified student can attend, regardless of financial condition. We are not there yet, but we will persist.

Our goal with this issue is to simply say, ‘thank you.’ Thank you for supporting our students, our faculty, and our many programs.

*Please enjoy this issue
of Docket Call.*



Brad Toben, JD '77
DEAN OF BAYLOR LAW

Endowed & Annual SCHOLARSHIP DONOR RECOGNITION

Abilene Christian University Scholarship

Given by a number of Baylor Law School graduates who attended Abilene Christian University as undergraduates.

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Given in memory of the Hon. James P. Alexander by Mr. and Mrs. Mills Cox.

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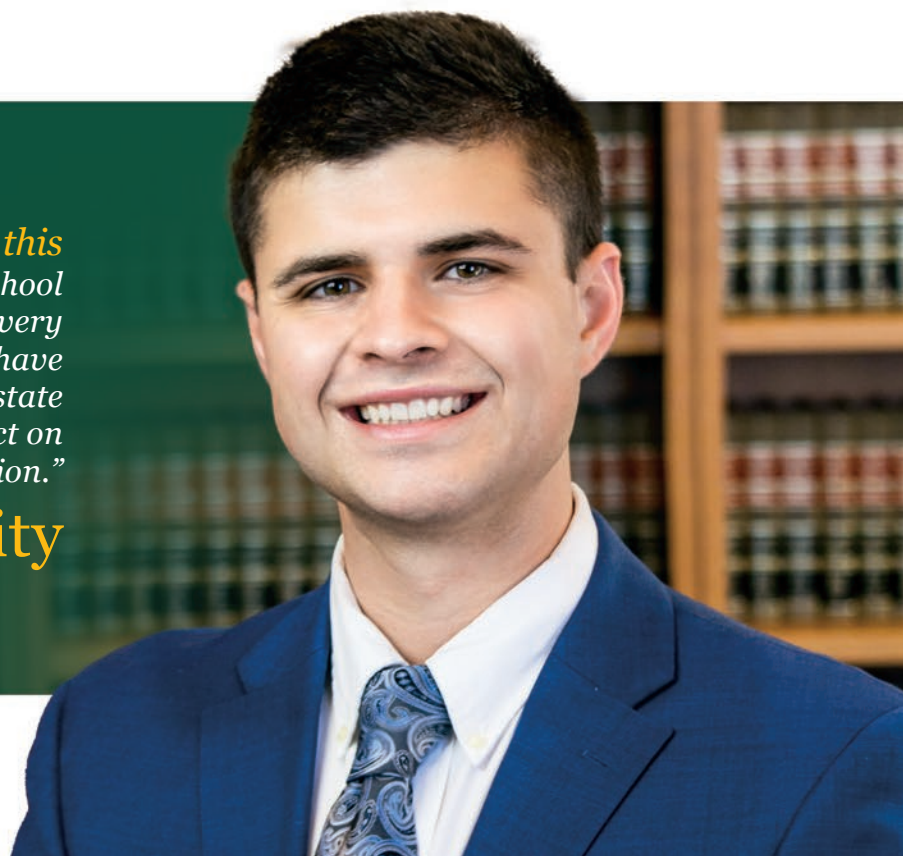
Jerry and Linda Beane Scholarship

Steve and Alyce Beard Scholarship

Bennington-Watkins Scholarship

“Thank you so much for establishing this scholarship fund, I would not be in law school without it. I continue to learn something new every day... I am part of Law Review, Moot Court, and I have started my own organization, the Baylor Real Estate Legal Society. I look forward to making an impact on the world through my legal education.”

Max Atchity





“Baylor Law has been a great place for me to grow as a student as well as an individual, and I appreciate your scholarship fund for giving me that opportunity.”

Sadaf Ahmad

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Given by the T. Whitfield Davidson Foundation in memory of Judge T. Whitfield Davidson’s distinguished contributions to the bench and to the legal profession in Texas.

“I cannot express my gratitude enough. Allison Dickson is such an inspiring woman—her strength, intelligence, and perseverance are amazing and motivates me to push harder. Her scholarship fund gives me the tremendous opportunity to study the law at the most renowned law school in Texas. I have a disability as well and attend classes with my service dog. It is because of this scholarship that I am able to do so.”

Laney Howard



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Given in memory of Jarrell H. Davis by his widow, Mrs. Jarrell H. Davis, and his daughter, Mrs. Elisa Davis Faye.

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“I want to express my deepest gratitude for your continuing dedication and service to the Baylor Law community. Without your support, I would not have the opportunity to hone and perfect this craft in order to be an advocate for those in need. Because of your donation, I have the chance to transition from my former role as an active-duty Army officer to a new and exciting role as a member of the JAG Corps. Your generosity is what makes my service possible, and, for that, I am immensely grateful.”

Corey Lesser



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“Reich O’Hara Chandler was a remarkable man. To receive a scholarship memorializing him is an honor and a challenge. I aspire to his excellence, his passion, and his character. My entry into the legal profession begins with your generosity. Thank you for establishing my opportunity to study law at Baylor Law.”

Christopher Lopez



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Given by the R.E.B. Baylor Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta Law fraternity.



“I am beyond thankful for the opportunity to receive the financial assistance I need to achieve my dream of attending law school. I am excited to have joined such a welcoming and supportive community and I aspire to work as a prosecutor after graduation. If it were not for you and your generous contribution, I am not sure I would be able to follow my passions and fulfill my dream career. Thank you for your generosity!”

Miranda Salazar

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Lexi Winter



“Thank you for your assistance in furthering my education with your generous scholarship fund. While the COVID-19 pandemic made last summer somewhat harder, I’m happy to say that I was still able to work in-person and learn many things about how law is actually practiced. I am continually grateful to have been chosen to receive your generous scholarship. Thank you for the opportunity!”

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A Friendship Forged *Via a Baylor Law Scholarship*



JUDGE A. LEE
HARRIS



JUDGE
JIM **CLAWSON**

For the Honorable A. Lee Harris, the donor who helped make his dream of becoming a lawyer a reality is far more than a name on a scholarship letter. Thanks to a providential meeting at a conference in San Antonio, Harris is now a friend, and mentee, of Judge Jim Clawson, Jr., the generous sponsor and namesake of the *James F. and Mary Louise Clawson Baylor Law School Scholarship Fund*.

After graduating from Baylor Law in 1993, Harris began working as a litigator in the firm of Moore & Harris. From 1999 to 2005, he served as District Attorney *Pro Tem* of Hill County. During his tenure in Hill County, he prosecuted more than 600 felony cases.

Then, the scholarship recipient who received his Baylor Law education thanks in part to the generous financial support of a Texas state district court judge, became a judge himself. From 2005 until late 2014, Harris served as the first judge of the County Court at Law of Hill County, Texas. On the first day of 2015, Harris assumed the duties of being judge of the 66th Judicial District Court of Hill County.

For years, both during and after leaving Baylor Law, Judge Harris had attempted to send notes of appreciation to Judge Clawson. Letter after letter was returned by the U.S. Postal Service: unable to deliver, no forwarding address. The Clawsons had moved—and in the days before the internet, both the State Bar’s ‘Blue Book,’ and Baylor Law’s alumni directory did not have Clawson’s new address.

More than a dozen years after graduating from Baylor Law, Judge Harris met Judge Clawson unexpectedly at a judicial education conference in San Antonio. The conference was the first for Harris, having recently been appointed to the bench.

Harris recalled, “I see this gentleman coming. We’re going to pass each other, and I see ‘Jim Clawson’ on his name tag, and I just turned around. I caught up with him and I said... ‘Can we sit down and talk a minute? I’ve got something I’ve been wanting to tell you for many years.’” During this first of many heart-to-heart conversations, Judge Harris shared with Judge Clawson just how much his scholarship had meant to him. As a first-generation college graduate, a scholarship was his only chance of graduating from law school without incurring burdensome debt. Harris shared about his career, his new role as a judge, and the wonderful life his family was enjoying thanks to his Baylor Law degree and Judge Clawson’s generosity. Judge Harris recalls telling Clawson, “I cannot imagine what my life would have been like, had I not taken this step to go to law school.”

Excited to hear this news, Judge Clawson asked, “Would you mind sitting down and writing what you just told me to my wife? Mary always thought I spent her bread-and-butter money on that scholarship.” Harris willingly obliged and his letter to Mrs. Clawson was the next step in a lifelong friendship between the Harris and Clawson families. “It was a powerful letter because Mary became immediately as enthusiastic about that scholarship as I was,” recalled Judge Clawson, “And it became a real family project from that day forward. We never had any more difficulty with me sending money to the scholarship.”

From that moment forward, Judge Harris routinely stopped and visited with the Clawsons when passing through Temple. He met with Judge Clawson at various judicial events and made it a priority to visit Mary on multiple occasions when she sadly fell terminally ill in 2012.

Inspired by the generosity of the Clawsons, in 2007, Harris took it upon himself to rally the recipients of the Clawson Scholarship to make a special gift to increase the endowment of Judge Clawson’s scholarship. Judge Harris asserts, “My parents had a very nice life. They worked very hard. They put a lot of their savings back—so they wouldn’t be a burden to anyone in their older age—but they certainly weren’t gifted with the type of education I’ve had and were not able to have the type of life that I do. I mean, everyone wants their kids to do better than them, and it’s very humbling when you realize how good a lifestyle you’ve been able to lead. The only thing I can attribute it to is Baylor Law. To not give back would be about as un-Christian as anything I can think of.”

Several years after rallying the recipients of the Clawson Scholarship, Harris and his wife Holly, herself an ‘adopted’ Baylor Bear, made the decision to establish their own scholarship to create a foundation of support for future Baylor Lawyers—the endowed *Judge Lee and Holly Harris Scholarship at Baylor Law*.



Born in Coryell County to James F. and Julia Josephine Clawson, Judge Jim Clawson, Jr., was one of fourteen children in a blended family. From a young age, he was determined to obtain an education. His plans were interrupted with the outbreak of World War II, and he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps. At the end of the war, and with the G.I. Bill available as a scholarship, Judge Clawson was able to attend Baylor Law and proudly earned his law degree in 1948. After passing the Texas Bar exam that same year, he joined his brother's firm of Clawson, Jennings, & Clawson in Houston. Clawson practiced for 11 years in general civil law before moving on to the First National Bank of Temple as a trust officer and banker. In 1967, the presiding judge in Bell County retired and the Commissioners Court asked Clawson to fill the role. He agreed and held the role for two years after running unopposed for the county judge position in 1968. He was appointed judge of the 169th District Court in October of 1969. He was elected, and re-elected, again unopposed, for 15 years until retiring in October of 1985. He was then appointed presiding judge in the 3rd Administrative Judicial Region of Texas, a role he held for five years. He has elected to remain active subject to assignment as a Senior District Judge to the present day. In addition to his work in private practice and on the bench, he has held leadership roles with the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Bar Foundation.



“ I remember that I was so grateful to the Law School for what it had done for me, I made up my mind that I was going to give Baylor Law some money at least once a year. Sometimes it was only \$10, but I always gave something. ”

Judge Jim Clawson

When Judge Clawson and Mary counted their blessings, they always traced the line of success directly back to Baylor Law. Filled with deep gratitude for his education and esteem for the caliber of lawyers who graduate from Baylor Law, Judge Clawson was eager to establish a scholarship. He recalls, “I remember that I was so grateful to the Law School for what it had done for me, I made up my mind that I was going to give Baylor Law some money at least once a year. Sometimes it was only \$10, but I always gave something.” As he and his wife Mary hadn’t accumulated many assets, the thought of endowing a full scholarship seemed out of reach. However, in 1985, through the help of the dean of the Law School at the time, Charles Barrow, the Clawsons discovered that they could donate a four-acre parcel of land that they had inherited to begin their legacy of impacting generations through the *James F. and Mary Louise Clawson Baylor Law School Scholarship Fund*.

Judge Clawson and Judge Harris are now working on plans to invite every one of the recipients of the *James F. and Mary Louise Clawson Baylor Law School Scholarship Fund* to a special reception to get to know them better and potentially establish a mentoring program for new and future Baylor Lawyers.

Judge Harris reiterated, “I make sure the first 10% I write every month goes to my church, but you know, the next check I write goes to Baylor Law. I received a scholarship while I was in law school and that scholarship wasn’t taken out of thin air. It was literally something that someone else made possible. To not give back would be kind of a personal embarrassment to me.”

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Doak Chambers Procter IV	Robert Louis Schwarz	Tom G. Stanfield	Rebecca Vela
John William Proctor	Patrick Scott	Britta Erin Stanton	David Maurice Vereeke
John Richard Proper	John R. Scott	Hon. James Michael Stanton	Kelly Vickers
Jeffrey Wayne Purvis	Joan Elizabeth Scroggins	Zollie Carlton Steakley	Alan Vickery
Mitzi Hudson Purvis	Charles J. Sebesta, Jr.	Arthur F. Stelley	Anthony Vitullo
George Anthony Quesada Jr.	James Randolph Secrest	Jason Brandt Stephens	Dathan Voelter
Michael Raab	Jarrard Tinsley Secrest	John Andrew Stephens	Margaret Voelter
Terry Lee Radney	Philip R. Segrest	Hon. Susan Ray Stephens	Allison Culver Wachendorfer
Hon. Tom L. Ragland	Hon. Curtis Lee Seidlits	Trent Delno Stephens	Julie S. Wade
Elisa Rainey	Ben Selman	Gene F. Stevens	Hon. James K. Walker
P. James Rainey	Russell B. Serafin	Al Stewart	Jearl D. Walker
W. Neil Rambin	Paul T. Serafy	Philip W. Stewart	Danna Moore Walton
Mary Gayle Ramsey	Kathy A. Serr	David Phillip Stone	Sarah Elizabeth Wannarka
Robert W. Randall	Patricia A. Shackelford	R. Dary Stone	Amy Thomas Ward
J. Grady Randle	William C. Shaddock	Jerry Lane Stovall Jr.	David Allen Ward Jr.
Hon. Elizabeth Ray	Wayne R. Shahan	Steve A. Strong	Hon. T. John Ward
Don Raybold	Laura Bellegie Sharp	William J. Stutzenbecker	M. Richard Warner
Raymond Holloway Reese	Bradford Lee Shaw	Kelli Cook Styron	Jessica Mendes Warren
Emily Ann Rhine	Sherena Shawrieh	Frank L. Supercinski	Michael E. Warwick
Richard Gaetano Riccardi	Robert Walton Shelton	Deborah Ethridge Sutton	Richard Brian Waterhouse Jr.
Jennifer Salim Richards	Billy Jack Shepherd	John O. Sutton	Karen Lynn Watkins
Bob A. Ricks Sr.	Patrick Sheridan	Vivian K. Swilley	Smilie Watkins
Brittany Jo Ringel	John Charles Sherwood	Mack Ed Swindle	James W. Watson
Nelson James Roach	Hon. David McAdams Sibley	Dean Leah Jackson Teague	Sen. Kirk Preston Watson
Woodrow M. Roark	Lewis R. Sifford	E. Glenn Thames Jr.	Robert Allen Watson
Lyn Robbins Jr.	Michael Alan Simpson	James Brian Thomas	Jeffrey Dean Watters
William K. Robbins Jr.	Andrew D. Sims	Robert Earl Thomas	Micheale S. Weatherbie
Alan J. Robertson	Marc L. Skeen	Robert Lee Thomas III	William Curtis Webb
Thomas Griffith Robins	Ross A. Skolnick	Susan K. Thomas	C. Andrew Weber
Jennifer Shelley Rodriguez	Joseph C. Sleeth Jr.	Gregory Blake Thompson	Frederick Clay Weekley Jr.
Nanette Gaines Rodriguez	James Edward Sloan	Ryan Thompson	John W. Weinacht
Marcus Rogers	John Dale Sloan, Jr.	Jim Thorne	Hon. Mary Elizabeth Welborn
Rhonda K. Rogers	Mark Randal Slough	Spring R. Thummel	Robert M. Welch Jr.

Lifetime Members

Monroe Gaddy Wells Jr.
Craig Hudson Westbrook
Mark S. Westergard
Jamie Grammer Whatley
Hon. Albert L. White Jr.
Greg White
Judith Ann Langston White
Keith Martin White
Michael Floyd White
Shelby White
David W. Whitehurst
Arthur E. Whitmer
Paul Francis Wieneskie
W. Michael Wiist
Mark Edward Wilkins
Thomas W. Wilkins
Brett A. Williams
John Eddie Williams Jr.
Paul H. Williamson
David H. Wills
Larry Wilshire
David K. Wilson
Margaret A. Wilson
Stephen Collins Wilson
Steven A. Wisch
Albert Witcher

Clinton Eugene Wolf Jr.
Hon. Dana M. Womack
Cecilia Maria Wood
Dan Wood Jr.
Nick D. Woodall
Doyle Keith Woodley
Hon. Jeffery Kyle Work
Hon. Baylor Wortham
Hon. Robert J. Wortham
Zachary L. Wortham
James Eric Wren III
Clyde L. Wright Jr.
Herbert E. Wright
Kristie Ann Wright
Michael C. Wright
Virgil William Yanta Sr.
Crystal Nicole Y'Barbo
Linda Duyen Thai Yeh
Benjamin C. Yelverton
William H. Yoes
Hon. James M. York
Barbara Schwarz Young
O. Henry "Mike" Young
Billy J. Youngkin
Glynis L. Zavarelli

Sustaining Fellows

Achieves the \$500 Fellow level and continues to contribute at least \$200 per year.

A. William Arnold
Frederick Biel
Marilyn M. Brown
W.D. East
Kevin Lee Ferrier
Hon. Patrick L. Flanigan
Charlotte M. Harper
Hon. Brian T. Hoyle
John S. Irwin
Lisa H. Jamieson
Jack W. Jones
Ashley Rose Kramer
Christine Montoya

Thomas E. Myers
Charles D. Olson
M. Kenneth Patterson
R.D. "Spike" Pattillo
Stephen Laborde Rispoli
Joseph E. Sampson
JoAl Cannon Sheridan
David W. Showalter
Oliver P. Thoma
Toby G. Tripp
Ralph H. Walton
Bruce Wilkin

2021 Baylor Law Alumni Association Officers

Dick Tye, JD '89 | San Antonio
President

Cynthia Clack, JD '78 | Odessa
President-Elect

Monte James, JD '92 | Austin
Past President

Leah Jackson Teague, JD '85 | Waco
Secretary & Treasurer

2021 Baylor Law Alumni Association Executive Committee

Shyla Buckner, JD '93 | Amarillo

Hon. Alfonso Charles, JD '90 | Longview

Cynthia Clack, JD '78 | Odessa

Spencer Edwards, JD '97 | Houston

Monte F. James, JD '92 | Austin

Jennifer Lindsey, JD '06 | Waco

Susan Moore, JD '90 | Austin

Lawrence Morales, JD '05 | San Antonio

Hon. Christine Nowak, JD '05 | Sherman

Jessica Schwartz, JD '16 | Dallas

Ronnie Turner, JD '10 | Beaumont

Dick Tye, JD '89 | San Antonio

Outgoing Executive Committee Members

(term expired December 2020)

Robin Dubas, JD '88 | Dallas

FacultyNOTES

Matthew Cordon

Professor of Law

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Chair, Baylor Faculty Senate, 2020-21

Thomas M. Featherston Jr.

The Mills Cox Professor of Law

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Advisor, ABA Uniform Law Commission's Drafting Committee to Revise the Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act
- Senior Editor, *Probate & Property*, published six times a year by the Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section of American Bar Association
- Member, Publications and CLE Committees of the ABA's Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section
- Member, Legislative Review Committee, Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section, State Bar of Texas

Bridget Fuselier

Professor of Law

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Baylor Teaching Fellow
- Executive Director, Baylor Veterans Clinic
- Editor, Easements & Covenants, *REPTL Reporter*
- Contributing Editor, Real Estate, *General Practice Digest*

Laura A. Hernández

Professor of Law

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Latina Commissioner, Hispanic National Bar Association

Elizabeth Miller

M. Stephen and Alyce A. Beard
Professor of Business and
Transactional Law

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Joint Editorial Board, Uniform Unincorporated Organizations Acts, Uniform Law Commission and American Bar Association
- Chair, Editorial Board of Publications of the LLCs, Partnerships and Unincorporated Entities Committee of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association
- Founding Fellow and Board of Directors, American College of LLC and Partnership Attorneys
- Member, Business Organizations Code Committee of the Business Law Section of the State Bar of Texas
- Elected Member, American Law Institute

Stephen Rispoli

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and
Pro Bono Programs

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, Legal Innovation Team Member

- American Association of Law Schools, Leadership Section: Newsletter Editor–2019-Present
- State Bar of Texas *Pro Bono* Workgroup

Walt Shelton

Adjunct Professor of Law

PUBLICATIONS

- "Finding Commitment, Not Just Intention, in Our Faith," *Austin American Statesman* (September 18, 2021)
- "Centuries-old Lessons: Make Good Choices, Avoid Tribal Fighting," *Austin American Statesman* (August 21, 2021)
- "Pursue Social Justice," *Austin American Statesman* (July 24, 2021)
- "Focus on the Good Works that can Unite Us Instead of Politics that Divide Us," *Austin American Statesman* (June 12, 2021)
- "Tribalism was the Actual 'Fall' of Mankind: It is High Time for us to Get Up," *ProgressiveChristianity.org*, (June 10, 2021)
- "Jesus is Synonymous with Social Justice: It is High Time for a Full-Scale Cultural Transformation," *TheMindfulWord.org* (May 28, 2021)
- Say No to Racism: "A Character with Character: Compassion as a Step we can All Take Toward Inclusivity," *ProgressiveChristianity.org* (April 9, 2021)
- "This Easter, A Reminder of Unity," *Austin American Statesman* (April 3, 2021)

PRESENTATION

- "The Daily Practice of Life: Practical Reflections Toward Meaningful Living," Boulder (CO) Bookstore Youtube channel

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Liaison, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas with the Section of the Environment, Energy and Resources of the American Bar Association
- Contributing Editor, *General Practice Digest*, State Bar of Texas, Environmental Law
- Chair, Law School Committee of the Environmental & Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas

Leah Jackson Teague

Professor of Law

PUBLICATIONS

- "Growing Number of Leadership Programs and Courses Supports Professional Identity Formation," *Santa Clara Law Review's 2021 Leadership Symposium Issue* (forthcoming)
- "Making Progress in Legal Education: Leadership Development Training in Law Schools," *73 Baylor Law Rev.* 1

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Past Chair, AALS Section on Leadership
- Member, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Texas Federal Tax Institution
- Board Member, Start Up Waco

Bradley J.B. Toben

Dean and M.C. & Mattie Caston Chair
of Law

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Elected Member, American Law Institute
- Board Member, Juliette Fowler Homes, Inc.
- Chair and Accreditation Inspector, American Bar Association (ABA)
- Master of the Bench, Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court
- Member, Board of Directors of the Waco Chamber of Commerce

Patricia Wilson

Associate Dean

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Governing Board Member, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Chair of Legal Committee
- Vice-President, Waco-McLennan County Bar Association
- Board Member, McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center
- Chair, ABA Law Student Division, Client Counseling Subcommittee
- Contributor, *General Practice Digest* (Family Law)

Staff Notes

Baylor Law's Registrar, Jerri Cunningham, Recognized for Service to the National Network of Law School Officers

Jerri Cunningham, Baylor Law's long-serving registrar, was recognized by the National Network of Law School Officers (NNLSO) for her years of service to the organization. Jerri has served as the Executive Director of NNLSO since 2017. She served as the Assistant Executive Director for nine years prior to assuming the Executive Director role.

Baylor Law's Jenny Branson named the 2021 Outstanding Young Lawyer of McLennan County

Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jenny Branson was selected by the Waco-McLennan County Young Lawyers Association (WMCYLA) as the Outstanding Young Lawyer of McLennan County for 2021.

A Season *of* Change

*Baylor Law
Expands Its
Administrative
Team and
Welcomes New
Professors*



Dean Brad Toben, Associate Dean Patricia Wilson, and Senior Assistant Dean Angela Cruseturner

Changes have taken place at Baylor Law as the Law School welcomed a highly credentialed fall entering class. Dean Leah Teague, JD '85, has return to a full-time faculty position while holding the inaugural position of Director of Business Law Programs at Baylor Law. In this role, she will elevate and strengthen our business and transactional programs' national profile. In addition, Baylor Law is at the vanguard of a national movement to incorporate leadership training into the law school experience, and Dean Teague will now focus additional time and resources on growing this national movement while at the same time continuing to serve on committees and in leadership roles at Baylor University.

"I am blessed beyond measure to be a member of the Baylor Law family! It has been my honor and my privilege to work alongside Dean Toben for almost 30 years to lead in the role of associate dean. After much prayerful consideration, I decided to step down from that position to consider how I might best serve Baylor Law in the

coming years," said Dean Teague. She added, "This transition will allow me more time to work on areas that are near and dear to my heart. I believe enhancing these areas is vitally important to the future of Baylor Law and the legal profession."

"I have been deeply privileged to serve with Leah over these past three decades," stated Dean Toben. "We have been able to work together with our wonderful faculty and staff colleagues to advance Baylor Law's profile in our advocacy, transactional, legal writing, and criminal law programming. Through everyone's work, our students have the benefit of a significantly expanded faculty and staff team and a dynamic curriculum with many professional tracks. We have a wide array of opportunities in our many-award-winning *pro bono* and public service programs, and of course, our students have continued to make us proud in their bar exam performance and work in the profession alongside our Baylor Law alumni community."

“I am confident that Leah will thrive in her work in our business law programming and in her work on the national level in leadership development studies. Leah and I have been a team for a long time, but change comes inevitably,” said Dean Toben.

Baylor Law has been an outlier in legal education in having an associate dean who oversees three distinct constituency sectors—faculty, staff, and student affairs. Dean Teague has done this, remarkably, for her entire tenure. These multi-faceted duties have been divided into two separate positions.

“I have been deeply privileged to serve with Leah over these past three decades.”

— **Brad Toben**
Dean of Baylor Law

Patricia Wilson, a member of Baylor Law’s faculty since 1993, now serves as Associate Dean, with responsibilities focusing on academic-related matters involving faculty and students. Upon announcing Dean Wilson’s new role, Dean Toben remarked, “Pat is a wonderfully effective and resourceful colleague who enjoys the respect of all her faculty and staff colleagues.” Dean Wilson currently serves as the Regional Representative for Region 10 for the National Association of Legal Advocacy Educators (NALAE), is actively involved in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, is a trained mediator, and is actively involved in the Waco community and her church. She is the driving force behind Baylor Law’s successful annual community event, the People’s Law School, and is a former licensed foster parent who fostered 20 children over the course of a decade.

Angela Cruseturner, JD ’02, Baylor Law’s long-time Assistant Dean of Career Development, was named as Senior Assistant Dean. She takes on additional administrative responsibilities and leads on matters relating to staff and the student experience. “Angela is tireless in her dedication to the success of our students and in her dedication to furthering the goals of Baylor Law. Our student employment outcomes have been enviable,” said Dean Toben. Dean Cruseturner was honored as the 2020 Young Baylor Lawyer of the Year and under her direction, Baylor Law’s Career Development Office has posted record employment statistics for recent graduates. The Professional Development Program she spearheaded has been recognized as one of the premier professional formation programs in the nation.

Baylor Law Welcomes Outstanding New Faculty



Jessica Asbridge
Assistant Professor

Professor Asbridge writes and teaches in the areas of property law, arbitration, and appellate advocacy. She served as a clerk for two consecutive terms and a staff attorney with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.



Rachel Kincaid
Assistant Professor

Professor Kincaid teaches criminal law and criminal procedure. She comes to Baylor Law from Mountain State Justice, which focuses on civil rights litigation. She is a former prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice and previously clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.



Chris Jaeger
Assistant Professor

Professor Jaeger teaches contracts and researches and writes about the intersection of law and psychology. He comes to Baylor Law from the NYU School of Law faculty and holds a Ph.D. in psychology from Vanderbilt University.



Allen Page
Assistant Professor

Professor Page writes and teaches in the areas of securities regulation, mergers and acquisitions, and venture capital. He is a CPA and has experience with a Big Four accounting firm and practiced previously with Vinson & Elkins and DLA Piper.

@Baylor Law



**AWFUL
BEAUTIFUL
LIFE**

Baylor Law welcomed Becky Powell and Baylor Lawyers Monte James, JD '92, and Bill Jones, JD '85, as they recounted the unthinkable and evocative story of Becky's book, *Awful Beautiful Life*. After learning that her husband had taken his life and millions of dollars from friends and colleagues, Becky—with the help and guidance of two Baylor Lawyers—embarked on an inspirational journey to put the pieces back together.



BUSINESS LAW BOOTCAMP

Now in its sixth year, the **Business Law Boot Camp** is an intensive, week-long course held between the spring and summer quarters directed by Professor Elizabeth Miller, JD '85. The course—underwritten by Kim and Bill Shaddock, JD '77, and sponsored by Haynes and Boone, and Greg Looser, JD '94—exposes students to practitioners from varied size firms, geographic areas, and backgrounds. These practitioners provide a wealth of advice and insight to professional paths of Transactional Law.



Steve Bolden of Bracewell



The 2021 Business Law Boot Camp class



Professor Allen Page, JD '10



Greg Looser, JD '94

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Josh Fogelman, JD '08, and Aaron Von Flatern, JD '09, founders of FVF Law—sponsor of the Baylor Law/TYLA legal writing competition *The Paper Chase*—shared their insight with Baylor Law students on what to look for in a first job, how to stand out once there, and how to shape their own client-centric approach to the practice of law.



Mollie Duckworth of Baker Botts L.L.P.



Professor Beth Miller, JD '85



Tom Harris, JD '89, of Haynes and Boone, LLP



Josh Fogelman, JD '08



Aaron Von Flatern, JD '09



Paul Williamson, JD '85 of Burdett, Morgan, Williamson & Boykin, L.L.P.



StudentNOTES



Kristopher Ruiz, Emma Vyncke, and Rodrigo Carbajal



Lexie Ammons

Catherine Helm

Andrew Patterson

Daniela Vakulchik

The Summit Cup Mock Trial Competition

The team of Rodrigo Carbajal, Kristopher Ruiz, and Emma Vyncke won second place at The Summit Cup Mock Trial Competition hosted by the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. The team was coached by Baylor Lawyers Alli Szabo, JD '20, and Colin O'Neill, JD '85

The Battle of the Experts Mock Trial Competition

The team of Lexie Ammons, Catherine Helm, Andrew Patterson, and Daniela Vakulchik finished in third place at The Battle of the Experts mock trial competition, hosted by Drexel Kline School. The team was coached by Baylor Lawyers Cahal McColgan, JD '15, and Mark Altman, JD '16.



Award of Excellence In Appellate Advocacy Award

Recent Baylor Law graduate Andrew Swallows received the Award for Excellence in Appellate Advocacy from the Appellate Section of the State Bar of Texas



Kinsey Lakey

Nicho Stevens



Amanda Hildebrand

Michaelina Sirkel

Dawson & Sodd Fall Moot Court Competition

Amanda Hildebrand and Michaelina Sirkel were the winners of the 2021 Dawson & Sodd, LLP Moot Court Competition.

FINALISTS:

Hope Burkhalter and Victor Jarvis

SEMI-FINALISTS:

The teams of Jake Shultz and Ashley Zarate, and Jordan Dobbs and Ashley Cocklin

TOP SPEAKERS:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ashley Cocklin | 6. Reagan Hovey |
| 2. Kiala Ellingson (Tie) | 7. Ashley Zarate |
| 2. Michaelina Sirke (Tie) | 8. Steve Lowry |
| 4. Kyle Drott | 9. Jaymi Furniss-Jones |
| 5. Hope Burkhalter | 10. Dana Watkin |

FINAL ROUND JUDGES

SCORING JUDGES: Professors Michael Berry, Laura Hernández, Kayla Landeros, Luke Meier, Jim Underwood, Greg White, and winners of the 2021 Faegre Drinker Spring Moot Court Competition, Jean-Marie Anderson and Christine Barfield



Bailey Strohmeyer, JD '18, LL.M. '21, Israel Medina, Sarah Megan Erb, Tanner Scheef, and Matthew Vitale

National Pretrial Competition

The team of Tanner Scheef, Matthew Vitale, Israel Medina, and Sarah Megan Erb finished in second place at the National Pretrial Competition hosted by Stetson Law School. The team was coached by Baylor Lawyer Bailey Strohmeyer, JD '18, LL.M. '21.

Spring Mad Dog Mock Trial Competition

Kinsey Lakey was the winner of the 2021 Bob and Karen Wortham Spring Practice Court "Mad Dog" Mock Trial Competition. She received a \$7,000 prize given by Judge Bob and Karen Wortham and an 18" bronze statue of Matt "Mad Dog" Dawson.

FINALIST:

Nicho Stevens

FINAL ROUND JUDGES

PRESIDING JUDGE:

Robert Little,
Baylor Law Director
of Advocacy Programs

SCORING JUDGES:

Jessie Cox, JD '21
Jason Milam, JD '13
Jeanine Rispoli, JD '11

When Facts Become Figures

BY CHASE BAUMGARTNER, 3L AT BAYLOR LAW



Chase Baumgartner

Law students love the facts of the case. It's the story you get to tell as you steady your breath and prepare for the onslaught of questions your professor has prepared for as you stand, exposed and vulnerable, in front of

your classmates. In practice, these facts of the case are given a new name: clients.

This summer, I had the privilege to assist nine low-income, Texas clients through my internship with the Innocence Project of Texas. All of these clients shared a commonality in their cases, they have maintained their innocence despite being adjudicated as guilty. To help the falsely incarcerated, the Texas legislature enacted Chapter 64 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure to allow for post-conviction DNA testing. The thinking being that if the source of crucial biological evidence was determined not to exclude the convicted person, then the wrong person had been punished for the crime. While the legislature gave defendants this powerful tool, the legislature also placed a number of requirements about the condition and relevance of the evidence that must be met in order for the court to grant DNA testing. My duties this summer were largely to review client files for evidence that would meet these requirements and obtain a court order mandating that DNA testing be conducted.

This review included reading the laboratory reports, examining the evidence that was tested, the evidence that was not tested, the techniques used, and ultimately the results of the analysis. Then a lengthy

review of the trial transcript crafted a fuller picture of what and how the evidence was used against the client. I never expected that a simple DNA test could have identified the perpetrator in nearly half of the cases I reviewed.

The first case was a sexual assault from the late 1980's in which semen was indicated on the victim's body but was unable to be compared to the DNA of the defendant at the time of trial due to the infancy of DNA analysis. Without any scientific evidence, the State relied on the victim's identification of the defendant. Unfortunately, the victim had been blindfolded for the entirety of the assault. While no doubt performing her best, there is obvious concern over the reliability of her later identification of the defendant from a photo-lineup from inside the police station. Armed with this information, I drafted a motion for the court to grant DNA testing in order to corroborate or refute the blindfolded complainant's victim's identification.

Another defendant was implicated by a laboratory report that stated his DNA was found on a handgun used in a murder. In 2009, the laboratory reports supported that our client's DNA was on a weapon. In 2020, the lab issued a new report saying that the DNA profile could not be interpreted under new protocols and reported the profile as inconclusive. After reviewing the laboratory's current guidelines in the summer of 2021, I discovered that if the laboratory were to issue a new report, the DNA profile would actually exclude the defendant. I helped draft a motion to order the lab to re-report the DNA profile under 2021 guidelines, and we were able to obtain a DNA report that stated that the lab no longer believed the evidence supported the opinion that our defendant's DNA was on the weapon.

Another case involved a man convicted of a brutal murder in the early 1990's. The main physical evidence used against him at trial was a bloody jacket. The blood on the jacket was determined to be the same ABO blood type as the complainant. However, about half of the population at large also have that same blood type. To corroborate the weak scientific evidence, the State sponsored an eyewitness to the murder who testified that it was dark, he was a distance away from the crime, and he was high on Quaaludes at the time. A DNA test that could confirm or refute that the blood on the jacket belonged to the complainant could clear this matter up.

Unfortunately, the jacket had been lost for years. It was only by carefully reading a laboratory report, that I discovered the lab had taken and retained cuttings of the bloodstains from the jacket. I drafted an open-records request to the lab that my supervising attorney sent. The response came back: the lab still had the cuttings from the bloodstains available to test. While a far cry from proving the defendant's innocence, without this evidence, it would have been an impossibility. My supervising attorney requested I call the defendant and share the good news.

Upon hearing the news, the defendant stated that he had been praying for this for a long time. The tone of his voice was that this news was an answer to those prayers. Law students can think they're prepared for the rigors and stress of law school and being a lawyer, but no one warns you of the responsibility you'll feel when you become someone's angel. It's an emotional moment when the facts of the case become figures in your life. I was privileged and honored to be a valuable part of a few of these clients' stories, if even just for a summer.

The Fall 2021 Entering JD and LL.M. Classes



In the Fall of 2021, Baylor Law welcomed a new group of JD students and LL.M. candidates to the Sheila & Walter Umphrey Law Center. The JD class is one of the largest in Baylor Law's history. The group of LL.M. candidates consists of accomplished attorneys with years of impressive professional experience in the practice of law.

Graduation DAY



SUMMER 2021

Congratulations to the Baylor Law graduates of the summer 2021 Commencement ceremony! Dean Brad Toben presided over the ceremony and Baylor University Provost Nancy Brickhouse, Ph.D., conferred the degrees. Member of the class James Wilson gave the invocation and Matthew McKinnon addressed the graduates as the highest-ranking student. Professor Jerry Powell delivered an inspiring address and Provost Brickhouse, Dean Toben, Professor Leah Jackson Teague, and Senior Assistant Dean Angela Cruseturner presented the diplomas. Professors Jeremy Counseller and Jim Wren hooded the graduates.

AlumniNOTES

1960's

James Connelly, JD '66, was appointed as an associate judge for the city of Sugar Land Municipal Court.

1970's

Michael Heiskell, JD '74, owner of Johnson Vaughn & Heiskell in Fort Worth, was sworn in as First Vice President of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). He was recently elected to Baylor's Board of Regents for a three-year term.

Lyn Fenwick, JD '75, from Macksville, Kansas, shared news that her recently published book, *Prairie Bachelor: The Story of a Kansas Homesteader and the Populist Movement*, was named a Notable Book about Kansas for 2021 by the State Librarian of Kansas.

Jim Darling, JD '77, Mayor of McAllen, Texas, retired after 43 years of public service to the city. During his years of service to the City of McAllen, Jim served as city attorney, city commissioner, and mayor.

Allen D. Place, Jr., JD '79, was recently honored with the Percy Foreman Lawyer of the Year award by the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Within a year of graduating from Baylor Law, he opened Place Law Office in his hometown of Gatesville. Allen currently practices with his wife Tonya K. Place and his daughter, Shea E. Place. Allen has been active in his community for over 40 years, serving as Lions Club President and a deacon at First Baptist Church. From 1982 through 1990, he served as Coryell County Democratic Chairman and Gatesville Municipal Judge. Allen was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1990 and served there until 1999. In 1993, he was named the Chair of the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence. Allen was the House author of the Penal Code revision and was named one of the Ten Best Legislators during the 73rd session of the Texas Legislature in 1993. Allen has focused on parole law for the last 30 years and is currently in his 22nd year as senior legislative counsel for TCDLA.

1980's

Kathy Snapka, JD '80, was selected as the 2021 Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Texas Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates (TEX-ABOTA).

Jim Kennerly, JD '86, was named General Manager and CEO of the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association (MOCA). He joined the funeral, cremation, and cemetery company as its in-house counsel in 2011 before being named president in 2016. MOCA is the leading provider of funeral, cremation, and burial services in the greater Fort Worth area.

W. Lee Keeling, JD '89, serves on The University of Houston-Victoria President's Regional Advisory Board. Lee Keeling is a Brady native and has worked in Victoria as an attorney since 1993. Since 1995, he has been a partner of Walker Keeling LLP, focusing primarily on business and transactional law. In addition to working as an attorney, Keeling is a UHV adjunct faculty member and has taught business law courses for the past 14 years. He is a former director of the Victoria Sales Tax Development Corp. and served as chair of the Victoria Economic Development Corp. He is the current president of the City of Victoria Parks and Recreation Commission and is a board member of Hospice of South Texas and Mid-Coast Family Services. Other professional and community partnerships include the Victoria County Bar Association, DeTar Hospital, Prospera Housing & Community Services, and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid.

1990's

Hon. Lacy Britten, JD '91, Municipal Judge for the cities of Hurst and Euless was selected by the Texas Municipal Courts Association to receive the jurist of the year award.

Robert Cresanti, JD '91, has joined Accenture as managing director to lead government relations activities in North America. He will serve as head of Accenture's global Government Relations network.

David Clouston, JD '93, has been named to the 2021 Best Lawyers in Dallas list from the publishers of *D Magazine* based on his work in securities law.

Robert P. Lord, JD '94, with Ferguson Braswell Fraser Kubasta PC in Houston, was sworn in for his second two-year term as Mayor of the City of Bunker Hill Village, Texas. Prior to serving the city as Mayor, he was a council member for almost four years.

Rene E. De Coss, JD '95, was appointed Presiding Judge for the City of Brownville's Municipal Court.

Janet Hahn, JD '95, Decker Jones' shareholder, was named one of Fort Worth's most influential people by *Fort Worth Inc.* magazine. She also serves on the Board of Trustees of Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center, the Board of The Women's Center of Tarrant County, and the Tarrant County College Foundation. Janet is also a member of Women Steering Business, the nonprofit that raises money to buy livestock from girls who exhibit animals at the annual Fort Worth Stock Show. She teaches young children the Bible on Sundays.

Cindy V. Tisdale, JD '95, with the Law Office of Cindy V. Tisdale, PLLC in Granbury, was elected President of the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists for 2022.

Derek Gilliland, JD '98, will lead Sorey & Gilliland LLP's Intellectual Property practice in their new law office in Waco. He was recognized again in the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America legal guide for his personal injury work on behalf of plaintiffs.

Timothy Head, JD '98, executive director of the Faith and Freedom Coalition (FFC), a nonprofit organization based in Atlanta, received the 2021 Pro Texana Medal of Service from Baylor University. The Pro Texana Medal of Service is awarded to an individual whose contributions in furthering the mission of Baylor have made an immeasurable impact in the public or non-profit sector.

Rep. Craig Hall, JD '99, has been appointed judge of the 2nd District Court by Utah Governor Spencer Cox.

Laura Hilton Hallmon, JD '99, Partner at Cantey Hanger LLP and chair of the Labor and Employment Practice Group, has been elected to the Board of Directors of Meritas Law Firms Nationwide, a global alliance of independent law firms that serves the legal needs of companies doing business across markets. As a board member, she will participate in strategic planning, finance, development, member recruitment and retention, and the administration of Meritas' rigorous quality standards, which set the network apart from other legal organizations. She will serve a three-year term with 20 other attorneys from around the world.

2000's

Hon. Daniel O'Brien, JD '01, was appointed Judge of the Hays County Court at Law No. 3. He also serves as President of the Hays County Bar Association. Upon his appointment, he commenced closure of his private practice, Daniel O'Brien Law, P.C., a civil litigation and mediation firm.

Hon. Artie Renee Pobjecky, JD '01, has been selected as a federal immigration judge in Houston. After years of representing immigrants in legal matters from her Winter Haven, Florida, office, she will be assigned to removal proceedings for non-residents facing deportation.

Britta Stanton, JD '02, has joined the Castaneda Firm in Dallas as a partner. She currently serves as chair of the Court Advisory Committee for the Northern District of Texas.

Dan Sorey, JD '03, co-founder of Sorey & Gilliland, LLP in Longview & Waco, was recognized in the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America legal guide for patent and intellectual property litigation.

Gilland Chenault, JD '04, was appointed as the Presiding Municipal Judge for the City of Corinth, Texas. He previously served as the Associate Judge and Interim Presiding Judge. He also serves as an Associate Municipal Judge for several other cities in Denton County. He is the founder of the Chenault Law Firm, a multiple attorney firm focusing on estate, trust, and fiduciary litigation.

Lawrence Morales, JD '05, was named President of the San Antonio Bar Association. Lawrence is an attorney at the Morales Law Firm, P.C. where he practices litigation and labor and employment law. He is also an active Board Member of the Baylor Law Alumni Association.

Jennifer Seale Job, JD '07, counsel for ExxonMobil in Beaumont, Texas, has accepted an invitation to join the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), the preeminent invitation-only global legal organization for attorneys who represent corporate and insurance interests. She serves as the sole in-house counsel for the ExxonMobil manufacturing complex in Beaumont. She manages a broad range of issues including environmental and safety compliance, contractual matters, real estate, personal injury litigation, dispute negotiations, and labor and employment.

Kathryn Boatman, JD '08, counsel at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, was recognized by *Houston Business Journal* as a 40 Under 40 honoree.

Alex J. Bell, JD '09, is a founding member of Ziegler Gardner Bell PLLC in Dallas. The firm expands on its decades of success representing Architecture and Engineering (A&E) firms in all aspects of their day-to-day operations. The firm also has other industry clients in the construction, real estate, and insurance fields.

Angela M. Buchanan, JD '09, joined the Dallas office of Phillips Murrah P.C. with a focus on complex commercial litigation.

Jeffrey T. Fisher, JD '09, has been a Deputy Attorney General in the Correctional Law Section of the California Attorney General's Office since 2017. He was recently promoted to Supervising Deputy Attorney General.

2010's

Clay Allen, JD '10, has been promoted to General Counsel of the Houston Rockets. Clay began his career with the Rockets as a part-time Marketing Associate in 2001, working his way up within the organization for six years before leaving to attend Baylor Law. He returned to the Rockets as Associate General Counsel in 2013.

Terah Moxley, JD '10, joined The Simpson Tuegel Law Firm as Partner to focus on women's and victim's rights. Terah is Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. She has been recognized as a Texas Rising Star (2018-2021) and Up-and-Coming 50 Women Lawyers of 2021 by Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers by *D Magazine* and Best Lawyers in America 2021. She is a Fellow in the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, a member of the Dallas Bar

Association's WE LEAD 2020 class, a member of the Junior League of Dallas since 2014 (Board of Directors in 2020) and served as ex officio member of the Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas (2018-2019).

Callan Searcy, JD '10, has joined the Office of the Texas Attorney General in Austin as Assistant Attorney General, Bankruptcy & Collections Division.

Lanny Begley, JD '11, of Knapp Begley Law has been named in Top Attorneys in the field of Criminal Law by *Fort Worth Magazine*.

Bryan Bufkin, JD '11, has been appointed Judge of the 355th Judicial District Court in Hood County by Governor Greg Abbott. Bryan is a partner at Bufkin & Adams, PLLC., and previously served as an assistant district attorney for the Johnson and Somervell Counties District Attorney's Office. He is a volunteer coach for the Granbury Athletic Association and former member of the United Way of Hood County Board of Directors.

Hon. Nicholas Chu, JD '11, was named the 2021 Judge of the Year by the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association. He was also recently appointed by the Texas Supreme Court as a commissioner to the Texas Access to Justice Commission.

Erik Fuqua, JD '11, was promoted to Major in the United States Air Force. He completed a Masters of Laws in Government Procurement Law at The George Washington University Law School and currently serves as an acquisitions attorney at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia.

Hon. Lauren Sepulveda, JD '11, presiding judge of the McAllen Municipal Court, was elected Chair-Elect of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and will serve as Chair of the association during the 2022-2023 bar year.

Amanda Stephens, JD '11, is a partner at Orrick in Houston with a focus on public finance.

Kim Knapp, JD '12, of Knapp Begley Law, has been named to the list of Top Attorneys in the field of Criminal Law by *Fort Worth Magazine*.

Taylor Mohr, JD '12, merged the Mohr Law Group with Albin Oldner Law in Frisco, Texas.

Andrea M. Palmer, JD '13, has been named Vice President of Legal and Compliance for Higginbotham Insurance Agency, Inc. Andrea has also been elected to a two-year term as TYLA Director for District 10, Place 1.

Claire E. Carroll, JD '14, attorney at Munsch Hardt, was recently promoted from Associate to Shareholder. Her practice focuses on litigation in the following areas: Arbitration, Condemnation & Eminent Domain, Construction, Director & Officer, Real Estate, and Warranty.

Jacob Cole Jeffries, JD '14, has joined Orsinger, Nelson, Downing & Anderson (ONDA) in Frisco. Jacob is Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization & has earned a spot on the list of Texas Rising Stars each year since 2018.

Kyle Knas, JD '14, with Naman Howell in Waco, is now board certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Oliver Peter Thoma, JD '14, has been promoted to Senior Associate at King & Spalding LLP, and has transferred to the Houston office to further his focus on litigation in the energy, pharmaceutical, and medical device industries.

Ryan Luna, JD '16, has been appointed by the McLennan County commissioners as the first judge of the newly created McLennan County Court-at-Law No. 3. Ryan has worked for the Carlson Law Firm in Waco for the past five years. He also serves as the *pro bono* legal clinic director at Mission Waco, is on the Waco Transit Advisory Board, and is on the board of Care Net Pregnancy Center of Central Texas.

Gabrielle M. Shayeb, JD '16, was promoted from Associate Litigation Attorney to Senior Counsel at Martin, Disiere, Jefferson & Wisdom, LLP in Dallas.

Ryan Headley, JD '17, is now an associate practicing construction litigation at Bollier Ciccone LLP in Austin.

Shelby Raye Holt, JD '17, joined the Houston office of Winstead PC as an Associate in the Business Litigation Practice Group.

Jenny Roan Forgey, JD '18, with The Jones Law Firm, was named an *Austin Monthly* Top Attorney in Civil Law-Transactional for 2021.

Carlos E. Alferez, JD '19, has joined Bell Nunnally in Dallas as an associate and member of its Real Estate practice.

Joshua Dunegan, JD '19, joined Ford + Bergner LLP's Houston office as an associate in the Estate Planning and Administration Groups.

Joseph Shaneyfelt, JD '19, has joined Greenberg Traurig as an associate in the Litigation Practice Group in Austin.

2020's

Molly Maier, JD '20, has joined Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP in Houston as an associate.

Matt Morian, JD '20, practices with his father, Billy Morian, at Morian & Kahla Attorneys at Law LLP in Jasper, Texas.

Clayton "Reese" Turner, JD '20, is an attorney with Thomas J. Henry Law in Austin.

Katie Wolters Mayo, JD '15, LLM '21, was recently promoted to Senior Counsel at Thales Group, a French multinational company providing products and services to the technology, aerospace, defense, and security markets. Katie supports the Group's banking, payments, and mobile connectivity solutions business lines in the United States and Canada. Katie was awarded a Master of Laws in Litigation Management during the February 2021 commencement ceremonies at Baylor Law.



Remembering WALTER UMPHREY

1936 – 2021

BAYLOR LAW CLASS OF 1965

America lost a once in a generation trial lawyer on September 7, 2021. More than that, the world lost a larger than life Texan who was an entrepreneur, businessman, banker, conservationist, political activist, philanthropist, mentor, sportsman, friend, husband, father, and grandfather. Walter Umphrey is survived by his loving wife and partner of over sixty-one years, Sheila. He also is survived by his son Bart and daughter-in-law Laurie, and his daughter Paige and son-in-law Darren. Walter and Sheila have eight grandchildren whom they love dearly: Brooke, Macy, Luke Thomas, Lindsay, Randy, Madison, Cooper, and Jaclyn.

Thomas Walter Umphrey was born May 13, 1936 in Port Arthur, Texas, and passed away peacefully at the age of 85. Born of modest means, Walter embarked upon a journey to fulfill his life's passions leaving behind many friends, a loving family, and a legal legacy which literally changed the world. Anywhere this force of nature went, he made lifelong friends. Whether it was the best of times or the worst of times, Walter never forgot his friends or where he came from. Following graduation from Thomas Jefferson High School and with a scholarship in hand, Walter set off to SMU to play the sport that he loved his whole life—football. Walter believed that all sports instilled a form of discipline necessary to succeed in life. At one point in this vibrant journey, Walter drove to Crystal Beach to meet a beautiful, intelligent, and spirited young lady named Sheila McCarthy. They married in 1960 and Sheila quickly became an integral part of the Umphrey family success. It is this true love partnership that guided them through the years.

Between college and law school, Walter earned tuition money by working as an insurance adjuster. It was during this time that a mantra was forged deep inside of him. He vowed to never represent an insurance company when he became a lawyer. He wanted to help the underdog. He also forged an unbroken bond with Baylor Law. Walter and Sheila loved Baylor Law passionately.

“Walter had a rough exterior and a ‘brass tacks’ demeanor. That exterior was matched with a heart of empathy and understanding for the plight of the less fortunate. The likes of Walter will not pass this way again.”

— Brad Toben
Dean of Baylor Law

Sheila even worked at a Waco bank to make sure the tuition was paid. Fifty years later, the great Baylor Law center bears their name.

To paraphrase Bobby Kennedy, some people see things as they are and ask why, Walter looked at the world and asked why not? He then stormed into action. Why not justice for all? Walter spent his entire legal career fighting for the rights of the marginalized and disenfranchised, giving convincing voice to the powerless. He was their champion for justice. Why not opportunity for all? Walter fought for anyone, regardless of where they started, to have the

God given right to work hard and succeed. He did not care about a person's background but only that they were passionate about issues and they valued hard work to get great results.

Why not bring jobs and economic opportunity to Southeast Texas? Against all odds, Walter and Sheila built successful banks, real estate developments, decorating companies, car and motorcycle dealerships, and nurseries and greenhouses that sold plants and flowers all over the world. And of course the law firm that started in a small office off 39th Street in Port Arthur with David Provost and whose impact and victories literally changed the legal landscape-worldwide.

After law school, Walter worked for the Jefferson County District Attorney's office advancing quickly to Chief felony prosecutor putting the most violent criminals away. There he learned how to try cases. He understood the 7th Amendment and its guarantee of the right to trial by jury. And juries so loved Walter. His imposing presence and down to earth demeanor led juries to listen and act on what Walter needed them to do.

In the 70's and 80's, Walter led the law firm Provost Umphrey in taking on the asbestos and benzene industries. He and the firm fought tooth and nail for the victims and their families. In the end, the action of Walter and Provost Umphrey led to the establishment of protections for the workers of those industries. Walter also fought for unions and their workers, helping thousands earn a fair wage and enjoy a safer workplace.

In the 1960's through the 1980's, representing injured people was not popular among rich and elite lawyers and representing the poor and disenfranchised was looked upon equally disapprovingly.

These lawyers put up every hurdle imaginable against Walter. But Walter never cared what others said or thought. The barriers thrown his way motivated him further to stand up and speak louder for the injured and unfortunate. He lived his legal life according to Sam Houston's mantra, "Do right and risk consequences." He stood up for cancer victims, burn victims, refinery victims, maritime accident victims, as well as those who were discriminated against on the basis of race, sex, age, or religion. If the law said that an employer could penalize their employees unfairly, Walter would instruct his own lawyers to, "Go change the law so that folks are treated right." He didn't care what the costs were. He simply wanted justice to prevail.

Walter won every honor that a legal legend could receive—far too many to list—but Walter didn't care much for individual accolades. All he cared about was that he was a trial lawyer from Southeast Texas who never stopped fighting for justice.



In the 1990's, the state of Texas came calling, looking for a transformational leader to take on the undefeated tobacco industry. Walter asked his firm who wanted to put up millions in expenses and years of work to take on an industry that had never paid a dime in settlements. The answer was thunderous silence, but no lawyer could turn down Walter on this historic fight. Walter was never one to walk away from a challenge to justice regardless of the cost. Walter put together and led a Dream Team to take on Big Tobacco and it was a monumental battle. The effort required tens of millions of dollars, moving away from Southeast Texas for years, and battling the toughest and richest legal opponent in the world. The end result was that the citizens of the State of Texas received a world record 17.1 billion dollar settlement and the industry changed their advertising practices for the better—goodbye Joe Camel.

This benefited every Texan. Walter did right and risked the consequences. Before Warren Buffet's call to give back to the community, Walter was already giving. There were public donations that benefited the entire community and donations to needy folks that were never publicized. Walter had a heart of gold and led with philanthropic gifts which greatly impacted Southeast Texas. When Lamar University wanted to bring back football, the band, women's soccer, and softball, as well as transform itself into a top tier university, Walter, Sheila and Provost Umphrey Law Firm led the way with significant donations. This resulted in Provost Umphrey Stadium and the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Center. Tens of thousands of students continue to benefit from their generosity.

When Baylor Law was looking to provide a first-class facility for its students, Walter and Sheila led the way. Their generous donation allowed Baylor Law to build the breathtaking Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center—educating the best and the brightest on the banks of the Brazos River. When Baylor University built a new football stadium for the Baylor Bears, Walter and Sheila's generosity literally built a bridge over the Brazos to that sparkling new stadium.

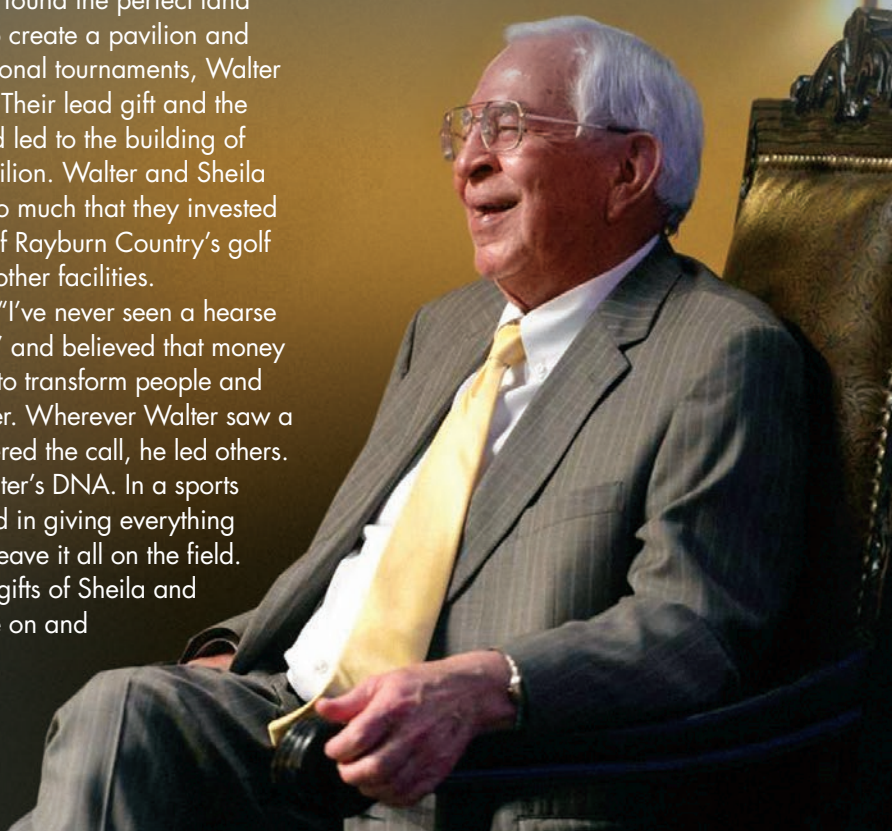
Walter was an avid sportsman. When his friend, Governor Ann Richards, appointed him to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, Walter passionately fought for the rights of hunters and fisherman while maintaining a healthy wildlife population. He loved this job. When he saw that Southeast Texas needed better fishing facilities, Walter and Sheila led the way. They purchased land off Mesquite Point in Port Arthur and donated it to the public. The result—The Walter Umphrey State Park. Thousands of fisherman use these facilities every year.

When bass fisherman found the perfect land on Lake Sam Rayburn to create a pavilion and park that could host national tournaments, Walter and Sheila led the way. Their lead gift and the fundraising that followed led to the building of the Umphrey Family Pavilion. Walter and Sheila enjoyed Lake Rayburn so much that they invested greatly in the upgrade of Rayburn Country's golf course, restaurant, and other facilities.

Walter had a saying, "I've never seen a hearse with a U-Haul behind it," and believed that money was a means to an end to transform people and communities for the better. Wherever Walter saw a need, he not only answered the call, he led others. Inactivity was not in Walter's DNA. In a sports analogy, Walter believed in giving everything you have to a project—leave it all on the field. The many philanthropic gifts of Sheila and Walter Umphrey will live on and benefit millions forever.



Walter was a boy from Port Arthur, Texas, that worked his way into advising presidents, senators, governors, NFL & MLB team owners, sports stars, CEO's, and even a queen. He built a successful law firm, banks, ranches, nurseries and greenhouses, and so much more. More importantly though, Walter built relationships and lifelong friends. He was able to relate to everyone because of his common humanity. Walter never forgot where he came from and he and Sheila never forgot their friends or their hometown area. Walter kept the faith. He was a trail-blazing champion of the working man. Thomas Walter Umphrey was a once in a generation, transformational leader. This world will never see another like him.



Alumni OBITUARIES

Walter Hugh Harrell, JD '50, of Lubbock, was born May 29, 1924, in Waco, Texas, to his parents Walter and Eula Harrell and passed away on March 30, 2021, in Longview, Texas.

Hugh was a World War II veteran serving his country as a surgical tech in Paris, France. After the war, he graduated in 1950 with his law degree from Baylor Law. In 1951, Hugh moved to Lubbock, Texas, and set up his own law firm—practicing there from 1951-2014. He participated in the community serving on the Board of Directors at GirlsTown located in Whiteface, Texas, and was active in the Lubbock Kiwanis Club. Later, he assisted young law students by holding Mock Court at Texas Tech University.

Hugh had two great loves in his life: his wife, Dorothy and all things Baylor Bears. He met the love of his life, Dorothy Howell, whom he married in 1955, sharing 65 years of happy marriage. The couple raised their three children in Lubbock. They were long time members of the First Baptist Church of Lubbock. Hugh passed down his interest of hunting, fishing, and playing tennis to his children. He enjoyed coaching Dixie Little League baseball and basketball. Hugh and Dorothy enjoyed being with their Lubbock friends playing bridge and dancing the night away in the Terpsichorean Dance Club. They enjoyed traveling the world taking cruises and tours.

A. W. Hodde, Jr., JD '50, lifelong resident of Washington County, Texas, was born November 17, 1925, and died August 11, 2021. After graduation from high school, Hodde enlisted in the U.S. Navy and graduated as Valedictorian of his Gunner's Mate School. He was assigned to the U.S. Hugh W. Hadley DD-774, a destroyer, and his ship received the Presidential Unit Citation for shooting down 23 Japanese planes in one day on May 11, 1945, off Okinawa, Japan. After his discharge from the Navy, Hodde attended Blinn College, the University of Texas, and graduated from Baylor Law School. He then entered the practice of law with his father. He was appointed County Attorney of Washington County, Texas, and served for five years. He then resigned and entered the practice of law as a sole practitioner until his nephew, L.J. Lacina, Jr., obtained his law license and practiced with him until Hodde's retirement in 1994.

Hodde served as president of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, Exalted Ruler of Brenham Lodge 979 BPO Elks, president of the

Sons of Hermann, and was on the boards of directors of The First National Bank of Brenham and Blue Bell Creameries for over 25 years. Hodde believed in education, and in 2009, he and his wife Virginia partnered with Blinn College in Brenham, Texas, to create the A.W. Hodde, Jr. Technical Education Center, which provides workforce training for Blinn students. In 2010, he was inducted into the college's Hall of Honor, earning person of the year recognition.

Robert Louis "Bob" Schwarz, JD '55, passed away on July 21 at his home in Belton, Texas. He was born to Billie Irene (McCaslin) and Arthur Edgar Schwarz on November 29, 1929, at his grandparents' home in Mercedes, Texas. He was raised on a farm owned by his father and grandfather and spent countless hours working on the farm. He graduated from Mercedes High School in 1948.

During the summer of 1949, a young ministerial student from Baylor University, came to work at the First Baptist Church in Mercedes and befriended Bob. One Sunday near the end of the summer, the ministerial student convinced Bob to enroll at Baylor. Bob went home, packed up his car with everything he thought he would need and left for Baylor the next day. In his sophomore year, following the outbreak of the Korean War, Bob joined the Air Force ROTC. Shortly before the start of his senior year at Baylor, Bob enrolled in Baylor Law, where he quickly found one of his life's passions—the practice of law. Bob graduated from law school in 1955 and served as co-editor of the *Baylor Law Review*. In the fall of 1952, Bob met the love of his life, Bette Lu Nichols. They were married on May 30, 1953, and were blessed with sixty-three years of marriage.

After graduating from law school, Bob was assigned to the U.S. Air Force Base in Harlingen, Texas, as a member of the Judge Advocate General (JAG). After serving with JAG for two years, Bob joined the McAllen law firm that ultimately became Atlas, Hall & Rodriguez where he practiced law throughout his entire career. Bob was active in his community. He served on the board of directors for the Rio Grande Children's Home, Buckner Baptist Children's Home, and the Salvation Army. Bob was also the President of the McAllen Lions Club and a Deacon at First Baptist Church, McAllen. Bob was a charting member of the Baylor President's Club.

Sports were also one of Bob's life-long passions. While at Mercedes High School, Bob played football, basketball, and pole

vaulted for the track and field team. Bob attended the first Baylor football game at Floyd Casey stadium in 1950 and he attended the last game at the stadium, sixty-four years later, on December 7, 2013. He also attended many football games, including the first one, at the new McLane Stadium. In addition, Bob attended countless Baylor men's basketball and women's basketball games in the Ferrell Center. He watched Baylor tennis matches and became a fan of Baylor women's soccer when his granddaughter joined the team. Bob's love for Baylor University and Baylor Law trickled down to his family; all three of his children attended Baylor or Baylor Law and three of his five grandchildren went to Baylor.

David Duane Adams, JD '61, passed away May 8, in Nacogdoches, Texas. He was born August 12, 1934, to David Walter and Minta Cleo Adams in Alto, Texas. Reared in Nacogdoches, he graduated from Nacogdoches High School, Class of '51, and Stephen F. Austin State University, BBA, in 1954. After graduating, David went on active duty in the U.S. Navy. He and Eloise Chambers of Nacogdoches were married in the chapel at Moffett Field, California, on February 22, 1957. Upon release from active duty, he entered Baylor Law School and earned an LLB degree and a law license in 1961. David remained in the U.S. Navy Reserve, continuing to serve as an intelligence officer, and retired with the rank of Commander USNR in 1976.

David practiced law in Snyder and San Antonio before returning home to Nacogdoches in 1966. He enjoyed the private practice of law for over fifty years, serving as District Attorney (1969-1977). David was licensed to practice law by the Supreme Court of Texas, admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Military Appeals, and was certified by the U.S. Navy, both as Trial and Defense Counsel. Memberships included being a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary International, and over fifty years as a Master Mason and 32nd degree Scottish Rite of Freemasonry since 1963.

Damon Grant Cook, JD '61, of Houston, passed away on March 13, at the age of 83. Grant was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on March 27, 1937, to his parents W.E. Buster Cook and Edith Lorene Cook. A graduate of Beaumont High School in 1955, Grant attended

Tulane University and Baylor Law where he earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1961. For the ensuing sixty years, Grant served as a civil trial lawyer in Houston. Over the course of his career, he represented a number of Fortune 500 companies, as well as property owners, individual investors, and banking organizations in the capacity of both plaintiff and defendant. Prior to his death, he was a member of The Faubus Firm. Grant was admitted to practice law by the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits, and the Texas and New York Bar Associations. He was admitted as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and as an Associate in the American Board of Trial Advocates as well as various local and state bar associations. He was recognized on numerous occasions for his work in the field, earning the title of one of the Best Lawyers in Texas by the *Wall Street Journal* and inclusion into publications including *Who's Who in American Law*, *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*, and *Who's Who in America*. Grant considered among his most satisfying accomplishments the friendships and relationships he developed over his many years as a mentor and counselor for many of his colleagues, particularly younger lawyers beginning their careers. Grant was a long-time member of the Chapelwood United Methodist Church and greatly enjoyed participating in the bible studies group and the interactions with his fellow members. Grant was a member of the Tejas Vaqueros for 38 years and a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity since 1955.

Floyd Allen Landrey, JD '61, of Kingwood, died Friday, February 12, 2021, at home surrounded by family. He was born on August 7, 1934, in Morris, Oklahoma, to Fred and Maude Harbison Landrey. When Floyd was 12 years old, he and his family moved to Okmulgee, Oklahoma, after his father was hired as foreman of the 10,000-acre Baker Ranch.

In high school, Floyd was chosen by Senator John Russell to serve as a page in the Oklahoma State Senate. After graduating from Okmulgee High School, the Baker Ranch was sold and the family moved to Groves, Texas. Floyd attended Lamar University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. After graduation, he married Wanda Anita Cruse on September 27, 1957. Less than a month later, Floyd was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served for two years.

Alumni OBITUARIES

After his discharge, he was accepted at Baylor Law where he received his juris doctor degree in November of 1961. After graduation, he and his wife moved to Beaumont where he worked for a short time for the Texas Highway Department in the Right-of-Way Acquisition Department. He then served as First Assistant Beaumont City Attorney. In 1968, he and Attorney Ray Moore formed the Moore, Landrey, Garth and Jones Law Firm. Floyd was a 32nd degree mason and a member of the Beaumont Lodge 286 for fifty years. When Floyd retired in 2012, he and his wife moved to Kingwood, Texas.

Col. W. Hays Parks, JD '66, passed away on May 11. He was born in Jacksonville, Florida. He graduated from Lee High School in Jacksonville, as well as Baylor University and Baylor Law. Col. Parks entered federal service in 1963 as a commissioned officer in the Marine Corps. His initial service was as a reconnaissance battalion platoon leader. He served in the Republic of Vietnam (1968-1969) as an infantry officer and senior prosecuting attorney. He served as the first Marine Corps Representative at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, U.S. Army; as a congressional liaison officer for the Secretary of the Navy; and as Chief, Law of War Branch, Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy. After leaving active duty, Col. Parks remained in the Marine Corps reserves attaining the rank of Colonel. He was instrumental in the development of a law of War Program to assist the training of Marine commanders and their staff, as well as judge advocates. During his military service, including his reserve career, he earned Navy-Marine Corps, Canadian, and British Parachutist wings, U.S. Army Master Parachutist wings, and 82nd Airborne Centurion wings.

In his civilian capacity, Col. Parks served as the Special Assistant to the Judge Advocate General of the Army for Law of War Matters from 1979 to 2003. He was a legal advisor for the 1986 air strike against terrorist-related targets in Libya and had primary responsibility for the investigation of Iraqi war crimes during its 1990-1991 occupation of Kuwait. He served as a legal adviser for U.S. Special Operations Forces from 1979 until his retirement. He served as a U.S. delegate for law of war negotiations in New York, Geneva, The Hague, and Vienna. He was instrumental in the negotiation of several important treaties, such as the Blinding

Laser Protocol. In August 2003, Col. Parks joined the International Affairs Division, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Defense. He chaired the Department's Law of War Working Group from 2003 until his retirement in October 2010. Col. Parks occupied the Charles H. Stockton Chair of International Law at the Naval War College for the academic year 1984-1985. In 1987, he was a staff member on the Presidential Commission established to examine alleged security breaches in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Col. Parks also testified as an expert witness in cases against terrorists both in the United States and Canada. Col. Parks lectured at the National, Army, Air Force, and Naval War Colleges; the military staff colleges; other military schools; and at U.S. and foreign military units. In 2001, he became the sixth person in the history of U.S. Special Operations Command to receive that command's top civilian award, the U.S. Special Operations Command Outstanding Civilian Service Medal. In 2006, he was awarded the U.S. Special Operations Command's Major General William F. Garrison Award for a career of service to Special Operations Forces. In 2016, Col. Parks was awarded the NDIA Small Arms Group's Gunnery Sgt Carlos N. Hathcock Award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions in operational employment and tactics of small arms weapon systems that have impacted the readiness and capabilities of the U.S. military. Hays Parks was a man of profound courage. There are countless U.S. service members alive today because Col. Parks put more accurate, reliable, and effective ammunition into their hands and the hands of their fellow warfighters.

William Thad "Tal" Roberts, III, JD '66, passed away peacefully on June 26, surrounded by his loved ones. Tal was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on December 8, 1942 to Thad and Kitty Roberts. He was big brother to his much-loved sisters, Cindy and Sybi. The son of a music minister and children's choir director, Tal's life was marked by a great love of music and a steady, enduring faith. After graduating from Lamar High School in Houston in 1960, Tal went on to Baylor University. He earned both an undergraduate and law degree from Baylor, but more importantly, it's where he met the love of his life, Nancy Curtis. They married in September of 1966 and had two daughters, Jennifer and Rebecca, both of whom thought the world of their

dad. Tal joined the FBI after law school and he and Nancy spent time in Ohio and Illinois before settling in Dallas in 1969. Tal joined The Baptist Foundation of Texas (now HighGround Advisors) in 1969 as an associate in the legal division and was then later promoted to Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, serving until his retirement in 1997.

After retiring, Tal was privileged to have the opportunity to focus on some of his favorite things like birding, traveling, reading, going to the symphony, singing in his church choir, and spending time with family and the countless friends he made during his lifetime. In the year 2000, however, his first of seven grandchildren were born and being "Gramps" instantly became his new favorite thing. He loved his grandchildren dearly and they loved him back. One of his favorite places to spend time with them was in New Harbor, Maine, where he and Nancy visited each summer for over twenty years. Throughout his life, Tal found great joy in giving of his time, talent, and treasure. He was a friend to all and left us with a lasting example of what it looks like to live with a servant's heart.

Gayle Miller Albritton, JD '69, passed away on January 24, 2021, in Rockwall, Texas. She was a fiercely loyal, wickedly smart, proudly loud-talking, liberal politics-spouting activist, lawyer, Christian, wife, mother, and grandmother. Gayle firmly believed we are our brother's keeper. She is survived by her husband of fifty-three years, John, her son Eric and daughter-in-law Michelle, her daughter Amy and soon to be son-in-law Jonathan, and the loves of her life that made her Gigi: Grace, Luke, Jackson, and Griffin.

Abelardo Flores, JD '71, was born on December 13, 1934, in Granger, Texas. He died peacefully at home on May 28, 2020, in Duncanville, Texas, surrounded by prayers, hugs, and his family. Abelardo grew up on a farm in Granger picking cotton, milking cows, raising pigs, and attending school. A prolific reader, family and friends often affectionately referred to him as "El Profe" (The Professor). He graduated from Granger High School and moved to Austin, Texas for college. He earned his BBA in Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin School of Business Administration in 1961. He proudly served in the U.S. Army, as an MP. He was the right-hand man to his commanding officer who valued

his foresight, guidance, and counsel. He was an instrument in the ground-breaking success of Tejano music's Zarape Records, providing financial consultation and marketing ideas. The record label touted several artists such as Little Joe, Augustine Ramirez, Ruben Ramos, Joe Bravo, Shorty & the Corvettes, and several other artists. While consulting for Zarape records, he attended St. Mary's University School of Law and ranked in the top 10% of his class. He received his law degree from Baylor Law School and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1971. He was in private practice as an attorney in Dallas, Texas, from 1971 to 2020. In a time when there were few Spanish speaking attorneys in DFW, he blazed a trail serving primarily the Latino community while being an inspiration and mentor to countless professionals. He was a man of outstanding moral character who truly cared about his clients. Abelardo married his one true love, Carmen Cancino, whom he had met in Austin at an Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Jamaica. Abelardo and Carmen celebrated sixty-one years of marriage. They were always together and worked side by side in Abelardo's law office for forty-nine years. He and Carmen also started ACAR Income Tax & Bookkeeping Service. The growing success of this business enabled Abelardo to support his wife and their six children. It also empowered him to complete law school and provide college educations for his wife and children. Abelardo was a loving husband, a loving caring encouraging, supportive father, and had close relationships with his children and grandchildren. He forged significant relationships with his friends and family.

Michael "Mike" Brooks Calliham Sr., JD '72, of College Station, passed away peacefully on June 18, surrounded by friends and family. Mike was born in Hobbs, New Mexico, on January 31, 1945, to Frances Brooks and Melvin Ray Calliham. He attended elementary and junior high school in Canyon, Texas, and then moved to College Station to finish high school at A&M Consolidated in 1963. He served as Senior Class President and was a five-sport letterman in football, baseball, basketball, track, and golf. Mike married Peggy Ames in November 1964 and they had two sons, Michael Brooks Calliham Jr. and Sean Patrick Calliham, who were the pride and joy of his life. Mike attended and graduated from The University of Texas in Austin in 1967 and went on to get a

law degree from Baylor Law in 1972. He then returned to College Station to practice law. In addition to his law practice, he was elected Justice of the Peace and served in that role for fourteen years. Later Mike began teaching government at Blinn College and immensely enjoyed his students and classes. During these years, he also served as Associate Judge for the City of College Station Municipal Court. He loved softball and played into his 50's with local teams.

Hon. Susan Stephens, JD '73, passed away at home in Gatesville, on Sunday, August 1. Susan was born on July 3, 1947, to the late Dr. Otis Carter and Hazel Meharg Ray in Gatesville, Texas. She was a member of the class of 1965 of Gatesville High School. Susan followed her father and attended Baylor University and graduated in 1970. Susan then completed her Juris Doctor at Baylor Law in 1973. She practiced a couple of years in Post, Texas, before moving to Copperas Cove in 1976. Susan practiced in Copperas Cove from 1976 to 1993 before she served as the County Court of Law Judge for Coryell County. During her tenure, she proudly served the residents of Coryell County in a firm, fair, and just manner. She held this title, with honor, for eighteen years before retiring in 2011. In 1978, Susan married Floyd Craig Wininger and they shared twelve years together until his untimely death. These twelve years were filled with some of Susan's best memories. Susan served her community in many ways to include being a former member of the Exchange Club in Gatesville. She will be remembered for her love of all things Baylor, her dry, witty sense of humor, love of family and friends, her beloved "Baylee", and of course, the law.

George T. Bond, JD '74, of Spring, Texas, passed away January 3, 2021. He was born May 6, 1941, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to the late Paul W. Bond and Joyce Roberta Ramsey Bond.

George's family traveled the rodeo circles in his early years. They moved to Carlsbad, New Mexico, where his dad worked for a boot maker. His dad and mom decided to move to Nogales, Arizona, and opened their own Custom Boot company, Paul Bond Boot Company. George worked with his father at Paul Bond Boots while attending college at the University of Arizona. He decided to pursue a career in law and attended Baylor Law in Waco. Upon graduation with high honors, George

worked as a defense attorney in Arlington, Texas. While working at the Arlington law firm, George and then wife, Jennifer, adopted a son, Paul W. Bond, named after George's dad. Shortly after Paul was born, George accepted a job with ExxonMobil as a Contractual Lawyer. George retired after thirty-five years with ExxonMobil and continued to work for them for another ten years as a contractor.

George married Joan Ross Bond in April 2003. They shared a lot of common interests: the theaters of downtown Houston, baseball games with grandsons' teams, traveling as much as possible, visiting families in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Ohio. George was a life-long mentor for grandson, Wesley, beginning in his elementary years while Wesley's dad was in the Marines. George served in the U.S. Navy for four years right out of high school and Wesley is now following in his footsteps stationed in Norfolk, VA. George made friends easily and loved to carry on discussions with topics of the day. His wonderful smile and easy laugh will be remembered by all.

Hon. Toby Goodman, JD '74, of Mansfield, TX, passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 18. Toby was born in Wichita Falls on November 2, 1948. He was the first born of Dobbie and Johnnie Goodman's five children. Toby grew up in Wichita Falls and after graduating from Hirschi High School in 1967, he attended TCU, earning his BA in 1971. He then continued his education at Baylor Law, earning his JD in 1974. Toby's long and distinguished law career began in 1974 as a City of Arlington Assistant Attorney. In 1977, he left the City Attorney's office to enter private practice as a family lawyer, an area that he continued to work in until his passing. During his law career, Toby served as Director for both the Tarrant County Family Bar Association and the Arlington Bar Association. He also had a long and distinguished career as a public servant that began with his service as an Adjunct Professor at UTA from 1974 to 1984. Toby faithfully served the cities of Arlington and Mansfield as state representative for District 93 from 1991 through 2007. His substantial legislative accomplishments reflect his intellect and work ethic, as well as the respect he enjoyed among his colleagues. He was loved for his sense of fairness and world class sense of humor. He was a pioneer in juvenile justice reform, working to rewrite the code in 1995. These changes were considered landmark and have been used as a model

around the country. Toby was a tireless advocate for Family Law in the legislature, rewriting much of the Family Code. He was a steadfast advocate for the City of Arlington and the City of Mansfield. While in the Texas Capitol, Toby fought for more support for UTA from the UT System to become a Tier 1 institution, increased support for development and research, secured funding for the ERB building, and in 2004 was named a UTA Honorary Distinguished Alumni. During his tenure as state representative, he served on numerous committees and taskforces. Among some of these committees, he served as Tarrant County Civil Justice Task Force chairman, House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues chairman and vice chairman, Governor's Juvenile Justice Taskforce chairman, and Attorney General's School Violence Task Force chairman. His numerous honors include being named among the Ten Best Legislators by Texas Monthly, Ten Best Legislators in the Family Law Section from the State Bar of Texas, Legislator of the Year by the National Child Support Enforcement Association, Legislator of the Year by the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards and a Tarrant County Family Law Bar Association Certificate of Distinction. Toby was known for his love of TCU football, his contagious laugh, traveling, fine dining, researching history (particularly Biblical history), devotion to family, telling stories, and taking care of people.

James Eugene "Gene" Clack, JD '76, joined Jesus in Heaven. Gene loved to sing. He sang all kinds of songs. He sang Happy Birthday to everyone and now he is singing with the Heavenly Hosts praising Jesus. Gene loved Jesus and his family with his whole heart. Gene was a friend to everyone and would tell anyone about our Father God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Gene entered this world in El Paso, TX, on January 17, 1953, and went to heaven from Canyon, TX, on June 23, 2021. He called Andrews his hometown and graduated from Andrews High School in 1971. Black and Gold were the colors to wave until he went to Baylor where he waved the Green and Gold. He graduated from Baylor Law in 1976 and began his law practice in Crane, TX, where he practiced both civil and criminal law and was the Crane County Attorney for many years. As his love of people divulged into the community, he was involved in the Crane Volunteer Fire Department, Lions Club, and wherever there was a need. A move to Ballinger, TX, kept him on his toes with

a civil and criminal practice. He loved the people in Ballinger and was active in the Rotary Club, serving as President twice, and with the Ethnic Festival.

Gene loved the outdoors as he loved living in the country. He loved the generational family ranch out from Talpa, TX, where he wanted his body to rest. The Talpa ranch was a place to play, hunt, fish, remember his grandparents, or just sit and enjoy the quietness. Gene made the decision to move to Canyon when his family needed more help. He traded fifty-five acres for a neighborhood. More than practicing law, the Black and Gold, the Green and Gold or the Talpa Ranch, he loved his family.

Dennis A. Fuller, JD '80, of Dallas died on November 12, 2020. He was born February 22, 1955. Dennis grew up in Waxahachie, Texas, and was a 1977 graduate of Baylor University and a 1980 graduate of Baylor Law. Dennis began his career representing the State of Texas as a Dallas County Assistant District Attorney trying misdemeanor and then felony criminal cases. Over the years, his practice became increasingly family law oriented. Dennis was a FAA Certified Commercial Drone Pilot and the only drone based FLIR Level 1 Certified Thermographer in North Texas. Dennis was a member of the Plano Rotary Club from 2009-2016.

Passionate about conservation, Dennis was an avid hunter. He joined Dallas Safari Club (DSC) as a Life Member in 2008 and volunteered at the DSC convention as an essential part of the Silent Auction Committee, and at the SAFETY Extravaganza as a youth rifle instructor. He also served on the DSC board as a Vice President in 2014-15. Additionally, he was a member of Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation (OTF). He served as Secretary of the OTF board from 2016-19 and was an active volunteer for OTF's annual fundraiser, Rendezvous of the Guardians.

Andrew "Andy" Joseph Hix, JD '80, passed away on August 20. He was born on August 13, 1950, to Herschel Wayne Hix and Delores Deas Davis in McAllen, Texas. He grew up in Anchorage, Alaska; Lompoc, California; and Allendale, New Jersey, before settling in Richardson, Texas. He then attended North Texas University where he met his wife, Martha. After graduating he obtained his juris doctorate from Baylor Law. Martha and Andy were married forty-six years during which time they built a family, a life

Alumni OBITUARIES

and a law practice. They had two children and three grandchildren. Andy enjoyed being a father and “G-Daddy.” From building a balance beam for his young gymnast daughter to baking boards for his son’s karate competition to building a custom pink and purple swing for his first granddaughter, Andy always tried to make his family’s dreams come true. He also served in many civic organizations like Berges Fest, Rotary, Kendall County Bar Association, and numerous school boards and nonprofits.

Nick D. Woodall, JD ’80, passed away May 21, 2020. He was a well-read man who was dearly loved as a husband, father, son, brother, teacher, friend, and follower of Jesus Christ. Born in Ladonia, Texas, on April 22, 1956, Nick was the first of three sons born to Don Woodall and Toni Stancil Woodall. The family moved frequently, settling ultimately in Rockwall. Nick graduated from Mesquite High School and attended East Texas State College, now Texas A&M University Commerce.

Transferring first to Texas Tech, he had what he called a “Road to Damascus” experience on the way and changed his major from architecture to law. He then transferred to Baylor University, where he was awarded a Finance degree and entered law school. After graduating with his JD, Nick took a job with Fanning & Harper, a Dallas insurance defense firm, and decided over coffee with local Rockwall officials to run for District Attorney of Rockwall County. It was at this time that two Southern Methodist University Law students clerking at Fanning & Harper arranged for him to meet their classmate, Nancy. Nick and Nancy were married in the midst of his campaign, a few short months before he became the youngest elected prosecutor in the State of Texas. After one very eventful term as District Attorney that included death threats to his growing family, Nick left politics for private practice. Several years later, he left law practice for financial planning, which he then left to pursue oil and gas services and development, real estate, and other investments with two of his good friends. Nick and Nancy chose a “road less traveled” and educated their four children at home. Surrounded by a small but strong community of other home school families at LakePointe Church, the family enjoyed the adventures of learning and serving together, often in church ministries and missions. Nick served as an elder at LakePointe, taught several classes, and led or participated in trips to China and Ghana, usually

accompanied by at least one of his children. He and his family also were affiliated for a few years with the church alternately known as Emmaus and Reach.

Nick’s hope in life and death was not in his own education, works, or accomplishments, but in the finished work that his Jesus accomplished at the cross. His trust that his Heavenly Father accepted him fully and loved him deeply motivated his many pursuits in life and gave him courage in the uncertainty of the last few months.

Bonnie Lindsey Johnson, JD ’84, passed away on October 17, 2020. Born April 19, 1958, in Buffalo, New York, Bonnie was always proud and passionate about her heritage as the daughter of English emigrants. A longtime member of Mensa, Bonnie graduated from Reed College in Portland, Oregon. She obtained her JD from Baylor Law on full scholarship and graduated with honors. Bonnie was an active member of the Texas and Nevada Bar Associations. Bonnie practiced Bankruptcy law in three cities and two states for over thirty years. She and her late husband, John Vernon Johnson, Jr., shared a total of three successful law practices. Bonnie continued to practice bankruptcy law until 2019, when she retired and planned a move to the UK. With her endless work ethic and philanthropic heart, Bonnie led a remarkable life. Bonnie will be deeply missed by her family and friends and will always be remembered for her strength, grit, caring heart, and fierce individualism.

Marcus “Mark” Lee Dobbs, JD ’85, of Houston, passed away on February 17, 2021. Mark was born in Midland, Texas, to James and Billy Dobbs. At a young age he moved with his family to Irving, Texas, and then later to Houston, where he attended high school at Spring Woods High School. He was active in Boy Scouts, debate, and the high school marching band. Mark attended Baylor University, where he received his bachelor’s degree in 1981 and his JD in 1985. After graduation, Mark served as a congressional aid to U.S. Congressman Bill Archer.

Mark was an active member and deacon of Spring Woods Baptist Church. That is where he met his future wife, Janet Brown. They were married in June of 1999. He worked in the Houston City Attorney’s office for twenty-six years practicing labor law. Mark was a voracious reader, enjoyed spending time with family and was a fierce competitor in Trivial Pursuit. He was a leader

in his neighborhood civic association and for the last few years enjoyed volunteering at the Alley Theater in downtown Houston. In his later years, Mark also became more active in his church with a passion for developing the church library and documenting the church’s history.

Brian Wesley Portugal, JD ’05, passed away on May 12. He was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas where he represented the government in direct criminal appeals and post-conviction litigation. Born in Dallas, Texas, on August 27, 1980, he graduated from Crowley High School in 1998, where he was captain of the tennis team. Brian entered TCU and graduated in 2001, *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in history and political science and was in the Graduate of Distinction Program in Political Science.

Following graduation from TCU, Brian entered Baylor Law where he earned his JD in 2005. He was a Senior Executive Editor of the *Baylor Law Review*. During the course of his study at Baylor, he served as a teaching assistant to Professor David Guinn, his constitutional law professor. Brian established lifelong collegial relationships while at Baylor. In 2005, Brian clerked for the Honorable H. Dale Cook, Senior Federal District Judge in Tulsa Oklahoma. Judge Cook’s judicial temperament proved invaluable to Brian throughout his career. During his clerkship, he was an Adjunct Faculty Member at the University of Tulsa College of Law. He authored a judicial profile of Judge Cook which was published in *The Federal Lawyer* in 2008. Brian relocated to Houston in 2006, to clerk for the Honorable Thomas M. Reavley of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He honed his legal skills to the extent that the judge often referred to him as “Judge Portugal.” Judge Reavley’s penchant for addressing the specificity of the law in all circumstances had a profound impact on Brian. Prior to joining the USAO, he was employed as a Special Assistant United States Attorney and Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, the Dallas County Public Defender’s Office, and Meadows Collier Reed Cousins Crouch & Ungerman. He was a consummate student of the law and Board certified in Criminal Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Valued colleagues described him as a go-to person, someone who gave straight answers and sound advice, a lawyer who was wicked smart,

a fabulous writer, and who had a clear sense of justice. Others lauded him for his brilliant legal mind and self-deprecating sense of humor, as helpful and trustworthy, and whose word was gold. He was a very giving person with a big heart who lived to make a difference in everything he did.

Brian met his bride, the former Shannon Sanders in August 2007 and they were married on September 25, 2010. Creative and talented, he was a fun-loving person with a remarkable sense of recall, a wonderful cook, and a zealous baseball fan. A lifelong Episcopalian, he was baptized and confirmed at The Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Dallas. He was a lay Eucharistic minister at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth.

Steven David Einhorn, JD ’08, of New York City, passed away on July 13. Steven was born July 22, 1977, in La Mirada, California, to David and Peggy Einhorn. He graduated with a Bachelor’s in History from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He then continued his education and earned a Masters of Divinity from Master’s Seminary and then a Juris Doctorate from Baylor Law. To complete his education, he earned an LLM in Tax from New York University. Steven was a partner at Brown Rudnick LLP and a member of the firm’s Tax Practice Group. He focused on a broad range of executive compensation and employee benefits matters, particularly in the context of mergers, acquisitions and other forms of business transactions and reorganizations. Steven also advised tax-exempt organizations and executives of tax-exempt organizations in compensation and benefits issues. Prior to joining Brown Rudnick, Steven was a member of Proskauer Rose and Weil Gotshal. Steven authored and co-authored numerous publications and because of his strong reputation, he was named “Rising Star” by Super Lawyer in the area of employee benefits.

Steven was determined and could accomplish anything he set his mind to. He loved to learn. He could often be found listening to podcasts, researching whatever topic that may have come to mind that day, watching his beloved Los Angeles Lakers, or spending time with his family, whom he loved. Steven was an active member of Redeemer Presbyterian Church. He was a phenomenal storyteller and had an incredible sense of humor. Fiercely loyal to those around him, Steven was a good friend to everyone he met. To know Steven was to love him. His faith and his family were his worlds.



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