

# Baylor Law

DOCKETCALL

Summer '22

the   
Write  
Stuff 



*Baylor Law's  
Legal Writing  
Program*





# BAYLOR LAW *Legacy* CHALLENGE

One of the cornerstones of Baylor Law's high profile is the support it receives in the form of generous gifts. Join the Baylor Law Legacy Challenge and your gift can receive a boost of up to \$25,000.

Choose to designate your match for immediate use to your favorite existing fund or support priority funds such as the Student Summer Stipend Program, the 19th Amendment & Beyond Fund for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiatives, the Trial Advocacy Program, the Business & Transactional Law Program, or the *Pro Bono* & Public Service Program.

## Are You up for the Challenge?

Contact **Stephanie Mabry**, Director of Development for Baylor Law at [Stephanie\\_Mabry@baylor.edu](mailto:Stephanie_Mabry@baylor.edu), call 254.710.8540, or visit [Baylor.edu/Law/Legacy](http://Baylor.edu/Law/Legacy) to find out how.

## BAYLOR LAW WELCOMES Stephanie Mabry

A graduate of Baylor University, Stephanie Dunnam Mabry joined Baylor Law as its Director of Development in the Spring of 2022.

Stephanie spent many years living, working, and studying abroad – including teaching English in Thailand, earning her master's degree in the Netherlands, and spending two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Bulgaria.

Since returning to her hometown of Waco in 2012, she has been a committed advocate, fundraiser, and spokesperson for several

local non-profit organizations with a focus in girls' leadership, healthcare, and grant making.

Learn more about Stephanie and how she can assist you with your philanthropic giving!

**Scan the QR code to the left.**





# Baylor Law

Volume 152  
Summer 2022

## DOCKETCALL

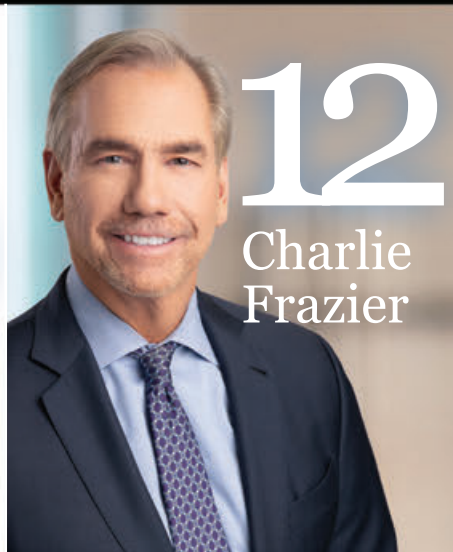
BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL  
ALUMNI MAGAZINE



### Alumni Profiles



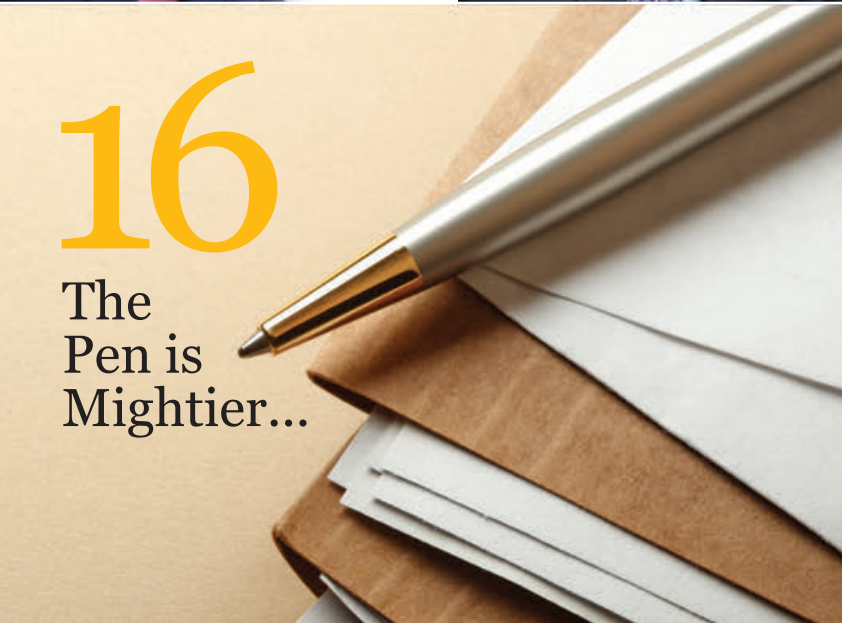
Saba Syed



Charlie Frazier



Kirk Pittard



# 16

The Pen is Mightier...



To Lead is to Serve

# 22

## 2

DEAN'S LETTER

## 19

COMMENCEMENT

## 20

ALUMNI NOTES

## 24

@BAYLOR LAW

## 28

ALUMNI OBITUARIES

## 30

STUDENT NOTES

## 32

FACULTY NOTES

Back Cover

HISTORY ON DISPLAY

© Baylor University School of Law.  
All Rights Reserved.





# 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 the first law school 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.

### EDITORS

Ed Nelson, Nick Teixeira

### DESIGN AND ART DIRECTION

Seedhouse Creative

### CONTRIBUTORS

Mike Berry, Kristine Bridges, JD '03, Matt Cordon, Julie Corley, Angela Cruseturner, JD '02, Lee Anne James, JD '02, Kayla Landeros, JD '08, Ed Nelson, Nick Teixeira, Brad Toben, JD '77

### CONTRIBUTING DESIGNER

Nick Teixeira

### CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Ed Nelson, Nick Teixeira

### BAYLOR LAW ADMINISTRATION

Brad Toben, JD '77, Dean  
Patricia Wilson, Associate Dean  
Angela Cruseturner, JD '02, Senior Assistant Dean

### FULL-TIME FACULTY

Jessica Asbridge, Larry T. Bates, Michael Berry, Joshua G. Borderud, JD '09, Matthew C. Cordon, W. Jeremy Counsellor, JD '00, Whitney Crayton, Thomas M. Featherston Jr., JD '72, Elizabeth M. Fraley, JD '88, Bridget Fuselier, JD '98, Christopher Galeczka, Laura A. Hernández, Chris Jaeger, Lee Ann James, JD '02, Rachel Kincaid, Kayla Landeros, JD '08, Robert Little, JD '05, Luke Meier, Elizabeth S. Miller, JD '85, Connie Powell Nichols, Susan Kelley-Claybrook Ortiz, JD '85, Allen Page, JD '10, Tabitha Patterson, Brandon D. Quarles, Brian J. Serr, Stephanie Tang, Leah Jackson Teague, JD '85, James Underwood, Greg White, JD '82, James E. Wren, JD '80

### 2022 BAYLOR LAW

#### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Cynthia Clack, JD '78, Odessa  
PRESIDENT  
Hon. Christine Nowak, JD '05, Sherman  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
Dick Tye, JD '89, San Antonio  
PAST PRESIDENT

### 2022 BAYLOR LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cynthia Clack, JD '78, Odessa  
Glenn Cunningham, JD '90, San Antonio  
Spencer Edwards, JD '97, Houston  
Caren Lock, JD '95, Dallas  
Faith Johnson Lowry, JD '15, San Antonio  
Lawrence Morales, JD '05, San Antonio  
Susan Moore, JD '90, Austin  
Hon. Christine Nowak, JD '05, Sherman  
Jessica Schwartz, JD '16, Dallas  
Ronnie Turner, JD '10, Houston

Nonprofit postage paid in Waco, Texas  
Please send address changes and correspondence to:

**Docket Call, Baylor Law**  
One Bear Place #97288  
Waco, TX 76798-7288  
254.710.1911 phone  
254.710.2316 fax  
law\_alumni@baylor.edu



*A Message from*  
**Dean Toben**



As you may know, Baylor is at the heart of the substantial economic and infrastructure development that is unfolding in the City of Waco and beyond. All around us, dramatic changes are occurring as our city grows and expands. The signs of new construction, demolition, and reconstruction are everywhere. New businesses and new roadways are popping up far and wide.

Sometimes as I sit in a traffic slow-down caused by the construction on Interstate 35, I pause to think of the immensity and complexity of the project around me. The endless meetings, decisions, materials, and plain hard work that are needed to develop a project of this magnitude is staggering. Change is never easy, but I know that our city, its citizens, and the tourists that now crowd the city will be the beneficiaries when a given project, and dozens of others like it, are complete.

This issue of the *Docket Call* describes a significant change to Baylor Law's legal writing program. The change occurred following a thoughtful assessment and design effort, with input from my colleagues, our students, our alumni, and our friends in the bar. We heard that, even with the unparalleled preparation for real-world lawyering that our students get at Baylor Law, many had not received enough training and practice in developing the writing skills that the practice demand.

I also remind you—the thousands of Baylor Lawyers who receive our quarterly *Docket Call* magazine and monthly *Rocket Docket* email—that we love hearing from you.

We take great pride in the work and impact of our alumni. You can quickly and easily send us a note about your career, family, volunteer work, or anything else you'd like to share at [Baylor.edu/Law/AlumniNews](https://www.baylor.edu/Law/AlumniNews).

Just as I-35 has expanded as it cuts its way through the city of Waco, we have expanded and sharpened our legal writing program so that over time, it has come to impact every aspect of our students' Baylor Law experience. Training in effective legal writing permeates our curriculum from orientation through Practice Court... and beyond. Good lawyers must be good legal writers, and our resource-rich legal writing program has become a point of pride.

I hope you'll indulge me as I push this metaphor just a bit further. We know that I-35 will never be 'complete.' There will always be someone working to improve or expand the highway along its 500-mile journey through Texas. In the same vein, we will never consider our writing curriculum 'complete.' As with every program at Baylor Law, we will continue to improve our offerings so that every Baylor Lawyer is a powerful, persuasive, and effective written advocate upon graduation.

All my best,



**Brad Toben, JD '77**  
DEAN OF BAYLOR LAW





# the Write Stuff



Legal writing has been around for centuries, but it has been during the past couple of decades that Baylor Law faculty, alumni, and students have worked together to elevate it to an art form.







## You can tell a lot about Sameer Hashmi (JD '16) simply by noting the year he graduated from Baylor Law.

With no other clues available, a fellow alum would quickly surmise that he has an aptitude for pithy legal writing. That's because Hashmi, like hundreds of similarly trained Baylor Law graduates, is the product of an intensive, multi-decade campaign by Baylor Law to make its legal writing program one of the best in the country. The effort to revamp the program started around the time Hashmi, now an attorney with Sanders Bajwa LLP, was in grade school.

Speaking in the unembellished language of someone who spent three years learning how to budget words and boil ideas down to their purest form, Hashmi's assessment of what makes good legal writing is succinct.

"Good legal writing is clear and concise," Hashmi said. "It gets to the point."

**M**any generations before law schools adopted terms like "practice-ready" and "practical lawyering," Baylor's rigorous law program was equipping students with the problem-solving techniques and hands-on lawyering skills necessary for them to succeed in the profession.

But more than 20 years ago, Baylor Law's faculty began to recognize a need to make changes in the legal writing program. They understood that this shift in priorities was necessary if future graduates were going to meet (and exceed) the changing needs of the legal profession. Their decision to focus on making students better writers has proven to be farsighted. The legal industry now relies more heavily on written communication than ever before.



Although the wheels of change were set in motion many years ago, Baylor Law's legal writing program has grown exponentially over the past decade alone. Baylor Law Professor Jim Wren (JD '80), who is the Leon Jaworski Chair of Practice and Procedure, said that a pattern began to emerge during conversations with experienced lawyers: none of the law schools were doing an adequate job of teaching good legal writing skills. By making it a top priority to train better writers, Baylor Law seized on an opportunity to set itself apart from other programs.

"As we conducted multiple focus groups with Baylor Lawyers 10 years ago, it became clear that law firms were seeing a need for improved legal writing from all law schools," Wren said. "We listened, and Baylor Law recruited an incredibly experienced legal writing team. We have seen transformational legal writing results in the Baylor Practice Court program."



## Putting Words Into Action

After collecting input, faculty members partnered with Baylor Law alumni to begin the task of designing a leading-edge but practical writing program from the ground up. Dozens of people shared their observations on what Baylor Law needed to do to ensure that every graduate had the ability to produce thoughtful, accurate, and detailed written legal materials. The program design team identified specific goals and milestones that all students must achieve during their three years of writing instruction. They concluded that all Baylor Law students must be able to:

1. Organize their thoughts and reasonings about legal issues
2. Show proficiency in legal research
3. Express their analysis and conclusions credibly
4. Design documents using an appropriate format
5. Effectively communicate through objective and persuasive writing, in the appropriate context, for specific audiences and purposes

One of the ways Baylor Law distinguishes itself from other schools can be seen in how its legal writing program and writing requirements are fully integrated into the curriculum. Legal Writing is woven throughout all three

years of legal training, study tracks, and degree programs. Legal writing and research assignments are designed collaboratively between the writing faculty and faculty members who teach other courses. There isn't a time during their three years of training at Baylor Law when students are not expected to improve their legal writing skills by building on concepts they've already mastered. From the time they enter the Baylor Law program until the moment they walk out of the Umphrey Law Center for the last time, students are supported by a team of coaches—faculty and staff members with a wealth of real-world experience—who guide their legal writing education.

## A Competitive Edge

Three years of classroom instruction represents only one half of Baylor Law's overall effort to teach strong legal writing skills. Its two flagship legal writing competitions serve as examples of the program's initiative to support classroom learning through real-world practice opportunities.

125+  
years

*of real-world legal  
writing & teaching  
experience*

## Meet Baylor Law's Legal Writing Faculty and Staff

*Though their goal is to train powerful written advocates, their true motivation comes from a love of teaching.*



**MATT CORDON,  
JD, MS**  
Director of Legal Writing

In addition to directing Baylor Law's legal writing program, Cordon teaches Advanced Legal Research

and the LARC 1, 2, 3, and 5 courses. He has also taught an undergraduate course in legal writing in Baylor's English department as part of its Professional Writing and Rhetoric program. Cordon is a prolific writer, having authored numerous articles, book chapters, and essays and co-authored three books. He is the principal writer of more than 3,800 encyclopedic essays for publications such as *West's Encyclopedia of American Law*, *Gale Encyclopedia of Everyday Law*, and *the Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court of the United States*. His many honors include a national award from the American Association of Law Libraries for Outstanding Article and a pair of faculty awards from Baylor University: Outstanding Professor for Scholarship in 2004 and Outstanding Professor for Teaching in 2019. When he's not teaching or writing, Cordon enjoys watching the Dallas Cowboys and participating in martial arts. He has earned black belts in Brazilian jiu-jitsu and taekwondo, taking gold in Austin's 2011 Amateur Athletic Union National Championships.



**T**he Ultimate Writer Competition is an internal contest geared specifically to Baylor Law students, while The Paper Chase Legal Writing Competition draws participants from the other nine law schools in Texas—Baylor Law students do not participate in The Paper Chase as competitors. Both competitions are designed to expose students to the challenges of processing large quantities of information and developing an effective legal document based on their analysis—all done against a tight deadline.

Both events, held annually, are in their sixth year. With the number of competitors continuing to grow, the contests now attract more than 60 entrants. They are also regarded as being unique among law competitions for their substantial prize pools: The Paper Chase awards prizes totaling \$7,000, and The Ultimate Writer offers a \$10,000 prize pool.

These competitions are generously supported by Charlie (JD '86) and Lisa Frazier through their Endowed Fund for Excellence in Writing; the law firm of Durham, Pittard & Spalding LLP; and FVF Law.

## On the Right Course

Under the direction of Professor of Law Matthew Cordon, Baylor Law's legal writing program offers various course options that prepare students for legal writing work in both litigation and transactional matters. Several courses have a transactional emphasis, requiring students to complete projects and assignments built around scenarios like the creation or sale of a business or the delegation of an estate. Other courses take a deep dive into litigation documents, such as pleadings, motions, and subpoenas.



*Baylor Law students receive formal legal writing instruction during each of the three years of the program and during 75% of their law school careers.*

## Required Courses

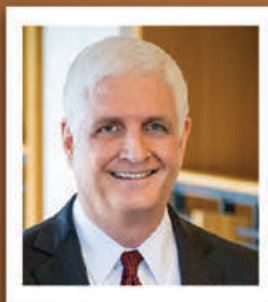
Baylor Law students take five required legal writing courses, collectively identified as Legal Analysis, Research, and Communications (LARC).

### **LARC 1: INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL WRITING, PART 1**

In LARC 1, students learn the fundamentals of legal writing and problem solving. Faculty members introduce students to important characteristics that separate legal writing from other forms of writing. Also covered are the mechanics of legal writing, the organization and structure of legal reasoning, and the importance of clarity and specificity in good legal writing. At the end of the quarter, students draft and revise an objective office memorandum.

### **LARC 2: INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL WRITING, PART 2**

Building on skills they learned in the first quarter, students receive comprehensive training in legal research and proper citation formatting. Students also get practical instruction in research and objective analytical skills. The quarter culminates with students drafting and revising a research memorandum.



**MIKE BERRY, JD**  
Legal Writing Lecturer

Mike Berry first joined Baylor Law in 2009 as the director of the Career Development Office, helping students explore career opportunities

and develop employment strategies. He began teaching legal writing through a course in appellate advocacy and procedure (now LARC 3) in 2011. He currently is primarily responsible for coordinating all sections of LARC 3, and he also teaches LARC 5.

Berry serves as faculty advisor to the Harvey M. Richey Moot Court Society, which sponsors Baylor Law's semiannual internal moot-court competition associated with LARC 3. Berry came to Baylor after 22 years of private practice with Thompson & Knight in Dallas, Texas. During his time at TK, Berry was actively involved in associate development and was recognized by the firm's trial associates in 2005 for his mentoring activities.



## LEE ANN JAMES, JD '02

Legal Writing Lecturer

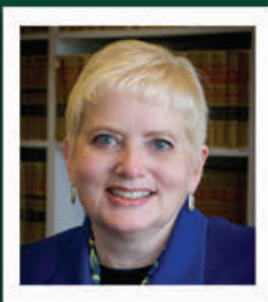


After beginning her career at Naman, Howell, Smith & Lee in Waco, and spending more than 10 years in private practice, Lee Ann James joined Baylor Law teaching legal writing in 2016—first as an adjunct professor and then as a full-time legal writing lecturer starting in 2019. Her

teaching focuses on litigation drafting, as well as LARC 3, 4, and 5 courses. In addition to coaching moot court teams, James has also developed the Advanced Discovery Management course, which she teaches to students in their second quarter of Practice Court. Since 2015, James has also worked for the Office of the General Counsel on a contractual basis.

## SUSAN KELLEY-CLAYBROOK ORTIZ, JD '85

Legal Writing Lecturer



After graduating from Baylor Law in 1985, Susan Kelley-Claybrook Ortiz started her legal career at Haley & Olson in Waco, where she specialized in civil appellate law. She taught legal writing and Law and Medicine as an adjunct professor in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In

2013, she returned to Baylor Law to help Professor Matt Cordon with the LARC program. She also reunited with her former law partner, Professor Jim Wren, and joined the Practice Court instruction team as they intensified their focus on written advocacy, as well as oral advocacy.

## KAYLA LANDEROS, JD '05

Legal Writing Lecturer



Kayla Landeros began teaching Baylor Law as an adjunct professor in 2018 and joined as a full-time lecturer in 2020. In the fall of 2021, Landeros developed and taught a new 3-hour elective class focused on contract drafting and negotiation techniques in a transactional practice. The

course is now offered twice a year, in the fall and spring, for students interested in refining their transactional drafting and negotiation skills. She is currently senior counsel of West, Webb, Allbritton & Gentry, where she focuses on government and regulatory law. Prior to joining Baylor Law, she served as city attorney for the City of Temple, Texas. She is active in many professional and community-focused organizations.

### LARC 3: PERSUASIVE COMMUNICATION

The program's third quarter introduces the concept of persuasive communications within the context of appellate advocacy. Students research, draft, and rewrite an appellate brief and compete in a mandatory intrascholastic moot court competition.

### LARC 4: TRANSACTIONAL DRAFTING

During the course, students obtain an awareness and understanding of a transactional environment, analyze commercial issues, recognize negotiation points, and learn to draft legal documents and correspondences in a business setting. The course is designed for students to understand the structure, content, and meaning of basic contract terms, to be able to draft and analyze a simple agreement and evaluate its effectiveness for a client's needs, to advise a client on the terms of an agreement, and to amend a basic agreement.

### LARC 5: LITIGATION DRAFTING

Second-year students learn to draft specific litigation-related documents, building on the fact pattern used in LARC 4. Assignments focus on developing well-rounded legal communicators who can tailor their writing to a variety of audiences. This includes pleadings, motions, responses, client communication, and communication with opposing counsel. Each project involves a draft, peer review, conferences, and a rewrite to develop proper form and persuasive content.



## Practice Makes Perfect

Every Baylor Lawyer knows that Practice Court represents the pinnacle of the Baylor Law experience. This rigorous litigation training simulation is a unique learning opportunity for future lawyers, teaching them time management, efficiency, stress control, evidence, procedural rules, litigation drafting, motion practice, and advocacy skills. Each student prepares for real-world practice, whether it's as a negotiator, counselor, or litigator. The modern Practice Court experience includes a wide range of writing assignments, including pretrial motions, bench briefs, discovery matters, and expert issues. The writing faculty are directly involved in creating the writing prompts, reviewing student assignments, judging hearings, and giving every student feedback throughout the experience.



## Great Challenges Yield Greater Results

The fruits of Baylor Law's ambitious plan to build a top-notch legal writing program are now being realized in hundreds of different ways. Competitive and moot court teams are consistently winning accolades for their writing skills. The legal community is giving positive feedback on Baylor Law students participating in internship, externship, and clerkship programs. The same can be said about firms who have hired recent graduates—Baylor Lawyers have developed a reputation in the industry for exceeding expectations. Most importantly, there is a growing sense of confidence that every Baylor Lawyer is heading into the job market with the ability to produce quality written legal communications.



The path to obtaining these results hasn't always been an easy one. Baylor Law students have been challenged to meet a higher set of standards than those by which their peers are measured. In short, Baylor Law faculty members demand a lot from their students. They give them tough assignments and offer direct, unvarnished feedback, simulating the conditions graduates will routinely face in a busy legal office or courtroom.

While admitting that the program often pushes the limits of their mental and physical endurance, Baylor Law students also recognize the genuineness of their instructors' care. Sameer Hashmi affirms this belief, recalling Professor Cordon's all-out efforts to help his students succeed.

"He didn't just assign stuff and give you red ink," Hashmi said. "He would make himself available on weekends or late afternoons or evenings to meet individually with every one of his students. This dedication resulted in better instruction, critiques, and advice."

In terms of describing the overall Baylor Law experience, that gets right to the point.

### BRANDON QUARLES, JD , MS

Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law



Having earned his juris doctor degree from the University of Mississippi in 1993, Brandon Quarles entered private practice in Dallas. He later returned to school to earn a Master of Library Science degree from the University

of North Texas in 1995. He worked briefly as a reference librarian at the University of Richmond School of Law before coming back to Texas to work at Baylor in 1998. He has served as director of the Sheridan & John Eddie Williams Legal Research and Technology Center for the past 20 years. Quarles teaches all of the second-quarter research classes in the LARC program. He has co-authored three books with Matt Cordon, including *Researching Texas Law* (4th ed. 2019), *Specialized Topics in Texas Legal Research* (2005), and *Legal Research for the Texas Practitioner* (2003). He serves as faculty advisor to the Baylor Law chapter of the Christian Legal Society and stays regularly involved in various ministry and global missions activities.

### GREG WHITE, JD '82

Senior Legal Writing Lecturer



Greg White has taught appellate and litigation writing and worked with Baylor Law's moot court program for more than two decades. He joined the faculty as a full-time legal writing lecturer in early 2016.

He currently teaches the LARC 3 and 5 courses and the Supreme Court Seminar. White coaches several moot court and mock trial competitive teams.

In addition to his faculty role at Baylor Law, White is of counsel at Gray Reed. He was Board Certified in Civil Trial Law for more than a decade and has served as lead counsel in more than 50 cases. He has argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the Supreme Court of Texas, and most of the intermediate courts of appeal in the state of Texas.



# Words Fail Me

*Motivated to improve her own writing, Saba Syed (JD '13) has helped influence the future of legal writing at Baylor Law.*

A little more than a decade ago, Saba Syed learned an important lesson about the power of words. It was the summer of 2011, and Syed had just completed a judicial internship for Senior District Judge A. Joe Fish of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas. The lesson came in the form of a tersely worded critique from her supervisor, only five words in length: “Your writing could be clearer.”

While other young interns might have bristled at the criticism or simply brushed it off, Syed accepted it as a challenge. As resolved as she was to improve, she couldn't have predicted that her quest to become a better writer would one day influence the training of thousands of Baylor Law students. Nonetheless, those five words set Syed on a course that ultimately led her to fulfill a critical role in improving Baylor Law's legal writing curriculum.

A Fort Worth native, Syed knew long before she left for college that she wanted to be a lawyer, serving as an advocate for others.

“I just knew that was the path for me,” Syed said.

Now a partner at Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP, Syed studied Arabic at the University of Texas as an undergraduate and then qualified for a government scholarship to live in Egypt for a year. Afterward, she returned to Texas to study at Baylor Law, fulfilling an ambition she had carried with her since high school.

SABA  
SYED





When she learned that her writing needed improvement, Syed attacked the problem with the same conviction that drove her to pursue a law career.

“I really took those issues to heart because I wanted to be better,” Syed said. “It was one of those critiques where I knew that if I didn’t fix it, it would be a problem that followed me throughout my legal career. I was determined to find a way to become a better writer.”

The critique couldn’t have come at a more opportune time. While Syed was seeking to improve her personal writing, Baylor Law was searching for ways to improve its writing program, a response to law professionals who were pointing out the less-than-adequate writing skills of young lawyers.

With guidance from Professor Matt Cordon, who is Baylor Law’s Director of Legal Writing, Syed undertook an independent study to develop a curriculum that would eventually become the LARC 4 and 5 advanced legal writing classes.

“During the process, I created the syllabus but was also assigned reading materials,” Syed said. “There were a lot of books that Professor Cordon recommended and other books that I found. We added those to

the syllabus so I would have more opportunity writing, reading, and learning how to become a better writer.”

Reflecting on her Baylor Law experience, Syed recalls a favorite memory involving her participation in the Emory Civil Rights and Liberties Moot Court Competition on a team coached by Professor Bates. Joined by teammates Anna Williams (JD ’13) and Sarah Scott (JD ’13), the team received recognition for “Best Brief.”

“I believe that we won largely because of my work with Professor Cordon in the advanced legal writing class,” Syed said. “I still remember the nights spent working on the brief with my moot court partners, going back and forth hashing out the arguments and redlining.”

More than ten years have now passed since those five little words of constructive criticism launched Syed’s determined effort to become a better writer. But single-minded determination is a theme that has defined much of Syed’s life; the professional recognition she has received during her career reflects a dogged will to succeed.

Named to *The Best Lawyers in America’s* “Ones to Watch” list two years in a row, Syed is also one of *D Magazine’s* “Best Lawyers Under 40 in Dallas.”

Her passion for advocacy, first sparked as a young high school student, also continues to be a guiding influence. Syed currently works *pro bono* cases for the Human Trafficking Legal Center, helping victims pay off civil judgments through the seizure of property belonging to their jailed human traffickers.

Professional accomplishments notwithstanding, Syed speaks of her Baylor Law experience with modesty and gratitude. She is especially appreciative of the support she received as she pursued a course of self-improvement.



“I think back with respect on my time with Professor Cordon and the advanced writing class. I so appreciate having a professor who went above and beyond to help me become a better writer,” Syed said, recalling that Cordon made time in an already busy schedule to help her put together a syllabus and grade her papers. “He did it with the same enthusiasm and excitement that I had. It was such an honor to work with someone who has a genuine passion and enjoyment for their work.”



# The Unsuspecting Writer

*Charlie Frazier (JD '86) didn't want to be a lawyer when he was growing up. He was not a gifted writer, and he was afraid of public speaking. He much preferred math and science, but God had other plans for him.*



**T**hanks to some talented, caring teachers and a series of unsolicited speaking engagements over his formative years, Charlie Frazier learned how to express his thoughts through the written and spoken word. He enjoyed when his writing communicated effectively, so the reader understood not only his words, but his intent.

Frazier still didn't want to be a lawyer, though—he considered it a “dishonorable” profession for a time, although now, he considers it to be one of the most principled. Much to his surprise, as a sophomore at Baylor University, he felt called to stay in Waco, Texas, and attend Baylor Law.

He attended Baylor Law from 1982 to 1986, taking a 15-month gap as a Rotary International Foundation scholar to earn a master's degree in International Relations at the University of Kent at Canterbury. During his time at Baylor Law, he served as Notes and Comments Editor and Associate Editor on the *Baylor Law Review*, and took every transactional law class he could. He became a Baylor Lawyer and began his career at a law firm doing trial

work, but after two years, Frazier found that something was missing. He missed writing.

When a position in the appellate law group at his firm opened up, he found the passion he'd been missing. “After the first oral argument and brief, I was hooked,” he said. “It matched my skills. I think it was God's plan all along, in terms of that experience and the opportunities.”

Now, more than 30 years later, Frazier is an attorney at Alexander Dubose & Jefferson, an appellate law firm based in Texas. He has successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court and in many cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, the Supreme Court of Texas, and he has appeared in all 14 intermediate Texas Courts of Appeals.

“I write for a living,” he said. “Trial lawyers do too, but as a board-certified appellate law specialist, that's what I do. I'm still learning with every brief, and I hope each one is better and more effective than the last. That's what keeps the practice of law fun.”

Frazier exhorts writing as a lost art form that is incredibly valuable, not only in law, but in the world.





Lisa and Charlie Frazier

“Clarity of thought and effectively communicating the truth of the facts and the law is paramount,” he said. “To have clear, unambiguous writing benefits everyone in the practice of law.”

So when Dean Toben approached Charlie and his wife Lisa about underwriting an intra-school writing competition, The Ultimate Writer, it struck a chord. The couple believed in the concept and its goals to foster and enhance the legal writing of future Baylor Lawyers. The Fraziers decided to underwrite the competition through the Charles and Lisa Endowed Fund for Excellence in Writing at Baylor Law. The competition began in 2017, and Frazier continues to lend his expertise by judging the work of the top contenders each year.

“There’s no greater use of one’s time, rather than their private worship time, than investing in the lives of others. In my case, it’s my spouse, children, grandchildren, and friends,” Frazier said. “For me, what little I am doing to give back to Baylor is an extension of that. I enjoy it, whether it’s assisting younger attorneys at my firm, or helping other attorneys who are not specialists. It’s something I do gladly. It’s doubly rewarding and desirable because these are Baylor Law students.”

# CHARLIE FRAZIER



# Appellate Attorney, Entrepreneur & Pilot:

## *Pittard* Makes an Impact

*One of the cool things about what Kirk Pittard, JD '99, does for a living, if you ask him, is that in his practice, he is able to have an impact on law in the state of Texas.*

KIRK  
PITTARD



“**T**he cases that I brief and argue in the Courts of Appeals and the Texas Supreme Court end up shaping the laws in the state of Texas,” Kirk Pittard said. “Having an appellate practice allows me to have an impact statewide that I may not have had in another area of practice.”

Although he wanted to be an attorney (or a pilot) in junior high, Pittard was always interested in the interface of law and politics. He was student body president in high school and at Baylor University, and during his undergraduate studies he worked on Capitol Hill for a congressman. As it turned out, the two interests would converge through his appellate practice (three interests, if you count obtaining his pilot’s license).

After graduating from Baylor Law, Pittard worked for the Dallas Court of Appeals, where he met Leighton Durham who was also working for the court. The two became good friends, and after a few years, Durham persuaded Pittard to the plaintiff’s firm where he was working, Waters & Kraus, to be a part of their appellate section. There, Pittard and Durham assisted their trial attorneys with their appeals and substantive legal briefings at the trial level.

Just four years after leaving Baylor Law, Pittard and Durham decided to start an appellate firm in 2003.

“We were both young and starting families. We sat down one night and said there’s never going to be a perfect time for us to start our own firm. If we wait for the perfect time, it will never happen. It was a huge leap of faith because there was not another plaintiff’s appellate boutique in Dallas at the time,” Pittard said.

Since then, the appellate boutique firm has grown from two attorneys with zero clients, to a firm with 11 attorneys and three offices in Dallas, Houston, and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Now Durham, Pittard & Spalding, LLP, the firm has maintained its focus on serving small-and medium-sized firms in commercial and personal injury litigation with an emphasis on plaintiff’s work. The firm also provides litigation support at the trial level to attorneys across the states of Texas and New Mexico as well as nationwide.

*“When I was working at the courts, I saw a lot more bad writing than good writing, to be an effective advocate in appellate courts and in district courts, you’ve got to be an effective writer.”*

Early on, Pittard recognized the importance of excellent writing skills for appellate law. As a summer clerk in 1997 at the Supreme Court of Mississippi and the Amarillo Court of Appeals, and while working for the Dallas Court of Appeals after graduation, he saw how crucial it is for advocates to write concisely, persuasively, and in a way that simplifies complex legal concepts for the appellate courts.

“When I was working at the courts, I saw a lot more bad writing than good writing,” Pittard said. “To be an effective advocate in appellate courts and in district courts, you’ve got to be an effective writer. In the appellate courts, you generally only have 15 to 20 minutes to present an oral argument. Otherwise, the court is left with your legal brief—what you have written. That’s what is most important.”

During his time at Baylor Law and learning through his clerkships, the mock trial team, the moot court competition, and serving as Assistant Managing Editor for the *Baylor Law Review*, Pittard learned he had a knack for legal writing and research, and he continued to hone those skills.

Now, Pittard and his firm support future Baylor Lawyers in honing their writing skills by sponsoring The Ultimate Writer Competition at Baylor Law. He knows that this competition is a great opportunity for the student participants to continue to develop and improve their proficiency in writing—a skill that will certainly serve them well, as it has served him, in their future practice of law.



The Pittard family – Chloe, Kirk, Lisa, and Wyatt





# The Pen is Mightier...

*High-stakes competitions advance  
Baylor Law's mission to produce  
better legal writers.*

**B**aylor Law's objective to turn out lawyers with superior legal writing skills is a comprehensive effort. In other words, the classroom isn't the only place where students learn to excel in writing. Baylor Law's concept of reinforcing classroom instruction with practical, real-world learning opportunities is exemplified in two writing competitions it hosts annually. These competitions are designed to put students' legal writing abilities to the test and expose them to the challenges they'll face in practice.

The Ultimate Writer Competition was developed as an internal contest for Baylor Law students, while The Paper Chase Legal Writing Competition is open to students from any of the nine other law schools in Texas. Baylor Law students do not participate in The Paper Chase as competitors.

*“Legal writing permeates every area of the practice of law, and that is why it is so important for competitions like The Ultimate Writer to exist.”*

*– Charlie Frazier  
Alexander Dubose & Jefferson LLP*

## The Ultimate Writer

In the Ultimate Writer Competition, Baylor Law students get a taste of the pressure that comes with assimilating large amounts of information and creating an effective legal document based on analysis of that material. In addition to bragging rights, the winners claim generous cash prizes totaling \$10,000.

This year's competition prompt focused on Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. This act provides a general grant of immunity for the content of information posted on the internet, but an exception stipulates that the act doesn't immunize "intellectual property claims." The scenario presented to competitors involved a youth pastor whose photo appeared in a



dating website ad without his consent. The youth pastor wanted to sue for the unauthorized use of his image. The State of Texas has consistently recognized this claim, but it can be argued that it's not the kind of intellectual property claim the Communication Decency Act permits. Competitors were tasked with arguing that the company had immunity under Section 230 by writing a memo supporting their right to publish the ad.

Baylor Law Senior Lecturer Greg White, who developed this year's prompt, said The Ultimate Writer Competition gives students a unique opportunity to experience conditions simulating those they'll routinely encounter as associate attorneys.

"It was fun to create a problem that is the subject of conflicting decisions in the courts and to see how our students were able to create persuasive, concise, legal arguments under an incredibly tight deadline," White said. "Not only are the amounts of the cash prizes for winners unique among legal writing competitions, but The Ultimate Writer also employs real-world problems. This is one more example of the practical training Baylor Law provides its students."

Andrew Boone is the 2022 Ultimate Writer Competition winner. Boone, who wishes to obtain a judicial clerkship after graduation and one day become a judge himself, said The Ultimate Writer Competition was different from other contests he's participated in.

"This competition was tough," Boone said. "It was a challenging case that dealt with an area of the law that I hadn't studied yet. I'm so humbled by this award." The Ultimate Writer is underwritten by Lisa and Charlie Frazier (JD '86) through their Endowed Fund for Excellence in Writing at Baylor Law. The fund was created to support the mission of teaching, mentoring, and developing distinctive and quality legal writing. Charlie Frazier is an attorney with Alexander Dubose Jefferson, and he serves as one of the competition's judges. He said the elevated level of quality in the writing he's seen recently is a testament to Baylor Law's legal writing team. By extension, it is also an indication that Baylor Law's intense focus on quality legal writing is yielding results.

"Legal writing permeates every area of the practice of law, and that is why it is so important for competitions like The Ultimate Writer to exist," Frazier said. "Over the years that I have been judging this competition, the writing has always been very good. But I have seen a steady increase in the writing quality in the submissions, and this year I saw even better writing than before."

The law firm of Durham, Pittard & Spalding, LLP also supports The Ultimate Writer Competition. Firm partner Kirk Pittard (JD '99), joined Frazier as a competition judge.





# The Paper Chase

Although Baylor Law does not field a team, its role as the host school for The Paper Chase Legal Writing Competition is further evidence of its commitment to promoting excellent writing.

Considered the premier legal writing competition in Texas, The Paper Chase is a practice-oriented competition designed to test law students' analytical and legal writing abilities. It is supported by the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA), whose members serve as competition judges.

The Paper Chase stands out for its significant cash prize award of \$5,000 to the competition winner and its challenging, real-world writing problems adapted from actual case files. Its tight timeline requires that competitors quickly analyze the underlying legal questions and formulate a persuasive response that is both clear and concise.

The competition is financially supported by FVF Law, a personal injury firm whose founding partners are Baylor Law alums.

Josh Fogelman ('08) and Aaron Von Flatern ('09), started off working together at a small litigation firm in Austin. After realizing they shared a passion for personal injury law, they formed FVF Law in 2014 with the goal of educating injured clients, helping them make informed decisions, and ultimately changing the public's perception of personal injury lawyers. Their sponsorship of The Paper Chase Competition is a means of contributing to the community by supporting future advocates.

## 2022 Ultimate Writer Competition Winners

### 1st Place

Andrew Boone  
(\$8,000 prize)

### 2nd Place

Maximilian Atchity  
(\$1,500 prize)

### 3rd Place (tie)

Riley Zoch,  
Rachel Rickel  
(\$500 prize)

### Honorable Mention

Elias Bejany  
Katie Thedford

Charlie Frazier, Riley Zoch,  
Andrew Boone, Maximilian Atchity,  
Rachel Rickel, and Kirk Pittard





# Graduation DAY

JD



## WINTER 2021-22

Congratulations to the Baylor Law graduates of the Winter 2021-22 J.D. and LL.M. Commencement ceremonies! Dean Brad Toben presided over the ceremonies and Baylor University Provost Nancy Brickhouse, Ph.D., conferred the J.D. degrees. Rebecca Davis Jahnke addressed the J.D. graduates as the highest-ranking J.D. student. Professor Larry T. Bates delivered an inspiring address to the J.D. graduates and Professor Kyle Dreyer offered memorable remarks to the LL.M. graduating class. Professors Bridget Fuselier and Luke Meier hooded the J.D. graduates and Professors Liz Fraley and Chris Martin hooded the LL.M. graduates.



LLM





# AlumniNOTES

## 1960s

**The Honorable T. John Ward, JD '67**, trial lawyer and former federal judge of the Longview-based Ward, Smith & Hill, PLLC, was recognized by the Texas Bar Foundation with the Outstanding 50 Year Lawyer Award. The honor is given to attorneys who have practiced law for more than 50 years and who adhere to the highest principles and traditions of the legal profession.

## 1970s

**Bill Nesbitt, JD '70**, has served as CEO of Central National Bank in Waco since 1987. The board recently elected his son, Joe Nesbitt, as the bank's new chief executive officer. Bill will continue to serve as a director and chairman of the board.

**Ben Selman, JD '73**, was honored with the 2022 Texas Bar Foundation's Lola Wright Foundation Award. The annual award recognizes outstanding public service in advancing and enhancing legal ethics in Texas.

## 1980s

**Robert L. Klawetter, JD '81**, has been instrumental in the merger of Schouest, Bamdas, Soshea & BenMaier PLLC (SBSB Law) and Eastham, Watson, Dale & Forney, LLP to form SBSB Eastham. The new firm's key practice areas include admiralty and maritime, Defense Base Act, longshore and harbor workers' compensation, business and commercial litigation, business transactions, personal injury defense, energy, environmental and toxic torts,

transportation and trucking, general liability, insurance, labor and employment, federal and state workers' compensation, premises liability, arbitration, and appellate. SBSB Eastham has more than 100 lawyers in six cities across the country, including Houston, Corpus Christi, New Orleans, Chicago, Boca Raton, and Milwaukee.

**Pamela Sellnow O'Rourke, JD '84**, was honored in the inaugural class of Legendary Women of Brainerd Public Schools in Brainerd, Minnesota. The district selected 20 Brainerd district alumnae who have impacted the world around them. Pamela has practiced law for more than 38 years. She has been involved with several Brainerd-area organizations, lending both her leadership and financial support. These include the Bridges Career Academies & Workplace Connection, the Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation, the Central Lakes College Board of Trustees, the Brainerd Public Schools Foundation, PORT Group Homes, and Trinity Lutheran Church. In 2013, Pamela earned the Women Making Waves Award from the Brainerd Lakes Area Women's Fund.

**Bill Jones, JD '85**, principal and owner of The Jones Firm in Austin, was named to the Ryan Board of Managers. Ryan is a global tax services and software provider.

**Ben Martin, JD '86**, has been selected by his peers for *D Magazine's* 2022 Best Lawyers in Dallas edition.

**Tahira Khan Merritt, JD '88**, has been appointed as an associate judge for the Dallas County Civil District Courts.

## 1990s

**Susan Moore, JD '90**, was recently honored as one of the 2022 Top 50 Women Leaders of Austin by Women We Admire. Susan is corporate vice president of corporate responsibility & government affairs for AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) and serves as the AMD Foundation president.

**Bobbi Reilly Sheahan, JD '91**, was a contributing author of the book *Autism in Lockdown* (Future Horizons, 2020). She and two of her children, Evelyn and Bella Sheahan, were invited to author a chapter titled, "Everyone Go to Their Rooms!" In it, they explore the unique challenges neurodivergence has posed during the COVID pandemic. Among their co-authors are their personal heroes and giants in the field of autism: Dr. Temple Grandin, Carol Gray, and Carol Kranowitz.

**Rogers Pope Jr., JD '92**, was honored by the Longview (Texas) ISD as a part of its 2022 class of Distinguished Alumni. Rogers serves as vice chairman and chief executive officer of Texas Bank and Trust.

**Gene Wolf, JD '92**, was selected to serve on the board of the Family Endeavors Foundation in El Paso, Texas. Endeavors is a longstanding national nonprofit agency based in San Antonio. It provides an array of programs and services supporting children, families, veterans, and those struggling with mental illness, disabilities, disasters, or emergencies. Gene is managing partner of Kemp Smith Law and a partner in their corporate and business department.



**Chris Aycock, JD '96**, has formed Permian Mediation, PLLC. Chris combines his trial, appellate, and business experience to assist parties in achieving justice through voluntary settlement. Chris is a former shareholder at Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe & Dawson, PC and vice president of land at ExL Petroleum.

**The Honorable Derek Gilliland, JD '98**, was sworn in as a new federal magistrate judge in Waco. He will help manage the nation's leading and fastest-growing patent law docket.

## 2000s

**Jeremy Counseller, JD '00**, professor of law at Baylor Law, was honored with the Baylor University Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching (tenured).

**Karissa Waterbury Cotton, JD '01**, was promoted to vice president and assistant general counsel of litigation and operations services for the Williams Companies, Inc. Williams is a Fortune 500 investment-grade corporation headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with operations across the natural gas value chain spanning the United States.

**Traylor Rains, JD '04**, has been named the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's new state Medicaid program director.

**Elisaveta Dolghih, JD '06**, founded Dolghih Law Group PLLC in Dallas, Texas.

**Travis J. Odom, JD '06**, has joined Duane Morris LLP as a partner in the firm's employment, labor, benefits, and immigration practice group in its Houston office.

**Lane A. Haygood, JD '08**, is head of the Odessa office of Bailey & Galyen. He primarily handles personal injury cases but is also board certified in criminal appeals. Lane has received the President's Award from the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and he has taught a CLE course on DNA-based writs for the Center for American and International Law. He is a member of the First Amendment Lawyers Association and actively involved in free-speech litigation.

## 2010s

**Ryan Walters, JD '11**, was elected as a partner at Jennings Haug Keleher McLeod. His practice focuses on commercial litigation and criminal appeals. The firm has offices in Phoenix and Albuquerque.

**Andrea Broyles, JD '12**, has been promoted to senior counsel for Bracewell LLP in Dallas. She focuses on complex commercial litigation, government investigations, and internal investigations. She represents clients in various industries and sectors, including consumer finance, banking, real estate, energy, healthcare, local government, and telecommunications. She has been named to The Best Lawyers in America's "Ones to Watch" list in Dallas commercial litigation.

**Saba F. Syed, JD '13**, has been promoted to partner at Bell Nunnally. As a litigator, Saba routinely represents companies and high-net-worth individuals in complex commercial litigation, including matters involving securities, business torts, patents, trademarks, partnership disputes, and real estate. She also works with clients in the live events and hospitality industries, assisting with trademark issues and providing industry-specific legal counsel. Recognized by her peers, Saba was named to *D Magazine's* "Best Lawyers Under 40 in Dallas" list for 2021 and 2022. She was also named to The Best Lawyers in America's "Ones to Watch" list for 2021 and 2022 and has been recognized in the "Texas Rising Stars" list published by *Super Lawyers*. In 2019, Saba was awarded the Dallas Bar Association's Outstanding Minority Attorney Award.

**Timothy Pullin, JD '16**, has joined Litchfield Cavo LLP as an associate attorney in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Skylar M. Moore, JD '17**, has joined the Albin Oldner Law firm in Frisco, Texas. Skylar's diverse practice focuses on family law, real estate and construction, business litigation, and general litigation matters. She also conducts family and civil mediations. Skylar has been listed as a "Texas Rising Star" by *Super Lawyers* since 2021 and was recognized by the National Academy of Family Law Attorneys as a nationally ranked Top 10 Under 40 Attorney in 2021.



*Baylor Law  
Veterans Clinic  
Director Josh  
Borderud (JD '09)  
is honored for his  
pro bono work*

One of the four cornerstones of Baylor Law's core values is "service." But unlike the academic concepts presented in a classroom, service—the act of placing the needs of others before your own—isn't something you can teach someone else. It must be demonstrated by example.

As director of Baylor Law's Veterans Clinic for the past six years, Josh Borderud has demonstrated the concept of servant leadership to countless student volunteers and hundreds of local veterans.

This past March, as the recipient of the Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Professional Service, Borderud was recognized for his *pro bono* service by the American Inns of Court. The award was presented at the Supreme Court of the United States.

"It is the honor of a lifetime to be recognized," Borderud said. "The work of mentoring law students in service to others is a joy. I am grateful to the American Inns of Court for validating the good work of our students who serve those in need through Baylor Law's legal clinics."

*To Lead  
is to  
Serve*





“Professor Borderud embodies Baylor Law’s commitment to service—in our clinics program, he selflessly serves those in need and cheerfully models and promotes a life of service to our students and others in the legal profession.”

— Dean Brad Toben

Since its inception in 2012, the Baylor Law Veterans Clinic has provided free legal services and advice to almost 1,000 Central

Texas veterans and their spouses. The monthly clinics are a collaborative effort between students, law school faculty and staff, and local lawyers. They serve a population of more than 16,000 veterans in and around McLennan County, many of whom cannot afford to hire an attorney. Borderud became the clinic’s first full-time director in 2016.

Borderud’s involvement in public

service started shortly after his graduation from Baylor Law in 2009, as he began his career as a prosecutor in Milam County, Texas. As an assistant district attorney, he prosecuted criminal cases and served as legal adviser to the county judge. He later joined the Waco firm of Pakis, Giotes, Page & Bursleson, P.C. as a civil litigator. While in private practice, he was named McLennan County’s “Outstanding Young Lawyer.”

In addition to his work with the Veterans Clinic, Borderud also oversees Baylor Law’s Estate Planning Clinic, which provides free, basic estate planning for local veterans and first responders and their spouses. Students help clients arrange for the transfer of assets to their heirs through the creation of wills and other legal documents.

In 2017, Borderud obtained a grant from the Cooper Foundation to establish the Trial Advocacy Clinic at Baylor Law, for which he serves as director. This clinic operates in partnership with two local courts. In the 74th District Court of McLennan County, supervised Baylor Law student advocates represent children at their initial juvenile detention hearings. Law students have appeared in more than 400 juvenile hearings since the program’s implementation. Students represent individuals charged with fine-only offenses in municipal court. Utilizing their State Bar of Texas supervised practice cards under Borderud’s direction, students are involved in every phase of the trials, from jury selection to closing arguments.

Baylor Law Dean Brad Toben underscores the idea that Borderud’s work has not just improved the lives of many community members, it has also marked out a path for the next generation of advocates and servant leaders to follow.

“Professor Borderud embodies Baylor Law’s commitment to service,” Toben said. “As a student at Baylor Law, he was instrumental in creating the Baylor Public Interest Legal Society. In our clinics program, he selflessly serves those in need and cheerfully models and promotes a life of service to our students and others in the legal profession.”



Josh Borderud accepts the Sandra Day O’Connor Award from Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. of the Supreme Court of Delaware



# @Baylor Law

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON

Baylor Law and the Black Law Student Association (BLSA) concluded the celebration of Black History Month with a special luncheon sponsored by BLSA. The luncheon was organized by Samantha Huit Smith, Baylor Law's Admissions and Financial Aid Associate.



## THE LEADERSHIP OF LINCOLN

Baylor Law welcomed *New York Times* bestselling author Ronald White to discuss the leadership of Abraham Lincoln and share how to apply the lessons drawn from Lincoln's law lecture notes to daily life.







# MICHAEL P. HEISKELL, BAYLOR LAW PIONEER

Baylor Law's first African American graduate, Michael Heiskell, JD '74, discussed his experiences and the importance of authenticity during a Professional Development Program (PDP). He shared his thoughts on "Grit, Potential, and Ambition" (GPA) with Baylor Law students.



# BAYLOR LAWYERS DISCUSS HISTORIC CASE

Brad Beckworth, JD '97, Drew Pate, JD '11, and Trey Duck, JD '12, talked to students about their representation of the State of Oklahoma in its litigation against opioid pain medication manufacturers. The trio are members of the Nix Patterson, LLP team, which won the 2019 National Trial Lawyers Trial Team of the Year Award. The case yielded the nation's first opioid epidemic-related verdict.





## SPEAKING OF SUCCESS

Judge Nicholas Chu, JD '11, Justice of the Peace for Travis County Precinct Five, spoke with a group that included members of the Asian American Law Student Association about finding success in law school. Chu also discussed the Asian American experience in law school and the legal profession.



## ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH LUNCHEON

Baylor Law and the Asian American Law Student Association (AALSA) celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month early with a special luncheon sponsored by AALSA and organized by Baylor Law Admissions and Financial Aid Associate Samantha Huitt Smith.







# BAYLOR LAW HONORS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Baylor Law held its annual award ceremony recognizing the past year's outstanding students. The John William and Florence Dean Minton Student Awards Ceremony and Lecture Series celebrates law students who excel in and out of the classroom. Adjunct professor Judge Vikram "Vik" Deivanayagam, JD '96, gave an inspiring address and students were honored for excellence in academics, advocacy, work on the *Baylor Law Review*, and *pro bono* and public service work.



Voir Dire Boot Camp Class

Family Law Boot Camp Class

Criminal Law Boot Camp Class



Business Law Boot Camp Class

# BAYLOR LAW BOOT CAMPS

Baylor Law's Business Law, Criminal Law, Family Law, and *Voir Dire* Boot Camps are intensive programs that give students the opportunity to learn from some of the most distinguished and highly experienced practicing attorneys in Texas and nationwide.





# Alumni OBITUARIES



**Rhonda King Harmon, JD '93**, of Manakin Sabot, Virginia, passed away on January 19, 2022. She is survived by her husband, Jonathan Harmon; children, Timothy, Krista, Jeremy, and Jana; mother, Doris Jean King; brother, Robert Moore King (Serge); first cousins, Rolonda Rene Burns (Nathaniel), Tonii Greene (Tricia), and Duane Greene (Annie); and cousins, Meagan Golightly (Henry), and Victor Whitney (Kiara).

Rhonda was born and raised in Waco, Texas, and attended Richfield High School, where she was drum major for the state-winning band and a choir soloist. She accepted an appointment to the United States

Military Academy at West Point in 1981, becoming part of what was then only the fifth class to allow women. It was at West Point that Rhonda accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior.

In 1985, Rhonda graduated and was commissioned into the United States Army as a military intelligence officer, first serving in Seoul, Korea. After Korea, Rhonda was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, where she met her future husband, Jonathan, at a Bible study in 1988. Jon and Rhonda were married in Waco, Texas, on April 29, 1989. In 1990, Rhonda left the military to attend Baylor Law. Shortly thereafter, her husband was deployed to the Middle East for the Gulf War. Despite this challenge, Rhonda graduated first in her class in 1993. Upon graduation, she accepted a judicial clerkship with the Honorable Samuel Johnson of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in Austin, Texas.

In 1995, Rhonda moved to Richmond, Virginia, with her husband, accepting a position with Mezzullo & McCandlish. In 1998, as a very pregnant associate, Rhonda, along with then-City Councilman Tim Kaine, won a \$100 million decision against Nationwide Insurance Company for redlining. At the time it was the largest verdict in the history of Virginia. Afterward, Rhonda left the practice of law to homeschool her children, work in children's ministry, support her husband, and help those in need through hospitality.

Rhonda loved people and often invited as many as 70 dinner guests to join her family at Thanksgiving and Christmas, many of whom would have spent the holidays alone if not for her generosity. Rhonda was an accomplished singer and was invited to sing at numerous events, including the dedication of the new federal courthouse in Austin, events hosted by Texas Governors Ann Richards and George Bush, and the inauguration of Virginia Governor Tim Kaine. Rhonda's talents were many, but most will remember her for her love and devotion to God first and then to her husband, children, family, and friends. She always had a word of encouragement, and her smile would light up a rainy day. Rhonda's life was the manifestation of God's love, and she was committed to serving others whether they were clients, family members, friends, or complete strangers. She understood that love is best expressed through service, and that is how she lived. Her legacy will live on through her family and the countless lives she touched.



**Curtis Cullen Smith Jr., JD '50**, died April 16, 2022. Cullen was born in Waco on May 31, 1925, the only child of Curtis Cullen Smith Sr. and Elizabeth Brient Smith. After graduating from Waco High School in 1943, Cullen joined the United States Marine Corps. Having been honorably discharged as a second lieutenant in 1946, he went on to graduate from Baylor University in 1948 and from Baylor Law in 1950. On March 6, 1948, he married Laura Risher "Mickey" Dossett, whom he first met at a junior high party. Upon graduation from law school, Cullen began practicing law at Smith & McIlheran in Weslaco, Texas. Returning to Waco in 1953, he joined the firm now known as Naman, Howell, Smith & Lee, where he served as president for many years.

Cullen was a natural leader and received many awards during his distinguished career. From 1973 to 1974, he served as chair of the American Bar Association General Practice Section and was president of the State Bar of Texas from 1978 to 1979. Cullen was named Baylor Lawyer of the Year in 1980, and he was honored by the Texas Young Lawyers Association as the first recipient of its Outstanding Mentor Award in 2007.

A belief in the importance of righting wrongs led Cullen to work with a group of Waco leaders to desegregate the city's public facilities in the early 1960s, and he advocated for the inclusion of minority groups in law firms and in the community in general. In the early 1970s, he led a delegation from Waco that met with North Vietnamese officials in Paris seeking the release of POWs who were

from Central Texas. He was a Waco city councilman from 1983 to 1985 and served a term as mayor pro tem. Mickey and Cullen were also early supporters of Art Center Waco and were among the founding members of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit.

An avid cyclist, Cullen proposed the Waco Wild West Century Bicycle Tour to the Waco City Council in 1985, and it is still an annual event. He was also a talented photographer, documenting family gatherings, travel, and everyday life. His ability to adapt served him well when he was diagnosed with macular degeneration and had to adjust to an increasing loss of vision. He was grateful to the Waco VA for assistance with his sight impairment, and he maintained a positive outlook that inspired those around him.

Despite his accomplishments, Cullen was a man of humility. His family gave him great joy, and he taught his children and grandchildren by example. Many sought his counsel in both personal and professional matters, and his integrity and wit were well known.

Cullen was preceded in death by his wife, Mickey, who died on June 22, 2006. He was also predeceased by his siblings-in-law, J. Leigh and Jane Dossett Brooks, Mary Martha and Walter B. Dossett Jr., and Thomas and Frances Dossett Swann. On January 3, 2009, he married Ann Brown Parsons, who survives him. Other survivors include his children, Sallie Chesnutt Smith and husband, Robert P. Wright of Houston; Alethea Risher Smith and husband, Robert G. Gilbert of China Spring; and Elizabeth Brient Smith and husband, Stuart G. Smith of Waco; four grandchildren, Payton Cullen Wright and wife, Ashley Peterson Wright; Elizabeth Risher Wright and husband, David G. Rappaport; Laura Patterson Gilbert and husband, Jonathan E. B. Remus; and Margaret Sallie Gilbert and husband, Jordan R. Tucker; and five great-grandchildren, Elizabeth Peterson Wright, Margaret Lee Wright, Lucy Catherine Wright, Edward Brient Rappaport, and Nathaniel Cullen Rappaport.

**Edward N. Smith Jr., JD '54**, a lifelong resident of Marshall, Texas, died peacefully on March 9, 2022, at the age of 93. Ed was born in Marlin, Texas, on February 22, 1929, to E. N. Smith Sr. and Bessie Edmundson Smith. He attended Marshall schools, Kemper Military School, Baylor University, and Baylor Law. He married the love of his life, Geraldine Norris, on November 23, 1950. His law school studies were interrupted by a stint in the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a procurement officer at Barksdale Air Force Base. Afterward, he went back to Baylor to finish law school. Returning to Marshall, he had a distinguished and successful law career for 61 years as he served the people of his hometown and surrounding area. He was appointed district judge of Harrison County by Governor Bill Clements and served in that capacity for two years.

Ed was an avid pilot and an excellent marksman who shot trap competitively. He was also a co-owner of Smith Furniture Company and a ranching business with his brother, Wesley Smith. He spent many summers enjoying the mountains in Lake City, Colorado, with his family. He served faithfully as a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Marshall, and in his later years he attended Cypress Valley Bible Church. He served for 44 years as a board member of the Hope Pierce Tart Scholarship Fund, 25 years with the Marshall National Bank Board of Directors, and 30 years as a trustee for East Texas Baptist University. He was very proud to be an active member of Gideons International.

Ed is survived by his loving wife of 72 years, Geraldine Norris Smith; his son and his family, Edward and Amanda Smith, Meredith and Jason Coe, and Benjamin Cohen; his daughter and her family, Sandra Buckner McPhail, Kristie and Lyle Walker, Stephen and Makenzie Buckner, and Lee Buckner; and a former daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Smith. He is survived by eight great-grandchildren, Madison Coe, Jackson Coe, Bella Coe, Garrett Coe, Elle Walker, Skylar Walker, Lindlee Buckner, and Sutton Buckner. Survivors also include his nephew and wife, Wes and Lynn Smith; his niece, Sharon Knoerzer; and several grandnieces and grandnephews. Ed will be remembered for his steadfast and strong faith in his Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He lived an upright life before all who knew him and, most importantly, God. He was greatly loved and will be missed by his family.

**David D. Mullies, JD '66**, of Fort Scott, Kansas, passed away March 28, 2022 at age 81. He was born March 8, 1941, in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of Ewing Edgar and Wilma L. (Saunders) Mullies. David married Patricia Ann Jennings on October 15, 1960, and she survives him. After graduating from Hume High School in Hume, Missouri, in 1959, he received his undergraduate degree from Pittsburg State University in Kansas. David graduated from Baylor Law in 1966 and was a licensed attorney in private practice, practicing in Texas and Kansas. Upon graduation, David and his wife moved back to Fort Scott, Kansas, where he began his career.

He was partner and member of the law firm Hudson & Mullies for approximately 38 years, serving as senior and managing partner of the firm for 20 years. Last year, David returned to Waco for one last visit to Baylor. He spent the day touring the campus with his wife, daughter, and son-in-law. The highlight of the trip was meeting with Dean Toben in his office. He and his gracious staff spent a lot of time showing David the law building, classrooms, and the beautiful view of the stadium. He ended the day sitting in the football stadium at the Baylor Club, which overlooks the Law school that he loved so much.



David was president, general manager, and shareholder of Crutcher-Mullies Cattle Company for 20 years, which owned and operated a 2,000-acre farm and ranching operation. He was active in the community and held numerous memberships over the years. He served on the board of directors for Citizens Bank, NA in Fort Scott for 29 years, and also served as chairman of the bank audit/compliance committee for many years. He was a member and former president of the Fort Scott Jaycees, receiving its Distinguished Service Award in 1971. David served on the Fort Scott City Planning Commission for seven years and served as its chair for six years. He was a three-term member of the board of directors for the Fort Scott Chamber of Commerce, also serving as its president in 1976.

David was one of the founders of the Fort Scott Community College Endowment Association, serving as a board member for more than 10 years as well as its president. He was one of the original board members and committee members tasked with developing, constructing, and operating the Southeast Kansas Community Corrections Center.

David was a former member of Kiwanis International, a member of Rotary International, and a Mercy Hospital Foundation board member for six years. His public service also included involvement with the Fort Scott City Library Board and Fort Scott Law Library, of which he was a trustee. David was on the Fort Scott United Way Committee and a member of numerous bar associations, including the Bourbon County Bar Association, the Kansas Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

In addition to his wife, Patricia, David is survived by his children, Lisa George and husband, Rich of Elmhurst, Illinois, and John Mullies and wife, Carrie of Olathe, Kansas; a sister, Marilyn Weickert of Pleasanton, Kansas; and his grandchildren, Heather Ann George (fiancé, Alex Ong), Richard E. George IV, Megan Patricia George, and Daphne Ann Mullies. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Edgar William Mullies.

---

**W. Hays Parks, JD '66**, went to Our Lord on May 11, 2021. He was 80 years old. He was born in Jacksonville, Florida, and graduated from Lee High School in Jacksonville. He was also a graduate of Baylor University and Baylor Law. Colonel Parks was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps in 1963, first serving as a reconnaissance battalion platoon leader. He served in the Republic of Vietnam as an infantry officer and senior prosecuting attorney from 1968 to 1969. After leaving active duty, 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 help train Marine commanders and their staffs and judge advocates. During his military service, he earned Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist wings, U.S. Army Master Parachutist wings, and 82nd Airborne Centurion wings.

As a civilian, Parks served as 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 targets in Libya and had primary responsibility for the investigation of Iraqi war crimes during its occupation of Kuwait. He served as a legal adviser for U.S. Special Operations Forces from 1979 until his retirement. He was also instrumental in the negotiation of several important treaties, such as the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons.

In August 2003, Parks joined the International Affairs Division of the Office of the General Counsel in the Department of Defense. In 1987, he was a staff member on the presidential commission examining alleged security breaches in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. He also testified as an expert witness against terrorists in the United States and Canada. He lectured at the National, Army, Air Force, and Naval War Colleges and other military schools. In 2001, Parks became the sixth person in the history of U.S. Special Operations Command to receive its 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, Parks was awarded the NDIA Small Arms Group's Gunner Sergeant Carlos Hathcock Award, recognizing his contributions in the employment and tactics of small arms weapons impacting U.S. military readiness. Parks also advocated for the use of ammunition that was more accurate, reliable, and effective, such as "open tip match" ammunition. Ammunition of this type resulted in more effective fire and thereby saved American lives. Parks was a man of profound courage, and there are countless U.S. service members alive today because he put more accurate, reliable, and effective ammunition into their hands.

The Department of Defense, Marine Corps, and the nation has lost a valuable member of the team. Hays Parks was a man of action, of learning, and of justice. He leaves behind his wife of 45 years, Maria Lopez-Otin, and his beloved cats.

---

**John Wesley LaGrone III, JD '72**, passed away Sunday, March 27, 2022, at his home in Fritch, Texas. He was born in Borger, Texas, on November 4, 1944, to John LaGrone Sr. and Shirley LaGrone. John grew up in Borger, attending its elementary school, Austin Middle School, and Borger High School. During middle and high school, John played football for the school's teams. He led Borger to a 31–5 record, three district championships, and a berth in the 1962 4A state championship game, resulting in a 30–26 loss to San Antonio Breckenridge. John was a two-time All-State defensive tackle and left tackle. After high school, he accepted a scholarship to play football for Southern Methodist University in the former Southwest Conference. John and his Mustang team won the 1966 Southwest Conference title and played in the Cotton Bowl that year. John was named to the All-America Team as the outstanding defensive player, and he appeared on the cover of Texas Football magazine. John was also an Academic All-American at SMU.

Wanting to continue to play, John moved to Alberta, Canada, and joined the Edmonton Eskimos. He was an outstanding defensive tackle and played eight years in the Canadian Football League. Over his career, he was named a Western Conference All-Star six times and was twice named a CFL All-Star. John was recognized as the CFL's Most Outstanding Lineman in 1969. He attended Baylor Law during the off-season, receiving his law degree in 1972. He married his wife, Jan Clark LaGrone, on December 16, 1972, in Waco, Texas. Although he and a law school friend opened a law office in Athens, Texas, he decided to continue to play football. He played two more seasons for Edmonton, retiring in 1975. John was inducted into the Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame in 1977, the SMU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1981, and the Texas High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2003. His name was added to the Wall of Honour at Edmonton's Commonwealth Stadium in 1988.

In 1975, John and his wife moved to Borger, making it their permanent home. He joined John Morrison's law practice. John also worked as a Hutchinson County assistant attorney and later as the county attorney. In 1990, he was elected district judge of the 316th District Court in Hutchinson County, holding the position until he retired in 2014.

John enjoyed hunting quail, his many hunting dogs, and playing handball. He had a passion for working out and staying in shape for football. Judge John LaGrone was a man who achieved remarkable success on the football field and in the courts of law. His integrity as a member of the legal profession needs no list of achievements.

He was preceded in death by his father, John Wesley LaGrone Jr. Survivors include his wife, Jan of Fritch; daughter, Ella Ann LaGrone of Seattle, Washington; mother, Shirley LaGrone of Fritch; and a host of extended family and friends.

---

**Gregory Mack Pipes, JD '73**, passed away October 15, 2021 at age 75 from Alzheimer's disease at Revere Court of Arlington. Greg was born on August 4, 1946, in Fort Worth, Texas. He was a decorated All-American football defensive tackle at Baylor University while obtaining a bachelor's degree in business administration. He was inducted into the Baylor Hall of Fame in 1986. Greg and his wife, Dallas, were married in 1967 while Greg was completing his degree. After graduation, Greg

was drafted by the NFL's Buffalo Bills but instead chose to play professional football for the Edmonton Eskimos in the Canadian Football League. Greg was a member of the 1970 Western Conference All-Star Team and played from 1968 to 1972. While playing professional football in Canada, Greg also completed his law degree at Baylor. In 1974, Greg began a 35-year career with the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office, retiring as an assistant DA having tried 12 capital murder cases.

Greg's parents raised him in the Baptist church, faithfully attending the Gambrell Street Baptist Church "every time the doors were open," as he liked to say. His faith was evident in his walk with Jesus, as he loved people well.

Greg was a gentle giant, unless you opposed him on the field or in the courtroom. But even then, he had a strong sense of sportsmanship and would extend a hand to help you up after he took you down—he received a Southwest Conference sportsmanship award in 1967 and served in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Greg was full of dad jokes and had a great sense of humor. He was loving and humble despite his many achievements. He was never one to boast about himself, preferring to boast about his wife and daughters.

Greg enjoyed smoking and grilling meat and was a master outdoor chef. He was also a very talented woodworker who was known to build beautiful hand-carved boxes. He turned wood on a lathe, making pens and letter openers with exotic woods. Greg was an avid golfer and achieved a hole-in-one in 2012 at Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth. Greg was also a Ford Mustang enthusiast; his first car was a 1966 Mustang, and later in life he inherited his aunt's 1964 1/2 Mustang convertible.

Greg is survived by his wife, Dallas Pipes; daughter, Brittany Altimus and her husband, Tim; his sister-in-law, Kathy; and his younger brother, Gary Pipes and wife, Cindy. Greg was preceded in death by his daughter, Summer Pipes; his older brother, Bill Pipes; and his parents, Bill and Laverne Pipes.

---

**Brian Quentin Crews, JD '78**, of Austin, Spring Branch, and Karnes City, Texas, passed away March 25, 2022, in New Braunfels, Texas. Brian was born March 21, 1950, in Karnes City to Gladys Schendel Crews and Stephen Edgar Crews III. He is survived by a sister, Karen Crews Stout (Dan) of Dripping Springs, Texas; and brothers, Steve Crews IV (Micki) of Dublin, Texas and Kyle Crews (Anne) of Dallas, Texas. He is also survived by his nieces, Jennifer Stout, Jamie Davis (James), and Corsi Crews; nephews, Trey Stout and Steve Crews V (Melissa); and great nieces, Natalie Davis, Baylee and Paisley Stout, and Carly Crews; and a great nephew, Stevie Crews VI. Brian was predeceased by his parents and the love of his life, Meredith Anderson.

A 1968 graduate of Karnes City High School, Brian received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. After working several years as a mental health counselor, he earned a juris doctor degree from Baylor Law. Following graduation from law school, Brian served as legal counsel for several Texas state agencies, including Dallas County MHMR and Travis County MHMR. He was considered an expert in numerous fields of mental health laws, including issues surrounding Alzheimer's disease.

After retirement, Brian devoted many hours to designing and building his amazing Hill Country estate home and guest homes on his beloved property near Spring Branch. His self-taught architectural design, construction, and carpentry skills were nothing short of amazing. He also developed a love of landscape, utilizing native plants of Texas and recently becoming a certified Master Gardener. The week before he became ill, Brian purchased another 14 adjoining acres with plans to add additional walking trails through his residential compound.

Brian was a private person. However, he enjoyed many special friendships in the Austin and Spring Branch areas and in his native Karnes County. Brian loved his many Crews, Seale, and Schendel cousins and their families. Last June he co-hosted a memorial gathering for two beloved aunts in Karnes City and was so pleased to spend two days with more than 60 cousins, their families, and Crews family friends.



# StudentNOTES



## Region 10 National Trial Competition

Chris Grant was named Best Defense Advocate at the Region 10 National Trial Competition, hosted by the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the American College of Trial Lawyers.



## Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition

The team of Noelle Kough, Katie Quillen, and Carson Lacy made it to the semifinals in the competition hosted by St. John University's School of Law and the American Bankruptcy Institute. Caitlin Huettemann, Jessie Nelson, and Jeff Serfass reached the quarterfinal round. Professor Larry Bates, and Professor Deborah Perry served as coaches.



## Elliott Cup Moot Court Competition

The team of Caitlin Huettemann, Jeff Serfass, and Jessie Nelson won The Elliott Cup Moot Court Competition, hosted by the State Bar of Texas Bankruptcy Law Section. The team was coached by Professors Larry Bates and Deborah Perry.



## ABA Regional Client Counseling Competition

Congratulations to Zane Thomas, Julie Cantu, and student coach Elois Caswell, who won the 2022 ABA Regional Client Counseling Competition. The win qualified them for the national competition, where they advance to the semifinal round. The team of Peyton Maddox, Danica McBain, and student coach Mia De Llano took 3rd place in the regional tournament. Both teams were coached by Judge Vikram Deivanayagam.



## National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition

Megan Baumhardt, Rachel Rickel, and Daniel Hall advanced it to the semifinal round of the National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition. The team was coached by Baylor Law Advocacy Program Coordinator Kathy Serr.





### L. Edward Bryant Jr. National Health Law Transactional Competition

Lizzie Allen, Caroline Perren, and Alexa De La Vega, coached by Professor Pat Souter, finished 3rd at the L. Edward Bryant Jr. National Health Law Transactional Competition hosted by the Loyola University Chicago School of Law.



### Judge John R. Brown Admiralty Law Moot Court Competition

Out of 34 teams from around the nation, Michael Tagliabue and Jean-Marie Anderson finished as the 4th-best oral advocacy team in the competition hosted by the University of Texas School of Law. Tagliabue was also named 2nd-best oral advocate, and Hope Burkhalter was named 9th-best oral advocate.



### Trials & Tribulations Mock Trial Competition

The team of Caitlin Huettemann, Matthew Vitale, Tanner Scheef, Archie Cruz, Andrew Boone, Ethan Scroggins, Megan Baumhardt, and Rachel Hales finished in 3rd place at the competition hosted by the University of South Carolina

School of Law. Scheef was named Outstanding Advocate during the preliminary rounds. The team was coached by Cahal McColgan, JD '15, Mark Altman, JD '16, and Bailey Strohmeyer, JD '18.



### Duke University School of Law Transactional Law Competition

Ben Meredith, Jake Dickson, and Sarah Megan Erb were winners of the First Place Buyer Negotiation. They were coached by Professor Allen Page.



### Puerto Rico Trial Advocacy Competition

Mark Stahman, Will Onyeike, Rodrigo Carbajal, Miranda Salazar, and Emma Vyncke finished 3rd in the Puerto Rico Trial Advocacy Competition hosted by the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Law. The team was coached by Colin O'Neil, JD '85 and Alli Szabo, JD '20.



### Faegre Drinker Spring Moot Court Competition

Lauren Leveno and Jamie Mills won the 2022 Faegre Drinker Spring Moot Court Competition. The Finalists were Varun Reddy and Amber John. The Semifinalists were Ally Brittain, Elena Folgueras, Jennifer Bloodworth and Emily Duckworth.

### TOP SPEAKERS

1. Vivian Noyd
2. Jennifer Bloodworth
3. Tiffani Skroch and Amber John (tie)
5. McKinsey Meeker
6. Emily Mouser
7. Madi Barney
8. Greta Anderson
9. Varun Reddy
10. Casey Cooper



# FacultyNOTES

## Matthew Cordon Professor of Law

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Chair, Baylor Faculty Senate, 2020-21

## Thomas M. Featherston Jr. The Mills Cox Professor of Law

### PRESENTATIONS

- "Marital Property Issues in Estate Planning & Administration," State Bar of Texas, Advanced Estate Planning & Probate Course, San Antonio (June 2022)
- "Marital Property Issues in Estate Planning & Administration," Tarrant County Probate Bar Association, Ft. Worth (June 2022)
- "Marital Property Issues in Estate Planning & Administration," Corpus Christi Estate Planning Council (May 2022)
- "Marital Property Issues in Estate Planning," State Bar of Texas Advanced Estate Planning Drafting Course, Dallas (October 2021)
- "An Introduction to Transfer Taxation," American Bar Association Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section's Skills Training for Estate Planners (July 2021)
- "Marital Property Characterization After a Change of Domicile or Situs," San Antonio Estate Planning Council (May 2021)
- "Marital Property Characterization After a Change of Domicile or Situs," Tarrant County Probate Bar Association (May 2021)

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

## Elizabeth M. Fraley Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Executive LL.M. in Litigation Management

### PUBLICATIONS

- "Texas Commercial Causes of Action: Claims, Defenses and Remedies," *Rev. 3, Fastcase Inc.*, Washington D.C., March 2021, co-authored with James E. Wren
- *Fundamentals of Lawyer Leadership*, co-authored with Leah W. Teague and Stephen Rispoli, 2021
- "Where the Rubber Hits the Road: How Do Law Schools Demonstrate a Commitment to Training Leaders?" co-authored with Leah W. Teague, *14 TENN. J. L. & POL.* 369-434, 2020

### PRESENTATIONS

- "Zooming into Better Rulings: Digital Evidence," Center for Judicial Education: Spring Regional Judicial Conference, March 28 and April 8, 2022
- "Managing Litigation with Effectiveness and Efficiency," International Association of Defense Counsel, Chicago, IL, April 7, 2022

- "The Biggest Loser: Lessons I've Learned from Losing at Trial," Dallas Bar Association (Litigation Skills Section), Dallas, TX, May 2, 2022
- "Effective Litigation Management," Abner V. McCall Inn of Court, Waco, TX, April 5, 2022

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- American Board of Trial Advocates, Past President, (Waco Chapter), National Board Representative; Member, Editorial Committee; Member, Judicial Independence Committee; Member, Diversity of Membership Committee
- American Bar Association
- Master of the Bench, Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court

### HONORS

- Member, Board of Directors, Waco Symphony
- Vestry member, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Waco, TX
- Chair, Finishing the Work Capital Campaign, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Waco, TX

## 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 Hernández Professor of Law

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Named as a Latina Commissioner by Pedro J. Torres-Diaz, the President of the Hispanic National Bar Association ("HNBA")

## Chris Jaeger Assistant Professor of Law

### PRESENTATIONS

- Chair and Presenter, Psychology & Law Symposium, Annual Meeting of the Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology, Mobile, Alabama (April 2022)

## Rachel Kincaid Assistant Professor of Law

### PRESENTATIONS

- "Reasonableness and Deliberate Indifference in the Time of Misinformation: Carceral Responses to COVID-19," *University of St. Thomas Law Journal Prisoner Rights and Prison Conditions Symposium* (April 2022)

## Elizabeth Miller Professor of Law and M. Stephen and Alyce A. Beard Chair in Business and Transactional Law

### PUBLICATIONS

- *TEXAS METHODS OF PRACTICE, TEXAS PRACTICE SERIES* (Vol. 13), West, 2021-2022 (co-author)
- *BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS, TEXAS PRACTICE SERIES* (Vols. 19, 20 & 20A), West (3rd ed. 2011; 2021-2022 Annual Supplement) (co-author)

- "Fiduciary Duties, Indemnification, and Exculpation in Texas Business Organizations," 20th Annual Choice, Governance & Acquisition of Entities Course, State Bar of Texas, May 20, 2022
- "Miscellaneous Recent (Non-Delaware) Partnership and LLC Cases," Annual LLC Case Law Update, American Bar Association Business Law Section Spring Meeting 2022, April 1, 2022
- "Miscellaneous (Non-Delaware) Partnership and LLC Cases," 2021 LLC Institute, Committee on LLCs, Partnerships and Unincorporated Entities, American Bar Association, November 17, 2021
- "The Walking Dead: Forfeitures and Involuntary Terminations of Filing Entities," Texas Commission on Environmental Quality CLE, October 25, 2021
- "The Limits of Limited Liability: Veil Piercing and Other Bases of Personal Liability of Owners, Governing Persons, and Agents of Texas Business Entities," Texas Commission on Environmental Quality CLE, October 25, 2021
- "Case Law Update: A Survey of Recent Texas Partnership and LLC Cases," 30th Annual LLCs, LPs and Partnerships, University of Texas School of Law, July 7, 2021
- "The Limits of Limited Liability: Veil Piercing and Other Bases of Personal Liability of Owners, Governing Persons, and Agents of Texas Business Entities," 19th Annual Choice, Governance & Acquisition of Entities Course, State Bar of Texas, May 21, 2021
- "Miscellaneous Recent (Non-Delaware) Partnership and LLC Cases," Annual LLC Case Law Update, American Bar Association Business Law Section Spring Meeting 2021, April 19, 2021

### PRESENTATIONS

- "Fiduciary Duties, Indemnification, and Exculpation," 20th Annual Choice, Governance & Acquisition of Entities Course, State Bar of Texas, May 20, 2022
- "LLC Case Law Update," American Bar Association Business Law Section Spring Meeting 2022, April 1, 2022
- "Current Developments in Texas Business Organizations Law," Austin Bar Association—Business, Corporate and Tax Section, January 26, 2022
- "LLCs and Partnerships: Recent Trends," Business Law Summit, WealthCounsel, December 9, 2021
- "Case Law Update (Non-Delaware)," 2021 LLC Institute, Committee on LLCs, Partnerships and Unincorporated Entities, American Bar Association, November 17, 2021
- "Business Entities," Texas Commission on Environmental Quality CLE, October 25, 2021
- "Case Law Update," 30th Annual LLCs, LPs and Partnerships, University of Texas School of Law, July 7, 2021
- "Piercing the Corporate (or Other Entity) Veil," 19th Annual Choice, Governance & Acquisition of Entities Course, State Bar of Texas, May 21, 2021
- "LLC Case Law Update," American Bar Association Business Law Section Spring Meeting 2021, April 19, 2021
- "Current Developments in Texas Business Organizations Law," Baylor Law CLE, March 2021
- "Current Developments in Texas Business Organizations Law," Austin Bar Association—Business, Corporate and Tax Section, January 27, 2021

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Member, Joint Editorial Board on Uniform Unincorporated Organizations Acts, Uniform Law Commission, and American Bar Association

- ABA Advisor, Drafting Committee for Revision of Uniform Unincorporated Organizations Acts, Uniform Law Commission
- Chair, Editorial Board of Publications of the LLCs, Partnerships and Unincorporated Entities Committee of the Business Law Section, 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, State Bar of Texas
- Elected member, American Law Institute

## Walt Shelton Adjunct Professor of Law

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Liaison of the 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 (environmental law and water law), *General Practice Digest*, State Bar of Texas
- Co-chair, Law School Committee of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section, State Bar of Texas

## Leah Jackson Teague Professor of Law and Director of Business Law Programs

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Chair-elect, AALS Section on Leadership
- Chair, Strategic Initiative Committee, Women's Network Executive Council of the American Council on Education
- Secretary and treasurer, Baylor Law Alumni Association
- Executive committee member, Texas Federal Tax Institute Board of Directors

## Brad 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 member, American Bar Association and Association of American Law Schools, on-site re-inspection functions and accreditation
- Master of the Bench, Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court
- Member, Waco Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

## Patricia Wilson Associate Dean

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Governing board member and Legal Committee chair, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Vice president, Waco-McLennan County Bar Association
- Board member, McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center
- Chair, Client Counseling Subcommittee, ABA Law Student Division
- Contributor, (family law) *General Practice Digest*



**Baylor Law.**

# **INTERVIEW PROGRAMS**

**2022**

**NOVEMBER 3-4**

**FINAL SESSION  
OF 2022**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER  
VISIT **[BAYLOR.EDU/LAW/REGISTERFOROCI](https://baylor.edu/law/registerforoci)**  
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE



**Baylor University**

SCHOOL OF LAW  
Career Development Office

**IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE**





# Baylor University

SCHOOL OF LAW

Sheila & Walter Umphrey Law Center  
1114 South University Parks Drive  
One Bear Place #97288  
Waco, TX 76798-7288

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY



## History on Display

Located in the Baylor Law Legal Writing Center, this antique manual typewriter was used by Abner Vernon McCall, dean of Baylor Law from 1949-1959, and president of Baylor University from 1961-1981.



ABNER VERNON McCALL  
DEAN, BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL, 1949-1959  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY, 1959-1961  
PRESIDENT, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY, 1961-1981  
UNDERWOOD MANUAL TYPEWRITER  
USED BY  
EDGAR McCALL