

Baylor Law.

DOCKETCALL

Fall/Winter
2022-23

*Baylor Law
Competition
Teams Build
Upon a Long
Tradition of
Success*

IN IT TO WIN IT

Baylor
Law.



Help us train the next generation of Competitors

Over the years, Baylor Law's interscholastic competition teams have achieved a high level of success, winning championships at the national, regional, and statewide levels. In uniquely-Baylor fashion, our winning record covers a variety of skill sets and a wide range of competitions. Our Baylor Law teams compete in multiple practice areas, including mock trial, moot court, transactional law, client counseling, negotiations, sports law, and others. **Bottom line: we compete, and we win.**

To learn more about how you can support our competition teams within the practice area of the law of your choice, contact Stephanie Mabry, Director of Development for Baylor Law at Stephanie_Mabry@baylor.edu, call **254.710.8540**, or visit baylor.edu/law/give.

Interscholastic Programs Endowment

Baylor Law is grateful for the support that the M.D. Anderson Foundation provides to our interscholastic competition team program (travel, lodging, etc.) through the **M.D. Anderson Foundation Mock Trial and Moot Court Interscholastic Programs Endowment**.

Further, the **Leon Jaworski Foundation** funds scholarships that are offered to incoming students who have exceptional records in undergraduate advocacy programs such as debate, moot court, or mock trial and who then go on to compete on our interscholastic teams.

Please join these generous foundations in lending support to our ever-growing and thriving interscholastic competition team program!

Thank you for your continued support!

Baylor Law

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DOCKETCALL

BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL
ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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Competition Teams
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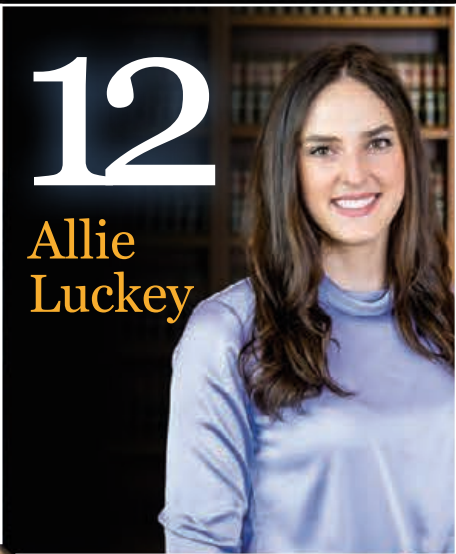
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Vikram
Deivanayagam

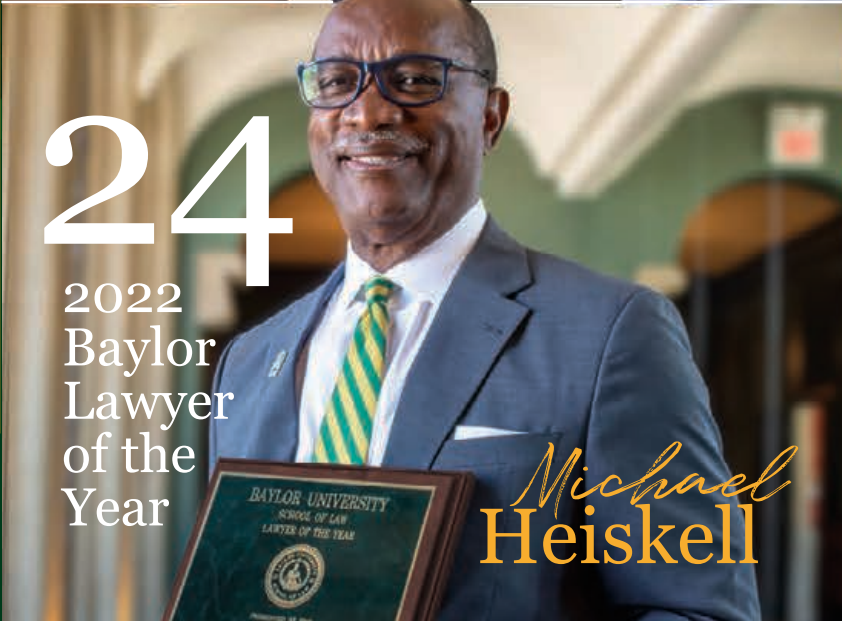
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JOIN THE BAYLOR
LAW FAMILY

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.

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2022 BAYLOR LAW

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A Message from
Dean Toben

“DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT IN A RACE ALL THE RUNNERS RUN, BUT ONLY ONE GETS THE PRIZE? RUN IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GET THE PRIZE.”

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24

The academic year has reached its midpoint at Baylor Law, and the halls and classrooms of the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center continue to be alive with the hustle and bustle of students, faculty, and staff. Amid this renewed energy and, at times, organized frenzy, I enjoy pausing to reflect on one of the greatest pleasures of my work here at Baylor. I love seeing the transformation that unfolds in our students as they develop from “1Qs” to Baylor Lawyers. Being an alumna or alumnus of Baylor Law is a distinctive title that each of you wears with honor. We are immensely proud of the service and achievements of our Baylor Lawyers.

Baylor Lawyers selflessly provide significant time and energy to their alma mater. Teaching, mentoring, coaching, recruiting, networking, and giving—you do it all. In this issue of *Docket Call*, we highlight one area of service to the Law School that often goes unheralded but is of central importance to the development of the next generation of Baylor Lawyers: coaching our unparalleled 40+ interscholastic competition teams. I hope you’ll indulge me as we brag a little about the remarkable success of our competition teams. We have experienced dramatic growth in the breadth of our interscholastic competition program and the consequent opportunities our students have to compete and learn through experience.

The achievements of our interscholastic teams cannot be overstated. Their success is due in no small part to the efforts of the many Baylor Lawyers who give of their time and talents as coaches to prepare our students for a successful competition and, by extension, a thriving career.

We also have the pleasure of including in this issue of *Docket Call* the Baylor Law Alumni Association’s 2022 Baylor Lawyer of the Year, Mr. Michael P. Heiskell. Michael’s fierce yet compassionate advocacy for his clients in his criminal defense practice, unswerving dedication to the Sixth Amendment’s right to jury trial, and commitment to the legal profession and his community are just a few of the reasons he is so richly deserving of this honor.

We’ll also share with you some wonderful photos from the most recent session of the Baylor Law Academy of the Advocate in St Andrews, Scotland, from our unique international juvenile justice field placement in Zambia, from events in and around the Law School, and so much more.

Enjoy this issue of *Docket Call*!



Brad Toben, JD '77
DEAN OF BAYLOR LAW



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Over the years, Baylor Law's interscholastic competition teams have achieved a high level of success, winning championships at the national, regional, and statewide levels. In highly distinctive Baylor fashion, our winning record covers a variety of disciplines and a wide range of competitions. Our Baylor Law interscholastic teams compete in multiple areas, including mock trial, moot court, transactional law, client counseling, negotiations, sports law, and others.

As every Baylor Lawyer knows, our rigorous doctrinal and process classes lay the foundation for legal theory, procedure, and evidence. Advocacy exercises incorporated throughout the curriculum introduce skills essential to the practice of law, but it is during high-stakes competitions that the elements of law, fact, and preparation are brought together. In this academic year alone, Baylor Law students will compete in more than 40 competitions around the country and in multiple internal competitions. Our ability to send out a large cohort of our students to compete at the highest levels across the country would be impossible without the continued, generous financial support of our interscholastic competition teams and advocacy programming by generations of Baylor Lawyers. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to every one of our generous benefactors.

Baylor Law's dedication to training lawyers who are fully qualified to practice law, combined with dedicated students who are enthusiastic about winning, often gives us the upper hand in these competitions. However, the essential success factor, or "secret sauce," of our winning track record is the dedication of time and talent by dozens of accomplished lawyers, professors, and judges who coach our teams.

Advocacy Director Robert Little (JD '05) states that our coaching team is a singular combination of successful practicing lawyers, full-time professors, and staff. "It is extremely rare to have someone in Professor Larry Bates' position, who teaches full-time, has been a professor at Baylor Law for so long, who is a tenured faculty member, and who also coaches winning teams year after year." And Professor Bates isn't alone. Professors Brian Serr, Laura Hernández, Allen Page, Greg White, Mike Berry, Lee Ann James, and Pat Souter, as well as Associate Dean Pat Wilson, each dedicate hours of their time outside the classroom, in addition to their teaching duties, to coach teams.

Our Baylor Law interscholastic teams compete in multiple areas, including mock trial, moot court, transactional law, client counseling, negotiations, sports law, and others. *Bottom line: we compete ... and we win.*

"Our emphasis on hiring full-time faculty members who are experienced in practicing law translates well into the coaching environment," Little said. "These professors want to coach and are effective as coaches because they've done the job and they know what it takes to win." Not all coaches are full-time faculty. Many accomplished, practicing lawyers and judges volunteer countless hours to mentor the next generation of Baylor Law's competition teams. Several of our coaches were members of successful interscholastic teams during their time in law school. "They're people who understand the methodology we use for coaching teams," noted Little. Little also points out that it is rare among law schools to have a dedicated Advocacy Program Coordinator who has been actively coaching teams for more than two decades. During her tenure at the Law School, Kathy Serr (JD '91) has coached scores of future Baylor Lawyers in both mock trial and moot court competitions. Many of our current coaches credit Serr, her mentorship, and their time on her teams as the reason they want to coach the current generation of students. "I was on Kathy's moot court team when I was in law school, so when she called me in 2008 and asked if I could coach a team, I jumped at the chance," explained Little, who now works closely with her.

"Asking someone to coach a team is a big ask," remarked Serr. "They give up a lot of their time. Time away from their practice and time away from their families. It takes a lot to get a team ready, and then travel with them to the competitions. Our coaches are willing to repeatedly put that on their plate and are committed to being part of the Baylor Law interscholastic advocacy family because they want to give back to our students."

Our competition teams also provide a distinctive opportunity to pair seasoned attorneys who have been coaching teams for ten or even twenty years with younger graduates, which assures that our students are getting a wide range of perspectives on the practice of law. Just this past year, David Deaconson (JD '83) was paired with Mason Dunnam (JD '19), and Colin O'Neill (JD '85) was paired with Allison Luckey (JD '20). These pairings not only help out students but also allow our experienced coaches to pass on what they know to the next generation of Baylor Law advocacy coaches.

"Baylor graduates are truly armed for the courtroom through the Law School's advocacy and Practice Court programs," stated Dunnam, who now coaches with his former mock trial coach, David Deaconson. "Thanks to what I learned in these programs, I was able to successfully try two jury trials within weeks of receiving my law license, including conducting jury selection, examination of key witnesses, and giving both opening and closing arguments. The superior guidance of Baylor's advocacy team made this goal a reality."

Baylor Law Emphasizes the Educational Experience

While Baylor Law has compiled an impressive winning record over the years, Director Little notes, **“any school that prioritizes winning over learning is making a mistake.”** Baylor Law’s fast-paced quarter system has singular advantages for students interested in competing on one of our teams. Unlike most other law schools, our students can compete on multiple teams spanning multiple disciplines. “In their final two years at Baylor Law, our students have the opportunity to compete on client counseling teams, mock trial teams, moot court teams, negotiation teams, sports law, or transactional teams,” said Little. This is distinctly different from the approach of other law schools. At most schools, students are required to decide what discipline they want to compete in during their first year and never get the experience of joining any other types of teams. “None of our team experiences are excluded from our students as long as they’re willing to put in the effort and put in the time,” said Little. “I think it’s better for our students to get exposure to multiple teams and experiences in the law. I believe it helps them understand what the actual practice of law looks like. **Our mission here is not to win competitions. It is to train effective advocates.** Getting that kind of cross-pollination amongst the different disciplines is helpful.”

The quarter system adds one hurdle to our teams and coaches, making Baylor Law’s impressive list of wins even more striking. Most law school competitions are scheduled to avoid student competitors’ traditional “exam period.” In many cases, that places the dates of the competitions squarely during Baylor Law’s exam periods or shortly before—yet our students, due in no small part to the mentoring, guidance, and support of their coaches, consistently rise to the challenge.

In addition, the generous philanthropy of Baylor Lawyers allows our students and their coaches to register for these competitions, travel, and compete at no cost to themselves.

Any school that prioritizes winning over learning is making a mistake.

The Changing Competitive Landscape

Thanks to the willingness of Baylor’s coaches to share their experience and talents with the competition teams, Baylor Law has increased the number of interscholastic teams fielded to keep up with the growth in competitions that has occurred over the past several years. “There are more schools that want to host competitions. There are different kinds of competitions. There are more opportunities for students to compete,” commented Director Little, “When I was in law school, in 2005, there might have been three or four competitions every semester that you could attend. Now, there are maybe 15 mock trial competitions in both the spring and the fall. So there might be 40 total competitions, or more, that you can go to.” The list of moot court competitions is also long and growing. The options for transactional competitions have boomed in the last five to ten years, and we also field competition teams for client counseling, *voir dire*, and other tournaments.

“I think what we’ve done here at Baylor is, as the opportunities grow, we just embrace them. We go to so many more competitions than we did even 10 or 15 years ago,” said Little.

In 1996–1997, 25 years ago, Baylor Law fielded three moot court teams, three mock trial teams, one client counseling team, and one negotiations team, with a total of 40 students competing.

By 2001–2002, 20 years ago, the Law School fielded five moot court teams, four mock trial teams, one client counseling team, one mediation team, and had a total of 54 students competing.

By 2021–2022, the Baylor interscholastic competition program had grown five-fold. Last year, Baylor law fielded 21 moot court teams, 14 mock trial teams, one client counseling team, four transactional teams, two negotiation teams, and had over 150 students competing.

Through this dramatic change, the consistency of the Baylor Law program is notable. “We are competitive across the board with a smaller group of students to pull from than most of our peer institutions. This tells a story about how good the training here is, how good the coaches are, and how good our students are,” affirmed Little.

“We’re fortunate at Baylor that we generally get to go to what I consider to be the best competitions in the country and compete at the highest levels in moot court, mock trial, transactional, client counseling—across the board. We are lucky to get invited to compete in some of the best competitions. It offers the best opportunity for our students to see outstanding opponents and to really learn a lot.” Little notes that Baylor Law is trying to seek even more opportunities for students to compete than ever before. “Transactional didn’t even exist as a competition platform when I was in school. Client counseling was very small. Moot court was much smaller, with far fewer opportunities. Mock trial was much smaller. You might have eight or ten students doing mock trial competitively. I have probably 20 plus students I’m going to send out this fall and another 20 to 30 in the spring. There are just so many more opportunities.”



THE INCREDIBLE RISE OF THE BAYLOR LAW COMPETITION PROGRAM

1996–97

- 3 moot court teams
- 3 mock trial teams
- 1 client counseling team
- 1 negotiations team



40 total students competed

2001–02

- 5 moot court teams
- 4 mock trial teams
- 1 client counseling team
- 1 mediation team



54 total students competed

2021–22



- 21 moot court teams
- 14 mock trial teams
- 1 client counseling team
- 4 transactional teams
- 2 negotiations teams



150+ total students competed

Alumni Spotlight Kathy Serr

Baylor Law Advocacy Program Coordinator

Director Little held nothing back when asked to share about the changing competitive landscape and what it means for Baylor Law. “The number one thing I want anybody to know is we’re doing everything we can to train great lawyers who are competent, professional, ethical, and do things the right way. The consistent thing from when I was in law school and today is being a Baylor Lawyer means something. I think that we’re still doing that the same way today. We’ve grown, but the expectations we have for our students in the courtroom, our expectations for our students in the boardroom, and our expectations across the board have not changed. What was expected of a Baylor Lawyer in the year 2000, I always like to say, it’s the same thing it was in the 1980s and the same in 2022. There’s a ‘through line’ in our program from what Jerry Powell was learning in Practice Court in 1976, what I learned in Practice Court from Jerry Powell and Bill Underwood in 2004 and 2005, and now what students are learning today in Practice Court from Jim Wren, Liz Fraley, Jeremy Counsellor, and myself in 2022. That didn’t just come out of nowhere. And so, if anything, Baylor, to me, is about consistency. It’s about producing high-quality lawyers on every level.”

“When our students go into a courtroom or a boardroom, I want everyone across the country to know that’s a Baylor Law student. Whether it’s moot court, mock trial, or a transactional competition, there’s a way we carry ourselves and approach things that looks and sounds like Baylor. My hope and goal is when Baylor Lawyers—or any lawyers for that matter—sign up to judge a competition and watch our students, they pretty quickly realize, ‘that person went to Baylor Law.’ That is because as much as things have evolved over the last 20 years, we still sound like Baylor Lawyers, and I don’t ever want that to change,” said Little.

2021–2022 Competition Season Review

The 2021–2022 competition season was another strong one for Baylor Law.

In moot court, the team of Lexie Ammons, Michael Tagliabue, and Sarah Megan Erb won a national championship at the Hunton Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship, one of the most prestigious moot court competitions that only invites the top 16 schools in the nation based on points earned during the previous year. Baylor Law also won The Elliot Cup Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition and advanced to elimination rounds at 12 of the 21 competitions in which we participated. Baylor Law finished the year ranked in the top 10 of all moot court teams from around the country. “The professors at Baylor Law instilled in me that confidence comes from preparation and from preparation comes success—this is the Baylor Law philosophy,” noted Lexie Ammons (JD ’22). “That mindset has given me a unique edge inside and outside the classroom, and it has provided me with a solid foundation to have a successful legal career.”

In mock trial, Baylor Law advanced to elimination rounds at 7 out of the 14 competitions we took part in and finished as runner-up at the National Pretrial Competition and The Summit Cup.

Our transactional teams competed in four different competitions, won the award for First Place Buyer at the Duke Transactional Law Competition, and claimed third place in the L. Edward Bryant, Jr. National Health Law Transactional Competition.

Our client counseling team won their regional and advanced to the National Competition at the American Bar Association Client Counseling Competition, where they made it to the national semi-finals, finishing as one of the final four teams in the country.

And our negotiations team also won their regional and advanced to the National Competition at the American Bar Association Negotiation Competition.



In college, Kathy Serr (JD ’91) had the opportunity to work in the district attorney’s office in Midland, Texas. Several of the attorneys she had the pleasure of working with and respected were Baylor lawyers. She notes, “Even the lawyers that weren’t Baylor Lawyers in the office spoke very highly of Baylor Law.” After deciding to pursue a legal career, she visited both UT and Baylor. “All the things that I think and hope would appeal to our students today appealed to me back then,” Serr commented. “The smaller class size, the emphasis on being courtroom ready, a practical as well as theoretical approach to the law, all of those things are what appealed to me.”

During her time at Baylor Law, Serr participated on the ABA moot court team, the New York City Bar national moot court team, and the TYLA national trial competition team. “When I was in law school, there were not nearly as many competitions as there are today. We competed in just three moot court competitions. I think there was only one mock trial competition.

After graduation and moving away from Waco for a time, Kathy returned to central Texas and was asked by Professor Bill Trail to coach the TYLA state moot court team. Shortly after that, Professor Jerry Powell asked her to assist him in coaching the mock trial teams. “We were starting to see the increase in the number of interscholastic competitions out there and that we could start participating in.” Serr worked alongside Prof. Powell to coach two mock trial teams that spring, and Baylor Law’s competition teams grew from there. By 2008, the growth in the number and types of competitions, and the number of Baylor Law students participating in the program, made it clear that the law school would need someone to work in an administrative role to facilitate the program’s growth. Serr was the perfect candidate to oversee the administrative aspects of Baylor Law’s intramural teams. “When Jerry, Brad, and I talked about creating this new role that I would have, I needed it to be part-time and flexible. But I wanted to ensure that it didn’t keep me from coaching because that’s the part that gives meaning to all the logistics and everything else that goes into my role. We are blessed with good students, people who are excited about learning and competing, and getting the chance to work with them is what keeps me going.”

Kathy has learned over the years that one of the most challenging parts of coaching a team is to recognize that some parts of a competition are out of the control of the students and the coaches. “Much of this is subjective. There is so much about a competition that you can’t control. Sometimes our students have done everything that they could do to prepare. I think they’re the best advocates in the room, but that doesn’t always translate to a win.” Kathy’s goal with coaching so many teams over the years is to help students maximize the learning potential of every competitive experience. Win or lose. “No matter the outcome of a competition, my goal is to get our students to a point where they feel like they couldn’t have done anything else to prepare. I don’t want our students to have regrets and look back and say, ‘Man, if I only put a little more work into it, would that have made a difference?’ I want our students to say, ‘That was still a good experience, and there wasn’t anything else I could have done.’ I want them to feel that it was a worthwhile use of their time and prepared them to go on and practice law.”

Baylor Law Competition Coaches

Current Client Counseling Team Coach

Hon. Vik Deivanayagam

Current or Recent Mock Trial Coaches

Mark Altman
Dave Deaconson
Chandler Dean
Mason Dunnam
Marcus Fifer
Hon. Derek T. Gilliland
Professor Robert Little
Allison Luckey
Cahal McColgan
Colin O'Neill
Brad Rynnanen
Bailey Strohmeyer
Kelsey Warren
Professor Greg White
Ben Yelverton

Current or Recent Moot Court Coaches

Jacqueline Altman
Professor Larry Bates
Professor Mike Berry
Elizabeth Gardner
Kyle Gardner
Professor Laura Hernández
Professor Lee Ann James
Professor Kayla Landeros
Haley Owen
Professor Brian Serr
Advocacy Coordinator Kathy Serr
Tyler Talbert
Professor Greg White
Dean Patricia Wilson

Current Negotiations Team Coach

Tony Silas

Current Sports Law Team Coach

Miranda Chavez

Current Transactional Team Coaches

Lotte Bostick
J.P. Haskins
James Howard
Hunter Hullett
Professor Kayla Landeros
Professor Allen Page
Pat Souter

2022–2023 Season Underway

Baylor Law is off to another great start in the 2022–2023 competition season. One Baylor Law team defeated a second Baylor Law team to take both first and second place at the Earle E. Zehmer National Workers Compensation Moot Court Competition. A Baylor Law team was declared champion at the Civil Rights & Liberties Moot Court Competition, while another made it to the semi-final round. At the National Pretrial Competition, a Baylor Law Team took first place and one of our students was named Best Advocate in the final round. At the *Best in Texas Voir Dire Competition* Baylor Law students won Best *Voir Dire* and Best Opening Statement.

Throughout the year, Baylor Law achieves success in every discipline and at the highest level, and our students represent the school well, showing everyone what it means to be a Baylor Lawyer.



The “Triple Crown” of Interscholastic Competitions

In addition to sending out dozens of competition teams, every year, Baylor Law hosts the “Triple Crown” of intense interscholastic legal competitions: the Top Gun National Mock Trial Competition, one of the most unique and challenging mock trial competitions in the country; The Closer National Transactional Law Competition, Baylor Law’s demanding, invitation-only transactional law competition, and The Paper Chase, one of the only competitive legal writing contests in the country.

Unlike mock trial competitions hosted by other institutions, at Top Gun, participating students do not get to prepare for the case before the start of the event. The 16 competitors receive their case files a mere 24 hours before the opening rounds. Preparation includes reviewing depositions, records, photographs, and of course, developing a theory of the case. Before each round, witnesses are assigned, and competitors may use them at their discretion during the round. Baylor Law’s advocacy team usually throws a dramatic “curveball” at the competitors during the semi-final and final rounds. In last year’s competition, a complex criminal case involving digital artwork and non-fungible tokens transitioned from a criminal case to a civil one, where a plaintiff sued the defendant for fraud.

Baylor Law’s The Closer is one of the nation’s premier transactional law competitions. Every year, Baylor extends a limited number of invitations to law schools whose programming demonstrates a commitment to excellence in practical business and transactional law training. Competitors in The Closer receive the details of the transaction they will negotiate just 24 hours before the first round of negotiations. As with Top Gun, the tight timeline simulates the pressures of practice, requiring competitors to identify the most pressing issues and devise and negotiate creative solutions that best serve their client’s interests. During The Closer, the student competitors face one another individually

in the negotiation rounds, without the assistance of co-counsel or “second chairs.” Real Waco-based entities act as the backdrop for the fictional transactions, adding a realism to the competition that is unmatched by any other transactional competition.

“Each year visiting coaches are effusive with their praise of Professor Beth Miller for creating this unique learning opportunity,” noted Leah Teague, Director of Business Law Programs. Teague also expressed appreciation for the important contributions of the devoted Baylor Lawyers who judge each year. “These experienced transactional lawyers offer valuable insights to the law students as they judge their negotiation skills and professionalism. With each round of the competition, the competitors gain confidence and poise as they use their knowledge and creativity to devise and negotiate solutions for their client.”

The third jewel of Baylor Law’s Triple Crown is The Paper Chase, Baylor Law’s legal writing competition. Open to students at any of the nine non-Baylor law schools in Texas, The Paper Chase is a practice-oriented writing competition designed to test law students’ analytical and legal writing skills. Baylor Law hosts the competition supported by the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA). TYLA members are the sole judges of the anonymous entries. The high-stakes tournament stands out for its challenging real-world writing problem, adapted from actual case files, and tight timelines rule the day. Students have only one week to review the case details, identify the most pressing legal issues, and draft the necessary document(s).

Special thanks to Baylor Law’s “Triple Crown” competition sponsors:



TOP GUN is generously underwritten
by MG+M the Law Firm



The Closer is generously underwritten by the
Kim and Bill Shaddock Fund for Business and
Entrepreneurial Initiatives at Baylor Law



The Paper Chase is generously
underwritten by FVF Law.

*The
Soft (Skills)*
Side
of the
Law

Law school is about problem solving. As Judge Vikram “Vik” Deivanayagam, JD ’93, explains, unfortunately, it’s sometimes missing something vital: the human element.

JUDGE VIKRAM
DEIVANAYAGAM

Feature Profile

“When you get to law school, we have a tendency not to see the human element,” Judge Vikram “Vik” Deivanayagam said. “People tell me their problem, and my job as a lawyer is to fix the problem. For a test, that’s great. In the real world, you have to address the person holistically. You have to talk to the person as a person, not as a problem.”

The judge has served on the bench of the McLennan County Court at Law since 2017, and in addition, Judge Deivanayagam also presides over the DWI/Drug Court, a specialty court whose mission is to improve public safety by decreasing DWI and drug related offenses and by holding alcohol and drug offenders accountable by combining judicial intervention, intensive supervision, and immediate, consistent and dedicated substance abuse treatment.

Judge Deivanayagam has also been the Client Counseling Team coach at Baylor Law for more than a decade. As coach for this particular competition, he teaches students the importance of communication and active listening skills.



“What I really enjoy right now is watching young people accomplish something that maybe they weren’t sure they could do.”



Client Counseling Competitions prepare students for the discussion of practical issues, such as confidentiality, fee arrangements, engagement letters, conflicts of interest, professional and ethical conduct, general litigation procedures and methods of alternative dispute resolution. Unlike a moot court or mock trial, where the witness has a script or the case law you need to apply is known, this is more extemporaneous and, according to Judge Deivanayagam, better suited to a real practice situation.

“Client counseling tests other skills that people may consider soft skills,” he said. “But in practice, they’re very, very valuable. As a counselor, we have to be able to listen and at the same time, analyze. We have to be responsive to our client and build a rapport. All of those things are skills that, typically, we don’t test in law school.”

Professionalism, with a personal touch

As it happens, future Baylor Lawyers are good at it. Judge Deivanayagam’s teams have gone on to regionals and nationals “five or six times” during his time as coach.

“Students who maybe aren’t your traditional successful students in law can really flourish in these competitions because a different set of skills is being used,” Judge Deivanayagam continued. “It’s not your ability to recite the law, it’s your ability to make the person you’re talking to feel at ease, feel welcome, feel like they can open up and tell you things that they normally wouldn’t tell someone.”

In hindsight, he wonders if this type of competition would have given him more confidence that law school was the right place for a more laidback law student like himself.

Judge Deivanayagam found his place in law. After graduating from Baylor Law, he went on to private practice with the Law Offices of Rod Goble where he worked primarily criminal defense cases.

He became partner in 2000. In 2007, he became board certified by the State Board of Legal Specialization in Criminal Law.

“I’ve told a few people I’ve been fortunate to have a career with a lot of awards and plaques. That’s great. I don’t need another plaque for my wall,” he shared. “What I really enjoy right now is watching young people accomplish something that maybe they weren’t sure they could do.”

Judge Deivanayagam’s heart for mentorship is apparent. He was awarded the 2019 Mentor of the Year Award from the Waco-McLennan Young Lawyers Association and the 2020 Outstanding Mentor of the Year Award from the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA).

“At this time in my career, it’s fun to watch people personally succeed, and to do it the right way,” he said.

“Client counseling tests other skills that people may consider soft skills. But in practice, they’re very, very valuable.”



Feature Profile

When Allison (Szabo) Luckey, JD '20, was approached to become a Baylor Law School mock trial coach, she was a bit nervous about it. She was just a few years older than most of the students she'd be coaching, and during her time as a student, only participated on one team thanks to scheduling issues and COVID-19 shut-downs. She boldly said "yes" anyway.



ALLISON (SZABO)
LUCKEY

A Winning Tradition

from Student to Coach

“**T**he students are only a few years younger than me, but I think it helps me relate to them,” Allison Luckey said. “It’s given me a unique perspective because I’ve been there. I’ve felt that. The quick transition helps me relate to them a lot better than if there was a big gap between when I graduated and started coaching.”

Luckey and her co-coach, Colin O’Neill, team up to bring their strengths to their teams. Although at the beginning of her law career, she has the recent mock trial student experience, whereas O’Neill brings the real-life trial experience. Luckey looks forward to bringing more and more practice experience to her teams as she grows professionally. She recently joined Naman, Howell, Smith & Lee, PLLC in Waco as an associate attorney, and prior to that worked as the LL.M. Associate for Baylor Law.

“Yes, we’re preparing to win—we want to do well in the competition—but we’re also really trying to prepare the students for whatever they are going to do in the real world,” Luckey said.

“That’s what’s more important.”

But win, they have. In April, one of the first teams Luckey coached placed third in the Puerto Rico Trial Advocacy Competition hosted by Interamerican University of Puerto Rico School of Law.

“I want to see the students progress in their skills and feel more confident in themselves,” Luckey said. “I love seeing that happen. It feels good to have people support and believe in you. I love being in a role where I get to do that.”

Luckey didn’t always know that she wanted to pursue a law career, much less coach mock trial competition teams.

“I was not one of those kids who said, ‘I’ve wanted to be a lawyer my whole life,’” she admitted. “I didn’t make the decision until relatively late. I was a criminal justice major, and I started to really think about what that looked like for me as a career. I had two advisors who I was very

“I want to see the students progress in their skills and feel more confident in themselves. I love seeing that happen. It feels good to have people support and believe in you. I love being in a role where I get to do that.”

close with—both formerly worked as DAs. They actually were the ones who started encouraging me to look into law school.”

With an initial intent to go into criminal law that quickly changed, the transition from Lubbock Christian University criminal justice major and basketball player to Baylor Law student was significant. She shared that her own experience adjusting to law school helps her better understand the students she coaches.

“I think some people come to law school, and it’s not as big of an adjustment,” Luckey said. “But for some other people, like myself, I came to law school and it was a bit of a learning curve for me because I just didn’t really know myself or how I worked best in this environment, and it took me a little longer to figure that out. The earlier you can figure that out for yourself—figure out what works for you and do what works for you to succeed—the better you’re going to be.”

Luckey suggests the students on her teams figure out what works best for them—just like she did and she hopes to continue coaching them well into the future.

“I will be coaching a team here as long as they’ll have me,” she said.

When
Winning

*is a
Moot Point*

HALEY (MOWDY)
OWEN

When Haley (Mowdy) Owen, JD '20 was looking at law schools, she wanted to go to a law school with a strong trial advocacy program. Baylor Law wasn't on her radar but after she visited on a whim, she didn't want to go anywhere else to develop her litigation and advocacy skills.

Baylor is known as a trial advocacy school, and that was something that was a huge draw for me," Owen, who served as senior executive editor of the *Baylor Law Review* in 2020, said. "But more importantly, from the moment I made contact with Baylor, it felt like family. Once you become part of the Baylor family, you really do have an incredibly strong network of connections both with students and with faculty that I don't think you can get anywhere else."

Now, her family is quite literally part of Baylor Law too—she got engaged to her husband Ryan Owen, JD '20, during practice court (PC), while they were PC partners.

In addition to finding love with Ryan, she found a love for moot court competition.

In 2019, her team won the National Championship of the American Bar Association's National Appellate Advocacy Competition (NAAC), the largest moot court competition in the U.S. Not only that, her team was awarded for the second best brief, and Owen was personally awarded the best advocate award. The prior year, her team won the 2018 Moot Court Competition sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA), and individually, she received the second place advocate award.

Owen wanted to coach moot court after graduating, and now, her legacy continues as a coach. Although she is currently coaching just her third team, one of her previous teams excelled to the final round in the Earle E. Zehmer National Workers Compensation Moot Court Competition sponsored by the Workers Compensation Institute in August.



"I'm uber competitive, but the very first thing I want my team to walk away with is that they've learned something substantial that they can take, not just into their next competition, but into practice."

Owen's coaching strategy is modeled after the Baylor Law coaches she had over the years—picking the lessons and strategies that she benefited from, as well as those things she wished she had learned more about.

"I'm uber competitive," Owen admitted. "But the very first thing I want my team to walk away with is that they've learned something substantial that they can take, not just into their next competition, but into practice. At the end of the day, it comes down to the three goals Professor Robert Little taught me when I was in mock trial: 1.) learn something, 2.) have fun, and 3.) win. In that order," Owen said.

In addition to what she learned from Professor Little, Owen also holds a special place in her heart for Kathy Serr, Baylor Law's long-time Advocacy Program Coordinator.

"I would just like to give a shout-out to Kathy Serr for believing in me and encouraging me both professionally and personally," Owen said.

In addition to her own experience, Owen gathers regular feedback from the competitors she coaches to better meet their needs.

"I tend to approach moot court coaching very collaboratively," she said. "My competitors are adults. They're professional, they have a drive to succeed, and they also have the best sense of what they need to be successful, to an extent. I also think it's important to check in with the team emotionally."

Upon graduation as a Baylor Lawyer, Owen followed her dreams into big law,



Ryan, Haley, and Amelia Owen.

where she soon realized she needed to change career directions to get the work-life balance her family needed after she and Ryan welcomed their first child. She found it at Hermes Law, a small litigation boutique firm in Dallas.

"Now, I work remote four days a week and go into the office once a week,"

Owen said. "I get to see my daughter every day, and I don't have to commute. I also went from being a small piece of the pie, to a team lead on about 30 cases, and I manage a very sophisticated insurance coverage docket all by myself."

After a radical career shift, she doesn't want to guess where she'll be in her career in the next five to 10 years, but she does hope she'll still be coaching moot court.



Out&Abouts

STATE BAR ANNUAL MEETING

Thanks to all who attended the Baylor Law Alumni Reception held in conjunction with the 2022 State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting. Congratulations to Baylor Law students Kristopher Ruiz, Gili Canales, and their bailiff Tansy Ackermann—winners of the TYLA State Moot Court Competition held during the annual meeting. The team was coached Professor Kathy Serr.



September 7

JUDGES BREAKFAST

The 2022 Baylor Law Judges Breakfast took place September 7 in Grapevine, Texas in conjunction with the Texas Center for the Judiciary's Annual Judicial Education Conference.



BAYLOR LAWYER NETWORKS

Thank you to the Baylor Lawyers who hosted the April – October Baylor Lawyer Network events.

San Antonio Baylor Lawyer Network Lunch

APRIL 28, 2022

Hosted by San Antonio Baylor Lawyers:

Mark Sessions, JD '81
Cameron Redding, JD '13
Matthew Myers, JD '14

Corpus Christi Baylor Lawyer Network Happy Hour

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Hosted by: Louie Cook, JD '16, and the Baylor Law Alumni Association

San Antonio Baylor Lawyer Network Reception

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

Hosted by: Clark Hill PLC and the San Antonio Baylor Lawyer Network

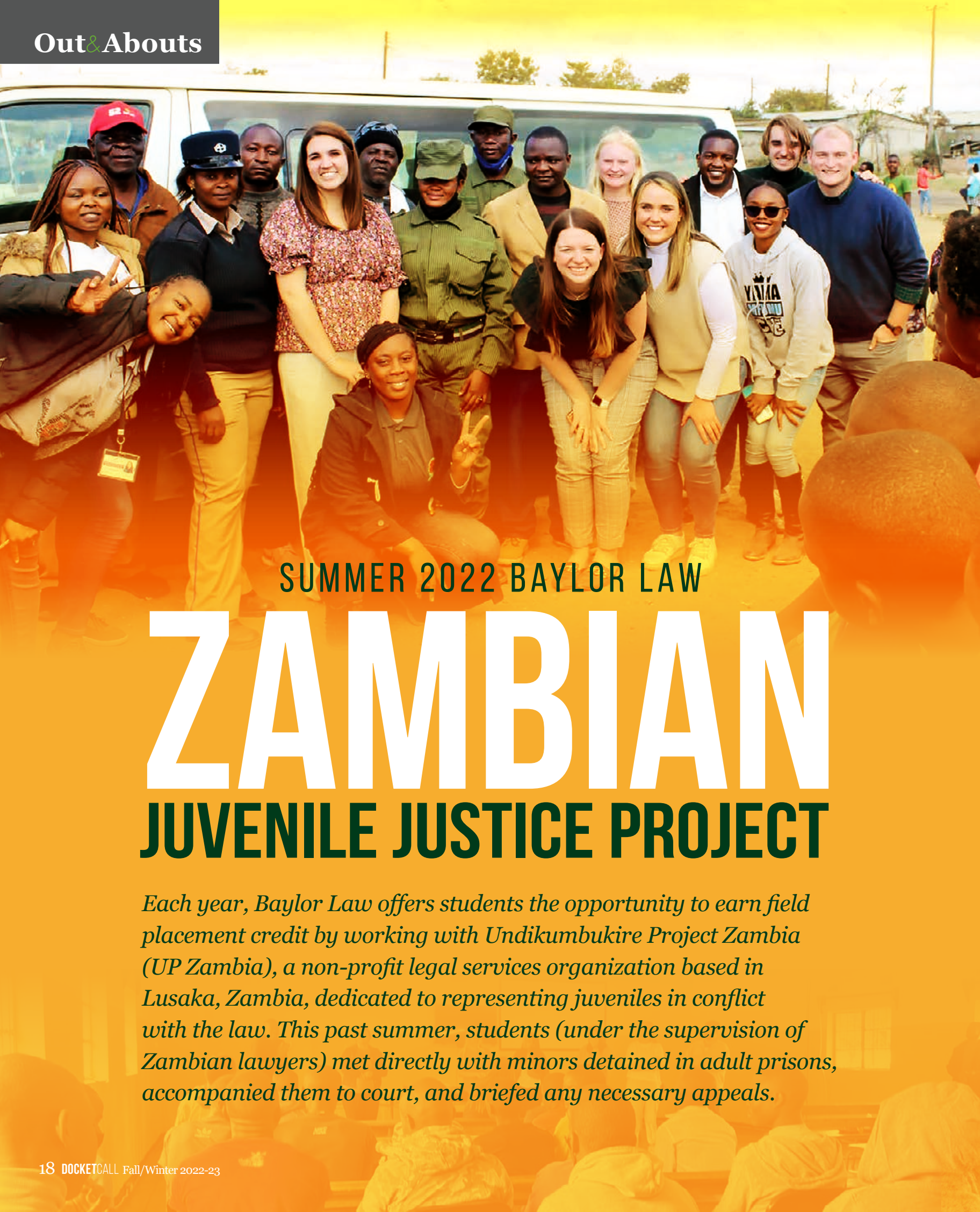
Dallas Baylor Lawyer Network Reception

OCTOBER 6, 2022

Hosted by the Baylor Lawyers of Ogletree Deakins:

Sean C. Urich, JD '01
Michael R. Buchanan, JD '81
John B. Brown, JD '95, and the Dallas Baylor Lawyer Network

If you are interested in hosting a Baylor Lawyer Network reception, please contact law_alumni@baylor.edu.



SUMMER 2022 BAYLOR LAW

ZAMBIAN JUVENILE JUSTICE PROJECT


Each year, Baylor Law offers students the opportunity to earn field placement credit by working with Undikumbukire Project Zambia (UP Zambia), a non-profit legal services organization based in Lusaka, Zambia, dedicated to representing juveniles in conflict with the law. This past summer, students (under the supervision of Zambian lawyers) met directly with minors detained in adult prisons, accompanied them to court, and briefed any necessary appeals.



UNDIKUMBUKIRE PROJECT ZAMBIA






 **ACADEMY OF THE
ADVOCATE**
ST ANDREWS, SCOTLAND
JULY 28—AUGUST 11, 2022



Located in St Andrews, Scotland, Baylor Law's Academy of the Advocate summer study abroad program is one of the finest advocacy training programs in the world. Students step into an immersive, two-week trial and appellate advocacy experience led by some of the best civil trial lawyers, criminal prosecutors, sitting judges, and renowned advocacy professors in America.



The Jaworski FELLOWS PROGRAM at Baylor Law.

SECOND ANNUAL FELLOW & CANDIDATE DINNER

On June 4, 2022, The Jaworski Fellows Program at Baylor Law hosted a special dinner honoring Baylor Law's esteemed Jaworski Fellows and Candidates. Held at the Baylor Club inside McLane Stadium, the evening began with lively fellowship and meaningful conversation led by Jennifer King, JD '81, and Mark Mann, JD '01. The night culminated in the spirited recounting of the group's best anecdotes and stories from their very own Practice Court experiences. Additionally, Judge Lee Harris, JD '93, was recognized for his outstanding time and service dedicated to the Practice Court Program. Over the last decade, the Jaworski Fellows Program has become a major tradition of the storied Baylor Practice Law Court experience.



@Baylor Law

EXECUTIVE LL.M. ON-CAMPUS SESSION

Baylor Law's innovative Executive LL.M. in Litigation Management is the first LL.M. program centered exclusively on litigation management that combines flexible online and in-person learning to allow working attorneys to continue practice while earning their advanced degree.



TEXAS DISTRICT AND COUNTY ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

Since 2002, Baylor Law has hosted the Texas District and County Attorneys Association's (TDCAA) Advanced Trial Advocacy Course during the 'intersession' between the Summer and Fall Quarters. Building on this decades-long partnership, Baylor hosted two of TDCAA's educational programs this summer: its Advanced Trial Advocacy Course and its Advanced Appellate Course.



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Baylor Law celebrated Juneteenth with remarks from Baylor's Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Belonging Dr. Stephen Reid, steppers from Delta Sigma Theta, the musical talents of JC Stringz, and delicious food catered by Tru Jamaica of Waco.





TOP GUN XIII

Congratulations to Haley Kairab of the University of Georgia School of Law, the 2022 Baylor Law Top Gun National Mock Trial Competition Champion! Regina Campbell of UCLA School of Law placed second. The Semi-finalists were Katherine Castener of Stetson University College of Law and Demetri Dawson from American University Washington College of Law. Thanks to all the Top Gun competitors, special thanks to all the distinguished judges, and a very special thanks to the competition's sponsor **MG+M The Law Firm**, a national litigation and trial-focused firm with over 100 trial-tested attorneys across its 13 offices.



THE SUTHERLAND SPRINGS TRIAL

Baylor Lawyers Jamal Alsaffar, JD '00, and Tom Jacob, JD '09 of National Trial Law won a multi-million dollar verdict against the federal government for the victims of the worst mass shooting in Texas history, the Sutherland Springs massacre. Alsaffar and Jacob spoke to Baylor Law students about their trial strategies the lessons they learned from taking on the federal government and winning.



Michael P. Heiskell (J.D.'74)

2022
Baylor
Lawyer
of the
Year.

Named
2022
Baylor
Lawyer
of the
Year

The Executive Committee of the Baylor Law Alumni Association selected Michael P. Heiskell (J.D. '74) as the 2022 Baylor Lawyer of the Year. Cynthia Clack (J.D. '78), President of the Baylor Law Alumni Association, presented Heiskell with the award during a recognition luncheon at the Fort Worth Club on Thursday, September 15th.

“Michael exemplifies every quality of a Baylor Lawyer. He is a fierce yet compassionate advocate for his clients and has an unwavering dedication to improving the quality of our justice system while maintaining the highest ideals of the legal profession,” stated Baylor Law Dean Brad Toben.



“Michael exemplifies every quality of a Baylor Lawyer. He is a fierce yet compassionate advocate for his clients and has an unswerving dedication to improving the quality of our justice system while maintaining the highest ideals of the legal profession.”

— Dean Brad Toben



Michael Heiskell (second from left) and his wife Anita (far left) with Baylor University President Linda Livingstone and Baylor Law Dean Brad Toben.

“He is an outstanding lawyer and a truly authentic person. His career and life bear testimony to his richly deserving this honor,” Dean Toben said.

“I am honored, humbled, and grateful to be the recipient of the 2022 Baylor Lawyer of the Year Award,” Heiskell said. “To be listed among the most influential and iconic Baylor Lawyers—from Leon Jaworski, to Matt Dawson, to Bob Bullock, just to name a few—is a blessing that I will cherish for the rest of my life,” he continued. “Attending Baylor Law was a dream come true for me. I left it a lot wiser in ways I never imagined. I am proud to continue to associate myself with Baylor University and its great law school.”

Heiskell, who focuses his practice on criminal defense and representing civil rights litigants, is one of the three founding partners of the Fort Worth-based firm Johnson, Vaughn & Heiskell. He now serves as the senior attorney. Before founding the firm in 1984, he served as an assistant district attorney for Galveston County from 1975 to 1980 and

as an assistant United States attorney in the Northern District of Texas from 1980 to 1984.

Heiskell was recently sworn in as President-Elect of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and is Past-President of the Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (“TCDLA”), and the Galveston County Young Lawyers Association. He is a former Chair of the U.S. Court Advisory Committee for the Northern District of Texas and a Trustee of the Texas Bar Foundation. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Tarrant County Bar Association.

Heiskell received the “Lawyer of the Year Award” from the Tarrant County Black Bar Association in both 1995 and 2000. He was awarded the “Presidential Award of Excellence” by TCDLA in 1994, 1995, and 2003 and was inducted into the TCDLA’s Hall of Fame in 2015. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (“NACDL”). In 2020

he received the Blackstone Award from the Tarrant County Bar Association, the Bar’s highest honor. *Texas Monthly Magazine* has named him a “Super Lawyer” every year since 2003. He has also been recognized in *Texas Lawyer* as one of the “Extraordinary Minorities in Texas Law.”

Heiskell is a “Double Bear,” graduating from Baylor University in 1972 and was the first African American graduate of Baylor Law, receiving his Juris Doctor in 1974. He currently serves on the Baylor University Board of Regents.

Heiskell is a frequent lecturer for the Dallas County Criminal Lawyers Association, the Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and the State Bar of Texas. He has spoken frequently before the Texas Center for the Judiciary and the Federal Public Defender’s Annual Federal Practice Seminar. He has also presented to the NACDL, the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Dallas County Criminal Defense Lawyers, the San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Mexican-American Bar Association, and the Tarrant County Bar Association. He is currently the Chair of the Delta Mu Boulé Educational Foundation and serves on the Board of Regents for The Oakridge School in Arlington, Texas.

Heiskell and his wife, Anita, are members of Morningside United Methodist Church in Fort Worth, and they have four children: Marin, James, Michael, Jr., and Mason.



AlumniNOTES

1970s

Marilea Whatley Lewis, JD '78, was selected as a *Best Lawyer in America 2023* in the categories of Family Law, Collaborative Law: Family Law, and Family Law: Mediation.



Tom Myers, JD '79, received the Kelly Frels Lifetime Achievement Award from the State Bar of Texas School Law Section. The award recognizes attorneys who have made outstanding contributions to the practice of school law and for their lifetime contributions to the School Law Section. He is a shareholder with Brackett & Ellis, P.C. in Fort Worth, Texas.

1980s

John D. Sloan, JD '80, with Sloan, Hatcher, Perry, Runge, Robertson, Smith & Jones in Longview, was elected to the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors.

Steven R. Guy, JD '81, announced the opening of Steven R. Guy & Associates PLLC, in Jacksonville, Texas. Guy was previously a partner in Norman, Angle, Guy & Brewer.

J. Cary Gray, JD '83, has transitioned from Managing Partner to Chairman of Gray Reed as of January 2023. Gary has served as the firm's Managing Partner since 2006. Under his leadership, the firm has doubled in size, expanded to Waco, and built an operational structure to maximize efficiency and profitability.

Hon. Rhonda Hurley, JD '84, of the Travis County, 98th District Court, was selected as the Innovator of the Year Award recipient during the 8th annual Justice Innovation Awards ceremony at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 85th Annual Conference. Judge Hurley was recognized for her work and efforts to innovatively rethink, reimagine, and redefine justice for children and families, thus advancing the NCJFCJ's vision—a society in which every family and child has access to fair, equal, effective, and timely justice.

Bill Jones, JD '85, of Austin, Texas, has been selected as a 2022 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a former student of Texas A&M University.

Alan Vickery, JD '86, has joined Bowman and Brooke LLP as partner in their new Plano, Texas, office. Alan brings 25 years of experience in navigating the large pharmaceutical and medical device field. He has been awarded the Life Sciences Star, 2012-2021 and Leading Life Sciences Lawyer, 2021-2022 by LMG Life Sciences and the Litigation Star, 2016-2021 by Benchmark Litigation.

Jeffrey R. "Jeff" Cox, JD '87, has been named Executive Vice President & Trust Officer of Community Bank & Trust in Waco. Cox previously practiced law with Sheehy, Lovelace & Mayfield, P.C. where he served as the bank's chief outside general counsel before transitioning to the head of the bank's Wealth Management and Trust Department.

Glenn Callison, JD '88, with Munsch Hardt, was individually recognized by Chambers USA 2022 in the practice of Real Estate.

John Meredith, JD '88, Chief Operating Officer with Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Houston, was named one of the top 50 chief operating officers (COO) nationwide during the 2022 OnCon Icon Awards held on May 12, 2022. Award winners were selected by their peers in the COO community. Voters selected COOs they felt demonstrated a good mix of success and positive impact on their organization and/or previous organizations and made strong contributions to the COO community through thought leadership, innovation, and leadership.

1990s

Hon. Alfonso Charles, JD '90, was reappointed by Governor Greg Abbott to serve as the Presiding Judge for the 10th Administrative Judicial Region for the State of Texas.

April F. Robbins, JD '90, has joined Cantey Hanger as a partner in the litigation section. She has practiced insurance defense litigation for more than 30 years.

Lisa L. Havens, JD '93, has been named chief legal officer of Baylor Scott & White Health.

Katie Smith Anderson, JD '94, was recently selected to serve as the Deputy Member in Charge for Clark Hill's Dallas office.

Tracy Norton, JD '94, will join the Louisiana State University Law faculty this fall teaching Legal Research & Writing. She has been teaching at Touro Law Center in Long Island, New York since 2007.

Erik Walker, JD '94, is now with Thomas J. Henry Law's Austin office practicing in Personal Injury and Premises/Product Liability.



Cindy V. Tisdale, JD '95, with the Law Office of Cindy V. Tisdale in Granbury and of counsel to Lynch, Chappell & Alsup in Midland, was elected State Bar of Texas president-elect and was sworn

in during the Board of Directors meeting on June 9. Tisdale is board certified in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. She served as 2013-2014 chair of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors. She also served as chair of the Texas Bar Foundation from 2017 to 2018 and chair of the State Bar Family Law Section from 2017 to 2018. She is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, a fellow in the American Academy of Family Law Specialists, a fellow in the International Academy of Family Law Specialists, a member of the Texas Bar College, and a member of the Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas.



Derek Gilliland, J.D. '98, took the bench as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in the Waco Division of the Western District of Texas. He also taught the Patent Litigation Management course in Baylor

Law's Executive LL.M. in Litigation Management program for the Fall of 2022.

William D. Ellerman, JD '98, has joined McKool Smith in Dallas as a principal working in complex commercial and intellectual property litigation and patent issues.

Craig Cherry, JD '99, with Steckler, Wayne, Cochran, Cherry PLLC in Waco, was elected to the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors.

Hon. Leigh Thomas, JD '99, serves as an Administrative Law Judge for Administrative Procedures Division for Tennessee Secretary of State.

2000s



Wade N. Faulkner, JD '01, an adjunct professor at Baylor Law, was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the newly created 478th Judicial District Court in Bell County.

Judge Faulkner was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1995. In 1998 he was selected for the highly competitive Funded Legal Education Program and earned his law degree from Baylor Law in 2001. In 2008 he earned his LL.M. degree in Military Law from the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School.

In 2016 he retired from active duty and founded the Law Office of Wade Faulkner in Salado, TX. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas and the College of the State Bar of Texas. He is also the former Chair of the Military and Veteran's Law Section of the State Bar, past President of the Bell County Bar Association, and Director of the Veterans Clinics with the Bell County Bar Association. Judge Faulkner is licensed in Texas and is admitted to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.

Marissa M. Allen, JD '03, with Martin Walker PC, earned a place on Lawdragon's list of 500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers for 2022. She earned the recognition for her work in personal injury and civil appellate law for which she was board certified in 2011.

David Findley, JD '03, has been promoted to partner at Orsinger, Nelson, Downing & Anderson, LLP. He is Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and works out of the Frisco, Texas office.

Clinton Butler, JD '04, has been elected President of the Texas Chapter of the National Association of Royalty Owners Board of Directors (NAROTexas). Clinton heads-up Langley & Banack's Energy, Oil and Gas Practice Group in San Antonio.

Brannon Dillard, JD '04, joined Dallas-based Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton as a partner in the firm's Houston office.

Michael Blue, JD '05, serves as President and General Counsel of the Ron Blue Institute. He is co-author of the book, *Master Your Money: A Step-by-Step Plan for Experiencing Financial Contentment*.

Lawrence Morales II, JD '05, with the Morales Firm PC in San Antonio, was elected to the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors.

Brittani W. Rollen, JD '05, has joined the Trial and Appellate Litigation practice of Jackson Walker as senior counsel in their Fort Worth office. Rollen was named among Thomson Reuters' *Super Lawyers* as a Texas Super Lawyer (2019-2021) and a Top Woman Attorney in Texas (2020). She has also been recognized among the 2021 "Top Attorneys" lists for appellate law in *Fort Worth Magazine* and *360 West Magazine*.

Chris Drymalla, JD '06, has joined the intellectual property practice as partner at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LP in Austin.

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 Houston.

Brad J. Robinson, JD '06, was named Co-Managing Partner for Sbaiti & Company in Dallas. Brad handles commercial litigation and personal injury matters while focusing on optimizing business operations (internal) and client development (external).

Alison Ashmore, JD '07, of Dykema Gossett PLLC, earned a spot among the commercial litigators under age 40 honored by *Law360* as Rising Stars.

Devon Sharp, JD '07, has joined Galderma Laboratories, L.P. as Associate General Counsel.

Kenneth "Tray" P. Gober III, JD '08, was recently named managing partner at Austin-based Lee, Gober & Reyna.

Katie Filmore, JD '09, special counsel with Duane Morris in Austin, was appointed by the State Bar of Texas to serve as the Texas Young Lawyers Association Liaison to the Texas Access to Justice Commission. Katie currently serves as director of District 8 for the Texas Young Lawyers Association.

2010s

T. Hunter Lewis, JD '10, with Duffee + Eitzen in Dallas, was voted to Best Lawyers in America 2023 in the category of Family Law.

Hon. Lauren Renee Sepulveda, JD '11, Municipal Court Judge for the City of McAllen, was elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation. She will also serve as chairwoman of the 2022-2023 Board of Directors of the Texas Young Lawyers Association.

Andrea Broyles, JD '12, was promoted to senior counsel at Bracewell in Dallas. She focuses on complex commercial litigation, government investigations, and internal investigations.

Anneke Cronje, JD '13, with Winstead PC in Fort Worth, has been promoted to of counsel.

Leah Graham, JD '13, is a partner at Rusty Hardin & Associates, a Houston-based civil and criminal litigation firm. Graham has been recognized as a Texas Rising Star by Thomson Reuters every year since 2018 and was named to the 2019 and 2020 list of Top 40 Under 40 Civil Plaintiff Trial Lawyers by National Trial Lawyers.

Robert L. Green, JD '13, is one of the founding partners of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter, & Hampton, LLP's new Houston office. He is a member of the Intellectual Property practice group.

Lauren McDonald, JD '13, is working as Senior Counsel (Employment) for Tenet Healthcare Corporation in Dallas.

Andrea M. Palmer, JD '13, VP of Legal & Compliance with Higginbotham Insurance Agency, Inc., was recently named to serve on the Executive Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters

Lone Star. Andrea has served as a Big Sister/Mentor for the past three years. She was also named "Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year" by the Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association.

Ashley N. Ischy, JD '15, has joined Coghlan Crowson LLP in Longview, Texas. Her primary areas of practice include oil and gas and complex commercial and consumer litigation.

Lauren Jaynes Olivarez, JD '15, is now Assistant City Attorney for the City of Waco.

Louie Cook, JD '16, joined the personal injury litigation team of The Carlson Law Firm as Of Counsel. He will be based out of the firm's White & Carlson Corpus Christi, Texas location.

Kyle Beckrich, JD '17, was selected to receive the John Marshall Award for Exceptional Work to Defend Challenges to the President's 2018 Invocation of Section 232. The John Marshall Awards are the Department of Justice's highest awards offered to attorneys, for contributions and excellence in specialized areas of legal performance.

Tara LeDay, JD '17, joined the Houston office of Chamberlain Hrdlicka's bankruptcy, restructuring, and creditor rights practice.

Ali Mosser Williams, JD '19, has joined the Fort Worth office of Cantey Hanger.

Andrew Martinez, JD '20, is an associate attorney in the Community Associations Law section of RMWBH Attorneys and Counselors at Law in Austin.

Tristan Kaisharis, JD '21, joined the Corporate, Securities/M&A Practice Group in Winstead's Austin office.

BAYLOR LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Support Baylor Law and fellow Baylor Lawyers through membership in the Baylor Law Alumni Association! The Baylor Law Alumni Association plays an active role in sponsoring programs and events that benefit Baylor Law and the community of Baylor Lawyers around the country. Your membership allows Baylor Law to offer networking events and programs to Baylor Lawyers as well as to encourage young alumni engagement!



To learn more about membership and various levels of support, visit www.baylor.edu/law/alumni.

FacultyNOTES

Matthew Cordon

Professor of Law

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Chair, Baylor Faculty Senate, 2020-21

David Deaconson, JD '83

Adjunct Professor of Law

2022 Outstanding Mentor of Texas



Adjunct Professor **David Deaconson, JD '83**, was honored by the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) as the 2022 Outstanding Mentor of Texas. The TYLA honored Deaconson for his dedication to mentoring young lawyers and furthering the importance of mentoring in the legal profession. The award ceremony was held during the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Houston on June 10th.

Thomas M. Featherston Jr.

The Mills Cox Professor of Law

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

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")

Elizabeth Miller

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

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

HONORS

- Selected through peer review process for inclusion in the 2023 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the practice areas of Environmental Law and Water Law. Professor Shelton has been recognized in *Best Lawyers* for 25 consecutive years.

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

- Panelist, "The Crisis in Legal Education Today: Structural Impediments to Change," Fifth Circuit Conference and Eastern District of Texas Bench Bar Conference
- Panelist, "How to Be the Best Lawyer: Religion, Morality, and Justice," State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting
- Panelist, "Implications of T.C. Heartland in Setting Venue in Intellectual Property Litigation"
- 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

- Past Moderator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Chair, Client Counseling Subcommittee, ABA Law Student Division
- Presenter, Western States Bar Conference
- Presenter, Southwestern States Bar Conference

StaffNOTES

Jenny Branson

Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid

- Board Member and Immediate Past President, American Council on Education Texas Women in Higher Education
- Law School Admission Council Investment Committee
- Director and Mock Trial Competition Co-Chair, McLennan County Young Lawyers Association
- Baylor University Staff Council

Angela Cruseturner

Senior Assistant Dean

- President, Judge Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court
- Director, Waco-McLennan County Bar Association
- Board Member, McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center

Jordan Hannah

Director of Alumni Relations

- Nominee, Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce Waco Under 40
- Board Secretary for the CASA of McLennan County

Stephanie Mabry

Director of Development

- President, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Central Texas Chapter

Ed Nelson

Director of Marketing & Communications

- Baylor University Brand Council
- Newsletter editor Leadership Section, American Association of Law Schools
- Newsletter editor *Pro Bono* & Access to Justice Section, American Association of Law Schools

Stephen Rispoli

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Strategic Initiatives

- Legal Innovation Team member, Young Lawyers Division, American Bar Association
- Newsletter editor Leadership Section, American Association of Law Schools
- Newsletter editor *Pro Bono* & Access to Justice Section, American Association of Law Schools
- State Bar of Texas *Pro Bono* Workgroup

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY HONORS PROFESSOR JEREMY COUNSELLER

Baylor University selected Professor of Law Jeremy Counsellor as a **Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching (Tenured)** recipient for 2021-2022. Baylor University's Outstanding Faculty Awards recognize the best all-around professors based on teaching capabilities, research achievement, effective committee service, time spent with students, and civic and church involvement. This recognition is the second time Baylor University has recognized Professor Counsellor's teaching. In 2007, the University designated him an Outstanding Faculty member as a tenure-track professor.

Professor Counsellor was also appointed as the **Judge Abner V. McCall Endowed Chair of Evidence Law** by Baylor University Provost Dr. Nancy Brickhouse. The chair was previously held by retired Practice Court Professor Gerald Powell who taught 35 years in Baylor Law's Practice Court Program, 15 of which as the program's director.

Prof. Matt Cordon took gold at the North American Grappling Association (NAGA)'s Austin Grappling Championship in August, 2022.



New Faculty WELCOME

STEPHANIE TANG

Professor Stephanie Tang joined the Baylor Law faculty in Spring 2022, and teaches Family Law and Family Law Advocacy.

Before joining Baylor, she was a partner at a family law firm in Chicago, where she specialized in family law. She obtained multiple certifications as a mediator, is a fellow with Collaborative Divorce Illinois, and is a Certified Financial Litigator with the American Academy for Certified Financial Litigators. She has extensive experience litigating, mediating, and collaborating on high-conflict divorce and parentage cases. In 2019, Professor Tang was recognized as “Young Lawyer of the Year” by the Illinois State Bar Association. Additionally, she was selected as a Rising Star attorney in Family Law by *Illinois Super Lawyers*, an Emerging Lawyer in Family Law by *Leading Lawyers*, *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*, and received the Avvo Clients’ Choice Award for outstanding client reviews.



Professor Tang received a B.A. degree in Psychology and Legal Studies with Honors from Northwestern University. She then graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law, *magna cum laude* with *pro bono* notation. While in law school, she received CALI Excellence for the Future Awards in Family Law, the HNBA Internal Moot Court Competition, and Regulations of Financial Institutions. She also received the Marguerite L. Rickert Award for Excellence in both Legal Writing and Service as one of the top eight students in her graduating class in both areas.

Outside of her private practice, Professor Tang has engaged in extensive *pro bono* service to low-income communities. In 2017, she was selected among over 2,300 volunteer attorneys to receive the Distinguished Service Award for outstanding *pro bono* services by the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, Chicago’s first and preeminent legal aid organization. From 2022-2023, she served as the youngest and first Asian-American Chair of the Illinois State Bar Association’s Family Law Section Council, comprised of over sixty licensed attorneys and family law judges.



WHITNEY HOLMES

Professor Whitney Holmes teaches poverty law and nonprofit organizations. Her scholarship focuses on the nature, causes, and cures of persistent cyclical poverty in the United States.

Prior to joining the Baylor Law faculty, Professor Holmes practiced commercial real estate law, representing owners, tenants, developers, and investors in the full spectrum of commercial real estate matters. Outside of the practice of law, she has served on the boards of various community-centered organizations, most recently, the Houston Community Land Trust—a nonprofit organization working to create affordable housing opportunities through the land trust community ownership model.

Professor Holmes received a B.A. in History from Columbia University and her law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. After law school, she clerked for the Honorable Nelva Gonzales Ramos of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

BAYLOR LAW LEADERSHIP PROGRAM WINS PRESTIGIOUS ABA GAMBRELL AWARD

For the second time in four years, the American Bar Association (ABA) has awarded Baylor Law with the prestigious E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award. The ABA selected Baylor Law’s innovative Leadership Development Program as the recipient of the 2022 Award, following the selection of Baylor Law’s Practice Ready Program in 2018.

While many law schools now have leadership courses, Baylor Law’s Leadership Development Program is one of only a handful of robust programs in the country committed explicitly to preparing future lawyers for effective leadership.

Professors Leah Teague and Liz Fraley, Assistant Dean Stephen Rispoli, and Associate Dean Pat Wilson blog regularly about leadership development topics at TrainingLawyersAsLeaders.org.





LLM

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR EXECUTIVE
LL.M. IN LITIGATION
MANAGEMENT
COHORT 4 GRADUATES.**

Professor Jim Wren presided over the ceremony and conferred the degrees and Professor Liz Fraley presented the class. Adjunct Professor Chris Martin delivered an inspiring address and Professor Wren and Assistant Dean Stephen Rispoli presented the diplomas. Professor Kyle Dreyer and Adjunct Professor Violet Sullivan hooded the graduates.



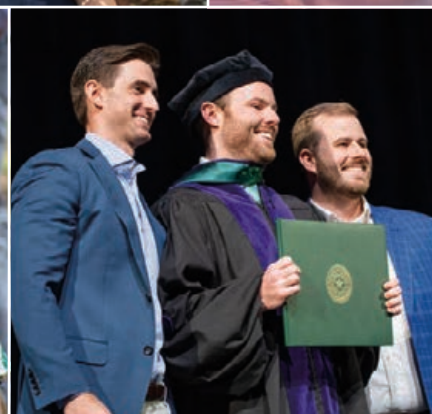
GraduationDAY



JD

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BAYLOR LAW GRADUATES WHO OFFICIALLY BECAME BAYLOR LAWYERS DURING THE SPRING 2022 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY!

Dean Brad Toben presided over the ceremony and conferred the degrees and Jefferson Floyd Serfass addressed the graduates as the highest-ranking student. Professor Jeremy Counseller delivered an inspiring address and Dean Toben, Associate Dean Patricia Wilson, and Senior Assistant Dean Angela Cruseturner presented the diplomas. Professors Larry Bates and Jim Underwood hooded the graduates.



StudentNOTES



Tansy Ackermann, Gili Canales, and Kristopher Ruiz with the Supreme Court of Texas Justices



Rhasean Stephens, Canon Hill, Will Onyeike, and Carisa Brawley

TYLA State Moot Court Competition

Congratulations to the team of Kristopher Ruiz, Gili Canales, bailiff Tansy Ackermann, and brief writer Andrew Boone who won the championship at TYLA State Moot Court Competition. The final round was argued before the Texas Supreme Court. The team was coached by Professor Kathy Serr.

Zehmer National Workers Compensation Moot Court Competition

Congratulations to the teams of Carisa Brawley and Will Onyeike who won first place at the E. Earle Zehmer Moot Court competition. The team of Canon Hill and Rhasean Stephens finished second. Both teams were coached by Haley Owens, JD '20.



Professor Greg White, Chris Spendlove, Sarah Cureton, and Rhasean Stephens

Best in Texas Voir Dire Competition

Chris Spendlove won "Best Voir Dire" and Rhasean Stephens won "Best Opening Statement" at the Best in Texas Voir Dire Competition. The team included Sarah Cureton and was coached by Professor Greg White.



Rachel Rickel

Lexie Ammons

Spring Mad Dog Mock Trial Competition

Rachel Rickel was the winner of the 2022 Bob and Karen Wortham Spring Practice Court "Mad Dog" Mock Trial Competition. She received a \$7,000 prize given by Judge Bob and Karen Wortham and an 18" bronze statue of Matt "Mad Dog" Dawson.

FINALIST:

Lexie Ammons

FINAL ROUND JUDGES

PRESIDING JUDGE:
Hon. Jack W. Jones, Jr,
JD '79, 146th District
Court of Texas

SCORING JUDGES:
Matthew Maupin, JD '22
Kinsey Lakey, JD '21



Maria Zermeno Simon and Catherine McKinney

Dawson & Sodd Fall Moot Court Competition

Maria Zermeno Simon and Catherine McKinney were the winners of the 2022 Dawson & Sodd, PLLC Moot Court Competition.

FINALISTS:

Danielle Hayes and Tiffany Dunkin

SEMI-FINALISTS:

The teams of Ashley Tran and Tayler Kennedy, and Nick Gadowsky and Jack Vickery

TOP SPEAKERS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Catherine McKinney | 6. Maria Zermeno Simon |
| 2. Waverly Shannon | 7. Waleed Ovasee |
| 2. Jack Vickery | 8. Tayler Kennedy |
| 4. Tiffany Dunkin | 9. Nylan Yancy |
| 5. Lisa-Marie Burckhardt | 10. Sarah Long |



Tanner Scheef and Chris Grant

National Flash Trial Competition

The team of Tanner Scheef and Chris Grant reached the semifinal round of the inaugural National Flash Trial Competition. Both Tanner and Chris received "Top 5 Advocate" honors. The team was coached by Chandler Dean, JD '21.



Ally Brittain

Battle of the Experts National Mock Trial Competition

Ally Brittain was named one of the "Outstanding Advocates" at the Battle of the Experts National Mock Trial Competition.



Fajitas and Fellowship

During the fall quarter, Baylor Law students gathered with faculty and staff in the student lounge for fajitas, fellowship, and fun!



Back to School Bash - To welcome our students back during the start of the fall quarter, the Baylor Law Student Bar Association hosted a "Back to School Bash" in the student lounge and patio overlooking the Brazos River and McLane Stadium. Kudos to all the members of our Student Bar Association members for being such great hosts!



French Toast With Faculty

Baylor Law's first-ever "French Toast With the Faculty" was a rousing success! To celebrate the end of the quarter, we've traditionally hosted our 'Midnight Breakfast' on the last Wednesday night of the quarter. This quarter, students were able to stop by & grab food on the way to class. A huge thank you to Dean Cruseturner, Prof. Fraley, Prof. Fuselier, Prof. Page, Dean Rispoli, Prof. Tang, and Dean Wilson for taking the time to wish our students well—and for serving a delicious breakfast!!



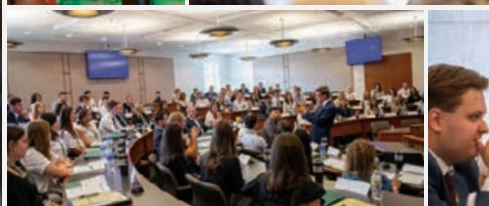
Diversity Welcome Reception

Baylor Law student organizations Diversity in Law, Asian American Law Student Association, Black Law Student Association, and Hispanic American Law Student Association hosted a welcome lunch for incoming students at Waco favorite Cricket's Grill.



The Fall 2022 Entering JD Class

In the fall of 2022, Baylor Law welcomed a new group of JD students to the Sheila & Walter Umphrey Law Center.



BarMEMORIAL



On August 12, 2022, Baylor Law hosted the Joint Convocation of the Tenth Court of Appeals and the Waco-McLennan County Bar Association Bar Memorial Service. The service memorialized and honored members of the Waco-McLennan County Bar who have recently passed away.



Alumni OBITUARIES

Graddy Tunnell, JD '50, of Plainview, passed away on May 21, 2022. Graddy was born on May 1, 1928 in Quitaque, Briscoe County, Texas, to Ernest Benton and Maizine Graddy Tunnell. He graduated from Junior college at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell in 1946, Baylor University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948, and Baylor Law with a degree of Juris Doctor in 1950. He served two years as Judge Advocate officer in the United States Air Force. Graddy practiced civil law in Plainview, Texas, and was a name member of the law firm of LaFont, Tunnell, Formby, LaFont & Hamilton, L.L.P. for 60 years. Through the years he served on numerous committees including: the Executive committee and past member of the Board of Trustees of the High Plains Research Foundation, Board of Directors for Texas Tech University Foundation-Finance and Investment Committee, Texas Tech University College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources - Dean's Advisory Committee, Texas A & M University System Long Range Planning Committee in Project 2000, Chair of the Executive Committee, Texas Agricultural and Natural Resources summit Initiative in 2000-2002. He was also chairman and member of several different boards and clubs: Board of Trustees of Wayland Baptist University, Plainview/ Hale County Industrial Foundation, Inc., Plainview Chamber of Commerce, President of Kiwanis Club of Plainview, supporter of Plainview YMCA, Life Fellow of Texas Bar Foundation, Plainview Country Club, past Director of Hale County State Bank, and the Advisory Board for Methodist Hospital Systems Lubbock. Graddy was awarded the Plainview Man of the Year in 1992, The Gerald W. Thomas Award for Outstanding Agriculturist in 2002 by Texas Tech University, National Honorary Extension Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Sigma Phi Service Award in 1993. Graddy owned a farm and had been actively engaged in farming operations in Hale County for the past 60 years. He was a member and Deacon of First Baptist Church. On November 28, 1950, he married Gloria Blackburn in Dallas. They were married 54 years before her death in 2005. He married Sherry Hoover in 2007 and was married 13 years at the time of her death.

Theodore Leonard "Ted" Tittsworth, JD '67, passed away Friday, May 27, 2022. Ted was born September 6, 1943 in San Antonio, Texas, to the late Joe and Molly Tittsworth. He graduated from Wilmer Hutchins High School, SMU with a BBA, and Baylor Law School. He proudly enlisted in the United States Air Force and was a Captain in the Air Force Jag for 4 years. He owned Arlington Law Office until he retired in 2011 after 33 years in Civil and Real Estate Law. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega at SMU and Tarrant County Bar Association.

John Will Odam, JD '71, a steadfast friend, gentle soul, passionate public servant, and devoted husband, father and grandfather, John Odam died on August 21, 2022 after a long and noble battle with Parkinson's Disease.

A proud third-generation Texan, John was born on May 19, 1943 in Abilene, the only child of John Will Odam and Nettie Eloise Odam née Morris. With two working parents, a young John spent many of his days in the loving home of his maternal grandparents, George and Ethel Morris. John attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, a brotherhood he nurtured until the end of his life. It was at UT where he met the love of his life, Peggy Kurtz, to whom he was married for 56 years. John, who worked at the YMCA in East Austin as a UT student, moved with his new wife to Littleton, Colorado, following college graduation to run the YMCA before entering Officer Candidate School in the United States Army. Stationed at Fort Knox, he proudly served two years in the Army, teaching tank operations before retiring as a first lieutenant in 1968. John attended Baylor Law School on the GI Bill and served as editor-in-chief of the *Law Review* and graduated with honors. John and Peggy moved to Houston in 1971, and the couple welcomed their first child, Jennifer Paige, into the world in 1972.

After a brief stint working for Baker & Botts in Houston, John's 50-year legal career took off in 1973, when he joined Texas Attorney General John Hill's office. During his time in the AG's office, John served as First Assistant Attorney General and argued in front of the United States Supreme Court. While in Austin, John and Peggy grew their family when son Matthew was born in 1975. A return to Houston saw John become a partner at Fulbright & Jaworski, where Colonel Leon Jaworski personally took the Texas State Bar's 1976 Outstanding Young Lawyer under his wing. John divided his time between law and politics starting in the 1980s, when he was elected Chairman of the Harris County Democratic Party, serving from 1982 to 1984. That decade also saw John serve as special assistant to Houston mayor Kathy Whitmire and special legislative counsel for Texas Governor Mark White. John's private practice legal career was marked most notably by his time as partner in the Houston firms of Helm, Pletcher, Hogan, Bowen & Saunders, and Beirne, Maynard & Parsons. He ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for Texas Attorney General in 1990, a historic campaign highlighted by his travels to each of the state's 254 county courthouses, and for United States Senate in 1996. John remained an active and optimistic participant in Democratic politics throughout his life, including working as a volunteer with Peggy on Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns. John also served on the Texas Youth Commission, to which he was appointed by Governor Ann Richards. The Abilene native's life in public service was capped by his work as general counsel in the Harris County Attorney's Office.

In addition to his paid work, John volunteered much of his time to his community, serving as a deacon at South Main Baptist Church, on the Houston Parks Board, and as a board member of the Houston Area Parkinson Society. He also found great purpose and camaraderie through his participation in the American Leadership Forum.

John's love of law, letters, politics, lifelong friends, and Elvis always took a back seat to the greatest loves of his life: his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Charles Scott Sexton, JD '71, of Orange, passed away at home on August 23, 2022. Born in Orange, Texas, on October 23, 1941, he was the son of William Putman Sexton and Ora Wood Sexton. Charles had a number of incredible achievements throughout his life. He proudly served in the United States Army after high school. Charles attended Texas A&M University and was a member of the Corps of Cadets. He then went on to attend University of Texas and graduated with a chemistry degree and a mathematics degree, before receiving his law degree from Baylor University School of Law. Charles was a member of the State Bar of Texas for 50 years. He loved to play in the market and enjoyed watching all types of sports. Charles was known to have a big bark however he would turn right around and give the shirt off his back to anyone in need.

George Jefferson "Jay" Mason, III, JD '74, went to be with the Lord on July 23, 2022, aged 74, the result of an accident at home. "Jay" as he was known to most family and friends, was born August 11, 1947, to George Mason, Jr. and the former Bobbie McKneely in Dallas, Texas. The second of three children, he came to faith in Christ and was baptized like his siblings at First Baptist Church in downtown Dallas, where generations of his family have been active members. Jay graduated from Hillcrest High School in 1965. The son of a schoolteacher, he excelled as a student, but gained most notoriety as a star football player, playing offensive and defensive half-back as well as place-kicking and punting for the District Champion Panthers. He was named first-team All Greater Dallas, All Metro and honorable mention All State in 1964 and earned a scholarship to play football at his family's preferred school, Baylor University. There he earned All Southwest Conference honors on the freshman team before suffering the first attack of his life-long struggle with multiple sclerosis.

Jay graduated Baylor in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and Baylor Law School in 1972 with his Juris Doctor, achieving a variety of academic honors. He began practicing law in Dallas, but soon ventured into an acting career. Commuting between Dallas and New York over the next decade, he worked in a variety of television and print media, including on the famed television series "Dallas," with appearances in "Days of our Lives" and as a competitor on "Star Search." However, his worsening condition and desire to be near his sons prompted a return to Dallas and the law profession in the 1990s where he remained productive on behalf of clients over the next decade. He reconnected with and married the former Susan Stovall, a fellow Hillcrest Panther and long-time friend in 2018, who patiently loved him in his final years.

Hon. William Lee "Bill" McAdams, JD '79, went to his heavenly home on Friday, August 12, 2022. Bill was born on July 20, 1953 in Huntsville, Texas, to Doyle Frederick McAdams and LaDell

Westmoreland McAdams. As a young boy, Bill loved sports. He was a good athlete and was the starting star pitcher for the Pee Wee League Champion team, the Huntsville Elks. Bill started playing golf as a preteen and was on both the Huntsville Hornet and Texas Aggie golf teams. He was in the Walker County 4-H Horse Club, a Cub Scout and a Boy Scout. He loved music and played the drums in the band. From the time Bill was ten, he had a passion for reading the newspaper and staying up to date with current events. He graduated from Huntsville High School in 1971. Bill then went on to become a proud member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 1975. While attending Texas A&M, he was on the varsity golf team and a member of the Corps of Cadets where Bill served as Senior Cadet Captain and Executive Officer of Company C-1. In 1974, he was elected to the Ross Volunteers which is the honor guard for the governor of Texas and the oldest student organization in the state. As a Ross Volunteer, Bill was in Austin for the inauguration of Governor Dolph Briscoe in 1974 and was also the first unit in line for the King Rex parade at Mardi Gras that same year. After earning his B.B.A. in Management from A&M Bill moved to Houston, Texas, where he drove a concrete truck and worked in a convenience store while deciding which law school to attend.

Bill attended South Texas College of Law before transferring to Baylor Law where he graduated in 1979. Bill then joined John Connally's presidential campaign and went to Washington, D.C. He worked for Connally's communication director, James Brady. When Brady became Ronald Reagan's campaign press agent, he asked Bill to join him on the campaign. Bill decided against it and returned to Huntsville to practice law.

Bill practiced with Ken Keeling until 1982 and then opened McAdams and Ridley in May of 1983. Hal and Bill were law partners for six years until Bill was elected in 1988 to the 12th Judicial District Court. He then served five terms spanning 20 years as a State District Judge in the State's highest Trial Court. Upon his retirement, Bill served as a part-time trial judge and a full-time attorney, mediator, and arbitrator.

Bill was very active in the community and served on numerous boards over the years. He was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Huntsville where he served as a member on the Board of Trustees. He was President Captain for the Sons of the American Revolution Captain John McAdams Chapter. Bill was a devoted member of the Texas Prison Museum Advisory Committee, Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville-Walker County Board of Directors, United Way of Walker County Director, Planning Commission of the City of Huntsville as both Vice Chairman and a member, Huntsville Leadership Institute President of Alumni Association, American Cancer Society Walker County Unit Committee, Sons of the Republic of Texas, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Walker County Fair Association, and Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Committeeman. He started the Rita B. Huff Humane Society Board in 2014 and served as Vice President for many years. Bill was also a partner in the family business, McAdams Cattle Company, that had been ranching the same land since the 1880's. This was a legacy that Bill held close to his heart.

AlumniOBITUARIES

William David Scales, JD '79, died May 19, 2022 at Baylor Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas. David was born in Evansville, Indiana, to William W. Scales and Mildred Peters. He participated in ROTC and later joined the Air Force from 1974 to 1976. He graduated from Baylor University with both his undergraduate degree and law degree. While attending Baylor, he met his first wife, Linda Loyd and they married on June 1, 1976. Their life transitioned from Florida to Texas, then later to Oklahoma for many years before returning to the state of Texas to be closer to their family. Together they had two children, Jeffrey Scales and Becca Scales. David spent several years as an attorney in Dumas, Texas. He worked within the Veterans Affairs legal offices for approximately 30 years. On October 2, 2004, he married his second wife, Billie Sue Scales of Salado. She had two children from a prior marriage, Trey and Taylor Hutton. In 2007, he opened his own private practice in order to serve the community around him. Billie Sue acted as his practice manager until they both retired in 2021.

David faithfully attended church throughout his adult life with attendance at Baptist churches, Nazarene churches, Methodist Churches, and lastly Temple Bible Church. He and Billie Sue were a member of four bible studies for many years. As his health became more challenged, Billie Sue remained by his side and was ultimately with him when he took his last breath. David was a bit of a character. He had a love of animals, with particular affinity for dogs, deer and redbirds. His hobbies over the years included learning to fly airplanes, hunting, fishing, biking, and motorcycling. He was a member of Toast Masters for years. He also loved singing and was a member of many church choirs as well as Master Singers for several years. He had a big laugh and a smile that lit up his whole face. He also had a knack for picking up strays over the years and welcoming them into his life, this included people that needed support for a period of time and many times, a dog found alongside the road.

John Edward Burleson, Jr., JD '81, went to be with his Lord and Savior on August 19, 2022. A lifelong resident of Waco, TX, John graduated from Richfield High School in 1975, Baylor University in 1979, and Baylor Law School in 1981. John was a long-time member of Columbus Avenue Baptist Church, where he married Debra in 1979. He served the church in numerous capacities including Sunday School Director and Deacon. John had a unique gift for service, a gift he sought to use wherever needed.

He faithfully worked at the same law firm his entire career, eventually becoming a partner. He served in many local organizations, including the Optimist Club, Rotary, the Board of Directors at First National Bank of Central Texas, mentor through Kids Hope USA, Greater Waco Legal Services, and others, most for a decade or longer.

John was a devoted champion of his Baylor Bears. With his family in tow, John traveled thousands of miles to watch Baylor games and

rarely missed a football, basketball, or baseball game at home. His family was privileged to watch him live out his faith to the end, looking forward to heaven yet not wanting to leave them.

James Wayne Porter, JD '83, of Round Rock, Texas, passed away at home on July 18, 2022 at the age of 88. He was born in Rotan, Texas, to Wayne Porter and Nobia Myers Porter on January 19, 1934. Wayne graduated from Rotan high school in 1950 before graduating from Texas Tech College in 1954 with a degree in Agriculture. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant through the ROTC program and began his career with the United States Air Force in 1955. Wayne received his Navigator wings in 1956 and was soon a navigation instructor. After being stationed in England and Texas, he served in the Vietnam War, flying 122 combat missions, 100 of which were over North Vietnam, as navigator in the RF-4C reconnaissance aircraft. Subsequent tours included Germany, California and Spain. He retired as Lt. Colonel at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Texas as Chief of the Command Post.

Among several awards, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross twice, the Meritorious Service Medal three times, the Air Medal ten times, and the Air Force Presidential Unit Citation.

After his Air Force retirement, Wayne began a second career graduating from Baylor Law School in 1983. He worked as a private attorney in Georgetown, Texas, before serving as First Assistant County Attorney in Williamson County for 13 years. He retired in 2006 but returned to work serving as an Associate Judge for the county until 2019. After his final retirement, he volunteered as Assistant County Attorney.

James Andrew Hensarling, JD '84, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on April 22, 2022. Born December 2, 1954, in Bryan, Texas, He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Andrew Hensarling. James grew up in College Station and graduated from A&M Consolidated High School in 1973 where he was an all-district football player and an Eagle Scout. He was accepted into Texas A&M where he was a 3rd generation graduate of the Corps of Cadets and a proud member of Company B-2. Following graduation, he enlisted and served three years in the United States Army where he achieved the rank of First Lieutenant. Upon completion of his service to the country, James was accepted into the Baylor University School of Law. He graduated with his Juris Doctorate in 1984. In that same year, he met and fell in love with Lee Hooper. They were married in 1985 and shortly after moved to Edna, Texas, where James was the District Attorney in Jackson County. In 1987, James and Lee moved to Austin where they raised their two children, Lauren, born the following year, and Brock, born shortly after in 1989. James spent the next twenty years working as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas. Any time he wasn't working, James prioritized being with his family, his greatest source of pride and joy. His happiest memories were of the summers he spent in Grand Lake, Colorado, where he watched his children sail and enjoyed his many friends at the Grand

Lake Yacht Club. In 2008, James and Lee moved to Tyler, Texas, where he spent eleven years as a Parole Commissioner for the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

He was an avid learner and voracious reader who had a penchant for stopping at every historical marker he passed. He was a man of great faith which was manifested in the way he raised his children, honored his wife, and lived his life both personally and professionally. He was kind, smart, honorable, selfless, and loving. His warmth and the way he made people feel around him was unparalleled, and it was evidenced in the innumerable friendships he created over his life.

Cary Jay Cross, JD '86, of Southlake, Texas, passed away on Thursday, August 18, 2022.

Jay was born on January 12, 1962, in Dallas, Texas. He was raised in Irving, Texas, and was active in the youth group at Central Church of Christ. There, he was able to form lasting memories and friendships, and strengthen his love of the Lord. In Irving High School, his outgoing nature found the perfect outlet by serving as an enthusiastic "keeper of the tiger", the school mascot, before graduating in 1980. After high school, Jay attended Texas A&M University after the enticement of an Anniversary Edition gold Trans Am. There, he was president of his freshman class and joined the Corps of Cadets as a member of Squadron 12, known as an all-professional unit. All four years in Trojan 12, this squadron was presented the scholastic award for highest GPA. He enjoyed many wonderful experiences in the corps at Texas A&M that shaped his life. From march-ins to working bonfires to the regiments of Duncan Dining Hall, he worked to become the embodiment of the spirit and traditions of a Fighting Texas Aggie. Two days after graduating from A&M in 1984, he became a student at Baylor Law School. For Jay, practicing law was a life dream that began in jr. high when he came home and announced to his mother that he had decided to become a lawyer. He never strayed from that decision attesting to his practice of staying the course. At Baylor, he was a driven student, graduating in two years in 1986.

After Baylor, he began his law career at the Dallas County District Attorney's Office and enjoyed practicing under the notable district attorney Henry Wade. After leaving the prosecutor's office, Jay sought his double board certification, allowing him to practice a broad spectrum of law during his thirty-six-year career. Above all, though, he thrived as a trial lawyer. A skilled orator, Jay was in his element in front of a jury. There, he demonstrated his passion and devotion to the law and his clients.

Jay was a devoted and loving husband and father. He invariably dedicated himself to his family's interests and could always be found in the middle of the action. From sports games to dance recitals, Jay was there. He also took great joy in being of service. From legal advice to stopping to change a flat tire, Jay consistently looked for and attended to anyone in need of a helping hand.

Lori Kaye Weems-Evers, JD '94, passed to life eternal the week of April 22, 2022 in her home in Mary Esther, Florida.

Lori loved her family, her friends, and her life. She lived life to its fullest. Deeply loyal, passionately

loving, and fiercely caring to all she loved and the causes she supported. Lori graduated from Nacogdoches High School. She earned her BA in 1990, her Masters in English, and then her law degree in 1994 all from Baylor University. After graduating first in her class at Baylor Law in 1994, she clerked for the Honorable Sam D. Johnson on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Lori Weems Evers fought for people in areas of Family, Criminal, Probate, and Government Law. An expert on the Florida Constitution and its interrelation with complex statutory and regulatory schemes, Lori could spot legal issues decisively and accurately. Most importantly, she used her experiences lobbying opinion makers and leaders to solve her client's problem as quickly, creatively, inexpensively, and painlessly as possible. Lori fought tirelessly for children and was recognized by The Florida Bar, Lawyers for Children America, the American Bar Association and Holland & Knight's highest awards for representing Florida's most vulnerable.

Eric Jackson Weatherford, JD '97, passed away unexpectedly on July 5, 2022, while traveling with his family in the Cayman Islands. Eric attended Hyer Elementary and graduated from Highland Park High School in 1990. After graduation, he attended the University of Texas and was an active member of the Kappa Alpha Order. Beloved by his KA brothers, Eric was honored to be selected as rush captain. He graduated from UT in 1994 with a degree in English and then attended Baylor Law, graduating in 1997. At a wedding of dear friends in May 1998, he connected with fellow HP and UT alum Mary Beth Skinner, and the two quickly began dating. After a brief stint as a litigator in Dallas, Eric moved to Austin in 1999 to practice law at Gjerset and Lorenz, LLP where he developed a specialty in Health Care Regulatory and Reimbursement Law that would last throughout his career. Mary Beth also moved to Austin shortly after Eric, and the two were married in Santa Fe on July 28, 2001. In 2003, they moved back to Dallas, and Eric became an associate at the national firm Epstein Becker Green. In 2004, his beautiful daughter, Sydney Rose was born, and that same year Eric joined Brown McCarroll, LLP (which eventually became Husch Blackwell, LLP).

Eric held a number of leadership roles at Husch Blackwell including the specialty practice leader for the Health Care Regulatory Practice. In January 2022, Eric was named Husch Blackwell's Office Managing Partner in Dallas. His outstanding legal skills earned him the respect and love of his colleagues, partners and fellow attorneys. Eric was the former chair of the Dallas County Bar Health Law Section. He was a valued leader in the American Bar Association Health Law Section and was nationally recognized for his dedication and excellence in representing health care providers by Chambers USA and the BL Rankings' Best Lawyers in America. He was a past board member of the American Parkinson Disease Association, Northeast Texas Chapter. Faith was very important to Eric and he was a lifelong member of Highland Park Presbyterian Church.



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