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Baylor Law Volume 154 Winter 2023 DOCKETCALL BAYLOR LAW ALUMNI MAG



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ALUMNI

DEAN'S LETTER

2022 ENDOWED & ANNUAL **SCHOLARSHIP DONOR RECOGNITION**

A MESSAGE FROM THE BAYLOR LAW ALUMNI **ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

OUT & ABOUTS

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@ BAYLOR LAW

ALUMNI NOTES

ALUMNI OBITUARIES

STUDENT NOTES

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Baylor Law. DOCKETCALL

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

Established in 1857, Baylor Law was 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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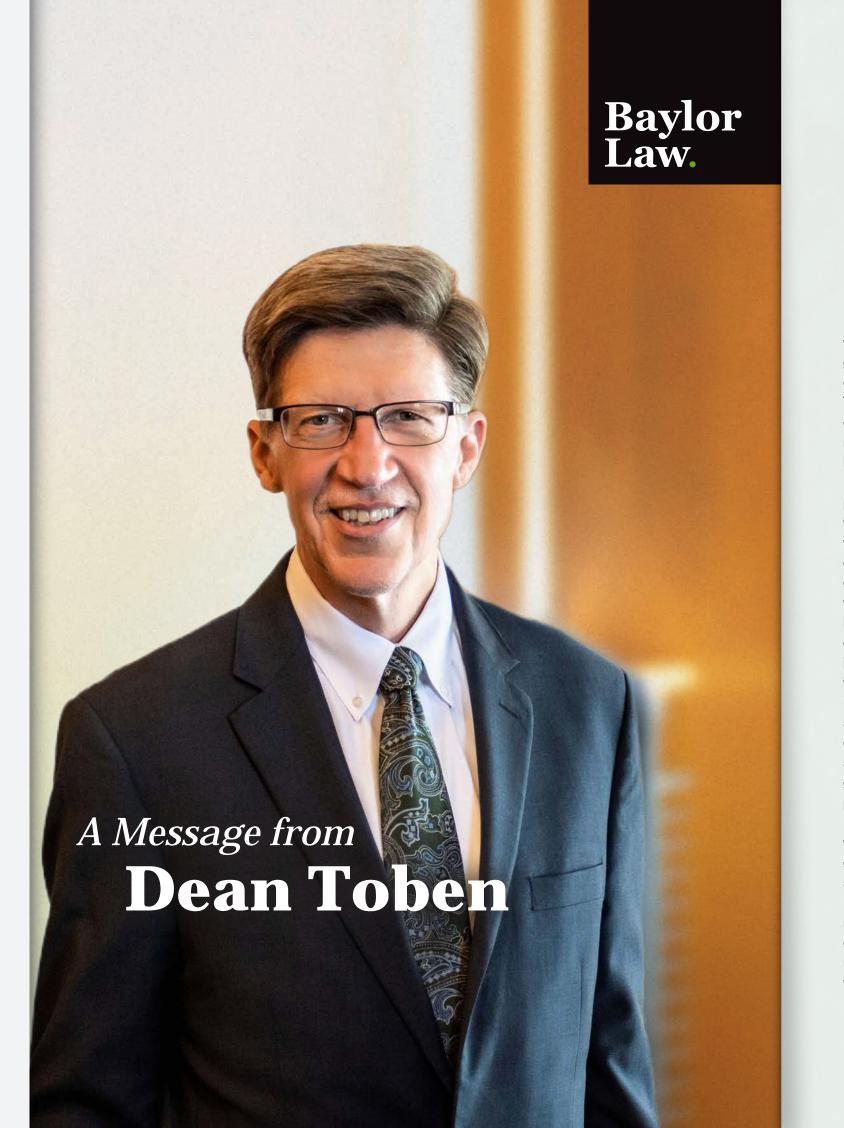
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But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

1 Chronicles 29:14

One of my favorite issues of the *Docket* Call every year is the winter edition, in which we recognize and express our gratitude to our generous scholarship donors. I enjoy the memories evoked by the listing of our many benefactors. The names attached to our scholarships (whether as the donor, or as an honoree, or a person remembered) all bring stories to my mind. Some have left indelible marks on our school as Baylor Lawyers who have achieved prominence in our profession. Some names are those of loved ones or friends who are honoring or remembering someone who played a key part in their life or career as a colleague, mentor, or friend. All share this attribute: each scholarship has been established with a vision of the future; a vision that someone else will be supported as he or she walks through the halls, classrooms, and courtrooms of the law center on a journey to becoming a Baylor Lawyer. One of my favorite sentiments that has been shared with me - repeatedly - by those establishing an endowed scholarship is this: "Baylor Law gave me the education, training and means to accomplish the success with which I have been blessed. I want to give that same opportunity to someone who is now pursuing the goal of becoming a Baylor Lawyer."

We continue to work to provide our students with the best distinctive Baylor Law education and training. We also work with focus to increase scholarship aid each year. Keeping a Baylor Law education within our students' financial reach remains essential. Affordability allows us to continue to attract bright and enthusiastic students—regardless of their financial circumstances—who will impact our world in the coming decades.

As I have noted in the past, we are not yet there in being able provide every student with a full or substantial scholarship, but we have come a long way and are committed to continue the march. Your continued support of Baylor Law means so much to me, but more so to future Baylor Lawyers, your support makes possible.

The legal profession and legal education indeed, our world—have experienced the onrush of change over the many decades. Through it all, since 1857, Baylor Law has been resolute in offering a pathway into the profession that emphasizes education and training that puts our graduates in a position to be effective as advocates and counsellors from the start and that encourage and equips students to serve. Indeed, service to the profession, our communities, and the communities around us are paramount. This legacy did not begin with us, nor will it end with us. Your continued generous support of Baylor Law bolsters our academic, practical, and service-oriented aims during these sometimes-unsettling times. Your generosity allows us to prepare future Baylor Lawyers who will tackle head-on, and with resolve, the daunting challenges facing our state, nation,

I hope you enjoy this issue of Docket Call and our expression of gratitude to those who are making a difference in the lives of future Baylor Lawyers with their financial support.



Brad Toben, JD '77

ENDOWED & ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION

Endowed scholarships provide a meaningful way for our alumni, family, friends, and faculty to honor loved ones or celebrate a successful career while supporting the next generation of Baylor Lawyers.

In the past year, more than 91% of currently-enrolled students have received some form of financial assistance from Baylor Law. We are profoundly grateful to all who have so generously provided our students with one of the most enduring gifts they will ever receive—the gift of a Baylor Law education.

> We could not do what we do without the financial support of the people and institutions named here.

If you would like to endow a scholarship of your own, contact Stephanie Mabry, Director of Development: stephanie_mabry@baylor.edu.

"Thank you for all you do for the legal community, especially students and recent grads.

I am so thankful for the scholarship funds you have provided. It is because of this scholarship thata student like me, a firstgeneration college graduate and veteran, is able to attend law school and continue to pursue public service."

Justin Bontrager



graduates who attended Abilene Christian University as undergraduates.

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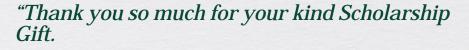
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I am attending law school with two children in high school and an hour-long commute each way. Without the support of scholarships I wouldn't be able to attend law school. This donation has genuinely changed my life, and I am grateful beyond words."

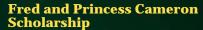
Casey Cooper



"Without your kind generosity, there is no way I could attend law school.

Thanks to your help, I am able to pursue my dream of becoming a Navy JAG Officer."

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Given by Fred and Princess Cameron.

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Given by friends and colleagues of Judge Leonard E. Davis in honor of his selection as the 2012 Baylor Lawyer of the Year.

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Given by Mrs. Mary Louise Davis and family and friends of Judge Davis upon his death in April of

"I am a non-traditional. married student with two children.

a son who serves in the Air National Guard and a 17-yearold daughter. Before attending law school, my family and I spent eight years overseas helping rescue women and children from sex trafficking and later online sexual exploitation of children. My work with survivors is what drove me to pursue serving others as a lawyer. Thank you for your generous contribution to Baylor Law. Without scholarships, students like myself would not have the opportunity to become Baylor Lawyers and serve our communities."

Kristina Sanger



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Because of your scholarship fund, I will be able to pursue my passion for

criminal law. I am now in my second year of law school and participate

in many organizations, such as the Public Interest Law Society, Asian

contributions have made wide ripples through the Waco community

Law Review, and continue with the pursuit of my legal education."

through me! I am eager to finish out my second year, serve on the Baylor

American Society, and a club dedicated to victim advocacy. Your

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Scholarship
Given by friends and colleagues of Professor David M. Guinn in honor of his selection as the 2013 Baylor Lawyer of the Year.

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Given in honor of Morris Harrell and Rusty Baylor Harrell by Judge and Mrs. Robert R. Murray, the Harrell family, the law firm of Locke Lord LLP, and their friends.

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Robert R. Little, Sr., and Sherry L. Little Scholarship for Enhanced

Given by Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Little Sr.

"Thank you for your incredible generosity in making scholarships available to Baylor Law students.

As a married woman with a three year old son, law school is challenging. However it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The only way this experience is even possible for me is through the scholarship that I receive. I am so grateful to people like you who make that possible. My entire family is grateful for your generosity."

Tiffany Dunkin



C. Vernon Hartline, Jr., Memorial Scholarship

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Given by Debra and J. Mark Mann.

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Judge Abner V. McCall Legacy Scholarship

Given by William R. Pakis.

Abner V. McCall Scholarship

Given in honor and in memory of President Emeritus Abner V. McCall by the McCall Bible Class of the First Baptist Church of Waco.

Abner V McCall / The Claude and Mae Moss Charities, Inc., Scholarship

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McSwain in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl McCartney, and Mr. and Mrs. Angus S. McSwain, Sr.

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Given in memory of Byron L. McClellan, Jr., Baylor Law School Class of 1976, by Bob and Carol Patterson.

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Susan Swindle McDonough Scholarship Given by Susan Swindle McDonough.

Judge Connally and Glee McCrary McKay Scholarship Given in honor of the Hon. Connally and Glee

McCrary McKay by their children and their children's spouses.

Lila Connally and Daniel Sparks McKay Scholarship

Given in honor of their parents by Judge Thomas H. and Hannah McKay Crofts.

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of their infant son.

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Given in memory of Arthur Mitchell by his wife Patricia, his daughter Sandy, and his friends and

Eugene H. and Charlotte G. Moore Scholarship Given by Sheila and Eugene H. Moore in memory

of his parents.

Michael D. Morrison and David M. Guinn Scholarship

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Hazel Rogers Muldrow Memorial Scholarship

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Judge Robert R. Murray Scholarship

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"Your scholarship fund has allowed me to do more than begin my journey to becoming an attorney.

I am approaching my 8th year of being in the Army. I enlisted when I was 17 and served in the Reserves until I earned my commission as an Active Duty Field Artillery Officer. My studies and career have forced me to be away from my family. Now that I am at Baylor, I am only an hour away. The gift to further my education is life-changing."

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"Your kindness in creating this scholarship has given me a life-changing opportunity.

I lost my father to COVID in the summer of 2020, and my mother has a family to take care of on her own. My father always encouraged me to pursue higher education since he did not have the same opportunities I did. This scholarship has helped me and my family avoid a great burden. I hope you know it has made a difference and I feel honored to have received it."

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"Thank you for making my law school journey at Baylor Law possible.

I've spent the last ten years working in fund development at various autism-related nonprofits. My goal is to continue working to support the disability community as an advocate. It's so meaningful to see Baylor Lawyers give back to ensure that future Baylor Lawyers have the opportunity to make a difference. As a 'nontraditional' law student, going back to law school was not an easy decision, but learning about the Baylor Lawyer network and experiencing the generosity first-hand with this scholarship made it so much easier."

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Given in memory of Holly Katherine Yanta by her parents Virgil Yanta and Karol Yanta of Boerne.

"I want to extend my greatest thanks for the opportunities you have given me and my family.

I am the first college and post-graduate student in my family. Without people like you, I would not be able to attend law school and break the generational cycle of my family. I dream of becoming a family law attorney and advocate for change for teenagers in the CPS system, a place I was in not too long ago. Without people like you, none of this would be possible."

Riki Haase



To learn more about the Baylor Law Alumni Association and its membership dues, visit the Baylor Law Alumni Page, or scan here:

Dear Baylor Lawyers:

On behalf of our entire membership, I extend a sincere invitation to the ranks of Baylor Lawyers to join the Baylor Law Alumni Association (BLAA). I welcome you to join me and hundreds of other Baylor Lawyers who take part in the unique opportunity to support programs and initiatives to connect Baylor Lawyers throughout the country.



In the following pages, you will see the legion of Baylor Lawyers who have answered the call to support the Baylor Law Alumni Association. To each of these current members, your support sustains us. Thank you for your contributions of time, talent, and resources to Baylor Law and the Baylor Lawyer Network.

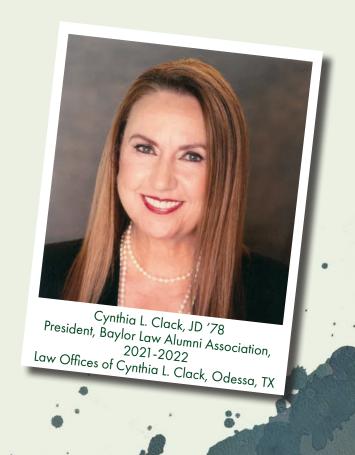
As President of the Baylor Law Alumni Association, I ask that you support our efforts by renewing your membership dues or joining the Association for the first time. Your support enables us to provide alumni programming, events, and networking opportunities for our community of over 7,800 Baylor Lawyers and we hope that this is only the beginning of your engagement with Baylor Law and its remarkable faculty and students.

As we return to normalcy in the wake of the pandemic, we are bringing more in-person alumni engagement opportunities that had been paused for the past couple of years, so continue to keep an eye out for events in your area. We hope to connect with you personally soon.

Thank you for your sincere consideration to pledge support to the Baylor Law Alumni Association.

Sincerely,

Cynthia L. Clack



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Gregory S. Torrance

Hon. Ignacio Torteya **Tonya Connell Toups** Karla Adam Trusler Connie McCaffity Tubb Christian Douglas Tucker Richard H. Tye Walter Umphrey Abelardo L. Valdez **Edward Carlos Vallejo** Linda Elizabeth van Bavel Richard B. Vance Ike Vanden Eykel Rebecca Vela David Maurice Vereeke **Kelly Vickers** Alan Vickery **Anthony Vitullo Dathan Voelter** Margaret Voelter Allison Culver Wachendorfer Julie S. Wade Hon. James K. Walker Jearl D. Walker Danna Moore Walton Sarah Elizabeth Wannarka **Amy Thomas Ward** David Allen Ward Jr. Hon, T. John Ward M. Richard Warner Jessica Mendes Warren Michael E. Warwick Richard Brian Waterhouse Jr. Karen Lynn Watkins **Smilie Watkins** James W. Watson Sen. Kirk Preston Watson Robert Allen Watson Jeffrey Dean Watters Michaele S. Weatherbie William Curtis Webb C. Andrew Weber Frederick Clay Weekley Jr. John W. Weinacht Hon. Mary Elizabeth Welborn Robert M. Welch Jr. Monroe Gaddy Wells Jr. Craig Hudson Westbrook Mark S. Westergard Jamie Grammer Whatley

Hon. Albert L. White Jr.

18 DOCKETCALL Winter 2023

Lifetime Members

Greg White Judith Ann Langston White Keith Martin White Michael Floyd White Shelby White David W. Whitehurst Arthur E. Whitmer Paul Francis Wieneskie W. Michael Wiist Mark Edward Wilkins Thomas W. Wilkins Brett A. Williams John Eddie Williams Jr. Paul H. Williamson David H. Wills Larry Wilshire David K. Wilson John F. Wilson Jr. Margaret A. Wilson Stephen Collins Wilson Steven A. Wisch Albert Witcher Clinton Eugene Wolf Jr. Hon. Dana M. Womack Cecilia Maria Wood

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

Sustaining Fellows

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

Hon. Stephen B. Ables C. Stephen Allen J. Patrick Atkins Russell R. Barton Craig A. Bishop Kenneth E. Blassingame Hon. John T. Boyd Jeffrey Alan Brannen Kristine D. Bridges Shyla Buckner Hon. Vik Deivanayagam William N. Drabble Scott R. Ellis Suzanne C. Ferguson Hon. Patrick L. Flanigan Charles T. Frazier, Jr. **Bridget Marie Fuselier** Tommy Dean Giesenschlag

Larry W. Green Thomas P. Groce Charlotte M. Harper Wende Cay Hawthorne Lisa H. Jamieson Jordan L. McCarroll R.D. Spike Pattillo Ryan Christopher Reed Stephen Laborde Rispoli Andrew B. Ryan David W. Showalter Theodore P. Steinke Everett S. Stovall Hon. Ralph T. Strother John E. Swain Jessica E. Underwood Susan J. Wommack John Clayton Zinda

2022 Baylor Law Alumni Association Officers

Cynthia Clack, JD '78 | Odessa *President*

Dick Tye, JD '89 | San Antonio Past President

2022 Baylor Law Alumni Association Executive Committee

Cynthia Clack, JD '78 | Odessa

Glenn Cunningham, JD '90 | San Antonio

Spencer Edwards, JD '97 | Houston

Caren Lock, JD '95 | Dallas

Faith Johnson Lowry, JD '15 | San Antonio

Susan Moore, JD '90 | Austin

Lawrence Morales, JD '05 | San Antonio

Hon. Christine Nowak, JD '05 | Sherman

Jessica Schwartz, JD '16 | Dallas

Ronnie Turner, JD '10 | Beaumont

Dick Tye, JD '89 | San Antonio

Out&Abouts

INAUGURAL SERVICE DAY

On Saturday,
September 24,
dozens of Baylor
Law students,
faculty, and staff

volunteered at our inaugural Service Day. We were honored to volunteer with CASA of McLennan County, Fuzzy Friends Rescue, Keep Waco Beautiful, The Salvation Army Waco, Humane Society of Central Texas, and Caritas of Waco.





















TDCAA RECEPTION

Baylor Law hosted a reception for alumni and friends at the annual meeting for the

TDCAA (Texas District & County Attorneys Association) in Corpus Christi. Baylor Law enjoys a strong partnership with the TDCAA, especially in our expanding criminal law curriculum.



Facultynotes

Josh Borderud

Director of Clinical and Pro Bono Programs and Clinical Lecturer

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Elected to Waco City Council
- Master of the Bench, Judge Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court
- Board of Directors, Waco-McLennan County Bar Association
- Board of Trustees, Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network

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
- 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

PRESENTATIONS

"An Introduction to Transfer Taxation," American Bar Association Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section's Skills Training for Estate Planners, Aug. 9, 2022

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,

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 Diaest

PUBLICATIONS

DEFINING & ACQUIRING INTERESTS IN PROPERTY, Aspen Publishing (3d ed.Nov 2022) REPTL Newsletter, updates on Easements & Covenants (published

PRESENTATIONS

'Easement Overview" presented to the National Association of Women in Construction, Waco, TX, Aug. 9, 2022

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

PUBLICATIONS

- BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS, TEXAS PRACTICE SERIES (Vols. 19, 20 &20A) West (3rd ed. 2011); 2022-2023 Annual Supplement (co-author)
- TEXAS METHODS OF PRACTICE, TEXAS PRACTICE SERIES (Vol. 13), West, 2022-2023 (co-author)
- "Case Law Update: A Survey of Recent Texas Partnership and LLC Cases," 31 st Annual LLCs, LPs and Partnerships, University of Texas School of Law, July 14, 2022
- "Model Company Agreements for Closely Held LLCs," 31st Annual LLCs, LPs and Partnerships, University of Texas School of Law, July 14, 2022
- "Model Company Agreements for Closely Held LLCs." State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting 2022, Business Law and Corporate Counsel Sections, June

PRESENTATIONS

- "Current Developments in Texas Business Organizations Law," 14th Annual Business Disputes Course, State Bar of Texas, September 15, 2022
- "Case Law Update," 31 st Annual LLCs, LPs and Partnerships. University of Texas School of Law, July 14, 2022
- "Updated Model LLC Agreements." 31 st Annual LLCs, LPs and Partnerships, University of Texas School of Law, July
- "Issues in Formation and Drafting Entity Documentation," State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting 2022, Business Law and Corporate Counsel Sections, June 9, 2022

Walt Shelton

Adjunct Professor of Law

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Ligison 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 Diaest. State Bar of Texas
- Co-chair, Law School Committee of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section, State Bar of Texas

PUBLICATIONS

"Take Daily Living One Thing at a Time and End the Burden of Multitasking, Austin American Statesman, May 14, 2022, at 8E.

Authentic Living in All Seasons: Focused, Fearless, and Balanced (CrossLink Publishing 2022)

PRESENTATIONS

"Wellness for Law Students: Achieving Excellence in Practice and Meaning in Life Via Good Habits Toward Focus, Fearlessness and Balancing Priorities" (legal ethics), 2022 Texas Environmental Superconference, Austin, Texas, Aug. 4. 2022

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
- Authentic Living in All Seasons (CrossLink Publishing 2022), Listed as a Progressive Christianity Resource Book, https:// progressivechristianity.org/ resources/authentic-living-in-allseasons/

Stephanie Tang

Assistant Professor of Law

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Chair, Illinois State Bar Association: Family Law Section Council (2022-
- Panelist, Anderson Center Symposium on Advocacy and Professionalism, Family Law: Ground Zero for Incivility and Professionalism Challenaes (October 2022)

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 Survey of Illinois Law: Family Law, S. ILL. UNIV. L. J. (2023, forthcoming).
- 2019-2021 Survey of Illinois Law: Family Law, S. ILL. UNIV. L. J. (Fall 2022, forthcoming).
- Cryptocurrency, NFTs, and the "Metaverse": Addressing the Expanding World of Virtual Assets in Divorce Proceedings, 127(1) PENN STATE L. REV. 1 (Oct. 2022).
- Calculating "Income" for Domestic Support Obligations in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic (coauthored with Kimberly S. Krieg, PhD, CPA), 74(4) OKLA. L. REV. 653 (2022).

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
- 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, onsite re-inspection functions and accreditation
- Master of the Bench, Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court
- Member, Waco Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Patricia Wilson

Associate Dean

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Governing board member and Legal Committee chair, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Vice president, Waco-McLennan County Bar Association Board member, McLennan County
- Dispute Resolution Center Chair, Client Counseling
- Subcommittee, ABA Law Student Division

Contributor, (family law) General Practice Digest

BAYLOR LAW PROFESSOR JIM CHAPTERS OF THE AMERICAN

Ethics & Civility Award

BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES

The Waco Chapter of The Texas Irial Advocates (IEX-ABOIA) has selected Baylor Law's Jim Wren, the Leon Jaworski Chair of Practice & Procedure and Co-Director of the Executive LL.M. in Litigation Management, to receive the 2022 Civility and Ethics Award for outstanding ethics and civility in his professional career. "[Jim has]



consistently led by example." noted TEX-ABOTA Waco Chapter President Laura Brown.

PROFESSOR CONNIE NICHOLS EMCEES DANCING WITH THE WACO STARS 2022



Professor of Law Connie Nichols (L) with Keisha Lopez of the Family Abuse Center at the Dancing with the Waco Stars Event.

Professor of Law Connie Nichols served as the emcee of the seventh annual Dancing with the Waco Stars on October 8.

The event was a fundraiser for the Family Abuse Center which provides safety, education, and support for survivors of domestic violence.

In October, staff from the Family Abuse Center, in partnership with Baylor HEAL, hosted a onehour Professional Development Session at Baylor Law on "In Her Shoes: Economic Justice Edition."

Staff NOTES

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, Judae 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

Stephanie Mabry

Director of Development

- President, Association of Fundraising
- Professionals, Central Texas Chapter Opening Speaker, 36th Annual National Philanthropy Day Lunchone, Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Ed Nelson Director of Marketina & 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

State Bar of Texas Pro Bono Workgroup

Law Schools



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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH DINNER

Baylor Law and the Hispanic Law Student Association (HALSA) celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15. This year's celebration included a special dinner for students, faculty, and staff on the evening of Tuesday, October, 4.



The Hon. Thomas R. Phillips delivered the featured lecture at the 2022 Starr

Federalist Papers Lecture Series sponsored by John, JD '52, and Marie Chiles. After an introduction by Dean Brad Toben, Chief Justice Phillips spoke on "The Federalist Papers and the Lost Art of Compromise" and discussed the necessary compromises the great statesmen who drafted the United States Constitution accepted for the greater good of the Union.























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FOUR TEXAS-BASED U.S. ATTORNEYS

All four Texas-Based U.S.

Attorneys were present at Baylor Law on October 3, 2022, sharing with Criminal Law Society members the ins-and-outs of a career as a federal prosecutor. Joining us in Waco were U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas Brit Featherston, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas Chad Meacham, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas Ashley Hoff, and U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas Jennifer Lowery.



WELLNESS WEEK The American Bar Association designated Oct.10th as Mental Health Day, 2022. Baylor Law's Student Wellness Organization scheduled a series of events throughout that week to focus on student wellness and mental health.











NOT-QUITE MIDNIGHT BREAKFAST

"Midnight Breakfast" is a long-standing tradition in the Baylor Law community. During Midnight Breakfast, Baylor Law School faculty members and deans serve an evening breakfast to

students as they prepare to study and take finals. Approximately 200 students attended this year's *Breakfast* on October 19th.



On Wednesday, October 5, members of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office visited Baylor Law to share information on the work of the Patent and Trademark Office and career information.





DONUTS WITH THE DEANS

A new tradition at Baylor law, Deans Toben, Wilson, Cruseturner, Branson, Bridges, and Rispoli invite students to take a short break and enjoy coffee and donuts before starting their day. The most recent event was held on Friday, Oct. 7.











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AlumniNOTES

Alumniobituaries

1980s

Kyle Dreyer, JD '84, has joined Burress Injury Law based in McKinney, Texas. Kyle will continue to serve as the Program Coordinator and Adjunct Professor for Baylor Law's Executive LL.M Program in Litigation Management while working with the firm.

Hon. Robert Mayfield, JD '84, is retiring after serving 24 years as Judge of Johnson County Court at Law Number One. He previously served as an Assistant Criminal District Attorney in Tarrant County for 14 years. Judge Mayfield plans to serve as a visiting judge during his retirement.

Hon. Penny Roberts, JD '89, has retired from her service with Tom Green County Court-at-Law. She began her career with the county in 1991 working in the District Attorney's Office. She was appointed to the County Court-at-Law in 1995. Judge Roberts plans to continue serving the courts in a limited capacity as one of the area's Senior Judges.

Hon. Kevin J. Schmid, JD '84, was sworn in as the Associate Judge of the 231st Judicial District Court in Tarrant County, Texas.

Tresi Moore Weeks, JD '87, of the Weeks Law Firm in Plano, has been selected to the 2022 Texas Super Lawyers. She was also elected to serve as President of the Estate Planning Council of North Texas and as a board member of the Texas National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

1990s

Vincent Allen, JD '99, has been named equity partner for the former Carstens & Cahool LLP in Dallas. The firm is now Carstens, Allen & Gourley, LLP.

Katie Anderson, JD '94, a member of Clark Hill law firm in the Dallas office, was the recipient of the Diversity and Inclusion Champions Award from Texas Lawyer presented at the Texas Legal Excellence Awards Dinner on September 14 in Dallas.

Jonathan J. Bates, JD '93, was recognized as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in Texas in 2022 by Super Lawyers. He is the Immediate Past Chair of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, as well as President-Elect of the Texas Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Hon. Robert "Bobby" Garcia, JD '92, was selected at the new Municipal Judge for the City of Waco. Judge Garcia has served as a municipal court judge in Corpus Christi, Pearland, and Harlingen. In Harlingen, Judge Garcia created a program where he conducted courtroom simulations in local high schools to teach students about the consequences of criminal activity. This year, Judge Garcia was named the 2022 Outstanding Municipal Court Judge of the Year by the Texas Municipal Court Association.

2000s

Matthew C. Matheny, JD '03, a partner at Provost Umphrey in Beaumont, has been accepted into the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

Marissa Sandoval Rodriguez, JD '05, with Cacheaux Cavazos & Newton, LLP in McAllen, has been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation.

Britta Stanton, JD '02, has returned to the commercial litigation firm, Lynn Pinker Hurst & Schwegmann.

2010s

Elizabeth Brabb, JD '17, has been promoted to partner at Thompson Coe Cousins & Irons LLP. She is an appellate and litigation attorney in the Austin office.

Stephanie Brown, JD '18, has been named Child Sex Abuse Prosecutor in the District Attorney's office for Hamilton County, Tennessee.

Cody Coll, JD '19, joined the Austin-based boutique litigation firm Weisbart Springer Hayes LLP.

Patricia Diaz-Rodriguez, LL.H. '19,

was elected to serve as Region II President of the Hispanic National Bar Association. Region II serves members of the HNBA in New York. Patricia is Senior Director for Ankura Consulting Group.

Claire Dykeman, JD '18, has been named Vice President of Business Development in addition to her role at General Counsel at A-1 Construction Services Houston.

James Hatchitt, JD '10, joined the Austinbased boutique litigation firm Weisbart Springer Hayes LLP. as senior counsel.

Shelby Raye Holt, JD '17, has joined Akerman LLP's Houston office as an Associate in the Insurance Litigation practice.

Greg Siemankowski, JD '12, has joined Barron & Newburger's Austin headquarters as a senior counsel. He will join the firm's Bankruptcy and Commercial Litigation Practice Groups.

2020s

Caylin Craig, JD '20, joined Crowe & Dunlevy, a member of the Bankruptcy & Creditor's Right and Litigation & Trial Practice Groups, as an associate in the Dallas office.

Amarillo, Texas, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, November 23, 2021. Judge Boyd was born on August 28,1927, in Plainview, Texas, to Arthur E. and Mary Effie Boyd. He is survived by his wife of seventy-one years, Bonnie Lamb Boyd. John graduated from Plainview High School in 1944 and entered Virginia Military Institute with the intention of pursuing a career in the military. However, he was drafted into the U.S. Army that year and served in the Aleutian Islands until his discharge in 1945. Following his discharge, he received his undergraduate and law degrees at Baylor University. It was there that he met Bonnie Lamb, the love of his life, and also began his life-long love of Baylor. After graduating from law school in 1950, he returned to

Plainview and joined the law offices of Lucien Morehead.

After Bonnie graduated from Baylor in the fall of 1950,

they were married on November 18, 1950.

Honorable John Thomas Boyd, JD '50,* of

In 1969 Boyd was appointed as 64th District Judge by Governor John Connally. In 1981 he was appointed by Governor Bill Clements to the Seventh Court of Appeals in Amarillo, and in 1996 he successfully ran for Chief Justice of that court. He served there until 2002 when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 75. At that time, he was the longest-tenured state judge, and it is a testament to extreme respect he received as a judge that he was never opposed in an election. After his retirement he continued to sit on judicial assignments for several years.

Judge Boyd served as the chair of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas 1982-1987, chair of the Board of Directors of the Texas Center for the Judiciary and chair of the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct. He was named Baylor Lawyer of the Year in 1995 and also received the Baylor University Alumni Association's Price Daniel Distinguished Public Service Award for an elected or appointed official who exemplifies "the spirit of selfless dedication to public service." In 2003 he was named the recipient of the Samuel Persara Outstanding Jurist Award from the Texas Bar Foundation. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the State Bar in 2011. Boyd was a long-time member of the Plainview and Amarillo East Rotary Clubs.

John Boyd was passionate about Baylor University and served on the Baylor Board of Regents for nine years. He optimistically supported the Athletic Program through good years and bad and was so very proud of the success that Baylor achieved in all sports. He loved the Lady Bears and was surprised on his 90th birthday with a personal appointment with Coach Kim Mulkey in her office. He was overjoyed when the Baylor Men won the National Championship in basketball this year and watched and re-watched the Final Four games. He was extremely proud of the football team, and on the last day of his life he re-watched the Bears' victory against Kansas State.

John and Bonnie enjoyed a long, happy, and fun marriage! They recently celebrated their seventy-first wedding anniversary with a festive lunch together. They loved to travel and spent one summer engaged in the Baylor in Great Britain program. They went on several cruises and enjoyed a trip to Disney World riding as many rides as possible. They spent many weeks in the summer at their cabin in Cloudcroft, NM.

Most importantly, John Boyd loved and honored his Savior, Jesus Christ. He spent most of his life teaching Sunday School classes, most recently an Adult class at First Baptist Amarillo. In his last months he would often lapse into prayer at random moments. He loved to shout, "Hallelujah!", meaning "God be Praised!" We have no doubt that these words are ringing out all over Heaven as he enjoys fellowship and conversation with Jesus Christ in person!

John was loved by so many—his family, friends, fellow judges and lawyers, and his caregivers the last years of his life. He was an eternal optimist and possessed an innate sweetness, treating every person with grace and kindness. He made each feel worthy and valuable, consistently exhibiting the love of Jesus with a twinkle in his eye.

In addition to his wife, Bonnie, he is survived by his son, John Thomas Boyd, Jr., and wife, Laura; daughter Rebecca Boyd Bailey and husband, Wes; one grandson, Boyd Murphy Bailey; five granddaughters, Hillary Anne Boyd, Erin Bailey Simpson and husband, Sam, Megan Boyd Rayburn and husband, Brian, Kate Bailey McCunniff and husband, Bill, and Clarissa Emily Boyd; eight great-grandchildren, Juliet, Johnny, and Bridget Simpson, Wesley, Bailey, and Molly Kate McCunniff, and Pax and Macrina Rayburn.

Lewis Lanier Williams, JD '57,* was born in Houston, Texas, February 1, 1929, the fourth and last child of James Wimbish Williams, Jr., and Blanche Adaline Norwood Williams. He died January 2, 2022, in Travis County, Texas. He was reared in Marlin, Falls County, Texas, and graduated from Marlin High School in 1946. He received a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics from Rice University and was commissioned to serve in the U.S. Navy in 1950. He served on board the U.S.S. Eversole (DD 789) in the western Pacific during the Korean war and attained the rank Lieutenant. He graduated from Baylor Law School in 1957 and conducted a general practice of law in Colorado City, Texas, until 1961. He then entered employment in the oil and gas exploration industry, serving in various positions in Dallas, Houston, London and Austin, culminating in the position of Vice President and General Counsel of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Upon his retirement in 1994, he and his wife moved to Austin, remaining there for the rest of his life.

He was predeceased by his parents, by his sister, Elizabeth, and his brother, James. He was preceded in death by his wife, O'Gene Gill Williams, after 58 years of marriage, and is survived by a son, John Norwood Williams (Monica), a daughter, Nancy Elizabeth Wyatt (Kenny), grandchildren, Lauren Meindl, Samuel Lewis Williams and Olivia Renee Williams, and great-grandchildren Margaret Lanier Meindl, Catherine Jennings Meindl and Anne Nicholson Meindl.

Lewis was known among family members as the keeper of the Williams and Norwood family genealogies including publication of Williams: 300 Years of Leadership in America, and for his interests in Presbyterian church history, Texana books, and improvement of their stock farm in Falls County. "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees."

George "Stanley" Rentz, JD '67,* a former McLennan County Judge and long-time defense attorney, died on Sunday from complications of Alzheimer's disease. The Waco resident was 83. Stanley was born on a kitchen table in 1938 in the China Spring area of McLennan County, to dairy farmers Albert Ward Rentz and Sarah "Catherine" Boyd Rentz. He served as county judge between 1982 and 1986 and then returned to private practice. He also worked as a municipal court judge for Hewitt and Bellmead. Rentz often defended the underprivileged, sometimes taking barter services such as house painting or old furniture as payment instead of cash. "I think Stanley did more pro bono work than any lawyer in Waco," said lifelong friend Robert Clemons. "He never turned away a friend in need and he had so many friends."

He was the court-appointed defense attorney for Graeme Craddock, one of nine Davidians who survived the 51-day standoff against federal authorities in 1993 and the ensuing fire that engulfed Mount Carmel complex and killed 75 people. Stanley was the only Waco attorney who kept with the case until well after it reached the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that the sentences handed out to many of the Davidians were inappropriately harsh. The sentence of Craddock, an electrical engineer from Australia, was one of several that was ultimately reduced. Stanley continued to visit Craddock until he was released to Australia in 2006. In a profile of Stanley around the federal Davidian trial, the Waco Tribune-Herald described him as a mildmannered lawyer with a low voice, hint of a soft drawl, and a "no-frills style of cross examination." His patient and steady ways were his trademarks throughout his life.

He grew up with his older brother and sister, Ward and Camelia, and younger twin sisters, Brenda and Linda, on a dairy farm along "Steinbeck Bend" on the Brazos River. They lived on 250 acres bought through a federal government-sponsored project to help bring

Alumniobituaries

Alumniobituaries

families out of the Great Depression. Stanley loved growing up along the rolling pastures, where he would later return to live, but farming was not for him. Although he had early success winning a trip to Ohio for a steer he groomed in a 4-H club competition — glory that he would later retell often — he did not fully appreciate 4 a.m. alarms for milking cows. His siblings recounted how he preferred throwing baseballs or building telescopes with his brother to bailing hay. When his dad went looking for help, "Stanley would be out practicing his pitch for baseball and Ward would be reading a book none of us could understand, much to the chagrin of my dad," said his sister Brenda. "When Stanley could do it, he would trick me into catching for him, which I hated because I never knew if he was going to be on target."

After graduating from University High School in 1956, he attended Wharton County Junior College on a football scholarship and then graduated from the University of North Texas with an economics degree. He returned to Waco, teaching math and science and coaching football at Bruceville-Eddy High School. He later attended Baylor Law School, where he met the love of his life, Nancy Lee Davis, who was studying education at Baylor. They married in 1966 and he graduated from law school the following year. The two shared a passion for all things Baylor and often wore their green and gold at football, basketball and softball games and even joined the school's "most exclusive" Fano poetry club related to the Armstrong Browning Library. Stanley especially loved reading historical nonfiction and taking long road and camping trips with his wife and two daughters Rebecca and Catherine. He preferred to take the longer "the scenic routes" along country roads to visit historical markers and old courthouses. "Dad loved riding the back roads of Waco up until his final days," said his daughter Rebecca Rentz. "Earlier you had be prepared for anything. One day he asked me to go to the 'gas station' with him and we ended up at the Shreveport, LA,

Stanley established a private law practice in downtown Waco after law school that he kept until retiring in 2015 except for the four years he served as county judge. He represented many school districts in the county, including Midway ISD, where his daughters attended school, and also did estate work.

Stanley had a 50-year-long regular Gin card game with Waco friends, and he also ran religiously with a group of downtown lawyers and businesspeople. He eventually ran his first marathon at the age of 50. His wide network meant he rarely went anywhere in Waco without recognition. "We never dined in a restaurant that someone, often several, stopped to speak to Stanley," Clemons said. Clyde Martin, one of Stanley's former running partners and the then President of The First National of Central Texas, described him as a "sincere person" who is so down-to-earth he thinks nothing of

wearing old, torn shorts and shirts to jog in, according to the 1994 newspaper profile of Rentz. He was not known for his fashion sense, and usually enlisted help from a neighbor to help buy his wife Christmas presents. One year he decided to do it on his own. It did not go well. "He bought mom particularly ugly blue jean overalls and a hot pink T-shirt that looked like they came from a farm supply store," said daughter Catherine Rentz. "She was an English teacher, not a farmer. Sadly, he did not know why we were all laughing."

He had a dry and sardonic sense of humor, though sometimes not initially appreciated. When he was around twenty, he sat in front of the fireplace on Christmas Eve with his rifle. He told his young niece that he was waiting for Santa Claus. His sisters and mother were yelling at him to stop. "I was traumatized for life," said Cheryl Foster, his niece who has since learned to laugh about it. When friends of his rebellious daughter, Catherine, came to sneak her out of the house one Friday night, her prescient father sat waiting calmly on the backyard deck sipping his coffee, and softly asked her friends who were then knocking on her window, "Can I help you?" Catherine discovered her dad developed creative ways of looking after his daughters without being seen, but said his worries were his own fault; she learned early on from him that it's healthy to question authority and to have independent thought.

Reading newspapers, learning about the world and "always putting yourself in the other person's shoes" were lessons they absorbed. Doctors told the family that Stanley's deep engagement in life likely delayed the worst ravages of Alzheimer's disease. He retired from his law practice in 2015 as signs of dementia set in. He still enjoyed occasional trips with good friends and family. "He was truly a great man and we were blessed to be able to call him best friend," said Sandi and Tom Wicker, who often traveled with Stanley and Nan. He maintained his kind spirit throughout his sickness, frequently apologizing for his memory issues. Even though he sometimes didn't know where he was, he often repeated how thankful he was for his good life. He and his wife joined Alzheimer's studies, shared stories of their struggles with local news outlets, and agreed to donate his brain to research in an effort to help others.

In addition to his wife of 55 years, he is survived by his two daughters, Rebecca Rentz of Houston, Texas, and Catherine Rentz of Maryland; one sister, Brenda Golubski of Waco, Texas; and four grandchildren.

James Henry Verschoyle, JD '70, went to be with the Lord Monday, September 19, 2022, surrounded by family. Jim was born August 10, 1941, in Dallas Texas, to W. Rowe and Margaret Smyth Verschoyle. He loved being able to say he was a 4th generation Dallasite. He was a member of the first graduating class of Bryan Adams High School where he was member of the ROTC, chief photographer of the El Conquistador,

and was voted a Class Personality his Junior and Senior years, to no one's surprise. In 1963, he graduated from Southern Methodist University where he was a proud member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. According to legend, he met the love of his life, Kathleen Brooks, while swinging from a chandelier at an SAE party. They celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary in July.

After college graduation, Jim served as a Captain in the United States Air Force, stationed in Omaha, Nebraska. After completing his service in the Air Force, Jim attended Baylor Law School. Upon graduation, he opened his own firm in Atlanta, Texas where he practiced law for more than 51 years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Atlanta; and a long-time member of the Atlanta Rotary Club, the Texarkana Country Club, the Shreveport Club and was a founding member of the Gentleman's Martini Matinee.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Rowe and Charles Verschoyle; his parents, Rowe and Margaret Verschoyle; and step-mother, Margaret Reilly. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Brooks Verschoyle of Atlanta, Texas; children Becky Verschoyle Armstrong and husband Charlie of Dallas, Texas, Brooks Verschoyle and wife Kasi of Dallas, Texas; four grandchildren, Kathleen Armstrong, Brooks Verschoyle, Jr., Margaret Armstrong, Jay Verschoyle; and a number of other beloved relatives and a host of always entertaining friends.

James David Pobjecky, JD '77, of Winter Haven, Florida, passed away on August 28, 2022, in Enterprise, Alabama. He was born February 11, 1944, in Winter Haven, Florida, the son of the late Kathryn and Arthur Pobjecky. On December 22, 1970, while on personal leave from the Vietnam War, he married Linda Ann Leger in Hawaii, who survives.

He received a BBA in economics from Baylor University and then a Juris Doctorate at Baylor School of Law in 1977. In 1978 David received a master's degree in Tax Law (LLM) from the University of Florida School Of Law. Prior to entering law school, he served in the U.S. Army for nearly ten years as an officer and a helicopter pilot with two tours of duty in Vietnam. He was an honor graduate of the University of Southern California s military course in aviation safety and management (in charge of aircraft accident investigations, etc.)

Decorations included three distinguished flying crosses and three bronze stars. He obtained the rank of Major in the USAP

David's favorite quote: there are two things one cannot avoid--death and taxes--with the former even being taxed by the government. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Linda Ann Pobjecky; daughter and son-in-law, Honorable Artie Renee Pobjecky and Michael Stimac of Houston, Texas; daughter and son-in-

law, Kathryn Pobjecky Orr and Steven Orr; daughter and son-in-law, Margaret Blair Moran and Robert Moran of Enterprise, Alabama; and his two grandchildren, James Clark Moran and Lilly Ann Molin.

Sarah Grace (Staci) Ramos, JD '81, a loving wife, daughter, sister, and aunt, as well as an attorney at law, a judge and certified spiritual adviser, passed away Saturday, September 18, after a short battle with cancer. She was 68. Sarah was born on October 15, 1953, to parents Harry Lee Short and Carolyn Ann (Collier) Short, in Tahoka, Texas. Much of Sarah's character, integrity, spiritual growth, and love for the environment were formed at a young age in that small cotton-farming town. She was a 4th generation cotton landowner. After graduating from Tahoka High School in 1972, Sarah obtained a B.S. degree in education from the University of Mary Hardin Baylor, then taught several years in the Belton and Killen schools. In 1981, she graduated from Baylor University School of Law and moved the next year to Austin where she spent the majority of her career working for the state of Texas, retiring as administrative law judge in the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

Sarah was a member of many professional law organizations and was well sought after as a speaker. Once retired, Sarah graduated with a Master's Degree in Theology from St. Mary's University. A member of St. Teresa's Catholic Church in Austin, she loved singing in the choir and was also a member of the Masterworks Singers. She loved her parish. She traveled throughout Europe, with her choir family, singing at the Vatican and other venues throughout Europe and the Baltic States. Sarah began teaching at the Institute for Spiritual Direction of the Diocese of Austin. She also became Co-Director of the Institute. Participating in a Spiritual Direction Peer Group allowed her to form deep connections and make wonderful friends. Sarah loved God with her whole being. She did much to reflect His light to others. Her many nieces and nephews knew her as the aunt who never failed to send a birthday card with a note of encouragement. She loved them all deeply and enjoyed any moments spent with them. Her sisters and brother looked to her for direction and advice and always felt peace and love in her presence. Her friends knew the selflessness and kindness that set her apart. She was always on the search for the perfect specific gift for each person. She loved and was truly loved by many friends. Her husband, Gilberto Ramos, will miss the nightly 10 p.m. prayers that occurred between them, no matter the distance. They enjoyed visiting family, traveling, gardening, and walking Charlie and Cocoa.

Sarah was preceded in death by her father Harry Lee Short; mother, Carolyn Collier; stepmother, Linda Bach; and sister, Salena Short. She is survived by her husband Gilberto Ramos of Austin; brother Bert Short and wife Paulette of Kingston, OK; sisters Sheri Short of Waxahachie; Stephani and Norm Block of Knoxville, TN; Sharla Short of Encinitas, CA; Shelli Cleveland of Spring, TX; Susan and husband Mark Weldon of Kingwood, TX; Veronica Ramos of Harlingen, TX; a bonus sister, Shannon Garonzik of Argyle, TX; and stepdad Jerry Bach of Kingston, OK.

William Maurice Blair III, JD '94,* was a dear friend and family member who will be remembered for his loyalty, sense of humor and intellect. Will was born in Champaign, Illinois on July 3, 1969. Soon after, he and his family moved to Dallas, Texas where he lived until the mid-eighties before moving to Longview, Texas. After graduating from Hallsville High School in 1987, Will attended Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana on full scholarship. While a student at Centenary, he studied abroad at the University of Aarhus in Denmark as well as the University of Oxford in London. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Centenary College he then moved to Waco, Texas where he earned his law degree from Baylor University. He practiced law for 27 years in his hometown of Longview, Texas. During Will's law career he practiced with Randy Akin, Greg Neeley and Ralph Pelaia. Will was also a restaurant entrepreneur and opened Tyler Street Bistro with Gerald Rodriguez and years later, Willy G's both located in downtown Longview, Texas.

Will spent his life helping others by organizing fundraisers for local charities, coaching soccer teams for his two sons, serving on the board of LMFA, and was involved in the relocation and remodeling of the Downtown Coffee Shop. Will also enjoyed deep sea fishing, vacationing, fantasy football and chess. He attended the Indy 500 race many times. Will also was known for his love of entertaining and cooking for others.

Will is proceeded in death by his grandparents William M. and Opal Blair, Wilbur and Winifred Palmer, and his sister Tamra Palmer. Will is survived by his parents William M. Blair Jr., and Katherine Blair, his wife Carol Blair, his daughter and her husband Raegan and Tyler McFadden, his daughter Jayelan Roberts, sons William (Reese) Blair IV, and Michael Blair, his sister and her husband Dr. Wendy Markowitz and James Markowitz, his sister-in-law Sheila Perduyn, sister-in-law and her husband Jessica and Dameion Donovan, brother--inlaw David Tolleson, his nieces Morrigan Wimberly, Gracelynn Tolleson, Riley Tolleson, Joella Perduyn, Katherine Markowitz, Seauphe' Acker, nephews Peyton Perduyn, Jackson Perduyn, James T. Markowitz and Chance Donovan, great-nephews Jennings Wimberly and Lenox Wimberly.

Jordan Battersby McDonald, JD '14, * was unexpectedly taken from this life on December 5, 2021, in Bastrop, Texas. Jordan Battersby McDonald was born October 23, 1987, in Austin, Texas, to Dr. Curtis and three McDonald boys, grew up alongside his brothers Chase and Miles. The three were inseparable and were quite the handful growing up. Jordan often referred to his older brothers as his best friends, and he loved telling tales of their childhood adventures. A Bastrop native, Jordan graduated from Bastrop High School in 2006. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology. Jordan attended Baylor University School of Law and graduated with a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2014. After law school, Jordan returned to Bastrop to practice law, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, James B. Kershaw, Attorney at Law. While practicing, Jordan, a defense attorney, met the newest prosecutor for the county, Jaycee Gail Dawson, while settling a case in court. After a fairytale first date, the two both knew they had found their soulmate and the love of their lives. Despite his short time in this world, Jordan lived a full life. He could be described as the "life of the party." He had a smile that could light up a room and a laugh that was infectious. He was incredibly funny, kind, and loyal. Jordan was brilliant and had a Genius IQ. He was extremely knowledgeable on multiple subjects such as history, politics, movies, and books. Jordan loved trivia and played on a weekly trivia team, The Wet Bandits. Jordan loved auctions, garage sales, and thrifting. His collection of "treasures" from his thrifting was quite impressive. He was a fabulous cook who could create recipes from scratch that always turned out fantastic. He loved watching television, especially documentaries on conspiracy, aliens, and Big Foot. The greatest joy of Jordan's life was his son, Connor. Connor brought Jordan immense happiness, and Jordan cherished all time spent with him. The duo loved playing video games together, swimming in the family pond, and taking golf cart rides. As a child, Jordan attended Camp Longhorn in Burnet, Texas. He returned as a counselor for younger campers after his graduation from high school. Jordan loved every second spent at camp and loved telling stories of his time there. He made many friends at Camp Longhorn, and he stayed in touch with many of them throughout the remainder of his life. Jordan is survived by his son, Connor Aaron McDonald of Austin; parents, Dr. Curtis and Jamie Kershaw McDonald of Bastrop; fiancé, Jaycee Gail Dawson of Smithville; grandparents, James B. Kershaw (Doris) of Bastrop; brothers, Chase McDonald (Melissa) of Bastrop, and Miles McDonald of Cedar Park; uncles, Gordan McDonald (Lynn) of Bastrop, Martin McDonald (Chrisy) of Florida, and Richard "Ricky" Kershaw of Austin. Jordan is also survived by numerous cousins, friends, and his beloved pets, Alabaster the pug and Steven, the office cat. Jordan was preceded in death by his grandmother, Barbara Matthew Kershaw; grandparents Kelley and Dilys McDonald; uncles, James "Jimmy" Kershaw, and David "Randy" Kershaw. Pall Bearers are Michael Osborn, Jason Osborne, Rod Barsuhn, John Brown, Cole Dabney, Monte James, Kevin Nixon, and Hersh Nehete.

Jamie Kershaw McDonald. Jordan, the youngest of the

StudentNOTES

TRANSACTIONAL WELCOME DINNER

On Friday, September 16, Baylor Law's
Transactional Faculty hosted a "Welcome Back
Dinner" for aspiring transactional lawyers at
Buzzard Billy's in Waco. Students heard from
Baylor Lawyers about the work they do and life as
a business and transactional lawyer.







RECENT INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITIONS



National Pretrial Competition At Stetson Law
Laura Cook, Michael Tagliabue, Gili Canales, and Gage
Jones, were champions at the National Pretrial Competition
hosted by Stetson Law. The team was coached by Bailey
Strohmeyer and Chandler Dean. Michael Tagliabue was
named the top advocate in the final round.



Civil Rights & Liberties Moot Court Competition at Emory Law
Tansy Ackermann, Kiala Ellingson, Devon Johnston, Katie Clausen, Amber John, and
Paige Browne, and their coach Professor Larry Bates (Center) competed in the Civil
Rights & Liberties Moot Court Competition hosted by Emory Law. The team of Tansy
Ackermann, Kiala Ellingson, and their brief writer Devon Johnston were champions
at that tournament, and the team of Katie Clause, Amber John, and their brief writer
Paige Browne finished in third place in the competition. Amber John was also named
the third best speaker in the tournament.





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