

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

DOCKETCALL

SUMMER 2023

Honoring a Legacy

REFLECTING ON DEAN
BRADLEY J.B. TOBEN'S
TRANSFORMATIVE
LEADERSHIP OF BAYLOR LAW



Baylor University
SCHOOL OF LAW

LEADING WITH A STEADY HAND
AND A SERVANT'S HEART

FAITH, SERVICE,
AND THE LAW

INTERIM DEANSHIP
OF PATRICIA WILSON



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DOCKETCALL

Volume 155
Summer 2023

BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Leading with
a *Steady Hand*
and a *Servant's Heart*



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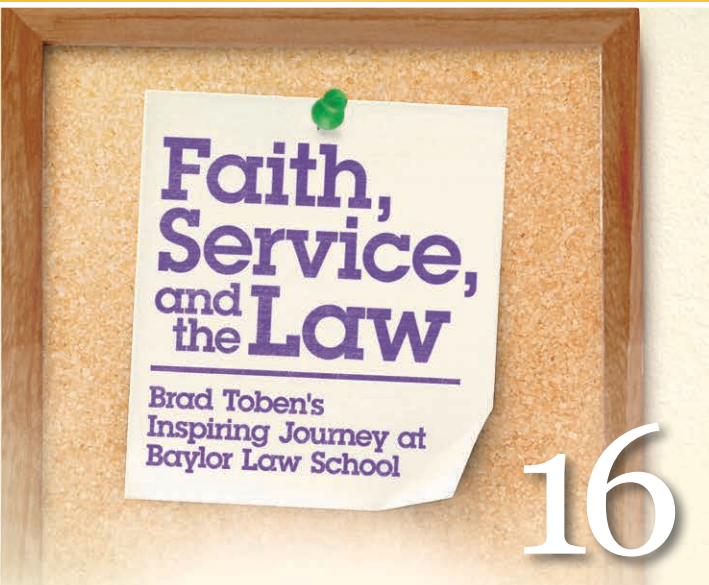
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Brad Toben
BAYLOR
LAWYER
OF THE
YEAR



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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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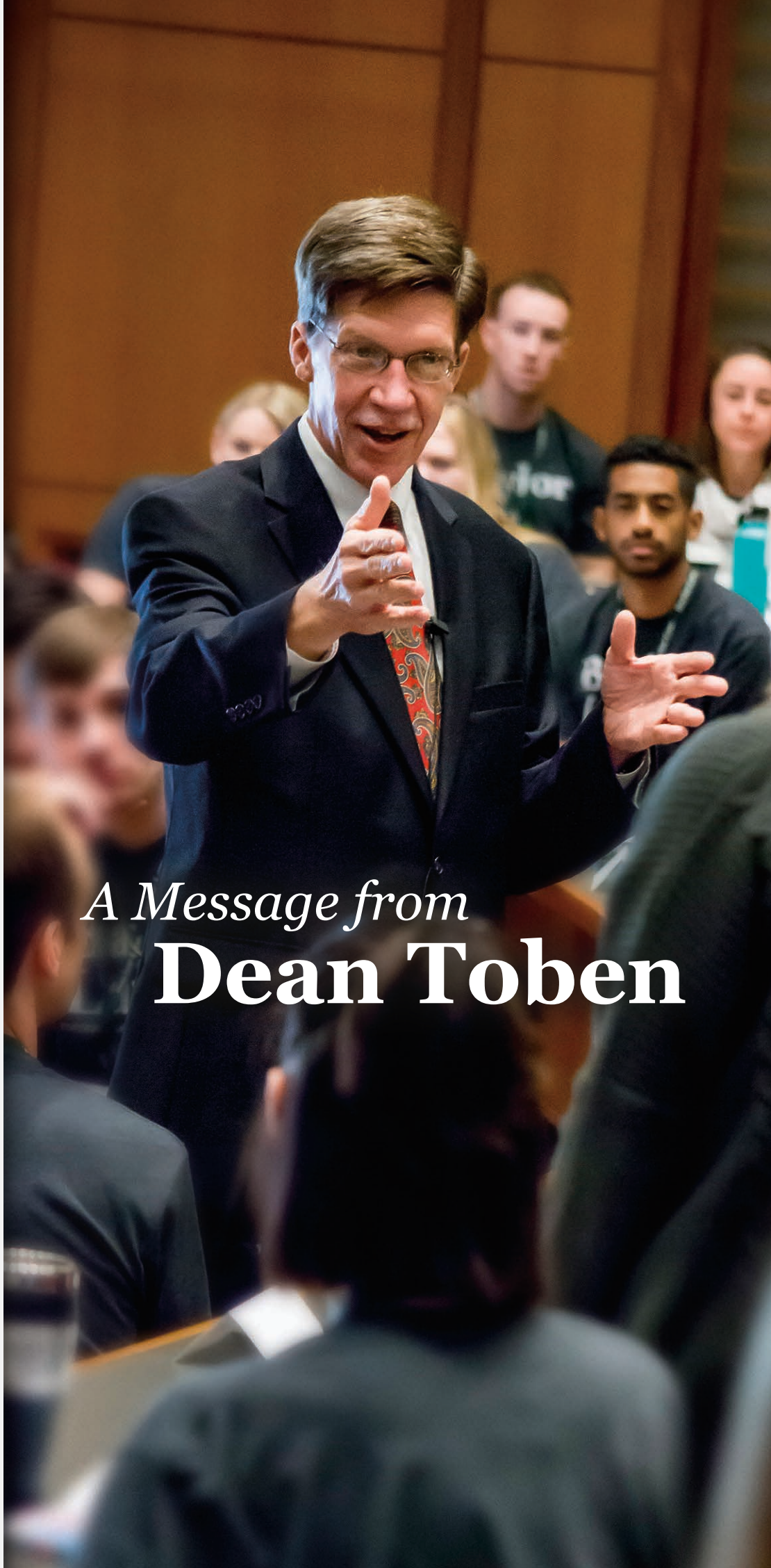
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A Message from Dean Toben

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

– Isaiah 43:18-19

Dear Baylor Lawyers and Friends:

As you likely know, I have decided, after over three decades as dean and 40 years at Baylor Law, to return to the Law School faculty. My decision is the result of much prayer and reflection, heeding the admonition of Ecclesiastes 3 that “to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.” Serving as dean of Baylor Law has been a true blessing — giving me extraordinary happiness, fulfillment, and pride — but after 31+ years, the time to paint on a new canvas has come. I believe this is God’s time. The average length of service for the 199 deans at ABA accredited law schools is less than five years. I will remain part of this singular and remarkable school, and that gives to me delightful anticipation for what’s next.

Over the past few months since I announced my decision, I have received loads of e-mails, texts, phone calls, letters, social media call-outs, resolutions, and visits. So many of you have attended events marking the end of my tenure. I am deeply grateful for the words you have shared and your presence at the events. Most of all, though, I am grateful for your friendship. The outpouring of kindness and support has touched my heart and soul.

Baylor Law has flourished. First there was the law center, and then, over the years, a remarkable expansion and transformation of our programming. The creativity, talents, hard work, and dedication of my faculty and staff partners have amazed everyone. The generosity and support of you, our alumni and friends who have invested in our school in so many ways, have made possible what once would have been beyond the scope of imagination.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul speaks of the church by analogy to the body. He emphasizes that each of us has different gifts and hence different ways of serving. He observes how important it is for all the parts of the body to work together. I have had the blessing of seeing all the “parts” working together — the faculty and staff team, the alumni, the University’s leaders, and the friends of our school. All have used their various gifts, talents, and abilities to advance, steward, and guard the mission and values of a school we love.

What makes Baylor Law highly distinctive is our central, faith-based mission and core values. We put teaching our students first. We focus on a practice-oriented legal education. We prepare our students to make an impact through service. For our students, we set the bar high and we adhere tightly to the standards of professionalism. Yes, the academic discipline of law is fascinating and complex, but unless a lawyer can work effectively, efficiently, and ethically within the justice system to help others and to steward our rule of law, the privilege to practice law is wanting in purpose.

Patricia Wilson, our associate dean, will now serve as Baylor Law’s interim dean. Since taking on the role as associate dean in 2021, Pat and I have worked together closely in the dean’s suite and I have the highest regard for her. Please read about Dean Wilson in this issue — you will be impressed!

I share with folks all the time that God has a way of leading us around corners that we would have never anticipated. I am thankful for those who saw something in me that I didn’t see in myself that made it possible for me to serve this school that I love so much as dean for all these years. I’ve been able to live a dream to which I never aspired and which, indeed, “came around the corner” to me. God has given me the blessing of doing work that I enjoy and in which I have even reveled.

While this issue of *Docket Call* recognizes numerous milestones and accomplishments of our beloved school, I emphasize that the measure of our success lies not in accolades and rankings but in the lives we have touched and the positive impact we have had on those we serve.

Enjoy this issue as we reflect on the past, but more important, look forward to a thriving future for Baylor Law!

Gratefully,



Brad Toben, JD '77

Leading *with* a *Steady* Hand and a *Servant's* Heart

Celebrating three decades of Baylor Law under Dean Brad Toben's leadership

In the world of legal education, where the median length of tenure among the 199 ABA accredited law school deans is less than five years, Dean Brad Toben stands out as an unwavering pillar of stability and commitment. He has led by example for over three decades and guided Baylor Law with a steady hand and a servant's heart.

Rooted in the principles of servant leadership and educational excellence, Dean Toben's exceptional leadership has transformed lives and propelled the institution to unprecedented levels of excellence. To those who have had the privilege of knowing him, it is evident that Dean Toben's resounding success as a law school dean is deeply rooted in his humble nature, a faith borne commitment to serving others, and an enduring love for Baylor Law and the legal profession.

A FIRM FOUNDATION: IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT SERVICE

After teaching at Baylor Law and serving as associate dean, Toben was appointed dean in 1991 at only 36 years of age. He still remembers feeling daunted by the responsibility with which he had been entrusted.

"I will never forget that phone call I received from President Herbert Reynolds on a hot summer day in 1991. After the Board of Regents had met, he called to tell me that the Board had approved my appointment as dean of

the Law School. I thanked him for his confidence but also shared with him that I knew I was young for the job — only 36. I will always recall his response. He said, "I never measure age by calendar years. I measure it by maturity, character, and personal attributes."

"Then he said, in that deep, *basso profundo* voice, 'the fact that you are young means that we could be looking at a 20- to 30-year deanship.' Dr. Reynolds was always known for being prescient. I believe that his expression of confidence was also a challenge. With his military background, I think it was his way of saying, 'I want you to take this hill.' I'll always be grateful for Dr. Reynolds. He had confidence in me at a time when there was no reason to have such confidence."

Thirty-one years later, there are countless faculty, staff, students, alumni, and bar and community colleagues and members who can confirm that Reynolds had it right when he saw in Toben a person who would have what it takes to lead Baylor Law forward with a firm, faithful hand, and a servant-leader's heart. But perhaps even Reynolds could not have guessed to what heights the young dean would lead the school while always undergirding its mission and values.

"From the moment he stepped into office, Brad challenged us not to lose sight of our traditions and our heritage. He would talk to us — the new faculty at the time — about standing on the shoulders of those faculty who had come before us," said Leah Teague, JD '85, professor of law and former associate dean. "Without a doubt, he has always been about keeping our values consistent, even while seeking to grow and evolve to meet the needs of the current day."

Two of the needs Toben identified as significant, early on as dean, were raising the visibility of the Law School beyond the state of Texas and developing a new facility for the school that would reflect the excellence of the work being done in its classrooms and courtrooms.

BUILDING A HOME, MAKING A NATIONAL NAME

“We were in Morrison Constitution Hall, which had been built, rather modestly, almost 40 years prior. While that facility had produced some remarkable Baylor Lawyers, it was dark, cramped, and quite unimpressive,” Toben remembered, laughing. “I wanted our students to walk into a beautiful, grand building that, combined with our expectations of students, our mission, and our values, would inspire them to excellence.”

In that first decade as dean, after first going through an architectural study of options, gaining approval for a new facility, and identifying a national architectural firm, President Reynolds and the Board gave approval for a building and endowment campaign. Toben traveled the state, and beyond, incessantly, casting a vision for the school’s future among its alumni and friends, and rallying support for the vision. Little could he have known then that, meeting by meeting and call by call, he was cultivating some of the skills that would make him so successful. He developed leadership skills and built lasting relationships and friendships that would work to strengthen the school over the next three decades.

“I think I matured a lot as a person over that first decade. Every day when I woke up, I was thinking about the fact that we had a law center to build. The Law School was, and is, on its own financial bottom. We’re not like the other schools of the University. What we spend here, we must raise, year by year,” Toben said. “The cost estimates told us that the project was going to run about \$35 million in 1998 dollars, which would be far more in today’s dollars. I was always thinking, ‘oh my heavens, that’s a lot of money!’ The eventual cost of the law center was, put simply, ‘way high,’ but the expense was reflected in its beauty, setting, and ambiance.”





Morrison Constitution Hall

Toben's travels eventually paid off. There was an outpouring of financial support. Three Baylor Law graduates, Walter Umphrey, JD '65, Harold Nix, JD '65, and John Eddie Williams, JD '78, together made a \$20 million gift to Baylor Law School. Baylor University President Linda Livingstone, Ph.D., who was then a faculty member in the Hankamer School of Business, clearly recalls the event.

"It was the largest financial commitment to the Law School in its history, and at the time, for Baylor, it also was the largest gift from individuals in the history of the University," Livingstone said. "That gift ignited the Law School's endowment campaign under Dean Toben."

The gift also led to the fulfillment of Toben's vision for the construction of the Law School's new home, the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center, named in honor of the couple who provided the lead gift, championing the project through their support.

"Brad Toben has always been an outstanding professional — a gentleman at all times. Walter and I believed his knowledge about, and commitment to, the highest standards in legal education were qualities that would continue to make Baylor Law School outstanding, and we wanted to support that," Sheila Umphrey said. "Brad had been a good friend of ours for some time. Walter always attributed his success in his legal career to the education he received at Baylor, and he thought that if he ever had the chance to give back, he would do so as generously as possible."

In a striking location on the banks of the Brazos River, the new law center much more than doubled the school's former space, providing ample room for innovative and rigorous instruction. Perhaps most transformative was the tangible space that provided for expanded programming that had once been an impossible dream.

"Our physical facility was not up to par with our academic excellence. So Brad took on the task of getting that fixed and, almost single-handedly, raised the money to build a new law center — which is one of the most profound changes in the history of the school," said John Eddie Williams. Williams, who was inducted into the National Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame in 2018, noted, "From that time on, he was able to recruit and retain outstanding professors and the Law School is doing better than it's ever done, from my observation."

Jerri Cunningham, Baylor Law School director of academic services and registrar, who has known and worked with Brad for 35 years, even before he was Dean, has witnessed firsthand what having more physical space — beautiful space — meant for creating outside-the-box programming over the years.

"In Morrison Constitution Hall, we had about seven or eight classrooms, and we did not have the

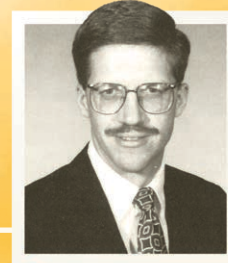
robust programming that we have now, including the number of courses offered or professional development opportunities for students. After Brad led the charge, moving us into the new building, we immediately began capitalizing on the much larger space," Cunningham observed. "We have so many more opportunities for our students now that we didn't have then. Programming has grown exponentially, and it keeps growing."

"That gift ignited the Law School's endowment campaign under Dean Toben."

— LINDA LIVINGSTONE, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY



Selected Milestones



July 1991

Brad Toben Named Dean of Baylor Law



Apr. 1992

Justice Antonin Scalia Visits Baylor Law

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF CARE AND CREATIVITY LEADS TO EXPLOSIVE GROWTH IN PROGRAMMING

Toben credits the tremendous explosion of programming in the years since the opening of the Umphrey Law Center in 2001 to the talent, creativity, and commitment of a mission-driven faculty and staff team.

“The wisest thing you can do as a leader is find a bunch of smart people and then give them the reins, encouragement, and resources to make their ideas a reality,” Toben reflected.

The school’s current faculty and staff — roughly 90 percent of whom joined the Law School during Toben’s tenure — readily attest that’s exactly what Toben did from day one in the dean’s post. He selects colleagues who are servant-leaders with a needed skill set, calls out their potential, and then trusts them to get the job done, just as Reynolds did for him.

“While Brad definitely has always had his hand on the pulse of everything going on at the school, he isn’t a micromanager. He would let you take the work and run with it. He liked when we used our imaginations,” Cunningham said. “He welcomed input. Now, he may not have always agreed, and ultimately he had to make the decisions, but he valued the opinions of both faculty and staff, and most importantly, he listened.”

Senior Assistant Dean Angela Cruseturner, JD ’02, notes, “Brad has this ability to recognize the potential in people. And that comes from first genuinely caring about people.”

Professor Beth Miller, JD ’85, the M. Stephen and Alyce A. Beard Chair in Business and Transactional Law noted, “I am immensely grateful for Brad’s unwavering commitment to focusing on students as our top priority at the Law School. Our culture has been built on that priority, and he consistently refers to it as the guiding principle underlying programmatic and administrative decisions, as well as how we all carry out our roles on a day-to-day basis. However, what is really revealing about his heart for students is the joy he derives from personally interacting with them. Brad not only considers the best interests of the students while he is engaged in management and decision-making; he cherishes spending time with students one-on-one while they are in school and maintaining those connections after they graduate and move on. He is all about relationships and treasures the relationships he builds with the students.”



Feb. 1993

Former President Jimmy Carter Visits Baylor



Feb. 1994

Baylor Joins the New Big XII Conference



Feb. 1995

Dr. Robert B. Sloan Jr. Becomes Baylor’s 12th President



June 1996

Study Abroad: Baylor Law Program Established at the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara



Apr. 1998

United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals Convenes at Baylor Law



Sept. 1998

Texas Supreme Court Convenes at Baylor Law - First Time Convening Outside of Austin

Professor Brian Serr, the Louise L. Morrison Chair of Constitutional Law, echoed that sentiment, “Brad possesses a true humility; he has a servant’s heart and always strives to act in the best interests of the intended beneficiaries of the Law School — our students, their future clients, and the legal profession. It is easy to respect someone like that.”

Associate Dean Patricia Wilson, the William Boswell Chair of Law, recalled when she first came to Baylor Law to teach, she was surprised by how personable and relational Dean Toben was with everyone at the school.

“Dean Toben approaches his interactions far differently than I was used to at the law school I attended. He genuinely cares about everyone, and when I say ‘everyone,’ I mean from the most senior faculty member and the most prominent alums to recent graduates, our current students, and our housekeeping staff. He knows their names, their spouses’ names, and tidbits they’ve shared with him about themselves beyond the Law School. That’s just who he is.” Wilson, who will serve as interim dean during the hiring search, reflected. “My faculty colleagues and I really are like herding cats — very opinionated, accomplished, and bright people with ideas about how things should be done. Dean Toben has convinced us to all row in the same direction for all of these years because we know what’s

motivating him — the institution’s needs and what’s in the best interest of our students and the people that make up the Baylor Law community.”

Out of this culture of care and creative freedom, Baylor Law faculty have launched a panoply of new and innovative programs in the last three decades.

“It is remarkable that we have grown as much as we have while staying true to who we are and our mission,” Cruseturner said. “I look at the many opportunities available to students, whether to participate in legal clinics or our enhanced business and transactional programs, in our student organizations, our professional development program, or *pro bono* and public service program. We now have so many opportunities for our students that didn’t exist before Dean Toben’s tenure.”

Not all the programs that have grown and been strengthened under Toben’s watch are new. Baylor Law School has long been home to one of the country’s most highly regarded advocacy programs — the Practice Court Program and its supporting curriculum. In 1986, Toben recruited Gerald Powell, JD ’77, his former Baylor Law classmate and a highly successful trial lawyer, to return to Baylor and continue building on the program’s success. Powell, who had never considered teaching before Toben’s ask, would later say it was the best and most rewarding decision he ever made.

“He brought me in to help direct the trial advocacy program, which was already very old in the history of the Law School and already a good, strong program. I think he thought I had the experience, knowledge, and skill that were needed to turn bright young students into talented young trial lawyers,” said Powell, Professor of Law Emeritus who still teaches as part of the school’s study abroad advocacy program in Scotland. “Brad had similar visions for other practice areas too. He saw the importance of putting together a broadly talented faculty.”

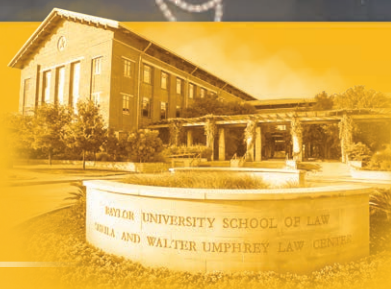


Dean Brad Toben, Associate Dean Patricia Wilson, and Sr. Assistant Dean Angela Cruseturner



Apr. 1999

Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center Groundbreaking Ceremony



Aug. 2001

Baylor Law Moves Into the Umphrey Law Center



Aug. 2002

President George W. Bush Visits Baylor



Apr. 2004

United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals Convenes at Baylor Law

Mayborn MUSEUM



May 2004

Baylor’s Mayborn Museum Complex Opens Next to Baylor Law

Faculty have launched “boot camps” for students — intensive week-long intersession or three-day weekend trainings — in their varying areas of expertise. Beginning with Professor Beth Miller’s Business Law Boot Camp in 2014, the school now offers intensive boot camp experiences in criminal law (prosecution and defense), criminal *voir dire*, family law, and brief writing.

Whatever the programming, the goal is to produce lawyers who are effectively equipped and prepared to practice on day one, whether in trial advocacy, business law, prosecution, or clerking for federal and state judges.

The Honorable Amos Mazzant, JD ’90, United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, not only had Toben as a professor when he was a law student but has now also partnered with the clerkship program for many years in preparing the next generation of Baylor Law federal and state judicial clerks.

“Baylor is now in the top echelon of the country when it comes to placing students as federal clerks, which is a very highly competitive situation. I think that is a direct impetus of what Brad started several years ago when the Law School began to invite all the Baylor judges and former law clerks to come to the campus and speak to students,” Mazzant said. “Baylor Law has the best practical skills training you could ever receive in the country in terms of trial advocacy programs. It’s just amazing to see how the school is advancing on so many levels.”

McLennan County Judge Vikram Deivanayagam, JD ’96, agrees. “Brad has this intentional desire to see Baylor succeed at all levels. One of those levels is to be competitive with other schools — he’s willing to push faculty and students to strive harder, and he provides resources to improve the quality of the teams,” Deivanayagam said. “Just building the law center alone has enhanced the ability for students to compete through the technology it contains. When I graduated, the

“Toben’s vision, along with his team’s, has done nothing but make the environment better for students to achieve whatever they need and want to achieve.”

— HON. VIKRAM DEIVANAYAGAM, JD ’96
JUDGE, MCLENNAN COUNTY COURT AT LAW #1

old Law School at Morrison Hall was quite a different environment. Dean Toben’s vision, along with his team’s, has done nothing but make the environment better for students to achieve whatever they need and want to achieve.”

A DIFFERENT KIND OF LAW SCHOOL, PRODUCING A DIFFERENT KIND OF LAWYER

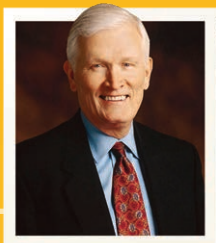
Baylor Law graduates are achieving. Baylor Law continues to lead the state on the bar exam with an unmatched track record.

“I think Baylor’s high passage rate on the bar exam is related to the fact that the Law School is very intentional in the way the curriculum is designed. These students are prepared when they walk in to take the exam. It’s as simple as that,” Baylor University Provost Nancy Brickhouse said. “I’m very proud of the kind of reputation Baylor Law School has amongst Texas law firms and judges.”

There is likely no faculty or staff member, student, or alumnus under Toben’s leadership who hasn’t referred to graduates of Baylor Law School with the line “Baylor Lawyers — that’s with a capital ‘B’ and a capital ‘L,’ because it’s not just a descriptor — it’s a brand,” so consistent has Toben’s messaging been regarding the marked distinction of a graduate when they move out into the profession and the world.



Voir Dire Boot Camp Faculty and Class — Summer 2022



Jan. 2006

**Dr. John M. Lilley
Becomes Baylor’s
13th President**



Feb. 2007

**Rep. John Lewis
Visits Baylor Law**



Nov. 2008

**First BPILS-
Sponsored
Adoption Day**



June 2009

**First “Top Gun”
Invitational
National Mock
Trial Competition**



Sept. 2010

**Judge Ken Starr
Becomes Baylor
University’s 14th
President**



Dec. 2011

**Robert Griffin III
wins 77th Annual
Heisman Trophy**



Jessica Underwood, JD '14, whose father was a longtime Baylor Law faculty member and now is the longtime President of Mercer University, has known Dean Toben and has been around the Law School's culture since she was 18 months old. Yet, the strength of identity and the community that comes with being an alumna still surprised her when she experienced it for herself.

"Dean Toben talks a lot about being a Baylor Lawyer, capital 'B' and capital 'L,' and how that really means something — and I've found that it does," Underwood said. "When I see there's a Baylor Lawyer on the other side of a case or representing another party, it always gives me comfort to know that someone whom I can trust, someone whom I feel confidently knows what they're doing, is either on the other side of the case or going to be working on my team. With Baylor Law alumni, 'network' is not a strong enough word. It's more of an alumni family. There's just this really special, close-knit feeling. A feeling that I don't know exists for all other law schools, or maybe any other law school."

According to Lewis Sifford, JD '72, a renowned trial lawyer and nationally sought out speaker and educator, it isn't simply Baylor insiders who notice that difference.

"One of my good friends gave the introduction when I was named Baylor Lawyer of the Year. He wasn't a Baylor Lawyer, but in his speech that day, he said, 'As someone who's standing off in the distance, I see it in every Baylor Lawyer I've ever met — there's just something really

special, a camaraderie, a relationship, a family sort of outreach and feeling that you get from Baylor Lawyers that you don't get from graduates of other law schools. It's just a whole different feeling and mindset when you get Baylor Lawyers together," Sifford said. "Baylor has a focus on professionalism, ethics, and civility — a lot of law schools, believe it or not, don't teach that. And it's the one thing that has sort of sustained me through all my years. That legacy is one of the reasons why I enjoy coming back to teach and lecture so much. It's just kind of my way of giving back."

Indeed, giving back is one of the key markers of a "capital B, capital L" Baylor Lawyer.

"Our students and student activity groups are so active out in the community. From Brad's point of view, that all sort of funnels down into public service from our alumni," Cunningham said. "He emphasizes that our graduates need to leave this place with an eye toward that. We want them to be asking, 'How can I serve the public while I'm doing my job?'"

The Law School's *Pro Bono* Program offers Baylor Law students the opportunity to receive academic credit for completing up to 200 hours of public service within a diverse range of fields before they graduate. Baylor Law's *Zambian Juvenile Justice Program* gives students the opportunity to travel to Zambia during the summer — working alongside faculty members representing juveniles in conflict with the Zambian justice system.

For Judge Deivanayagam, the servant-leadership modeled for and cultivated in him while at Baylor Law School helps keep him in a missional mindset while serving from the bench.

"Something I've always really appreciated, that I think Dean Toben has instilled in all of us, is the idea that in being a lawyer, you are providing a service," he said.

"With Baylor Law alumni, 'network' is not strong enough of a word. It's more of an alumni family."

— JESSICA UNDERWOOD, JD '14



Apr. 2012

Former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Visits Baylor and Baylor Law



July 2012

Study Abroad: Baylor Law's Academy of the Advocate Established at St Andrews, Scotland



Sept. 2012

Baylor Law Veterans Clinic Inauguration



Apr. 2013

President Barack Obama Visits Baylor



May 2014

Sheila and Walter Umphrey Pedestrian Bridge Opens

Aug. 2014

McLane Stadium Opens

“We are a serving profession. Most people don’t come to lawyers when they’re in good spirits or in good times. You come to a lawyer when you’re in a time of trouble or difficulty or need, and we hopefully provide guidance, as well as counseling in some form, to these people with troubled hearts and troubled minds,” Deivanayagam said. “Dean Toben showed me that this profession really isn’t about making money and wins and losses. It’s about making a difference in people’s lives, our community, and the people we come in contact with.”

ASSEMBLING THE BEST AND BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

The proximity and personal interactions with gifted faculty are part of the not-so-secret sauce that makes a Baylor Law School experience exceptional. Keeping the enrollment on the small side and keeping the faculty-to-student ratio quite low has long been a standard for Baylor Law to ensure the highest quality experience for each student. While that could easily mean a steady increase in tuition costs, a scenario that has played out at most higher education institutions across the country, Baylor Law School has been able, remarkably, to freeze tuition rates for the fourth consecutive year thanks to Dean Toben’s leadership in raising scholarship support and building up the school’s endowment funds throughout his tenure.

“The commitment to getting as many scholarship dollars as possible for students has always been at the forefront for Brad,” Cruseturner said.

These funds not only enlarge the recruiting pool for a wider demographic of students while minimizing the increasingly heavy burden of student loans, but they have also played a crucial role in increasing diversity among the school’s faculty and students. This goal has been near and dear to Toben from his early years as dean.

“I’ll never forget a certain moment 15-20 or so years ago, when I was coming back from lunch and encountered a group of young people visiting the law center for an Open House or Premier Day. There was one young African American woman in the group who said, ‘Dean Toben, can I talk to you for a moment? I’m really impressed with what I see here, but I don’t see anybody who looks like me.’ At that point, it was so true — and that fact just went through me, just pierced me. I already knew that we could do much better, but that was a galvanizing moment,” Toben remembered. “Over the years, we’ve tried to make sure that perception no longer characterizes our community.”

While there’s always more work to be done, under Toben’s guidance, significant movement forward has occurred. Today the enrollment of students of color at the Law School is at an historic high at just over 30 percent.

“Just like at the undergraduate level, building an endowment that helps provide scholarships diversifies the student population, attracting outstanding students from across the country and from all different backgrounds,” Livingstone said. “Dean Toben’s success at growing the Law School’s endowment allows for the expansion of programs and focuses while ensuring that a Baylor Law School education is accessible to a more diverse group of students than it has been in the past.”

In realizing the goal that crystalized in Toben’s heart those many years ago, students of color are also seeing more representation among Baylor Law faculty.

“Our faculty currently has five tenured or tenure-track people of color now,” Wilson said. “When I started in 1993, there was no other person of color on the faculty. Increasing faculty diversity has long been one of Dean Toben’s goals.”



Baylor Law's Immigration Clinic



Jan. 2016

First “The Closer” National Transactional Law Competition



Mar. 2016

First “Ultimate Writer” Internal Legal Writing Competition



May 2016

Legal Writing Center Opens



May 2016

Inaugural Business Law Boot Camp



Mar. 2017

First Ultimate Writer Regional Legal Writing Competition



Apr. 2017

Dr. Linda A. Livingstone Becomes Baylor’s 15th President

Not only has Dean Toben sought to develop a more diverse faculty in terms of race and ethnicity, but he has also sought to increase diversity in faculty members' backgrounds and areas of expertise. In addition to faculty specializing in civil trial advocacy, for example, which Baylor Law has always been known for — there are now more faculty members with interests in business and transactional law and criminal practice, both prosecution and defense.

“Dean Toben has really emphasized a well-rounded faculty that has practical experience as well as the ability to engage in exceptional scholarship. We’re hiring some of the brightest people, who have so much potential in terms of classroom teaching and scholarship,” Wilson said.

Professor of Law Tom Featherston, JD '72, the Mills Cox Chair of Law added, “One of Baylor Law’s unique attributes has been its faculty staying engaged with the practicing bar. Brad has provided encouragement and the resources for faculty members to continue that tradition through active participation in local, state, and national professional organizations.”

There’s also a focus on making this a place where there’s a real sense of belonging.

— ANGELA CRUSETURNER, JD '02
SR. ASSISTANT DEAN, BAYLOR LAW

Powell adds, “Brad has viewed the Law School as a training ground for problem solvers and people helpers. He recognizes that the people we serve have so many different problems and various kinds of needs, and that requires a broadly experienced faculty that is capable of forming young lawyers into different skill sets and practice areas. Over the years, he has consciously tried to assemble a team that is broadly based enough to prepare the variety of young lawyers we have to go out and do all the jobs there are to do in the world.”

It’s an emphasis that will only continue to gain momentum in the years ahead, catalyzed (in perpetuity) by the robust endowment that Baylor Law School stewards.

“In his 31-year tenure, Brad raised Baylor Law’s endowment from less than \$1 million to more than \$180 million,” Livingstone said. “That’s an incredible accomplishment and transformational for the school.”

It’s the fuel, according to Cruseturner, that will continue to simultaneously boost the standard of excellence in academics while cultivating an authentic culture of care for Baylor Law students.

“We always say ‘the best belong at Baylor,’ and we are consistently working to get the best prospective students in the country. There’s been a real focus on that, but there also continues to be a focus on making this a place where there’s a real sense of belonging,” Cruseturner said. “We are more intentional about creating an environment that is welcoming for all. We’re still going to work our students incredibly hard. It’s always going to be a rigorous program, but at the end of the day, we want our students to know that we care for and support them too.”

That specific coupling of priorities, after all, is the Baylor difference.



2023 Baylor Law Faculty

Baylor Law
CRIMINAL LAW
BOOT CAMP



Nov. 2017

Inaugural Criminal Law Boot Camp



UNDIKUMBUKIRE
PROJECT ZAMBIA

June 2018

Study Abroad: Baylor Law’s Global Field Placement with UP Zambia Established



Nov. 2018

First “Paper Chase” Interscholastic Legal Writing Competition



May 2019

Umphey Law Center Updates (Courtyard, Law Review Suite)

Baylor Law
FAMILY LAW
BOOT CAMP

Mar. 2021

Inaugural Family Law Boot Camp

FOR THE GREATER GOOD AHEAD

Any faculty or staff member who has served with Dean Toben for any period will tell you that in every decision he's made on behalf of Baylor Law over the years, he's asked the questions — often audibly — *is this for the greater good of the Law School? Does this serve the best interests of the institution?* If the answer was yes, then the way forward was clear. So it's no surprise that this question guided his decision to resign as dean after 31 years of service — by far the longest tenure of any law school dean in the country.

"I still love this work, and I am still blessed each day by it, but as I've shared, after 31 years, I have a desire to 'paint on a new canvas' and want to see my days look a bit different. Just as several of my colleagues have retired from the faculty in recent years, there comes a time for a necessary generational changeover. The time has been arriving for a refreshing of the ranks — a time to make room for new leaders and colleagues who are innovative, creative, and bright but who also understand Baylor Law's points of distinction and buy into our mission and our values," Toben said of his decision to pass the baton.

"Being able to hand off a school that is in such a good and healthy place, financially and in every other way, which Dean Toben has done, puts the Law School in a great position to attract exceptional leadership moving forward," Brickhouse said.

Ever desiring to serve and dreaming for greater things ahead for Baylor Law, even while resigning his post as dean, Toben plans to remain an engaged faculty member.

"Just as Dean Toben built on the work of his predecessors, the next dean of Baylor Law will build on the transformational work of Brad Toben," Livingstone said. "In fact, Baylor Law will embark on a \$10 million renovation project this summer that will enhance the facility for the next generation of Baylor Lawyers."

It only seems fitting that the close of such a remarkable era of growth under Toben's leadership be marked by another great leap toward better serving future Baylor Law students. And in the meantime, staff, faculty, and alumni alike continue to be fueled by the desire to honor Toben's legacy of service by maintaining a standard of excellence through service.

"Just as Dean Toben built on the work of his predecessors, the next dean of Baylor Law will build on the transformational work of Brad Toben."

— LINDA LIVINGSTONE, Ph.D., PRESIDENT, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

"We should maintain our dedication to following the example he has set for us — to educate the whole person, the whole human being, how they look at the world, how they look at their adversaries, not as enemies, but simply opponents in the practice of law. And to treat everyone with dignity and respect," Sifford said. "I think that the greatest thing we could do to honor Brad's many years of service is to carry on that tradition of professionalism, ethics, civility, and genuine humanity in the practice of law with good humor and loyal, faithful, loving support."

Laura Obenoskey, who has served as assistant to the dean for 30 years, reflected, "Brad laid the foundation. He's modeled how to treat people with servant-leadership, how to couple humility with strength, and how to encourage faculty and staff. He's shown us how to encourage people to be creative while still making decisions on what's in the best interest of the organization. I feel like he's given us a blueprint."

That blueprint will continue to be built upon, resting on the firm foundation of Dean Toben's transformative leadership. As Toben is so fond of saying and known for believing, "all will be well." Brad Toben knows that a faith mission that grounds Baylor Lawyers as servants to a hurting world is the benchmark that will lead Baylor Law to continue to make a singular mark on its students, legal education, and the profession.

Baylor Law.
VOIR DIRE
BOOT CAMP



June 2022

**Inaugural
Criminal
Voir Dire
Boot Camp**

Stepping In:

The Interim Deanship of *Patricia Wilson*

As Patricia Wilson steps in as interim dean of Baylor Law School, she brings with her 30 years of teaching experience; service to the school through her work on numerous committees; and, as associate dean since 2021, experience working closely with the long-serving dean, Brad Toben — who held the position of dean for 31 years before returning to the Law School faculty.

Wilson believes her experience gained through her 30 years on the faculty has prepared her to take on her new responsibilities as interim dean. She joined the Law School as a professor in 1993, teaching the first-year property course, which she took over from legendary professor Angus McSwain, who taught at Baylor Law for 59 years and was himself dean for 19 years. Wilson also taught numerous other courses, including employment law and family law.

As associate dean, Wilson's duties were "multiple and varied." In addition to the committee assignments expected of all faculty, she was primarily responsible for academic affairs, including determining teaching loads for the law faculty, assisting with full-time faculty recruitment, hiring part-time instructors, and advising students on academic matters.

Wilson also worked closely with Toben on the day-to-day operations of the Law School. "Being able to see Dean Toben in action and how he handled different things for which he was responsible has been particularly helpful



in preparing me,” she said. “Whether we’re talking about faculty, or students, or alumni, or University policies and procedures, he has shared a perspective that prepared me as much as one can be prepared to step into the office of the dean.”

Wilson also brings into the position a wealth of leadership experience outside of academia. She’s been involved with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship for nearly 15 years, both within Texas and nationally. She’s served on numerous committees, chairing the legal committee, and served as National Moderator of the CBF’s Governing Board. At Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco, where her family has worshiped for 28 years, Wilson has twice been deacon chair and has served on councils dealing with education, children and youth, and facilities. She has also served in leadership on the Consumer and Commercial Law Council of the State Bar of Texas and has been a member of the ABA Law Students Division Competition Committee for many years, chairing the Client Counseling Subcommittee multiple times.

Wilson is the first African American to serve as dean of Baylor Law. “I know this is meaningful to many because people told me the same thing when I became the associate dean. I think it also is a testament to the University and how it operates, which is, let’s not let race, or gender, or other irrelevant factors be a hindrance to making an appropriate decision. I have many colleagues who could serve in this role and I am honored that I have the opportunity to do so.”

Wilson is the second woman to hold the position of interim dean. Margaret Amsler, who joined the faculty in 1941, was interim dean in 1946, when the school resumed operations after World War II. She was a professor for nearly 32 years.

Wilson and her husband, Mike Jones — a civil engineer for the City of Waco — have been married for 37 years. They have four children and three grandchildren — “probably the cutest, smartest kids that ever walked the earth, of course,” Wilson said.

“Two years ago, when we needed a new associate dean, I solicited input from my colleagues. While I valued the input, in truth, from the get-go, I wanted Patricia. I had almost thirty years of experience with Patricia as a faculty colleague and I knew that she would excel in the position, and indeed she has.”

—Dean Brad Toben, JD ’77

Wilson said that she is choosing not to be a candidate for the permanent position. “This is an outstanding law school. We have wonderful students and a dedicated faculty and staff. I expect that there will be interest from many fine candidates and that the individual selected will keep the Law School moving forward.”





Faith, Service, and the Law

Brad Toben's
Inspiring Journey at
Baylor Law School

In the fall of 1974, Brad Toben, who was in his final semester at the University of Missouri – St. Louis, stood patiently in one of the buildings on the university’s campus. He was waiting to hear that familiar “ding” which would indicate the elevator had arrived. On a tackboard next to the elevator door, he noticed a purple ink, mimeograph announcement advertising Baylor Law School and the option of a February start. Planning to graduate at mid-year, in December, Toben did not want to waste time waiting until the following fall to start law school. After a brief moment of apprehension, Toben lifted his hand, pulled the announcement from the tackboard, and

entered the elevator. “I stole it,” Brad recounts with a lighthearted smile. He wrote to request the one-page application, applied, and was accepted. In that moment, Brad Toben’s life and his career changed forever, and he didn’t even know where Baylor Law School was located until he saw the mailing address.

“I have always believed that seeing that poster was a God thing. I knew that was what I was supposed to do. What I didn’t know was the impact that decision would have on my life,” Toben says. “I have always believed that God leads us around corners that we would never anticipate, and my decision to come to Baylor was one of those corners.”

Finding a Home

In February 1975, sight unseen, Toben drove to Waco and moved to a boarding house on the edge of campus. He started classes the next day. At 20 years old, he had never lived away from his parents' home in St. Louis. He had skipped fourth grade and gone through college in two and half years. He had a lot of growing up to do, and Baylor proved to be just the right place to do it.

He was challenged intellectually and mentored by the professors he met — Dean Angus McSwain, Prof. David Guinn, and Prof. Matt “Mad Dog” Dawson. He also made lifelong friends with his classmates, especially including some who were married and had already been in the work world. He studied hard, worked on the *Law Review*, and went “straight through” without taking a break.

Pursuing His Passion

After law school, Toben returned to St. Louis to practice law, but three years later, inspired by the faculty at Baylor, he left the practice to pursue his goal of teaching. He was accepted at Harvard Law School in 1980, where he received his LL.M. degree, before joining the faculty at the Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis. He chose the school because of its proximity to St. Louis. “Of course, God takes you around corners, and that’s where I met Beth,” he said.

Before they had even known each other a year, Brad proposed, and the couple married in July 1982. When they were talking about getting married, Brad told Beth that if she married him, she would have to agree to three things — she would have to let him read a lot, he would always have a dog, and someday — maybe 10 years or so from then — she would have to be willing to live in Waco, Texas, if he was given the opportunity to teach at Baylor Law School.

After they had been married a few months, Brad received a call from Dean McSwain. He said he was going to retire as Dean, and before he did so, he wanted to have Brad on the faculty. So, in the spring of 1983, less than 10 months after they were married (much less than 10 years!), the school flew the couple to Texas for Brad to interview for a faculty position, his dream job.



1984 Baylor Law Faculty

Beth tells the story of how, while Brad spent the day at the school, she spent the day with some of the faculty spouses, seeing Waco and hearing about how wonderful life could be there. That evening, when they got back together, they went to the lounge at the Hilton Hotel to talk. Brad asked Beth what she thought.

“He was grinning from ear-to-ear like a kid on Christmas morning. There was no way I could tell him that we couldn’t move to Waco. It was his dream job, and he was so excited! I just couldn’t believe it was happening so fast. I was going to be leaving my family and I knew we would never go back to Indiana.”

“I knew it was the right thing to do, and I knew it was God’s plan, but it wasn’t on my timetable. I sat there and cried and cried as I accepted this change in our plans. The young woman server just kept bringing me Kleenex. I am sure she thought he was dumping me.”

In Beth’s words now, “Obviously, God could see around the corner. Coming to Baylor Law and Waco was a wonderful decision for Brad and for our family.”

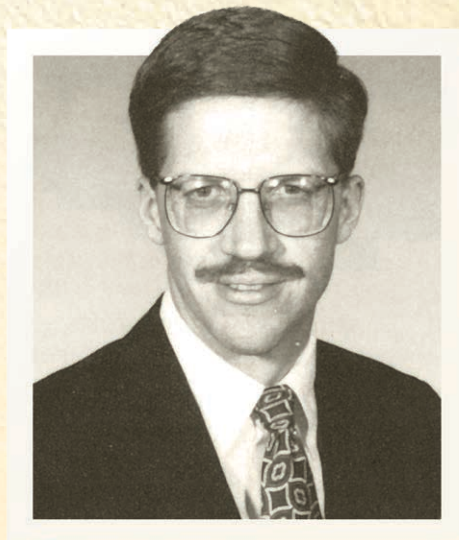
The Deanship

On a hot July afternoon in 1991, President Herbert Reynolds called Brad and told him that the Board of Regents had approved his appointment as the dean of Baylor Law School. At 36 years old, he would be the youngest law school dean in the country. Brad questioned President Reynolds on whether Reynolds was concerned because he was so young. President Reynolds said, “I do not measure age by calendar years. I measure it by maturity and character. As I see it, we could be looking at a 20-to 30-year deanship.” With that vote of confidence (and Brad’s agreement with Beth that they would try it for three years and see how it went), Brad agreed to serve. God was leading around the corner again, and President Reynolds proved himself, as always, quite prescient.

When Brad became dean, the constraints of Morrison Constitution Hall, the law school building, were well known. The students, faculty, and staff were crammed into the 1955 vintage building, there was no room for growth, and the building was old and “used up.” People kept saying, “When are they going to do something about this building?”

One night in the spring of 1992, Brad sat up in the middle of the night and said “We are they!” Beth woke up and asked him what he was talking about. He explained that he had realized, he was “they.” If he didn’t do something about the building situation, no one would. He was “they” and “they” were going to have to do something.

That epiphany not only changed Brad’s perspective on the building issue, but it became a theme for his early leadership as dean. If something was going to be done, he was going to have to help figure out how it could be done, and with help, make it possible.



Intense travel and fundraising followed as Brad journeyed around Texas visiting with alumni and friends of the Law School. He explained why the school needed a new home and what he envisioned a new facility would make possible.

In the fall of 1998, while standing on the tarmac at the Waco Airport with Walter Umphrey, Walter pulled Brad aside and said, “Brad, this is how this is going to go down.” Umphrey explained that he and his wife Sheila were going to give \$10 million dollars to build the new building, and that John Eddie Williams and his wife Sheridan, and Harold Nix and his wife Carol Ann, were both going to give \$5 million dollars each. Umphrey predicted that once these initial gifts were made, everyone else would come alongside to get the project done — which is exactly what happened.

The new law center was a cornerstone and learning experience in Brad’s early career, but he has always said the law center is not the Law School. The beautiful law center does, however, reflect the excellence of what happens inside, and that gives the building meaning. Once the law center was built, Brad began working to raise scholarships and the endowment because he wanted students to be able to afford the program. Most of all, he wanted teaching and programming that would prepare students to serve their clients and communities.

Brad has always said his success is tied directly to the generosity of the Baylor Law School alumni and friend benefactors who gave of their resources, time, and talent all these years to make the law center and the school’s expansive programming possible.

It surely took a village to bring the law center to a reality, but Brad has always taken special pleasure that he was allowed to make two personal choices about the law center. The first one was choosing the scripture for the slate cornerstone panel of the law center. He chose Micah 6:8. He decided not to include the scriptural reference because, ever the teacher and Bible student, he is hopeful that people will open their Bibles and find the quoted passage for themselves.

He also had a say in choosing SpiritWalker, the bear sculpture on the lawn of the law center. When SpiritWalker was installed, the reaction was, at best, mixed. Many preferred a more traditional, real-life version of a bear. Brad’s view, though, is that art should evoke emotion, and as people expressed their opinions about SpiritWalker over the years, the sculpture indeed has proven to be quite evocative... a “must do” photography site for the Baylor Law community.



Walter Umphrey, John Eddie and Sheridan Williams, and Dean Brad Toben at the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center Dedication Ceremony

A Family Affair

Brad and Beth always planned to have a family. John was born in 1988, and Sarah Beth in 1995. During each new student orientation, Brad shares with the students that his priorities are faith, family, and Baylor (but especially Baylor Law!) — in that order.

When Brad started traveling to raise money, keeping the family as a priority was challenging. Beth, a longtime child sexual assault and abuse prosecutor, recalls that with Brad’s travel schedule, her unpredictable trial

schedule, and the kids’ activities, life was a bit chaotic at times. “I am sure that we made mistakes, but with the help of our co-workers at both of our jobs, some really good friends, and a steady supply of Baylor undergraduates to babysit, we made it through.”

Somehow Brad made time for the kids. John recalls his dad reading to him at night regularly for years. Sarah Beth recalls him taking her to pitching lessons and softball practices, even if he was in his suit.

John and Sarah Beth both recall going to the Law School as kids and feeling loved and valued by everyone there. The school was a family friendly place where all the faculty and staff could take their children. John described the school as part of his after care, and still refers to Brad’s longtime assistant, Laura Obenoskey, as Momma O. He remembers having a front-row seat as he went with Brad to the law center construction site. It’s not surprising that he would remember the building process, considering he later studied architecture and now works in commercial real estate investment and as an entrepreneur.

John and Sarah Beth both recall learning from their dad’s work ethic. John says that “Watching him work, I always knew he was going to be the most prepared person in the room, and knowing him as I did, I knew he would be the most patient and the most poised. He was going to be someone to reckon with. He inspired me to always strive for excellence in pursuing my passions.”



Sarah Beth Toben at the 2002 Umphrey Law Center Dedication Ceremony

By example, Brad taught John and Sarah Beth self-discipline, focus, and hard work, which became evident in their athletic pursuits. Although Brad notes that he did not inherit his own father's athletic abilities and is an "athletic dud," both John and Sarah Beth played D-I college sports. John played football at Oklahoma State University, and Sarah Beth played softball at Baylor. Brad quips "that's just makes me proof of Mendelian recessive genes."



The Toben Family – Beth, John, Sarah Beth, and Brad

A Unique Perspective

In 2017, Sarah Beth enrolled as a law student at Baylor, an experience that provided her with a unique perspective on her father and his career. "When I was growing up, I always felt like the Law School employees must have loved and respected my dad because of the way they took care of me when I was at the school."

Sarah Beth explains that when she started law school, she realized that Brad's colleagues and team did indeed love and respect her, but it wasn't just because she was the dean's daughter, but because the Law School faculty and staff really are a family. She regularly saw her friends and classmates go by the dean's suite for a piece of candy or a word of encouragement. She saw Brad, the faculty, and the staff interacting with the students with the same genuine interest and personal care and attention that she had remembered from when she was a child. "Now that I am older, I realize that the tone for that type of work environment is set by the leader, and at the Law School, that has been my dad. He genuinely cares about people and he is surrounded by others who genuinely care about people. That is what I experienced as a child and as a law student."

Looking back to when she started as a Baylor Law student, Sarah Beth says she knew that people were going to find out that she was the dean's daughter, so she did not try to hide it. She just tried to let it come up casually. She does recall one awkward moment while giving a

tour of the law center to a potential student along with the student's parents. Brad walked by and stopped to greet the family. As he left the group, he leaned over and kissed Sarah Beth on the cheek. Several steps down the hall, he realized what he had done and returned to the group to explain that Sarah Beth was his daughter!

Sarah Beth also recalls seeing her father struggle to make some tough decisions while she was in school. "When it comes to faculty and staff on his team, or students, or a hard decision that he really cares about, it doesn't just sit on his mind, it sits on his heart. He works really hard to make the best decision for the institution even if it is not the most popular decision." She said in those times, she could see where his faith in God made a difference.



Brad and Sarah Beth at her 2020 Baylor Law Graduation

The Place of Faith

Brad was raised in the Catholic Church and attended Catholic school until high school. At that time, he started attending a Baptist church and got involved in the youth group. Faith in God and the pursuit of a personal relationship with God has always been a part of who Brad Toben is.

In Waco, Central Christian Church [Disciples of Christ] has

been the cornerstone for the Toben family for decades. Beth sings in the choir and the kids grew up participating in the children and youth activities. Brad has been an elder, deacon, chair of the board, and a longtime adult Sunday school class teacher. Brad is fascinated with scripture and has studied the Bible and theology in depth for years.

For Brad, faith is more than church attendance or scripture study. For him, faith bears directly on how we live and how we treat and serve other people. Brad notes that God made everyone in His own image and yet unique — like a fingerprint. Every person is singular, complex, and worthy of God's love.

At new student orientation, when Brad talks to the students about his faith, he talks to them about the vertical and horizontal dimensions of life and faith. He tells them that the vertical dimension is our obligation to glorify God, and the horizontal dimension is our responsibility to serve God's kingdom.

"I share with the students that the three years of work they'll be doing at the Law School is going to give them a remarkable privilege, a prerogative that's given to them by the state. It is a singular privilege to serve other people as a Baylor Lawyer, and through that service they can be known to the third and fourth generation even though their name may be forgotten."

Faith permeates everything her husband does, according to Beth, "In terms of understanding that we are part of God's world, and He has plans for us and ways to use us, Brad believes that every one of these students, every faculty colleague, and staff member is a unique creation worthy of love and acceptance, and with a purpose in this life."

Sarah Beth says that when she was observing her dad's leadership while a student, he modeled the horizontal. "He is always so empathetic and thinks about the time and effort that a faculty member has put into a project before giving them feedback. He also takes time to actively listen and encourage students as they navigate the extremely difficult yet rewarding program."

Now, as a prosecutor, in preparing for court, Sarah Beth remembers her dad's words about the law as a serving profession. "Recognizing that whenever you're dealing with someone in any kind of legal setting, generally for them it's a very scary moment. Our job is to help them through it."

Leaving a Legacy

Beth recalls that the first time she had a conversation with Brad, they talked for an hour, standing in a stairwell. She called her mother that evening and told her that she thought she had met a man who cared more about other people than he cared about himself. She also recalls after introducing him to her family and friends that the one word most frequently used to describe him was “nice.” She said that she thinks his legacy will be that he cared more about others and the Baylor Law School institution than he cared about himself, and that he will be remembered for being kind to people.



Laura Obenoskey, Brad’s assistant, who has been with him for 30 of his 31 years as the Dean, said she thinks he will be remembered for his steady leadership. “It is not like there was ever a question of what our goal was. He was always clear about that — the best interest of Baylor Law School and the students — those are what always come first, and I appreciated that.”

Brad says he hopes he will be remembered as someone who was guided by his faith. “Being human is hard, and everyone is carrying challenges, issues, problems, and crises that you’ll never know of.

You can impact other people in unknowing ways, just by being kind to them,” he said.

“I also want to be remembered as someone who wanted Baylor Law students to have the best education possible, an education grounded in faith, and an education that can make a difference through service.”

If the “Bowling Gang,” a group of six students who purchased an evening of bowling and dinner with the Tobens as part of a student fundraiser, is an example of how people have come to know Brad with affection through the years, then it is likely that Brad will be remembered that way by others. The first outing — a bowling night — in time turned into dinner at the Dean’s house, lunches, career advice, and prayer.

“Bowling Gang” member Hannah Pruitt said Dean Toben and Beth take an interest in the group’s personal lives, “Above anything else, he’s always telling us how capable we are. One time he pulled me aside and just said that I should do what I’m really convicted about doing — that it has to be my decision.” She said the words of encouragement have stuck with her.



The Baylor Law “Bowling Gang”



Mariana Jordan remembers when Dean Toben connected her with Beth, who would provide guidance from her experience as a prosecutor. “He just really, really encourages you to pursue the vision that the Lord has given you, and stresses how that is the pathway by which you can serve people best,” she said.

Emma Scofield describes the legacy of Dean Toben by saying, “You can tell by the way he lives his life and the way he loves the students so well that he believes in the mission of serving that he speaks about so often,” Scofield said. Every time I see him, it doesn’t matter what he’s doing. He can be on the way somewhere or doing something. He will stop and intentionally be in conversation with me, or any of us, whom he runs into. He wants to know how we’re doing in our lives.”

Pruitt said Toben’s faith is evident. “He’s always encouraging me to take it to God first and ask God what He wants me to do. I really appreciate that because that’s not always my first instinct.”



The View Around the Corner

As he reflects upon the last 31 years, Brad notes that the Dean’s position provides a view of Baylor Law School through the lens of every constituency — the students, staff, colleagues, alumni, as well as those in the profession and legal education. “This experience and the view through this lens has blessed my life and my family in ways I never could have anticipated when I stole that poster off the tack board,” he said.

As he steps out of the Dean’s suite, Brad Toben is once again trusting God to see around the corner. For now, he plans to help with development work, teach, spend time with his dogs, and continue reading, but he notes, “I am really just going to rely on God to lead me around a corner.”

2023
Baylor
Lawyer
of the
Year.

A Legacy *of* **LEADERSHIP**

DEAN BRAD TOBEN, JD '77, NAMED 2023 BAYLOR LAWYER OF THE YEAR



The Executive Committee of the Baylor Law Alumni Association proudly announced Dean Brad Toben, JD '77, as the Baylor Lawyer of the Year for 2023. This prestigious recognition highlights Dean Toben's extraordinary accomplishments and unparalleled contributions to Baylor University, the Law School, and the legal profession.

The Baylor Law Alumni Association hosted a dinner honoring Dean Toben at the Ridgewood Country Club on Friday, May 19. The program commenced with a warm welcome by Associate Dean Patricia A. Wilson. The Honorable J. Rodney Gilstrap, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, delivered the invocation, setting the tone for the evening's celebration.

During the dinner, Associate Dean Wilson shared quotes from persons who had nominated Brad for Lawyer of the Year: "Dean Toben is the epitome of a Baylor Lawyer. His life and career have been marked by a dedication to faith, family, our profession, and Baylor Law. It is hard to imagine someone any more deserving of the designation of Baylor Lawyer of the Year than Brad Toben."

“Dean Toben has led Baylor Law through an era of tremendous change, while lending a significant voice to the national conversation in legal education. Thanks to Brad, Baylor Law is poised to continue as one of the nation’s premier teaching law schools for future practitioners for generations to come. We are deeply grateful for his remarkable leadership, and we pray God’s deepest blessings on him and his wife Beth.”

Dean Wilson ended her remarks by noting, “One letter we received very directly stated, ‘Brad Toben deserves to be the Baylor Lawyer of the century.’”

Brad’s wife of 41 years, Beth Toben, Assistant County Attorney of Limestone County, offered a heartfelt perspective on Brad and his commitment to Baylor Law, recognizing that Brad’s success was tied to the teamwork and generosity of others — thanking those who have partnered with them during his tenure. Remarks from faculty member Jeremy Counseller, the current Abner V. McCall Professor of Evidence Law, followed Beth’s insights. Jeremy’s humorous comments highlighted Dean Toben’s outstanding achievements, unwavering commitment to legal education and practice, and trademark eccentricities. Gerald R. Powell, Professor of Law Emeritus and recipient of the 2021 Baylor Lawyer of the Year award, followed Prof. Counseller. “He just has a big heart, and it’s precisely in the right place. Except for those portions of it that are reserved for his family, the rest of it is devoted to everybody else. He is a true servant in that sense, always trying to help others,” remarked Powell. “And that’s, of course, informed by his faith. You can see evidence of it in everything he’s done in his 31 years at Baylor Law.”

The pinnacle of the event arrived with the award presentation, made by the Honorable Christine A. Nowak, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Texas and President of the Baylor Law Alumni Association. The Baylor Lawyer of the Year title was officially conferred on Dean Toben, acknowledging his profound impact on the lives of thousands of Baylor Lawyers and his instrumental role in shaping Baylor Law School.

Following Judge Nowak’s presentation, Dean Toben took the stage. He thanked those gathered and the Baylor Law faculty and staff for a delightful evening and noted, “Baylor Law is not simply distinctive. This school is unique — and that’s a word I seldom use. We put our students first. Scholarship is important, but our students in the hallways, classrooms, and courtrooms are number one.” He also noted, “We are an outlier because of the high bar we set for our students and because we have a powerful emphasis on service.” Dean Toben ended his remarks by stating, “This honor is deeply meaningful to me. I am so touched, and you have my forever and undying gratitude.”

Sheila Umphrey, the surviving spouse of Walter Umphrey, JD ’65, and John Eddie Williams, JD ’78, then took to the podium to offer a heartfelt toast to Brad and his 31 years of service to Baylor Law, emphasizing the importance that Dean Toben always placed on relationships and friendships, and how that focus always was evident in how he led Baylor Law School over the years.

— **Linda A. Livingstone, Ph.D.**
President of Baylor University

“As we know, Dean Toben has selflessly served Baylor Law School longer than any other dean in the country. He has done so with humility and grace and a vision for the Law School that has taken it to a place of national recognition, prominence, and respect. Suffice it to say, Dean Toben has made the world a better place by the quality of lawyers he has produced through his programs and curriculum at Baylor Law. Dean Toben is a man of great character and integrity and a friend to many. He has been an outstanding leader and a strong example of what a Baylor Lawyer should be.”

— **Jerry Clements, JD ’81**



Dean Toben’s longtime assistant Laura Obenoskey and Baylor Law’s longtime registrar Jerri Cunningham



United States District Judge Ed Kinkeade, JD ’74, and Associate Dean Patricia Wilson



Dean Toben and longtime friend Mark Parker, JD ’85



Dean Toben’s wife, Beth Toben, Assistant County and District Attorney of Limestone County



Prof. Jeremy Counseller



Prof. Emeritus Gerald Powell



Dean Toben and Baylor Law Alumni Association President Judge Christine Nowak, JD '05



John Eddie Williams, JD '78, Sheridan Williams, Dean Toben, Sheila Umphrey, and Beth Toben

The evening was further enlivened by a spirited rendition of “That Good Old Baylor Line” led by the Honorable Ed Kinkeade, U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Texas, capturing the enduring Baylor spirit that Dean Toben embodies.

Dean Toben has led Baylor Law through tremendous change while staying true to its mission and values. He has also been a significant voice in the national conversation about legal

education. Over his 31 years as Dean, the Law School has risen to the top 50 U.S. law schools as ranked by *US News & World Report*. Baylor Law is ranked #3 nationally for trial advocacy by *US News*, and Baylor Law’s moot court program is ranked #1 by the Blakely Advocacy Institute among the 199 ABA-accredited law schools. Under Dean Toben, Baylor Law has continued its unparalleled success on the Texas bar exam.

Baylor Law undertook an impressive building and endowment campaign at the outset of his deanship. In 2001, the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center opened on the banks of the Brazos River. In addition, he has raised the Law School’s endowment from less than \$1 million to more than \$180 million, which now ranks in the top 9% among the nation’s law schools on an endowment per student basis. His leadership also has included significantly expanding the Law School’s faculty and staff and sharply reducing the faculty-student ratio. His tenure has seen

marked curricular and programmatic innovation and expansion. The Law School has established a vibrant *pro bono* and public service program that has won many awards from the ABA and other professional entities. Approximately 90% of Baylor Law’s current faculty and staff were hired during Dean Toben’s tenure. Above all, Dean Toben cares deeply about people — the students, the faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Baylor Law.

“I have known Dean Toben since he became the dean of Baylor Law and know him to be the sincere, dedicated, and faithful man that he has displayed over the years. In his quiet manner, he has been able to communicate his passion for our Law School, its students, and faculty. He has served with distinction and honor each and every day and has placed our Law School at the very top as reflected in the continued admiration, respect, and confidence received from the legal profession as a whole. Dean Toben’s Christian faith and his engagement in the community at large has served him and our Law School greatly.”

— Michael P. Heiskell, JD '74



Dean Toben with a group of past Baylor Lawyer of the Year recipients: (L-R) Michael Heiskell ('22), Joe E. Coleman ('08), Steve McConnico ('11), Gerald Powell ('21), Ed Kinkeade ('10), Brad Toben ('23), J. Rodney Gilstrap ('18), John Eddie Williams ('02)

“For as long as I have been alive, my dad has said by his words and shown by how he lives that his first priority in life is his faith in God, his second priority is his family, and his third priority is Baylor Law School. I do not believe the selection committee can find even one Baylor Lawyer who has had an ‘active interest in Baylor Law School’ for as long or as deeply as my father has had for the past thirty-one years.”

—Sarah Beth Toben, JD '20

During his faculty career at Baylor, Dean Toben’s academic interests have focused on commercial law and bankruptcy. He also has maintained active interests in constitutional law and public policy studies. He has partnered with a minister to teach a “Law, Public Policy, and Scripture” seminar course inspired by his lifelong interest in theology and its intersection with the law.



Dean Toben and his Practice Court classmates Randall Fields, JD '77, and Spike Patillo, JD '77

Texas Watch, a non-partisan advocacy group devoted to our 7th Amendment jury rights, has named Dean Toben its 2023 Champion of Justice. Dean Toben has been recognized for his “exemplary service and commitment to legal scholarship and the pursuit of justice” at an event in his honor by the Texas Trial Lawyers Association. He has served by appointment of the Governor of Texas as a Commissioner to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Dean Toben is an elected member of the American Law Institute and has participated regularly in accreditation and membership inspections of law schools for the ABA and Association of American Law Schools. He has been active in the State Bar of Texas, especially in the bankruptcy specialization certification program. He also was previously of counsel to the firm of Dawson & Sodd. He is a Master of the Bench in the Judge Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation.

About the Baylor Lawyer of the Year Award

The Baylor Lawyer of the Year Award is given annually to an outstanding alumnus/a who has brought honor and distinction to the Law School and to the legal profession. Recipients are selected based upon criteria listed here.

1. The nominee’s legal ability and achievements as a lawyer
2. The nominee’s contributions to the legal profession
3. The nominee’s standing in the profession
4. The nominee’s Christian character
5. The nominee’s civic, religious, and other attainments
6. The nominee’s active interest in Baylor Law

PAST RECIPIENTS

2022	Michael Heiskell	1992	Rex Houston
2021	Gerald Powell	1991	Sam B. Hall, Jr.
2020	Ike Vanden Eykel	1990	Edwin P. Horner
2019	Lewis R. Sifford	1989	George M. Cowden
2018	J. Rodney Gilstrap	1988	William S. Sessions
2017	Murray Watson Jr.	1987	R. Matt Dawson
2016	T. Albert Witcher	1986	Robert Maurice Campbell
2015	Jerry K. Clements	1985	Bill D. Daniel
2014	Bill Brian	1984	Angus S. McSwain, Jr.
2013	David M. Guinn	1983	Wayne Fisher
2012	Leonard E. Davis	1982	Clarence A. Guittard
2011	Steve McConnico	1981	John H. Minton, Jr.
2010	Ed Kinkeade	1980	Cullen Smith
2009	George Chandler	1979	Howard F. Saunders
2008	Joe E. Coleman	1978	Connally McKay
2007	Sam R. Cummings	1977	William J. Boswell
2006	Noley R. Bice, Jr.	1976	Claude Williams
2005	Wyatt H. Heard	1975	Gibson Gayle, Jr.
2004	T. John Ward	1974	Jim D. Bowner
2003	Turner W. Branch	1973	Truman E. Roberts
2002	John Eddie Williams	1972	Charles W. Barrow
2001	Harold Nix	1971	W.R. “Bob” Poage
2000	Louis Muldrow	1970	Morris Harrell
1999	Walter Umphrey	1969	Thomas C. Mann
1998	Gordon L. Hollon	1968	Frank M. Wilson
1997	James M. “Jim” Farris	1967	Victor W. Bouldin
1996	Jack Hightower	1966	Abner V. McCall
1995	John T. Boyd	1965	M. Price Daniel
1994	Bob Bullock	1964	Leon Jaworski
1993	Bill Logue	1963	A.J. Folley

NOMINATIONS

To submit a nomination for the 2024 Baylor Lawyer of the Year, please send a nomination letter describing how the nominee meets the criteria to:

Interim Dean Patricia Wilson
law_alumni@baylor.edu, or
One Bear Place #97288
Waco, Texas 76798

The Executive Committee of the Baylor Law Alumni Association will review a résumé and the first three letters received for each nominee.

CELEBRATING
Brad Toben
31 YEARS

OF SERVICE AS DEAN

—NOVEMBER— —JUNE—
1991–2023

MAY 18, 2023 | THE BAYLOR CLUB | WACO, TX



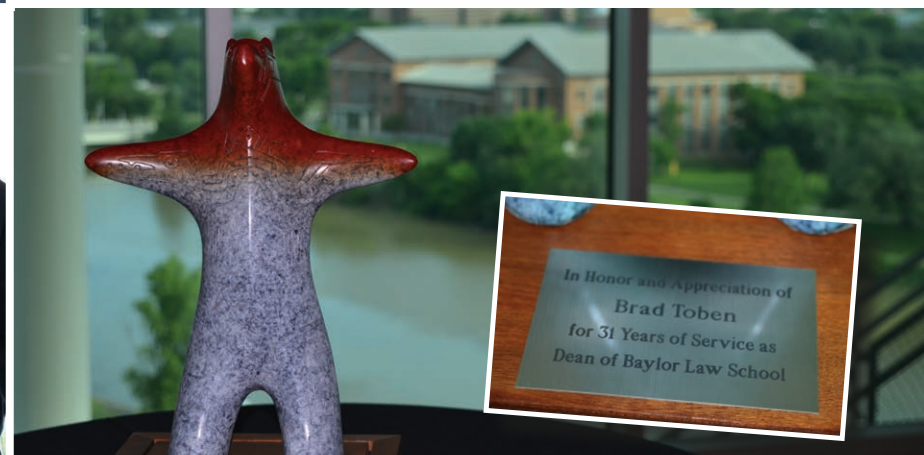
Thursday, May 18, 2023

Celebrating a Legacy: Honoring and Celebrating Dean Toben's 31 Years as Dean of Baylor Law School

In a grand tribute to more than three decades of unwavering leadership and dedication, Baylor Law faculty, staff, alumni, family, and friends gathered to honor the remarkable legacy of Dean Brad Toben at a reception held in his honor in the President's Suite at the Baylor Club in Waco. About 300 guests mingled and reminisced, sharing anecdotes and memories of their experiences under Brad's guidance. It was a gathering marked by gratitude and admiration for the transformative impact Brad has had on Baylor Law and the legal community.



During the event, faculty and staff presented Brad Toben with a sculpture titled *Uinta*, crafted by Rebecca Tobey, one of the talented sculptors behind the iconic *SpiritWalker* statue that proudly stands guard outside the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center. The statuette, set upon a base constructed from the Makore hardwood featured prominently throughout the law center, serves as a poignant symbol of appreciation and recognition of Dean Toben's enduring leadership of Baylor Law.



FacultyNOTES

Josh Borderud

Director of Clinical and *Pro Bono* Programs and Clinical Lecturer

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

Thomas M. Featherston Jr.

The Mills Cox Chair 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

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-Author: *PROBATE 2022-2023 ed. (TEXAS PRACTICE GUIDE)*, Thomson Reuters

In March, Prof. Featherston was recognized by Baylor University for 40 Years of Service



Scan the QR Code to Read More - or visit:

[HTTPS://WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/LAW/NEWS.PHP?ACTION=STORY&STORY=232536](https://www.baylor.edu/law/news.php?action=story&story=232536)

Elizabeth M. Fraley

Gerald Reading Powell Chair in Advocacy 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
- Chair, Finishing the Work Capital Campaign, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Waco, TX

PRESENTATIONS

- "Procedural revisions needed for the Texas Advanced Directives Act," Texas Alliance for Patient Access (Nov. 10, 2022)
- "Game Changing Procedural Rules in Complex Litigation," Louisiana State Bar Association Complex Litigation Symposium (Nov. 11, 2022)
- "Jury Testing on a Budget," TEX-ABOTA Talk Tuesdays Webinar (December 6, 2022)
- "Collegiality for Appellate Judges," Center for Judicial Education's College for New Judges (December 7, 2022)
- "The Great Resignation and Managing a Multigenerational Workforce," Abner V. McCall Inn of Court (January 12, 2023)
- "Power at the Table," Baylor Monthly Roundtable
- "Jury Testing on a Budget," ABOTA Foundation Webinar (April 18, 2023)
- "Managing Litigation with Effectiveness and Efficiency," Association of Defense Trial Attorneys (ADTA) (April 20, 2023)
- "Ethical Conundrums in Mass Tort and Multi-District Litigation," Mass Torts Puerto Rico (May 5, 2023)

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

PUBLICATIONS

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

Chris Galezka

Reference Librarian

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Chair, McLennan County Bar Association Law Library Committee

Laura Hernández

Professor of Law

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Conference Organizer and Presenter, GO LILA - Conference for Latina Law Professors, Stanford Law School (May 30-31, 2023)
- Named as a Latina Commissioner by Pedro J. Torres-Diaz, the President of the Hispanic National Bar Association ("HNBA")

Christopher Brett Jaeger

Assistant Professor of Law

PUBLICATIONS

- "Memcons: How Contemporaneous Note-Taking Shapes Memory for Conversation," (with Sarah Brown-Schmidt, Melissa J. Evans, & Aaron S. Benjamin) *47 Cognitive Science* e13271 (2023), <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/cogs.13271>
- "Law and Order: The Timing of Mitigating Evidence Affects Punishment Decisions," (with Emily B Conder & Jonathan D. Lane) *Thinking & Reasoning*, DOI: 10.1080/13546783.2023.2172077 (2023) <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/10.1080/13546783.2023.2172077?journalCode=ptar20>
- "When Searching Helps You See: Bridging the Gap Between Incidental and Intentional Change Detection," (with Madison Lee & Daniel T. Levin) (forthcoming in *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*)

Luke Meier

Professor of Law

PUBLICATIONS

- "Simplifying Choice of Law Interest Analysis," *74 Oklahoma Law Review* 337 (2022)
- "Achieving True Strict Product Liability (But only for Plaintiffs Without Fault)," *56 Michigan Journal of Law Reform* (2023)

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
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Life Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation

FacultyNOTES

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)
- "Miscellaneous Recent (Non-Delaware) Partnership and LLC Cases," 2022 LLC Institute, Committee on LLC's, Partnerships, and Unincorporated Entities, American Bar Association (November 12, 2022)

PRESENTATIONS

- "Is a Will the Only Way? Transfers on Death and Transfer Restrictions in LLC Agreement," Florida State Business Review Symposium (February 10, 2023)
- "Current Developments in Texas Business Organizations Law," Austin Bar Association—Business, Corporate and Tax Section (January 25, 2023)

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

PUBLICATIONS

- "Transforming Christmas into Thanksgiving," *Progressive Christianity* (Dec. 19, 2022), <https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/transforming-christmas-into-thanksgiving/>
- *Authentic Living in All Seasons: Focused, Fearless, and Balanced* (CrossLink Publishing 2022)

PRESENTATIONS

- "Wisdom and Learning from Experience," The Church at Highland Park, Austin, Texas (April 30, 2023)
- "Writing on the Air," KOOP Radio 91.7 FM, Author interview with Mindy Reed regarding two published books (April 12, 2023)
- "Faith and Personal Wellness," United Methodist Women, Austin, Texas (January 24, 2023)
- "Living Mindfully in Beloved Community with Author Walt Shelton," Podcast, Pray with Our Feet (March 5, 2023), <https://www.praywithourfeet.org/podcast/bonus-episode-living-mindfully-in-beloved-community-with-author-walt-shelton>
- "Wellness for Attorneys," Haynes Boone law firm, Dallas, Texas (April 19, 2023)

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-all-seasons/>

Stephanie Tang

Assistant Professor of Law

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Chair, Illinois State Bar Association: Family Law Section Council (2022-2023)

PUBLICATIONS

- Contributor, "2022 Family Law Cases and Anticipated Trends for 2023," *ILL. BAR J.* (Dec. 2022)
- "Fighting Over Cryptocurrency in Divorce Amid the Chill of 'Crypto Winter,'" *Duke University Financial Regulations Blog* (Dec. 12, 2022), <https://sites.duke.edu/thefinregblog/2022/12/12/fighting-over-cryptocurrency-in-divorce-amid-the-chill-of-crypto-winter/>
- "Family Law Toolkit," *Illinois State Bar Association Family Law Section Council*, 2023 edition. (Author of Discovery/Trial Preparation, College Expenses, Indirect Civil Contempt, Attorney Fees sections)
- Chair Columns (12 total), *ISBA FAMILY LAW SECTION COUNCIL NEWSLETTER* (June 2022-June 2023). (Topics include: Bankruptcy & Divorce, Workers Compensation Claims & Divorce, Immigration Law & Divorce, Military Income in Divorce Cases, Commonly Overlooked Tax Return Issues, Civility Guidelines for Family Law Practitioners, Exploring NFTs and Divorce)

PRESENTATIONS

- Cryptocurrency, NFTs, and Divorce, Lake County Bar Association Family Law Section Annual Meeting (February 28, 2023)
- Cryptocurrency, NFTs, and Divorce, New Mexico Third Judicial District Court Family Law Group (February 14, 2023)
- Trial Skills Demonstration: Closing Argument for Relocation Trials, Illinois State Bar Association 2023 Family Law Update (April 20-21, 2023)
- Family Law Jurisdiction, Illinois State Bar Association 2023 Family Law Update (April 20-21, 2023)
- Cryptocurrency, NFTs, and Divorce, Texas Family Law Insiders Podcast, December 2022, available at <https://draperfirm.com/2022/12/13/stephanie-tang-cryptocurrency-amp-family-law/> (December 13, 2022)
- Spousal Maintenance, Child Support, & Calculations Equitable Distribution of Property and Debt Discovery, Trial Preparation, and Organization Illinois State Bar Association Family Law Section Family Law Toolkit CLE (October 28, 2022)

Leah Jackson Teague

Professor of Law and
Director of Business Law Programs

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Executive Committee, AALS Section on Leadership
- Executive committee member, Texas Federal Tax Institute Board of Directors
- Chair, Governance Committee, Waco Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Collaborative Inc.

PUBLICATIONS

- "Training Law Students to Converse Respectfully: Public Discourse Workshop," Holloran Center Professional Identity Implementation Blog (May 2023)
- "Baylor Law's Professional Identity Formation History and the Influence of the Carnegie Report and the Holloran Center on Baylor Law's Continual Professional Identity Formation Efforts" Holloran Center Professional Identity Implementation Blog (March 2023)
- "'Difference Makers': Professional Identity of Lawyers in America," Holloran Center Professional Identity Implementation Blog (Dec. 2022)
- "Growing Number of Leadership Programs and Courses Supports Professional Identity Formation," 2021 Leadership Symposium Issue (62 *Santa Clara L. Rev.* 149 (2022))

PRESENTATIONS

- "Leadership Development for Success, Service and Significance," Norton Rose Fulbright, Webinar (April 26, 2023)
- Leah Teague and Stephen Rispoli, "Incorporating Values and Leadership and Well-Being into Doctrinal Classes," St. Thomas Holloran Center Workshop on Professional Identity Formation, Minneapolis, MN (April 21, 2023)
- "Modernizing Legal Education: Leadership Development to Equip Lawyers for Success, Service and Significance," Leading Change in the Legal Profession, Wake Forest Law Review 2023 Spring Symposium, Winston-Salem, North Carolina (February 24, 2023)
- "Ethical Leadership," Leadership Waco, Waco, Tx (January 19, 2023)

Brad Toben

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

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Elected member, American Law Institute
- Board member, Juliette Fowler Homes, Inc.
- Chair and member, American Bar Association and Association of American Law Schools, on-site re-inspection functions and accreditation
- Master of the Bench, Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court
- Member, Waco Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Patricia Wilson

Interim Dean and William Boswell
Chair of Law

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Governing Board; Immediate Past Moderator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Member, Education Council; Member Comprehensive Campus Planning Committee, Seventh & James Baptist Church
- Chair, Client Counseling Subcommittee, ABA Law Student Division

StaffNOTES

Jenny Branson

Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 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
- Past President, Baylor Round Table

PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist/Presenter, "Reframing Professionalism in a (Post?)-COVID Era," Western Association of Pre-Law Advisors Annual Conference
- Panelist/Presenter, "No Grad/Prof Financial Aid Office? No Problem," AccessLex Institute Annual Conference
- Panelist/Presenter, "Reframing Professionalism in 2022 and Beyond," Midwest Association of Pre-Law Advisors Annual Conference
- Panelist/Presenter, "Building Your Cast: Building Relationships Across Campuses and Disciplines," Texas Women in Higher Education Annual Conference

Kristine Bridges

Assistant Dean of Career Services

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Dallas Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Institute for Energy Law, Advisory Board Member

Angela Cruseturner

Senior Assistant Dean

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- President, Judge Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court
- Elected Treasurer of the Waco-McLennan County Bar Association, May 2023
- Board Member, McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center

PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist, "A Conversation About Professional Development Curricula," NALP 2023 Annual Education Conference, Vancouver, BC, April 26, 2023

Jerri Cunningham

Director of Academic Services & Registrar

PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "The ABA Wants What?! How to Approach Law School Accreditation and All Those Questionnaires," 2023 American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers Annual Meeting
- S5E10 - The Law School Registrar "For the Record – The Law School Registrar." Podcast, Pray with Our Feet Podcast (February 17, 2023), <https://www.aacrao.org/resources/newsletters-blogs/for-the-record>

Chandler Dean

LL.M. Associate

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Member, Texas Bar College

Jordan Hannah

Director of Alumni Relations

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Board Secretary for CASA of McLennan County
- Chair, Board of Trustees, Baylor Chapter (Theta Nu) of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity

Stephanie Mabry

Director of Development

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Immediate Past-President, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Central Texas Chapter
- Opening Speaker, 36th Annual National Philanthropy Day Luncheon, Association of Fundraising Professionals

Ed Nelson

Director of Marketing & Communications

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 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

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 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
- Board of Directors, Texas Rangers Museum and Hall of Fame

PRESENTATIONS

- "Incorporating Values and Leadership and Well-Being into Doctrinal Classes," (With Prof. Leah Teague) St. Thomas Holloran Center Workshop on Professional Identity Formation, Minneapolis, MN (April 21, 2023)

Assistant Dean Rispoli recently received the 2023 Access to Justice Award from the Association of American Law Schools

Scan the QR Code to Read More - or Visit:
<https://www.baylor.edu/law/news.php?action=story&story=231580>

Staff Service Anniversaries

In 2022 and 2023, several Baylor Law staff members celebrated milestone anniversaries at Baylor University:

35 Years

Jerri Cunningham

Director of Academic Services and Registrar

30 Years

Laura Obenoskey

Assistant to the Dean

20 Years

Barbara Lindsay

Office Manager for Law Alumni Relations and Development

15 Years

Angela Cruseturner, JD '02

Senior Assistant Dean

Terri Kroll

Assistant Faculty and Law Review Office Manager

10 Years

Jenny Branson

Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid

Jordan Hannah

Director of Alumni Relations

Nick Teixeira

Assistant Director of Creative Services

5 Years

Ed Nelson

Director of Marketing & Communications

Lauren Porter

Office Manager for Law School Registrar



@BaylorLaw



IS DR. KING'S DREAM A DREAM DEFERRED?

On January 11th, Tonee B. Shelton, MSW, a licensed social worker from Killeen, Texas, and Chief Impact Officer for Communities in Schools of the Heart of Texas, offered reflections on creating and promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging through intentional conversations during a session of Baylor Law's Professional Development Program.

On January 11th, Tonee B. Shelton, MSW, a licensed social worker from Killeen, Texas, and Chief Impact Officer for Communities in Schools of the Heart of Texas, offered reflections on creating and promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging through intentional conversations during a session of Baylor Law's Professional Development Program.



THE CLOSER 2023

Students from 14 of the most accomplished transactional law programs in the country competed in January in the nation's most challenging transactional law competition. Ryann Connell of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and Will Cowan of the University of Houston Law Center were each the 2023 winners of \$5,000 prizes and bragging rights as the top closers. The Closer is generously sponsored by The Kim and Bill Shaddock Fund for Business and Entrepreneurial Initiatives at Baylor Law, the Law Firm of Munsch Hardt, and J. Michael Tibbals and Freeman Mills PC.

Learn more about the hypothetical economic development deal behind The Closer's 2023 case at baylor.edu/law/TheCloser





TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

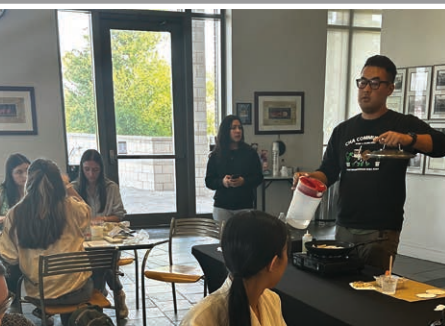
Baylor Law students had the opportunity to attend Texas

Court of Criminal Appeals proceedings on March 23 at the Sheila & Walter Umphrey Law Center when the Court heard appeals on a capital murder case and a case involving the unlawful carrying of a weapon. Several members of the Court joined with the Criminal Justice Section of the State Bar of Texas for a CLE and student mentorship opportunity the following day.



As part of Baylor Law's celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Asian American Law Student Association hosted a fun dumpling making class with local award-winning restaurant *Cha Community*.

AAPI MONTH DUMPLING MAKING



On Tuesday, April 4th, Baylor Law students enjoyed a fun 'Taco Tuesday' reception with Dean Brad Toben in honor of his 31 years as dean of the Law School.

TACO TUESDAY WITH TOBEN

@BaylorLaw

THE PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL

On February 11, 2023, Baylor Law hosted the 18th annual People's Law School, a half-day event offering free courses designed to make the law more accessible for Central Texas residents. More than 200 people visited Baylor Law for the first in-person People's Law School since 2020.



ABA CLIENT COUNSELING COMPETITION

During the weekend of March 31, Baylor Law hosted the final rounds of the 2023 ABA National Client Counseling Competition. At this event, The Baylor Law team of Emma Scofield, Meghan Thomas, and student coach Emily Ullom were named National Champions. This marks the first time Baylor Law has won this competition, featuring teams from law schools across the United States competing in simulated client counseling scenarios. Scofield and Thomas went on to represent the United States, with their coach, Judge Vik Deivanayagam, at the International Client Counseling Competition in the Netherlands where they finished as semifinalists.



OFF THE RECORD

The Baylor Law Women's Legal Society closed out Women's History Month with the annual "Off the Record" Luncheon.

Panelists Professor Leah Teague, Michelle Simpson Tuegel, JD '10, and Maryssa Simpson hosted a candid conversation about the experiences, struggles, and breakthroughs that have shaped their journeys to success as women in the legal profession.



On Saturday, April 1, the Baylor Law Alumni Association and the Baylor Public Interest Legal Society hosted "Easter Fest." Alumni, friends, faculty, and staff and their families, were invited for an Easter egg hunt, bounce house, and other fun family activities.

EASTER FEST



AlumniNOTES

1940s

Jearl D. Walker, JD '49, celebrated his 103rd birthday on January 29!

1960s

Fredrick F. "Rick" Rogers, Jr., JD '68, was recognized with the Outstanding 50 Year Lawyer Award by the Texas Bar Foundation.

Roy L. Barrett, JD '69, was recognized with the Outstanding 50 Year Lawyer Award by the Texas Bar Foundation.

1970s

Hon. Jack M. Skeen, Jr., JD '70, has served the county and city of Tyler for 50 years. To honor his unselfish public service, the Smith County Commissioner's Court passed a unanimous resolution to designate the Smith County Emergency Operations Center after Judge Skeen. The building will now be known as the Jack M. Skeen, Jr. Emergency Operations Center of Smith County. Judge Skeen was the Assistant District Attorney, city attorney, and a municipal court judge before being named as Smith County District Attorney in 1982. After serving for six terms, Judge Skeen was elected as the judge for the 241st district court in 2003. He is expecting to retire at the end of 2022.

Charles W. Zahn, Jr., JD '70, Port Chairman of Corpus Christi's governing commission, was named Corpus Christi Caller-Times Newsmaker of the Year.

Alfred "Fred" Davis II, JD '72, was recognized for 50 years of service and dedication as a licensed attorney in Bryan/College Station.



Hon. Don Dowd, JD '72, Cass County Court at Law judge, is retiring after 17 years of service to the county and over 40 years of service within the legal profession.

Bill Finkelstein, JD '74, recently retired as Managing Partner of Dykema Gossett, PLLC's Dallas office. This summer he will complete a two-year term as the Chairman of the Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas. The Federation raises approximately \$11 million annually to promote Jewish life in the Greater Dallas area and around the world, especially in Israel. They have responded to emergencies by providing relief funding for tragedies such as Surfside, Kentucky, Florida, and Ukraine.

William J. Cornelius, JD '75, has opened a mediation practice, Cornelius Strategic ADR, in Tyler, Texas.

Rod Squires, JD '78, has joined Cherry Johnson Siegmund James LLC as Of Counsel in the Waco office.

1980s

Honorable Rodney Gilstrap, JD '81, was honored as the 2023 Outstanding Public Service Award recipient by the New York Intellectual Property Association. Judge Gilstrap serves as Chief Judge in the Marshall and Texarkana Divisions of the Eastern District of Texas.

Fred McClure, JD '81, was inducted into the Cotton Bowl Classic Hall of Fame, joining a network of athletes, coaches, and other notable figures who have left their mark on the iconic college football bowl game since it was first played in 1937.

Kevin Cherry, JD '82, has been selected to serve on Baylor University's NIL Advisory Council. The executive group engages on all university NIL initiatives, including a partnership with Startup Waco CEO Jon Passavant and former Baylor quarterback Cody Carlson to manage funds directed to GXG™. All six members of the Advisory Council are Baylor graduates and generous supporters of the university.

Cary Gray, JD '83, has been selected to serve on Baylor University's NIL Advisory Council. The executive group engages on all university NIL initiatives, including a partnership with Startup Waco CEO Jon Passavant and former Baylor quarterback Cody Carlson to manage funds directed to GXG™. All six members of the Advisory Council are Baylor graduates and generous supporters of the university.

Mark Jaynes, JD '84, has retired from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as Deputy Chief Counsel of the Ethics Specialty Team after 31 years of service with the VA Office of General Counsel.

Hon. Vincent J. Messina, JD '85, has retired after 20 years serving as the Hood County Court at Law #1 Judge. Prior to being elected to office in November 2002 Judge Messina served as the elected Hood County Attorney and the Assistant County attorney for 12 years. Judge Messina has taken a faculty position as an adjunct professor of law with the Texas A&M Law school teaching legal writing for LL.M. students. Additionally, Judge Messina is sitting as an assigned judge in counties within the region 8 district.

Katherine Logue, JD '87, has been named the Executive Director of the McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center (DRC).

Keith Price, JD '88, with Sandberg Phoenix & Von Gontard in St. Louis, was recognized on The POWER List 2023 by Missouri Lawyers Media for his work in Mergers and Acquisitions.

C. Bradford Lowry, JD '89, has been appointed chair of the real estate practice for Jackson Walker. Brad is based in the Dallas office.

1990s

Alan Bennett, JD '90, was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the 474th Judicial District Court in McLennan County. Alan is an attorney and shareholder for Sheehy, Lovelace & Mayfield, PC. Previously, he served as a Staff Attorney for the Tenth Court of Appeals and as an Assistant District Attorney for the McLennan County District Attorney's Office. He is board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Criminal Law and Criminal Appellate Law. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas, Federalist Society, and the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Additionally, he is the President of the McLennan County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

Mark Pratt, JD '91, District Attorney for Hill County, was the recipient of the 2022 Lone Star Prosecutor Award. The award is given each year by the Texas District and County Attorneys Association (TDCAA).

Hon. Amy Ward, JD '91, was sworn in as the new 87th Judicial District Judge serving Freestone, Limestone, Leon, and Anderson counties.

Hon. David J. Schenck, JD '92, rejoins Dykema's Dallas office after serving as Justice for the Texas Fifth Court of Appeals since 2015.



Hon. Gary Coley, Jr., JD '93, 74th District Judge in Waco, and Adjunct Professor at Baylor Law, was presented the 2022 Judicial Innovation and Leadership Award by Texas CASA at the

Texas Children Commission's Child Welfare Judges Conference. The award was given in recognition of his commitment to public service, his leadership on legal representation, and his dedication to children and families.

Katie Anderson, JD '94, has joined Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal LLP as Partner.

James Peacock, JD '94, LL.M. '20, joined Greenberg Traurig as a shareholder in the firm's health care and FDA practice in the Dallas office.

Ashley C. Hoff, JD '94, has returned to her role as the First Assistant U.S. Attorney overseeing the Criminal and Civil divisions for the Western District of Texas.

Jeff Rambin, JD '94, was appointed to the Sixth Court of Appeals Place 2 by Governor Greg Abbott. He will begin serving on January 1, 2023. Jeff is currently a partner at the Nacogdoches firm of Fairchild, Price, Haley & Smith LLP.

S. Tyler Scheuerman, JD '94, with the Scheuerman Law Firm PLLC, has been appointed to the new San Antonio Bar Foundation Fellows Program.

Bart McKay, JD '95, has been promoted to Senior Vice President, General Counsel at McLane Company, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway subsidiary based in Temple, Texas.

Lance Travis, JD '96, has joined Cobb Martinez Woodward PLLC as a Member in the Dallas office.

Julia V. Taylor, JD '97, recently joined Armstrong Teasdale as partner in the corporate services practice group in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Ryan S. Holcomb, JD '98, a partner in Bracewell's Houston office and chair of the firm's power practice, has been elected to serve a three-year term on the firm's management committee.

Lindsay Nickle, JD '98, serves as a vice chair of the Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP Cyber Team and practices in Dallas.

Craig Cherry, JD '99, board certified in civil trial law and personal injury trial law, was honored by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization with the Tom Garner Award. The award, named after a former chair of the TBLS Board, is given to a TBLS volunteer who best epitomizes the ideals of voluntary service by their knowledge, dedication, hard work, and integrity. He recently joined with three other Baylor Lawyers to found Cherry Johnson Siegmund James LLC with locations in Waco, Tulsa, Dallas, and Henderson, Texas.

Laura Hilton Hallmon, JD '99, Chair of the Labor and Employment Law practice group of Cantey Hanger, was named to the 2022 "Fort Worth 400" list as one of 400 North Texas business leaders.

Greg P. Love, JD '99, has joined Cherry Johnson Siegmund James LLC as Of Counsel in the Waco office.

2000s

Brandon Jones, JD '00, has returned to Haynes Boone LLP in Fort Worth as a partner working in the firm's business planning and tax practice.

Robin Scott Fadal, JD '01, was recently promoted to Assistant General Tax Counsel/Administrative Tax Officer at Chevron Phillips Chemical.

Chris Ayres, JD '02, board certified in civil trial law and personal injury trial law, was honored by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization with the Tom Garner Award. The award, named after a former chair of the TBLS Board, is given to a TBLS volunteer who best epitomizes the best ideals of voluntary service by their knowledge, dedication, hard work and integrity.

Lee Ann James, JD '02, has joined Cherry Johnson Siegmund James LLC as Of Counsel in the Waco office.

Scott H. James, JD '02, joined with three other Baylor Lawyers to found Cherry Johnson Siegmund James LLC with locations in Waco, Tulsa, Dallas, and Henderson, Texas.

Jonathan P. Grady, MD, JD '03, is a Cataract and Corneal Specialist with the Brazosport Eye Institute in Lake Jackson, Texas.

Traylor Rains, JD '04, has been elected to serve as a south region representative on the board of directors for the National Association of Medicaid Directors. Traylor has 18 years of public service with the state of Oklahoma and has served in leadership roles at the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services and Department of Human Services. He was named state Medicaid director in 2022.

Michele C. Spillman, JD '04, with Phillips Murrah PC in Dallas, has been elected as a new Director for the firm.

Mark Hobbs, JD '05, has joined Cherry Johnson Siegmund James LLC as Of Counsel in the Waco office.

Ryan C. Johnson, JD '05, joined with three other Baylor Lawyers to found Cherry Johnson Siegmund James LLC with locations in Waco, Tulsa, Dallas, and Henderson, Texas.

Kimberly Williams, JD '05, has joined the Labor and Employment Practice Group of O'Melveny & Myers LLP as a partner in the Dallas office. She has been recognized among the "Best Lawyers in Dallas" by *D Magazine*.

Joshua Cummings, JD '06, received Board Certification in Estate Planning and Probate Law from Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Joshua currently practices in South Texas, where he is a Partner at Atlas, Hall & Rodriguez, LLP.

Allison Dickson, JD '07, has joined Patterson Law Group as Of Counsel. She will continue her legal research role at Baylor Law School.

Justin Hill, JD '07, has been elected President of the San Antonio Trial Lawyers Association (SATLA) for 2023.

AlumniNOTES

J. Reid Simpson, JD '09, has joined Yetter Coleman LLP in Houston as senior counsel with a practice centered on complex commercial litigation and appeals. He will have the opportunity to work alongside his father, Reagan Simpson, who has been a partner at the firm since 2011.

2010s

Mitch Mitchell III, JD '10, is now board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Estate Planning and Probate Law. Mitch practices in Nacogdoches, Texas.

John Litzler, JD '11, is the General Counsel and Director of Public Policy for the Christian Life Commission, an arm of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Kristi Wood, JD '11, has joined the Dallas plaintiffs' personal injury law firm Hamilton Wingo. She is a member of the Dallas Bar Association, Dallas Trial Lawyers Association, and Texas Trial Lawyers Association.

Adam Arrington, JD '12, is a staff attorney for the Second Court of Appeals in Fort Worth, Texas.

Andy Jones, JD '13, serves on the Board of Directors for the Dallas Bar Association and the Dallas Trial Lawyers Association.

Saba Syed, JD '13, a Partner at Bell Nunnally in Dallas, has been selected to the 2023 "Fellows Program" class for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) — an organization comprised of more than 400 corporate chief legal officers and law firm managing partners dedicated to building a more open and diverse legal profession.

Katie Beaird, JD '14, has been elevated to partner at Bell Nunnally in Dallas. Katie assists employers in all aspects of labor and employment and related workplace litigation.

Anna Greenberg, JD '14, with Blizzard Law PLLC in Houston, has earned selection to the 2023 edition of Texas Rising Stars for her expertise in personal injury litigation on behalf of plaintiffs.

David Hammack, JD '14, a commercial litigator, has been elected a shareholder at Hallett & Perrin in Dallas.

Kristin E. Lechowicz, JD '14, has rejoined Kelley Kronenberg in the Chicago office. She is a partner in the workers compensation practice group.

T.J. Jones, JD '15, is Partner at Crawford Wishnew Lang in Dallas.

Micah L. Satterwhite, JD '16, has been promoted to Partner at Sloan, Hatcher, Perry, Runge, Robertson & Smith ("the Sloan Firm") in Longview, Texas. Micah is actively involved in the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, in which he serves as the chair-elect for 2023 of the Advocates Board, a group within the Association composed of attorneys who have been members of the Association for ten years or less. In 2024, Micah will serve as chair of the Advocates Board. He currently serves as president of the Gregg County Bar Association and volunteers his time as a judge of the Longview Teen Court.

Shelby Raye Holt, JD '17, with Akerman LLP in Houston, was recently selected to serve a two-year term on the inaugural Young Lawyers Subcommittee for the Insurance Section of the State Bar of Texas.

Cameron Cano, JD '18, has been named Lead Trial Counsel of the Complex Tort Division of the international firm Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law LLP.

Brooke Blackwell, JD '19, has joined Rainwater Holt Sexton in Little Rock, Arkansas focusing on personal injury.

Mark D. Siegmund, JD '19, joined with three other Baylor Lawyers to found Cherry Johnson Siegmund, James LLC with locations in Waco, Tulsa, Dallas and Henderson, Texas.

2020s

Melissa S. Ruiz, JD '21, has joined Cherry Johnson Siegmund James LLC in the Waco office.

Asher Miller, JD '22, has joined McCathern, Shokouhi, Evans, Grinke in Dallas.

Elaine Moore, JD '22, has joined the Healthcare Practice Group at Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP in Dallas.

Jessie Nelson, JD '22, has joined the Healthcare Practice Group at Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP in Dallas.

Andrew J. Patterson, JD '22, joined Bowman and Brooke LLP as Associate in the Plano 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.

StudentNOTES



March 29, 2023

STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY

Baylor Law students were honored for outstanding achievements at the 2023 John William & Florence Dean Minton Student Awards Ceremony and Lecture Series. Ronnie Turner, Jr., JD '10, Senior General Attorney at Union Pacific Railroad Co., gave the keynote address to more than 200 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests.

More than 100 awards and honors were presented this year, including longstanding awards like the W.W. Naman Memorial Award for excellence in the Practice Court Program and the Bob and Karen Wortham Mock Trial Competition Awards. This year's Ceremony also included 17 inaugural awards, such as Outstanding Achievement in Administrative Practice, Fiduciary Litigation, and Baylor Law Spirit.

A special thank you to the Baylor Lawyers and friends who support our student awards financially.

Scan For More Info:



StudentNOTES

BAYLOR LAW'S WACO ISD ADOPT-A-SCHOOL

For more than a decade, the Baylor Law Student Bar Association has partnered with H-E-B and local nonprofits to raise money for Christmas gifts for approximately 900 children at Baylor Law's Waco ISD Adopt-A-School: Bell's Hill Elementary.



Hunton Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship



Sarah Megan Erb, Michael Tagliabue, and Vivian Noyd placed second at the 2023 Hunton Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship in which teams from only the top 16 moot court programs in the country are invited to participate. Following a championship win in 2022, Baylor Law returned to the competition to defend its title. Coached by Professor of Law Larry Bates and Associate Dean Patricia Wilson, the team narrowly missed the top spot after seven grueling rounds.

Conrad B. Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition



The team of Maddie Gay, Tansy Ackermann, and Casey Cooper took first place at the 31st annual Conrad B. Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition, hosted by St. John's University and the American Bankruptcy Institute. Amber John, Jacob King, and Paige Browne made a strong showing, ending as octa-finalists. Additionally, Ackermann won the prize for 5th best speaker, and Browne's brief won the award for fifth-best brief.

Judge John R. Brown National Admiralty Law Moot Court Competition

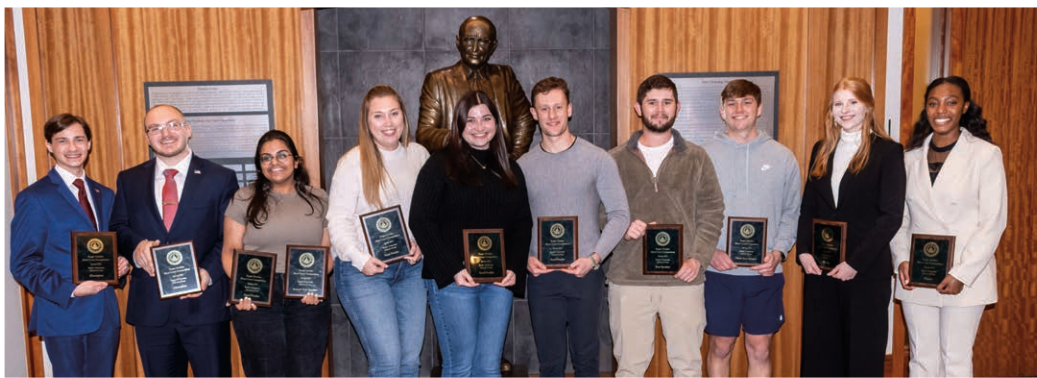


Ryan Hering and Olivia Schoffstall won the *Top Oral Advocacy Team* award at the John R. Brown National Admiralty Law Moot Court Competition at the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Out of the 32 teams from across the country, Baylor Law emerged as one of the top performers by placing both of its teams in the top 8 spots. Hering and Schoffstall's outstanding performance saw them advance to the semi-final round of the competition. Nick Walter, who wrote the team's brief, was recognized as the third-best brief writer in the competition.



The team of Kingrey Sullens and Kelton Munch narrowly edged out the team of O'quilla Jones and Rachel Brooks to take the top spot of the 2023 Faegre Drinker Spring Moot Court Competition. 42 Teams competed in the spring competition.

FAEGRE DRINKER SPRING MOOT COURT COMPETITION



American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition



Tiffani Skroch and Dandee Cabanay, along with their brief co-writer Andrew Boone, emerged as the champions of the largest moot court competition in the country, the American Bar Association's National Appellate Advocacy Competition (NAAC).



Brief co-writer
Andrew Boone

Nearly two hundred law school teams competed in six regional tournaments earlier this year. Tiffani, Dandee, and Andrew, coached by Professor Brian Serr, were undefeated in the Los Angeles Regional, qualifying to compete in the National Finals held at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C. Michael Tagliabue also accompanied the team to Washington D.C., serving as the team's bailiff.

Courtney Conner took first place in the Seventh Annual *Ultimate Writer Legal Writing Competition*. Conner received an \$8,000 cash prize for her efforts thanks to the generous underwriting of The Charles and Lisa Frazier Endowed Fund for Excellence in Writing and the law firm of Durham, Pittard & Spalding LLP. The second-place winner was Andrew Boone, who won the competition in 2022. Winston Bribach took third and Jordan Gonzales, Anna Schmidt, Jake Weathers, and Riley Zoch received honorable mentions.

ULTIMATE WRITER COMPETITION



Graduation DAY



JD

SUMMER 2022

Associate Dean Patricia Wilson presided over the ceremony

and conferred the degrees and Logan Krulish addressed the graduates as the highest-ranking student. Professor Bridget Fuselier delivered an inspiring address and joined Associate Dean Wilson and Professor Kayla Landeros in presenting the diplomas. Professors Matt Cordon and Allen Page hooded the graduates.



LLM

EXECUTIVE LL.M. IN LITIGATION MANAGEMENT

Professor Jim Wren presided over the ceremony and conferred the degrees and Professor Liz Fraley presented the class. Professor Wren delivered the address and presented the diplomas along with Professor Fraley. The graduates were hooded by Professor Fraley.

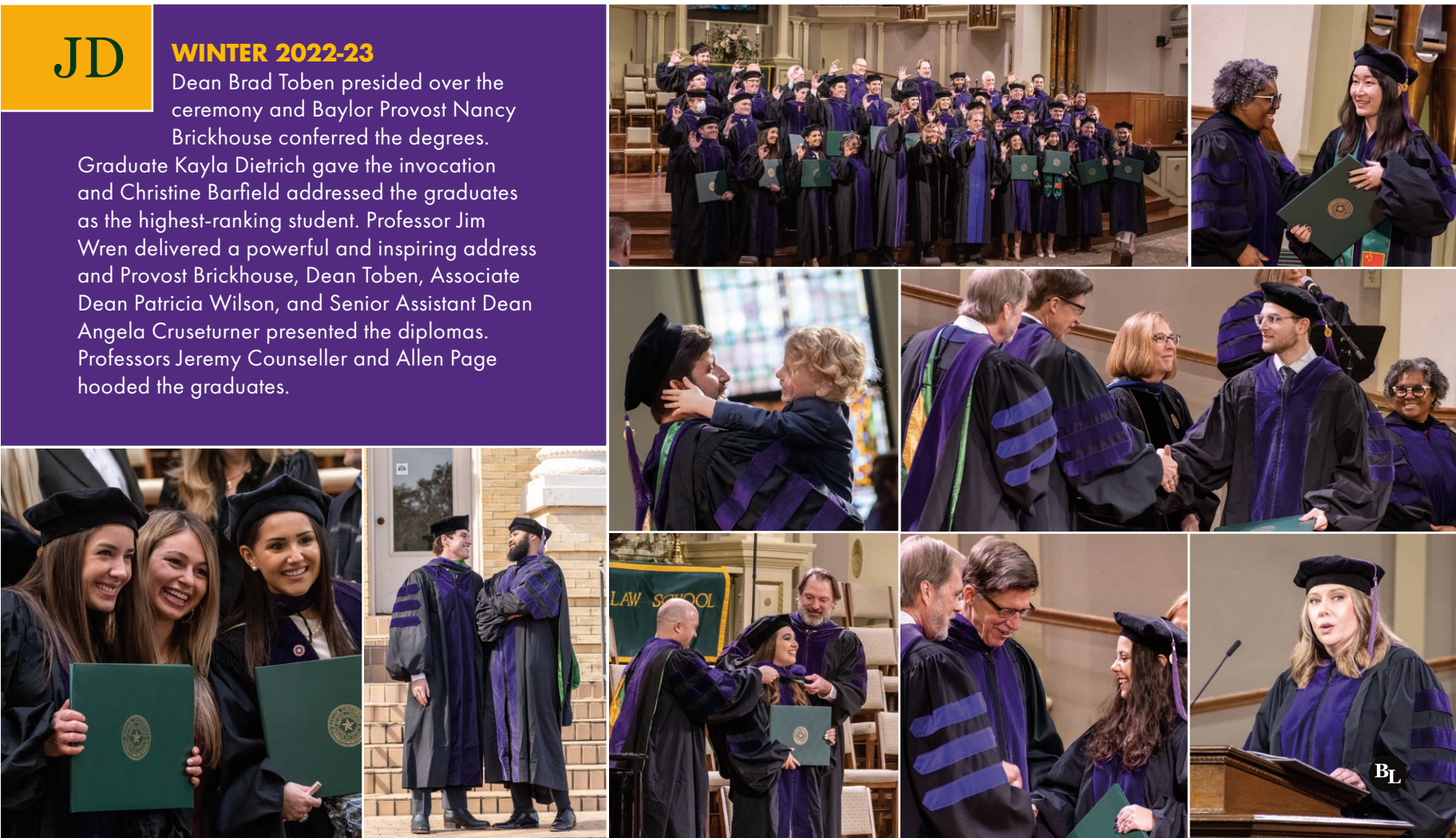




JD

FALL 2022

Dean Brad Toben presided over the ceremony and Baylor President Linda Livingstone conferred the degrees. Graduate Ariana Perez gave the invocation and Holly Shockey Ramirez addressed the graduates as the highest-ranking student. Professor Jeremy Counsellor delivered an inspiring address and President Livingstone, Dean Toben, Associate Dean Patricia Wilson, and Senior Assistant Dean Angela Cruseturner presented the diplomas. Professors Bridget Fuselier and Elizabeth Fraley hooded the graduates.



JD

WINTER 2022-23

Dean Brad Toben presided over the ceremony and Baylor Provost Nancy Brickhouse conferred the degrees. Graduate Kayla Dietrich gave the invocation and Christine Barfield addressed the graduates as the highest-ranking student. Professor Jim Wren delivered a powerful and inspiring address and Provost Brickhouse, Dean Toben, Associate Dean Patricia Wilson, and Senior Assistant Dean Angela Cruseturner presented the diplomas. Professors Jeremy Counsellor and Allen Page hooded the graduates.

Alumni OBITUARIES

L. Glenn Stewart, JD '52 passed away on Wednesday, December 28, 2022 at his residence. He was born on May 28, 1926 to Ira T. and Rachel Stewart in Ennis, Texas. Glenn attended Corsicana High School, then served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 through 1946. He and Mary Lee Flippen were married on July 9, 1947. He attended Baylor Law School from 1949-1952 and served in the FBI from 1955-1959 before moving back to Corsicana to practice law. He had a long career as an attorney in Corsicana, as an Assistant District Attorney and 20 years as City Attorney. He and Mary were members of St. John's Episcopal Church for many years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his two brothers; Roy Badie Stewart, Sr. of Corsicana and Arlie Stewart of Farmington, New Mexico, and his wife of 68 years, Mary.

He is survived by his wife, Martha Ray Stewart, his son Ronald G. Stewart and daughter Ann Stewart, and son Jeffrey Stewart MD, grandchildren; Ronald L. Stewart (Brandi), Leeann Stewart, and Kim Cobb (Dan), great-grandchildren; Dalton Stewart, Tristan Ivie, Ethan Ivie, Kristi Jackson, and great-great-grandchildren; Dillon Jackson and Morgan Jackson, stepdaughters; Vicky Lynn Sigler (Wayne) and Angela Kay Lewis (James); step-grandchildren; JR Lewis (Kenna), John Lewis (Yo), Ricky Lynn Murray (Becca), Jackie Rae Steele (Cliff), and step-great-grandchildren; Tucker Lewis, Jace Lewis, Raegan Lewis, Lindsey Barron, Cooper Lewis, Amanda Steele, Cole Steele, and extended family.



William King Robbins, Jr., LLB '54, JD '69, (a.k.a. Bill, WKR, Uncle Bill, Mr. R and Pops) went to "the big sleep" on April 13, 2023 at the age of 91 in Houston, Texas. Born in Texas on November 29, 1931 to Helen and William

King Robbins, Sr., Bill lived his childhood and adolescent years in Reagan, Texas, and Baytown, Texas. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown, Texas, in 1949. He then set sail for Baylor University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Laws, and a Juris Doctor. Bill served in the military and was a Korean War Veteran. He was also a lawyer and entrepreneur with experience in a variety of businesses including valve manufacturing, oil and gas exploration and production, plastics, leasing, automobile and heavy truck dealerships, insurance, hotel development, and tree farming. He was founder and CEO of North American Corporation, which originated in 1971. Headquartered in Houston, North American principally engages in consulting, finance, investments, and oil, gas and energy

activities. In his early years, he served as an officer and director of various international subsidiary companies of Union Carbide Corporation and as legal counsel for Humble Oil and Refining Company (now Exxon Corporation).

Throughout his journey, Bill served on the boards for several United States and foreign corporations and was also a trustee of several foundations in the United States, Canada, Japan, and India. He was a member of the State Bar of Texas, State Bar of New York, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Tax Court, as well as several U.S. District Courts and Circuit Court of Appeals. At Baylor, he was a member of the Endowed Scholarship Society, the Bear Foundation, the Old Main Society, the 1845 Society and the Heritage Club. He was also a life member of the Baylor Law Alumni Association, as well as a member of the Honors College Advisory Council, the Hankamer School of Business Robbins Institute for Health Policy and Leadership Advisory Council, the Robbins College of Health and Human Services Board of Advocates, and the Baylor University Foundation Board. Bill also served on the Baylor University Board of Regents. In addition, he served on the Board of Trustees at Baylor College of Medicine where he was a member of the Finance, Investment, and several other Committees.

Traveling for both business and pleasure was always a big part of Bill's life. While he was a proud Texan, he also had a true love for Canada and spent much of his life in the province of Alberta. He was known for flying both flags all over the world. Dedicated to making the world a better place through his gracious spirit and kind heart, Bill possessed a passion for spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world, educating people of all ages and backgrounds, and helping to reach out to those who were sick or in need. His philanthropic efforts through The Robbins Foundation spanned the globe. He devoted much of his time and energy to the North American group of companies and to performing good works through The Robbins Foundation. As a dedicated patron of Baylor University, Bill's areas of contribution included the Honors College, the Law School, Robbins Chapel, Memorial Chapel, Baylor Athletics, the Robbins Institute for Health Policy and Leadership, the Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences, and the Mary Jo Robbins Clinic for Autism Research and Practice. The Robbins Institute encompasses multiple academic avenues including the Robbins MBA Healthcare Program, a Ph.D. in Health Services Research, and healthcare administration specializations within the Executive MBA programs in Dallas and Austin. He also supported Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor Scott & White Medical Center- Hillcrest in Waco, and the Baylor Louise Herrington School of Nursing in Dallas. At the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Canada, Bill, Mary Jo and The Robbins Foundation established and continue to sustain healthcare facilities and programs located in the Robbins Pavilion, including endowed research in cardiology and women's health, an Inner-City Health

Initiative, and lectures on a broad range of public health topics. The Robbins Pavilion also houses the Robbins Learning Centre, the Lois Hole Hospital for Women, the Robbins Chapel and Bell Tower and the CK Hui Heart Centre. At Grant MacEwan University in Canada, the Foundation supports the School of Nursing and other health management undertakings located in the Robbins Healthcare Learning Centre. Other areas of patronage in Canada include the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Citadel Theatre, the Boys and Girls Club Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton, little league baseball and hockey teams for boys and girls and various other endeavors. Supporting various mission endeavors was important to Bill, but he was particularly involved in the start-up of pioneer mission work. He served as a Baptist Deacon and trustee in various churches throughout his life. Bill was a member of Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, at the time of his death. Bill also contributed to multiple churches, Bible projects, camps, and missions as well as various artistic pursuits and sports ministries worldwide. He provided funding for numerous chapels in both Texas and Canada. Additional areas of involvement and interest include Texas Children's Hospital, Houston Christian University, the Houston Symphony Orchestra, and various autism and other research endeavors and events across the globe. As a believer in the power of a solid education, he funded innumerable scholarships for those who wished to better themselves by pursuing a higher education.

Known for his meticulous nature and outspoken opinions, he taught those around him to pursue their dreams (at any age) and to be thankful for all of God's blessings. Bill impacted many lives with his compassion and friendship. His family and friends particularly enjoyed listening to his stories from the past and were often amazed at all of the details he could remember from years and years ago. For fun and relaxation, Bill took great delight in attending various sporting events in Houston and Waco, going to the symphony, and listening to classical music. His sense of humor and contagious laugh brought a smile to everyone's face. He possessed a true zest for life and learning. The countless people who were blessed to call him friend are evidence of how Bill touched so many lives with his love and guidance. Anyone who knew Bill also knew that he had a life-long love affair with ice cream and took great pride in stocking his freezers with Blue Bell (among other brands). He was known to have up to fifteen different flavors on hand at any time and could readily provide his ever changing "top five" and "top ten" at the drop of a hat. He also loved Christmas, undoubtedly his favorite time of year. At his request, the lights and decorations were known to go up in early November and stay up until at least mid-January. He was truly like a kid in a candy store with anything that would light up, play music, or was motion activated! One could often hear him whistling Christmas songs year-round, even

in the brutal heat of summer. Bill excelled at just about everything he did and loved to read anything he could get his hands on. He believed it was important to always put your best foot forward. There was always a new adventure around the corner for Bill as he believed that “idleness is the devil’s workshop.” He lived his life to the fullest with integrity and diligence to the very end.

Bill is survived by his wife, Mary Jo Huey Robbins, and their three children, Cynthia K. Robbins, Jackson Gorman and wife Cheryl Scoglio, and Crystal Baird. They have two grandchildren, Halen Ray Baird and Riley Nicole Baird. The Robbins also have an “adopted” son, Zafar Naqvi, an “adopted” daughter, Hannah Chandler and husband Stephen Chandler as well as two “adopted” grandsons, Quinten Swift and Archie Daniel Chandler. They also have many other “adopted” sons, daughters, and grandchildren who they have loved and nurtured throughout their lives.

Eddie Roy Schroeder, JD '59, passed away in his home in Montgomery, Texas, on March 2, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. Born and raised in McGregor, Texas, Eddie was a 1949 graduate of McGregor High School. He went on to earn a bachelor’s degree from North Texas State University in 1952 and a law degree from Baylor Law School in 1959, where he served as President of Delta Beta Phi for one year. Eddie served in the United States Air Force from 1952 to 1960. After living in Houston for a short time, Eddie moved to Beaumont where he began working at the City Attorney’s office, and then for the South Park School District, as a tax attorney. Eddie went into private practice in 1969, where he thrived, relishing every opportunity to represent his clients fairly and honestly. While living in Beaumont, Eddie was a member of the Spindletop Lions Club and served as President. Eddie will always be remembered by his family and friends for his deep and joyous laugh, especially at his own jokes, and his carefully told storytelling reminiscing his life’s adventures.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Kay Schroeder, his four children and stepchildren, his grandchildren, and nephew.

Hon. Albert Lee White, Jr., JD '60, was born February 5, 1934 to Albert Lee and Ruth Myers White in Lepanto, Arkansas. He died from cancer on April 11, 2023. Albert attended Pascal High School where his talent as a basketball player was nurtured by his coach Charlie Turner who secured a scholarship for him to Baylor to play ball. Coach Turner was like a father to Albert. During his freshman year at Baylor, Albert and Mary Jane were campus royalty — the star basketball player and beauty queen. Mary Jane Cowden asked him out on their first date on a “backwards” weekend. She had such a good time that she called him for the

next night, but she was immediately jealous. He had already been invited by a rival beauty. They dated three years. He was drafted into the army, married Mary Jane and they spent the first two years of married life at Fort Bliss. He played basketball for the Army then returned to Baylor Law School, graduating with his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1960. His first job was working for the City Attorney of Fort Worth, then he branched out to open his own office. He struggled financially because he took in many low income clients and “underdogs”, as he called them. After joining a law firm, and with Mary Jane’s encouragement, he began to look into politics. He ran for state representative, then worked on an election campaign for Eugene Locke for Governor. Next he headed the election campaign for Dolph Briscoe who won the governorship in 1973. Dolph increased the number of state court districts, appointing Albert to the new 236th District as State District judge. He served until his retirement in 1994. During his years working in Fort Worth, you would find him on his lunch hour challenging lawyers.

He bought his first piece of ranchland in Stephenville in 1970. He spent weekends building fences, expanding his empire, and enjoying the peace and pace of the country.

In 1967, Albert and Roy Bateman engineered a merger between two churches, Westcliff Baptist and Evans Avenue Baptist in Fort Worth. This was the beginning of Southcliff Baptist Church. Albert served as Trustee and on the finance committee and supported Mary Jane’s ministries there. Their closest friends were families at Southcliff and every spring they hosted a picnic at the ranch for their Sunday School department. In 2008, he moved permanently to his ranch in Stephenville. He worked hard, improving and expanding his cattle herd and watching his beloved Baylor Bears on TV. At that time he took over full care of Mary Jane in her final years with dedication and love. She passed away in 2012. He is remembered as gregarious, generous, (especially to the little man), and with a down-to-earth WISDOM that was always right on point. No one could work a room like Judge, whether at Three-Way Feed store for coffee, the Cowboy Church, or Jake and Dorothy’s cafe where they had memorized his order.

Robert Stephen Thompson, JD '62, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, October 26, 2022. Stephen was born on March 29, 1938 to Gladys and Charles Thompson in Kilgore, Texas, where he spent most of his childhood. He graduated from Kilgore High School in 1956 and then attended Baylor University. He received a BBA degree in 1960 and a JD degree in 1962 from Baylor Law. While at Baylor he served as Bear Trainer, during which time he was instrumental in obtaining two black bear cubs, Ruff and Tuff, which served as the official mascots.

He practiced law in Tahoka, Texas, for several years, including a stint as County Attorney for Lynn County, Texas, before joining the FBI as a special agent. While in the FBI, he served in Omaha, NE, Pittsburgh, PA, Fairmont, WV and ended his career in Tyler.

He was an avid hunter and target shooter, practicing shooting disciplines of Skeet, Trap, and Cowboy Action Shooting. He was a life member of the National Rifle Association, Single Action Shooting Society and the Texas Peacemakers. He enjoyed many years of hunting in Brownwood, Texas, with many great friends. Later he loved going to Coleman, Texas, and hunting with his grandsons and celebrating Thanksgiving. He delighted in taking his grandsons target and trap shooting.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Kenneth Thompson, and his wife Merridonna Thompson. Survivors include daughters Kimberly Braly and husband Joey of Tyler, Marla Jones of Tyler and sister Judy Howell and husband Shelby of Crosby. Grandchildren include Bryce Braly and fiancé Claire Hoover of Dallas, Maribeth Jones of Dallas, PFC Brandon Braly, of Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, and Jacqueline Jones of Tyler. Also, niece Kelli Vanderhoofven and husband Joel of Grand Junction, CO, and nephew Jeff Hadaway and wife Kim of Union Grove, Texas.

Artie George Giotes, JD '65, passed away Monday, May 15, 2023. Artie was born February 2, 1941, in Waco, to Aphrodite and George Giotes. He was born and raised in Waco and graduated from Waco High School (1959), Baylor University with a Bachelor of Business Administration (1963) and Baylor Law with a Juris Doctorate (1965). Artie served in the United States Army in 1959 and the National Guard from 1960 - 1966. He began his career in 1965 at First National Bank of Waco Trust Department. From 1976 until his passing, Artie practiced law at what is now Pakis, Giotes, Page & Burleson. He was a member of the State Board of Law Examiners, Adjunct Professor at Baylor University School of Law, Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law and a founding member and President of Heart of Texas Estate Planning Council. He also served on various civic boards including Baylor-Waco Foundation, Waco Foundation, Waco ISD Foundation, and Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center. Artie’s Christian faith was very important to him. He was raised and baptized as a member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and was a member of First Methodist Church of Waco for 44 years where he served on numerous boards and committees.

Artie was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Wanda Carruth Giotes; and brother, Gus Giotes. He is survived by son, Brad (Jean) Giotes; daughter, Karen (Tim) Nabers; brother, Johnny Giotes; grandchildren, Megan (Andrew) Reppert, Ashley Giotes, Rachel Nabers, and Davis Nabers; sister-in-law, Dale Giotes; and brother-in-law, James (Vickie) Carruth.

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Jimmie Darrell Oglesby, JD '66, husband and father of four, passed away at age 85 on November 28, 2022. He was born on July 4, 1937 in Waco, TX, to Ambrose and Emma Jane Oglesby (nee McAdams). His siblings were George Nita (Dibby) Rickerson - deceased sister, Minnie "Jean" Alphie - deceased sister, "Brose" J. Oglesby (Red) - deceased brother and Nevada "Joy" Nowlin, sister, living in Kennedy, TX. Jim's family shortly moved to Lubbock, TX, where he graduated from Lubbock High School. Leaving a home of modest means, Jim worked as a lineman, plumber, and eventually enlisted in the Army. After serving his country, Jim went to college at Texas Tech University earning a BA and a scholarship to Baylor Law School where he would be distinguished on the Law Review and graduate in the top of his class. During his career, Jim worked for the firm of Lynch Chappell and Alsup in Midland, TX, started his own private practice and served as county attorney in both Midland and McCulloch counties. In addition to his legal practice, Jim was an avid mechanic and loved working on old cars and boat motors. He entertained himself catfishing on the Rio Grande in Big Bend national park and working on his small ranch in Placid, TX.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sallie L. Oglesby (nee Arp) (married 52 years); and four children in age order, Larry Keith Henny, Stephenie Ann Barker, Jimmie Darrell Oglesby Jr. and Jason Ambrose Oglesby; ten grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

James Warren "Jim" Lane, JD '68, passed away peacefully on Nov. 27, 2022. He was a tireless advocate for his city, neighbors, Native Americans, military veterans, and line of duty public servants.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife, Janet; son, Jake; adopted daughter, Teana Milan; brother, Bill Lane and wife, Marcia; nieces, Sarah Lane Deheck and Blythe Lane Munster; nephews, John Lane and William Lane; seven grandnephews; and cousins, John Jay Joyce and wife, Martha and Gene Joyce and wife, Ann.

Born on June 4, 1944, to parents, Wesley and Glyn Lane in Uvalde, Texas, Jim spent much of his early childhood visiting his grandparents in north Fort Worth. He soaked up the cowboy culture and learned about Cherokee Indians, as his grandfather was one. His family eventually moved to Fort Worth and Jim fell in love with the city.

Jim loved all things Fort Worth and was a visionary. He especially loved the cowboy traditions, the historic North Side, the Fort Worth Livestock Show, and "Molly," the iconic longhorn which he successfully fought to make the official symbol of the City of Fort Worth. Jim also led the charge creating the city's nationally acclaimed Longhorn Herd which now travels daily down Exchange Avenue in the Stockyards to the

delight of millions of visitors from across the country and around the world. He even provided a retirement home for the aged Herd animals.

He graduated from Arlington Heights High School, TCU (Class of 1964) and Baylor Law School. Jim then entered the United States Army and upon graduating from the Advocate General's School served as a Captain from 1969 through 1973.

In one of his first Army cases, he was assigned to defend three soldiers accused of taking part in the Vietnam War's My Lai massacre. Jim's thorough investigation and preparation for the case won an acquittal for all of his clients. Upon completing his Army service, he returned to Fort Worth to practice law. He also dabbled with his commercial air license and flight instructor certification.

In Fort Worth, Jim rolled up his sleeves as an active civil rights leader and as a lifelong Democrat. He passionately took on causes for his neighbors, Native American heritage, local community, and country. His passion most often found him fighting for those who couldn't fight for themselves. And more often than not, Jim won his battles with skill, tenacity, and a sense of humor as big as Texas itself.

Throughout his legal career, Jim was a steadfast champion for members and families of the Fort Worth Police Officers Association and Fort Worth Firefighters Local 440. He was also a founding member of the Fort Worth Police and Firefighters Memorial.

Time and again, his Army experience influenced his commitment to answering the call of duty at home. Jim served as President of the Tarrant County Hospital District, President of the Tarrant County MHMR Board, Regional Vice President of the National Transportation Safety Board, President of the Fort Worth Sports Authority, Board member of Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, a lifelong member of the NAACP, and on dozens of other community boards.

As a politician, Jim was elected in 1993 to the Fort Worth City Council. He served six terms including a stint as Mayor Pro Tem. Jim was later elected to the Tarrant Regional Water District Board in 2006 where he has served as a tireless taxpayer steward up through this past year protecting and preserving Fort Worth's water supply for present and future generations.

Forever too, Jim carried the torch for local historic preservation and moved his home and office into separate century old North Side properties. His fervent championing of the preservation of the Fort Worth Cats minor league baseball team and LaGrave Field is now handed on to others.

Jim was known too for wittily poking fun at himself. In 2009, he made light of health problems when he underwent brain surgery. Before the procedure Jim joked that he had asked the surgeon to put spacers in his neck to make him taller. After the surgery, Jim bragged the surgeon told him his skull was thicker than any patient he had ever encountered.

Undoubtedly, one of the most cherished events by Jim and Janet was their annual campfire Christmas party held at their ranch NW of Fort Worth featuring campfires, barbecue, tamales, Cowboys who played guitars, Indians who sang and played the drums, and Ben Tahmahkera (great-great-grandson of former Comanche Chief Quanah Parker) who adopted Jim as his Comanche brother. Lifelong memories were made for all who attended.

No doubt, Jim's proudest life accomplishment was being Jake's father. This past year he was constantly bragging on Jake for passing his driver license test, acquiring his first car and for being an active participant in Opal Lee's marches which made Juneteenth a national holiday.

Jim's love for Janet, Jake, Teana, friends, and Fort Worth can never be overstated. Nor can the love that will be forever felt for him.

Hon. Charles "Kit" Cooke, III, JD '70, was born on July 6, 1947, to Charles C. Cooke, Jr., and Betty Jean Cooke. He was born in the C. C. Cooke Hospital and delivered by his grandfather, Dr. C. C. Cooke. Judge Cooke graduated from Cleburne High School in 1965. He attended Baylor University and received his B.A. degree. He was accepted into Baylor Law School at the age of 19. While he was attending Baylor Law School, he married Barbara Langston of Dallas on August 22, 1969. She worked at the Veterans' Administration and put him through his last year of law school. Judge Cooke received a Juris Doctor from Baylor Law School and was licensed to practice law in May 1970. Judge Cooke opened an office for the practice of law, and his wife Barbara was his first secretary. Judge Cooke's first government job was Assistant City Attorney, City of Cleburne, handling the municipal court docket. In 1972, Judge Cooke was elected to the Texas House of Representatives, District 33. He was only 24 years old. In 1974, Judge Cooke began his first judicial office by being elected County Judge of Johnson County. He was 26 years old, and the youngest County Judge in Texas. In 1977, Governor Dolph Briscoe appointed Judge Cooke, at the age of 30, as the first judge of the newly created 249th District Court. He was the youngest District Judge in Texas. From 1984 to 1988, he served as visiting judge across the state of Texas and became a specialist in trying capital murder cases. In 1988, Judge Cooke was elected Judge of the 18th District Court, where he served until his retirement in 1998. After retirement, he was a Senior District Judge until his death. He served across the state, handling difficult cases that required complex decisions.

Judge Cooke was the first District Judge in Texas to become a Board Certified specialist in Criminal Law. Judge Cooke lectured extensively on Capital Murder trials for the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Judiciary. Judge Cooke was also called upon to lecture to all criminal judges in the state of New York on death

penalty procedure. He spoke three different times to the New York Criminal Judiciary. Judge Cooke was also the author of the "Cookebook," a trial manual for the trying of capital murder cases. Judge Cooke was past president of the Johnson County Bar Association and was a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. He was the statewide chairman of the Texas Board of Legal Specialization for the State Bar of Texas. At Judge Cooke's retirement, the Johnson County Commissioners Court named FM 3048 "The C.C. Cooke Parkway" in Judge Cooke's honor. In 2009, the Cleburne Independent School District named Judge Cooke the "Wall of Fame" recipient, given to outstanding Cleburne High School graduates.

Judge Cooke was active in civic affairs. He was Outstanding Young Man of Cleburne; Chairman, United Way of Johnson County; Chairman, Cancer Crusade; District Committeeman of the Boy Scouts of America; Outstanding Professional Man-Soil Conservation District, Johnson County; Cleburne Pee Wee Football President; Cleburne Little League Baseball Commissioner, and Cleburne Little Dribblers Commissioner. He was a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason, Moslah Shriner, and a member of Cleburne Lodge 315 AF&AM. Judge Cooke was a member of Field Street Baptist Church since 1953, having served as Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Interim Youth Minister, and Sunday School teacher.

Judge Cooke is survived by his wife of 53 years, Dr. Barbara Cooke of Cleburne; his son, Christopher Chandler Cooke and wife, Patricia, of Burleson; two grandsons, Carter Christopher and Hunter Kincaid; three granddaughters, Vivienne Rose, Genevieve Elle, and Adelaide Eloise, all of Burleson; one brother, Judge Bill Cooke and wife Tammy of Killeen; one sister, Lisa Cooke Dobbins and husband Marine Lt. Col. Richard E. Dobbins of Burleson; one nephew, Doug Dobbins and wife Laura of Visalia, California, and one niece, Vicky Cooke Johnson and husband Brian and their two daughters Annabelle and Ruby, all of Belton.

Keith W. Kennedy, JD '70, died peacefully at home on April 10, 2023 at the age of 76. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He deeply loved and cared for his supportive wife, Caren. Keith and Caren were married for over 38 years. He was born on October 12, 1946 in Globe, Arizona, the son of Clara and Paul Kennedy. His father was the store manager for the Sears and Roebuck Store in Globe, Arizona. His mother was trained as a nurse at the Henry Ford school for nursing in Chicago. He will be remembered as a very successful attorney and member of the State Bar of Texas for over 53 years. He was dedicated to his work, made evident by his success and the great respect of his clients and peers.

Keith was raised in the small mining town of Globe, Arizona. He was involved in the Boy Scouts and played on the high school basketball team. He enrolled at Baylor

University where he was a business major. He routinely hitchhiked nearly 1000 miles from his hometown to college. At Baylor, he pledged Kappa Omega Tau (KOT) and served as its president. After college, he attended his beloved Baylor University School of Law. Upon graduation from law school, he practiced law first in Waco, Texas, for almost 10 years before moving to Dallas to work as the personal attorney for his close, personal friend and client, John F. Eulich. Keith served as general counsel to Mr. Eulich's family for 40+ years; later being joined by his second son, Matt, as his law partner. Most of Keith's best friends were work colleagues that he would verbally joust with. He was very slow to anger, very quick-witted, and always positive no matter the circumstances. Counselor to all including family and friends. Committed to family and employees. Always working to help others. Keith was the consummate gentleman and expert peace broker/get the cart out of the ditch kind of guy. No challenge too big or too small. He loved to brag about his legal conquests which were many. He treated all of his clients and others with a great deal of respect and a just pinch of humility.

Keith loved fly-fishing with his two boys, Brett and Matt, in Alaska every year for 10 years. He had a love of the arts, collecting paintings from artists all over the country. He supported his daughter Gracie's aptitude for art and design. He encouraged her throughout her career and was always sending her inspiration. He had a passion for collecting historical documents and first edition book collections from a quaint bookstore on Bond St. in Mayfair, London. He could always be found with a smile on his face and was especially fond of spending time with his adored wife, Caren, at their small ranch in Sanger or second home in Phoenix. He loved his lapdog, Casper.

Keith was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Louise; and his daughter, Claire. He is survived by his wife, Caren; his children, Brett Kennedy, Matt Kennedy, and Gracie Kennedy; his grandchildren Reid, Lily, Brown and Sallie Frances. He will be celebrated at a private family service at Sparkman Hillcrest. Keith was loved and will be missed by many.

John "Richard" Wilson, JD '72, died in his home of natural causes on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at the age of 75. He was born on September 29, 1947, in Dallas, Texas, to John and Dixie Wilson. He grew up in Jacksboro, Texas, where his father was a dentist. He was the first born of three children. During his high school years, Richard was the president of the student body, salutatorian of his graduating class, and president of the Future Business Leaders of America. He excelled in debate and won the U.I.L. Class AA State Debate Championship in 1966. He was active in scouting and achieved the highest rank of Eagle Scout. Richard went on to Baylor University where he was an active member and President of Circle K International, the collegiate

community services organization of Kiwanis. Richard graduated in 1972 with a Juris Doctor and B.A. Degree, *cum laude*. After graduation, he began practicing law at Griffis and Griffis in San Angelo, TX, before moving and joining a firm in Ennis, TX. Richard enjoyed practicing law in Ennis for over 40 years, served as the District Attorney in several area communities, was a member of Tabernacle Baptist Church, and continued his community service in Kiwanis and the Boy Scouts of America. Richard met his college sweetheart, Valli Katherine "Kathi" Nutt, during his time at Baylor. They married on June 6, 1970. Richard and Kathi raised 3 children in Ennis, all of whom are now married: Patrick Wilson and wife Michelle of Rolla, MO, Lori Garcia and husband Bryan of Edmond, OK, and Eric Wilson and wife Tammy of Van Alstyne, Texas.

In addition to his wife and children, Richard is survived by his three grandsons: Jackson Garcia, Nicholas Garcia, and Joel Wilson, his sister, Nancy Sena of San Luis Obispo, California, and many other relatives and lifelong friends. Richard is preceded in death by his parents, John and Dixie Wilson of Jacksboro, TX, and his brother, Jimmy Wilson of Houston, TX.

Peter N. Steiner, JD '77, of Corpus Christi, Texas passed away in October 2022.

John William Alexander, JD '78, was born on August 9, 1949, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and died on November 5, 2022 at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital at UT Southwestern Medical Center. His parents were J.M. Alexander and Cornelia, both now long deceased. Alexander received a B.A. in 1971 from Middle Tennessee State University and then an M.A. in English in 1974 from Baylor University, where he held the Robert Browning Assistantship in the Armstrong Browning Library. He served as production editor of "Studies in Browning and His Circle" and was a proofreader at Baylor Press. He taught at Blooming Grove High School, Paul Quinn College, and McLennan Community College before attending law school. In 1978, Alexander graduated from Baylor Law School, where he was awarded a scholarship his senior year. He then began a law practice that lasted 33 years. In December 1979, he began partnership in Winnsboro with M.D. Carlock and later opened his own law office on North Main Street in Winnsboro where he practiced for more than 30 years. He was licensed before the United States Supreme Court, three U.S. Courts of Appeal, the U.S. Court of Claims, and all federal courts in Texas. His corporate clients were both large and small: he had represented the John Deere Company, Yamaha Corporation of America, Team Air Express, U.S. Sprint, and a number of water supply corporations, banks, and telephone cooperatives. He was also licensed in Tennessee and had a second office there for several years, partnering

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with famed Tennessee criminal lawyer Wayne Emmons. Alexander was well known for his skill as a trial lawyer and for the precision with which he drafted documents and legal pleadings. In fact, the former speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, a lawyer himself, once remarked that “when Alexander writes a will, it’s writ.” He retired from active practice following a heart attack in 2011. Alexander devoted a large part of his working life to helping the disadvantaged, which was work for which he had great passion. At the time of his death, Alexander was in his third decade of service to the board of directors of Lone Star Legal Aid, having served 19 of those years as board chair of Lone Star or its predecessor, East Texas Legal Services. In addition, he served on the board of Advocacy, Inc., which provides state-wide legal services to the disabled, and he became its board chair. In 2006, Alexander was honored by the State Bar of Texas with the Frank J. Scurlock Award, its highest award for public service. Alexander’s novel, *Shoveling Smoke*, was published by Chronicle Books in 2005, and was thought to be the last book read by Governor Ann Richards. He also wrote several short stories and edited a number of novels and scholarly works. Following his forced retirement post-heart attack, in the words of Alexander, he spent “his days reading, writing, and practicing guitar, which he played badly for over 50 years, progressing over that time from beginner to advanced beginner.”

Alexander is survived by his wife of 52 years, Susan Parkes Alexander; daughter Lauren Anne Alexander-Labahn and her husband, Joe Labahn of Austin, Texas; daughter Shannon Leigh Boling and her husband, Dr. John Boling of Memphis, Tennessee; four grandchildren: Charlie, Vivienne, Caroline, and Mirabelle; a sister, Barbara Cull of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and a brother, Dr. Jim Alexander and wife, Judy Alexander, of Greenville, South Carolina.

Joy Elaine Nelson, JD '78, passed into the loving arms of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on April 21, 2023. Elaine was born September 16, 1947, in Waco, Texas, to Joyce Harlan Edwards and Bedford Duncan Edwards. She attended Waco High School, graduated with honors, and received a debate scholarship to Baylor University. While at Baylor, she was a member of the Athenian Sorority (Kappa Kappa Gamma), honored as a Baylor Beauty, and married the love of her life, David Nelson, on April 12, 1969. Elaine’s magnificent mind, quick wit, and humility were traits that defined her. At Baylor Law School, Elaine was Articles Editor for the *Baylor Law Review* and graduated *cum laude*. She was a member of Baylor Moot Court Society and Phi Delta Phi. Elaine was also a member of the Baylor National Moot Court Team. Upon graduation, she accepted a position with Austin Industries in Dallas and later served as its General Counsel. She was a founding member of the Construction Law Sections of both the

Dallas and Texas Bar Associations and lectured widely on construction law. She was a graduate of Leadership Dallas and Leadership Texas, and a Board Member for the North Texas Women’s Business Council.

Elaine was an active member at Park Cities Baptist Church for 44 years. With grace and conviction, she served newborns, newlyweds, youth groups and seniors, and every age in between. She and David were department directors to senior adults. Elaine cherished her experiences and friendships at the Dallas Woman’s Club where she served as First Vice President over programs and as President of the Dallas Garden Club. Her philanthropic roles included serving as a Board Member of Children’s Medical Center, President of the Interfaith Housing Coalition, and President of the Baylor University Women’s Council of Dallas. She was an active member of the North Texas Women’s Business Council, Crystal Charity Ball, the Junior League of Dallas, and the Senior Source. In 2011, she was honored as “Baylor Woman of Distinction” of the Baylor University Women’s Council of Dallas.

Elaine loved to read, cook and travel, especially with friends from the Dallas Garden Club.

Timothy Powell Herron, JD '80, father to six, Poppa Tim to six grandchildren, and successful trial lawyer, passed away on March 10th, 2023. Tim was born on October 18th, 1952 to the late Leonard “Bill” and Kathryn (Powell) Herron. His first job in life was that of big brother to his sister Cherry (Herron) Sossamon. He consoled her when she was sad and met her frequent requests to make her laugh. He carried this desire to make others laugh throughout his life. Whether it was juvenile humor, “dad” jokes, or a joke at his own expense, he enjoyed creating laughter. After success as a college debater at UNT and TCU, where he earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees, Tim became the debate coach at Samford University in Birmingham before focusing his advocacy skills on the practice of law. The family of the Watergate prosecutor, Leon Jaworski had created a full tuition scholarship to Jaworski’s alma mater, Baylor Law School. Tim was the first recipient in the nation to receive this honor.

Tim’s lunches and dinners with friends and family were where many memories were made. He was known to order an excessive amount of appetizers and encouraged everyone to eat dessert. Most meals ended with Tim exclaiming “There is a nap with my name on it”. What made Tim beloved by those closest to him were his imperfections. He was fiercely competitive and was known to hold a grudge. He often doled out terrible advice but was always there to encourage and support those he loved. Most recently, his high blood pressure forced him to retire from political fights on social media, but he continued to curse those of opposing viewpoints. Tim relished being a father to his kids as they became young adults. He took pride in their accomplishments

and apologized profusely if he ever failed to answer their calls.

Tim is survived by his wife Che and their two children: Austen and Regan. He is also survived by his first wife Diane Gulden and their four daughters: Courtney West, Whitney Warmack, Hillary Meador, and Caitlin. He adored his six grandchildren: Delaney, Barton, Winifred, Harriet, Kieran, and Fergus. He leaves behind his sister Cherry and her husband Michael.

John Ernest Smith, JD '80, of Friendswood, TX, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday morning, February 5, 2023 after a short but hard fought battle with kidney cancer.

John was born May 15, 1956, in Houston, TX, to Leslie Clyde Smith and Helen Esther Smith. He grew up in Denver Harbor, TX, where he graduated from Furr High School in 1974. John graduated from Baylor University in 1978 and from Baylor University School of Law in 1980. He became Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy in 1989 and opened his own practice, John E. Smith & Associates, the same year. John was a member and three-term past president of the Houston Association of Debtor Attorneys. He was also a Master and previous co-chair of the Membership Committee of the Moeller/Foltz Inns of Court, an educational and social organization for top attorneys in the field of bankruptcy law.

If ever an obituary wasn’t possible to adequately capture a person’s life, it would be for John E. Smith. The great irony was always his name was John Smith but he was truly one of a kind. If you met him, you never forgot him and he never forgot you. He was a man of God with utmost integrity, and was kind, giving, wise, faithful beyond measure, witty, hard working, patient when it counted, dependable, always on time until he married his wife, loved people, and he remembered everything. Most people knew him for his sense of humor, his loyalty to his alma mater, Baylor University, his undying love, pride, and adoration for his family, and for his gifted heart for the Lord. If John liked you, he teased you. It was his love language. Oh how he loved being around people, laughing and talking and telling his stories. People brought him great joy. He couldn’t go anywhere without running into someone he knew, which always meant a conversation would ensue.

John took great pride in being a Baylor Bear and if Aggies bleed maroon and white, he definitely bled green and gold. He had season tickets through the ugly years of Baylor football and loved watching his Baylor sports teams rise to the top. He knew every player by name and number and loved discussing them with his two sons. He also loved to spar with friends who supported other universities — always getting the last word in. He was honored to know his oldest son would follow in his footsteps by also attending Baylor University. John loved his family fiercely and protectively. He was a

loving son, grandson, brother, uncle, husband and dad. He was the family historian and keeper of all the old memories which he cherished and enjoyed sharing. He waited a long time to become a father himself, and he put a lifetime of love into the 18 years he had. His boys brought pride and joy to his life every day and if you talked to him long enough you knew it. A more proud and dedicated father could not be found here on this side of Heaven. John was just as devoted to his wife. He told her constantly she was the love of his life and he enjoyed proving it to her every day. He truly was the example for a loving husband and father. He "always" put their needs above his own. John was a master at showing them in all the little ways and big ways how much each of one of us meant to him. All of the love John showed to those around him would not have been possible without his love for the Lord. John's faith was unyielding. He was a rock to those all around him because he held on mightily to The Rock. Even in his darkest hour he trusted his Lord and Savior. John spent a lifetime serving the Church. He began teaching in the children's department when he was just a teenager and was known for always carrying his bible to school, earning him the nickname "Preacher." John taught many Sunday school classes over the years, each one becoming a family of believers. He truly had a gift of explaining the Word of God and was known and often teased for taking an extraordinarily long time to go over just a few verses. The more his class discussed the Scripture and asked questions, the better he knew the class went. He also took great joy in being a small group leader with the youth. Each one of those boys meant just as much to him as he did to them. He taught, especially in his last days to trust, no matter the circumstances. John loved to cook, especially fried chicken and especially for the boys and their friends and only while listening to his music — a little bit of country, a lot of original Christian rock, and always Frank Sinatra. He loved the Houston Astros. He was an avid reader and enjoyed watching the black and white classic movies, googling what became of that actor during and after the movie every time. He never grew tired of John Wayne, Cary Grant, Jane Austen, Tolkien, or C. S. Lewis. But nothing compared to the joy of his favorite activity — watching his boys play baseball. He loved watching them do what they loved and he took great pride in seeing them out on the field, especially when they were on the mound. John never missed a practice, not just the games, when they were growing up. He moved his office closer to home so he could be there for every moment, and he was.

John is preceded in death by his father, Leslie Clyde Smith; his mother, Helen Esther Smith-Skinner; his brothers, Leslie Curtis Smith and Richard Smith; and his sister, Ruby Belle Smith Hodson. He is survived by his loving wife of 19 years, Melissa Smith and their sons Jacob Smith and Michael Smith; his brother, Tim Smith, and wife, Christa; his sister, Janis and husband Bob Robbins; sister-in-law, Judy Smith; father-in-law, Lee Sackett; mother-in-law, Tricia and husband, Larry Hyek;

brother-in-law, Russell Sackett and wife, Pam; brother-in-law Derek Hook and wife, Meagan; brother-in-law Kyle Sackett; sister-in-law Kara Sackett; sister-in-law Karly and husband, Troy Graham; his nephews, Les Smith, and wife Lisa; Brian Smith, and wife Dahnya; Josh Rogers, and wife Mindee; Derrick Robbins, and wife Grisel; Hayden Hallsted; Tatum Hook; and nieces, Mandi Smith; Angela, and husband, Thomas Connaughton; Morgan Sackett; Peyton Graham; many great nephews and nieces; his career long assistant, Estella Lopez and paralegal, Patricia Ford; and countless friends, extended family members, church family, Sunday school classes, colleagues, small group boys, and baseball fans. "There are some who bring a light so bright to the world that even after they have gone the light remains." - Unknown

Wallace Morgan Smith, JD '83, was called to Heaven on Sunday, November 6, 2022, after taking in a bucket list Astros World Series final game in Houston, Texas, with his beloved wife, daughter, and son-in-law by his side. Born in Rosenberg, Texas, on April 16, 1958, to Dr. Ralph Morgan and Bess Noble Smith, Wallace spent the majority of his life as a proud Austinite. In his later years, Wallace and his wife found great joy in the Texas Hill Country, becoming active members of the Fredericksburg community. For all that knew Wallace, his sense of humor, quick wit, kindness, and the "twinkle in his eyes" will not be forgotten.

Wallace graduated from Anderson High School and accepted admission to The University of Texas at Austin. During his undergraduate finance "studies," he was a proud and active member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the Texas Cowboys (New Man '78). Wallace routinely spoke of the positive impact his time as a Cowboy and an SAE had on his life. His framed chaps hung in his study, and he often donned a Texas Cowboys belt buckle, even on his last day. Wallace sought higher education at Baylor Law School, receiving his JD in 1983. Upon law school graduation, Wallace was set up on a blind date by two close friends. That blind date turned out to be his last. He married Lanette Lehnertz of Tyler, Texas, in 1985. By all accounts, Wallace was an exceptionally accomplished trial lawyer. While studying at Baylor Law School, he was hand-picked by Matt "Mad Dog" Dawson to serve on the Practice Court team and excelled in national competitions. Not one to flinch in the face of adversity, Wallace was a fierce steward of the law and earned the respect of those he represented as well as those he opposed. In 2000, he co-founded what is now Smith Robertson, LLP as the lead litigation partner. Wallace's commitment to the truth, and tenacity in difficult circumstances, will be greatly missed.

Outside of his professional career, Wallace wholeheartedly devoted his time to numerous philanthropic causes, including serving on the boards of Sharing God's Love, a non-profit prison ministry and

the American Cancer Society. Wallace felt a special connection and calling to the Helping Hand Home for Children, where he served on the Community Advisory Board for seven years. Wallace also held a number of leadership roles within the community. He served as the Chairman of the Chancellor's Council for The University of Texas System. Wallace also served as Chairman of Bachelors of Austin, President of Headliners Club, and as a Board Member of Austin Country Club. Wallace was a proud life member of the Texas Exes. Aside from family, nothing gave Wallace greater joy than hunting and the outdoors, and the companionship they provided. His love of hunting ultimately led him to receive an invitation to join the International Order of St. Hubertus, a group of individuals dedicated to the preservation and conservation of wildlife. Win or lose, Wallace was a loyal and devoted fan of the Texas Longhorns, a fanhood which started when he was a "ball boy" for the 1969 and 1970 National Championship teams under Darrell K. Royal. Wallace was also an avid global traveler, with a keen eye for the culture, and more importantly, the local libations. Italy was one of Wallace's favorite destinations, as he traveled there with dear friends for his 60th birthday and with his family in years prior.

Wallace is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Lanette Lehnertz Smith of Austin and Fredericksburg, Texas. He and Lanette were especially proud of their three children: son Madison Morgan Smith and wife Ryann of Washington, D.C.; son Noble Lehnertz Smith of Fort Worth, Texas; daughter Martha Lauren Treat and husband Justin, and granddaughter Randa Kelley Treat of Houston, Texas. The birth of his grandchild, two days before his 63rd birthday, brought Wallace immense joy. Wallace is preceded in death by his parents, and survived by his sister, Diane Smith Love and her husband Bill of Austin, Texas.

Michael Floyd Barrett, JD '88, of Fort Worth, Texas, soared free of this mortal realm on November 17, 2022. He passed away after complications from lung surgery for "HHT," a genetic disorder. Michael grew up in Weatherford, Texas, and attended TCU where he met the love of his life, Carolyn Mitchell, in 1983. They married in 1990 and were rarely apart throughout their life together. Michael earned his associate's degree from Weatherford Junior College in 1982. He moved to Fort Worth to attend TCU and graduated with his Bachelor's in Music Education in 1985. After deciding that his passion for music did not include being a band director, he went to Baylor Law School and graduated in 1988. Michael practiced law in Weatherford, Texas, and he enjoyed helping people through their legal issues. But after ten years of supporting clients through divorce, he stated he was "tired of splitting up couple's Tupperware." He then decided to apply his creative and analytical talents to

Alumni OBITUARIES

a career in computer software engineering. Michael went back to TCU and got his master's degree in Computer Software Engineering in 1998. He taught computer science at TCU for several semesters and worked for five years at a software development business. For the last 19 years, Michael was proud to work at Birdville ISD. He helped them navigate a byzantine landscape of computer software which was vital to secure funding for the school district. Michael was a musician, music fan, dog lover, and Dog Dad to 15 rescued Siberian Huskies. Dogs have the ability to peer deeply into one's soul, and they all adored Michael. He cherished his time with his childhood dog, Rip, and five beloved ferrets as well. He took after his late Dad, Benny Barrett, because he never met a stranger, at home or at a bowl game or across the sea. He was an avid TCU supporter and fan, although some might say he was a long-suffering Horned Frog fan. He was also a huge fan of his four nieces, Ella, Daphne, and Eme Barrett, and Sylvia Huq-Mitchell. Michael was delighted to attend any live music performance. He enjoyed Grateful Dead concerts as much as classical music, and he was always up for catching a show from a local band. He loved all forms of music. His musical palate spanned the dial from jam bands to very nearly every branch of the musical tree. More than any other form of communication, music resonated within him and rocked his soul with the universal language of love. As his final act of love on this earth, Michael was an organ donor.

Michael is survived by his wife and soulmate, Carolyn Mitchell, his mother, Mary Helen Barrett of Weatherford, Texas, brother Bryan Barrett and sister-in-law Janice Barrett of Fort Worth, Texas, his four delightful, talented, gracious, and loving nieces mentioned above, many loving extended family members, and his family of friends.

Marland Joseph "Joe" Copeland, JD '88, left us far too soon Friday, May 12, 2023. A beloved father and husband, he will be dearly missed by all that loved him. Joe appreciated a good obituary, deeming them a little piece of history. Born in Waco June 4, 1961, Joe lived far and wide but no matter where life took him, Texas was always home. Graduating salutatorian of Mart High School, Joe went on to attend Baylor University where he graduated with both a B.B.A. and a J.D. A decade later, he received a merit scholarship to the University of Chicago Booth School of Business from which he received an M.B.A. Joe accomplished much in his long and dedicated career from representing clients at the U.S. Supreme Court to serving as a Vice President at Goodyear Tire. His professional life culminated in his time spent as CEO and Board member of Playpower,

Inc., a company specializing in commercial playgrounds, docks, and shade structures. Through this role, he was able to help children smile by making the world more fun. His work led him to live and work across the globe — from India to Australia — but two of his favorite places to be (besides Texas) were England and Germany. Yet even more than his illustrious career, he considered his role as a father his greatest accomplishment. Joe was truly selfless, always thinking of others before himself. A true gentleman in every sense of the word, he believed deeply in treating others as you wish to be treated. He was never one to give up on a challenge, making it against the odds from a small Texas town to the world stage. A classic Land Rover Defender, a morning walk, and a good book were amongst Joe's many loves. A voracious reader, he particularly enjoyed his newspapers, the Oxford English Dictionary, independent bookstores, and well-researched non-fiction; as a result, he could engage with anyone on just about any topic.

He was preceded in death by both of his parents; as well as his and Sara's four corgis - Talley, Lilli, Roo, and Henry. He is survived by his wife, Sara Ann (Brady) Copeland of Pinehurst, North Carolina; and his daughter, Caroline Hadley McCutcheon Copeland of London, England. Numerous other cousins and family will also miss him deeply.

Brenda Evelyn Brockner, JD '91, was born in Columbia, Louisiana, on March 30, 1950. Her parents were Daniel William Brockner and Evelyn Camille (Mayer) Brockner. She passed from this life on February 13, 2023, at St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe, Louisiana, after a brief illness. She was a resident of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Brenda grew up in Olla, Louisiana, where she attended Olla-Standard Elementary school, and was a graduate of LaSalle High School. She later received a B.S. degree at Louisiana Tech University, an M.S. degree at Florida State University, and a law degree from Baylor University, where she ranked 1st in her graduating class. She spent much of her working life in Austin, Texas, and was a former Assistant Attorney General, State of Texas.

She is survived by a brother, Daniel Clay Brockner (Alice), a niece, Megan Ann (Brockner) Maxwell (Eric), and numerous cousins. Brenda was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Natchitoches, Louisiana. She was a registered organ donor and was buried next to her parents with a graveside service in the Olla Cemetery.

Ryan W. Green, JD '98, passed away Oct. 16, 2022, in St. Thomas, USVI. Ryan was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on Dec. 16, 1971. He graduated with honors from the University of Mississippi in 1994 and was also a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. After encouragement from friends, he enrolled in Baylor Law School in 1998 and graduated with honors. In his early career he worked for law firms in Austin, Houston, and Dallas, Texas. Those years gave him a strong platform for a career in plaintiff law. Ryan continued to maintain his Texas license throughout his career. Ryan obtained his professional law license in the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2003. Quick with a smile and a work ethic that was solely focused on the client, he quickly grew his practice. His personal interests included being an avid history, art, architecture, and design enthusiast. This was one of the reasons Ryan fell in love with the historical area of Charlotte Amalie where he maintained his law office, and soon his future residence, which was the historical home referred to as the Crystal Palace. Purchasing the residential treasure from the Lockhart family, he made a promise to restore the home to its original state of grandeur. He was close to fulfilling that at the time of his death.

Ryan's driving philosophy was "everyone was equal and everyone was valued as a friend." He would greet you as if he had known you forever. He is survived by his wife, Liza Park, of Atlanta, Georgia. Also by his children: Ryder William Greene and Riley Catherine Greene of Dallas, Texas; Charles Yi Hwang Park Greene of Atlanta, Georgia; and Roman William Greene Cintron. In addition to his children, he is survived by his mother, Karen Dodson Greene and his sister, Leah Kelly Tepera of Dallas, Texas; his father, Richard Parker Greene and his wife Debbie of Fort Worth, Texas; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

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