Baylor University
School of Law
Commencement

Saturday, February 3
Two Thousand Twenty Four
Ten O’Clock in the Morning
First Baptist Church of Waco
Waco, Texas
Commencement Program
Baylor University School of Law

Saturday, February 3, 2024 — Ten O’Clock in the Morning
First Baptist Church of Waco
Waco, Texas

Processional
Chris Wommack
Pianist

Welcome
Patricia Wilson
Interim Dean and the
William Boswell Chair of Law

Invocation
Steven Daniel Lowry
Member of the Commencement Class

Introductions
Dean Wilson

Student Remarks
Allison Towson Brittain
Highest Ranking Student
in the Commencement Class

Address
Greg White
Legal Writing Lecturer, Ret.

Remarks
Linda A. Livingstone, Ph.D.
Baylor University President

Degree Conferral
President Livingstone
Dean Wilson

Presentation of Diplomas
President Livingstone
Dean Wilson
Matt Cordon
Interim Associate Dean,
Director of the Legal Writing Program,
and the A. Royce Stout Chair of Law
Angela Cruseturner
Senior Assistant Dean

Hooding of Graduates
James E. Wren
Leon Jaworski Chair of Practice & Procedure
and Co-Director of the Executive LL.M. in
Litigation Management
Jessica Asbridge
Assistant Professor of Law

Recessional
Chris Wommack
Pianist

Please join us for a reception honoring the graduates at the Student Lounge & River Terrace
in the Sheila & Walter Umphrey Law Center immediately following the ceremony.
Hosted by the Baylor Law Alumni Association.
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<tr>
<th>JURIS DOCTOR DEGREES</th>
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<tr>
<td>David Anaya Juvera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greta Wallin Andersen</td>
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<td>Kyle Ryan Anderson</td>
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<td>Savannah Elizabeth Bond</td>
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<td>Allison Towson Brittain</td>
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<td>Blake Michael Bryan</td>
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<td>Casey Michelle Cooper</td>
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<td>William Thomas Cronin</td>
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<td>Elena Maria Folgueras</td>
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<td>William Cole Geist</td>
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<td>Haleigh Ann Hashem</td>
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<td>Canon Parker Hill</td>
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<td>Colton Everett Hixson</td>
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<td>Austin Andrew Imro</td>
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<td>Conagher Douglas Jones</td>
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<td>Logan Adele Jones</td>
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Relatives who are Baylor Law alumni/ae are invited to hood their graduate. These relatives should come forward to the left side of the stage when their graduate is to receive their diploma.
HONORS

Highest Ranking Student
Allison Towson Brittain

summa cum laude
Allison Towson Brittain

magna cum laude
William Cole Geist
cum laude
Jordan Taylor Pratt

Greta Wallin Andersen
Casey Michelle Cooper
William Thomas Cronin

Emily Lane Ullom

SPECIAL DISTINCTIONS

Criminal Practice
Conagher Douglas Jones

Public Interest
Aaron Michael Jupe

FELLOWS

Leadership Fellow
Reece Watson Klapper

Public Interest Fellow
Rhasean Terrell Stephens

JOINT DEGREE CANDIDATE

Master of Divinity
David Anaya Juvera

HIGHEST RANKING STUDENT, HONORS, AND SPECIAL DISTINCTION

Highest ranking student for the commencement ceremony is based upon grades earned through the previous quarter. Final determination of academic honors, rankings, fellowships, and special distinctions are made after all grades are recorded for the student’s final quarter of enrollment. A student who meets the requirements for the designation of honors, as a fellow, or for a special distinction shall receive that designation only if the Baylor Law faculty determines that the student has made meaningful contributions to the Law School program and that the student is worthy of such distinction in accordance with the traditions, expectations, and mission of Baylor Law.

Criminal Practice Special Distinction is awarded to students who have completed Criminal Practice Professional Track, have completed the Criminal Practice capstone, and completed at least ten additional credit hours from a list of courses designated by the Baylor Law faculty. The student must also meet a minimum grade point average requirement.

Public Interest Special Distinction is awarded to students who have completed 20 hours of pro bono public interest work and twenty-four credit hours from a list of courses designated by the Baylor Law faculty. The student must also meet a minimum grade point average requirement.

Leadership Fellows must complete the Leadership Engagement and Development class, which focuses not only on the theory of leadership, but also upon intensive self-assessment and reflection to maximize strengths and overcome weaknesses, and the development of practical skills to enable graduates to make a positive impact in their communities. In addition to the class, Leadership Fellows must complete additional leadership-related Professional Development programming, serve as an officer of a Baylor Law School student organization for a minimum of three quarters, volunteer for at least 25 hours of community service, volunteer for at least 45 hours in a leadership-focused internship, and complete the Baylor Ropes Challenge and Team Building Course.

Public Interest Fellows have earned the designation by completing the pro bono and public service aspirational goals set by the Baylor Law faculty. These goals include completion of over 225 hours of pro bono and public service while enrolled in Baylor Law and completion of at least ten hours of courses that have a public interest focus.

Baylor University commencement ceremonies are uncertified. Some degree candidates may have degree requirements in progress.
PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

LINDA A. LIVINGSTONE, PH.D.

Linda A. Livingstone, Ph.D., is the 15th president of Baylor University, having served in that capacity since 2017. During her tenure as president, Dr. Livingstone has overseen the development of Baylor’s strategic plan, *Illuminate*, which provides a foundation for Baylor’s aspiration to become a preeminent Christian research university. In addition, she has led Give Light, a $1.1 billion comprehensive philanthropic campaign that undergirds *Illuminate*, reaching the campaign’s fundraising goals well before its anticipated conclusion.

Enhancing the University’s academic enterprise has been a key priority of Dr. Livingstone’s leadership. She is animated by a desire to build upon Baylor’s historic strengths and increase undergraduate and graduate educational opportunities while expanding the University’s service to the surrounding world through research and scholarship. Through the philanthropic generosity of the Baylor Family, the University has added more than 40 new fully endowed chairs to the faculty since her arrival. In addition, 100 new faculty lines will be created over the course of five years in support of *Illuminate*’s goals.

As a result of Dr. Livingstone’s dynamic and collaborative leadership, the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education designated Baylor a Research 1 university in December 2021—its highest classification—three years earlier than internal projections had anticipated.

During Dr. Livingstone’s presidency, Baylor has responded to the need to cultivate an increasingly welcoming and nurturing community. Baylor is one of the country’s top-10 Most Trusted Universities in consecutive surveys from 2022 and 2023 by national research firm Morning Consult. Morning Consult also named Baylor the second-most trusted university by parents and employers. In addition, Dr. Livingstone has led the implementation of recommendations from the Commission on Historic Campus Representations designed to create a physical environment on campus that tells the complete Baylor story and celebrates the diversity of the Baylor Family.

During Dr. Livingstone’s tenure as president, Baylor has consistently been named one of the top two schools in the Big 12 Conference and one of the top five in Texas in *U.S. News & World Report*’s annual college rankings. Baylor has also risen in such categories as First-year Experience, Best Undergraduate Teaching, and Best Colleges for Veterans. As Baylor has continued to enjoy strong enrollments and expanding academic programs, the University also has undertaken renovations to historic academic buildings and residence halls while building new facilities—such as the Paul and Alejandra Foster Pavilion and the Mark and Paula Hurd Welcome Center—that are transforming the Baylor skyline.

A strong voice for the role of faith-based institutions in American higher education, Dr. Livingstone has established herself as a scholar in organizational behavior, leadership, and creativity. She has been extensively published and cited in academic and professional outlets. As Baylor’s president, she has applied her faith commitment to all aspects of her leadership, drawing inspiration from the message of Romans 12:2: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing, and perfect will.” During her presidency, Baylor faculty and staff have initiated an unprecedented longitudinal study to track the long-term impact of a Baylor education on a person’s faith and character.
The information collected each year, from the time students arrive at Baylor to a decade after graduation, has informed a number of changes on campus, including a redesign of our University Chapel course.

As an extension of her leadership on the Baylor campus, Dr. Livingstone has become a nationally recognized leader in the landscape of college athletics. She served on the NCAA Constitution Committee charged with developing a new, streamlined constitution for the NCAA, and she is a member of the Division I Transformation Committee. In June 2022, she was named one of nine members of the newly reorganized NCAA Board of Governors, which she now chairs. She is also chair of the American Council on Education Board and chair of the Big 12 Conference Board of Directors. Additionally, she serves on the Baylor College of Medicine Board of Trustees and the Board of Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas.

Dr. Livingstone previously served as dean and professor of management at The George Washington University School of Business, as dean and professor of management at Pepperdine University’s Graziadio School of Business and Management, and as a tenured faculty member and associate dean of graduate programs at Baylor’s Hankamer School of Business.

Dr. Livingstone was inducted into Oklahoma State University’s Hall of Fame in 2020. She is a member of the Spears School of Business Hall of Fame, was the first recipient of the Outstanding Ph.D. Alumnus Award, and was recognized in 2015 with the OSU Distinguished Alumni Award.

A native of Perkins, Oklahoma, Dr. Livingstone played varsity basketball at Oklahoma State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in economics and management, a Master of Business Administration, and a Doctor of Philosophy in management and organizational behavior. Her husband, Brad, a high school history teacher, also played basketball at Oklahoma State. They have one daughter, Shelby, a former volleyball student-athlete at Rice University and graduate of Baylor’s George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

GREG WHITE

Greg White has been connected to Baylor Law for over 20 years. He began as an adjunct professor, and a coach for Moot Court teams. In February 2016, he became a full-time faculty member specializing in legal writing and teaching courses in the Law School’s Legal Writing Center. In that role, he taught classes in Appellate Brief Writing and Litigation Writing, along with assisting in Advocacy programs. He eventually was designated a Senior Lecturer. He officially retired from Baylor Law in 2023, but continues to be present on campus with moot court teams, mock trial teams, and assisting with the Advocacy Program. He will tell you that he enjoys every minute at Baylor Law, and that the job of a retired professor is one of the best he's ever had.

Professor White earned his Juris Doctor from Baylor Law in 1982. He has been Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1987—which means he has been doing appellate work for over 35 years. In that time, he has lead counsel in over 70 reported cases, including a number from the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit—where he argued a case *en banc*—and the Supreme Court of Texas. His cases involved business disputes, civil rights, election laws, personal injury, intellectual property, criminal law, and real property. He was appointed counsel on two death penalty cases, both of which received substantial media attention.
Professor White is married to Ellen White—former head coach of the Baylor Equestrian Team—and has two daughters. Both of his daughters are practicing lawyers with a considerable amount of their practice focused on appeals. Professor White says that “Family Moot Court” is required when any of them have an appellate argument—adding that “Family Moot Court” is a lot harder than law school moot court.

PATRICIA WILSON

Patricia A. Wilson was named Interim Dean of Baylor Law on July 1, 2023 after serving as Associate Dean since 2021. Dean Wilson is also the William Boswell Chair of Law. She has been a member of the Baylor Law faculty since 1993 and has taught courses on Employment Discrimination, Employment Relations, Labor Law, Family Law, Property, Antitrust, Intellectual Property, Consumer Protection, and Legal Writing. She taught the first year Property course for 12 years. Dean Wilson also serves as a Minority Law Student Advisor. For the past 10 years, she has coached multiple moot court teams each year, and her teams have done exceptionally well.

In the classroom, students benefit both from Dean Wilson’s professional and personal experience, where she supplements textbook cases with real-life examples. Before joining the Baylor Law Faculty, she practiced law for seven years, including four years with American Airlines, Inc. There, she managed litigation matters worth millions of dollars, negotiated and drafted contracts for topics as diverse as software licensing and health care plan administration, and handled matters involving airline regulation and employment discrimination.

Dean Wilson has published articles on property and real estate issues and client counseling. For years, she regularly spoke at continuing legal education seminars in New York, San Francisco, and Chicago on such topics as legal ethics and complex real estate negotiations.

Service is particularly important to Dean Wilson. In 2005, she established the People’s Law School program at Baylor Law—an annual event designed to educate members of the Waco community about their legal rights and make the law “user friendly.” For the first 15 years of that program, she served as the driving force behind it. Dean Wilson has served as the National Moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, having been a member of the Governing Board on two separate occasions and was the Moderator of the Texas Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Dean Wilson has served on numerous national boards and committees, including the State Bar of Texas Consumer and Commercial Law Council, the American Bar Association Competitions Committee, the Dispute Resolution Center Board, and as President of the Waco-McLennan County Bar Association. In 2016, Dean Wilson was honored as the Outstanding Professor for Contributions to the Academic Community.

Dean Wilson earned her undergraduate degree from Purdue University (B.A., 1982, Sociology), graduating with distinction. She received her law degree from Northwestern University School of Law (J.D., 1985), where she was named a Wigmore Scholar and was a member of the Board of Editors of the Journal of International Law and Business.

Dean Wilson and her husband, Michael Jones, are the parents of four children. She enjoys spending time with her family, especially her three spirited grandchildren.
Matt Cordon was named Interim Associate Dean of Baylor Law on July 1, 2023. He also serves as the Director of Legal Writing and the A. Royce Stout Chair of Law. Dean Cordon has earned several honors, including a national award for outstanding article from the American Association of Law Libraries. He has twice earned faculty awards from Baylor University, including Outstanding Professor for Scholarship among all university tenure-track faculty members in 2004 and Outstanding Professor for Teaching among tenured faculty in 2019. He has additionally won young alumnus awards from both Central Methodist University (2006) and the College of Information at the University of North Texas (2009).

Dean Cordon has long been active as a university faculty leader. He is one of two Baylor University faculty members ever to have been elected twice to serve as Chair of the Faculty Senate, including terms in 2007-08 and again in 2020-21. He also served for ten years as the chair of the University Committee on Committees and has been a member of more than a dozen campus-wide committees and work groups. He served for many years as the chair of the Law School’s Student Relations Committee.

As an instructor, he is principally responsible for teaching introductory writing courses in the Legal Analysis, Research, and Communications (LARC) program. He also teaches courses as well as independent studies focusing on litigation drafting. Moreover, he developed the Advanced Legal Research course offered at Baylor Law since 2001.

Dean Cordon played tennis and football at Central Methodist University in Missouri and later became a sportswriter and sports information director. He and his wife, Jennifer, are strong supporters of the Dallas Cowboys. He is active in martial arts, earning black belts in both Taekwondo and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He won a gold medal in point sparring at the 2011 AAU National Taekwondo Championships, five gold medals at international opens sponsored by the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation, and five championship belts at tournaments sponsored by the North American Grappling Association.

Angela Russell Cruseturner serves as the Senior Assistant Dean for Baylor Law. In this role, she coordinates Baylor Law’s academic support, admissions, alumni relations, career development, information technology, and marketing efforts.

Dean Cruseturner’s longstanding commitment to and passion for working on behalf of Baylor Law students, whom she characterizes as “the most dedicated and hardest-working law students in the country,” fuels her commitment to their success. After more than a decade of leadership in Baylor Law’s Career Development Office, and four years prior as the Law School’s Director of Admissions and Student Recruitment, she relishes the opportunity to counsel law students on a variety of educational and career-related matters.

After receiving a B.A. in history from Baylor University, Dean Cruseturner attended Baylor Law and received her J.D. in 2002. She joined Pakis, Giotes, Page and Burleson, P.C. in Waco after graduation and then served as a staff attorney for Judge Bill Vance at the Tenth Court of Appeals.
Dean Cruseturner is committed to serving the legal profession and the greater Waco community. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation. She currently serves as the immediate past president of the Judge Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court and on the boards of the McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center and the Waco-McLennan County Bar Association. The Law School honored her in 2020 as the Young Baylor Lawyer of the Year, and she is a past recipient of the McLennan County Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

Dean Cruseturner has two sons. Caleb, an infant when she entered law school, is a graduate of Baylor University and teaches middle school humanities. Cade, who was born in between law school quarters, serves as a United States Marine.

JAMES E. WREN

Professor Jim Wren is the Leon Jaworski Chair of Practice and Procedure at Baylor Law, the Director of the Baylor Law Practice Court Program, and Co-Director of the Baylor Executive LL.M. in Litigation Management Program. He graduated with a J.D. *cum laude* from Baylor Law in 1980. He added an M.A. in International Relations from the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1982.

Professor Wren was recruited to Baylor Law in 2006 to teach Practice Court. Prior to joining the Baylor Law faculty, he served for many years as an adjunct professor teaching the Management of Complex Litigation course to third-year students. He comes from a specialization in business litigation, including business fraud, professional liability, and fiduciary litigation. While in private practice he was named a Texas Super Lawyer in Business Litigation each year from the time the designation originated in 2002. He is the co-author of four books addressing various aspects of litigation and trial advocacy.

Professor Wren is board certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and in Civil Trial Law and Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He served as President of the National Board of Trial Advocacy—the ABA-accredited national certifying board for civil trial, criminal trial, and other legal specializations—from 2009-2011, and now serves on its National Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

Professor Wren is a staunch advocate for protection of the U.S. constitutional right to jury trial. That commitment has been instrumental in the development of the Baylor Law Executive LL.M. in Litigation Management, which is devoted to managing litigation with excellence and efficiency.

Professor Wren continues to represent clients in various courts around the nation. He is licensed for federal practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and the Western, Northern, Eastern, and Southern Districts of Texas. He also appears in other federal and state courts by special admission.

Professor Asbridge writes in the areas of property law and administrative law. Her recent scholarly work has been published in the BYU Law Review, Oregon Law Review, and Northwestern University Law Review Online. She frequently speaks at CLE conferences on eminent domain and regulatory takings topics, including at ALI CLE’s Eminent Domain and Land Valuation Conference and CLE International’s Texas Eminent Domain Conference.

Prior to teaching, Professor Asbridge clerked for the Honorable Frank M. Hull and the late Honorable Peter T. Fay, both of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. She also served as a staff attorney in the Eleventh Circuit’s Staff Attorney’s Office. After her Eleventh Circuit experience, Professor Asbridge worked as an attorney at FordHarrison LLP in Atlanta, Georgia, where she represented major airlines and other Fortune 500 companies in labor and employment disputes. Her professional achievements earned her recognition as a Georgia Rising Star in 2020 by Super Lawyers Magazine.

Professor Asbridge received a B.A. degree with distinction and with honors in Political Science and International Studies from the University of Kansas in 2008. She received a J.D. summa cum laude from Indiana University Maurer School of Law – Bloomington and was elected to the Order of the Coif in 2011. While in law school, she served as the Executive Submissions Editor for the Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies. She also was a semifinalist in Indiana Law’s Sherman Minton Moot Court Competition and received oral advocacy honors.

Professor Asbridge currently is an appointed member of the Waco Zoning Board of Adjustment. She also is the faculty advisor for HEAL, which is dedicated to advocating for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, and PALS, which provides support to parents attending law school. She previously served on the board of Tapestri, an organization focused on providing services to survivors of human trafficking. She and her husband, Justin, have two children.
The teaching of law at Baylor University began in 1849. The School of Law was formally organized in 1857 with a course of study leading to the bachelor of laws degree. The Law School had among its early teachers several eminent lawyers and jurists in the early history of Texas, among them R.E.B. Baylor, Abner S. Lipscomb, John Sayles, and Royal T. Wheeler, the first dean of the Law School. The Law School was closed in 1883, and its modern history stems from its reorganization and reopening in 1920 under the leadership of Dean Allen G. Flowers, who served as its dean from 1920–1935.

The Law School has operated continuously since that date, except for the period 1943–1946, when World War II interrupted its operation. It was led in the pre-war and post-war periods by Deans Thomas E. McDonald (1935–1939), Abner E. Lipscomb (1940–1941), and Leslie Jackson (1941–1948).

Abner V. McCall served as the Dean of the Law School from 1948 to 1959 and later became the President of the University, holding that position from 1961 to 1981. Following McCall, William J. Boswell assumed the role of Dean, serving from 1959 to 1965. In 1965, Dean Angus S. McSwain, a faculty member since 1949, took over as Dean, leading the Law School until 1984. Dean McSwain then transitioned back to full-time teaching, paving the way for Charles W. Barrow, a former Texas Supreme Court Justice who served as Dean from 1984 to 1991. Dean Emeritus Brad Toben succeeded Barrow, becoming the longest-serving law school dean until his return to the Baylor Law faculty as the M.C. & Mattie Caston Professor of Law on July 1, 2023.

As of July 1, 2023, Patricia Wilson, the William Boswell Chair of Law, assumed the role of Interim Dean, providing leadership during the first leadership transition at the Law School since 1991. Her interim tenure will continue until July 1, 2024, at which point Jeremy Counseller, the current Abner V. McCall Chair of Evidence Law at Baylor Law, will take over as Dean of the Law School. This marks an exciting chapter in the history of Baylor Law as it continues to thrive under the guidance of dedicated and accomplished leaders.

The achievements of our alumni are the best evidence of a law school that, over the many decades, is making a profound and demonstrable impact upon our communities, our state, and our nation, in all manner of service capacities and venues. Our alumni, serving in their practice settings and in many venues beyond, are our proudest achievement at Baylor Law. The following is only a brief example of Baylor Lawyers’ service in the public sector and in bar associations and professional organizations.

Two presidents of the American Bar Association have been Baylor Law graduates—the late Morris Harrell and the distinguished Watergate Special Prosecutor, the late Leon Jaworski. In 2008–2009 and 2009–2010, two Baylor Lawyers (Harper Estes and Roland K. Johnson) served back-to-back as the president of the State Bar of Texas, the second largest organized bar in the nation. A total of eleven Baylor Lawyers have served as president of the State Bar of Texas, and one has served as the president of the New Mexico Bar Association. Two Baylor Lawyers (Craig Lewis and Lewis Sifford) served as the national president of the American Board of Trial Advocates, respectively in 2007 and 2010. Eight Baylor Lawyers have led the Texas Trial Lawyers Association: George Chandler in 2003, John Eddie Williams in 2004, Nelson Roach in 2009, George “Tex” Quesada in 2010, Steve Harrison in 2012, Bryan Blevins in 2015, John Lin McCraw in 2017, and Glenn Cunningham in 2018.

Twice, Baylor Lawyers have served as the Governor of the State of Texas, twice as the Attorney General of Texas and once as the Governor of Guam. Baylor Lawyers have served as the Lt. Governor of Texas and in other statewide offices. Many Baylor Law alumni/ae serve and have served in the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representatives. Baylor Lawyers have served in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. Baylor Lawyers have twice led the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Baylor Lawyers have served as the United States Ambassador to El Salvador, to Mexico, and as the United States Ambassador – Chief of Protocol.