



BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, April 27
Two Thousand Twenty Four
Ten O'Clock in the Morning
Waco Hall
Baylor University

Commencement Program

Baylor University School of Law

Saturday, April 27, 2024 — Ten O’Clock in the Morning

Waco Hall
Baylor University

Processional

Chris Wommack
Pianist

Welcome

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

Invocation

William Andrew Vermillion
Member of the Commencement Class

Introductions and Brief Remarks

Dean Wilson

Student Remarks

Courtney Patricia SoRelle
*Highest Ranking Student
in the Commencement Class*

Address

Jeremy Counsellor
Abner V. McCall Chair of Evidence Law

Remarks

Nancy Brickhouse
Baylor University Vice President and Provost

Degree Conferral

Provost Brickhouse
Dean Wilson

Presentation of Diplomas

Provost Brickhouse
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

Bradley J.B. Toben
*Dean Emeritus and M.C. & Mattie Caston
Professor of Law*
Paul Yanowitch
Adjunct 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.

JURIS DOCTOR DEGREES

Emily McAfee Agee	Neylan Johanna Chavarria	Elizabeth Kristin Frey
Amanda Eulisa Alvez	Angelica Leah Chernin	Katherine Bickhaus Frieden
Drew Vincent Arnold	Nathaniel Jameson Childs	Keagan James Galbraith
Taylor Elizabeth Ash	Katie Raeann Clausen	Brody Lee Gall
Audra Anne Atchley	Savannah Claire Cone	Emily Marie Garrett
Madison Alissa Barney	Courtney Lee Conner	Madeleine Grace Gerhard
Maya Hisham Bismar	Mackenzie Allen Cooper	Alison Renee Gilliland
Jennifer Lynn Bloodworth	Andrew Harris Cowden	Cole Douglas Gimenez
Cooper Ryan Bradbury	Ryan Matthew Cox	Jhoanny Karolina Gonzalez
Carisa Elise Brawley	Luke Morgan Davis	Paul Gabriel Guist
Conor Edward Brennan	Jake River Dima	Riki Elaine Haase
Winston Mark Bribach	Nathan Daniel Donovan	Ryan Stuart Hering
Paige Elizabeth Browne	Emily Breanne Duckworth	Juliet Renée Hernandez
Robert Hayden Butler	Taylor Walcott Edwards	Walter Brinton Hill
Dandee Cabanay	Haylie Lynn English	Stephen Charles Hirschbuehler
Mary Katherine Camp	Margaret Claire Farrell	Adam Robert Holtz
Giliana Damaris Canales	Grayson Caleb Feist	Paige Katherine Houston-Hencken
Andrew Lawrence Casso	Andrew Douglas Florence	Amber Celeste John
Emma Elizabeth Catlett	Drake Chandler Foster	Devon Browning Johnston
Joshua Michael Chandler	Matthew A. Francis	

JURIS DOCTOR DEGREES

Gage Stephen Jones	Rachel Paige O'Day	Lakyn Briana Segovia
Mariana Cervone Jordan	Dipal Pankaj Patel	John William Sheridan
Samar Keilan Kabalaoui	Anthony Damian Pooni	Savannah Katherine Simons
Annabelle Louise Kahalley	Hannah Elizabeth Pruitt	Tiffani Amber Skroch
Elizabeth Doubravka Kane	Anna Lauren Puff	Courtney Patricia SoRelle
Lauren Shelby Leveno	Ruthika Reddy	Sheridan Ashlynn Steen
John Matthew Lopez	Varun Cherukupally Reddy	Kaitlyn Elaine Stegner
Sofia Isabel Luna	Toni Jeanette Reeves	Erin Faye Stevens
Taylor Barnett Mann	Marina Reséndez	Meghan Star Thomas
Stone Alexander Martin	Quinn Sewell Roberts	Taylor Mackenzie Tilmon
Tory Ann Martin	Duncan Kent Robinson	Baldemar Torres III
Camdon Norris Maydew	Ameyali Lorena Sanchez	Nicholas David Valenzuela
Emma Margaret Mersereau	Katherine Knapheide Sartain	William Andrew Vermillion
Jamie Allen Mills	Shameka Shantill Savage	Nicholas Ray Walter
Bethany Marissa Rose Mitchell	Sarah Catherine Sawyer	McKinsey Rae Meeker Warman
Emily Grace Mouser	Olivia Jean Schoffstall	Allison Anne White
Alexia Nicole Nelson	Madison Auburn Schrock	Emily Claire Whittaker
Tansy Dawn Nicholson	Christopher Daniel Schwieg	Elizabeth Elaine Wilkins
Ariana Noshari	Emma Colleen Scofield	Kathryn Elaine Womble
Vivian Caitlin Noyd	Stephanie Elisabeth Scoggin	Madison Taylor Yasenchok

HONORS

Highest Ranking Student

Courtney Patricia SoRelle

summa cum laude

Cooper Ryan Bradbury
Ryan Stuart Hering

Jamie Allen Mills
Courtney Patricia SoRelle

Kaitlyn Elaine Stegner

magna cum laude

Dandee Cabanay
Ryan Matthew Cox
Luke Morgan Davis
Emily Breanne Duckworth

Haylie Lynn English
Cole Douglas Gimenez
Stephen Charles Hirschbuehler
Tory Ann Martin

Tansy Dawn Nicholson
Vivian Caitlin Noyd
Hannah Elizabeth Pruitt
Olivia Jean Schoffstall

cum laude

Taylor Elizabeth Ash
Jennifer Lynn Bloodworth
Winston Mark Bribach
Andrew Lawrence Casso
Joshua Michael Chandler
Katie Raeann Clausen
Andrew Harris Cowden
Margaret Claire Farrell

Matthew A. Francis
Keagan James Galbraith
Brody Lee Gall
Madeleine Grace Gerhard
Amber Celeste John
Devon Browning Johnston
Emily Grace Mouser
Ariana Noshari

Quinn Sewell Roberts
Duncan Kent Robinson
Stephanie Elisabeth Scoggin
Savannah Katherine Simons
Tiffani Amber Skroch
Meghan Star Thomas
Nicholas Ray Walter
Kathryn Elaine Womble

FELLOWS

Leadership Fellow

Mariana Cervone Jordan

Courtney Patricia SoRelle

McKinsey Rae Meeker Warman

Public Interest Fellow

Amanda Eulisa Alvez
Jennifer Lynn Bloodworth

Katie Raeann Clausen
Margaret Claire Farrell
Mariana Cervone Jordan

Hannah Elizabeth Pruitt
Courtney Patricia SoRelle

SPECIAL DISTINCTIONS

Business Planning

Angelica Leah Chernin
Andrew Harris Cowden
Haylie Lynn English

Sofia Isabel Luna
Alexia Nicole Nelson
Baldemar Torres III

William Andrew Vermillion
McKinsey Rae Meeker Warman

Commercial Law

Dipal Pankaj Patel

Criminal Practice

Jennifer Lynn Bloodworth
Carisa Elise Brawley

Emma Elizabeth Catlett
Devon Browning Johnston

Shameka Shantill Savage
Madison Auburn Schrock

Estate Planning and Administration

Joshua Michael Chandler

Allison Anne White

Litigation

Drew Vincent Arnold

Carisa Elise Brawley

Alexia Nicole Nelson

Public Interest Law

Lakyn Briana Segovia

Sheridan Ashlynn Steen

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, fellows, 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.

Business Planning Special Distinction is awarded to students who have completed the course requirements, including the Business Planning capstone, participation on a Transactional Law team, or completion of an equivalent experience approved by the Baylor Law faculty. The student must also meet a minimum grade point average requirement.

Commercial Law Special Distinction is awarded to students who have completed the course requirements, including completion of the Commercial Law Capstone. Students must also meet a minimum grade point average requirement.

Criminal Practice Special Distinction is awarded to students who have completed the course requirements, including a prosecutorial or public defender field placement. The student must also meet a minimum grade point average requirement.

Estate Planning and Administration Special Distinction is awarded to students who have completed the course requirements, including completion of both the Administration of Estates and Wealth Transfers capstones. Students must also meet a minimum grade point average requirement.

The Special Distinction in Litigation is awarded to students who have completed a Litigation Professional Track, have been selected for and completed a Litigation capstone and have completed the other course requirements. 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 the Baylor Ropes Challenge and Team Building Course, complete additional leadership-related Professional Development programming or serve as a facilitator for a public deliberation training, complete 25 hours of community service, and serve as an officer of a Baylor Law School student organization or work for a minimum of 45 hours in a leadership-focused internship.

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 220 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.

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

NANCY BRICKHOUSE, PH.D.

Dr. Nancy Brickhouse began her service as provost on May 1, 2019. As the University's chief academic officer, she oversees 12 colleges and schools, research enterprises, University Libraries, and centers and institutes. While at Baylor, Dr. Brickhouse has established over twenty (and counting!) Academic Challenge and Illuminate Chairs with philanthropic dollars. During this time, research expenditures have grown more than 30% each year, and research doctorates have increased by 17%. This growth led to Baylor receiving the highest Carnegie designation for research.

In addition to expanding research at Baylor, Dr. Brickhouse has tripled the number of students in professional graduate programs. Her commitment to transformative undergraduate education is illustrated by her leadership, alongside Baylor's Chief Business Officer, of Baylor's first strategic enrollment management (SEM) plan, which has brought faculty and staff together to commit to a shared set of goals to support student success. Baylor has already seen improved outcomes for students in terms of retention and timely graduation.

Dr. Brickhouse is a tenured professor of education and a nationally recognized scholar, previously serving as provost at Saint Louis University. Prior to this, she spent 27 years in various faculty and administrative roles at the University of Delaware. Dr. Brickhouse is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Baylor University, earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry. She earned a master's degree in chemistry and a doctorate in science education from Purdue University.

JEREMY COUNSELLER

Professor Jeremy Counsellor joined the faculty of Baylor Law in 2003. He graduated from Baylor Law with honors and was a member of the *Baylor Law Review*, the Order of the Barristers, and the interscholastic moot court and mock trial teams. He also earned an M.B.A. from Baylor's Hankamer School of Business and a B.A. *summa cum laude* from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Following his graduation from law school, Professor Counsellor served as a law clerk to the Honorable Reynaldo G. Garza of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Professor Counsellor then entered private practice in Houston, Texas, with Bracewell & Patterson, LLP (now Bracewell, LLP), where he was an associate in the trial section. Professor Counsellor also served as an Assistant Criminal District Attorney in McLennan County, Texas, where he prosecuted both misdemeanors and felonies.

Professor Counsellor teaches Civil Procedure and is part of Baylor Law's Practice Court Program faculty. He has authored articles and presented papers on various evidentiary and procedural issues. He is the co-author of four books: *Handbook of Texas Evidence*, *Texas Commercial Causes of Action*, *Texas Trial Procedure and Evidence*, and, most recently, *Civil Procedure: In Focus*. In 2006, the President of the State Bar of Texas appointed him to serve on the Administration of the Rules of Evidence Committee where he helped to restyle the Texas Rules of Evidence. He is the Contributing Evidence Editor of the *State Bar of Texas General Practice Digest*.

Professor Counsellor has served as the director of the Baylor Law Academy of the Advocate in St Andrews since the program's inception in 2013. He previously served as Baylor University's Faculty Athletics Representative to the Big 12 Conference.

Professor Counseller was selected to receive Baylor University's Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching for the 2021-2022 academic year. Baylor University's Outstanding Faculty Awards recognize the best all-around professors based on teaching capabilities, research achievement, effective committee service, time spent with students, and civic and church involvement. This is the second time Baylor University has recognized Professor Counseller's teaching. In 2007, the University designated him an Outstanding Faculty member as a tenure-track professor.

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.

MATTHEW CORDON

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

Angela Russell Cruseturner serves as the Senior Assistant Dean for Baylor Law. In this role, she coordinates Baylor Law's 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.

BRADLEY J.B. TOBEN

Dean Emeritus Brad Toben looked upon his position as dean of Baylor Law from 1991 to 2023—indeed he looks upon the profession of law—as a way to help individuals, his community, and our larger society.

Dean Toben completed his B.A., with honors, in political science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. As the result of AP credit, heavy course loads, summer school work, and a skipped grade in elementary school, he was just beyond his 20th birthday when he graduated in two-and-a-half-years from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

He enrolled in Baylor Law, sight unseen, because he could start law school at mid-year, owing to the school's quarter system. He arrived the day before classes started and went on to graduate from Baylor Law with a J.D. with honors in 1977, thereafter being admitted to the bar in Texas and Missouri at age 22.

Following three-and-a-half years of practice with a St. Louis firm that subsequently merged into the current Husch Blackwell, Dean Toben returned to law studies at Harvard Law School in 1980, from which he received the LL.M. degree in 1981.

After Harvard, he taught at Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis from 1981-83. In 1983, Dean Toben jumped at an opportunity to join the Baylor Law faculty, returning to a place he had come to regard as a sort of professional home. In 1991, when he was 36, he was named dean of the Law School, then the youngest law school dean in the nation. At the time he stepped out of the dean's role in June 2023, he was the longest-serving law school dean in the nation among the 199 ABA accredited law schools.

His academic interests during his faculty career at Baylor have focused in the areas of commercial law and the relationship of debtors and creditors under state and federal law, although he also has maintained active interests in constitutional law and public policy studies. On occasion, Dean Toben has also partnered with a minister to teach a seminar course on "Law, Public Policy, and Scripture," inspired by his lifelong interest in theology, and its intersection with his work in the law.

Dean Toben is an elected member of the American Law Institute and has served by appointment of the governor of Texas as a Commissioner to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. He has been recognized as an Outstanding Young Alumnus of Baylor University. He also has been recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis and has received the University of Missouri-St. Louis Distinguished Alumni Political Science Award.

BRADLEY J.B. TOBEN (CONTINUED)

Dean Toben has been honored as the 2023 Baylor Lawyer of the Year, and as the 2023 Champion of Justice of Texas Watch, a non-partisan, non-profit advocacy group dedicated to the rights of consumers, policyholders, patients, and workers. He also has been recognized by the Texas Trial Lawyers Association at a reception in his honor, for “exemplary service and commitment as a guiding light in legal scholarship and the pursuit of justice.” He has participated regularly in accreditation and membership inspections of law schools for the American Bar Association and Association of American Law Schools and 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 in Texas. 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.

Dean Toben has been active in numerous civic and charitable activities and has served as an elder, trustee, deacon, and chair of the board of Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). For many years, he has taught an adult Sunday School class at Central Christian.

His wife, Beth, is a longtime child sexual abuse prosecutor. The Tobens have two children: John, a graduate of Oklahoma State University; and Sarah Beth, a graduate of Baylor University, a former Lady Bear softball player, and a Baylor Law graduate. The members of the Toben family are animal lovers, and Dean Toben once had aspirations to be a veterinarian. His home is outside of Waco in a semi-rural area, and the family menagerie includes several rescues.

Dean Toben enjoys any activity that involves being with his family and was for many years deeply involved in Sarah Beth’s softball endeavors. He also enjoys reading, especially biography, history, science, and theology.

PAUL YANOWITCH

Professor Paul Yanowitch graduated from Washington University School of Law in 1984, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Washington University Law Review*. Following graduation from law school, he served as a Bigelow Teaching Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School, and then clerked for the Honorable John R. Gibson on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. In 1986, he joined the U.S. Department of Justice, where he served in several capacities until he retired some 34 years later, in July 2020.

At the DOJ, Professor Yanowitch served as a trial attorney in the Civil Division Torts Branch and later as Counselor to the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Division. He then transferred to the Office of the Inspector General, and, finally, to the United States Attorneys Office for the Northern District of Texas, where he served as an Assistant United States Attorney from May 2004 until his retirement from the federal government in July 2020. During his tenure with the Department, Professor Yanowitch represented the federal government in complex, nationwide toxic tort lawsuits; worked on several high-profile bipartisan policy matters, including the

government's response to federally-funded human radiation experiments and the implementation of a congressionally-enacted program to compensate populations exposed to radiation in connection with the government's atomic bomb testing program; helped coordinate the Department's responses to congressional and Special Counsel investigations into the events at the Branch Davidian compound in April 1993; conducted investigations of Senior-level Department officials and programs, including investigations into the events of 9/11, the Oklahoma City bombing, and the FBI counter-espionage program; and investigated and prosecuted a wide variety of cybercrimes, intellectual property offenses, export and national security offenses, and economic fraud offenses.

It has been Professor Yanowitch's most recent good fortune to join Baylor Law as an adjunct professor, teaching criminal law, criminal procedure, federal jurisdiction, and free speech courses.



The History of Baylor University School of Law

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 Counsellor, 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.



Baylor University