



BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 2
Two Thousand Twenty Six
Ten O'Clock in the Morning
Waco Hall
Baylor University

Commencement Program

Baylor University School of Law

Saturday, May 2, 2026 — Ten O’Clock in the Morning

Waco Hall
Baylor University

Processional

Chris Wommack
Pianist

Welcome

Jeremy Counsellor
Dean and Abner V. McCall
Chair of Evidence Law

Invocation

Matthew Madden Zahn
Member of the Commencement Class

Introductions

Dean Counsellor

Student Remarks

Benjamin Elias Amundson
Highest Ranking Student
in the Commencement Class

Address

Anthony Bruster
Assistant Professor of Law

Degree Conferral

Nancy Brickhouse
Baylor University Vice President
and Provost

Dean Counsellor

Presentation of Diplomas

Dean Counsellor

Patricia Wilson
Associate Dean and William
Boswell Chair of Law

Angela Cruseturner
Senior Assistant Dean

Hooding of Graduates

Daniel Tilly
Assistant Professor of Law

Katherine Sims
Director of Student Affairs

Recessional

Mr. Wommack

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

Benjamin Elias Amundson

Kyle J. Faraday

Joseph Alan Bang

Justin Loy Garber

Alexandra Sarah Barnett

Trevor Johnathon Goodrich

Meenakshi Veera Venkata Behara

Kaylan Alexanne Gregory

Tyler John Cornelisse Bischoff

Chase David Grimshaw

Taylor Alyson Brown

Tarshyana U. Hall

James Richard Comer

Kaia-Marie Helmer

Keegan David Coon

José Rogelio Hernandez

Charli Diane Delmonico

Wyatt Lee Hicks

Hailey Addison Dill

Sean Timothy Kelly

Lilburn Lynnwood Dukes IV

Andrew Scott King

Elise Juliet Easton

Erin Cain Kitchenka

Dylan Gregory Evans

Justin Yun-Lum Lam

JURIS DOCTOR DEGREES

Catherine Elizabeth Latour

David Andrew Sandler

Emily Marie Lentzner

Jauhniera Q. Shaw

Giavanni Milan Lewis

Kathryn Alyce Sparks

Hunter Austin Littleton

Hannah Sull

Zane Jacob Martin

Saneela Tameez

Noah Vincent Massaro

Jonathan Andrew Turner

Marlon Anthony Morales

Christa Lena Walton

Samuel David Murray

Christopher G. Weber

James Isaac Neiner

Camryn Alexis Whitman

David Hancock Parmer

Maddee Nicole Williams Koeller

Hannah Elizabeth Prom

Kennedy Beth Woods

Lily Mae Reed

Matthew Madden Zahn

Gracie Noelle Reeves

Abigail Rose Zeman

HONORS

Highest Ranking Student

Benjamin Elias Amundson

summa cum laude

Benjamin Elias Amundson

Dylan Gregory Evans

Samuel David Murray

Gracie Noelle Reeves

Maddee Nicole Williams Koeller

magna cum laude

Catherine Elizabeth Latour

Emily Marie Lentzner

Noah Vincent Massaro

Lily Mae Reed

Christopher G. Weber

cum laude

Joseph Alan Bang

Keegan David Coon

Hailey Addison Dill

Elise Juliet Easton

Justin Loy Garber

Zane Jacob Martin

Camryn Alexis Whitman

SPECIAL DISTINCTIONS

Litigation

Joseph Alan Bang
Taylor Alyson Brown
Keegan David Coon
Kaia-Marie Helmer
Kathryn Alyce Sparks
Christa Lena Walton
Camryn Alexis Whitman

FELLOWS

Public Interest

Tyler John Cornelisse Bischoff
Kyle J. Faraday
Abigail Rose Zeman

HIGHEST RANKING STUDENT, HONORS, SPECIAL DISTINCTIONS, AND FELLOWS

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.

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 Fellows have earned the designation by completing the *pro bono* aspirational goals set by the Baylor Law faculty. These goals include completion of 150+ hours of *pro bono* 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

NANCY BRICKHOUSE, PH.D.

As Baylor's chief academic officer, Dr. Brickhouse oversees the University's twelve colleges and schools, research enterprise, University Libraries, and centers and institutes. She shepherded, along with Tiffany Hogue, chief of staff to the president, the conception of the University's new strategic plan, *Baylor in Deeds*, and continues to lead in its implementation within the colleges and schools of the University.

Joining Baylor in 2019, Dr. Brickhouse has established over twenty (and counting!) endowed chairs and professorships with philanthropic dollars. During this time, research expenditures have grown by more than 30% each year, and research doctorates have grown by 17%. This growth has led to Baylor receiving the highest Carnegie designation for research.

In addition to expanding the 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 in Baylor's first strategic enrollment management (SEM) plan, which 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.

Dr. Brickhouse previously served as provost at Saint Louis University. Prior to that, she spent 27 years in various faculty and administrative roles at the University of Delaware. She 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.

Dr. Brickhouse and her husband, Mark, are members of Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco. They have two adult children, David and Elise.

ANTHONY BRUSTER

Anthony Bruster is an Assistant Professor of Law and teaches Practice Court 1 at Baylor Law School. Professor Bruster received a BBA in economics from Baylor University and then graduated *summa cum laude* and second in his class at Baylor Law School in 2002. After graduation, he began his legal career at the highly-esteemed litigation firm of Nix, Patterson & Roach LLP. Within his first two years of practicing law, Professor Bruster passed four consecutive bar examinations (Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and New Mexico) and served as lead or co-lead trial counsel in multiple cases that resulted in \$1 million+ verdicts for his clients, including several reported opinions. He was named a "Rising Star" by Thomson/Reuters in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

After ten years of maintaining a full-time litigation practice, Professor Bruster resigned his partnership position at Nix Patterson in December 2012 and left the full-time practice of law to focus his efforts on international mission work, with an emphasis on orphan care and Christian education in developing countries. Professor Bruster returned to the full-time practice of law in 2017 by founding Bruster PLLC. He grew Bruster PLLC into a formidable trial firm, while serving as managing partner and trying multiple cases to verdict spanning areas as diverse as products liability and patent infringement. He was named a “Super Lawyer” by Thomson/Reuters in 2022 and 2024 and was selected as a Top 100 lawyer in Texas by The National Trial Lawyers in 2022 and 2023. He was also admitted as a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) in 2024.

Professor Bruster joined the Baylor Law School faculty in 2024 to teach in the Practice Court program, which played an instrumental role in preparing him for the practice of law. He believes deeply in the value of trial by jury and equally in the fundamental responsibility of all lawyers to serve others. He is committed to training the next generation of future lawyers as leaders through the rigorous Practice Court program. In his view, Practice Court is the mark of distinction between Baylor Lawyers and all other lawyers—a mark that is earned through rigor and discipline, and an accomplishment of which to be very proud. Professor Bruster is admitted to practice in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and New Mexico, as well as numerous federal district courts, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. He is most proud of being married to his wife Amy, and they enjoy spending time with their three children.

JEREMY COUNSELLER

Dean Jeremy Counsellor, MBA '00, JD '00, The Abner V. McCall Chair of Evidence Law at Baylor and member of Baylor Law School's faculty since 2003, assumed the deanship on July 1, 2024. An accomplished Baylor Lawyer, he graduated with honors from Baylor Law School in 2000. He was actively involved in the *Baylor Law Review*, the Order of the Barristers, and the interscholastic moot court and mock trial teams. In addition to his law degree, he earned an MBA from Baylor's Hankamer School of Business and graduated *summa cum laude* with a BA from Stephen F. Austin State University.

After completing law school, Dean Counsellor served as a law clerk for the Honorable Reynaldo G. Garza of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He then joined Bracewell & Patterson, LLP (now Bracewell, LLP) in Houston, Texas, as an associate in the trial section. Additionally, Dean Counsellor worked as an Assistant Criminal District Attorney in McLennan County, Texas, where he prosecuted misdemeanors and felonies.

Dean Counsellor teaches Civil Procedure and served for two decades on Baylor Law's Practice Court program faculty. He has authored articles and presented papers on various evidentiary

and procedural issues. He has co-authored 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.

Dean Counsellor served as the director of the Baylor Law School Academy of the Advocate in St Andrews from 2013 to 2024, and he previously served as Baylor University's Faculty Athletics Representative to the Big 12 Conference.

Dean Counsellor 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 Dean Counsellor's teaching. In 2007, the University designated him an Outstanding Faculty member as a tenure-track professor.

PATRICIA WILSON

Patricia A. Wilson has been a member of the Baylor Law School faculty since 1993 and has taught courses in 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 served as Interim Dean during the 2023-2024 academic year before returning to her current position as Associate Dean, a position she has otherwise held since 2021.

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 matters as diverse as software licensing and health care plan administration, and she 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. Dean Wilson is the William Boswell Chair of Law. She also serves as a Minority Law Student Advisor, and for more than 20 years, she coached multiple moot court and client counseling teams each year, and her teams did exceptionally well.

Service is particularly important to Dean Wilson. In 2005, she established the People's Law School program at Baylor Law School—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.

ANGELA CRUSETURNER

Angela Russell Cruseturner serves as the Senior Assistant Dean for Baylor Law School. In this role, she provides oversight to Baylor Law School's staff and coordinates the Law School's admissions, alumni relations, career development, information technology, marketing, and student relations 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 School's Career Development Office, and four years prior as the Law School's Director of Admissions and Student Recruitment, she enjoys the opportunity to counsel law students on a variety of matters in her current role.

After receiving a B.A. in history from Baylor University, Dean Cruseturner attended Baylor Law School 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 Justice Bill Vance at the Tenth Court of Appeals.

Dean Cruseturner is committed to serving the legal profession and the greater Waco community. She currently serves as the president-elect of the Waco-McLennan County Bar Association and is on the nominations committee for the Texas Bar Foundation. She is a Master of the Bench and past president of the Judge Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation, and a former president of the McLennan County Young Lawyers 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.

Professor Daniel Tilly joined the Baylor Law School faculty in the Fall of 2024. He teaches Practice Court 3 within the law school's storied Practice Court program.

A committed educator, Professor Tilly enjoys harmonizing legal doctrine with experiential education. He balances his teaching between classroom lectures on civil procedure and evidence with courtroom advocacy training. Professor Tilly's approach has been rewarded by students and administrators through professor of the year recognitions and awards in teaching excellence.

Professor Tilly's scholarly research focuses on evidence, with an emphasis on the deleterious impact of character evidence on victims of violent crime. He is a frequent speaker on state and federal evidence issues at national and regional conferences. The UNC School of Government invited him annually to teach foundational evidence at its conference of newly appointed district judges. He now lectures on Texas evidence issues at the Texas Access to Justice Commission's Pretrial Academy and within state legal education conferences.

Prior to joining the Baylor Law School faculty, Professor Tilly led the advocacy program at Campbell Law School in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he served as an Associate Professor and, later, Associate Dean. He is credited with leading Campbell into the national rankings in advocacy and experiential education with over a dozen national titles and a world championship in a variety of advocacy competitions.

Throughout his career, Professor Tilly has played an active role in shaping public policy. Most recently, he was appointed by the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court to three-year terms on the North Carolina Rules Advisory Commission and the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. He now works with regional and state officials to effectuate improvements within Texas law.

Professor Tilly graduated with honors from Baylor Law School. During law school, he served as a Senior Executive Editor of the *Baylor Law Review* and Managing Editor of its Texas Practice Edition. Professor Tilly competed at the National Tournament of Champions and National Trial Competition under the training of Professor Emeritus Gerald Powell. He was a recipient of the American Board of Trial Advocates Award, Funderburk Evidence Award, Professor Matthew Cordon Excellence in Legal Research Award, Professor George Durham Brown Endowed Memorial Award, and the Patton, Halton, Roberts, McWilliams & Greer Law Review Award.

Professor Tilly worked as a civil litigator and trial lawyer in Waco, Texas, for six years before transitioning into full-time academia in 2011. He maintains an active Texas law license and routinely advises on evidence and trial strategy.

Professor Tilly and his wife Angela met at UT-Austin and have been married since graduating. They have three sons and two golden retrievers.

KATHERINE SIMS

Katherine Sims is a Baylor Lawyer who returned to Baylor Law School in September 2016 as the Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. After seven years recruiting the best and brightest future attorneys to Waco, Director Sims assumed her current role as Director of Student Affairs in September 2023.

Director Sims is passionate about mental health and wellness, as well as creating a community where all Baylor Law students feel at home and know they belong. In 2021, she collaborated with Professor Bridget Fuselier to secure a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation for implementing more consistent and comprehensive mental health and wellness programming. She is committed to continuing these efforts, as well as pursuing other opportunities to enrich the experiences of Baylor Law students. Her hope is for each Baylor Law student to thrive at Baylor Law and develop healthy habits to take into practice, and she's dedicated to helping them achieve this goal.

Director Sims earned her B.A. in Speech Communication from Baylor University in 2006 and her J.D. from Baylor Law School in 2011. Upon graduating from Baylor Law, she worked as a Project Attorney at King & Spalding, LLP in Atlanta, GA, where she managed discovery projects for product liability cases. Her desire to serve people more personally led her to seek out a different path, and a conversation with a friend led her to law school admissions. Director Sims joined the admissions office at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School in 2012, returned to Texas in 2014 for a position at Texas A&M University School of Law, and finally joined the admissions office at her alma mater in 2016. Her strong desire to serve current students took hold in 2020, and she is thrilled her current role allows her to work with and invest in future Baylor Lawyers every day.

Director Sims is married to Tyler, a Georgia native and fellow attorney, whom she met while studying abroad in law school. They live in Hewitt with their German short-haired pointer, Walker, and miniature dachshund (and unofficial law school mascot), Bruiser.



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.

On July 1, 2023, Patricia Wilson, the William Boswell Chair of Law, assumed the role of Interim Dean, providing outstanding leadership during the first transition of dean at the Law School since 1991.

Jeremy Counsellor, the Abner V. McCall Chair of Evidence Law at Baylor Law, was selected as the next dean of the Law School and began his tenure on July 1, 2024. 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