

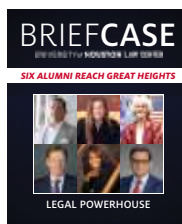
BRIEFCASE

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | LAW CENTER

SIX ALUMNI REACH GREAT HEIGHTS



LEGAL POWERHOUSE



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DEAN'S NOTE

"The Power of Legal Education" provides Law Center students training and skills to be successful attorneys. Once they graduate, they use the power of their legal education to find justice for clients whether the client is an immigrant at our shores seeking asylum or a small businessperson being frozen out by her partners. Attorneys also provide the backbone and infrastructure for every social movement whether civil rights or tax reform. Attorneys are in the midst of it all.

The alumni in this edition of the Briefcase exemplify the power of legal education. Each has made a mark in a chosen field, and each has paved a way forward for others. These featured alumni are global, national, and regional legal powerhouses. They are successful judges, corporate executives, litigators, and television broadcast hosts. They are trailblazers who have used their law degree to overcome socioeconomic and other barriers. Although they are singled out in the pages of the Briefcase, they are just a few examples of the thousands of other successful graduates empowered by their Law Center education.

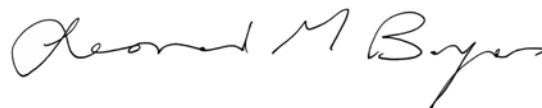
The past year at the Law Center has been marked by growth, successful initiatives, renowned speakers, strong alumni support, and a greater emphasis on serving our community and reaching out to those who may have considered a law degree well beyond their grasp. We have added six new members to our faculty and appointed new leadership to two of our highly rated entities - the Health Law & Policy Institute and the Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center. Our rankings across the board are high with our Health Law and Intellectual Property programs, both improving on their positions among the Top 10 in the nation. One of our most distinguished graduates, the Honorable Ruby Kless Sondock '62, was recently inducted as a "Texas Legal Legend" by the litigation section of the Texas State Bar for her career as a pioneering lawyer, state district judge, and the first woman to sit on the Texas Supreme Court in its regular session.

The inaugural summer Pre-Law Pipeline class sparked an interest in a legal career in 21 undergraduates from across the country while our participation in the "Pathways to Law" after-school mentoring program stressed the importance of education to middle school students. Our second annual "Community Service Day" was a tremendous success as first-year students, faculty, and staff fanned out across the city to assist in public service projects.

Key to any school is the quality of its student body. The Law Center attracts students who are intelligent, hardworking, conscientious, and committed to developing a successful career. While law school applications nationwide remain sluggish, more than 2,400 hopefuls applied for the 216 full- and part-time seats in the Law Center Class of '18. The number of applicants increased 9 percent from the previous year. Of those who were admitted, the overall median undergraduate GPA (UGPA) of 3.54 was the highest since 2007, and the UGPA of 3.63 for part-time students was the highest since at least 1998. Hispanic students accounted for a record 21.2 percent of the class, and the overall percentage of students of color topped 35 percent. The entering class also drew students from 15 states, 11 countries, and more than 90 colleges and universities.

I could go on about people, programs, and accomplishments at the Law Center, but instead, please sit back and read about them in the pages of the Briefcase. The year 2015 was remarkable; with your help, 2016 will be even better.

Sincerely,



Leonard M. Baynes
Dean and Professor of Law

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HIGHLY RANKED

Two University of Houston Law Center specialty programs – Intellectual Property and Information Law and Health Law – improved on their Top 10 standing in U.S. News & World Report’s annual law school rankings in 2015. IPIL rose from 7th to 6th place while the Health Law program moved up from 9th to 8th place. The school’s part-time program claimed the 11th spot. Overall, the Law Center maintained a strong showing, though slipping one spot from 58th to 59th among 198 ABA-approved law schools included in the survey.

In other surveys, the Law Center scored an A- and was named one of the “Best Value” law schools in the nation based on rankings compiled by the National Jurist magazine. The survey weighed a number of factors to determine which graduates have an excellent chance to pass the bar and land a job without racking up a ton of debt. The formula included bar passage rates, employment rates, in-state tuition, cost of living, and average indebtedness at graduation.

The Law Center ranked 31st as a “Go-to” law school based on the National Law Journal’s annual survey of the number of first-year associates hired by the nation’s 250 top law firms.

UHLC ranked 7th among the nation’s law schools for offering the best networking and job opportunities, according to an online graduate school guide. GraduatePrograms.com polled more than 10,000 law school students and alumni to determine which schools provide the strongest professional networking. Participants rated their programs on the faculty, peer, and alumni networks available to them while they were in school and after they graduated.

The Law Center earned the No. 3 spot among the state’s top 44 graduate programs for producing high earners, according to the online resource PayScale, which compiled 40 million salary profiles for its annual College Salary Report.

Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine ranked the Law Center 18th among the top 25 law schools for Hispanics in the country. The magazine selects the top schools based on enrollment and completion surveys submitted to the National Center for Education Statistics in Washington D.C., an arm of the U.S. Department of Education.

NATHAN ’66 NAMED NATIONAL CHAIR OF ADL

University of Houston Law Center alumnus **Marvin Nathan** ’66 began his term as national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League in September, at a time when he sees anti-Semitism increasing around the world and extremism in the U.S. played out almost daily in headlines.

Nathan said the mission of the organization remains two-fold: To stop the defamation of Jewish people and to secure justice and equality for all.

Nathan cited last summer’s U.S. Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality as a recent success while noting racism and inequality remain a primary focus.

“Issues change over time and continue to be a challenge for the ADL and other organizations,” he said. “Extremism continues to ramp up on both the left and the right.”



GIBSON ’84 NAMED LEADER OF HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION

University of Houston Law Center alumna **Laura Gibson**, ’84, was elected in June as president of the Houston Bar Association – the fifth-largest metropolitan bar association in the country.

Gibson, a partner in litigation and dispute resolution for the firm of Dentons LLP, succeeded **M. Carter Crow** of Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP. During her one-year term, Gibson said, she will work on initiatives focusing on professional development, mentorship, and encouraging pro bono service by the 11,300 members.

Gibson has been a member of the HBA Board of Directors since 2006. She chaired the HBA Labor and Employment Section, served on the council of the HBA Litigation Section, and chaired the Houston Lawyer Referral Service Board of Directors. Gibson has served in leadership roles on numerous HBA committees, including Administration of Justice, Gender Fairness, Law Week, Judicial Polls, Continuing Legal Education, Juvenile Consequences, Minority Opportunities in the Legal Profession, and Lawyers Against Waste. She is a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Houston Bar Foundation and a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.



PAUST TOPS UHLC FACULTY IN DOWNLOADS OF HIS SCHOLARLY WORKS

Professor **Jordan Paust** leads the University of Houston Law Center faculty in the number of times his scholarly writings have been downloaded in the past year, according to the Social Science Research Network.

Paust, the Mike and Teresa Baker Law Center Professor of International Law, ranked 390th out of 286,611 authors in all fields for the past 12 months. He ranks 923rd overall since the network originated in 1992. Those rankings place him in the top 0.14 percent of authors for the past year and 0.3 percent overall.

The SSRN is a repository where authors may post their scholarly writings before publication in professional journals and other publications. The scholarship on SSRN is available free to other scholars, researchers, and the public.

In a nationwide study of the “scholarly impact” of tenured faculty, the Law Center ranks 57th in a five-way tie among 98 of the nation’s leading law schools.

The 10 most cited Law Center professors in the 2015-16 survey, in alphabetical order, are: **David Crump, Lonny Hoffman, Paul Janicke, Craig Joyce, Jacqueline Lipton, Raymond T. Nimmer, Michael A. Olivas, Jordan Paust, Joseph Sanders, and Sandra Guerra Thompson.**





**UHLC IMMIGRATION CLINIC
RECOGNIZED BY AILA FOR PRO
BONO SERVICE**

The Immigration Clinic was selected as the American Immigration Lawyers Association Pro Bono Hero for the Central Region in 2015.

“We are proud to be a source of knowledge and guidance for pro bono attorneys and also applaud the work of our dedicated law students who have worked so hard on cases helping immigrant communities,” said **Geoffrey Hoffman**, clinical associate professor and director of the Immigration Clinic.

The clinic serves communities in Houston and throughout Texas, encouraging law students and private attorneys to consider pro bono practice.

Multiple workshops are offered annually to help educate the immigration bar and legal community.

**HESTER ELECTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL ‘COLLEGE’
AND NAMED ‘BEST LAWYER’ BY PEERS**

Professor **Tracy Hester** has been elected as a Fellow in the American College of Environmental Lawyers for his “distinguished experience and high standards in the practice of environmental law.”

“It’s a great honor and privilege to join this group,” Hester said. “The college includes the leading practitioners and scholars of environmental law, including many of the trailblazers and mentors who have inspired us in our careers.”

He also is cited in the 22nd edition of “Best Lawyers in America” for his environmental law expertise.

Hester came to the Law Center as a visiting assistant professor in 2010 and served as director of the Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center until May 2013. He is currently a lecturer, teaching environmental law and emerging technology courses.



**FORMER TEXAS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SONDOCK ‘62 INDUCTED AS
TEXAS LEGAL LEGEND**

The Honorable **Ruby Kless Sondock** ‘62, who helped open doors to women at the University of Houston Law School as well as the state’s judicial chambers, was inducted as the 19th Texas Legal Legend by the litigation section of the State Bar of Texas in 2015.

Sondock was one of only five women in her graduating law class and was named valedictorian.

After practicing law for 12 years, Sondock was appointed to the 234th District Court in 1977, making her the first female district court judge in Harris County. Sondock was appointed to the Texas Supreme Court in 1982, making her the first woman to serve in a regular session of the court.



FOREIGN LL.M. STUDENTS WELCOMED TO LAW CENTER

Fifty-seven foreign trained attorneys were welcomed into the University of Houston Law Center’s LL.M. program in August.

The class of 2015 is comprised of students from 27 different countries, including Brazil, Nigeria, and Mexico. 2015 marked the first time students from Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Saudi Arabia have enrolled.

The students are represented in all six of the school’s LL.M. programs: Energy, Environment & Natural Resources, Health Law, Intellectual Property and Information Law, International Law, Tax Law, and U.S. Law.

BARBARA J. EVANS

UH Law Center Professor Barbara J. Evans owns the most famous teapot in U.S. airspace. “When you fly as much as I do, customer service matters. With modern air travel, if you want customer service, you had better supply it yourself. Flight attendants rush up to me, and I fantasize that they recognize me—I recognize them—but then they grab my teapot and say, ‘I know this teapot! I had it on the Seattle flight last month!’ I’m just the ‘entourage’ of a rock-star teapot.”

Professor Evans’ 2015 travels took her to the White House for the Champions of Change in Precision Medicine event last July and to the December International Summit on Human Gene Editing hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the U.K.’s Royal Society, and U.S. National Academies of Science and Medicine. She clocks more than two talks per month in high-profile national forums, including NASA, Harvard Medical School, the University of Washington’s Division of Medical Genetics, the University of Wisconsin’s Center for Predictive Computational Phenotyping, the DataLex retreat of University of California System general counsels, and the National Academy of Sciences’ Committee on Federal Research Regulations and Reporting Requirements.

Evans regularly turns down international

speaking engagements: “With our 1L teaching schedule, you just can’t get to Asia or Europe and back without cancelling a class. Teaching is what the State of Texas pays us to do, not jet-setting.” She adds, “I already saw the world in my law partner days, and after the first 100 trips or so, you sort of get the point about globalism. These days, the whole world wants to come to Houston, and I’m happy to skip the long plane ride and let the world come to UH.” Evans is on the dissertation committee for alum Kärt Pormeister, who won a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to study at the UH Law Center last year and is presently finishing her Ph.D. at the University of Tartu, Estonia.

When UH recruited Evans in 2007, part of the deal was that she would set up a research-oriented Center for Biotechnology & Law, one of the nation’s first. “It felt like the legal issues in biotechnology were about to get hot. They did get hot,” she says. Evans has eight grant-funded projects under way or under peer review and actively collaborates with teams at 16 leading medical and law schools around the nation. “Genomic testing, big data, and data ownership are getting a lot of press, but the legal issues are starting to feel sufficiently resolved to become yesterday’s hot topics.”

What’s next? Evans was an electrical



Prof. Evans’ teapot
en route to Newark’s
Liberty International Airport

engineer before she was a lawyer and is excited about the Building Reliable Advances and Innovations in Neurotechnology (BRAIN) Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science at the UH Cullen School of Engineering and Arizona State University. “They’re building wireless interfaces to hook computers directly into the human brain, which could be a boon for patients with paralysis or brain damage—or for absent-minded professors who mix up their appointments! The FDA regulatory issues are complex. I was thrilled to be added to the research team.”

Evans recently began a four-year term on the National Committee for Vital and Health Statistics, a statutory body that advises the Secretary of Health and Human Services on Health It issues. She is also serving a two-year term on the planning board for the National Medical Device Evaluation System, a very large-scale health information system the Food and Drug Administration is designing to improve the safety of medical devices. She was the 2015 distinguished health scholar at Seton Hall Law School, which has a top-ranked health law program, and spent August as the distinguished fellow at the Eli Lilly Foundation-funded Center for Law, Ethics, and Research (CLEAR) in Health Information at Indiana University.

“Big Data is big this year,” she says. “The last talk I gave about Big Data was at the Association of American Law Schools in January 2016. I spoke about ‘Big Data Fatigue,’ a disease that sets in when lawyers write too much about Big Data.” Evans will be the lead speaker at the annual conference of Harvard Law School’s Petrie-Flom Center in May. The topic? “Big Data!” She laughs, “You can run from Big Data, but you cannot hide.”



JORDAN PAUST

Jordan Paust, the Mike and Teresa Baker Law Center Professor and oft-cited authority on international law, says several federal court jurisdictions in the U.S. are vying to bring Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman Loera to justice.

El Chapo, the notorious Mexican drug lord accused of being the largest distributor of drugs in North America and Europe, is behind bars in a maximum security Mexican prison. He has been there before and has escaped twice. The United States has sought to extradite El Chapo, or ‘Shorty,’ since the mid-1990s on drug trafficking charges. Each time the Mexican government refused. This time could be different, perhaps because there is a new government in Mexico that is more willing to work with the U.S. with regard to common interests in law enforcement. Perhaps also because some authorities have been embarrassed by El Chapo’s escapes and are concerned that a Mexican prison cannot contain the billionaire drug kingpin who bribed guards and paid millions of dollars for an elaborate tunnel system to make his escapes.

Mexico received a U.S. request for extradition and took steps to start the proceedings shortly after his arrest, but the process could take months or even a year, he said, and the U.S. might be required to agree not to seek capital punishment. Mexico does not have a death penalty and generally does not extradite defendants to countries that do without an assurance that the death penalty will not be sought — and they have a right to seek such an assurance under the U.S.-Mexico Extradition Treaty.

Paust outlined several key elements of the extradition treaty and a newer protocol to the treaty that governs the extradition process between the two countries:

- The offense must be punishable in accordance with the laws of both countries.
- When the death penalty is possible in both countries, Mexico



“may” refuse extradition to the U.S. unless the U.S. agrees not to seek the death penalty.

- Delayed extradition may occur if Mexico agrees to surrender in accordance with Article 15 of the treaty, as amended — which means:
 - Mexico “may,” after granting the extradition, defer surrender when the person is serving sentence in Mexico “for a different offense, until the conclusion of the ... full execution of the punishment,” or
 - Mexico “may,” after granting an extradition request, temporarily surrender a person convicted and sentenced in Mexico during service of sentence in Mexico.

Paust said the president of Mexico will have the authority under Mexican law to make the final decision whether to extradite El Chapo once he is found to be extraditable by a local judge or magistrate. Under Mexican law, the president may be able to delegate authority to another person, such as the minister of foreign affairs or the attorney general.

DAVID KWOK



Whistleblowers take significant risks when alerting the government to potential wrongdoing by their employers. They face potential retaliation in their workplace, economic losses, and social stigma.

As an expert on white collar crime, University of Houston Law Center Assistant Professor David Kwok wants to make sure that whistleblowers do not face any unnecessary risks in coming forward. Kwok’s article, “A Fair Competition Theory of the Civil False Claims Act,” was published in the *Nebraska Law Review* in February 2015.

Kwok said current inconsistencies among federal courts make it difficult for whistleblowers to understand if wrongdoing would legally constitute fraud under the False Claims Act. If the wrongdoing is not considered fraudulent, whistleblowers are ineligible for compensation from the federal government under the current statute.

For example, courts have held that knowingly naming the wrong physician supervisor does not constitute Medicare fraud

DAVID KWOK (continued)

but naming the wrong physician provider does constitute fraud. These disjointed judicial decisions create uncertainty for both whistleblowers and employers because the scope of the statute is unclear. Kwok suggests that the principle of fair competition can distinguish between regulatory violations that should result in civil liability under the False Claims Act and those better handled by a regulatory framework already enforced by the government.

“I believe a clearer, principled judicial rule explaining when a known regulatory violation constitutes fraud would make all parties better off,” he said. “Companies would then know when they face fraud liability, and whistleblowers would know when their information is valued.”

Kwok has taught White Collar Crime, Criminal Law, and Law & Social Sciences at the Law Center since 2013.

KELLEN ZALE

New technology-driven companies, such as Airbnb, Uber, and Lyft, are changing the way people use their property, enabling anyone with a car or a spare bedroom to compete with taxis and hotels. The fast-growing ventures have local governments scrambling to determine whether and how to regulate what has been called the “sharing economy.”

Kellen Zale, an assistant professor at the University of Houston Law Center, became interested in the sharing economy because it intersects with her two primary areas of expertise, property law and state and local government.

“The sharing economy offers great promise by potentially expanding access to goods and services to previously underserved groups, encouraging more sustainable uses of resources and opening up new avenues of economic activity,” she says. “However, the sharing economy also has the potential to impose significant externalities, from the loss of long-term rental housing to decreased investment in public transportation to potentially undermining civil rights laws.

“Like many people, I have been a consumer of sharing economy services such as Airbnb and Uber. Just as with hotels and taxis, many of my experiences with Airbnb and Uber have been positive, but some have not been,” says Zale. “Generally, more choice is a good thing for consumers. However, choice and convenience for users is only part of the story; lawmakers also need to consider how the sharing economy impacts providers, like Uber drivers, as well as the public.”

Zale says it will likely take a few years for the law to catch up because of a “mismatch” between existing regulatory structures and the new forms of commercial activities. In a forthcoming article titled “Sharing Property,” Zale writes that the new business model raises a host of questions. These inquiries include whether it will prove to be a boon to providers and consumers or if this business model represents what some critics call a “share-the-scrap” economy.

Before those questions can be answered, Zale argues, a “more fundamental question needs to be considered: What does it mean to ‘share’ property? Are the activities taking place in the sharing



economy truly innovative, or are they simply the same existing activities, made superficially unfamiliar by the veneer of technology?”

She says the business models of peer-to-peer companies like Airbnb blur the line between commercial and personal and therefore present a challenge to regulators.

In her paper, Zale poses a few fundamental questions: “What is this activity, and how does it relate to how we understand property law?”

Zale says this has been a missing element in the many media stories about the sharing economy in the past few years, particularly about the conflicts between new companies and local governments attempting to impose regulatory schemes.

“People have always shared their property, in the sense of allowing others to use it. But these activities have typically been considered non-commercial or have taken place in the informal

economy,” she says. “Now, it’s happening in a way that is formalized and commercialized, with technology enabling it and tracking it. All this personal information is being stored, and these activities are happening at a much larger scale than ever before.”

Zale says a large part of the public discourse about these new kinds of companies is the assertion that they are so “novel” that they can’t be regulated.

“And that is correct to the extent that the existing regulations don’t work very well with what they’re doing. But the underlying activities, such as home sharing and car sharing, are not so novel that no regulation could ever work,” she says. “We need to recognize what about these activities are the same, what about them are different, and how do we adjust our regulations to fit them.”

Zale says it will likely take some time for local governments to determine the best approaches to regulating these types of companies as cities experiment with adapting their existing laws to bridge the gap between what the regulations were originally designed for and the new peer-to-peer models. “For the next few years, it’s going to be a matter of experimentation. But I think it will all shake out,” she says. “We’re at the beginning of the regulatory process. It is going to require ongoing reevaluation as technology evolves. But that’s what the law is equipped to do.”

UHLC AND ANDREWS KURTH LAUNCH 'PASSPORT TO SUCCESS' CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Andrews Kurth partnered with the University of Houston Law Center's Office of Career Development in 2015 to develop and deliver an inaugural, mandatory professional development curriculum for the entire 1L class.

The Passport to Success program was the brain child of **Amy Sladczyk Hancock**, director of Attorney Professional Development at Andrews Kurth, and UHLC Assistant Dean **Allison Hickey Regan**.

"I commend Assistant Dean Regan and UHLC for being a pioneer and excellent partner for us to deliver these critical skills to law students wanting to distinguish themselves in a competitive legal market, as far as legal employment opportunities are concerned," Hancock said.

The innovative Passport to Success program is designed to address facets of new attorney professionalism most sought after by legal employers — conversing competently and navigating knowledgeably through the world of practicing law. The sessions are being instructed by nationally known industry experts, along with distinguished Law Center alumni and Andrews Kurth Professionals.

DEAN BAYNES JOINS SOLEDAD O'BRIEN IN 'BLACK IN AMERICA TOUR'

In a period of increased scrutiny and criticism leveled at police departments and the U.S. judicial system over perceptions of bias and brutality, it is important to remember that the law is continually evolving, University of Houston Law Center Dean **Leonard M. Baynes** said during a discussion on race relations held as part of the 2015 "Black in America Tour." The panel discussion was organized and hosted by nationally known broadcaster **Soledad O'Brien**.

"The beauty of the law is that it adapts, evolves, and changes to societal trends. As Dr. King had said, the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice," Baynes told a packed house at UH's Cullen Auditorium.

Baynes was one of several panelists to join O'Brien in a wide-ranging discussion of issues raised in the wake of several police-involved deaths in Ferguson, Mo., New York City, and other locales across the country last year.



UHLC STUDENT NAMED STUDENT REGENT

Garrett Hughey 3L was appointed to serve as student regent on the UH System Board of Regents by Texas Gov. **Greg Abbott**. Hughey, who was sworn in to the post in August, represents students systemwide and will serve throughout the 2015-2016 school year.

"My goal is to be a useful resource for the voting regents by effectively conveying the student experience," Hughey said. "I believe being the student regent gives me the best platform to give back to the UH System, which has provided me with so many great opportunities. Law school has taught me how to advocate and how to analyze problems. I plan on utilizing that training to advocate persuasively and analyze rigorously on behalf of the student body."

As an undergraduate, Hughey was a member of the UH men's track and field team and competed on the 4x400-meter relay team. In 2012 and 2013, he was named to the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll. He earned NCAA All-American honors in 2013. Hughey graduated *magna cum laude* from UH with a B.A. in history.



UHLC FACULTY DISCUSSES HOT-BUTTON ISSUES AFTER SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

University of Houston Law Center faculty members discussed recent rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court in two CLE discussions in July and August.

The Affordable Care Act and same-sex marriage were the key talking points in the first Supreme Court Update, which was moderated by Associate Dean **Marcilynn A. Burke**. Professor **Emily Berman** provided the overview of the *Obergefell v. Hodges* ruling, which overturned bans on same-sex marriage. Professors **Seth Chandler** and **Jessica Mantel** discussed the 'Obamacare' case, *King v. Burwell*.

The second Supreme Court Update discussed cases involving environmental regulation, low-income housing, and redistricting. Professor **Tracy Hester** discussed *Michigan v. EPA*, a case involving the regulation of mercury emissions from power plants.

Professor **Zachary Bray** addressed the case *Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.*, which dealt with the way the state agency was awarding tax credits for the development of low-income housing in Dallas. Professor **D. Theodore Rave** discussed *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*, which dealt with how congressional districts are drawn. Rave gave an extensive overview of the phenomenon of "gerrymandering," in which state legislators often draw those lines for individual or partisan benefit. Professor **Peter Linzer** provided a broader overview of the entire Supreme Court term, including several decisions that specifically affected Texas.

SIX ALUMNI REACH GREAT HEIGHTS

Through the power of legal education, these six individuals have distinguished themselves in courtrooms, boardrooms, and communities across Texas, the nation and the world. They have earned tremendous success and respect in their individual careers and helped many people along the way. They epitomize the power of a legal education provided by the University of Houston Law Center.



Tony Buzbee '97

You have to climb to the top of Houston to reach the world of Tony Buzbee.

A ride in two banks of elevators of the JPMorgan Chase Tower whisks you to the 73rd floor and the posh headquarters of The Buzbee Law firm. The ultra-modern, sprawling suite features striking artworks and magnificent views of downtown Houston and beyond.

It's a sunny Friday, and the world far below is working away to finish up the week. In his expansive corner office, a relaxed, infinitely confident Buzbee, '97, is reflecting on a \$41 million verdict he recently won for the family of a seaman who died after being bitten by a brown recluse spider aboard a ship. There are new cases to handle as well, including the tragic case of a propane gas explosion in a Rio Grande Valley house that killed two people and severely injured six other family members, including four children who were badly burned.

Just another day at the Buzbee office.

In the past 18 months, Buzbee has been lead counsel on several major trial verdicts, including a \$159 million award for five oilfield workers who were injured and the parents of one who died. Buzbee also heads the legal team for former Gov. Rick Perry in his alleged abuse-of-power case. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals tossed out the remaining charge against Perry in late February.

There are numerous verdicts in years past, and it's anyone's guess how many more legal triumphs are ahead for Buzbee, who was named Texas Lawyer 2015 Attorney of the Year. But the role of "Texas Super Lawyer" is not one Buzbee envisioned for himself while growing up in East Texas in the small town of Atlanta.

"I never considered law school back then," Buzbee said. "I didn't know what I wanted to be early on. But sometime later, I wanted to be in the Marines, and I wanted to be a general. Then I figured out what generals make, and I didn't want to be a general anymore."

While in the Marines, Buzbee was aboard a ship when he borrowed a buddy's LSAT preparation book, worked some of the

practice problems and quickly realized he was good at it.

Buzbee chose the University of Houston Law Center in large part because his wife, Zoe, is from Galveston. At the time, the couple was living in California.

Not one to hesitate, Buzbee drove straight to the law school parking lot when they got to town.

"I was trying to talk to some of the people in the parking lot about what law school was like," he said. "But what do you tell someone right when you're getting out of finals, or whatever it was they were doing. None of it was very positive. But anyway, it turned out well for us.

"Law school was really, really enjoyable to me. I really thrived there. I enjoyed it all. I liked the classes, the professors, the theory of it, the practical application of it. There is something about it that really suited me, that really fit with me," he said. "I also knew there was going to be a reward at the end of it."

The first to pull into the law school parking lot in the morning and one of the last to leave, Buzbee took on his studies full-throttle. "For me, it was a job," he said.

Buzbee was managing editor of the Houston Law Review, the class captain, and the Texas and Regional Mock Trial Champion in 1996. He graduated summa cum laude.

Deciding to become a trial attorney came easy to Buzbee.

"It's kind of my personality; I think everybody realized that," Buzbee said, cracking a devilish smile. "I also was looking for the job that made the most money. I was tired of being poor. I had been poor for a long time, and I didn't want to be poor anymore."

While UHLC gave birth to Buzbee's legal career, he credits his uber-success to the intense, disciplined training he underwent in the Marines and that he lives by today. Not surprisingly, a copy of "A Message to



Garcia," the best-selling, inspirational book for military personnel and many others about taking the initiative, doing what it takes, rests on his desk.

"I was always in the infantry or a recon (reconnaissance) person. We look at the world in a different way from most people, in a very aggressive way. We don't allow any sort of obstacle to slow us down. We figure out what the standard is, how we are going to be assessed, and we work toward that standard."

He took those lessons to the classroom, and he takes them into the courtroom. He began his legal career at Susman Godfrey LLP and founded his own firm in 2000.

"In trial, I don't worry too much about the judge; I don't worry too much about the gallery; and I certainly don't worry about the opposing lawyer. What I worry about are the people I'm trying to persuade," he said.

Buzbee remains close to former Dean Stephen Zamora, has used a number of professors as experts in cases, and often hires UH graduates.

"The better lawyers in Houston and the state are UH grads, in my view," he said. "You know what you're going to get with a UH law graduate. You're going to get somebody that's very solid in core subjects, someone who is going to be good in procedures, someone who has worked hard and has a fairly good work ethic. I always try to hire from there."

Success in the courtroom is rewarding for Buzbee, because it benefits his clients and forced changes that have made equipment and policies and procedures safer.

"Court to me is like a church. I act like I'm in church — but I'm the preacher."

Darlene Byrne '87

Early in her career as judge of the 126th Civil District Court in Travis County, Darlene Byrne felt a calling.

Byrne, a 1987 alumna of the University of Houston Law Center, became a judge in 2001 and quickly found a specific area to focus her efforts. After a case involving a mother who had given her children Kool-Aid and pizza laced with rat poison, Byrne determined she wanted to work more aggressively in the field of juvenile justice.

"I realized then just how critically important the decisions about a person's access to their children is," said Byrne, a former civil attorney who dealt primarily with high-dollar deals. "Their children's sense of safety and right to being safe, and how critically important that was in contrast with whether you win \$10,000, \$100,000, or \$1 million."

After the case, she began educating herself in the areas of domestic violence, child welfare, and juvenile justice and began attending training sessions at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Today, Byrne serves as president of the council.

"I was a civil lawyer for 13 years who fought over money," Byrne said. "I was dealing with banks, real estate, and business deals. I felt like if I wanted to make the biggest difference in my judicial career, I wanted to heavily invest into decisions that relate to where children sleep safely at night. I guess maybe I'm a law nerd. I like fights over money. I like constitutional fights. I like them all. But at this time in my career, this is what I'm supposed to be doing."

Byrne describes her courtroom as the "emergency room of the Travis County courthouse." On any given day, she may have 30 to 35 cases on her docket.

"It's a long, grueling day," Byrne said. "It really has to be singularly focused. We're very data-driven, and we deal in aggregates and data. But when we deal with a family and a child in the courtroom, we have to be

laser focused on their needs."

A fresh perspective for domestic and juvenile issues in the courtroom is something Byrne adamantly encourages. Some of her ideas included maintaining a working relationship with mental health experts and instituting a "one judge, one family" policy where the same judge presides over matters involving a child and his or her family. Her court also makes use of mediation, early attorney appointments, and a family drug treatment program.

"Innovation is significant, because the focus of juvenile justice is rehabilitation," Byrne said. "To be able to rehabilitate a child, there has to be an understanding about where the child is coming from and what their development and capacity is at the time you're encountering them. Being open to what science tells us about brain development is incredibly important for judges to know. Going into the courtroom without a good understanding about child development, learning development in juvenile justice is detrimental to the children that you're serving."

She also introduced a therapy dog program at the Travis County courthouse that has been well-received. Byrne said that a day in court is often one of the most significant days in a person's life and wanted to make her courtroom experience less stress-inducing.

"It's like buying a first car or first home," Byrne said. "Or like the death of a loved



one or the birth of a child. I thought, 'What if there was a therapy dog just walking through the hallway and allowing people to pet the dog if they wanted?' Just to give them comfort and reduce anxieties.

"We started in September of last year and have not looked back. The response has been amazing. From the therapy dog handlers, to the kids, the families, and the lawyers. My fellow judges in the courthouse and the sheriff's deputies — all of them love it."

Byrne's two-year term as president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges will end in July. She also will be seeking re-election to the 126th Judicial Civil District Court in November. UH Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes introduced Byrne at the 14th Annual Zealous Advocacy Conference last year by saying she, "continues to change the world — one child at a time."

"I see a law degree as an amazing gift to have received," Byrne said. "It changed my life. I'm privileged to do this with my education. Getting my law degree allowed me to do for myself and my family what I could have never even imagined as a high school student from the small farm town of Centre, Alabama."

Phyllis Frye '81

At the beginning of her career as an associate judge, Phyllis Frye felt self-conscious about her new prestigious title.

Frye had already been scheduled to speak at an event when then-Mayor Annise Parker appointed her as an associate judge on the City of Houston Municipal Courts. Event organizers decided the newly minted judge should be the keynote.

People were congratulating her, calling her “Judge Frye,” and she was visibly uncomfortable with the recognition. Finally, an acquaintance pulled her aside for a private scolding.

“He put his finger to my chest and said, ‘These people need you as a role model, get over it!’” said Frye, '81.

She instantly understood. The gathering was a transgender event; the man was transgender; and Frye was the nation's first openly transgender judge.

“And so I got over it.”

Maybe Frye wasn't used to positive reinforcement after enduring decades of discrimination, insults, and mistreatment for being a transgender woman. Today, she confidently continues her work as an associate judge and has her own law practice, which the part-time judicial position allows.

Featured in a lengthy profile in the New York Times in August, Frye is hailed as the “grandmother” of the transgender movement, Frye focuses solely on transgender law in her private practice, and she is active in the national LGBT Bar Association. (Other attorneys at Frye, Oaks, Benavidez, & O'Neil represent LGBTI and supportive straight clients on various legal issues.)

“I'm very comfortable with being a role model. I'm called 'Judge Frye' all over the place. You have to remember, there's only one other out-of-the-closet transgender judge in the nation,” Frye said.

Judge Frye was born Phillip Frye in San Antonio. He was an Eagle Scout, attended Texas A&M University, joined the Corps of Cadets, studied engineering, and enlisted in the Army. He transitioned to Phyllis in 1976.

“After being forced out of the military in 1976 for being trans and being blackballed from engineering employment, I went back to college for a joint M.B.A./J.D.,” she said.

“At that time, my goal was to become a lawyer so that the neighbors might fear my suing them if they did not quit harassing me and my wife. It worked. So, I became a lawyer quite by accident as my third career.”

In “Autobiography of a Law School,” Professor Emeritus John Mixon writes that after Frye applied in 1978, the faculty discussed two issues: Houston's cross-dressing ban and bathroom usage.

“Dean George Hardy and a faculty consensus sensibly saw no reason to treat Phyllis differently from other applicants,” and she was admitted, according to the book. The law school solved the bathroom issue by providing a couple of locking unisex bathrooms. Later, Frye succeeded in having the city's cross-dressing ordinance repealed.

“UH law has always treated me well,” said Frye, sitting in her central Houston office, which is filled with photos, awards, and even a “Tootsie” movie poster.

Many faculty and staff were supportive of her, including Irene and Yale Rosenberg, Jacqueline Weaver, Tom Newhouse, Ray Nimmer, Jim Hippard, Dan Rotenberg, Stephen Zamora, and Nan Duhon. “I cried on her shoulder a lot,” Frye said of Duhon.

But Frye encountered bitter problems with the school's Christian Legal Society (CLS). Some CLS students wouldn't pray with her, some would. She filed a handwritten complaint against the group, which resulted in it being placed on probation for discriminatory practices.

“On the positive side, several students, professors, and staff were very good to me during those three years, which gave me time to grow into my new self,” she said. “When I went across the stage at graduation there wasn't a single jeer — that was sort of a surprise to me.”

She thought a law degree would allow her to hang out her own shingle and business, rather than having to depend on a company



hiring her as she did in engineering. But she couldn't find much work at first as a transgender lawyer and resorted to selling Amway products, mostly to gay bars in Montrose. A legal case would come her way now and then, and her wife worked, but they struggled financially.

Her legal career started to pick up after she represented a U.S. Air Force enlisted man who was arrested outside a gay bar on a DWI charge, securing him a reasonable deal and avoiding the publicity he feared. Additional cases came her way, and she started asking some judges for appointments. More than 10 years after graduation, she finally was making decent money as a lawyer.

A few years ago, she gave up criminal defense work to focus on transgender law.

“What I do now is take transgender people from all over Texas through the courts for their ID documents as they transition. It is very rewarding to help people attain the life they were supposed to be,” she said.

She credits UHLC for giving her a good education and providing a supportive environment as a transgender student. She has returned to the law school for events, and she sponsors the Phyllis Randolph Frye Writing Competition Award for best paper in topics relating to an area of law dealing with gender identity or gender expression with preference given to transgender and intersex issues.

“Phyllis Frye deserves a special mention for teaching us more than we taught her,” Mixon wrote. “Phyllis responded to her tribulations with more humor and kindness than her tormenters deserved. She has finally received acceptance by the profession, by her neighbors, and by any part of the world that counts, as an equal.”

Rick George '77

The day Rick George walked out of high school in Colorado, he headed straight to the oil patch looking for work — and he has never left the business, not even when he took a busy detour through law school.

Growing up in Brush, Colo., about 80 miles northeast of Denver, there weren't many choices for George but to seek a job in the DJ Basin, where oil and gas have been produced since 1901.

"I was 18 and looking for money to go to college," said George, '77. "I went into the oil patch and started working for a pipeline company. I've never looked back. I've been an oil patch guy ever since."

With his earnings, George attended Colorado State University, continuing to work summers and Christmas breaks. He earned a degree in engineering in the early 1970s, when good jobs were plentiful in the oil business. George accepted an offer to work in a major projects group with Texaco Inc. in Houston.

About six months into the job, George realized he wanted to do something more than just pure engineering his entire career. He started to think about going to law school, took the LSAT, and the next thing he knew, he was headed to the University of Houston Bates College of Law. For the most part, he went to law school at night and worked at Texaco during the day. He took a leave from work the last two semesters to finish law school.

"I would have to say it (law school) was a blur. I wish I had been able to spend more time there, because I had a great experience in law school. It really helped me in my life and my career," said George, who lives in Calgary, Canada, with his wife of 43 years, Julie. "UH was very flexible and very accommodating for me."

The school also offered a friendly environment for those with an oil and gas background.

"UH law was, and still is, very rooted in the oil and gas community and industry. Lots of people in the law school are involved in oil and gas in some form," George said. "They knew the industry, they knew the community. I felt very comfortable there. It felt like home

to me."

George said he didn't really find engineering school all that difficult, but law school was a different story.

"It used the complete opposite side of my brain. It really helps you with logically thinking through problems. It helps you

anticipate various outcomes," George said. "The training that a legal education gave me was completely different from engineering. It helped broaden me out a lot. I loved doing it; it really advanced my career to have a law degree."

A few days after passing the Texas bar, Texaco moved George to its world headquarters in New York, where he started negotiating exploration and production contracts from around the world.

Some two years into that role, George found he was hardly ever at home to enjoy his growing family. So the George family moved to Dallas, where he went to work for Sun Co., which moved him to the United Kingdom within about a year.

After living and working in the U.K. for about 10 years, George was asked to move to Canada in 1991 to become CEO of Suncor Energy Inc., owned 75 percent by Sun Co. and 25 percent by the Ontario government. Rather than another stepping stone for George, Canada would prove to be home. George, his wife, and three children all became Canadian citizens in 1996, though his international children are scattered about the world — Connecticut, Los Angeles, and Brussels, Belgium.

George was CEO of Suncor Energy for 21 years, overseeing the successful transformation of a small privately held oil sands company with a valuation of \$1 billion to Canada's largest integrated energy



company with a public valuation of more than \$50 billion.

He and his wife are involved in a wide range of charitable efforts in Calgary. They co-founded Juno House, a center of excellence for adolescent girls and their families, dealing with anxiety, eating disorders, addiction, and a variety of mental health issues that young girls often face. A charitable foundation was created to subsidize families in need of these services and helped more than 200 families since 2013. He also has served on the Calgary Committee to End Homelessness and with the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference, among other things.

George has received numerous awards and honors, including appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada for his leadership in the development of Canada's natural resources sector, his efforts to provide economic opportunities to Aboriginal communities, and his commitment to sustainable development.

Currently, he is a partner in Novo Investment Group and serves on several boards, including Anadarko Petroleum Corp. in Houston. George also recently published a book with Harper Collins Canada called, "Sun Rise: Suncor, the Oil Sands, and the Future of Energy."

"I found an industry that I love," George said. "I love the people; I love the characters; and I've always loved the kind of challenge about it. I know this industry so well."

Star Jones '86

Lawyer, writer, television personality, and businesswoman extraordinaire, Star Jones credits her legal education for providing the framework for her stellar career. And she knew exactly where she wanted to learn to become a lawyer.

Jones, '86, said she purposely chose the University of Houston Law Center because of its national reputation for providing a rigorous legal training.

"I knew that the University of Houston law school would give me options. I was coming from out-of-state, and I really wanted to pick a school that had a high bar passage rate, because I was already looking ahead to being a lawyer, not a law student," she said. "And I wanted the experience of toughness, and I knew that UH would give that to me."

By her third year, Jones said she was ready to get out and work as a lawyer — and she knew she was prepared to do so because of UHLC.

"The University of Houston Law Center is legal practice-focused so you can really take your dreams wherever you want to go. You're only limited by your dreams. The law degree really will give you all the options," she said.

It seems Jones' dreams have no limits.

Born Starlet Marie Jones in North Carolina, she graduated from high school in New Jersey and earned a bachelor of arts degree in administration of justice at American University in Washington, D.C.

Jones knew she wanted to be a prosecutor and was recruited by several district attorney offices, including those in Houston, Miami, and Chicago. She accepted a position in the Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, N.Y., because it promised her the best opportunity to get into a courtroom quickly. She tried her first case three months later.

Her career skyrocketed with numerous successful cases, including high-profile ones. Jones started doing legal commentary for Court TV, providing analysis of the William Kennedy Smith rape trial, among others. She was hired as national legal correspondent for NBC Nightly News and worked for the network for several years.



She said she treated viewers and jurors much the same way.

"The law should be user-friendly," Jones said. "I didn't make it complicated. I made it real. I made it tangible. I made it something people were interested in and could understand. That made me successful as a prosecutor, and that translated and transformed into me being successful as a commentator."

Her success as a legal commentator on TV led to being a host for nine seasons on "The View," ABC's popular daytime talk show. "If you can talk and if you can listen, you can be a talk show host," she said.

She also had her own TV shows, "Jones & Jury," and later, "Star Jones," and represented consumer brands, built businesses, and appeared on other TV shows. She has written three books: "You Have to Stand for Something or You'll Fall for Anything," "Shine: A Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Journey to Finding Love," and the novel, "Satan's Sisters." She also worked as chief legal analyst for "Inside Edition," leading its coverage of the O.J. Simpson murder case and becoming the only reporter to interview Simpson during his civil trial.

Currently, she is president of Professional Diversity Network, a technology workforce network that combines jobseekers with companies that seek diversity and inclusion.

She is only the third African-American woman to lead a publicly traded company in the U.S.

Her career also includes serving as board chairman of the National Association of Professional Women, and she is involved in other projects. Originally, Jones had been hired as the NAPW's national spokesperson and then became its president.

"I quickly took over, as everybody knows that's my personality: You get in, you figure out what you need to do, and you make it your own."

At the heart of all of her professional achievements and milestones, she said, is her legal education.

"The law degree from the University of Houston Law Center is really what controlled the trajectory of my entire professional career, there's no question about that," Jones said.

Jones wholeheartedly agrees with UHLC Dean Leonard M. Baynes' belief in the fundamental importance of an education, particularly a legal education.

"The law degree will allow you to dream as big as you want and then be able to back it up, because you learn to think strategically; you learn to build relationships; you learn to talk to people; you learn to look way down the line at what's coming next," she said. "I'm meant to do as much as I want to do — and the law degree gave me that."

Jacob Monty '93

As a boy growing up in El Paso, Jacob Monty could look across the Rio Grande into Mexico, his ancestral home. "I'm very grateful for having been born in the U.S. I grew up just two miles from the Mexican border — we could see Mexico every morning from our neighborhood, Barrio de San Juan," Monty said. "We have relatives in Mexico. We always considered ourselves the lucky ones. I understand that my life would have been very different had I been born in Mexico instead."

One of seven children, he learned to respect the power of luck, the value of connections, and the importance of seizing an opportunity.

Monty, '93, went on to be the first in his family to attend college and then law school. He has built a thriving labor and immigration law practice, become an impressive fundraiser in Republican politics, and worked with many organizations, including serving on the University of Houston System Board of Regents from 2008 - 2013.

But becoming a lawyer was the last thing on a young Monty's mind. After graduating from high school, he started working in construction, earning \$10.66 an hour, sometimes even more with overtime. He thought life was pretty good — until his then-girlfriend, now wife, Adelina, informed him in 1989 that she had been accepted to Baylor College of Dentistry. She was moving to Dallas.

"That was the catalyst for me to start thinking about doing something else with my life," Monty said. "That's when I realized I had to go to college, and then I thought that I could become a lawyer. I was determined to catch up with my wife. I wanted to make myself worthy of her."

Monty zipped through college at the University of Texas at Arlington in an astonishing 19 months, graduating in 1991 with a degree in history. He applied to about 20 law schools, ranging from The University of Texas to Vermont Law School. He was weighing his options when a fortuitous El Paso connection and a small windfall would set his course for Houston.

"UH stood out for two reasons. They happened to have a guy from El Paso who was dean of admissions, Murray Nusynowitz.

They offered me a Dean's scholarship, and \$500 back then was a big deal to me. Murray also told me if I wanted to work, I would have clerking opportunities in Houston. He said, 'Jacob, you're going to hate Vermont, there's no Mexican food over there! You need to come to Houston.'"

Needing the scholarship, wanting the opportunity to clerk, and seeking a place where he felt culturally connected, Monty came to the University of Houston Law Center.

"I'm so glad I took Murray's advice, because coming to Houston and UH Law changed my life. I've had so many opportunities that I would not have had elsewhere," Monty said, adding: "Can you imagine me in Vermont?"

Dressed in a blue sport coat, slacks, and black cowboy boots, Monty seems at home in his near-north Houston law office, located in a building he owns that also houses his wife's dental practice. The rooms are filled with photos, paintings, and political memorabilia, including one of him and former President George W. Bush.

Monty originally wanted to pursue international transactions. The North American Free Trade Agreement had passed, he spoke Spanish, and understood Mexico. It seemed like a good fit.

But fate intervened when a UHLC staffer connected him with Alaniz & Schraeder, a labor law firm that was seeking a Spanish speaker. Monty fell in love with labor law.

In his second year, he became a research assistant for Professor Michael Olivas, who jokingly told Monty he usually gave the job to the Latino with the highest GPA but that the first five students weren't available. Monty enjoyed Olivas' wit and sarcasm, and he learned the importance of being an effective writer. Monty also was involved in the



Hispanic Law Students Association.

"That gave me some comfort. It helped make me feel welcome and gave me inspiration. That cultural affinity was very important," he said.

Monty was able to graduate in 2½ years with a job waiting for him.

"Everything that Murray promised, he delivered on: The option to clerk, the Spanish-speaking opportunities, the city's strong Latino culture. It was awesome."

He credits the UHLC administration, professors, and staff for preparing him for a successful career.

"University of Houston law graduates are known for being very bright and hard workers. They also have good writing and advocacy skills — that's more and more important."

Monty established his own firm in May 1998, specializing in employment and immigration law. His expertise includes representing employers in litigation matters and handling labor issues in Hispanic workforces.

He has won numerous awards and recognitions, has helped a number of organizations, and served on many boards. He remains committed to the Law Center, UH, and Mexican-American studies.

He also is heavily involved in Republican fundraising efforts and local non-partisan campaigns.

"I don't really have a hobby, so politics is my hobby," Monty said. "My wife wishes I would get a less expensive hobby — like polo or racecar driving."

ZEALOUS ADVOCACY CONFERENCE HELPS JUVENILE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS DEVELOP TOOLS TO REPRESENT AT-RISK YOUTH

The 14th Annual Zealous Advocacy Conference in September coached juvenile justice advocates on new programs and policies to help them make differences in the lives of at-risk youth.

Judge **Darlene Byrne**, president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, a UHLC alumna and judge of the 126th Judicial District Court in Travis County, outlined several steps taken in her courtroom that have led to more positive outcomes for “crossover” youth, those caught in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

“Being innovative is how we do business,” said Byrne. “The innovations are saving time, saving money, and leading to better outcomes.”

The two-day CLE conference was sponsored by the Center for Children, Law & Policy and the Southwest Juvenile Defender Center. It was attended by juvenile justice advocates, professors, and jurists. The 15th Annual Conference will be held June 2-3, 2016.



PRECISION MEDICINE TAKES EVANS TO WHITE HOUSE



Professor **Barbara J. Evans** was invited to a “Champions of Change” event at the White House honoring those fighting to improve the health care system.

Evans, director of the Center on Biotechnology and Law, participated in a brainstorming session with members of the president’s Precision Medicine Team at Harvard Medical School on June 25, which led to an invitation to the Precision Medicine Champions of Change event at the White House.

“The precision medicine movement is thrilling,” Evans said. “Twentieth-century health care was an improvement over nineteenth-century health care, but that’s about all one can say about it. The 21st-century health care industry is in a period of profound, technology-driven restructuring, sparked by game-

changing advances in genomics and information technology. There’s so much work to do, and a lot of it is legal work. And it’s all good work.”

The event honored a small group of patients, next-of-kin, and innovators who are fighting back against an imprecise, impersonal health care system.

FACULTY

KATHERINE BREM

Lecturer – Lawyering Skills and Strategies



Katherine Brem teaches legal writing to first-year and foreign LL.M. students and a writing course in federal pretrial litigation to second and third year students.

Her research interests include federal and state procedural matters, and the innovative delivery of high-quality practice skills from student to employer. Brem graduated with honors in 1994 from The University of Texas School of Law, where she served on the Texas Law Review. After graduation, Brem spent six years as a litigation attorney with Baker Botts L.L.P. She came to the University of Houston Law Center in the fall of 2000 as an assistant clinical professor of legal research and writing and taught lawyering skills and occasionally legal drafting for the next five years. In the fall of 2005, Brem returned to private practice before returning to the Law Center in 2015.

JAMES D. NELSON

Assistant Professor



James D. Nelson writes and teaches in the areas of corporate law, contracts, and constitutional law. Nelson graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he served as editor-in-chief

of the Virginia Law Review. In law school, he received the Roger & Madeleine Traynor Prize for the best paper by a graduating student and the Robert E. Goldsten Award for distinction in the classroom. After graduating, he clerked for Judge Jerry E. Smith of the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and served as a trial attorney in the civil division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Prior to joining the Law Center faculty, Nelson was a postdoctoral fellow in corporate governance at Columbia Law School. He also has been a fellow at the Millstein Center for Global Markets and Corporate Ownership, research director of the Project on Corporate Political Spending at Harvard Law School, associate-in-law at Columbia Law School, and editor-at-large of Columbia Law School's blog on corporations and the capital markets.

STEVEN CHEN

Research Assistant Professor – Health Law



Prior to joining the Law Center Health Law & Policy Institute, Steven Chen practiced as a securities attorney in the New York office of Sidley Austin LLP and in the legal

department of a New York investment bank. He represented issuers and underwriters in a variety of securities transactions, such as initial public offering, common equity offering, and debt offering. His research interests include health care finance reform, social health care programs, health information privacy, and behavioral health law. Chen received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law.

RUTH PILLER, LL.M. '99

Lecturer – Lawyering Skills and Strategies



Ruth Piller graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Houston in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. Immediately upon graduating,

she began work as a city desk reporter with the Houston Chronicle, where she wrote more than 1,000 bylined stories. She earned her J.D. in 1995 from South Texas College of Law where she was associate editor of the South Texas Law Review and editor-in-chief of the student newspaper, Annotations. She earned an LL.M. in 1999 from the University of Houston Law Center. In her nearly 20 years of private practice, Piller has represented insurance companies, homeowners associations, individuals, and companies of all sizes in fields that include insurance defense, personal injury, bankruptcy, toxic torts, and products liability. Piller writes and edits articles for numerous legal publications and is a former editor-in-chief of The Houston Lawyer.

NICOLE DAVIS

Lecturer – Lawyering Skills and Strategies



As a lecturer in LSS, Nicole Lynne Davis' aim is to utilize her years of teaching, tutoring, and mentoring experience coupled with her practical problem solving, legal research, and writing skills to help mold "practice

ready lawyers." Before joining the Law Center, Davis had recently relocated from the D.C. Metro area, returning home to Houston where she was born and raised. Before coming to the Law Center Davis worked in the Washington, D.C. office of Andrews Kurth LLP as a contract attorney. She played an active role in three multi-million dollar patent infringement litigations related to one-way vision technology, Apple iPhone charger circuitry, and digital linking technology utilized by Facebook. Prior to embarking on a legal career, Davis gained practical experience working as an electrical engineer for five years. One of Davis' greatest achievements as an engineer was being named recipient of a superior accomplishment award for her lead role in the installation of the first digital airport surveillance radar in the southwest region of the United States.

DAPHNE ROBINSON

Research Assistant Professor – Health Law



Daphne Robinson is a 1988 *summa cum laude* graduate of Tougaloo College in Jackson, MS, with a B.A. in English. She received her J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C., in 1991, and

will receive a master's degree in public health prevention sciences at the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, GA, in May. Upon graduation from law school, she clerked at the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana and the Louisiana 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals. From 1995 to 2015, Robinson served as an assistant district attorney in Rapides Parish, La., where she supervised the prosecution of criminal and juvenile cases. Her areas of interest include health equity, behavioral health, violence prevention, and public health law.

STAFF

JOHN BRANNEN

Writer/Editor 1 – Marketing



John Brannen worked for Click2Houston.com at KPRC Channel 2 as a web editor before coming to the University of Houston Law Center. He previously worked as a digital sports producer for the Houston

Chronicle. He also worked as a freelance reporter for the Beaumont Enterprise, Fort Bend Herald, Houston Chronicle, Houston Community Newspapers, New Orleans Advocate, and St. Paul Pioneer Press. He began his journalism career at the University of Houston's student newspaper, The Daily Cougar. Brannen received his B.A. in journalism from the Jack J. Valenti School of Communication at the University of Houston.

DASHAWN BUTLER

User Services Specialist 2 – LIT



DaShawn Butler came to the University of Houston Law Center from Apple Inc. where she worked as a Mac and mobile technician. She graduated in the fall of 2010 from Concordia College of Alabama in Selma with a

B.B.A. While in college, she played basketball and won two championships in 2007 and 2008. In her spare time, she enjoys watching sports, traveling, spending time with her family and with her two dogs, Duncan and Jewels.

ELENA HAWTHORNE

Multimedia Specialist – Marketing



Elena Hawthorne spent 12 years in the U.S. Navy as a mass communication specialist prior to joining the Law Center staff. Most recently, she was the director of public affairs for USS Anchorage covering NASA's ORION Mission and USS

Somerset's Philadelphia commissioning ceremony. As a communication specialist, she was involved in many different aspects of public relations which have given her a diverse background in community outreach, speaking preparation, strategic communications, news writer, print layout and design, marketing, and special event planning. Hawthorne received her B.A. in mass communication from Southern New Hampshire University. During her spare time, she enjoys spending quality time and skateboarding with her husband and her seven-year-old son.

INGRID NORBERGS '15

Legal Clinic Supervisor - Death Penalty Clinic and Juvenile Records Sealing Clinic



Ingrida Norbergs holds a B.A. from Rice University and a J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center. After graduating from UHLC in May 2015, she began working

with the Texas Innocence Network and the Juvenile Capital Advocacy Project in September 2015 as a UHLC post-graduate public interest fellow, joining the staff as a full-time licensed attorney in December 2015. Norbergs sought a legal education to work as a public interest attorney and is thrilled to be working in that area now. As a legal clinic supervisor, Norbergs works with the death penalty clinic and the juvenile records sealing clinic. She enjoys exploring Houston and singing the city's praises to dubious outsiders.

NEW LEADERSHIP

Three faculty members assumed new leadership roles in 2015 as directors of two of the Law Center's specialized academic centers.



Associate Professor **Jessica Roberts** was named director of the Health Law & Policy Institute which is consistently ranked among the nation's Top 10 programs by U.S. News & World Report. Roberts joined the faculty in 2010, teaching Contracts, Health Law, Disabilities & the Law, and Genetics & the Law. She is a national expert on disability law and in May was selected as a Greenwall Faculty Scholar in Bioethics. She earned her J.D. from Yale in 2006.



Associate Professor **Bret Wells** was named director of the Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center. An oil and gas and tax law scholar, Wells joined the faculty in 2011 after working in the tax departments of two international corporations and the Houston based law firm of Baker Botts LLP. He teaches courses in Federal Income Taxation, Corporate Taxation, International Taxation, and Oil and Gas. He received his J.D. in 1989 from The University of Texas.



Assistant Research Professor **Allison Winnike** is the new director of research for the Health Law & Policy Institute where she has worked since joining the faculty in 2011. She teaches and concentrates her research in the areas of public health law and health legislation and policy. She earned her J.D. in 2008 from Georgetown.

THOMPSON CALLS FOR FORENSIC SCIENCE REFORM IN NEW BOOK



Professor **Sandra Guerra Thompson** released “Cops in Lab Coats, Curbing Wrongful Convictions through Independent Forensic Laboratories”

last April. In the book, Thompson argues that to protect the interests of justice against conflicts of interest, forensic labs across the country should be removed from the auspices of law enforcement agencies and be made independent.

“What my book does is to try to help lawyers, judges, policymakers, and the general public better understand why it is possible that a crime lab could completely get the science wrong. What are the issues; how widespread are the issues; and what are some of the solutions,” she said.

Thompson, director of the Criminal Justice Institute, said she hopes her book will help prosecutors and defense attorneys better understand the issues.

“Cops in Lab Coats, Curbing Wrongful Convictions through Independent Forensic Laboratories” was published by Carolina Academic Press.

TEXAS CONSUMER COMPLAINT CENTER GIVES ASSISTANCE TO FLOOD VICTIMS

The Texas Consumer Complaint Center at the University of Houston Law Center offered legal assistance to those affected by flooding across the State of Texas last May.

“The center has always seen its primary goal as using the resources of the Law Center to help the greater community, especially in times of need such as a flood, hurricane, or other disaster,” said Professor Emeritus **Richard M. Alderman**, director of the Center for Consumer Law.



CLASS OF '15 URGED TO BASE CAREERS ON CHARACTER

Texas Supreme Court Justice **Eva Guzman** urged the 322 graduates of the University of Houston Law Center in May to look to their future in the law with a strong moral compass and a commitment to service to the community.

“No creed, no philosophy, no professional code of conduct could provide a more timeless or more comprehensive guide for the practice of law or the living of life than this simple maxim: Treat others as you would have them treat you,” she said.

She urged the graduates to help not just their paying clients, but to assist underserved populations through pro bono and other volunteer work.

WOMEN'S CENTER HONORS JANET BECK OF UHLC IMMIGRATION CLINIC

The University of Houston Women and Gender Resource Center named Assistant Clinical Professor **Janet B. Beck** of the Law Center’s Immigration Clinic as winner of the 2015 WGRC Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award in the clinical faculty category.

The award recognizes Beck’s efforts on behalf of women in need and her commitment to gender equality.

“I have represented women in immigration law throughout my career, but the UHLC Immigration Clinic has given me the unique opportunity to supervise law students in their representation of women, from all over the world, against whom horrible atrocities have been committed solely on account of their gender,” said Beck, a supervising attorney at the clinic. “I can think of no greater privilege than to be able to represent these individuals and teach law students about these issues.”





UH PRESIDENT KHATOR, UHLC PROFESSOR OLIVAS: UH IMPROVING ITS DIVERSITY

University of Houston President and System Chancellor **Renu Khator** and UH Law Center Professor **Michael A. Olivas** agreed in a faculty discussion in April that the university has made great strides toward increased diversity over the decades, while acknowledging that work remains to be done.

Khator noted at the outset that her senior administration is perhaps the most diverse in UH’s history and that the university remains committed to improvement at all levels.

Olivas, the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law at UHLC, said there have been discussions about increasing diversity in the top ranks since he began teaching at the Law Center in 1982.

“I’ve had very high hopes, and in many respects, these hopes have been realized,” Olivas said. “Yet, there is so much more that we can do.”

He outlined several steps he would implement to increase minority representation in the faculty and administrative ranks of the university. They include offering jobs to talented postdoctoral students and inviting prominent minority academics to speak at UH events.

CENTER FOR U.S. AND MEXICAN LAW GAINS FUNDING FOR GULF RESEARCH

A research consortium that includes the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law at the University of Houston Law Center will share the nation’s first federal grant from the RESTORE Trust Fund to study Gulf Coast issues in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster. The announcement of the grant was made in July.

“As a consortium member, the Center will work to promote research and development of projects that will engage both Mexican and U.S. agencies to protect the Gulf, a vital resource shared by both countries whose cooperation is essential to the goals of the RESTORE Act,” said Professor Emeritus **Stephen Zamora**, director of the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law.



TEXAS LEGAL SCHOLARS SHARE FEEDBACK ON THEIR RESEARCH AT UHLC WORKSHOP

The University of Houston Law Center co-hosted the inaugural Texas Legal Scholars Workshop in August, a two-day event designed to give Texas law professors with 10 years of experience or less a chance to meet colleagues and receive feedback on their work in progress.

The event, co-sponsored by the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, drew 30 participants from almost all of the state’s law schools. In each hour-long session, presenters gave brief synopses of their papers to a small group of colleagues who then offered feedback on how to better shape the work for publication in law journals.

“We were very pleased with the workshop,” said Professor **Douglas Moll**, who helped coordinate the workshop. “We had hoped to get 10 to 12 attendees for our first year, so we were very excited when we got 30 registrants. Hopefully, they all received useful feedback on their drafts.”



PROFESSOR LONNY HOFFMAN TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

University of Houston Law Center Professor **Lonny Hoffman** testified by invitation in September before the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee regarding a new bill, H.R. 3624, the Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act. He testified against the bill, which

would amend 28 USC § 1447. Federal jurisdiction exists when a dispute involves a controversy between citizens of different states, also known as diversity jurisdiction, Hoffman explained. While the Constitution does not require there be complete diversity of citizenship (which, generally speaking, means that plaintiffs and

defendants cannot be from the same place), in an early case the U.S. Supreme Court confined the federal judiciary’s diversity jurisdiction to those in which diversity of the parties is complete.

The bill would replace the existing common law fraudulent joinder test with a statutory test that places the burden on the plaintiff to prove that claims against the non-diverse defendant are “plausible” and brought in “good faith.” Overall, the bill would make proving fraudulent joinder much easier than it is under current law. On February 25, 2016, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill, on a partisan vote of 229-189.

UH Law Alumni Association Awards

It is our pleasure to congratulate the recipients of the University of Houston Law Center Alumni Awards. The recipients were honored at the 40th Annual Law Gala @ Auction on April 2. Many thanks to all who participated in the nomination process.



The Honorable Michael H. Schneider '70

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

In recognition of exceptional achievement and noteworthy contribution to the UH Law Center and the UH Law Alumni Association

Senior U.S. District Judge Michael H. Schneider carries with him a daily reminder of his time at the University of Houston Law Center.

It has served him well in a legal and judicial career that has spanned more than four decades.

“The best teacher, lecturer, and mentor I ever had was Dean Newell Blakely,” Schneider said. “I carry his notes with me today. Every day when I make a ruling on evidence, in my mind I flash back to his examples and what he said the reason for the rule was.”

Schneider was nominated to the U.S. Eastern District of Texas Court by President George W. Bush in May 2004 and was confirmed by the Senate in September 2004. He assumed senior status in January 2016.

Prior to his federal judgeship, Schneider served on the Supreme Court of Texas from 2002 to 2004 and as chief justice of the First

Court of Appeals of Texas from 1996 to 2002. From 1990 to 1996, Schneider was a presiding judge in the 157th Harris County District Court. His first judicial experience was as a part-time judge in the municipal court of West University Place from 1978 to 1990.

He practiced as a general attorney at Dresser Industries Inc. from 1976 to 1980 and at Bawden Drilling Inc. from 1980 to 1986. His last position as an attorney was from 1986 to 1989 as a general solicitor for the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

After graduating from the Law Center, Schneider began his career as an assistant district attorney in the Harris County District Attorney’s Office, a position he held from 1971 to 1975. Schneider earned an Associate of Arts degree from Lon Morris College in 1963 and a B.S. from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1965. He obtained an LL.M. in 2001 from the University of Virginia School of Law.



The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore '81

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

In recognition of outstanding commitment, service, and dedication to UH Law Center students and alumni

In 1994, when Vanessa Diane Gilmore was sworn in as a U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Texas, she was the nation’s youngest sitting federal judge. She was nominated by President Bill Clinton and became the first University of Houston Law Center graduate to be appointed to the federal bench.

Gilmore decided to pursue a career in law after she represented herself and won a minor civil lawsuit. In 1982, Gilmore began a 13-year tenure at a Houston law firm known as Vickery, Kilbride, Gilmore and Vickery where she specialized in civil litigation. She also became an active member of the Houston civic community, serving on the boards of a number of civic and charitable organizations, including a term as president of the YWCA of Houston. She became involved in the Texas political arena while serving as counsel and teacher in the area of election law. Her civic

activities brought her to the attention of Gov. Ann Richards who, in 1991, appointed Gilmore to the Texas Department of Commerce Policy Board, where she served as chairperson from 1992 to 1994. Gilmore was the first African-American to serve on the board responsible for increasing business, promoting tourism, and developing job training in Texas. In 1993, she also served as chairperson of Texans for NAFTA.

Gilmore is the co-author of “A Boy Named Rocky,” a book for the children of incarcerated parents, and is a frequent speaker on issues related to these children and their families. She has worked on initiatives to help these families with access to resources for their children, including the development of a legal clinic. Gilmore is also the author of “Saving the Dream,” a novel that she hopes will encourage people to pursue their dreams of parenting through adoption.



Tom Godbold '82

CORPORATE SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In recognition of exceptional achievement in the corporate and business communities

Tom Godbold is the executive vice-president, general counsel, and secretary of Twin Eagle Resource Management LLC, an energy commodities marketing and midstream company. Prior to joining Twin Eagle, Godbold was with Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P. in its Houston and Washington, D.C., offices for 28 years. A member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Godbold was a partner in the trial department at Fulbright.

He has served as president of the Houston Bar Association, the chair of the State Bar Board of Directors, chair of the Houston Volunteer Lawyers, and in other non-profit roles. Prior to Fulbright, Godbold was a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Carl O. Bue, Jr. in Houston. Godbold earned a B.B.A. in finance from The University of Texas in 1979 and his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center in 1982.



Ann Ryan Robertson '77

PRIVATE SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In recognition of exceptional achievement in the private sector legal community

Ann Ryan Robertson, an international partner in the Houston office of the global law firm of Locke Lord LLP, serves as an arbitrator and advocate in international and domestic arbitrations. Her practice focuses primarily on commercial and energy-related disputes. Robertson was named to Global Arbitration Review's "Who's Who Legal: Arbitration" in 2015 and 2016. Since 2014, she has been recognized by The Best Lawyers in America and, in 2014, received the distinction of Lawyer of the Year, International Arbitration — Governmental (Houston) by The Best Lawyers in America. Since 2009, Law & Politics and Texas Monthly have recognized her as a Texas Super Lawyer in the field of international law, and, in 2008, she was honored as one of 30 "Extraordinary Women in Texas Law" by Texas Lawyer. Robertson is a member of the U.S. delegation to the NAFTA Advisory Committee on Private Commercial Disputes, a trustee of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a board member of the American Arbitration Association, and a past member of the International Chamber of Commerce Commission on Arbitration. She is a member of the arbitration panels of the American Arbitration Association, the International Centre for Dispute Resolution, the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration, and the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board. An avid supporter of the Law Center's advocacy program for the past 14 years, Robertson has coached the Law Center's Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot team which competes each year in Hong Kong.



The Honorable Terry Jennings '88

PUBLIC SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In recognition of exceptional achievement in public service

Terry Jennings earned his J.D. in 1988 at the University of Houston Law Center. He served as an associate editor of the Houston Law Review and was the 1987 Outstanding Law Review Candidate. A San Antonio native, he earned his B.A. in government at The University of Texas at Austin in 1982. Jennings began his career in civil litigation. In 1990, he joined the Harris County District Attorney's Office, prosecuting everything from narcotics to murder cases. Promoted to the Special Crimes Bureau in 1994, he prosecuted complex white-collar crimes, including organized crime, fraud, and intellectual property cases. Jennings prosecuted more than 1,000 cases and tried, first chair, more than 100 cases to verdict.

Elected to Texas's First Court of Appeals in 2000, Jennings, now the court's senior justice, has written more than 1,000 opinions. He is board certified in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and from 2003 to 2014 "served with distinction" on the Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee. The Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists named Jennings its 2009 Appellate Judge of the Year. In 2011, the Houston Press named him "Houston's Best Appellate Judge."



The Honorable Mike Engelhart '95

PUBLIC SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In recognition of exceptional achievement in public service

Mike Engelhart has been the judge of the 151st Civil District Court since Jan. 1, 2009, after being elected county-wide in 2008. He was re-elected in 2012, receiving the second highest number of votes of any district court judge candidate. A 1995 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, Engelhart was an associate editor of the Houston Law Review. He earned a B.A. in political science and Spanish from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. As a litigator, Engelhart practiced throughout Texas in state and federal courts. He represented thousands of Texans in litigation matters of all types, including plaintiffs and defendants, personal injury and business matters, jury trials, arbitrations, mediations, and appeals.

Engelhart is board certified in Personal Injury Trial Law, and speaks Spanish fluently. He is on the board of directors of the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists and is on the board of directors of Greater Houston Kosher Chili Cookoff, Inc. He is also a member of the nominating committee of the Texas Bar Foundation, as well as a member of the College of the State Bar of Texas. Engelhart is a certified mediator and a member of the advisory board of New Leaders Council of Houston. He is a frequent CLE presenter and author.



Anna M. Archer '06

RISING STAR AWARD

In recognition of future promise and notable commitment to the UH Law Center

Anna M. Archer is a 1998 graduate of the University of Houston and a 2006 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center. Before attending law school, Archer worked as an air traffic controller with the Federal Aviation Administration and as a certified taekwon do instructor. While attending law school, Archer was a dedicated member of the Law Review and served as chief articles editor. After law school, she clerked for U.S. District Judge Samuel B. Kent for one year before beginning her practice in the litigation department of Baker Botts L.L.P., where she worked for three years. In 2010, Archer decided to return to clerking when she received an offer to clerk for U.S. District Judge Gray H. Miller, a UHLC alumnus. She is currently Miller's career law clerk. She also serves as an adjunct faculty member at UHLC during the summers, teaching and mentoring students who are working as judicial interns. Additionally, Archer mentors UHLC students through the Clerkship Mentoring Program and the Upper Level Mentoring Program, and she is often at the Law Center serving on panel discussions and helping in other ways. She has served as an ambassador of the Houston Bar Association and co-chaired several HBA committees, including the Law Library Committee, the Minority Opportunities in the Legal Profession Committee, and the Gender Fairness Committee.



Jarvis V. Hollingsworth '93

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD

In recognition of significant achievement toward developing a more diverse and inclusive legal community

Jarvis V. Hollingsworth is a partner at Bracewell LLP and heads the Public Entities Practice group, counseling trustees of government and education entities and directors of public and private companies on their fiduciary duties and corporate governance. He co-chairs the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee and is a member of the firm's Finance and Political Action Committees.

Hollingsworth served as a regent on the board of the University of Houston System from 2009 to 2015 where he served as chairman of the board and chair of the endowment, finance, executive, and compensation committees during his tenure. From 2002 to 2008, Hollingsworth served as a trustee on the board of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, 2005 to 2008 as board chairman. TRS is a Texas state agency that manages a \$100 billion-plus pension trust fund for retired and active teachers.

Hollingsworth has received numerous awards, including most recently the 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Drum Major award from the North Houston Frontiers Club. He is a former director of the State Bar of Texas. Prior to his legal career, Hollingsworth served for several years as a captain on active and reserve duty in the United States Army.

A native of Fayette, Ala., Hollingsworth received his B.S. degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point and his J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center. Hollingsworth serves on the board of directors of Infogroup, Inc. and on the advisory board of Haddington Ventures LLC.

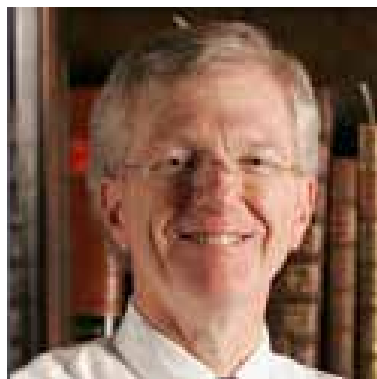


The Honorable George C. Hanks, Jr.

HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD

In recognition of outstanding dedication to the UH Law Center

U.S. District Judge George C. Hanks, Jr. of the Southern District of Texas was nominated for the bench by President Barack Obama in 2015. He previously served as a U.S. magistrate judge, a justice on the Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas, and as judge of the 157th District Court in Houston. Before coming to the bench, Hanks was in private practice with the law firms of Wickliff & Hall, P.C. and Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P. Hanks graduated first in his class from Louisiana State University, receiving his B.A. in economics, *summa cum laude*. He attended Harvard Law School where he received the Legal Defense Fund/Earl Warren Scholarship and was an editor of the Harvard Blackletter Law Journal. Upon graduation, he served as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Sim Lake. He later received his LL.M. degree in judicial studies from Duke University School of Law. He is a member of the American Law Institute, an adjunct professor at the University of Houston Law Center, and a faculty member of the National Judicial College and the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. He is also on the board of directors of the College of the State Bar of Texas and is a member of the advisory board of the Judicial Education Program at George Mason University. Hanks is a published legal author and a lecturer at educational seminars throughout the country. He has served as a member of the Texas Judicial Panel for Multi-District Litigation and the board of directors of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas.



Professor Craig Joyce

FACULTY DISTINCTION AWARD

In recognition of outstanding contribution and dedication to the UH Law Center

Craig Joyce, Andrews Kurth Professor of Law, teaches copyright, American legal history, and torts. He previously was named Professor of the Year by the Student Bar Association and the Hispanic Law Students Association. He also received the Ethel Baker Award for Outstanding Service twice. Joyce graduated from Dartmouth College, Oxford University, and Stanford Law School. He practiced in his hometown, Phoenix, before entering legal academia. At the Law Center, Joyce was founding faculty director, and continues as senior co-director, of the Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law. He is a member of the American Law Institute, the American Society for Legal History (ASLH), and the International Association for the Advancement of Teaching and Research in Intellectual Property. He serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Supreme Court History, ASLH's Humanities Social Sciences Online Discussion Network, and the Journal of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A. His scholarship has appeared in numerous law reviews, including Emory, Georgia, Harvard, Houston, Michigan, UCLA, and Vanderbilt and has been published in the American National Biography, the Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States, the Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History, and the Yale Biographical Dictionary of American Law. Joyce is the lead author of a widely adopted copyright casebook and edited "The Majesty of the Law" by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Justice O'Connor's latest book, "Out of Order," is dedicated to her 100 clerks and to Joyce by name.



William J. Jackson '92

LAW GALA AWARD

In recognition of exemplary support of the Law Gala & Auction

Bill Jackson has largely dedicated his practice to addressing many of the most significant environmental and natural resource damages matters in the country. In 2015, Texas Lawyer named Jackson Gilmour & Dobbs, PC as the "Specialty Litigation Group of the Year" for environmental litigation in Texas. Jackson is a dedicated supporter of the Law Center. While in law school, Jackson served as an associate editor of the Houston Law Review and was awarded the Harold Sellers Scholarship as the top student in his first-year section. After graduating, he served the University of Houston Law Alumni Association by chairing various committees, by serving on its board of directors for more than a decade, and by serving as president of the Law Alumni Association from 2011-2013. He has served as a guest lecturer in Environmental Law at the Law Center and as an advisor to the University of Houston Law Center's Environmental & Energy Law & Policy Journal. Jackson has spearheaded various philanthropic efforts benefitting the Law Center, including chairing the A.A. White Society and organizing the Trees for Houston tree-planting and reforestation efforts for the law school grounds. More recently, he has served on the University of Houston Law Foundation Board for several years and is currently chairing the Foundation's building committee and serving as president-elect of the Law Foundation. In 2014, Jackson chaired the 38th Annual Law Gala and received the Dean's Award for outstanding service to the Law Center.



Linda Glover '01

LAW FUND VOLUNTEER AWARD

In recognition of outstanding service in fundraising for the UH Law Center

Linda Glover is a shareholder in Winstead's energy practice group. She represents clients in a broad range of complex trial, arbitration, regulatory, and appellate matters. She also assists clients with issues arising out of anti-corruption statutes, including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the U.K. Bribery Act. Prior to becoming licensed as an attorney, Glover held various management positions in the insurance industry. Active in the business community, she is a member of the State Bar of Texas, a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and a member of the Houston Bar Association. She is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Institute of Energy Law and the Women's Energy Network. She also has served or currently serves on the boards of the Houston Volunteer Lawyer's Program and the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Glover is listed as a Best Lawyer in America and has been honored by the Houston Bar Foundation for Outstanding Contribution by a Pro Bono Coordinator in the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program. She received her J.D., graduating *magna cum laude*, from the University of Houston Law Center.



Jacqueline Moy '01

LAW FUND VOLUNTEER AWARD

In recognition of outstanding service in fundraising for the UH Law Center

Jacqueline (Jackie) Moy has been involved in fundraising for the Law Fund for many years, most recently serving as co-chair of the 100% Challenge in 2015. Moy believes strongly in the responsibility of lawyers to use their unique position and resources to serve the greater good of the communities in which they live. She has raised funds and done pro bono work for various groups, such as the Tahirih Justice Center, which provides legal representation for women and children who are victims of the sex trade and human trafficking. Moy is senior counsel for a large independent oil and gas company, providing representation in midstream and downstream transactions, infrastructure projects, and joint ventures. She is a member of the Houston Bar Association and the Women's Energy Network. She was named a "Texas Rising Star" for several years by Law & Politics and Texas Monthly. Prior to attending law school, Moy was a certified public accountant.

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
LAW CENTER



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To make a recurring gift, or if you have any questions about the Law Fund, please contact:

Office of Law Alumni Relations, at
(713) 743-2201 or
lawalumni@uh.edu.

DEAN'S AWARD WINNER

James M. Roach '82

By the time he became a teenager, James M. (Jim) Roach knew two things about himself — he wanted to study law, and he wanted to see the world. Roach, a 1982 alumnus of the University of Houston Law Center, credits the school's diversity for helping him achieve these goals.

"Growing up in a small Iowa town, moving on to a big Texas city, and studying law at UH was extremely broadening. The law school especially — what a cross-section of people I experienced in my time there. People who embrace cultural differences in addition to similarities experience a much more fulfilling life and, in turn, greatly benefit their children," says Roach, who will receive the Dean's Award at the 40th Annual Law Gala and Auction, on April 2.

"The University of Houston Law Center is absolutely one of the country's premier practicing law schools. While there, the students' focus is geared at hands-on legal work. My fellow graduates were well trained at actually practicing law immediately upon graduation."

Roach has been with ExxonMobil for more than 34 years in a number of domestic and international assignments, including London, Norway, Singapore, and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. During this time he continued in many ways to maintain a relationship with the Law Center.

He has seen many Law Center alumni like himself begin their careers at ExxonMobil, where 51 Law Center graduates are currently employed.

"Jim has always been one of the most ardent supporters of ExxonMobil's programs to provide legal services for the indigent, setting a high bar of giving and community service for all of us to follow," says Jack Balagia, ExxonMobil vice president and general counsel.

"Over a very long career, Jim has brought to bear on ExxonMobil's



tax issues an amazing combination of technical knowledge, creativity, and passion. Moreover, he shatters the stereotype people have of tax lawyers—in a good way," says Jaime Spellings, ExxonMobil vice president and general tax counsel.

Roach is a director of the Houston Law Foundation Board and sponsored the Jim Roach Scholarship for Excellence. He is also vice president of the U.S. International Fiscal Association for the Houston Region. His vision is to strengthen ties between the Law Center and Houston-based businesses and law firms.

"The more bridges the Law Center builds with law firms and businesses in our country's soon-to-be third largest city will prove valuable," says Roach. "That's where UH has

an edge that law schools located outside large cities don't have. I'm really looking forward to further synergies among the Law Center and the practicing community. I particularly am impressed with the willingness of the central administration and the Law Center to leverage the university's strengths in the business community."

"Jim Roach is an accomplished lawyer and a proud UHLC alumnus," said Dean Leonard M. Baynes. "Over his career, Jim has been a stalwart member of the Law Center Foundation Board and a strong booster of the alumni community and the overall community. I am delighted to honor Jim with this most prestigious Dean's Award."

Roach is the first corporate attorney to win the Dean's Award, a milestone he does not take lightly.

"It's a sense of great honor," says Roach. "I've learned from many cultures that perhaps the most important value is to give more than you receive in all areas of life. And while it's easier to donate funds, it's much more rewarding to give time, emotion, energy, and effort, including pro-bono activity. To be recognized by the Law Center for my time and effort, that's really special."



Antroy Arreola '98

Antroy Arreola is a partner at Locke Lord's Houston office. His practice focuses on representing major energy companies in a broad range of disputes, including litigation over royalty payment, mineral ownership, lease development, drilling operations, and production operations. Arreola has worked as the co-hiring partner for Locke Lord and is the chair of the firm's diversity committee.

He is also instrumental in the firm's eminent domain practice and co-authored, "Recent Developments in Texas Eminent Domain Law Pertinent to Oil & Gas Entities," which was recently published in the State Bar of Texas Oil & Gas Section Quarterly Report.

Arreola graduated from the University of Houston Law Center in 1998. He was a recipient of the Dean's Scholarship and served as editor-in-chief of the Houston Journal of International Law.

"I am grateful for my education from the Law Center, because it has given me the means to provide for my family and a mechanism for helping Houston's energy economy," Arreola said. "I also made some great friends along the way."

Arreola has been chairman of the Houston Journal of International Law Advisory Board since 2013 and is a member of the Houston American Diabetes Association Community Leadership Board. He earned a B.A. in political science, economics, and managerial studies at Rice University in 1995.



Stephanie F. Donner '03

Stephanie F. Donner is the chief legal and people officer and corporate secretary for Galvanize, Inc., a Colorado-based education company. As chief people and legal officer, Donner oversees all legal, human resources, compliance, and government relations matters.

Donner served as notes and comments editor for the Houston Law Review before graduating *magna cum laude* in 2003.

Prior to joining Galvanize, Donner served as chief legal counsel for Colorado Gov. John W. Hickenlooper, advising him on legislative and policy issues, more than 90 judicial appointments, including three Supreme Court Justices, and emergency management issues. Donner also served as deputy chief of staff and executive director and general counsel for the Colorado Recovery and Resiliency Office.

"The UHLC taught me to think critically and practically, but also creatively," Donner said. "As a student, I thought these were essential to a career in law. I have since realized these skills are valuable to success in all pursuits. Yes, they were critical to my job as an attorney representing clients in the private sector, but thanks to UHLC, I found myself prepared for the policy challenges I faced in the governor's office and the education and tech sectors, and I am fortunate to be pioneering with the team at Galvanize. I have come to realize that my education at UHLC prepared me to think in an entrepreneurial way. I am more grateful for what I learned at UHLC every day."



E. Lee Morris '93

Lee Morris is a shareholder with Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C., currently serving in his second term as the firm's chief operating officer. As a member of the firm's Restructuring, Creditors' Rights and Finance practice group, Morris also maintains an active practice focused on complex restructurings, controlled liquidations, asset acquisitions, and high stakes litigation in the bankruptcy and insolvency arena, having represented a broad range of parties, including debtors, trustees, lenders, committees, insurers, equity holders, and directors and officers in a number of different venues throughout the U.S. Prior to his election as the firm's COO, Morris served on the firm's Management and Compensation Committees and also recently served as the managing shareholder of the firm's Houston office.

Morris earned a B.A. in economics from The University of Texas at Austin. While at UHLC, Morris served as an editor of the Houston Law Review and as a student representative of the Honor Court.

"My time at the Law Center was truly exhilarating," Morris said. "Having been exposed to both a world-class faculty and the diverse cultural and business views of exceptional classmates, I left the Law Center with an understanding and appreciation of both the theoretical and practical side of the law — guidance which has proven invaluable to both my practice and the management roles in which I have served."

After graduating from the Law Center in 1993, Morris started his career with a two-year clerkship for then-U.S. Bankruptcy Judge William Greendyke, followed by positions with Vinson & Elkins LLP and the bankruptcy boutique firm of Sheinfeld, Maley & Kay, P.C. before joining Munsch Hardt.

Morris is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy by the American Board of Certification and has been recognized as a leader within the field of bankruptcy/restructuring by Chambers USA, among the best lawyers in America by Woodward/White Inc., and as a Texas “Super Lawyer” by Thomson Reuters.

Judge Eleanor L. Ross '94

Eleanor Ross is a federal judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Ross, a native of Washington D.C., graduated from American University before attending the University of Houston Law Center.

“The classes and mock trial experience I had at the University of Houston Law Center were invaluable to getting my various positions,” Ross said. “The career center also was extremely effective in helping me pinpoint the internships and job opportunities for which I was best suited, which ultimately prepared me for my judicial service.”

In December 2013, President Barack Obama nominated Ross for the federal judgeship in Georgia, a position which no African-American woman had previously held. She appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee for confirmation in May 2014 and was confirmed by the Senate in November 2014.

Ross previously served as a prosecutor and was honored for her contributions to victims’ rights and recognized by the Fulton County (GA) District Attorney in 2000 as Homicide Attorney of the Year and in 2010 as Attorney of the Year. She was also cited in 2011 as one of Georgia’s Most Powerful and Influential Attorneys by Women Looking Ahead News Magazine.

In April 2011, Ross was appointed by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal to serve on the State Court of DeKalb County. She served on that court for three-and-a-half years.

Richard Craig Smith '00

Richard Smith is a partner at Norton Rose Fulbright’s office in Washington, D.C. His practice focuses on complex litigation, white collar criminal defense, transactional and third party due diligence, risk assessment, creation and review of anti-corruption policies and procedures, and U.S.-centric and transnational corporate internal investigations for public and private companies.

He also represented the National Football League Players Association in high-profile cases involving Baltimore Ravens former running back Ray Rice, the Miami Dolphins, and New Orleans Saints.

Thirteen years after earning a J.D. from the University of Florida College of Law, Smith graduated with an LL.M. in health law from the University of Houston Law Center in 2000.

“Obtaining an LL.M. degree from the University of Houston Law Center has provided me with the requisite fund of knowledge in the field of health care that has allowed me to effectively serve as an independent director of Exactech, Inc., a publically traded medical device company, and effectively represent clients in civil and criminal health care matters before state and federal regulatory and prosecutorial agencies in the United States.”

In 2015, Smith was named to the National Black Lawyers Top 100. Thomson Reuters named him a Washington, D.C., Super Lawyer for white collar criminal defense from 2013 to 2015.

Smith graduated with an M.A. in political science from Florida in 1984. He graduated with a B.A. in political science from Alabama A&M University in 1983.



FAMILY PRACTICE

The Sears Takeover

When Ross A. Sears enrolled at the University of Houston Law School in the late '60s, he never thought he would be launching a legal dynasty that has extended over three generations.

"I was extremely proud when my brother, John Terry Sears, followed in my footsteps, then my wife, Mariann, before we were married, one of my daughters-in-law, Victoria Frank Sears, my sons, Ross A. Sears II and Terry H. Sears, and finally my first grandchild, Samantha Sears," said Ross, who retired as a justice of the Texas 14th Court of Appeals in 1994.

After retiring from the bench, he turned to acting, appearing in five feature films, including an Italian movie and many television shows and TV commercials, including one for the French automaker Peugeot. His most recent commercials were for Blue Bell ice cream and Denny's, which aired in 2014 and 2015.

Before turning to the law, Ross attended Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, joined the Air Force during the Korean war, where he served as a radar operator on an amphibian rescue plane and was decorated for taking part in a rescue mission, earned "All-Star" honors in the Air Force football team, and turned down collegiate football scholarships to concentrate on academics and finish his college degree at The University of Texas. Leaving Austin behind, he went to work for the Sunbeam Corp. in Chicago and later Minneapolis, continuing his love of football by playing semi-pro in both cities.

Ross' interest in law was sparked in Chicago when the driver for a city councilman ran into his car, and he was given a traffic ticket.

"I could not afford a lawyer so I went to the library and studied the municipal ordinances and found three violations committed by the other driver," Ross said. "I went to trial and won."

Later in Minneapolis, he again went to court and beat another traffic ticket. He also got permission from the court to argue for a friend and won that case as well. That is what set him on the path to law school after being out of college for 12 years and working in sales.

In the summer of 1968 with a wife, two sons, and two step-children,



Three generations and seven members of the Sears family have graduated, or will graduate, from the University of Houston Law Center (from left to right): Daughter-in-law Victoria Frank Sears '90, son Ross A. Sears II '91, Patriarch Judge Ross A. Sears '70, wife, Mariann Sears '83, behind him, son, Terry H. Sears '93, granddaughter Samantha Sears 1L.

Ross enrolled in the UH Bates College of Law and graduated in 1970. He was an active member of the Order of the Barons and won the American Jurisprudence award in Contracts, Insurance, and Admiralty Law.

"I remember when my sons were two and four years of age they would come in and tell me good night while I was studying. After they were in bed, I would go out and sell mortgage cancellation insurance to support my family and then

come home and study again," he said.

John Terry Sears followed his brother's path, receiving his J.D. in 1972 and practicing solo until he passed away in 2003 at the age of 65.

Mariann entered the University of Houston Law School in August 1980 and received her J.D. in 1983. Soon after graduating, she worked as a briefing attorney with the 14th Court of Appeals, where she met Justice Sears. They will be celebrating their 29th wedding anniversary in August.

It was her love of writing and legal research that led Mariann to become the first female director of the Harris County Law Library where she oversaw the library's relocation in 2013 and, most recently, planned and hosted the library's Centennial Celebration in October.

"Both Ross II and Terry told me at an early age that they wanted to be attorneys," the justice said of his two sons.

After graduating from the University of Houston with a B.S. in psychology in 1998, Ross II followed his father's footsteps and went on to UHLC along with his college sweetheart, Victoria Frank.

The two met at UH during her senior year and discovered they both planned to go to law school. They became engaged her final year of law school.

One day, the couple and a law school friend, Clay Crawford, were at school when the question of whose family name the couple would go by once they were married came up for debate. "Like any good feminist, I was contending that it was unreasonable to just expect me to change my last name," said Victoria. "The debate ensued, and it was finally agreed that we would flip a coin to determine if

he would take my last name or if I would take his. Like good law students, we quickly drafted a contract setting out the terms.”

Crawford was moderating the event, the coin was flipped, and Victoria won.

“The family name would be my maiden name, ‘Frank.’ While I was dancing around the advocate’s office, gloating, Clay quickly scooped up the ‘contract,’ popped it into his mouth and ate the evidence,” she said.

“My focus through law school was always family law and domestic violence studies,” said Victoria.

After graduating from UHLC in 1990, she immediately began working for the family law firm of Short and Jenkins, and in 1991, soon after Ross II graduated, they were married, and Victoria kept her maiden name. Their children, Mackenzie, now 19, and Madison, now 16, carried the Sears surname. As a surprise for her husband on their 10th wedding anniversary, Victoria had her name legally changed to Sears with Crawford representing her at the courthouse.

Victoria worked for Pollicoff, Smith, Myers & Remels when she realized that two practicing lawyers and two young children was not going to work, so she became a stay-at-home mom. While at home, she started a women’s custom accessory business, and her handbags and belts were written up in Women’s Wear Daily Dallas and showcased at the Dallas and Los Angeles Market Centers. She is currently working with Ross at Williamson, Sears & Rusnak LLP doing litigation support work.

After graduating from the Law Center in 1991, Ross II worked for an insurance defense firm for three years and then left to work with Jimmy Williamson PC, which later became Williamson and Sears. He left that firm and formed Sears Crawford LLP until January 2015 when he and Williamson rejoined forces and formed the firm of Williamson, Sears & Rusnak.

“I wanted to go to law school since I was in diapers,” said Ross II. “My best memories growing up are hunting year after year with my dad and all his lawyer friends and law partners.”

Like his older brother, uncle, and dad, Terry H. Sears also wanted to follow the family tradition, and after graduating from the University of Houston in 1989 with a B.S. in psychology, he entered the University of Houston Law Center.

“My father impressed upon me at an early age in high school to attend either medical school or law school,” Terry said. “I chose law school over medical school as I was married and law school was several years shorter than medical school, and my brother, Ross II, attending law school a couple of years ahead of me, made the dream of attending law school and becoming a lawyer more reachable.”

While in law school, Terry played intramural football for three years and boasts that his law school team was undefeated against the School of Optometry. In his third year, his wife, Cherry, gave birth to their daughter, Samantha, and six years later to their son, Taylor.

After graduating in 1993, he taught Legal Negotiations at UHLC in the evening as an adjunct professor while working with a small real estate firm.

“Working two jobs while married and with two children was challenging,” he said, “but Cherry and I will celebrate 32 years of marriage this summer.” Terry’s fondest memories from law school were the study sessions with Jody and Pat, both guys, and the lifelong friendships made with several of his classmates.

In 2009 Terry and Joel Bennett, a law school friend, formed Sears and Bennett LLP and in 2016 expanded the firm to Sears, Bennett and Gerdes, LLP.

The Sears legal and Law Center dynasty continues with first-year law student Samantha Sears, the first grandchild of the judge. “I highly value helping others in my private life, and I wanted to come to law school so helping others could be the focus of my professional life as well,” she said. “I’ve seen how hard my family has worked all their lives, and it inspired me to follow in their footsteps.”

Growing up in a family of lawyers and seeing how people trusted her dad with their problems and how much he could help them, convinced her to follow in his footsteps. “It is quite an honor to have your child attend the same law school that you did,” Terry said. “I am sure that my father, Judge Sears, is equally if not more proud that not only did both of his children attend the University of Houston Law Center, but his first grandchild has chosen to attend UHLC as well.”

Samantha graduated with a B.S. in psychology, as did her dad and uncle Ross, from Texas Christian University. Samantha is interested in several areas of law, but this summer she will be able to narrow her options when she splits her summer working for Kent Schaffer at Bires, Schaffer & DeBorde and Cokinos, Boisen & Young.

She is currently involved at the Law Center, as a LexisNexis student ambassador, a member of the Christian Legal Society and Student Bar Association, a player for the law school co-ed volleyball intramural team, and elected 1L representative for section A.

“It’s very special for me and my family that we get to share the same law school and profession we love, with the people we love,” said Samantha. “Getting to carry on my family’s legacy at UHLC has been an honor that I will cherish for the rest of my life.”



John Terry Sears, '72

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

First year University of Houston Law Center students, along with faculty and staff members, fanned out across the city in August during the school's second annual Community Service Day.

Students helped out at five locations, including Hermann Park; the Houston chapter headquarters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the Mayor's Back to School Fest at the UH main campus; the Houston



Food Bank's main warehouse; and the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

"It's very important for us at the Law Center to be engaged in the community," Dean Leonard M. Baynes told one group of student volunteers gathered at Hermann Park.

They were greeted by Diane Kerr, director of volunteer programs for the Hermann Park Conservancy, who gave them two options: use a kind of "Frisbee" net to help clear the park's lake of trash and debris or snip the dead leaves off tree saplings.

At the Houston headquarters of the NAACP in the city's Third Ward, another group along with Richard F. Whiteley '99, president of the UH Law Alumni Association, met with chapter President James Douglas and Vice President and General Counsel Taft Foley. They told the volunteers their task was to canvass property owners along Dowling Street to gather signatures on a petition asking City Council to change the street's name. The three-mile-long street, which runs through the heart of one of Houston's historically

African-American communities, is named after Richard "Dick" Dowling, a Confederate commander in the Civil War.

Foley said petitioners hope to rename the street "Emancipation Avenue" in recognition of nearby Emancipation Park, a property bought by newly freed slaves after the war and donated to the city.

"Back at the University of Houston, another group of volunteers was checking people in to the Mayor's Back to School Fest, hosted by then-Mayor An-nise Parker. Thousands of people filed into the huge Athletics and Alumni Building to stock up on school supplies donated by Shell and other sponsors and to receive information about services provided by the city, the university, and other institutions.

Smiling under a blazing hot sun while directing families inside, in-

coming student Gloriana Gonzalez said she was thrilled to have the opportunity to help.

"It feels really good to be able to make a difference, even if it's just for one day," said the Houston native.

Inside the main hall, Sarah Byrd, another 1L, checked in people who had previously registered online. Byrd, who has worked in public

education, said it was great to help under-privileged families get some of the basics.

"I've seen what it's like for kids who show up without the things they need," she said.

At the warehouse of the Houston Food Bank, a large group of UHLC volunteers helped sort donated items, using a sophisticated scanner that determined whether each item was suitable for distribution to Houston-area food pantries and other locations.

Other volunteers stacked items on shelves inside the massive warehouse and helped clean the floors of packaging debris.

"I really like it. It's really well organized," 1L Erin Kaufman said as she scanned items in the sorting room. The UHLC group had split into several teams, and they competed to see which could scan the most items during their shift.

By the end of the morning, the teams had scanned a total 14,619 items, announced volunteer coordinator Amy Altchuler.

At the ReStore Warehouse of the Houston branch of Habitat for Humanity, UHLC folks helped consolidate and organize used goods collected by the organization for resale to the public. Proceeds from the store contribute to the nonprofit's mission of building affordable housing.

During a break while chatting with Baynes and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Sondra Tennessee, Simon Harrall, an incoming part-time student who has spent nearly three decades in the energy industry, said the event gave the class an opportunity not just to volunteer, but also to build positive relationships with each other.



IMMIGRATION CLINIC STUDENTS PREPARE WOMEN FOR ASYLUM INTERVIEWS

Five students in the Immigration Clinic at the University of Houston Law Center traveled to a family detention center southwest of San Antonio in July to prepare women for their upcoming appearances before immigration officials.

The students, led by visiting Assistant Clinical Professor Janet Beck, interviewed 69 women at the South Texas Family Residential (Detention) Center in Dilley.

The students prepped the women for their interviews with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services asylum officers as well as for hearings before the immigration judge on bond settings and reviews of negative decisions by asylum officers.

Most of the detained immigrants with positive decisions granted by USCIS asylum officers will be released pursuant to a recent announcement by the U.S. Department

of Homeland Security, Beck said; the others will remain in custody until their trials.

The women, who have been detained with their young children at Dilley for several months, fled Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador because of death threats by gangs and/or physical abuse by their partners.

The student visit was coordinated by CARA, a coalition of non-profit agencies that provides pro-bono legal representation for



the women detained in the Dilley center. (The acronym CARA stands for the Catholic Legal Immigration Network; American Immigration Lawyers Association; Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services; and American Immigration Council.)

'PIPELINE' PROGRAM GIVES UNDERGRADS HEAD START ON LEGAL CAREER

Twenty-one undergraduate students took part in an intensive, six-week pre-law program at the University of Houston Law Center this past summer to see if becoming a lawyer is right for them.

"The UHLC Pre-Law Pipeline Program is designed to provide resources to undergraduate students who are first generation, low income, or members of groups historically underrepresented in the legal profession and who are interested in pursuing a career in law," said Dean Leonard M. Baynes. "The program prepares students for the LSAT exam, the law school application process, and their law school careers."

"Dean Baynes is demonstrating great leadership in our local legal community with the UH Law Center Pipeline Program," said UH Provost Paula Myrick Short. "His strategic move to reach underrepresented students to inspire them with a career in law is an outstanding example of why the University of Houston is the 'House Innovation Built.'"

The students were exposed to two weeks of introductory law school courses taught by Law Center faculty and two weeks of LSAT preparation before interning for two weeks at local law firms, nonprofit organizations, and courts. They also received professional development training, attended legal research and writing classes, and were

mentored by current UHLC law school students.

Aimara Flores, a senior at the University of Houston, said UHLC was her first choice for a law school. She said she decided to attend the Pre-Law Pipeline Program, because it would help her gain critical skills.

"I felt it is a great opportunity for me to gain experience and get a feel for what law school is going to be like. I also think the program is going to help me gain confidence to be successful," Flores said.

The inaugural class was comprised of

nine men and 12 women, ranging in age from 20 to 27, drawn from states across the country, including Texas, New York, California, Alabama, Louisiana, Iowa, and Massachusetts, with majors as varied as accounting and engineering to African studies and theater.

"We have gathered some of the most impressive young men and women to be a part of this terrific program," said Kristen Guiseppi, program manager. "I am amazed and inspired by their drive to achieve their goals of attending law school, and I am certain that they will be successful!"



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL

How to avoid scams and navigate the difficult legal territory involving divorce were among the most popular subjects of the latest installment of "The People's Law School" held in October at the University of Houston Law Center.

Professor Emeritus Richard M. Alderman retired from teaching last year but continues to direct the Center for Consumer Law and lead "The People's Law School." It is the oldest and most successful law program for lay persons in the nation.

Classes included business law, tax law, employment law, health insurance, consumer law, credit and debt collection, wills and estates, family law, insurance law, landlord-tenant law, Social Security law, how to deal with an attorney, as well as a course on how to find the law on the Internet or in UHLC's John M. O'Quinn Law Library, which is open to the public.

Attendees filed into Krost Hall auditorium, where they were welcomed by Alderman and Laura Gibson, '84, president of the



Houston Bar Association.

In his remarks, Alderman told the attendees how he decided to start both the Center for Consumer Law and later The People's Law School, after arriving at UHLC. The idea of the center, Alderman explained, was to give everyday people access to information about

the law that they could use in their day-to-day lives as consumers.

"We don't want to be your lawyers. We don't want you to need a lawyer. We want to give you information about the law so you can help yourselves," he said.

'PATHWAYS TO LAW' INTRODUCES YOUNG STUDENTS TO LAW SCHOOL AND LEGAL CAREER

University of Houston Law Center alumni and lawyers from the firm of Jones Day Houston brought a group of middle school students from Pilgrim Academy to the school in November to encourage interest in education and the legal profession as part of an after-school mentoring program, Pathways to Law.

Assistant Professor D. Theodore Rave, who talked to the 13 visiting students about the

law, law school, and how to get there, was approached by Nicole Perry, a UHLC alumna and Jones Day associate, with the idea of bringing the students to the Law Center.

Rave, Perry, and Jaime West Dillon, UHLC assistant dean for admissions, worked together to make the visit possible.

"These kids are much younger, but their visit seemed to be in the same spirit as the dean's new Pre-Law Pipeline Program," Rave said, referring to a summer program that introduces undergraduates to the study of law and a legal career.

In addition to seeing what a law school looks like, the purpose of the visit was to teach students about the opportunities a higher education can offer, how to prepare for law school, what a legal education entails, and what lawyers actually do.

The students also heard from Rave's law students, Diane Meyers, Peyton Craig, and Barbara Light, about the life of a law student and ended the visit with a tour of the school.

Jones Day, a global law firm, is the major sponsor behind the Pathways to Law program in which lawyers spend 11 weeks each semester working with students of Pilgrim Academy, a special school designed to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds succeed in high school and college.

"Pathways to Law is a terrific program that gets the kids out of their comfort zones and gives them exposure to opportunities that they otherwise might not have known existed," said Rave. "I'm thrilled that the Law Center was able to participate and hopefully give them a little extra motivation. The kids are smart, driven, and enthusiastic; I think many of them will go a long way."

After the success of the first visit, Rave, Perry, and members of the admissions office are planning to bring a group of students back in the spring to sit in on a class.



INNOVATIVE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM TO GROW IN SECOND YEAR

After successfully completing its first year, the Juvenile & Capital Advocacy Project at the University of Houston Law Center is now expanding beyond mentoring youth at area schools to helping juvenile offenders have a better future.

JCAP began a clinical course in the sealing of juvenile court records, taught by Adjunct Professor **Katya Dow**. The program is now working with **Tim Broussard**, of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, Harris County 315th Juvenile District Judge **Michael Schneider**, and Houston attorney **Brian Fischer**. Working with Dow, the students contact juvenile clients and their families, obtain necessary information, and handle the sealing of court records.

JCAP will also work with UHLC Professor **Ellen Marrus**, director of the Center for Children, Law & Policy, and **Janet Heppard**, associate professor of clinical practice, to develop additional training for law students interested in working with juveniles and will continue to work with the William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity (WALIPP) and other community partners, including the Yellowstone School, Change Happens, and the Harris County juvenile bar and bench.



UHLC TEAM NAMED “WORLD CHAMPIONS” IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION

University of Houston Law Center students **Rose Badruddin** and **Brandon Schrecengost**, representing the Blakely Advocacy Institute, were named World Champions last year at the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Mediation Competition in Paris, France.

The UHLC team won the championship by defeating the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, in the final round. Badruddin and Schrecengost won internships at the ICC International Centre for ADR and the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution as part of the competition prize.

UHLC STUDENT TAKES TALENTS FROM GRIDIRON TO CANCER HOSPITALS

Jacob Karam started volunteering at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital while playing quarterback for the University of Memphis Tigers. He visited young patients every month and, in addition to playing piano, he would also help with arts and crafts, make snacks, and do anything else that was needed.



“I enjoyed entertaining the patients and their families at the long-term patient care apartments called the Target House,” he said. “I wanted to get involved because I love volunteering and kids, and the hospital’s mission of finding a cure for cancer and treating all pediatric cancer patients for free has always been inspirational to me.”

The former football player now plans to continue to give his time to visit patients at MD Anderson Cancer Center while pursuing his J.D. at the University of Houston Law Center.

UHLC PROFESSOR WILLIS DISCUSSES DIVERSITY ISSUES IN MEDIATION AT ABA CONFERENCE

University of Houston Law Center Assistant Clinical Professor **Tasha Willis** and a panel of Texas lawyers and judges led a presentation on diversity issues in mediation last April at the 17th Annual Section of Dispute Resolution ABA Spring Conference in Seattle.

Willis, director of the Law Center’s ADR program, said the presentation underscored the benefits of diversity and cultural understanding in the practice of mediation.

The program involved theory, practical skills, and group participation in formulating measures that should be taken to resolve diversity issues in mediation.



It is the mission of the University of Houston Law Alumni Association to provide opportunities and inclusion for all of our alumni to interact with each other and keep up with the Law Center. We are very proud to honor some of our most distinguished alumni, faculty, and friends. Please try to join us at some of our upcoming events and programs — we appreciate your participation! Email us at lawalumni@uh.edu.

Richard F. Whiteley '99
2015-2016 UH Law Alumni Association President
Partner, Bracewell LLP

ALUMNI EVENT PHOTOS



A NIGHT IN OLD HAVANA

Alumni and friends of the Law Center traveled to a different time and place in March as they dined, danced to a Latin beat, and raised money for the school during the 39th Annual Law Gala and Auction with the theme "Havana Nights." About 400 "tourists," dressed in formal wear filled the River Oaks Country Club banquet hall that was decked out in tropical flowers. Alumni Award winners were recognized and, most importantly, more than \$310,000 was raised for scholarships and school initiatives.

UHLC Tailgate



Holiday Coffee



Dean's Society



Dean's Visits



Locke Lord LLP



Porter Hedges LLP



Reed Smith LLP



Winstead



Calgary



Baker Botts LLP



ExxonMobil



Gardere Wynne LLP



Norton Rose Fulbright LLP

Dean's Alumni Event Visits



Denver Alumni Reception



Washington, D.C. Reception



Minority Alumni Reception



Rio Grande Valley Reception



San Antonio Reception

MENTORING PROGRAM PREPARES STUDENTS TO ENTER LEGAL WORLD

The University of Houston Law Center hosted local lawyers and their mentees last October at an event to kick off the third annual Law Center mentoring program. This program and event underscores the importance of guidance to students from veteran practitioners in preparation for legal careers.

The Upper Level Mentoring Program pairs students with attorneys, many of whom are Law Center alumni, to serve as volunteer mentors during law school and beyond.

“When it comes to mentoring, no one succeeds in life without it,” said Dean **Leonard M. Baynes**. “If you ask anyone, and they are truthful with themselves, they will tell you they got to where they are because someone helped them, somehow.”

Ashley C. Scott, senior career specialist for the Career Development Office, said the program has grown this year, now totaling 68 attorneys and 77 Law Center students compared to last year when 47 lawyers served as mentors to 64 students.

“I’m very pleased to see this program gain increased support from year to year, to the point that many alumni call it their ‘favorite’ program to be involved with,” said **Carolyn D. Taylor**, director of donor relations and stewardship in the Office of External Affairs, who coordinates the program with Scott.

Other participants were: **Richard F. Whiteley** ’99, president of the UH Law Alumni Association and a partner at Bracewell, Houston Bar Association President **Laura Gibson** ’84, **Kelly Herrera** ’05, counsel at ConocoPhillips, and **Michael Ryan** ’15, who recently started at Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP.

JOINT NATIONAL CONFERENCES EMPOWER MINORITY STUDENTS TO PURSUE CAREERS IN LAW

More than 100 aspiring law students convened at the University of Houston Law Center last November to learn more about succeeding in law school and beyond. The 11th Annual National Black Pre-Law Conference and the inaugural National Hispanic Pre-Law Conference were held in conjunction with a Law School Fair at the UH Student Center.



“This pre-law event is special not only because we offer so much in terms of nationally known and prominent speakers, but also because we are bringing together an important joint event this year,” said **Evangeline M. Mitchell**, executive director of National Pre-Law Diversity Initiative, Inc. and founder of the conference.

“Law schools train the next generation of leaders,” said UHLC Dean **Leonard M. Baynes** while welcoming about 115 students and attorneys to the opening session, “and the number of Latinos and black lawyers is still small, so conferences like these are important to create a pipeline.”

LL.M. GRAD WINS INTERNATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION

Lisa Bohmer, a 2014 LL.M. alumna from France, won the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) 2015 Review Student Writing Competition at the World Bank.

Her paper “Finality in ICSID Arbitration Revisited” tied for first place along with another submission by Peter Tzeng from Yale Law School whose topic was “Deferring Future Damages to Future Tribunals: The Jurisdictional Obstacles.”

Bohmer will receive a cash prize of \$500, and her paper will be published in an upcoming issue of the ICSID Arbitration Review.

“I worked on the paper for a couple of months last spring semester in Professor Julián de Cárdenas García’s class; we had several conversations about the paper, and he gave me valuable suggestions,” said Bohmer. “I was very excited when I found out that I won, since I used to practice international arbitration in France.”

“This is a very prestigious competition in the international arbitration community,” said UHLC Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, **Julián de Cárdenas García**. “I am very happy, since I witnessed Lisa’s hard work in getting this paper done during my Transnational Petroleum Law class this past spring,” he added.

This win is the second time that a UH Law Center student has won the competition. **Jessica Irenton** ’15 previously won first place with a paper exploring the use of WikiLeaks cables as evidence in arbitration hearings.

UHLC ASSOCIATE DEAN BURKE LEADS UNIVERSITY-WIDE PLANNING FOR ‘CAMPUS CARRY’

University of Houston Law Center Associate Dean **Marcilynn A. Burke** is chair of a committee to draft a University-wide policy and plans for implementing the “campus carry” concealed handgun law that goes into effect in August 2016.

The statute enacted by the Texas legislature in 2015 allows colleges to designate “gun-free zones” but does not permit a blanket ban of concealed handguns on the entire campus.

Burke and her committee are examining how “campus carry” has been implemented in other states. She is also consulting with similarly situated Texas colleges and universities and taking into account how this new law will affect UH faculty, staff, and students on a daily basis.

FRANKEL LECTURE

In extreme circumstances, countries that respect human rights will intervene abroad to prevent needless civilian slaughters. However, constraints in domestic and international law still exist, said **Harold Hongju Koh**, Sterling Professor of International Law at Yale Law School, and a former legal adviser to the U.S. Department of State, during the Houston Law Review's 20th annual Frankel Lecture in October.

Koh evaluated the use of force in Kosovo, which he said the U.S. justified by policy factors that were essentially "unlawful" but "legitimate" along with Libya and Syria, where intervention saved lives by preventing mass slaughters and removing chemical weapons.

Commentator **Dawn Johnsen**, Walter W. Foskett Professor of Law at Indiana University Maurer School of Law, agreed with Koh, but argued that when Congress enacts legislation, presidents must respect the enactments, referring to the Bush and Obama administrations.

Ashley Deeks, associate professor of law at the University of Virginia Law School, the second commentator said, "Humanitarian intervention sounds good in theory, but is difficult in practice."

Her proposal to address the issue were multifactor tests to determine when intervention is appropriate but said that such tests require "predictive capacity that almost no nation can accurately come up with."

Jordan Paust, the Mike and Theresa Baker Law Center Professor of Law, served as the moderator of the program, which is underwritten by the Frankel Family Foundation.

**REMEMBERING UHLC ALUM
KATHLEEN DESILVA '80**

University of Houston Law Center alumna **Kathleen DeSilva '80**, passed away in August at the age of 63.



DeSilva suffered a gymnastics accident when she was 16. According to her doctors, DeSilva was the longest living person with a high-level C1/C2 spinal cord injury. She went on to live another 47 years and earned an undergraduate degree with honors from Rice University, a J.D. from the University of Houston Bates College of Law, served on the METRO board, and spent a career helping those with disabilities.

"Kathleen was a dominant force — a force to be reckoned with; there was nothing meek or mild about her," said her husband, **Peter Simmons**. "She knew what she wanted to do, and she was very intelligent about doing it. As one of her doctors said, 'She took calculated risks with her life.'"

DeSilva worked for more than 20 years as an attorney for the Texas Institute of Rehabilitation and Research, which later became TIRR Memorial Hermann. The hospital serves patients with severe brain trauma, spinal injuries, and other disabilities.

UHLC PROFESSOR BRET WELLS URGES OVERHAUL OF FOREIGN TAX CREDITS FOR U.S. COMPANIES

University of Houston Law Center Associate Professor **Bret Wells**, a tax law and oil and gas specialist, spoke on tax credits at a "Lunch & Learn" session in October hosted by the tax department of ExxonMobil at its new facility in The Woodlands.

Wells, director of the Law Center's Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center, spoke on his paper, "The Foreign Tax Credit War," that will be published this year in the *BYU Law Review*. He also will present the paper this spring at an International Tax Symposium hosted by *BYU Law School*.

Wells calls for an overhaul of the current system, which he terms a "byzantine structure of staggering complexity." He argues that significant simplification is needed and can be achieved without diminishing the effectiveness of the current law's disallowance of strategies that artificially generate excessive amounts of foreign tax credit relief.



IPIL FALL LECTURE

The University of Houston Law Center's Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law hosted the 22nd annual fall lecture in November at the JW Marriott in downtown Houston.

The lecture, "Inventing Intellectual Property: Source Disclosure for Genetic Patent Rights," was presented by **Ruth L. Okediji**, a professor at the University of Minnesota Law School. Okediji is recognized worldwide as one of the foremost experts on international IP law and international economic regulation.

The lecture discussed international patent law and the possibility of a disclosure of origin requirement and highlighted implications for future harmonization of patent law.

The IPIL program's fall lecture was sponsored by the Ronald A. Katz Foundation.

HEALTH POLICY EXPERTS DISCUSS CANCER DRUG PRICES AT UHLC-SPONSORED CONFERENCE

Health care professionals, insurance and pharmaceutical industry representatives debated the topic of whether drug companies price gouge cancer medications at a September symposium called "Pharmaceuticals Without Borders," co-hosted by the University of Houston Law Center.

Law Center Professor **Seth Chandler** moderated the symposium and discussed several problems associated with the pricing of medications.

"While the federal agencies may be correct that they do not have the power under existing law to interfere with pharmaceutical pricing under that law, it would gall me if my tax dollars were being used for research only to find that the resulting drugs were either priced out of my reach or within my reach only because my insurance premiums or tax dollars have paid more than cost," Chandler said.

Michael Ewer, a cardiologist at MD Anderson Cancer Center and a lawyer who is an adjunct professor at the UH Law Center, was one of the leading organizers of the conference. The Health Law & Policy Institute and The University of Texas School of Public Health co-sponsored the event.



CLE PROGRAM EXAMINES INTERSECTION OF RACE AND THE LAW IN AMERICA

A discussion on the state of race relations and how they intersect with the law drew a capacity crowd to the University of Houston Law Center in October.

The four-hour CLE program, which brought together law professors, a federal prosecutor, a university sociologist, and civil rights advocates, was titled: "Race and the Law: Hate Crimes, Confederate Symbols, and Healing the Racial Divide."

UHLC Dean **Leonard M. Baynes** led a panel on themes that emerged throughout the discussion. The panelists included **Ruben Perez** of the U.S. Attorney's Office; **Taft Foley**, vice president and general counsel of the Houston branch of the NAACP; and **Satinder Singh**, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas. UHLC Professors **David R. Dow** and **Ronald Turner** discussed the implications of a case involving free speech and the Confederate battle flag on vanity license plates.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Members of the Family Law Organization, the Association of Women in Law, and the Civil Law Clinic passed out purple ribbons and collected canned goods for The Bridge over Troubled Waters as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. The organization is a social service agency in Pasadena that helps domestic violence victims.

In 2014, statistics showed Texas alone had 132 women murdered as a result of domestic violence. There were almost 186,000 incidents of domestic violence, more than 23,000 adults seeking help in shelters, more than 61,000 receiving services, and more than 39 percent denied entry into shelters because there was no space.

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UHLC Employer Involvement

The Career Development Office (CDO) assists employers in their recruitment and visibility efforts by providing a variety of on-campus programming to access our career-minded student and alumni populations. Designed to provide employers with a hassle-free experience, these services provide direct access to our student body. We are confident you will find the talent you are looking for at the University of Houston Law Center and look forward to your involvement on campus. For more information on all of our programming, please review our Employer Guide: The Top 10 Programs: law.uh.edu/career/employer/employer-guide.

UH LAW CENTER ADMISSIONS

Do you know someone who is interested in attending law school? The professional staff in the Office of Admissions is available to guide candidates through the application process. Tours and class visits are also available by appointment.

J.D. Deadlines for Fall 2016:

- *February 15 for full-time
- May 15 for part-time

Call 713.743.2280 or email lawadmissions@uh.edu to schedule an appointment.

* Applications received after the deadlines will be reviewed after the regular decision applications have been considered.

LL.M. Deadlines:

- *March 1 – Fall 2016 Admission
- October 1 – Spring 2016 Admission

Contact llm@uh.edu for more information

* Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed on a space available basis.

THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL “MEET THE OCI EMPLOYERS” RECEPTION

This event is specifically geared toward the organizations that participate in the University of Houston Law Center’s On Campus Interview (OCI) Program. We invite you to campus to introduce and promote your organization to our talented and eager 1L candidates. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 22. More information can be found on our website: law.uh.edu/career/employer/oncampus.asp.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, April 11

Registration Opens for the UHLC 2016 OCI Program

REMEMBER: There is no fee to participate in our OCI Program. Firms get to choose 100% of the candidates they would like to interview!

On-campus interviews will be held in mid-August. Please contact Catherine Wright at cmwright@central.uh.edu with any questions or comments.

2016 UPCOMING EVENTS

University of Houston Law Center and UH Law Alumni Association

April 15-17

A.A. White Dispute and Resolution Center 40-Hour Basic Mediation Training
For more information, contact: jclark@uh.edu

April 18

Sondock Jurist in Residence: Justice Jeffrey V. Brown, Texas Supreme Court
For more information, contact: lawalumni@uh.edu

April 20

Dean's Award Ceremony
For more information, contact: vcrain@central.uh.edu

April 21

2016 World IP Day
For more information, contact: ipil@uh.edu

May 3

Alumni Happy Hour: Taste of Houston
For more information, contact: lawalumni@uh.edu

May 14

Law Center Commencement
For more information, contact: lawalumni@uh.edu

May 16

UHLAA Annual Alumni Meeting
For more information, contact: lawalumni@uh.edu

June 2-3

15th Annual Zealous Advocacy conference
For more information, contact: center4clp@uh.edu

June 16

Fort Worth Alumni Reception at State Bar of Texas annual meeting
For more information, contact: lawalumni@uh.edu

August 17-20

A.A. White Dispute Resolution Center Commercial Arbitration Training
For more information, contact: jclark@uh.edu

September 9-11 & September 16-18

A.A. White Dispute Resolution Center 40-Hour Basic Mediation Training
For more information, contact: jclark@uh.edu

September 10

Class of 1991 25-year Reunion

For more information, contact: lawalumni@uh.edu

Global Law Alumni Network

The Global Law Alumni Network is designed to bring our U.S. and overseas graduates together and strengthen their connection to the Law Center. You are a Global Law Alumnus/ Alumna if you live outside the United States or, if you live in the U.S. (including Houston, the international energy capital), and either work or have an active interest in international law. The Network will maintain an up-to-date database of alumni contact information, feature mini-profiles on alumni abroad, and circulate alumni news and opportunities. The Network will also sponsor occasional Global Law Alumni gatherings. Join our global directory and become a regular reader. Visit law.uh.edu/alumni/global.

Stay connected to UHLC

UHLC has several online tools to help you keep up with the latest news and events and to engage in discussions with alums.

- Sign up for eBriefcase at law.uh.edu/alumni/sign-up-ebriefcase.asp.
- On Twitter, follow [@uhlaw](https://twitter.com/uhlaw).
- On Facebook, become a fan at facebook.com/uhlawcenter.
- On LinkedIn, look for the UHLC group.
- On YouTube, watch our videos at youtube.com/user/TheUHLawCenter.
- Update your email address and other contact information at <https://ssl.uh.edu/giving/update-info>

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