


# TEXAS TECH LAWYER

A photograph of three law school alumni standing in front of a classical building with large columns. The man in the center is wearing a dark suit and a red striped tie. The woman on the left is wearing a red blazer and glasses. The woman on the right is wearing a dark blazer. They are all smiling.

Allie Hallmark '12,  
Brandon Beck '12,  
and Elizabeth Hill '12

SCHOOL OF LAW  
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SUPREME COURT CASE  
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THE POWER OF  
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WINTER 2019

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# Dean's Message

## ► Greetings from the Dean's Suite!

It has been a wonderful year at Texas Tech University School of Law, and I am so pleased to have the opportunity to share our good news with you.

And what good news we've had! We were ranked the **No. 1 "Best Value" law school in Texas** and 13th in the nation by *National Jurist*, a ranking that looks at educational costs and crucial measures of graduate success. Not surprisingly, we've also had great success under the ABA's new "Ultimate" (24 month) bar passage standard, and we were recently ranked 50th in the nation by that standard and as the **No. 1 public law school in Texas**.

We also continue to have outstanding success with practical training and our curriculum. We were ranked **No. 1 in the nation in Advocacy** by the American Bar Association in their Skills Competitions Championship, and *U.S. News & World Report* also ranked our legal practice program 20th in the nation and the top program in Texas. We were also ranked 21st in the nation in Dispute Resolution by *U.S. News*.

Our graduates leave Texas Tech Law with the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to compete for the most sought-after jobs. We were excited to rank 31st in the nation last year in "gold standard" employment—jobs requiring both a J.D.

and bar passage. We were also ranked 25th in the nation and the **No. 1 law school in Texas** in another important employment and value ranking, the ratio of starting employment income to student loan debt.

We are a school that believes in creating opportunities for students. Every day presents us with new and wonderful chances to educate our dedicated students, many of whom have overcome remarkable challenges to study at Texas Tech Law School. We work hard to offset the financial burdens that so many of our students face. With the support of our dedicated alumni, we were pleased to continue to offer generous scholarships to our entering students this last fall, including at least \$2,000 in scholarship support for each of our more than 40 first-generation college students entering law school.

I could go on—and on and on—with the list of good news. Tech Law is an amazing place. **We always put our students first**, and we focus on the real-world practical skills that every lawyer needs for a fantastic career in the profession.

Let me conclude by saying that our alumni are so important to the Law School. You are the measure of our success. And your generous support enables us to help the next generation of students succeed. Thank you for all that you do!

Our alumni network is 8,000 strong, and I look forward to personally meeting you during my travels. Please contact my office today and let's get to know one another.

Reach out to Karen Holden,  
Director of Development and  
Donor Relations, at  
[karen.holden@ttu.edu](mailto:karen.holden@ttu.edu) or  
**806-834-4910**

~Jack Wade Nowlin  
Dean and W. Frank  
Newton Professor of Law



# YEAR *in* REVIEW

INSPIRING LECTURES, A THOUGHT-PROVOKING SEMINAR, AND MANY FUN EVENTS

## ALUMNUS TURNED AUTHOR SPEAKS TO LAW STUDENTS

Texas Tech law graduate Mike Farris '83 spoke to students about his recently published book *Fifty Shades of Black and White: Anatomy of the Lawsuit Behind a Publishing Phenomenon*. Michael was lead counsel for the plaintiff in what has become known as the “Fifty Shades of Grey” lawsuit (*Jennifer Lynn Pedroza v. Amanda M. Hayward and TWCS Operations Pty. Ltd.* in the 153rd District Court in Tarrant County) and based his book on the case.



## HUFFMAN DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

The *Texas Tech Law Review* welcomed Mark Lanier '84, founding partner of the Lanier Law Firm, as its 2018 Huffman Distinguished Lecturer in November.

Beginning the presentation by reciting the pledge of allegiance, Mark discussed the obligation of lawyers to pursue the American concept of “justice for all.”

“The challenge for us is through diligence, hard work, and good ethics to pursue ‘justice for all,’” said Mark. He then walked through different examples of the power that diligence, hard work, and good ethics can have in the pursuit of “the constitutional concept that we all hold dear of all people being created equally and being endowed with certain inalienable rights.”



## PROFESSOR ARTHUR R. MILLER VISITS TEXAS TECH LAW



Through the generous support of Mark and Becky Lanier, Texas Tech law students had the enormous privilege of spending a week in January with the nation's leading scholar in the field of civil procedure. Professor Arthur R. Miller, university professor at New York University School of Law and the NYU School of Continuing and Professional Studies, spent a week at the Law School teaching a seminar on complex litigation.

In addition to his week-long seminar, Professor Miller enjoyed morning coffee with small groups of students, sharing stories about the Emmy he won for his work on the television series *The Constitution: That Delicate Balance*, reports that he served as inspiration for Scott Turow's intimidating law professor Rudolph Perini in the book *One L*, and his experiences arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court. He also explored trends in litigation at a student lunch question and answer session. Professor Miller captivated the lunch-time audience speaking on class actions as a means of ensuring equal treatment and access to justice, and the impact of electronic discovery on litigation.





## 15TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA

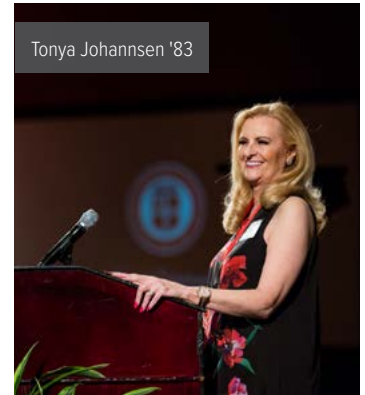
Old friends reconnected and met the new generation of Texas Tech law students at the 15th Annual Scholarship Gala at the Overton Hotel and Conference Center which celebrated the accomplishments and contributions of the Law School's students, faculty, and alumni.

The evening honored alumni selected for 2018 who have distinguished themselves through their lives and careers, in service to the law school, and as humanitarians who work to improve society. The Distinguished Alumni Award honorees were The Honorable Greg Fouratt '95, Tonya Johannsen '83, and David Poole '88. The Distinguished Service Award honorees were M.C. Carrington '82, Suzan Fenner '72, and The Honorable Craig Smith '76. The Distinguished Humanitarian Award honorees were Robert L. Duncan '81 and J. David Nelson '76, honored posthumously.

Law School Foundation Board President Tom Hall '81 closed the program by highlighting planned giving and the importance of supporting student scholarships. With the help of his call to action and the evening's sponsors, over \$130,000 was transferred to student scholarships! This success helps to ensure the best and the brightest students continue to choose Texas Tech Law.



The Honorable Robert Duncan '81 and Dean Nowlin



Tonya Johannsen '83



David Poole '88



The Honorable Les Hatch '88 and Mindy Hatch



Julie Doss '99, Richard Rosen, Randee Rosen



**Front Row** | Distinguished Award Winners: Dean Nowlin, M.C. Carrington '82, Tonya Johannsen '83, Suzan Fenner '72, Ainsley Nelson, The Honorable Craig Smith '76. **Second Row** | The Honorable Robert Duncan '81. **Third Row** | Foundation Board President Tom Hall '81, David Poole '88, The Honorable Greg Fouratt '95, Jill Nelson, Jack Nelson

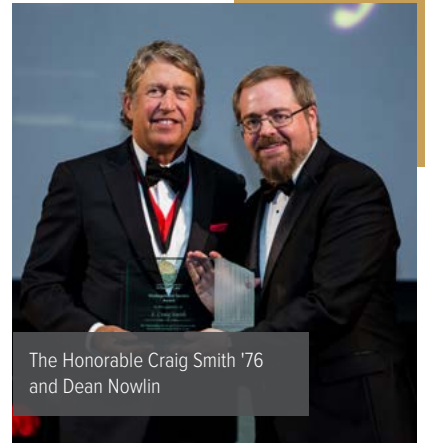


Suzan Fenner '72





**Front Row** | TTLSF Foundation Board Dean Nowlin, Mimi Coffey '94, Suzan Fenner '72, Barbara Runge '74, M.C. Carrington '82, Chris Peirson '77. **Second Row** | Jim Gill '73, Ann Manning '84, The Honorable Kem Frost '83, The Honorable Sue Walker '86, Richard Roper '82. **Third Row** | Darryl Vereen '92, W C Bratcher '75, Foundation Board President Tom Hall '81, Frank McDonald '79, Art Hall '96. **Fourth Row** | Roger Key '76, Doug Atnipp '85, David Segrest '70. **Fifth Row** | Bob Collier '73, Paul Stafford '94, Bill Mateja '86, Jerry Dixon '81, Joe Coniglio '97



The Honorable Craig Smith '76 and Dean Nowlin



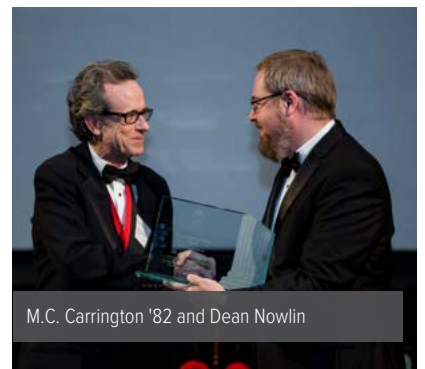
The Honorable Greg Fouratt '95



Hugo Ramirez '21



Taylor Calvert '20, Sidney Wiltshire '20, Elizabeth Balido '20



M.C. Carrington '82 and Dean Nowlin



Pedro Leyva '17, Mayra Levorio, Eva Ruth Moracek, Kevin Glasheen '88, Holly Pena, Nick Pena '05



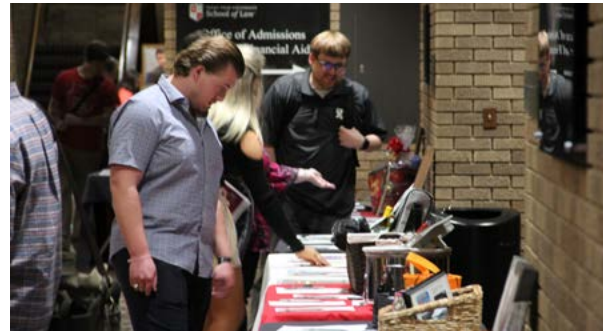
Garrett Coppedge '20, Patrick LeMasters '20, Rob Montgomery '20, Brooke Bohlen '20, Katherine Mellon '20, Catherine Baldo '20



## 2019 PUBLIC INTEREST AUCTION

The Texas Tech Law Public Interest Auction had another successful year. In March, the Lubbock Area Bar Association and Texas Tech law community joined together and got into the bidding spirit, raising over \$13,000 in scholarships to support Texas Tech law students serving as unpaid summer interns with public defenders, nonprofits, district attorneys, and other public-interest employers.

Receiving a Public Interest Award is the result of a competitive process. The Public Interest Award Committee selects the recipients in April based on an applicants' commitment to public interest, as demonstrated by a personal statement detailing how they've advanced the public interest in law school and beyond; financial need; and how greatly the type of internship they've acquired serves the public interest. For summer 2019 internships, 16 students received scholarship support.



## OUTSTANDING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

With the help of Dean Nowlin's passion for student publishing and his new Academic Legal Writing course co-taught with Professor Jamie Baker, 23 Texas Tech law students were selected for publication—both externally and in the Law School's two journals. The various external placements include the *NYU Review of Law & Social Change*, *Virginia Tax Journal*, *Texas Environmental Law Journal*, and *Journal of Complex Litigation*. In April, the Law School hosted a reception celebrating these students' accomplishment with a champagne toast and cake.



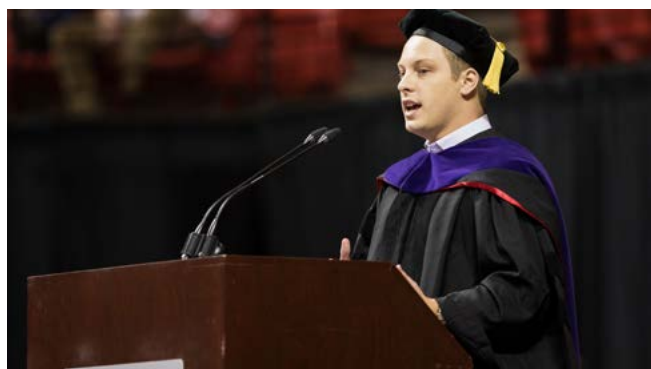
Left to right | Scott Keffer '20, Elliott O'Day '19, Jeffrey Delman '20, Jake Stribling '20, Brianna Weis '20, Michael Rinehart '20, Catherine Baldo '20, Robert Montgomery '20, Brooke Bohlen '20, Tylynn Payne '20, Alana Rosen '20, Hailey Hanners '20, and Hilary Wilkerson '20.



## MAY 2019 HOODING CEREMONY

Kent R. Hance, chancellor emeritus of the Texas Tech University System and former congressman, delivered the keynote address. He encouraged the graduates to have a vision for their lives and careers, imparting his personal motto: “Don’t dream little dreams — set your goals high.”

“Look and see where you want to be in five years, or 10 years, or 20 years,” said Chancellor Hance. “Don’t just go stumbling out there every day trying to practice law. Have a vision, have a plan, work hard, be honest, anticipate, dream no little dreams — and have that vision.”



From left | Senior Associate Dean Alison Myhra, Dean Nowlin, Chancellor Emeritus Kent Hance, and Regent Mark Griffin '79.

## ALUMNI RECEPTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANNUAL CONFERENCES

The Law School hosted various alumni events in conjunction with annual conferences across Texas and New Mexico. At the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting alumni reception in Austin, Dean Nowlin recognized outstanding alumni, celebrated the school's collective accomplishments, and shared what to look for in the future. The Law School again sponsored the Hospitality Suite at the State Bar of New Mexico Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, mingling with conference attendees over appetizers and refreshments. This year, the Law School also hosted alumni receptions in conjunction with the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Annual Rusty Duncan Conference in San Antonio and the Texas District and County Attorneys Association Annual Update in Corpus Christi. Both events provided a wonderful opportunity for alumni practicing in the same area to make new acquaintances and reconnect with old friends.

There are certainly more social, educational, and community events that the Law School could partner with for alumni events. Please share ideas with the Office of Alumni Relations if you'd like to see the Law School host an alumni reception with an annual conference you enjoy attending!



Hershell L. Barnes Ambassador Award recipient Alan Bojorquez '96 and Dean Nowlin at the State Bar of Texas alumni reception.



Jim Bethke '92 accepted the Outstanding Service Award on behalf of the Lubbock Public Defenders' Office at the Rusty Duncan CLE.

## 9TH ANNUAL ALUMNI TAILGATE

An early kickoff didn't discourage 150 alumni, faculty, students, and staff from mingling over breakfast and mimosas at the annual alumni tailgate. Donned in Red Raider black and red, alumni and friends enjoyed music, a photo booth, and wonderful game-day weather as they geared up to cheer on Texas Tech to a surprise win over Oklahoma State — if they could tear themselves away from the tailgate to attend the game.





## NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

The admissions team worked hard this year to recruit another exceptional class. When the 147 members of the Class of 2022 walked through the doors in August, it was clear the hard work paid off. The class, which had a median LSAT score of 155 and median GPA of 3.42, is the Law School's most diverse with students of color making up 38.8%. There are also 41 first-generation college students in the class, all of whom received scholarships.

Governor Greg Abbott appointed Sean Lewis, a first-year law student from Detroit, Michigan, to serve as the Texas Tech University System student regent.

Sean, who was the 2018-19 Student Government Association president during his undergraduate education, is a member of the Academic, Clinical and Student Affairs Committee.

The next three years will be a fun, memorable, and thought-provoking experience. You'll be hearing stories of the Class of 2022's successes for a long time.



## CLASS OF 2022





# ■ CLINICS

At the root of Texas Tech Law's reputation for producing practice-ready lawyers is the belief that students learn best when theory is applied in practice. The Law School's eight clinics, serving indigent clients on the South Plains, provide students that crucial opportunity to gain practical experience and reflect on their role as lawyers in the broader context of law and society.

Students in the **Civil Practice Clinic** assume responsibility for all phases of client representation in social security disability claims, wills and advance planning, housing issues, consumer and civil rights claims, and other civil cases of interest to the students. "These students took very seriously their professional responsibility for representing their clients and worked extremely hard as advocates to accomplish their clients' objectives," said Clinic Director Larry Spain. Over the course of the year, a total of 21 new client cases were undertaken, 60 cases were closed, and 12 cases will be carried over to the next academic year.

The **Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic** continued representing clients with controversy issues and also volunteered over 257 hours assisting the Coalition of Community Assistance VITA with tax preparations between January 23 and tax day.

The student attorneys in the **Capital Punishment Clinic**, working with the **Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases**, produced pre-trial motions in three separate capital cases, argued and presented the motions in actual hearings, and represented defendants charged with capital crimes as part of the trial teams.

**Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic** students, under its Chief Public Defender

Donnie Yandell '01, handled 206 cases—42 felonies, 156 misdemeanors, and nine juvenile. Due to the student attorneys' hard work for their clients, they have earned the respect of their clients and the respect of the courts and prosecution offices in the area. "This reputation for zealous representation of indigent defendants has resulted in the Caprock



The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic under the direction of Terri Morgeson '03.

Regional Public Defender Office being added to the Terry County appointment list for felony appointments," said Professor Yandell. Terry County's participation brings the total number of counties in the program up to eleven.

**Innocence Clinic** students, under the direction of Allison Clayton '07, devoted over 2000 hours in service to their clients over the course of the year. They produced five briefs and spent hours reviewing transcripts, learning about different forensic disciplines, working with and visiting clients, and tracking down witnesses, evidence, and documents in their cases.

Building on the work of their predecessors, the 2018-2019 clinic students also filed litigation seeking the reversal of a client's conviction. In February 1986, a man in a faded red truck pulled up, walked into a family's front

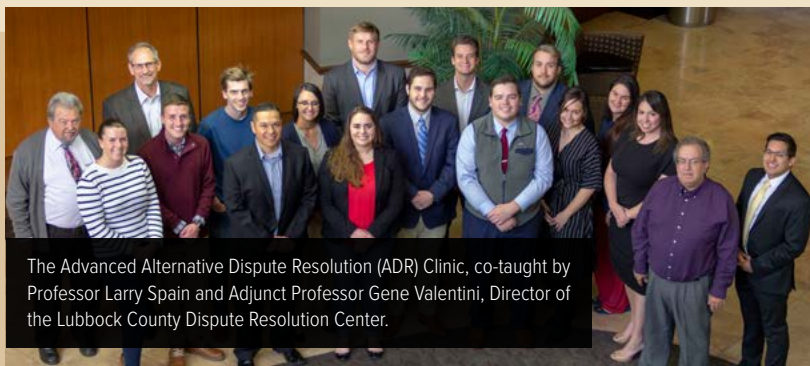


The Innocence Clinic, under the direction of Professor Allison Clayton '07.

yard, and kidnapped a five-year-old child. The child's mother reached the front yard in time to see a white man, in his early- to mid-twenties driving away with the child. The man had no distinctive features apart from a mop of long, shaggy blonde hair. Within hours, the child was left on the side of the road and returned to her family. Four months later,

Ray Hightower would be accused and convicted of kidnapping and indecent exposure – a crime the Innocence Clinic believes he did not commit. He is currently serving a 99-year sentence. Though Ray's orange truck did not match the description and was inoperable at the time, during trial, the officer concluded that Ray's truck, "matched close enough." The State turned to hair comparison as the pillar of their case. Since Ray's hair was dark brown and thinning, the State's "hair comparison expert" concluded that he must have used a wig. While a wig was never recovered, the expert went to a wig shop, pulled hairs from wigs, and determined hair from the truck was from a wig. The 2017-2018 students of the Innocence Clinic located and retained modern-day scientists to analyze the trial expert's conclusions. A large part of the Clinic's litigation centers on the hair comparison testimony. In 2009, "hair comparison science" was disavowed





The Advanced Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Clinic, co-taught by Professor Larry Spain and Adjunct Professor Gene Valentini, Director of the Lubbock County Dispute Resolution Center.



The Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic, supervised by Chief Public Defender Donnie Yandell and taught by Professor Pat Metze.



The Civil Practice Clinic supervised by Professor Larry Spain and Clinical Instructor Morgeson '03.



The Family Law and Housing Clinic supervised by Professor Wendy Tolson Ross.

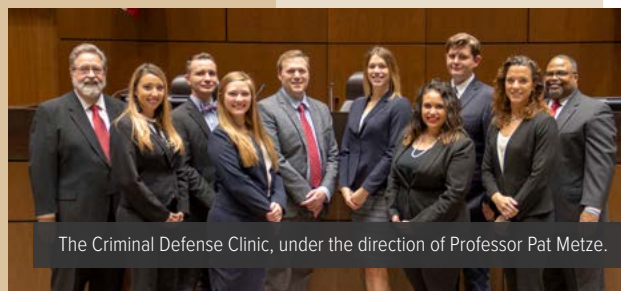
by the scientific community as lacking any basis in science. In 2015, the FBI and other law enforcement communities followed suit. The Clinic's litigation is pending at the Court of Criminal Appeals.

**Criminal Defense Clinic** students, under the direction of Pat Metze, represented 106 indigent clients in 130 cases, consisting of 95 misdemeanors and 35 felonies in the Lubbock Municipal Court, before the Justice of the Peace, in the Magistrate Court, in both Lubbock County Courts at Law, and in all three felony District Courts of Lubbock.

With all of the real-world experience gained, it's no surprise that over the course

of Professor Metze's tenure as director of the Criminal Clinics, over 60% of clinic graduates practice criminal law after graduation. "We have students in private defender offices, public defender offices – both state and Federal, and prosecutor's offices throughout Texas and in six other states," said Professor Metze.

Considering the continued commitment of clinic faculty to providing quality, ethical representation to the poor while educating each student about the importance of such work, it is safe to say Texas Tech Law will maintain its stellar reputation for producing practice-ready lawyers for years to come.



The Criminal Defense Clinic, under the direction of Professor Pat Metze.



The Capital Punishment Clinic, supervised by Professor Pat Metze, Adjunct Professor Ray Keith, and the trial attorneys and staff working at the Regional Public Defender's Office for Capital Cases.

# ■ ADVOCACY

The Texas Tech Law advocacy program continues onward, ever upward!

After placing second in the inaugural **American Bar Association (ABA) Competitions Championship** last year, the advocacy program earned the top spot in the 2019 Championship.

The ABA established the Competitions Championship to recognize law schools that excel at preparing students for practice. The ranking measures the overall performance for law schools across the U.S. in the ABA Law Student Division's four practical skills competition categories – arbitration, negotiation, client counseling, and appellate advocacy.

"This distinction is incredibly important to us because it acknowledges our strength, not just in one discipline, but across the entire spectrum of lawyering skills. It confirms that what we do at Texas Tech is turn out well-rounded students who are ready to effectively advocate for their clients as soon as they graduate," said Robert Sherwin, professor of law and director of advocacy programs for Texas Tech Law. "The ABA has really set the gold standard for what advocacy skills competitions should be, so capturing the top ranking from all four competitions means so much more to us than winning a single tournament."

Across the four competition categories, the Law School fielded 10 teams, advancing to the national finals in the arbitration and negotiation competitions, both held at the ABA headquarters in Chicago.

The arbitration team of John Haugen, Sarah Jaeckle, Darrian Matthews, and Spencer Young finished as national semifinalists in January. Taylor Calvert took top honors in the national negotiation competition in February on the topic of employment law.



From left, arbitration national semifinalists Sara Jaeckle, John Haugen, Darrian Matthews, and Spencer Young.

And while most people are looking toward Tokyo, Japan, in preparation for the 2020 Olympic Games, the Law School proudly watched Taylor Calvert and Clint Dye represent the United States on the international stage in Tokyo at the **2019 International Negotiation Competition** this summer.

The team placed fifth out of 28 teams in the week-long event featuring training sessions and competition rounds with teams from more than 20 countries.

"It is very important, especially today, to be aware of and respectful of cultural differences and similarities. Most times, a person's strategy or approach to a problem is influenced by their cultural background," Taylor said. "So, if you are aware and respectful of cultural differences, you're already one step closer to striking a deal."

While in Tokyo, the team got a chance to explore the city, immerse themselves in the culture, and learn from their competitors.

"It was truly an eye-opening experience. Not only was I fortunate enough to learn about the Japanese culture, but also that of all the countries represented. It was truly a 'melting pot of the world' type of experience, and I would not trade it for anything," Clint said. "I honestly feel that I was able to make friends and build relationships with people from all over the world."

Taylor and Clint are the latest Red Raider duo to find success internationally, but the Law School has an impressive history at the competition, sending multiple teams in the 22-year history of the event.

And this year, it wasn't just the students who generated exciting news for the advocacy program. Trustees on the Texas Tech Law School Foundation Board joined together to establish the Law School's new **"Champions in Advocacy" Endowed Professorship**. This new professorship will build on the tremendous success of our advocacy program, supporting our director and generations of future students.





From left | Jordan Harrison '20, Amanda Voeller '19, Rob Sherwin '01, and Tylynn Payne '20. The team claimed Texas Tech Law's 45th national advocacy championship at the National Gaming Law Moot Court Competition in Las Vegas.



The team celebrated their win after the competition.

"Texas Tech Law is a school passionately devoted to students and to skills training," said Jack Wade Nowlin, dean of Texas Tech University School of Law. "Our advocacy program, under the amazing leadership of Professor Sherwin, succeeds because of the hard work, talent, and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students. I am so proud of our community and so pleased to see our program recognized with this new endowment."

Success in advocacy is one of the oldest and best traditions at Texas Tech, and one of the many ways we prepare our students to practice law at the highest levels. From the time of Coach Don Hunt and our first national championship back in 1980 to our top national rankings today under Professor Sherwin's leadership, advocacy continues to be the pride of the Law School.



Taylor Calvert took top honors in the national negotiation competition and 5th place in the 2019 International Negotiation Competition in Tokyo.



From Left | Rob Sherwin '01, Kasey Chester '19, Robert Erlich '19, Kalle Riner '20, Stephen Jones '19, and Brandon Beck '12 at the National Pretrial Competition.

45

National and International Championships

105

State and Regional Championships

114

Individual Awards

# ■ ENERGY LAW PROGRAM

Texas Tech University School of Law prides itself on providing the real-world, practical skills that every lawyer needs for a successful career. The Energy Law Program helps make this possible by emphasizing practice and increasing students' exposure to the oil-and-gas industry through a variety of experiences outside the traditional classroom, including guest lectures, workshops, and field trips.

**The Energy Law Lecture Series** brings in impressive speakers presenting on emerging trends in the energy field and introduces students to the many different energy career opportunities in the public sector, in private law firms, or in NGOs and other international organizations.

"We also bring in practitioners in the energy area in our **Nuts & Bolts series** to describe to students what they do in their positions on a daily basis, so students can start to get an idea about all of the many employment opportunities and career paths that exist in this area of practice," said Professor William R. Keffer, director of the energy law program. "Our objective is to fully equip our students and make them practice-ready when they graduate."

In April, Robert Bryce served as the **Terry Lee Grantham Memorial Energy Law Lecture** speaker. He discussed his new documentary "Juice: How Electricity Explains the World." Students had the opportunity to view the documentary the evening before during a special showing at the Alamo Draffhouse. The lecture examined the world through the lens of electricity, revealing issues like climate

change, women's rights, and poverty in a new light.

Students interested in energy law also hit the road, visiting an area wind farm to learn how wind-energy companies manage these operations and traveling to Midland to learn more about the oil-and-gas industry, energy-law practice, and the Midland-Odessa legal community and business market.

The energy curriculum at the Law School enables students to learn the nuances of energy law from experts in the field. The energy law program offers classes in oil & gas law, water law, Texas land titles, agricultural law, environmental law,



electricity law, international petroleum transactions, and many others. Students may also opt to complete a Concentration in Energy Law.

New to the Energy Law Program this year are two exciting developments that are sure to increase the reputation of Texas Tech Law in the energy sector and beyond — a new energy degree program and an endowed professorship.

Recognizing the strength of the Law School's energy curriculum and the



Terry Lee Grantham Memorial Energy Law Lecture speaker Robert Bryce addressed students.

University's energy program, Professor Keffer spearheaded an effort to create a more robust degree program that matched industry demand. This year his efforts paid off with the approval of a master of science in interdisciplinary studies degree

with a concentration in energy. The master's degree will incorporate courses in business, law, wind energy, and engineering. It is designed to serve professionals in the ever-changing energy industry and provide insight into the technical elements of energy production and the economic, societal, and governance issues facing the energy industry.

"This interdisciplinary effort will undoubtedly underscore and promote the excellent educational opportunities that are





Texas Tech Law students hit the road for the Midland Energy Law field trip.



From left | Dean Nowlin, Orion Hutchin '20, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar, Laurie Means '19, Kim Molina '20, and Professor Keffer. Hegar spoke to law students as part of the Energy Law Lecture Series and met the officers of the 2018-19 Energy Law Interest Group.

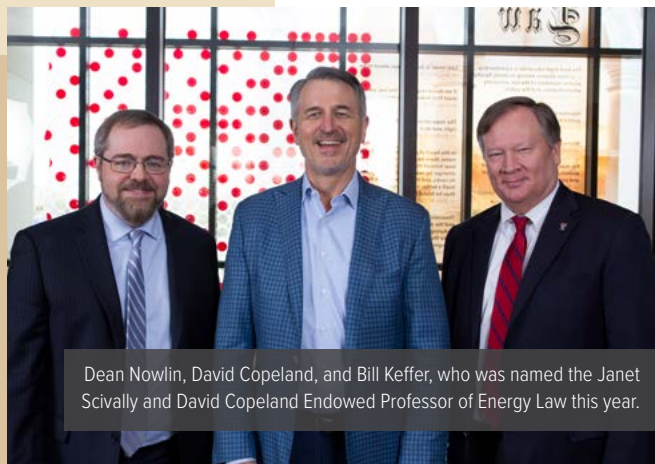
available at Texas Tech in the energy area,” said Professor Keffer.

Another exciting development for the program was the creation of the **Janet Scivally and David Copeland Endowed Professor of Energy Law**, held by Professor Keffer. An endowed professorship sends a powerful message. It is an important mechanism for attracting outstanding faculty, recognizing research accomplishments, and ensuring the Law School will retain highly qualified faculty in perpetuity.

“I am delighted that David’s gift will help us to grow our energy law reputation in exciting new ways,” said Jack Wade Nowlin, dean of the law school and a W. Frank Newton Professor of Law. “I look forward to seeing what Professor Keffer can do with the new professorship. His long-standing involvement with the energy industry

and his emphasis on practice has already greatly contributed to the growth and development of the energy law program. I know he will ensure this professorship has a positive impact and creates countless new opportunities for students and the energy law program.”

The Law School’s energy law program continues to provide students a wide array of opportunities to expand their knowledge and gain skills necessary to enter the energy-law field. Energized by the addition of the innovative new degree program and prestigious endowed professorship, Texas Tech is well on its way to meeting its goal of becoming the premier law school in this area of practice.



Dean Nowlin, David Copeland, and Bill Keffer, who was named the Janet Scivally and David Copeland Endowed Professor of Energy Law this year.

# SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNUS

## WINS U.S. SUPREME COURT CASE

Brandon Beck argued on behalf of Maurice Lamont Davis in *United States v. Davis* and won with a 5-4 majority.



Brandon Beck '12 refined his technique with practice in the Don Hunt Courtroom in preparation for arguing before the Supreme Court.

Brandon Beck '12 knew June 24 would be a day that changed his life months before it happened.

The appellate attorney with the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Texas and 2012 Texas Tech University School of Law alumnus anticipated that would be the day more than two years of hard work and stress came to an end.

After arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Davis* in April on behalf of Maurice Lamont Davis and Andre Levon Glover, Brandon had a feeling the decision in his case wouldn't be released until June. He knew the justices typically held their most important opinions for the last

day of the term, and he thought his case would be one of them.

So, for more than two months, he spent his Monday mornings checking the Supreme Court of the United States blog – the only way to learn about decisions as they were announced – to see if his case would be read. When the last day of the term rolled around, Brandon knew it had to be that day.

He expected his case to be announced somewhere toward the end. To his surprise, about 30 minutes in, Justice Neil Gorsuch took the podium and started reading the results of the Davis case. With a 5-4 majority, Brandon had won.

"It was very surreal. I may still be

in denial about the whole thing," Brandon said. "It feels like a dream, like it didn't happen."

The case was Brandon's first to go to the Supreme Court, and it came just seven years after he graduated from Texas Tech University School of Law.

### MAKING THE CASE

*United States v. Davis* brought into question the definition of a crime of violence as it applies to the context of firearms, and whether or not it is unconstitutionally vague.

The case's journey to the Supreme Court took two and a half years. Brandon initially argued it before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and lost. He tried to send it to the Supreme Court, but it got sent back



to the Fifth Circuit for appeal. When he reargued there, he won, and the case was sent to Washington, D.C., to be argued in front of the Supreme Court justices for a final decision.

Throughout this process, Brandon worked on the case constantly. To prepare himself as much as possible, he practiced his argument with everyone who was willing to help. From local attorneys to law professors at Texas Tech and other schools around the country, Brandon spent hours working with people to figure out what questions he might get asked and how to answer them.

“I just wanted to put myself in the best possible position to be able to win,” Brandon said. “I wanted to be able to anticipate all the questions, to answer them all and have a really good sense of what the crux of the case was in the minds of the different justices.”

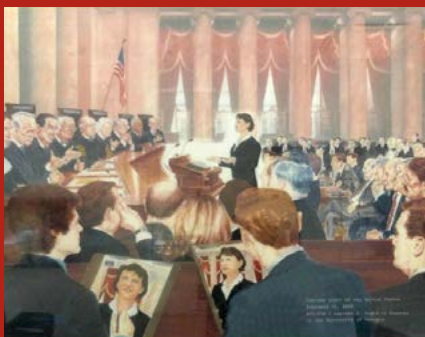
When looking at the nine justices, Brandon knew the decision would be close. In all his research, he identified that Justice Gorsuch would likely be the swing vote, a thought with which many people agreed.

During the oral arguments, Brandon’s former moot court partner, Elizabeth Hill, said she was intent on examining the justices’ reactions and questions. She was surprised that Gorsuch, the justice for whom Brandon spent a large part of his time preparing, seemed to be the most receptive to Brandon’s argument.

“A conservative justice is not typically who you would expect to side with a public defender,” Elizabeth said. “But I gained new respect for Gorsuch because he appears to be a justice who genuinely examines the legal issues without applying a political lens.”

# JULIE CARUTHERS PARSLEY

*Lapides v. Board of Regents of University System of Georgia*



Since graduating from Texas Tech University School of Law in 1991, Julie C. Parsley’s career has been on a consistently upward trajectory.

In 2002, while serving as Solicitor General for the State of Texas, Julie argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Lapides v. Board of Regents of University System of Georgia*. The case focused on whether the 11th Amendment still barred suit against a state if the state had voluntarily removed the case from state court to federal court.

Julie argued on behalf of the State of Texas as amicus curiae in support of the respondent, the University of Georgia. Although the case resulted in a decision for the petitioner, Julie said she valued the once-in-a-lifetime experience of arguing in front of the Supreme Court.

“It was an honor to be able to represent the State of Texas in front of the United States Supreme Court,” Julie said.

Julie believes her Texas Tech Law education fully prepared her for her Supreme Court argument. As a student, she gained valuable litigation experience participating in mock and moot court competitions, including the Tech National Moot Court team, the *Texas Tech Law Review*, and the Board of Barristers. These experiences helped her grow in all areas of law practice, especially in preparing for each case.

“I began my practice as an appellate lawyer, which requires you to spend the bulk of your time writing and researching, then you have those brief moments when you get to give an oral argument,” Julie said. “Those are the times appellate lawyers live for, and the



training I received at Texas Tech set me on a strong course for success.”

After serving as Texas Solicitor General and arguing before the Supreme Court, Julie was appointed commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission in 2002 by then-Governor Rick Perry. She was reappointed in 2005 and remained commissioner until 2008.

The next chapter of her career was spent as a founding partner at Parsley Coffin Renner LLP. While at the firm, Julie’s work focused on utility regulations and energy-related legal services. She was a top-rated utility attorney and was recognized by Thomson Reuters as a Texas Super Lawyer in 2004, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

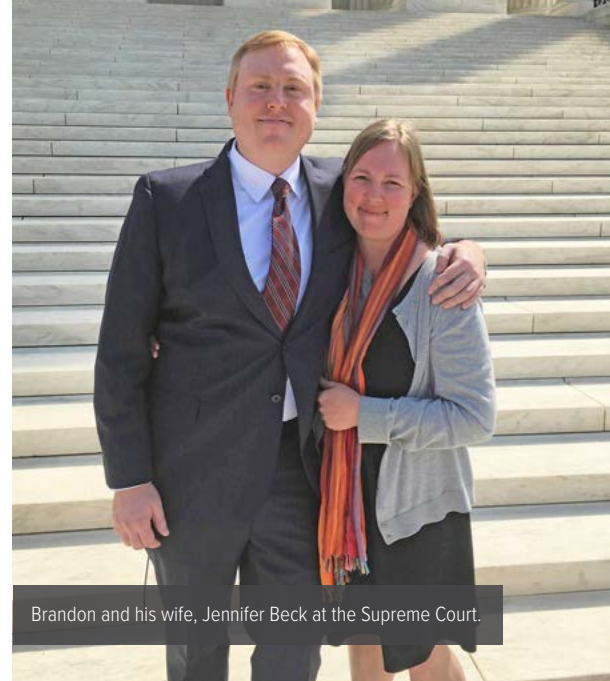
In 2017, Julie was named the CEO of Pedernales Electric Cooperative, the nation’s largest distribution electric cooperative. She is the first female CEO in the cooperative’s history. *The Austin Business Journal* also recently named Julie the “Best CEO of a Nonprofit in Central Texas,” and she was named the 2019 “Power-ful Woman in Energy and Water.”

Being involved in the *Lapides* case and arguing in front of the Supreme Court was an experience Julie has carried with her throughout her career, she said. It was a challenge few people get to undertake, but she is thankful for the opportunities it presented.

“Opportunities are often disguised as challenges,” Julie said. “I think, to be successful, being open-minded when approaching those challenges and seeing them through is very crucial. Facing new opportunities head-on is important in law, business, and life, and Texas Tech University School of Law helped me hone that skill.”



2011-2012 National Moot Court Competition Champions (from left) Elizabeth Hill, Brandon, and Allie Hallmark, all class of 2012.



Brandon and his wife, Jennifer Beck at the Supreme Court.

Brandon said many of his colleagues told him he did more preparation than most lawyers do before a Supreme Court oral argument. But Brandon knew the case and its ensuing decision had the power to change the law and prison sentences of thousands of people. This added a significant amount of pressure.

“My goal throughout the process was to not think about it,” Brandon said. “Anytime I was worrying, ‘What if I fail?’ Or, just as dangerously, thinking about how awesome it was and how many people were going to think I was great, if I did that, it was equally a recipe for distraction. You have to put all that aside.”

When April rolled around, and Brandon traveled to Washington, D.C., for the argument, he wasn’t nervous. He was confident in his ability to stand up and argue because he had done it numerous times before — even if it wasn’t in front of the Supreme Court. However, he felt uneasy because of the unknowns he was facing.

“You never know how it’s going to play out,” Brandon said. “There’s anxiety based on the unknown. But this is all I do. I research, I write, and I argue.”

Once the argument was over, Brandon said he was glad he got all his points across to the justices. While there were a few things he wishes he would have said a little differently, overall, he was happy with how it went and relieved it was no longer in his hands.

Robert Sherwin, the Champions in Advocacy Endowed Professor of Law and director of advocacy programs at Texas Tech University School of Law, was in Washington, D.C., for Brandon’s oral argument. As he watched both sides make their case, he had a feeling Brandon was going to come out with a favorable decision.

“I had two thoughts. The first was on sort of a superficial level, which was I thought he was winning,” Sherwin said. “I knew, based on the questions the court asked his opponent, who argued first, that Brandon had an opening to win the case. When he seized on that opening in his time before the court, I thought to myself, ‘I think he has this case won.’ The second thought was much deeper, and it was how proud I was to see him use the very same techniques we taught him here at the Law School. He proved to the whole world what we already knew — that a Texas Tech law graduate can out-argue anyone, anywhere.”

To his former Texas Tech moot court teammates, his argument was like a flashback of when they competed together. Elizabeth and Allie Hallmark said they were proud of him as a friend, an attorney, and a representative of his client.

“I was just beaming with pride and excitement, thinking, ‘I can’t believe we used to do this in law school competitions, and here he is,’” Allie said.

## DAVIS’ IMPACT

From the beginning, Brandon’s goal was to get the federal law — possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence — to be struck down as unconstitutional due to vagueness. He said if a crime or law does not give a person notice of what conduct is prohibited, or it is written in a way that invites discriminatory enforcement, such as this law, it can be void for vagueness.

“There’s a federal crime on the books that’s used all the time that imposed a mandatory minimum on Davis that’s very, very harsh,” Brandon said. “It is written so poorly that nobody knows what it means. I said that makes it unconstitutional.”

Davis originally received a federal sentence of 50 years and five months



# RANDY ORTEGA AND GABRIEL PEREZ | *Hernández v. Mesa*

for a series of robberies in the Dallas/Fort Worth area because he had possession of a firearm during the crimes. Brandon argued that the definition of a crime of violence is vague because it invites a “fact-specific” approach when determining sentencing rather than using the categorical approach required based on previous Supreme Court rulings. Because of this, judges could consider how Davis committed the crimes instead of basing their ruling and sentence on the ordinary case.

Brandon said he’s hoping this Supreme Court win will reduce Davis’ sentence by 25 years.

The ruling also has the potential to be applied retroactively through courts of appeal, which could help change the sentences of thousands of other inmates in prison for crimes in which this ruling applies. Brandon said if it is indeed ruled retroactive by courts of appeal, which he thinks it will be, all those inmates will have until June 2020 to file their petition asking for their case to be looked at again.

If that happens, Brandon said he plans to do everything he can to help these people reduce their sentences, even if he is not representing them in the courtroom.

“I can’t, by law, represent someone who I’m not appointed to represent,” Brandon said. “But I’ll do everything up until that point. I want to get people out of prison; that’s why I’m here.”

Elizabeth said this case matches Brandon’s work well because of



School of Law graduates Randy Ortega (left), '95, and Gabriel Perez (right), '08, both practice law at Ortega, McGlashan, Hicks & Perez, PLLC and have been involved in a case that is now making its way to the Supreme Court for the second time.

Randy is representing U.S. border patrol agent Jesus Mesa, Jr. in *Hernández v. Mesa*. Mesa was involved in a confrontation with Sergio Adrián Hernández Güereca, a 15-year-old from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, who was in the area between his hometown and El Paso, Texas. Hernández was killed on Mexican soil when Agent Mesa, who was on U.S. territory, discharged his weapon.

The case is now examining whether Hernández’s Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights were violated under the decision in *Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents*.

Initially argued in front of the Supreme Court in February 2017, the justices upheld the U.S. 5th Circuit court’s decision in favor of Mesa. During that time, another relevant case, *Ziglar v. Abbasi* was decided, which sent *Hernández v. Mesa* back to the court. With guidance on *Bivens*’ claims, the case was reargued in the 5th and 9th Circuits. Each circuit ruled differently, creating a split and sending it back to the Supreme Court.

Randy said the process of working this case the past few years has been enlightening. He feels more prepared and comfortable with the oral argument this time around, since this is the fifth time he’s argued the case. Each time the matters have gotten more narrow, which he believes should work out in his client’s favor.

“The impact of this case in terms of the law will be status quo,” Randy said. “I think the

For two former Red Raiders, the journey to the U.S. Supreme Court is one they have made together.

Texas Tech University

soundness of this decision will become apparent and the court will rule in our favor.”

Gabriel said he came onto the case to assist with briefs when it went to the Supreme Court the first time. He went through

all the amicus briefs that were filed, prepared questions for moot court, and worked on the appellate brief.

When the case was reargued at the 5th Circuit, Gabriel wrote half of the response. Now, as the team prepares to go back to the Supreme Court, he is doing all he can to make sure Randy is prepared for the oral argument.

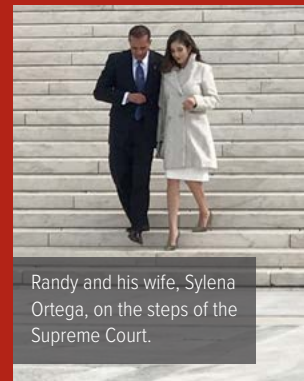
“I’m looking forward to all the work and hours we put into the brief coming to life in the oral argument,” Gabriel said. “It’s very humbling and a great experience to say, ‘Hey, I came up with that. I wrote that.’”

Both Randy and Gabriel credit Texas Tech University School of Law for preparing them to take a case to the Supreme Court. They said the training and education at Texas Tech Law gave them the necessary skills to be successful lawyers at all levels, including before the Supreme Court.

“Texas Tech Law School really prepares students to be true practitioners, both on the trial court level and on the appellate level,” Randy said. “The curriculum provided me the necessary tools to do the research and the confidence in my own abilities to do the work.”

As the two Red Raiders make the trek from El Paso back to Washington, D.C. in November, they are ready to see the impact of their research and preparation.

“I have no doubt that this case is definitely going to be a hallmark case when it comes to civil litigation and international relations,” Gabriel said. “It will answer where national sovereignty begins and ends.”



Randy and his wife, Sylena Ortega, on the steps of the Supreme Court.

his approach to appellate arguments as a whole.

“He genuinely works to assist the court in a greater understanding of the legal and policy concerns regarding these issues,” Elizabeth said.

## MOVING FORWARD

About a month after the Supreme Court’s decision was released, the Fifth Circuit asked Brandon to write a brief on the case explaining what issues are left to be resolved. They wanted to know whether he thought it should be sent back to the district court for resubmitting, so there is still work regarding *Davis* to be done. Despite that, he’s moving on to new cases and the next chapter in his career.

Brandon is working on an academic paper tangentially related to the *Davis* case about a question he was asked during the oral argument. He taught a few continuing legal education courses over the summer that tied back to the case as well, but he said he doesn’t want to just be remembered for his work on one case.

“I’m on to all these other cases that I’m excited about,” Brandon said. “I’m on to the next big thing. It was a wonderful experience and something I’ll always cherish.”

## TEXAS TECH PRIDE

Before he was a federal appellate attorney arguing at the Supreme Court, Brandon was a Red Raider winning moot court national championships.

From the first competition with him, Allie and Elizabeth said they knew he was going to be a great teammate and an even better lawyer down the road.

“Brandon always did a great job stretching himself to strengthen his argument and listen intently to



feedback,” Elizabeth said. “He also was a great encourager and friend during the process, which can often become quite stressful. Brandon was an incredible team player and was selfless to advance our team as a whole.”

Even though Allie never expected to know anyone who argued in front of the Supreme Court, the fact that her former moot court partner was the one to do it came as no surprise.

“If I had to guess back then, Brandon would have been on the top of the ‘most likely to argue and win in front of the Supreme Court’ list,” Allie said.

Fast forward seven years, and that’s exactly what he was doing – back at the School of Law, this time working on a brief for the Supreme Court.

As Brandon was writing, he needed a quiet place away from his downtown Lubbock office to focus. So for two months, he was tucked away in a little room in the Law School library with students buzzing around just outside the door.

To prepare for the oral argument, Brandon held a moot court demonstration at Texas Tech with

School of Law Dean Jack Nowlin and other faculty members serving as justices and a third-year student presenting the government’s argument.

“The willingness to say, ‘Yeah, we’ll help you out,’ and not be bureaucratic about it says a lot about the Law School,” Brandon said. “I owe them a great deal of gratitude for that.”

When April 17 came around, a large group of former classmates, colleagues and students from Texas Tech made the trip to Washington, D.C., to watch Brandon’s argument, including his former teammates.

“It’s incredibly rare for an attorney from Lubbock, Texas, to argue at the Supreme Court, much less my very own moot court partner and friend,” Elizabeth said. “I went to see the argument to support Brandon and for the experience for my own career to see the court and the oral argument process before the highest court in the nation.”

Having his friends and colleagues there to watch his argument was a big deal to Brandon. The connections with each of them, and with many others, led to his win



because of their willingness to do whatever they could to help him prepare.

“There was never any doubt that I’d be there to see him argue,” Professor Sherwin said. “It’s a once-in-a-lifetime event, and I’ll cherish the memory of being there to see it for the rest of my life.”

The Supreme Court victory also serves as a way for Brandon to motivate the Texas Tech students he teaches and coaches.

“It’s a good opportunity for me to kind of practice what I preach and show the students, I coach you, I teach you, and I’m going to lead by example,” Brandon said. “That was also really important to me.”

Brandon credits much of his success as a lawyer to Professor Sherwin. The tools Professor Sherwin and the other faculty at the School of Law gave him are what helped him get to the Supreme Court and make him the lawyer he is today.

“When I think about winning a case at the Supreme Court, I don’t just look back to the two and a half years from when I got the case,” Brandon said. “I don’t look back however long before that when I first started as a federal public defender. I look back to when I was a law student. That’s when I gained many of the skills that I was able to use to win this case.”

# JERRY BEARD

*Regalado Cuellar v. United States*

When Jerry Beard '91 was studying to become a lawyer, he had no idea the education he was receiving would one day help him argue a case at the highest court in the country.

In 2008, 17 years after he graduated from Texas Tech University School of Law, Jerry argued in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. He went on to become one of the few lawyers to win their case by unanimous decision.

“My time at Texas Tech Law provided me with a solid, grounded understanding of the law and of the process of its development – two gifts that have served me well, not just on a single day in Washington, D.C., but throughout my legal career,” Jerry said.

Jerry represented Humberto Fidel Regalado Cuellar in *Cuellar v. United States*. In 2004, Cuellar had been stopped while driving from Texas to Mexico. During a search, \$83,000 was found concealed in his car, and he was apprehended for money laundering.

The Supreme Court took the case to decide the proper interpretation of money laundering and determine if the government was required to prove the defendant was trying to hide ill-gotten money by portraying it as legitimate wealth, or if it was enough for the government to prove the concealment of the money to justify criminal proceedings.

Going into the oral argument, Jerry believed he and his team had written the better argument. However, that didn’t stop his nerves from kicking in once he got in the courtroom.

“Right before the justices entered the courtroom, I remember thinking, ‘Well, the only way out of this is through the oral argument,’” Jerry said. “But as has always been the case, once I begin answering questions, I generally enjoy myself. I did that day, too.”

Once the argument was over, a sense of relief kicked in. Then it was time to wait. Four months later, the justices released their ruling – a unanimous decision in favor of Cuellar – and Jerry.

Initially, Jerry said he was overjoyed that he and his team had won the case. The fact that



Jerry Beard '91 and his defense team outside the Supreme Court.

it was by a unanimous decision was that much more fulfilling.

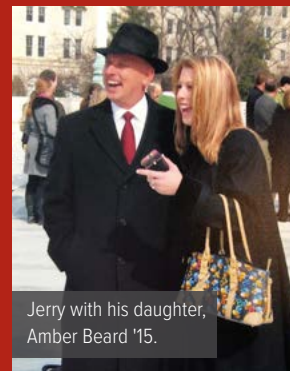
“When the call came in from the court, and the court staffer told me that we had taken judgment by a unanimous decision, I asked her to repeat herself,” Jerry said. “She laughed and did so. Then I hung up the phone, walked into the office hallway and yelled out the result at the top of my lungs.”

In the process of working on the case, Jerry learned a number of lessons about the intricacy and ins-and-outs of Supreme Court practice. Many of those lessons came from other attorneys who had prior Supreme Court experience and coached Jerry through the process. After his case, Jerry did the same thing – he shared his knowledge with other attorneys who were in the same position he once was.

“Our entire appellate team came away with a deeper understanding and respect for the development of federal criminal case law at the Supreme Court,” Jerry said. “We began to teach; we began to collaborate with other federal criminal law actioners on their high court cases.”

After a 24-year career as a federal public defender, Jerry retired from federal service in the summer of 2018. While he still occasionally accepts appellate appointments, now his focus is on watching the next group of lawyers make their impact on the legal profession.

“I grow increasingly content with watching younger attorneys, including Texas Tech law grads, make their marks upon the development of the law,” Jerry said. “They’re generally twice the attorney I am, but they’ll be hard-pressed to experience even half the fun I did.”



Jerry with his daughter, Amber Beard '15.



THE  
POWER<sup>OF</sup>

# CONSISTENT GIVING

When Barbara Runge '74 was a child in Houston, she loved watching “Perry Mason,” the law drama on television for a decade in the 1950s and 1960s. She liked watching other legal shows, too.

“I would run home from playing with the other kids to watch those shows on TV. When I was 11, a new program came on TV, and it featured a female attorney. She had her own office, and it was an attractive office. It was in a downtown area,” she said.

Barbara saw her future. “I looked over at my dad and said, ‘I didn’t know a girl could be a lawyer.’ And he said, ‘Well, of course, Barbara, a girl can be a lawyer. But no girl wants to be a lawyer.’ And I said, ‘I do, Daddy, I do.’”

She did – and the Texas Tech University School of Law has been extremely grateful.

“Barbara is the trifecta of what law schools love to have in the form of graduates,” said Frank Newton, dean emeritus of the school, who served as dean from 1985-2002.

First, a successful professional practice which reflects well on the law school – Barbara is a family law expert. Second, special qualities – Barbara was a trailblazing woman when very few were trying to be lawyers. Third, a dedicated alumna – in terms of service and philanthropy. “Barbara exemplifies that,” said Dean Newton.

Barbara was the first female member of the Texas Tech Law School Foundation’s Board of Trustees, plus its first and only female president. She’s the longest serving Board member, going back to 1983. She is one of only two alumni in the history of the Law School to be awarded both the Distinguished Alumnus Award and the Distinguished Service Award. Barbara and her late husband, Rusty Howard, endowed two scholarships, part of a legacy of giving she started in 1972 with a \$5 gift to the Drew Simpson Memorial Fund. Barbara is the Law School’s longest consistent donor.

## COMING TO TEXAS TECH

Barbara came to Texas Tech to study pre law and political science –

including a business law class taught by recent Texas Tech Chancellor Kent Hance. But not everyone was encouraging about her plans to go to law school. “Most people were discouraging, even teachers and counselors,” she said during a recent interview at the Law School.

“Every now and then I’m asked to speak in high school classes. And I actually have asked for a show of hands of how many females feel they could not be a lawyer or a doctor or a politician, and they just don’t raise their hands. They now realize they have options – they have opportunities,” she said. When Barbara started law school at Texas Tech, there were 17 women in her class, which was more than the year before. They were constantly called on in class to see if they could handle the pressure. Only seven graduated. In contrast, more than half of this year’s incoming class is female, and women at the Law School now succeed at the same rate as their male classmates.

But years later, Barbara said the challenges made her a better attorney. “After the Law School experience and

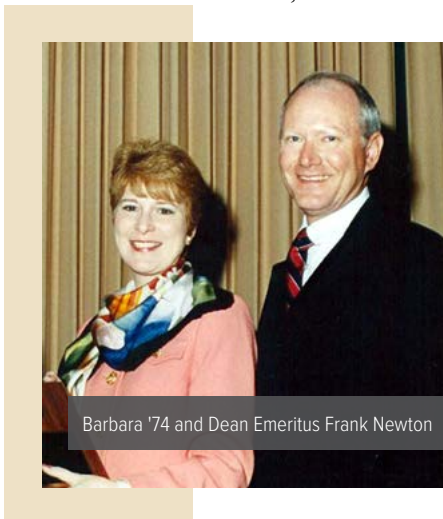


the Socratic method, I was not afraid of any judge. The cross examination we received from our professors was very tough here,” she said.

She did get some support – from some of her fellow female students and from professors Richard Hemmingway, Ruth Kirby, Rodric Schoen and David Cummins.

The Vietnam War was raging when Barbara started law school. That was part of the reason, she believes, more law schools started accepting women because they could not be drafted. Her class had an interesting mix of students: Vietnam vets attending on the GI Bill, people coming from other professions and, what Barbara called first-generation overachievers – students whose parents or grandparents were not attorneys or doctors or even college graduates.

But the sense women were taking a man’s place was still fresh and raw, even from one of Barbara’s best friends. “I had a dear friend who sat next to me in many of my classes who’d say, ‘You know, another guy is dying in ‘Nam today because of you.’ Now there could only be one person really – I only took one place,” she said. The friend was just teasing Barbara – but he said it almost every day. Newton said: “She had a great deal of fortitude and self confidence in who she was. The definition of a trailblazer is someone who does what’s difficult or impossible. There were not enough women faculty members and fellow students, no accommodations, and job opportunities were very difficult.”



Barbara '74 and Dean Emeritus Frank Newton

## PRACTICING LAW

Barbara started her law career working for Texaco in Houston for more than a year. She was well paid, had nice benefits and a company car. “But I was not doing what I wanted to do, which was be in the courtroom. I wanted to have my own practice – and I figured that out pretty quickly,” she said.

Barbara opened up her own office and did general law, including a lot of civil litigation. In 1981, she could have sat for both the Family Law Board Certification exam and the Civil Litigation exam. “I decided I’d just do the family law one,” she said. When she was done, the idea of sitting for another long exam was not attractive. “But an interesting thing happened after that,” said Barbara. “The oil bust occurred.”

It affected many oil and gas companies and also companies not in the energy industry but dependent on it. “Many of my clients ended up having difficult economic times. Some had to file bankruptcy. So the economy was going down, but divorces in Harris County were going up,” she said.

Because Barbara was Board Certified in Family Law, her future became clear, and she discovered it was very

emotionally rewarding. “With family law, you are able to get to know the client so well. You’re able to advise them and really have an impact on their lives. The decisions you make with their input can affect the rest of the client’s life. And you

have a real lasting bond with the client and, at times, their children,” she said.

Barbara also practiced the gender diversity she trailblazed – hiring two

female Texas Tech School of Law graduates to her firm in the late 1970s. “It was very unusual to have three female attorneys in a firm,” she said, though she returned to being a solo practitioner in the early 1980s.

Barbara focused exclusively on family law in the mid-1980s. Her commitment to the field was recognized with The David Gibson Award for Professionalism and Excellence in the field of Family Law by the Gulf Coast Family Law Specialists. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the International Academy of Family Lawyers.

“Often, your client is going through a very tough time in his or her life. And sometimes they feel they’re failures because the marriage fails. And my goal in each of those cases is to help this person realize we can climb that mountain together, reach the summit and have a beautiful view that life will go on. They will find happiness, be successful, and achieve many things. But so many times, a client who’s going through a divorce is so devastated that the client is affected on all levels – professionally, personally, financially, and emotionally. Each day, what I’m trying to do is help that client understand that he or she is going to be fine. The client just needs to get through this part of life,” she said.

“I represent some very successful individuals who’ve achieved a lot of success and are used to being in control – often in control of a business or a corporation. In a divorce, you’re not in control. The court’s in control,” Barbara said. “Divorce is difficult,” she added, “but people who are so achievement-oriented have an even rougher time.” Barbara helps them navigate this legal and emotional maze, and many have become her friends, she said.

## A MODEL OF PHILANTHROPY AND INVOLVEMENT

Walk around the Law School, and you’ll find little signs marking the

generosity of Barbara and her late husband Rusty to her alma mater.

Study alcoves, landings, and tranquil areas throughout the law school bear Barbara and Rusty's names along with those of the deans, professors, and family members they have honored with their donations.

"I started becoming involved with alumni events and really enjoyed that very much. The more I participated with the alumni events, the more I became interested in contributing and being supportive of the Law School," said Barbara.

Barbara and Rusty created two presidential scholarships – the Runge/Howard Endowed Presidential Scholarship to help students who have limited financial resources and another named in honor of the late Judge Bob Robertson and his wife, Anne Atkins. Judge Robertson was a family law district judge in Harris County.

Michael Gerrish graduated from Texas Tech Law School in 2011, now practices in Colorado, and benefited from the Runge/Howard scholarship.

"I applied for the endowed scholarship through the Law School foundation. My goal was to be an oil and gas attorney. Her husband did oil and gas. It struck a chord with Rusty," said Michael. Michael wrote Barbara a thank you letter and then met her at a Board of Trustees meeting. He said Barbara invited him to visit the couple's home the next time he was in his Houston, which was his hometown.

"They hosted me at their house, and we learned about each other," he said. During another trip to Houston, the couple took Michael and his then-girlfriend to dinner. "I really appreciated their willingness to establish a relationship with me being a brand-new attorney. She's so accomplished, and it meant a lot to me." The money was helpful and lessened his student debt, but Michael said equally important was the encouragement he got from being awarded the scholarship – plus getting

a relationship with a successful attorney and a connection with someone in the industry in which he wanted to work. Barbara's steadfast commitment to mentoring young lawyers was acknowledged when she received the Mentor Recognition Award from the Houston Bar Association.

The couple has also supported the Law School's suite for Texas Tech football games – where the school invites alumni and potential supporters. They've also consistently supported dean's initiatives over the years giving to different funds over their own scholarships.

Then there's service on the Law School's Foundation Board of Trustees and the State Bar of Texas. When she joined the Foundation Board of Trustees, she was only the second alum to serve on it. She also recruited the second female board member in 1990 – Kem Frost – who has been chief justice for the Fourteenth Court of Appeals in Houston since 2013.

Barbara believes her alma mater doesn't generally get the respect it deserves, but added, "I do feel lawyers in Houston are respectful of a Texas Tech Law degree."

## UGLY DOG SPARKS BEAUTIFUL RELATIONSHIP

Barbara's legal training came in handy in her personal life as well as her profession when she met her future husband. Rusty and Barbara lived in the same apartment complex in Houston. One day he told Barbara her dog "was the ugliest dog in Houston." Barbara, trained in law school on how to retort, shot back with "I'll have you know, it's not. I entered him in the Ugliest Dog in Houston contest and

he came in fourth." Rusty came back with "the first ones must have been dead."

They fell in love and were married more than 40 years. They loved to travel, visiting all 50 states and 30 foreign countries.

"Rusty was my No. 1 fan. He's the one who encouraged me to leave Texaco and open my own practice. He said, 'you hate going to work every day. You didn't go through the misery of law school for this,'" she said.

Rusty died on September 15 of this year after a nine-year battle with leukemia and myelofibrosis. He was a certified petroleum landman who had degrees from Texas A&M and the University of Texas.

As part of their travels, he attended law conferences with his wife and was supportive of organizations Barbara was active in – he even became a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Foundation.

Rusty's obituary listed the following organizations dear to his heart for donations:

- The Texas A&M Lettermen's Association (Rusty lettered in baseball at Texas A&M.)
- Friends of Westbury High School Foundation (his alma mater)



Rusty and Barbara '74, tireless supporters of Texas Tech Law.



- The Texas Tech University Law School Foundation for the Runge/Howard Presidential Endowed Scholarship
- The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Foundation

A speaker at Rusty's memorial service said: "Rusty was an extraordinary landman. And, we know his greatest discovery was you, Barbara. His richest find was the love God deposited in the deep well of your heart." Later he said, "Barbara, throughout the years, you made sure Rusty was never alone for stem cell transplants, blood transfusions and traditional and experimental treatments to kill this deadly disease. Barbara, you made sure that when you could not be with him, he had friends and caregivers to provide the loving care he deserved as your husband. You showed Rusty every day that no thing and no one was more important to you than him."

### MAKING AN IMPACT IN THEIR FAMILY

The couple did not have any children, but they have ten nieces and nephews, plus a dozen grandnieces and grandnephews. And half of those nieces and nephews graduated from Texas Tech. "I'm proud all ten of my nieces and nephews graduated from college. In May, the last one of the ten, Annette Mayne, graduated from Texas Tech University," she said. The same day, their nephew, Russell Mayne, graduated from the Law School, and Barbara and Rusty were able to attend both ceremonies.

That's not all – three of the ten, including the young man who graduated with the law degree, were named after Rusty and another three named after Barbara. We're blessed to have a very loving, supportive family," she said.

She also has family living in Lubbock and enjoys getting together with them when she's in town for Law School business.

### 'SHE MADE IT A BETTER PLACE'

Newton not only has great respect for Barbara, but for Rusty as well.

"We got to know Barbara and Rusty; they were fun to be around. They hosted my wife and me at their vacation home on Galveston Bay," where they had fun and enjoyed discussing art collections, he said.

"She is commendable in offering helping hands and scholarships designed for people who may not be able to attend law school and go on to practice law. She did not pull the ladder up behind her," Newton added. "She made it a better place as a student and as a practicing attorney."

## ■ CREATING A LASTING LEGACY

Gifts from wills, trusts, and retirement accounts present a wonderful opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for the Law School.

Whether you want to support scholarships to ensure students have access to a quality legal education, faculty endowments that attract and support the best legal minds, or provide unrestricted funds to support innovative programs that don't exist today, these gifts ensure that the Law School is sustained for future generations.

To help you create a gift plan, the Texas Tech Law School Foundation is excited to announce a new partnership with HighGround Advisors, a nonprofit investment and charitable giving firm. HighGround will facilitate the gifting of diverse assets including cash, securities, real estate, minerals, and closely-held business interests through various giving solutions such as donor-advised funds, bequests, gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts.

As partners, HighGround and the Foundation will assist you and your professional advisors when giving complex assets or incorporating charitable giving strategies into estate planning concepts. During donor consultations, HighGround will share tax implications and draft necessary legal documents to execute gift plans.

When making a gift plan, you gain financial and tax benefits for you and your family while leaving a lasting legacy for the Law School. Please reach out to me for information on gift strategies that can help you create your lasting impact on the Law School.

Karen Holden  
Director of Development and Donor Relations

806.834.4910 | karen.holden@ttu.edu

# ALUMNI

# NEWS

We gladly publish alumni news and photos. Please send your submissions to the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni.law@ttu.edu](mailto:alumni.law@ttu.edu)

## 1974:

**Rodney Acker**, partner with Norton Rose Fulbright, was named president-elect of the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL). The College recognizes and honors the best of the trial bars of the United States and Canada, and includes among its Fellows trial lawyers representing every aspect of the trial bar: plaintiff and defense lawyers from virtually every substantive area of civil practice, public interest lawyers, prosecutors, and criminal defense attorneys. With Norton Rose Fulbright, Rodney focuses his practice on civil trial law, and his experience includes trying cases in state and federal courts across

the United States. He has experience in all areas of civil litigation, including securities litigation, antitrust, oil and gas, breach of contract/fraud, banking, and general commercial litigation.

## 1975:

The State Bar of Texas honored recently-retired Texas Supreme Court Justice **Phil Johnson** with a resolution honoring him for exceptional service. Justice Johnson served as a Texas judge for 20 years—13 on the Supreme Court of Texas.

## 1978:

**Susan J. Jennings**, vice president and director of government relations for the National Life Group, was honored by the National Tax-Deferred Savings Association (NTSA) with its Bob D. Schiller Award for her lifetime achievements and meritorious service.

**Steve Rodgers**, Texas A&M clinical professor of construction science, received a teaching award from the Texas A&M Association of Former Students. At Texas A&M, Steve has also served as an international study and internship coordinator in London for the department's study abroad programs. Before joining the Texas A&M faculty, Steve maintained a trial law practice with the firm of Rodgers, Miller & Rodriguez,



Steve Rodgers '78, Texas A&M clinical professor of construction science, was presented with a teaching award from the Texas A&M Association of Former Students. From left are Marty Holmes, vice president, Association of Former Students, Texas A&M, Rodgers, and Jorge Vanegas, dean of the College of Architecture.

P.C. for over 35 years. Early in his practice, Steve achieved the highest possible rating for competency and ethics, and has maintained it for over three decades. In 2004, the prestigious American Board of Trial Advocates invited Steve to serve as a charter member of the organization in the Brazos Valley. He has served as its president and its national board representative.

## 1979:

Governor Greg Abbott appointed **Mark Griffin** to the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents for a term set to expire on January 31, 2025. Mark is a member of the Facilities Committee and the Regents' Rules Review Committee. He also serves as the chair of the Carr Foundation Board of Trustees. Mark is president and CEO of The Griffin Companies and Pro Petroleum Inc., which are retail and wholesale fuel marketing, distribution, and storage companies.

## 1981:

**Jerry Dixon** was elected president of the Board of Bar Commissioners, a 22-member governing board of the State Bar of New Mexico. He is a shareholder at Dixon, Scholl, Carrillo, P.A. and practices in the areas of professional malpractice defense, licensing, commercial and construction litigation and real estate. He is a frequent speaker to professionals on ethics, professional liability, and risk management issues. Jerry is admitted to practice law in Colorado and New Mexico.





Jerry Dixon '81 is sworn in as president of the New Mexico Board of Bar Commissioners. In attendance were, from left, Jerry, Dean Nowlin, Wesley Pool, and Scotty Holloman '81.

He was President of the Albuquerque Bar Association in 1994 and has served as a Trustee for the Texas Tech School of Law Foundation since 2005. He has participated in the New Mexico high school mock trial program as a coach or judge since 1988. Jerry was named Outstanding Attorney of the Year by the Albuquerque Bar Association in 2014 and received the 2014 Distinguished Service Award from Texas Tech School of Law. He provides pro bono services through New Mexico Christian Legal Aid. Jerry served as a Visiting Professor of Law in 2012 at the University of National and World Economy in Sofia, Bulgaria, and in 2015 at South-West University in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. Jerry represents the First Bar Commissioner District.

Governor Greg Abbott appointed **Keith Stretcher** to the Eleventh Court of Appeals for a term set to expire on December 31, 2020. Justice Stretcher was appointed the Midland City Attorney in 1992. He continued in that position for over 22 years with extensive criminal, civil, and appellate duties. He will not seek re-election.



The Honorable Kem Thompson Frost '83

### 1983:

**Mike Farris** authored another novel. *The Catch* is a thriller about a relentless serial killer murdering some of Dallas's best lawyers and the police detectives who are on the case.

**Kem Thompson Frost**, Chief Justice of Texas's Fourteenth Court of Appeals, has been named 2019 Outstanding Texas Leader and inducted into the Texas Leadership Hall of Fame by JBS Public Leadership Institute at The University of Texas-Permian Basin. A 1983 graduate of Texas Tech Law School, Chief Justice Frost received a Texas Tech Law School Distinguished Alumnus award in 2015 and currently serves on the board of trustees of Texas Tech Law School Foundation.

### 1984:

**Jerry L. Rios** joined Husch Blackwell LLP as a partner. He focuses his product liability practice on the transportation industry and has

also defended clients on a wide range of other issues, including premises liability, consumer fraud and catastrophic personal injury.

### 1985:

The Honorable **Robert Kinkaid**, after 16 years serving as the 64th District Judge in Plainview, retired from the bench.

### 1987:

After completing his eight-year term as a federal magistrate judge, **E. Scott Frost** joined Lubbock law firm Richards, Elder & Gibson, PLLC. His practice includes representation in general civil matters with an emphasis on employment litigation in the federal court system.

**Mike Shepherd**, after 31 years of service as a prosecutor for Bowie County, has retired. He became an assistant district attorney for Bowie County straight out of law school and was the first African-American hired as a prosecutor in Northeast Texas.

### 1988:

**Mark Greenberg**, judge of County Court at Law 5 in Dallas, received the Texas Tech Law Alumni Association Daniel H. Benson Public Service Award, which is presented to an alumnus who has demonstrated

significant and substantial contributions to furthering ideals of public service in the law.

### 1990:

Former Texas Court of Appeals Justice **Craig Stoddart** joined the commercial and real estate litigation division of the Pettit Law Firm as senior counsel. Justice Stoddart served on the Fifth District Court of Appeals in Dallas from 2014-2018. He also represented the state of Texas in more than 140 appellate prosecutions before joining the Court of Appeals. Before his judicial career, Stoddart served as appellate prosecutor for the Rockwall County Criminal District Attorney's Office for 22 years. He has argued before appellate courts across the state, including the state's highest criminal court, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

### 1992:

**Douglas Bracken**, a board-certified employment law attorney, has joined the Dallas office of Kane Russell Coleman Logan as a director. Douglas, who has more than 25 years of experience, defends companies and management against claims of employment discrimination, harassment, and retaliation claims.

**John R. Parker** was sworn in by Chief Judge Barbara M. G. Lynn to serve as a magistrate judge for the United States District Court, Northern District of Texas at the Abilene and San Angelo divisions. Judge Parker served as Deputy General Counsel for the Executive Office for United States Attorneys' Office in Washington, D.C., beginning in May 2018, where he provided legal advice and ethics guidance to the nation's 93 United States Attorneys, their staffs, and their Executive Office in Washington.

Prior to that, he served as United States Attorney in the Northern District of Texas for three years (acting and interim) pending the presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of a new United States Attorney.

### 1993:

**Richard A. McNitzky** was promoted to shareholder at Langley & Banack, Inc. in the San Antonio office. McNitzky represents hospitals, facilities, and individual health care professionals in complex medical, personal injury, and business disputes. The underscore of his practice is litigation and trial of cases on behalf of health care providers.

### 1994:

**Kal Grant** joined Jackson Walker's Wealth Planning, Probate, & Trust practice as a partner in the Dallas office. Kal joined as a trust and estate strategist working closely with clients to counsel them through the optimal creation, use, and coordination of estate planning vehicles and techniques, including trusts, family-owned entities, charitable planning, and various disposition matters.

**Sandra Heller** joined Holland & Knight LLP as a partner in the Fort Lauderdale office. She focuses her practice on advising clients in the identification and prevention of complex fraud schemes, as well as seeking civil recovery on their behalf. Sandra analyzes, counsels, investigates, and litigates civil recovery actions in multi-claim insurance fraud cases on behalf of both large national and regional private health insurance carriers, as well as national property and casualty insurers.

**Tamie Hopp** received a University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Distinguished Alumni Award. The Distinguished Alumni Awards recognize those who are active in their professional fields and widely recognized for their career accomplishments. Tamie serves as a development director for Black Hills Works Foundation, where she assists in the management and organization of foundation fundraising operations.

**Dawn Wolverton**, who has been Rent-A-Center Inc.'s vice president, assistant general counsel, and corporate secretary since 2011, temporarily took the helm as general counsel. She first joined the rent-to-own retailer in 2004 as senior counsel, and her key responsibilities have included securities compliance, corporate governance, finance and investor relations, business transactions, and compensation and benefits.

### 1995:

**Stephen Wedemeyer** joined the Shackelford Bowen McKinley & Norton LLP Houston office as a partner. Formerly chairman of Winstead's insurance litigation group, he handles personal injury and commercial disputes

and has represented corporations, small businesses, and insurers.

**Ginger Pearson Nelson** received the Spearman ISD 2019 Lynx Legacy Distinguished Alumni Award. The purpose of the award is to identify, recognize, celebrate, and honor alumni who have distinguished themselves through public service, academic achievement, and professional contributions. Mayor Nelson was elected to serve for a second term as mayor of Amarillo and has been instrumental in helping organize a group of mayors from other Texas cities of similar size to Amarillo to share ideas and problem solving methods.

### 1996:

**Alan Bojorquez**, founder of Bojorquez Law Firm, received the Texas Tech Law Alumni Association Hershell L. Barnes Ambassador Award, which recognizes an alumnus who has served as a goodwill ambassador for the Law School and general community.

**Ben K. DuBose**, founder of DuBose Law Firm, was elected the 2019 president of Dallas Trial Lawyers Association. Founded in 1963, the Dallas Trial Lawyers Association is a volunteer body of Dallas area trial attorneys. DTLA's mission: empowering and supporting Dallas trial lawyers in achieving justice for those who have been harmed. Ben has 23 years of experience representing asbestos, personal injury, and wrongful death victims as well as individuals in employment matters.

**Christopher L. Jensen**, a member with Sprouse Shrader Smith PLLC in Amarillo, Texas, was elected to serve on the firm's 2019 Executive Committee. In addition

to serving on the firm's executive committee, Chris will serve as the firm's president. He represents clients in commercial and personal injury litigation relating to oil and gas, power and utilities, water, and condemnation/eminent domain.



Stephen Wedemeyer '95



## 1997:

**Susan Redford** was named executive director of the Texas Association of Counties. The Texas Association of Counties (TAC) represents the 254 counties of Texas and, by extension, the county officials Texans have elected or appointed to represent them. Susan, a former Ector County judge, has served as the judicial program manager of TAC's Judicial Education

Program since October 2015. Prior to taking office as county judge in 2007, she served Ector County for six years as an assistant district attorney and for two years as an assistant county attorney.

## 1998:

**Michael Nored** was named Special Counsel to the Texas Department of Insurance Commissioner. He joined TDI as an attorney in the Enforcement Section in 2012. He moved to the Legal Section in 2013, became director of Financial Counsel later that year, and was selected to lead the Legal & Enforcement Division in 2017. He also has 14 years of private sector insurance law experience.

## 1999:

**Ryan T. Beard** joined Akerman LLP as a partner in the Austin office. He broadens Akerman's intellectual property offering with experience in the areas of medical devices, mechanical devices, automotive products, computer equipment, other technology related to the internet and data, and copyrights and trademarks.

**Walker Crowson**, a partner in the Snell & Wilmer Phoenix office, received the Fiesta Bowl Chair of the Year Award. He was recognized for his work as the organization's chair of the PlayStation Fiesta Bowl pregame parties and for playing a critical role in the execution of the 2018-2019 Fan Fest and APS Stadium Club. He has been involved with the Fiesta Bowl as a Yellow Jacket since 2016 and formerly served as president of the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas.



Texas Tech law alumni at the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society's 24th Annual John Hemphill Dinner. This year's event featured keynote speaker Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch.

**Leah A. Greene** joined Butler Snow's business department and practices within the Business Services group in the Memphis, Tennessee office. She focuses her practice on health care transactions and regulatory matters. In addition, she advises clients on health law matters.

## 2000:

**Sunshine Stanek** became the first woman to serve as the Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney. She was also selected to serve on the Domestic Terrorism Task Force formed by Governor Greg Abbott in the wake of the August 2 mass shooting in El Paso. The group of experts will analyze and provide advice on strategies to maximize law enforcement's ability to protect against acts of domestic terrorism.

## 2001:

**Bryan S. David**, a partner with Cantey Hanger, was elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation. Fellows of the Foundation are selected for their outstanding professional achievements and their demonstrated commitment to the improvement of the justice system throughout the state of Texas. In his practice, Bryan represents aircraft owners and operators, charter companies, major aircraft manufacturers, repair stations, flight schools, and training centers in a variety of commercial and tort actions.

**Jose Sanchez**, owner of Jose Sanchez Law Firm, joined the board of directors of

Refuge International. Longview-based Refuge International builds collaborative relationships in Guatemala to provide medical services to underserved populations. Jose's practice consists mainly of personal injury actions, including product liability claims and wrongful death actions. He also handles a great amount of family immigration cases.

**Paula Smith**, Assistant Dean of Career and Professional Development at Texas Tech University School of Law, received a 2019 Texas Tech Alumni Association Top Techsan award. The Top Techsan honors Texas Tech University staff members who display extraordinary work proficiency and an attitude of team spirit within the Texas Tech family.

## 2003:

**Dylan O. Drummond**, an appellate litigator resident in the Dallas office of Gray Reed & McGraw, was named president of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society. The Texas Supreme Court Historical Society chronicles the history of the Texas Supreme Court, the Texas judiciary, and Texas law, while preserving and protecting judicial records and significant artifacts that reflect that history.

**Racy L. Haddad** joined Coats Rose, P.C. as a director in the real estate practice in the firm's Austin office. She has more than 25 years of experience in the real estate industry, with a diverse real estate and litigation practice that includes complex cases involving commercial and residential

acquisitions, development, leasing, real estate brokerage, real estate finance,



title issues, disposition of property, and construction law. Prior to joining Coats Rose, Racy was the founding partner of Haddad Legal Group.

#### 2004:

**David A. Sprott** joined the law firm of McMahon Surovik Suttle P.C. as a shareholder. He practices in the fields of estate planning, probate, and business law.

**Dusty Wallace** joined True North Advisors as the vice president of financial planning. Prior to joining True North, Dusty was the director of financial planning and the chief compliance officer at Lee Financial Company where she was responsible for financial planning services as well as oversight of the firm's compliance program.

#### 2005:

**Brian Rogers**, a former reporter at the *Odessa American* and the *Houston Chronicle*, has hung up his press badge and is moving into the courtroom as a criminal defense attorney, mainly dealing with appeals cases.

#### 2006:

Ector County Court of Law Judge **Brooke Hendricks-Green** was named a recipient of the Odessa Under 40 Award. The Young Professionals of Odessa honors Odessans who excel

professionally and offer service back to the community with the Under 40 Award.

**Tiffany Leal** joined the Chapman Firm in Austin, Texas, as senior counsel. Tiffany's practice focuses on representing clients in all aspects of construction and employment law, including the drafting and negotiation of transactional matters and dispute resolution.

**Joseph E. Moody** (D-El Paso) was appointed as speaker pro tempore, the number two job in the Texas House of Representatives. He is the first El Paso lawmaker to be named speaker pro tempore in Texas. The speaker pro tempore assumes the duties of speaker in the speaker's absence and assists in the administration of the House at the speaker's direction. Outside of the Texas Legislature, he is an attorney in private practice at Moody & Sahualla, P.C., a boutique El Paso law firm focused on criminal defense and criminal appeals.

**Blair Saylor Oscarsson** was elected a member of the Sprouse Shrader Smith Law Firm. She has more than a decade of experience in civil litigation and family law matters, regularly assisting clients with adoptions, child custody, and divorce, as well as with cases involving personal injury, wrongful death, and commercial litigation.

Governor Greg Abbott named **Melissa Tyroch**, a partner at Tyroch Boyd PLLC, to the state's securities board for a term that expires January 20, 2025. The board is responsible for registering securities offered and sold in Texas and oversees individuals selling securities or providing investment advice to Texans.

Newly elected Dallas council member **Chad West** was appointed by Mayor Eric Johnson to chair the Housing and Homelessness Solutions committee. Chad is the only freshman council member to be appointed as a committee chair.

#### 2007:

**Allison Clayton**, deputy director of the Innocence Project of Texas and director of the Law School's Innocence Clinic, received the Texas Tech Law Alumni Association Rising Star Award, which recognizes an alumnus whose exemplary contributions of service and leadership,

either professionally or at the School of Law, has brought credit to the graduate and the institution.

**Nick Davis** joined the litigation section of Stibbs & Co. in The Woodlands, Texas. Prior to joining Stibbs & Co., Nick owned a law firm in Dallas in which he gained his vast litigation skills in the areas of civil litigation, family, bankruptcy, and criminal defense.

**Susan Hannagan** joined Capital One as senior counsel. Hannagan was previously a partner at Munck Wilson Mandala and operated litigation boutique Okon Hannagan, providing legal services in complex commercial litigation, IP litigation, employment law, construction law, real estate litigation, and energy litigation.

**Emma Shinn** was the featured speaker at the Texas Tech University Office of LGBTQIA Lavender Graduation. The evening hosted graduating LGBTQIA students and allies, their families, and their friends for dinner and a recognition ceremony.

Governor Greg Abbott appointed **Ashley Wysocki** to the 254th Family District Court in Dallas County for a term set to expire December 31, 2020. Ashley is an attorney at Fox Rothschild LLP. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Dallas Bar Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, and the State Bar of Texas and its Family Law Section.

#### 2008:

**Tamara Baggett** joined Barnes & Thornburg LLP as a partner in the Dallas office. She is a complex commercial litigator who handles contract disputes, construction and fiduciary litigation, internet defamation and brand protection matters, and unfair trade practice cases, as well as various real estate, intellectual property, antitrust, and tort disputes.

**Michael Davis**, 369th District Court Judge of Palestine, has been appointed chairman of the Local Bar Services Committee, as well as to the state bar's Administration of Evidence Committee. The Local Bar Services Committee provides services and information to local and specialty bar associations by serving as a liaison between the





Members of the class of 2009 celebrated 10 years during the 2019 Alumni Tailgate weekend.

state bar and the local association. The Evidence Committee monitors the Texas Rules of Evidence, receives and considers comments regarding the rules, and proposes revisions to the Rules of Evidence and the statutes of Texas relating to them. Members include lawyers, judges, and law school professors from across Texas.

**J. Brad Hickman**, a member with Sprouse Shrader Smith PLLC in Amarillo, Texas, was elected to serve on the firm's 2019 Executive Committee. Brad is a real estate and business attorney with deep experience in negotiating and drafting contracts including real estate purchase and sale agreements, loan and securities documents, oil and gas leases, and construction agreements. He is also a licensed Certified Public Accountant in Texas.

**Oscar Mendez** was recognized by Bel Air High School as their Brenda Sandoval Honored Ex for serving his community by establishing himself as a model citizen.

**David Morehan** joined Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P. as a partner in the firm's Houston office. He focuses on intellectual property litigation involving highly complex technical and legal issues. David represents clients in cases involving a wide range of technologies and products, including telecommunications, computers,

electrical engineering, medical devices, and oil drilling.

**April Propst** has been named judge of the new CPS court at the Taylor County Courthouse. April had served as an associate judge of the 326th District Court in Taylor County since 2017, presiding over family law matters, including child protection cases. As a child protection associate judge, she will preside over child protection cases filed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

**Joshua W. Snider** received the Fort Hays State University Young Alumni Award. The award is designed to recognize those early in their careers who have had outstanding professional and educational achievements, participated in community activities, received honors and awards, and been recognized for other accomplishments since graduation. He currently is a managing shareholder and attorney for Gordon Davis Johnson and Shane P.C., a business boutique firm in El Paso, Texas.

## 2009:

**James Decker** received the Outstanding Early Career Alumni award at the Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Legacy and Leadership Banquet. This award recognizes outstanding leadership and contributions

in career, public service, and/or volunteer activities within 15 years of graduation. It is among the highest awards given to former students in agriculture and life sciences at Texas A&M.

**Brandon E. Durrett** was elected a new member with Dykema in the San Antonio office. Brandon is a Board Certified oil and gas attorney in Dykema's Corporate Finance Practice Group. He maintains a diverse upstream industry practice focused on identifying and solving problems his clients encounter in the exploration, development, operation, production, sale, and leveraging of oil and gas properties.

**Raleigh Johnston** was named partner in the Dentons' Dallas office. He is a member of the firm's corporate practice where he represents public and private companies, including real estate investment trusts, in a variety of corporate, tax, securities, and real estate matters.

**Brent W. Nelson**, a partner in the Tucson office of Rimon, P.C., was named chair of the Probate and Trust Section of the State Bar of Arizona for 2019/2020. The section considers all matters of legal interest relating to the various subjects covered by the section, including the law with respect to wills, the administration of estates, estate and tax planning, probate court jurisdiction, the advisability of

specific probate statutes or rules, and other matters of interest in the field of probate law.

**Benson Varghese**, founder and managing partner of Varghese Summersett in Fort Worth, received the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association. The Outstanding Young Lawyer Award is given to a young lawyer who is recognized for his or her proficiency, service to the profession, and service to the community. Benson has been active in TCYLA and has been involved with several community service programs.

## 2010:

Elgin Municipal Court Judge **Amanda Carter** was appointed to the District 8 Grievance Committee of the State Bar of Texas. As part of the attorney discipline system, Texas has 17 grievance committees across the state which review complaints and determine whether professional misconduct was committed.

## 2011:

**Jessica Adair** now serves as the Chief of Staff for the Office of the Nevada Attorney General. Previously, Jessica worked for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce. A veteran of non-profit advocacy organizations and campaigns, she also served on President Obama's re-election campaign in Colorado and as the Women's Director for Secretary Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in Nevada.

**John Ellis** was promoted to partner at Scott Douglass & McConnico in Austin, Texas. His trial litigation practice focuses on the energy, medical device/pharmaceutical, and financial services sectors and routinely involves disputes concerning products liability, breach of contract, fraud, securities, real property, misappropriation of trade secrets, breach of fiduciary duty, deceptive trade practices claims, and various other consumer-protection statutes.

**Jennifer Wertz** was elected to partnership in Jackson Walker's Austin office. Jennifer represents a variety of stakeholders involved in bankruptcy proceedings and related complex litigation. She has

significant experience in the healthcare, energy, and telecommunications industries.

## 2012:

**Brandon Beck**, an appellate attorney with the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Texas and adjunct professor of legal practice at Texas Tech Law, received the G.O.L.D. (Graduates Of the Last Decade) Award, which recognizes an alumnus who graduated during the last decade for significant achievements in the practice of law.

**Elizabeth Hill** and her husband, Chace Hill, plan to open the Burklee Hill Bistro and Tasting Room in downtown Lubbock in late 2019. The Hills have operated the original Burklee Hill tasting room in nearby Levelland since 2016, serving their locally grown and produced wine. The downtown Lubbock location will feature the original character of the Kress Building at 1109 Broadway, a nationally registered historic building. Guests at Burklee Hill will enjoy bistro dishes that pair well with wine for lunch or dinner, as well as special events and live music on weekends. Burklee Hill will also house a private event room that will host up to 100 guests for meetings, parties, dinners, and receptions. Texas Tech law alumni may stop in and mention their affiliation to the law school to enjoy a complimentary tasting. Elizabeth practices wine law, in addition to commercial litigation and appeals.

**Lindsay Riley** was named president-elect of the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation for 2019. In her practice with Dykema, Lindsay is a commercial litigator who advises clients with matters related to all stages of pretrial and trial work in state and federal court.

**Caroline Smock** is now the assistant vice president of wealth management and trust for Denton County at First State Bank. In this role, she will work on tax planning and IRAs, investment management, and estate planning for clients in Denton County.

**Nathan White**, an associate in Weil's Litigation Department, was selected for the 2019 Dallas Association of Young

Lawyers Leadership Class. The DAYL Leadership Class is a focused way for young lawyers to make a difference in the

community and the bar. Only about 40 individuals are selected for the class each year to learn about the city of Dallas, involvement opportunities in nonprofits and bar associations, and city affairs. Each class also organizes a service project for the benefit of the local community.

## 2013:

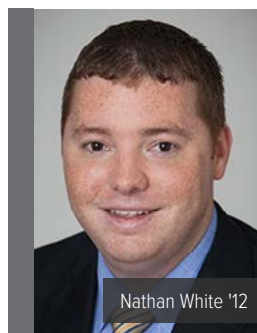
**Jonathan Groves** joined Lathrop Gage's Energy group as an associate in the firm's Denver office. Jonathan prepares and acquires drilling and division order title opinions. He is also an experienced negotiator in the exchange and completion of complex leases, purchase and sale agreements, and exchange agreements.

**John McIntyre** has joined the Santa Fe law firm of Montgomery & Andrews as an associate attorney. He previously represented clients in front of the California Public Utilities Commission regarding natural gas pipelines and storage, renewable energy development, and transportation issues. Before that, he assisted negotiating oil and gas lease transactions in Texas.

**Brittany Sloan** joined The Strong Firm P.C. as an associate attorney. Her areas of legal practice include estate planning, probate, elder law, tax, real estate, and business matters.

## 2014:

**Scott Bailey** joined the Dallas office of international law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP as an associate in the firm's Corporate Department. Scott participates in the representation of private equity sponsors and their portfolio companies with respect to mergers, acquisitions and divestitures.





## 2015:

**Drew Robertson**, an associate with Kane Russell Coleman Logan PC, received the Texas Tech Law Alumni Association D. Murray Hensley Service Award, which is presented to an alumnus who has served the law school by coaching advocacy teams.

## 2017:

**Keirsten Hamilton** joined Polsinelli's Dallas office as an associate in the firm's Real Estate Finance group. Keirsten focuses her practice on providing legal advice and strategic counsel to lending and servicing clients on financial and real estate matters, including the closing and documentation of loan originations, handling various servicing matters, and the disposition of REO property.

**Brandon L. King** joined Thompson & Knight LLP as an associate in the Trial Practice Group of the Austin office. Brandon focuses his practice on litigation and dispute resolution. Prior to joining the firm, he served as Judicial Clerk for the Honorable Thomas M. Reavley, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the Honorable Jeffrey S. Boyd, Supreme Court of Texas.

**Adam L. Trimble** joined Sprouse Shrader Smith, a full service law firm with offices in Amarillo, Austin, and Victoria, as an associate attorney. Adam joins the Amarillo office where his primary focus is to assist clients with individual and business tax issues, the formation of entities, executive compensation plans, and the purchase or sale of a business.

## 2019:

**Stephanie Grissom** received one of the 2019 Law Students Pursuing Tax Law Scholarships that the State Bar of Texas Tax Section issues each year. While at Texas Tech Law, Stephanie was a member of the Tax Law National Moot Court team and the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. She is currently attending the Graduate Tax Program at NYU School of Law to obtain an LL.M in Taxation.

**Emily Steppick** joined Kelly Hart & Hallman as an associate in the litigation section in the Fort Worth office. While in law school, Emily interned for Federal Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Cureton at the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas and for the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office Special Victims Unit in Fort Worth.

# IN MEMORIAM 2019

Pablo L. Alvarado, III	'82
Jimmy A. Ashby	'70
Dax S. Cowart	'86
Miss Twyla S. Davis	'87
Tina D. Davis-Rincones	'00
Stephen W. Drinnon	'92
Kaye H. Edwards	'84
Fred L. Glover	'70
David F. Gossom	'81
Rick A. Haan	'06
The Honorable David W. Hajek	'76
Goodwin Hale	'75
A. R. Howard, M.D.	'72
Garry F. Howe	'80
Vincent R. Kirst	'73
Ed A. Kliever, III	'72
David B. Loutrel	'75
Bruce A. Martin	'81
Jerry G. Matthews	'88
Robin C. Matthews	'00
Deborah L. McGregor	'89
Dan R. McNery	'71
Janice L. Mock	'93
Albert Perez	'74
Joseph L. Perkins	'73
Robert J. Pierce	'08
Don F. Russell	'74
Paul L. Smith, Jr.	'72

Teena V. Tatom	'88
Bruce E. Turner	'73
The Honorable Bradley S. Underwood	'80
Penelope R. Viteo	'77
Wallace A. Watkins	'86
J. Michael Weiss, CPA	'83
Russell L. Welch	'72
Cavitt F. Wendlandt	'87
Erik M. Williams	'10

## JAMES MICHAEL WEISS OF LUBBOCK 1944-2019



Former Texas Tech Regent (1997-2004) and Lubbock CPA and attorney Mike Weiss graduated from Texas Tech University School of Law while operating a business and raising two children. He served on the boards of numerous organizations and was appointed as the Texas Governor's Budget Director in 1994. He was a Red Raider for life.

# FACULTY UPDATES

Texas Tech law faculty are known nationally and internationally for their passionate commitment to research, teaching, and service. Through creative scholarship, they advance the pursuit of legal knowledge.



**JAMIE J. BAKER**  
Associate Dean and Director  
of the Law Library; Professor  
of Law

Jamie Baker was successfully granted tenure and was appointed Associate Dean & Law Library Director. She also began co-teaching Academic Legal Writing from which a number of *Texas Tech Law Review* students published their student comments. Associate Dean Baker continued to develop her expertise on artificial intelligence affecting legal information structures, and she was invited to speak at various conferences, including the American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, and the Duquesne Annual Law Review Symposium, among a handful of others. Associate Dean Baker has a forthcoming book chapter that will be released later this fall titled "The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Legal Research" in *Law Libraries in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* (ALA 2019).



**DUSTIN B. BENHAM**  
Professor of Law

Professor Benham continues to study and write about court transparency issues. In March, he presented on these issues at Yale Law School. Professor Benham recently published the evidence textbook, *Evidence Law and Practice*. He currently serves as the Secretary of the Teaching Methods Section for the Association of American Law Schools.



**GERRY W. BEYER**  
Governor Preston E. Smith  
Regents Professor of Law

Professor Beyer continued his productive and creative teaching, writing, and research agenda last year. He was an invited presenter at over thirty programs for some of the nation's most prestigious estate planning conferences attended by academics, judges, lawyers, and community members throughout the nation.

Four new editions of his acclaimed books were released as well as the inaugural edition of his casebook, *Texas Wills, Trusts, and Estates*. Professor Beyer's scholarly reach on the Social Science Research Network expanded into the top .001% of authors.

Professor Beyer maintained leadership positions in organizations including the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel as a regent, the ABA as the editor of a

magazine column, and the Texas Bar Association as the editor-in-chief of the *REPTL Reporter*.



**BRYAN CAMP**  
George H. Mahon Professor  
of Law

Professor Camp attended the Civil Procedure Workshop at Stanford in September 2018, where he presented a paper on Sovereign Immunity. On his "TaxProf" blog, published every Monday morning, Professor Camp writes a short article each week about a recent opinion from the Tax Court. In 2018, his "Lesson From The Tax Court" series garnered over 1.1 million page views. He has also been working on more traditional articles. A paper concerning whether statutes of limitations in the Tax Code are jurisdictional limits on the Tax Court will be published in 2019. Another paper forthcoming in 2020 is about how electronic gaming should be taxed.



**WILLIAM R. CASTO**  
Paul Whitfield Horn Professor

Last Fall, the University Press of Kansas published Horn Professor Casto's book, *Advising the President: Attorney General Robert H. Jackson and Franklin D. Roosevelt*. The book has already attracted significant national attention. Last summer, Professor Casto was invited to give presentations at The Robert H. Jackson Center, The Chautauqua Institution, and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library.

His presentation will appear on C-SPAN.



**ERIC A. CHIAPPINELLI**  
Frank McDonald Endowed  
Professor of Law

Professor Chiappinelli published a substantial revision of his casebook, *Cases and Materials on Business Entities* (4th ed. Wolters Kluwer). He is the sole author of this casebook, which has been used at more than 30 law schools across the United States. His scholarship continues to be widely cited. He is frequently listed among the top ten percent of legal scholars on SSRN, the premier database for new legal scholarship. Professor Chiappinelli was awarded the President's Excellence in Teaching award, given by the President of Texas Tech University, in recognition of his dedication to and effectiveness in classroom teaching.



**CATHERINE MARTIN CHRISTOPHER**  
Associate Dean for Bar  
Success; Professor of Law

Associate Dean Christopher continues her groundbreaking research in the areas of bar examination and academic support for law students. Her latest article, "Normalizing Struggle," is a call to action to reframe legal education around the idea that academic struggle is not only normal, but productive. The article is forthcoming in the *Arkansas Law Review*, and she has presented it at numerous conferences. In



keeping with the thesis of the article, Associate Dean Christopher spearheaded efforts to add an academic support course to the first-year required curriculum at Tech Law, and she teaches several sections of this new course. She is also pursuing research in her other area of interest, financial technology innovations such as Blockchain and smart contract technologies.



### J. WESLEY COCHRAN

**Jack F. Maddox Professor of Law**

Professor Cochran was elected president of the University Faculty Senate for 2019-2020. He will serve as the voice of the faculty in matters of university governance, meeting regularly with the provost and other members of the administration. Professor Cochran expects to have a new edition of his gaming and racing law casebook in the spring of 2020. In addition, he is working on a student study aid in Texas marital property law.



### ALYSON M. DRAKE

**Associate Librarian of Law;  
Director of the Excellence  
in Legal Research Program;  
Assistant Director for  
Operations & Educational  
Programs**

In May, Professor Alyson Drake was an invited speaker at the inaugural Teaching the Teachers Conference, presenting on her research using cognitive theory to boost long-term retention of legal research skills. In July, Professor Drake spoke twice at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries, first as an invited panelist discussing her research on the intersection of cognitive theory and legal research instruction and then as a panelist discussing how to design experiential legal research courses

that simulate the research attorneys will perform in practice. Professor Drake was also selected as a fellow for the Texas Tech University Institute for Inclusive Excellence for 2019-2020.



### JAROD S. GONZALEZ

**J. Hadley Edgar Professor of Law**

Professor Jarod S. Gonzalez has been actively involved in a number of activities related to teaching, research, and service in the past year. On August 28, 2018, Professor Gonzalez served as a panelist before the Texas Legislature Senate Business and Commerce Committee. He provided testimony at an Interim Hearing related to Social Media Access focusing on social media privacy issues for employees and job applicants. In spring 2019, Carolina Academic Press published the Third Edition of Professor Gonzalez' and co-author Professor Sandra Sperino's casebook on Employment Discrimination law, entitled *Employment Discrimination: A Context and Practice Casebook*. In October 2019, Dean Nowlin nominated Professor Jarod S. Gonzalez for the J. Hadley Edgar Professorship. The University subsequently approved his nomination for this professorship.



### DELEITH DUKE GOSSETT

**Professor of Law**

Professor Gossett's solicited piece, "The Client: How States are Profiting from the Child's Right to Protection," was the lead article for the special John Grisham issue of the *Memphis Law Review*. The Center for Adoption Policy called it a "revelatory" article. This led to an invitation by Duke Law School to moderate the panel, "The Opioid Crisis: What Can Be Done for the Children?" at the Silent Victims: Foster Care and Foster Care Adoption in America

Conference, sponsored by Duke Law School and the Center for Adoption Policy.



### SALLY M. HENRY

**John E. Krahmer Banking  
and Commercial Endowed  
Professor of Law**

Professor Henry led a panel on preparing law students for a global practice at the American Bar Association Business Law Section spring meeting. She also published the 2019 annual update of the *Portable Bankruptcy Code and Rules*, a publication of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association and two updates of *Ordin on Contesting Confirmation* (Wolters Kluwer Law and Business), a treatise on confirmation disputes in Chapter 11 reorganization cases, for which she is currently the sole author.

She has also been busy representing the school in local and national organizations. Professor Henry is the president-elect of the West Texas Bankruptcy Bar Association and recently presented an update on Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals cases. Over the past two years, she has served as the secretary of the Federal Bar Association Bankruptcy Section and will soon be serving as its treasurer. She is also active in the American Association of Law Schools and is an executive committee member of the Section on Creditors' and Debtors' Rights.



### WENDY-ADELE HUMPHREY, '01

**Associate Dean for Assessment  
& Strategic Initiatives; Director  
of the Legal Practice Program;  
Director of the Texas Tech  
Pre-Law Academy; Professor  
of Law**

Wendy-Adele Humphrey serves as the associate dean for Assessment and Strategic Initiatives, the

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUR INSTRUCTORS AND ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

Thank you to our instructors and adjunct professors! You allow us to offer a broader curriculum and allow our students to interact with practicing attorneys and sitting judges. We appreciate you sharing your expertise and time with us.

### INSTRUCTORS

Terri M. Morgeson '03  
Q. Dwight McDonald '93  
Donnie Yandell '01

### ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

C. Richard "Dick" Baker  
Brandon Beck '12  
Charles P. Bubany  
Aaron R. Clements '96  
B. Allison Clayton '07  
Donna L. Courville '94  
Michael Cuda  
Ronnie Garcia '08  
Shery Kime-Goodwin '94  
Sarah M. Gunter '01  
Hon. Leslie F. "Les" Hatch '88  
William H. "Willie" Hornberger  
Dean Emeritus Walter Huffman '77  
Arnold H. Loewy  
Q. Dwight McDonald '93  
Hon. Melissa J. McNamara '94  
Arthur Miller  
Don R. Richards '84  
Alexander C. "Alex" Schoch  
Paul K. Stafford '94  
Stephen Stone  
David N. Strange  
Gary R. Terrell '77  
Lori Truitt '08  
D. Gene Valentini  
Denette Vaughn '81  
Roderick E. Wetsel  
Ty Wood '06

director of the nationally ranked Legal Practice Program, and the director of the TTU Pre-Law Academy. She received the 2018-19 TTU President's Excellence in Diversity and Equity Award, and she was recently selected for a Dean's Distinguished Service Professorship. Associate Dean Humphrey also continues to serve the legal profession at the state and national levels: she proudly serves as a director on the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors; she is the 2019 chair of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research; and she is a co-chair of the 2020 Legal Writing Institute's Biennial Conference. She also keeps Texas Tech Law in the spotlight by regularly speaking at regional and national conferences on the topics of assessment, effective teaching methods, and lawyer well-being.



### VAUGHN E. JAMES

Judge Robert H. Bean  
Professor of Law

Professor James published a new book, *Elder Law: Cases and Materials*. His presentations included "LGBTQ Issues in Elder Law" at the University of Tennessee College of Law Faculty Forum, "Handling Tax Issues in Estate Administration" at the National Business Institute CLE Seminar, "On Being a Christian Lawyer" at the Christian Legal Society, and "Religion in the Public School Curriculum: The Texas Conundrum" at the Atlantic Union Attorneys' Conference. Professor James also contributed nearly 350 hours of pro bono legal service to indigent citizens this year.



### WILLIAM R. KEFFER

Professor of Practice; Janet Scivally and David Copeland Endowed Professor of Energy Law; Director of Energy Law Lecture Series; Assistant Director of Bar Preparation Resources

Professor Keffer continued his scholarship and student mentoring in Energy Law. He led students to the Live Oak CLE, the Women's Energy Network Conference, and organized windfarm and oil-and-gas field trips. He helped coach a team to second place in the annual Energy Negotiation Competition hosted by South Texas College of Law. Professor Keffer presided over the annual Energy Law Advisory Group meeting in Lubbock and presented "Some Things I'd Like You to Know about Oil & Gas Law" at the Women's Energy Network Conference and "Illegal Dumping of Oilfield Waste" at the Environmental Law and Enforcement Conference. Professor Keffer also published "Oilfield-Pollution Litigation: Reflections from the Rocking Chair" in *News for the Bar* and "Current Issues in Oilfield-Pollution Litigation" in *The Advocate*.



### ARNOLD H. LOEWY

George R. Killam Jr. Chair of Criminal Law

Professor Loewy published the articles "Religious Liberty Versus Rights of Others" in the *Kentucky Law Journal* and "Why Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished" in the *Texas Tech Law Review*. He also contributed a chapter to the forthcoming free speech book *When Bad Guys March* and continues to write his editorial series "It's Debatable" for the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*. This year's *Texas Tech Law Review* Criminal Law Symposium also paid homage to Professor Loewy's extensive

scholarship in the areas of criminal law and criminal procedure with multiple panel discussions devoted to his work.



### PATRICK METZKE

Professor of Law and Director of Criminal Defense Clinics

Professor Metzke published commissioned essays on state and federal courts in *The Sage Encyclopedia of Criminal Psychology*. He presented at the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association's Seminar, moderated panels at the Annual Criminal Law Symposium and the Southeastern Association of Law Schools' annual meeting, and lectured at the Capital Defense College. As the Director of Criminal Clinics, Professor Metzke's students have invested over 8000 hours of pro bono representation for their clients, resulting in successes such as pre-trial motions, briefs, conviction expunction, and the release of wrongfully convicted client, Ed Ates, who walked out of prison after 20 years of wrongful incarceration. The Texas Tech University Humanities Center awarded Professor Metzke the 2019-2020 Theme of "Justice" which includes \$35,000 to energize the humanities into action.



### RICHARD MURPHY

AT&T Professor of Law

Professor Murphy's scholarship in the past year has focused on arbitrary review of agency policy changes as well as the due process of targeted killing of American citizens in the war-on-terror. He continues to work on two administrative law treatises and recently completed a revision of the "Judicial Review of Administrative Action" unit of Volume 33 of *Federal Practice and Procedure*.



### ALISON MYHRA

Senior Associate Dean; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Professor of Law

In addition to teaching her externship and constitutional law classes, Senior Associate Dean Myhra worked, along with others, to complete the Law School's successful 2018 ABA Site Visit and Evaluation. Dean Nowlin recently named her one of two Dean's Distinguished Service Professors. Late last spring, Associate Dean Myhra was honored to be the keynote speaker at the Beaumont Foundation of America Newton Excellence in Education 2019 Award Gala.



### ALYSON OUTENREATH, '00

Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Professor of Law

Professor Alyson Outenreath fulfills an important role in the life of the Law School as the associate dean for faculty development. She continues to serve on the State Bar of Texas Tax Section Past Chair Advisory Board and as a council member where she serves as a Law School representative. Professor Outenreath was also recently named as the recipient of the Erwin and Elaine Davenport Endowed Professorship.



### TRACY HRESKO PEARL

Professor of Law

Professor Tracy Pearl continues to research and publish articles about autonomous vehicles and the law.



She recently published an article in the *William & Mary Law Review* and has an article forthcoming in the *Harvard Journal of Law & Technology*. Over the summer, she presented papers in Helsinki, Finland at the 30th Annual European Conference of the International Telecommunications Society and in Phoenix, Arizona at the Seventh Annual Governance of Emerging Technologies & Science Conference. Professor Pearl has also recently been a featured guest on the podcasts *Good Law Bad Law*, *Human Robot Interaction*, and *Lawsome*.



### JORGE A. RAMÍREZ

Walter and Anne Huffman  
Professor of Law

Professor Ramírez accepted a sixth invitation from Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania to teach a course on international law. While there, he moderated the plenary session of an international human rights conference and was among the first cohorts nominated to receive a newly-created title to honor international visiting professors.

Closer to home, Professor Ramírez moderated a panel on Corporate Social Responsibility for the ABA Section of International Law in Mexico City and spoke at the 3rd Annual South Texas Ideas Festival at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg, Texas. The program connects young adults with state and national leaders to discuss issues regarding culture, community, and identity.

On the Texas Tech campus, Professor Ramírez moderated two televised campus-wide conversation programs called “Civil Counterpoints,” a series aimed at stimulating thoughtful and respectful discussion of volatile contemporary issues among members of the Texas Tech community.

Finally, Professor Ramírez was commissioned to update West Publishing’s NAFTA textbook, whose current authors include well-known writers in the area of international trade.



### RICHARD ROSEN

Glenn D. West Endowed  
Professor of Law; Director of  
the Center for Military Law &  
Policy

Professor Rosen completed a 2019 Supplement to the book *Constitutional Law: Cases, Materials, & Problems* and is preparing a complete revision of the book *Military Law: Criminal Justice & Administrative Process* to be published in 2020. He moderated the Search and Seizure Panel at the 13th Annual Criminal Law Symposium and served on panels throughout the year. Professor Rosen presented “Sexual Assault Complaints in the Military and on College Campuses” at the Military & Veterans Law Section of the State Bar of Texas CLE. He was the instructor for the Fort Hood Legal Community CLE and was the guest speaker for their “Dining Out” series. Professor Rosen also served as the keynote speaker at the 18th Annual Global Biodefense Symposium, presenting “Vaccine & the Military.”



### WENDY TOLSON ROSS

Professor of Law; Director of  
the Family Law and Housing  
Clinic

Professor Ross is the Director of the Family Law and Housing Clinic and teaches Topics in Family Law. She is a board member of the Women’s Studies Advisory Group and the YWCA, where she presented on “Sexual Violence.” Professor Ross also facilitated the Division of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Faculty Search Committee Workshops. With a focus on sexual violence and race relations, Professor Ross served on several panels throughout the year, including “R. Kelly, We All Knew He Was Coming” and “Us 2 Movement” at the Texas Tech University Women’s Conference,

## FACULTY AWARDS

- Chancellor’s Council Distinguished Teaching Award – B. Sherwin
- Chancellor’s Council Distinguished Research Award – T. Pearl
- Bernie Rushing Jr. Faculty Dist. Research Award – Shannon
- President’s Excellence in Teaching – Chiappinelli
- President’s Excellence in Diversity & Equity Award (Tenured Faculty Recipient) – Humphrey
- President’s Excellence in Research Professorship – B. Sherwin
- President’s Excellence in Research Professorship – T. Pearl

“Selma” at Lights, Camera, Law! and “Race Relations at Texas Tech.”



### BRIAN SHANNON

Paul Whitfield Horn Professor;  
Texas Tech University Faculty  
Athletics Representative

Horn Professor Brian Shannon, who was the recipient of the 2019 Bernie E. Rushing, Jr. Faculty Distinguished Research Award from Texas Tech, continued his work as an expert on mental health law. As part of a grant to NAMI-Texas by the Texas Bar Foundation, he is completing the upcoming sixth edition of his guidebook, *Texas Criminal Procedure & the Offender with Mental Illness*. Professor Shannon is also continuing to serve on the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health, and is serving on a Model Law Writing Workgroup that is developing a new model civil commitment statute.

In his ongoing role as Texas Tech’s NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), Professor Shannon recently completed a four-year term on the NCAA Division I Governing Council, where he served as Chair of the Legislative Committee. He is the immediate past president and a continuing board member of the national

1A FAR Association and Chair of the Big 12 Conference FAR Committee.



### BRIE D. SHERWIN, '01

Professor of Law; Director  
of Dual Degree and  
Concentration Programs

Professor Sherwin received the prestigious 2019 Chancellor’s Council Distinguished Teaching Award and President’s Excellence in Research Professorship. She teaches full time in the nationally ranked legal practice program and as an adjunct professor in environmental health sciences, where she was selected as “Outstanding Teacher of the Year.” In addition to igniting empathy in the classroom with real cases rooted in environmental, social, and criminal-justice issues, Professor Sherwin coached numerous advocacy teams to regional and national championships.

As an invited panelist at the National Science Foundation Workshop, Professor Sherwin presented “Community Environmental Health: A Novel Approach.” She published “After the Storm: The Importance of Acknowledging Environmental

Justice in Sustainable Development and Disaster Preparedness” in *Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum* and her article, “The Upside Down: A New Reality for Science at the EPA and Its Impact on Environmental Justice,” will be the lead article in the *New York University Environmental Law Journal* this fall.



**ROBERT T. SHERWIN, '01**  
Champions in Advocacy  
Endowed Professor of Law;  
Director, Advocacy Programs

In September, Professor Sherwin was named the Champions in Advocacy Endowed Professor of Law. In addition to his work directing the Law School's top-ranked Advocacy Program, Professor Sherwin's scholarship focusing on anti-SLAPP legislation continues to have a national impact.

He is currently serving as reporter for the Uniform Law Commission's Drafting Committee on anti-SLAPP legislation, and in early September, he addressed nearly 200 Texas judges about amendments to the Texas Citizens Participation Act at the 2019 Annual Judicial Education Conference. In late August, his co-written article, “The Changing Landscape of the Texas Citizens Participation Act,” was published by the *Texas Tech Law Review* Online Edition. The article will be published by the *Law Review*



in print in early 2020.

**NANCY SOONPAA**  
Professor of Law; Dean  
Richard B. Amandes Senior  
Scholar in Legal Practice

During the 2018-19 school year, Professor Nancy Soonpaa

presented on incorporating wellness into the legal writing classroom at five conferences, including the Western Regional Legal Writing, the New England Consortium of Legal Writing Professionals, and the Association of Legal Writing Directors conferences. She was a panelist-expert at the ALWD conference on developmental stages of legal writing programs. She organized multiple well-received panels and discussion groups at the South Eastern Association of Law Schools conference. She was elected to leadership positions in the family law and new law professors sections of the Association of American Law Schools. She also taught the master class on multi-party



negotiations at the International Negotiation Competition for Law Students.

**LARRY SPAIN**  
Alvin R. Allison Professor  
of Law; Director of Clinical  
Programs and the Civil  
Practice Clinic

Over the past year, Professor Spain has presented at various continuing legal education programs; organized and coordinated faculty participation in pro bono clinics in cooperation with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas; and served on various boards and committees, including serving as chair of the Advisory Board for the Office of Dispute Resolution for Lubbock County, chair of the Pro Bono Committee of the Lubbock Area Bar Association, member of the Pro Bono Advisory Committee of Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, the



Law School Advisory Committee of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, and the State Bar of Texas Professionalism Committee.

**VICKIE SUTTON**  
Associate Dean for Digital  
Learning and Graduate

**Education; Paul Whitfield Horn Professor; Director of the Center for Biodefense, Law and Public Policy; Director of the Law and Science Certificate Program and the JD/MS Program in the Life Sciences Texas Institute of Environmental and Human Health**

Professor Sutton published “Biocontamination and Space Law—the Risk is Not Zero” in the *Houston Journal of Health Law & Policy* and “Asynchronous, E-Learning in Legal Education: A Comparative Study” in the *Syracuse Law Review*. She was nominated for the TTU Faculty Book Award for her original transcript *The Court Martial of Apache Kid*. Professor Sutton spoke widely this year at conferences, symposiums, and colloquiums about her research in online legal education and biolaw, including her presentation “Designer Babies and National Security Law” at the American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting and Stanford Law Biolawpalooza. Her documentary



films *Space Biocontamination—the Risk is Not Zero* and *The Court Martial of Apache Kid* have been selected for several film festivals and awards in 2019.

**JOHN WATTS**  
Charles B. “Tex” Thornton  
Professor of Law

In October, Professor Watts was a panelist at a free speech forum at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The event sought to promote civil discourse on UTSA campuses and discussed topics including what is and is not protected as free speech, and a college's or university's role in supporting freedom of speech. The forum was an effort to educate students following several incidents involving minor violence and threats during political protests on campus. Professor Watts was joined by Daniel H. Sharporn, Vice Chancellor and General Counsel at the University of Texas System and David J. Hacker, Special Counsel for Civil Litigation for the Office of the Attorney General of Texas.

## OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

On November 6, 2018, three key members of the Law School's Office of Admissions during 2016-17 were honored by Texas Tech University. Associate Dean Wendy-Adele Humphrey ('01), Assistant Dean Danielle Saavedra ('15), and Senior Admissions Counselor Donna Williams received the campus-wide Distinguished Staff “Guns Up” Award for their extraordinary service and dedication to the university during the previous academic year. More specifically, the “Guns Up” Award recognizes a team of employees at Texas Tech who fostered cooperation with employees, internal and external, to increase productivity and efficiency in the organization. The team also must demonstrate exemplary

effort, contribute to the morale of the department or college, accept responsibility, and demonstrate a positive attitude.

One tremendous accomplishment by this Law School team was raising the 2017 entering class's credentials; the median LSAT went up two points and the median GPA increased by 0.15. Additionally, they revitalized the Law School's recruitment efforts—especially when recruiting Texas Tech undergraduate students, minorities, and females—to have a more diverse and dynamic student body. This is the first time a department at the Law School has been selected to receive the prestigious “Guns Up” campus-wide award.



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OUR NUMBERS ADD UP TO **SUCCESS**



**IN THE NATION**  
IN THE AMERICAN BAR  
ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**94.4** **ULTIMATE BAR PASSAGE RATE**  
50<sup>TH</sup> IN THE NATION BY ABA

**#1** Two-Year Bar Passage  
Rate of Texas Public  
Law Schools by ABA

**#13** Moot Court  
Program in the  
Nation by  
Blakely Advocacy  
Institute 2019

**#20** Legal Writing  
Program in the  
Nation by  
US News and  
World Report

**#1** Best Value Law School  
in Texas by the  
*National Jurist*

**A TOP BEST VALUE LAW SCHOOL**  
13<sup>TH</sup> IN THE NATION BY THE *NATIONAL JURIST*

**#21** In the Nation  
in Dispute  
Resolution by  
U.S. News &  
World Report

**#31** In the Nation by  
law.com for 2018  
Gold Standard  
Graduate  
Employment

A COMMUNITY DESIGNED FOR **IMPACT**

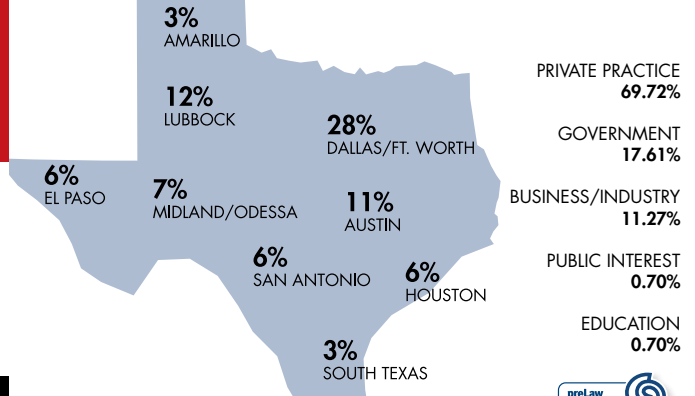


**2019 ENTERING CLASS**

<b>1155</b> Applications Received	<b>147</b> Incoming Students	<b>83%</b> Incoming Students with Scholarships	<b>27.2%</b> First Generation College Students
<b>155</b> Median LSAT	<b>3.42</b> Median GPA	<b>50.3%</b> Female Students	<b>38.8%</b> Students of Color

## OVERALL EMPLOYMENT RATE

CLASS OF 2018 (AS OF MARCH 15, 2019)



## TUITION & COST OF ATTENDANCE



	TX RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT*
TUITION & FEES	\$26,904	\$38,664
ROOM & BOARD	\$9,722	\$9,722
BOOKS & SUPPLIES	\$1,200	\$1,200
TRANSPORTATION	\$2,300	\$2,300
PERSONAL & MISC.	\$2,120	\$2,120
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42,296</b>	<b>\$54,056</b>

\*Note: \$1,000 scholarship waives non-resident tuition.

# VALUE. ADVOCACY. COMMUNITY.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
School of Law™

# A STRONG FOUNDATION



ENDOWMENTS MAKE A LASTING IMPACT ON THE LAW SCHOOL'S FUTURE



Since the Law School's first two endowed scholarships were established in 1970, the tradition of giving back has grown perennially in the Texas Tech University School of Law. In the years since, over 150 scholarship endowments have been created to honor or remember beloved family, alumni, and faculty members. The endowments listed below have been created by our generous donors, both while living and through legacy gifts. The total value of our endowments exceeds **\$21.5 million dollars, with over \$9.2 million** endowed in scholarships.

We are eternally grateful to all the alumni and friends who have established endowments. These generous gifts keep alive the names and memories of those for whom the endowments are established and transform the lives of Texas Tech law students year after year.



*"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."*

*~Nelson Henderson*



## SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

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- Tony Chavez Family Endowed Diversity Scholarship**
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- Class of 1973 50th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship
- Class of 1974 50th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship
- Class of 1979 50th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship**
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- Coffey Diversity Endowed Scholarship
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- Crofoot Honors Scholarship Endowment
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Walter and Anne Huffman Endowed Professorship  
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# TEXAS TECH LAW SCHOOL FOUNDATION BOARD

We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of these remarkable men and women in service to the Texas Tech Law School Foundation Board. The Law School benefits from your leadership every day. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to Texas Tech University School of Law.



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# NEW

## TEXAS TECH LAW SCHOOL FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

### CHRIS ANTCLIFF '95 - EL PASO



Chris is a full-time mediator/arbitrator. He was in private practice for 10 years representing plaintiffs and defendants in civil cases in the state and federal courts and he also served as a Special Prosecutor for the 34th Judicial District. In 2007, Governor Rick Perry appointed him as the first judge of the newly created 448th Judicial District Court. The governor then appointed Chris to the 168th Judicial District Court in 2008 and then as a justice on the Texas 8th District Court of Appeals.

### LINK GRIMES '86 - MIDLAND

Link maintains a general civil and business law practice with primary focus in oil and gas law, including title examinations and opinion work, minerals, mineral management, leasehold, surface and real estate matters, assistance with property acquisitions and divestments, exploration and production matters. Clients over the years include individuals and families, foundations, small and large independents and public oil companies. Link began practicing in 1986 in Austin, Texas with Lynch, Chappell, Allday & Alsup, and moved to Midland, Texas to open a solo practice in 1992.



### EMMA CANO '02 - SAN ANTONIO



Emma joined the litigation department of Haynes and Boone, an international law firm, in their San Antonio office immediately upon graduation from law school in 2002 and was promoted to partner in 2013. In December 2015, Lamont Jefferson and she decided to open their own law firm with two other partners with whom they had worked at Haynes and Boone. Thus, the law office of Jefferson Cano was born. They now have five attorneys, each of whom have a litigation practice.

### JAY HARVEY '82 - AUSTIN

Jay is a partner with Winkler and Harvey in Austin where he specializes in personal injury litigation. Jay is Board Certified as a trial specialist in Personal Injury Trial Law and his practice concentrates in Medical Malpractice, Veteran's Administration Medical Malpractice, Medical Malpractice Involving Military Defendants, Nursing Home Negligence, Defective Products - Medical/Pharmaceutical, Motor Vehicle Accidents, Legal Malpractice and Federal Tort Claims.



### DENIS DENNIS '90 - ODESSA



Denis has been practicing with the Kelly, Morgan, Dennis, Corzine & Hansen firm and its predecessor since 1990. He is board certified in civil appeals and tries 7 to 12 jury trials a year and averages about 100 mediations per year as a mediator.

### ARLENE MATTHEWS '00 - LUBBOCK

Arlene is a partner in the Lubbock firm of Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam, L.L.P. Her practice includes appellate work as well as insurance defense litigation, including medical malpractice, construction defect litigation, and work-related injuries.



# DONOR HONOR ROLL

**A heartfelt thank you** to all the alumni and friends of Texas Tech Law School for your generous support. We are exceedingly grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their support over the last fiscal year (**September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019**). Your generosity has made a meaningful impact on our students, faculty, and staff.

Considerable care has gone into the preparation of the Donor Honor Roll. Each donor is very important to us, and every effort is made to achieve accuracy. If we have overlooked anyone, or if you would prefer that your name not be listed in the future, please contact the Office of Development at **(806)834-4910** or **karen.holden@ttu.edu**

## FISCAL YEAR

# 2019

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Killam Endowment Trust  
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· Walter '77 and Kathy Huffman  
· Chad '04 and Natalie Inderman  
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· Mark '79 and Claudia Griffin  
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· Jack Wade Nowlin  
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· Mitchell '82 and Tonya Touns  
· Darryl '92 and Meg Vereen  
· The Honorable Carey '84 and The Honorable Sue '86 Walker  
· Jo Ben '73 and Diane Whittenburg

“

*Texas Tech Law provided me a springboard for a thoroughly rewarding career these past 38 years. The Law School serves a critically important need and delivers superb results. My three years in Lubbock gave me the fundamental practical and book knowledge needed to succeed in our very challenging profession. I am eternally grateful to my fellow students, professors, and advocacy coaches, such as the late and great Don Hunt. My wife Candy and I want to give back to those who gave us so much. The Dean's Excellence Fund is the perfect vehicle through which to share the benefits of my education and to help future great Tech lawyers fulfill their potential.*

*~David Weinstein '81*

”





## Supporting First-Generation Students

**T**exas Tech Law is proud that all 41 of the first-generation college students in the incoming Class of 2022 received at least a \$2,000 scholarship. With first-generation college students making up 27.2% of the incoming class, the Law School has also established new programs with the goal of supporting these students and ensuring they have the tools needed for success in law school.

### \$2,500 - \$4,999

Beck Group  
Dallas Hispanic Law Foundation  
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LCDLA members present their donation to Texas Tech Law.

## Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

Since its inception in 1980, **Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (LCDLA)** has grown into one of the largest and most active criminal defense bars in Texas. Across the courtrooms of the South Plains, LCDLA members zealously advocate for their clients and the rule of law.

In September of 2006, the friends of Brendan Murray created the Brendan Murray Criminal Defense Scholarship fund through the Texas Tech Law School Foundation to provide a scholarship to Texas Tech law students interested in practicing criminal defense as champions for the poor and oppressed. It is the hope of LCDLA that these individuals will honor Brendan's memory in terms that were best described by his mother, father, and brothers at the time of his passing: by encouraging everyone to fight the good fight, dare to be in the minority, and, most importantly, stand against injustice wherever it may rear its ugly head.

On November 14, 2016, the world lost another champion for justice when Brendan's father, Brian, succumbed to cancer. Brian was a long-time member of LCDLA, serving as president of the local organization on two separate occasions. Brian strongly believed that even the least of us in society deserves a zealous advocate. He stood proudly before juries across the South Plains to represent the accused, no matter the allegations.

Henceforth, LCDLA will be making donations to the Brendan and Brian Murray Criminal Defense Scholarship, supporting Texas Tech Law and helping the next generation of criminal defense lawyers realize their dreams to serve those who need it most.

Eduardo Canas '85 and Pyda Gonzalez  
The Honorable Richard '73 and Brenda Carter

Sam '72 and Linda Chase

Chris and Kathryn Clinton

J. Wesley and Glenda Cochran

Eric '87 and Kelly Coll

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Joe '86 and Nancy Cope

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Janis '79 and Stephen Cross

Michael '01 and Kelli '03 Cubeta

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Nathan '06 and Vanessa '05 Daley

Dean Davenport '09

Russell '98 and Christine Devenport

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