



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
School of Law™

TEXAS TECH

# LAWYER

The Alumni Magazine of the Texas Tech University School of Law

Seventh Issue



40

YEAR ANNIVERSARY

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE





*Left to Right:*

**Joseph W. Tombs** — Lubbock, TX

JD, MBA, MS, CLU, ChFC, ARM, CFP®

*TTU School of Law Class of 1988*

**Matthew M. Hayes** — Beaumont, TX

JD, MS

*TTU School of Law Class of 2003*

**Gregory B. Maxwell** — Salt Lake City, UT

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# LAWYER

The Alumni Magazine of the Texas Tech University School of Law

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**JIM WRIGHT**

Chief Justice of the 11th Court of Appeals



## Greetings Fellow Alums and welcome to seventh issue of the *Texas Tech Lawyer*.



The seventh issue of the *Texas Tech Lawyer* covers a very special time for the Texas Tech University School of Law as it marks the 40th Anniversary of our first entering class. Although we are young as law schools go, we have had many wonderful achievements to celebrate since those 72 intrepid souls took their seats back in 1967 in retired military barracks across from Jones Stadium. Now, 40+ years later, Tech Law has marked the completion of the **Mark & Becky Lanier Professional Development Center**. This \$13.5 million, 34,000 square ft addition to the school includes a state-of-the-art "courtroom of the future", a large auditorium, and several other offices and classrooms that will enhance the legal education process at Texas Tech Law. Completed this spring, as I have previously stated, the Lanier Center will make our law school the finest legal education facility in the U.S. This is quite a remarkable improvement upon our school's modest beginnings in such a comparatively short period of time.

The face of our school is not the only face that is changing here at Tech Law. We have seen the retirement of **Maddox Professor Bruce Kramer** after an extraordinary career lasting over 30 years. Many of us, including myself, were privileged to take classes from Professor

Kramer during his tenure here at Tech, and he will be greatly missed as he retires to Colorado. We also saw the departure of Legal Practice **Professor Cristina Knolton**, who also co-coached Tech's very successful negotiation competition teams. After three years at Tech, Professor Knolton moved to California so she could be closer to her family. Additionally, we bid farewell to **Visiting Professor Dennis Olson**. He ended his three-year visit with us and moved to Detroit for a visit with the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. To offset these losses, we welcomed **Ms. Melanie Reed** and **Ms. Wendy Humphrey '01** as visiting professors. Ms. Reed joins our doctrinal faculty from the prestigious D.C. law firm of Covington & Burling where she has practiced since 2004. Ms. Humphrey joins us from the also prestigious Lovell, Lovell, Newsom & Isern firm in Amarillo where she was a partner. She replaced Cristina Knolton in our Legal Practice program and as co-coach of our negotiation teams.

Also on the faculty front, we were pleased to welcome back **Bean Professor Vickie Sutton** from her 18 month tour as counsel with the Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. Professor Sutton's Presidential

Appointment was a first for Tech Law and we were pleased that she had this opportunity to both showcase her talent and represent our school on a national stage. Speaking of appointments, Governor Rick Perry appointed **Thornton Professor Brian Shannon** for a second term to the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities and also reappointed **Horn Professor Marilyn Phelan** as Texas Commissioner to the national commission on state laws. These appointments are just a few examples of recognition of our outstanding faculty. Moreover, I would also like to congratulate **George H. Mahon Professor Susan Fortney** for her accomplishments, and I am pleased to note that she has been recognized at the highest level by her colleagues. Professor Fortney received Texas Tech's most prestigious teaching award, the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award, was elected to membership in the American Law Institute (ALI) and was named a Paul Whitfield Horn Professor, the most prestigious professorship at Texas Tech. As a member of the ALI, Professor Fortney joins an elite group of other Texas Tech Law Professors including Professors William Casto, Marilyn



*Now, 40+ years later, Tech Law has marked the completion of the Mark & Becky Lanier Professional Development Center. This \$13.5 million, 34,000 square ft addition to the school includes a state-of-the-art "courtroom of the future", a large auditorium, and several other offices and classrooms that will enhance the legal education process at Texas Tech Law.*

Phelan, and Brian Shannon. As a Horn Professor, she joins Dan Benson, Marilyn Phelan, and William Casto.

In large part because of our exceptional faculty, our graduates consistently post impressive scores on Texas Bar Exams year-after-year. Our recent graduates are no exception as they posted scores that made **Texas Tech Law the Leader among Texas Public Law Schools on the February 2007 Bar Exam.** Texas Tech had 24 graduates passing the Bar and only four failing for a passing percentage of 86% versus an overall pass rate of 79% for Texas law schools on the February Bar. As stated, Texas Tech's passing rate was the highest of the public law schools in Texas. Our students continued this excellence with a **91% pass rate on the July 2007 Bar Exam.** This is yet another reflection of the excellent job our faculty does in preparing our graduates for success both on the Bar Exam and in the practice of law.

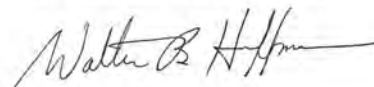
During the 2007-08 school year, we enjoyed visits from the **United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and the Supreme Court of Texas.** The Fifth Circuit heard cases in the Allison Courtroom during the first

week of October 2007. Then, on Friday, November 16, 2007, Justice O'Connor was the inaugural speaker in an annual distinguished lecture series known as the "Sandra Day O'Connor Distinguished Lecture Series." This was an exciting and important event for our law school and the fact that it inaugurates an annual lecture series featuring similarly distinguished lawyers and jurists is very special indeed. We are truly thankful to **Becky and Mark Lanier '84** whose exceptional generosity and consistent support of our school have helped make Justice O'Connor's visit possible. Speaking of Becky and Mark Lanier '84, the Supreme Court of Texas was here on April 22, 2008, to inaugurate the Donald M. Hunt Courtroom in the Lanier Professional Development Center. The Grand Opening Celebration and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony followed that afternoon.

Speaking of great alums, in each issue of the *Texas Tech Lawyer* we feature some of our outstanding alumni and the terrific work they are accomplishing as members of our noble profession. One such alum is **Chris Williams '04** and I think you will find the story of the work he is doing in New Orleans to help rebuild the school system in one of the poorest performing

systems in Louisiana both informative and moving. Another interesting and accomplished alum featured in this issue is Andrews County District Attorney **Michael Fostel '70.** You will read a story about the entrepreneurial spirit of **Joseph Tombs '88, Greg Maxwell '03, and Mathew Hayes '04** who found their unique market niche dealing with settlement planning and decided to establish Amicus Financial Advisors, LLP. In April 2007, eleven Texas Tech University School of Law alumni were in our nation's capital to be inducted into the Supreme Court of the United States. This was such a special experience that we have decided to make it a biennial event.

That's enough of my telling you what is in this special double issue and what you can look forward to reading in future issues – I will let you get to reading it yourself. I hope you enjoy this, the latest issue of your alumni magazine. Happy reading!



Walter B. Huffman  
Dean and W. Frank Newton  
Professor of Law  
Class of '77



# Subscribe to Texas Tech School of Law Journals

With the introduction of the *Estate Planning and Community Law Journal* this spring, Texas Tech School of Law has four student-produced journals, each with something unique to offer.

## *Administrative Law Journal*

The *Administrative Law Journal* is published semiannually and comprises scholarly and professional works that analyze Texas administrative law. It is the only journal in Texas, and one of two journals nationally, that focuses on administrative law.

## *Estate Planning & Community Property Law Journal*

The *Estate Planning & Community Property Law Journal* is Texas Tech School of Law's newest journal and will begin publication in the fall. It will be the only community property focused journal in the nation.

## *Texas Bank Lawyer*

The *Texas Bank Lawyer* is a monthly newsletter read by more than nine hundred attorneys nationwide. It is published as a cooperative effort of the Texas Association of Bank Counsel and the Texas Tech School of Law.

## *Texas Tech Law Review*

The *Texas Tech Law Review*, the flagship journal of Texas Tech School of Law, is published quarterly, including an annual Fifth Circuit survey issue. For the past two years, the Law Review has also published a companion issue to the law school's criminal law symposia.

To subscribe to any or all of our journals, please contact Donna Jones at (806) 742-3990 ext. 291 or [donna.jones@ttu.edu](mailto:donna.jones@ttu.edu).

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## The Importance of Scholarships

**M**ore than 50% of all students at the Texas Tech School of Law receive scholarship support. Scholarships are the most direct investment in our students and can be divided into two main categories: need-based and merit-based. Graduates from the earliest classes often express their sincere appreciation for having received any size scholarship due to their desperate financial situation as law students. In light of today's ever-increasing tuition along with a much higher standard of living among all college students, it is understandable but of great concern that the average Tech Law student graduates with \$60,000 in debt from student loans.

Some need-based scholarships still exist but the majority are either merit-based or have no preference on how they are awarded. The demand for top-notch students (high undergrad GPA's and high LSAT scores) is increasingly competitive. Even though the number of applicants to attend Tech Law is increasing, so is the competition for students. This is important as we inch ever-closer to breaking the barrier into the Top 100 Law Schools (First Tier) as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*. Average LSAT scores and GPA of the incoming class are measurements in the ranking. Therefore it is important to be able to offer scholarships to recruit outstanding students.

Graduates and friends provide scholarships in two ways: annual awards and permanent endowments. Some prefer to make scholarship donations that are awarded to students each year. For example, a member of our second graduating class of 1971 provides an annual gift of \$2000 which is awarded every year. Another graduate from the Class of 1973 sends a check for \$500 every month that is awarded in a lump sum every year.

An endowed scholarship is a permanent fund, invested as part of the Law School Foundation, the corpus is never used. Scholarship awards are made on an annual basis from the earnings. We currently have 63 endowed scholarships, several of which have been established in honor of retired professors, such as Reed Quilliam, J. Hadley Edgar, Bruce Kramer, and most recently Don Hunt and Marilyn Phelan.

The number of scholarships and the size of our total endowment are also measurements in the USN&WR rankings. If you are interested in establishing a scholarship or giving to an existing fund, please let us know.

Year two of the Dean's Excellence Fund Class Competition was another success resulting in almost \$150,000. The winner of the 2006-07 class competition in all three categories was The Class of 1978, chaired by Rick Harris of Pampa. Congratulations!

Another project during the past year has been the Building Together Campaign which included all naming gifts in and around the new Mark & Becky Lanier Professional Development Center. The gifts from this campaign have produced the Building Together Endowment which has commitments totaling more than \$1 million. The annual earnings from this fund will allow increased support to our students. These naming gifts were showcased at the Lanier Center Grand Opening on April 22, 2008.

Thanks for your continued help and support,

Sid Walker  
Fundraising  
806-787-2207  
sid.walker@ttu.edu





## Continuing the Tradition

In my third year working for the *Texas Tech Lawyer*, and my third year of law school, I have had the great opportunity to take over the magazine where Tiffany left off. She and I worked on this double issue together, combining the stories we edited. Tiffany made studying for the bar while editing a magazine look easy; I was not nearly as unruffled completing only one of these two tasks.

Like former Editor in Chief Omar Villa '06, Tiffany has a knack for seamlessly integrating stories of our students and alumni. So it is no wonder that she was able to edit this magazine as she made her own transition from Tech Law Student to Tech Law Alumni. I am proud to have contributed to her efforts for this issue of the *Lawyer*.

In addition to thanking Tiffany, I would also like to thank Dean Huffman, Dean Rosen, Casey Carson, our Associate Editors, our writers, Photographer Kurt Glass, and our alumni who have shared their stories with us.

Alumni Wade Shelton and Bill Mateja graciously gave their time to contribute to our article about their visit to the Supreme Court with other Tech Law alumni. For this article I also interviewed Dean Huffman, which was a very special interview that I will not forget. The interview happened to take place the day before my final exam in Professor Weninger's class, and because Dean Huffman also had Professor Weninger, he gave me some great test-taking tips. He said, "Read the textbook and you should be fine."

I hope you enjoy our first-ever double issue as much as we enjoyed making it. As always, please be in touch and let us know what you would like to see in upcoming issues of the magazine. And if you have any test-taking tips, we would love to hear them!

Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Nacozy".

Kathleen Nacozy  
Editor in Chief 2007-08





## Paving The Way For The Next 40 Years

After three months of studying for the bar exam, I looked to my next daunting task—completion of my last issue of the alumni magazine as editor. This issue had to be special, not because it is my last, but because it commemorates 40 years of excellence. So, in the seventh issue of the *Texas Tech Lawyer*, we bring you stories of our past, present and future.

In the fall, our first graduating class gathered for their reunion. This reunion was the culmination of the hard work and dedication it took for our law school to be established in 1967. That same weekend, alumni from all over gathered back in Lubbock for the Law School's Annual Gala. While the Gala is always an event to remember, this year's was even grander with remarkable presentations by Dean Walter Huffman and Distinguished Alumnus Justice Phil Johnson. In addition, the Gala hosted the premier of Professor Emeritus Reed Quilliam's book dedicated to preserving the history of Tech Law's first 35 years.

This issue of the *Lawyer* also highlights the lives and accomplishments of many of our alums. From a new environmental lawyer to an attorney rebuilding New Orleans' school system to a 25-year District Attorney and many others, our alumni are standing out, making an impact and paving the way for new Tech grads, like myself.

We also wanted to let you know about new progress at the law school. Programs such as the Estacado High School pipeline will ensure a future full of diversity that many Texas schools are lacking.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Dean Huffman, Dean Richard Rosen, Casey Carson and my staff. Working on this alumni magazine gave me a behind-the-scenes peek into how the gears turn at the law school. Working on this magazine gave me a chance to meet prominent alumni from all over the state, the nation and the world. Most importantly, working on this magazine gave me a sense of pride in what our great law school has accomplished and its goals for the future.

It is with honor and privilege to I present to you this special anniversary issue of the *Texas Tech Lawyer*.

Truly,

*Tiffany N. Colunga*

Tiffany N. Colunga  
Editor in Chief 2006-07

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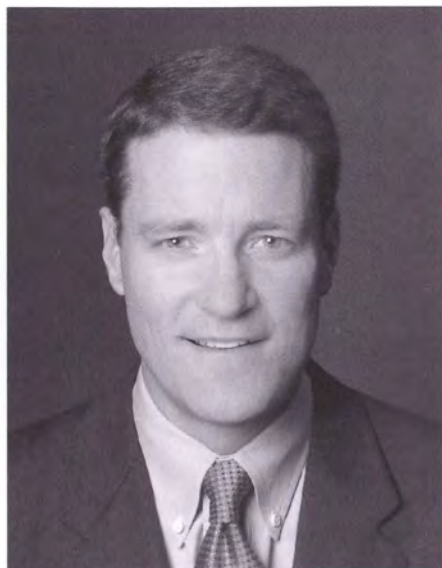
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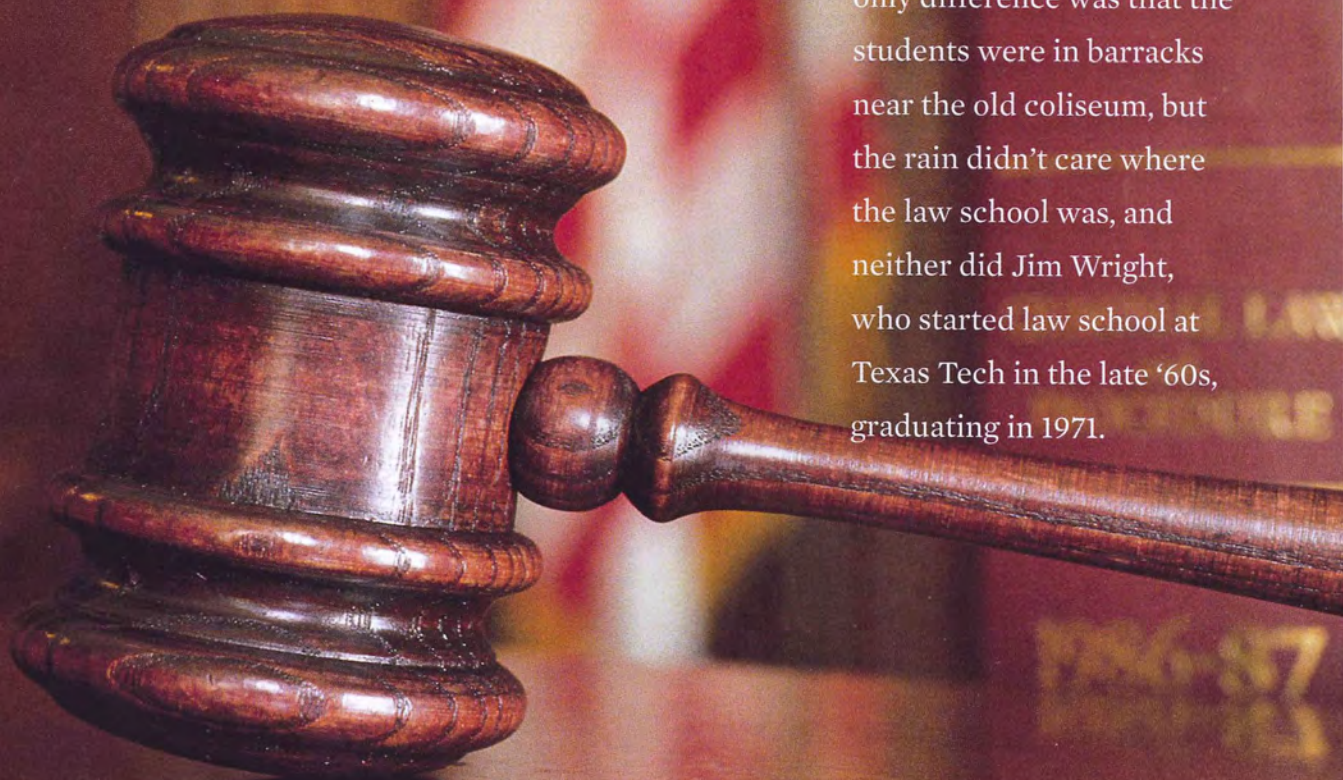
# Jim Wright

Chief Justice of the  
11th Court of Appeals

By James Urban

When it rains  
these days,  
students

wade through water in the law school parking lot. It hasn't officially been called a flood, but a boat might be quicker to get to class than a car. Things were not much different when the law school opened. The only difference was that the students were in barracks near the old coliseum, but the rain didn't care where the law school was, and neither did Jim Wright, who started law school at Texas Tech in the late '60s, graduating in 1971.





He recalled the law school being like a family, like many regard it today. It was “people helping people,” Justice Wright said.



(above) Seated: Justice Terry McCall; Chief Justice Jim Wright; Justice Rick Strange; Middle Row: Johanna Blair, Diana Reynolds, Jill Stephens, Myrna McGough, Marie Kelly, Cheryl Busk, Sherry Williamson, Kika Salinas, Zachary Hall, Rachelle Gee, Melissa Little, Sonia Laul; Back Row: Sarah Adams, Frank Stamey, John Bailey, Nancy Hughes. (right) Standing: Patricia Wright; Seated: Chief Justice Jim Wright.



Jim Wright had always wanted to be a lawyer; he could not remember a time when he didn't. When Wright started law school, Texas Tech had just opened its law school doors, and he saw it as an opportunity to grow with the project. He recalls his days fondly.

Wright remembers Professor Richard W. Hemingway, who published his hornbook on oil and gas the same semester he took a class from him.

Wright assisted Hemingway in his research for the “Oil and Gas Reporter Series,” and spent time working with the Wagonseller and Cobb law firm.

Wright always pushed himself to be the best he could be, proving to be one of the top students in that barracks of a law school (although his goal was to be THE top student, he was proud to make it where he did).

He recalled the law school being like a family, like many regard it today. It was “people helping people,” he

said. Wright noted that his time at Wagonseller and Cobb helped him discover his true potential.

In 1979, only eight years after graduating from law school, Governor William P. Clements appointed Wright to the 91st District Court in Eastland, Texas.

“I felt very excited, and humbled,” Wright said of his appointment. He was glad to be serving the public in his new capacity. The opportunity to interact with the local attorneys and the community was something he looked forward to about the experience. For Wright, it was a new way of looking at the law.

During his tenure as a District Judge, the Eastland Chamber of Commerce awarded Wright the Golden Deeds Award. Selection for the award is based primarily on community involvement in conjunction with other various factors.

In 1995, after 16 years of serving on

the bench at the trial court, Governor George W. Bush appointed Wright to the 11th Court of Appeals in Eastland. This time, he was going to get to see cases from a whole new perspective. He joked that in his new role, he could “take time to decide admissibility.”

Wright knew this was a rare opportunity and he embraced it with its many challenges. He knew he would have less interaction with “the people” in his new role and would have to listen, study, read and write differently than he did as District Judge.

Becoming a justice was not to be the last stop in Wright's legal career. He received a call in September 2005 from Governor Rick Perry, appointing him as the Chief Justice for the 11th Court of Appeals, where he had been working for the last ten years.

Throughout his time working in the legal profession, Wright never had any expectations of becoming Chief Justice.



Lawyers should  
“always take  
the law, their  
clients and their  
representation of  
their clients very,  
very seriously.  
But never take  
themselves too  
seriously,”

-Chief Justice Jim Wright

There is a lot of administrative work that goes along with the position. Aside from reading and writing for the appellate cases, the Chief Justice also works with the legislature, as well as the other Courts of Appeals in Texas.

Wright loves his work. He is glad that he is in a position where he can get up every morning and have a good reason to go to work. In fact, he considers his appointment as Chief Justice of the 11th Court of Appeals the pinnacle of his career. Wright said he doesn't expect another move in the courts anytime soon.

He is honored to be serving in the footsteps of some of the great Texas jurists such as Bud Arnot, Austin McCloud and Clyde Grissom, who all served in the capacity of Chief Justice of the 11th Court of Appeals.

Wright continues to be humbled in his career. He said he is led by Micah 6:8; the Lord asks that one do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. He lives according to that scripture, which has helped him to arrive where he is today.

Lawyers should “always take the law, their clients and their representation of their clients very, very seriously. But never take themselves too seriously,” Justice Wright advised. The legal profession is an honorable profession; according to Chief Justice Wright, the only way for it to stay that way is for everyone in the profession to remain civil, trustworthy and honorable. ■



Retired Justice Bob Dickenson (deceased), Retired Chief Justice Austin McCloud, Retired Justice Raleigh Brown, Justice Terry McCall, Chief Justice Jim Wright, Justice Rick Strange.



Judge Wright's family: Front row: Blakeney French, Gage Crowder, Carter Storm, Mason Underwood, Nicholas Storm, Brady Wright, Kaytlin Brixey, Justin Cogburn; Middle row: Jacey Storm, Hudson Storm, Ashley Crowder, Barbara Wright, Patricia Wright, Vicki Wright Bradley, Brandi Wright, Kristi Wright Brixey, Amy Wright, Jeannie Walker, Tyler Wright, Laurie Cogburn; Back row: Stephen Storm, Tom Crowder, James Wright, Chief Justice Jim Wright, Jeff Bradley, Kevin Wright, Cooper Wright, D. J. Walker, Jason Cogburn.



# 40

YEARS as an ASSET to LUBBOCK, the STATE of TEXAS and the NATION

Depending on who you ask, some would say that Texas Tech School of Law began in 1967. Others would say 1966. This debate, however, was a moot point in the fall of 2006 as members of the law school community gathered at the McInturff Conference Center in Lubbock to celebrate the genesis of the School of Law.

September 2006 marked 40 years since Richard Amandes and a small, but able, group of individuals began operations in retired military barracks that would eventually lead to the welcoming of the first class the following year.

Hosted in part by Phi Alpha Delta, the gala drew record attendance, outgrowing the previous year's venue at the Merket Center at Texas Tech. Approximately 375 members of the law school community attended the dinner, which included a presentation by Dean Walter Huffman on the history of the School of Law and a

keynote address by 2006 Distinguished Alumnus and Texas Supreme Court Justice Phil Johnson.

"I was very pleased with the turnout for the 40th Anniversary Celebration. We have such an enthusiastic and loyal group of alumni at Tech Law; it is a privilege to work with them," said Casey Carson, Director of Alumni Relations.

Dean Huffman's presentation, entitled "The Texas Tech University School of Law: An Asset to Lubbock, the State of Texas, and the Nation," highlighted the achievements of the law school spanning over the previous 40 years.

Dean Huffman recognized the significance of the event and tailored his presentation to inspire the audience and to remind the law school community of the School's importance to the larger legal community. Referencing *Good to Great*, a book written by Jim Collins, Dean Huffman emphasized that the School of Law, if it were to cease operations, would leave a void which could not



John Wheir '70, Sid Walker,  
Patricia Phillips, Walter Ray Phillips





Martin Cude '70, Walt Huffman '77, Sarah Segrest, David Segrest '70



Hon. Phil Johnson '75



Gary Bellair '91,  
Lorrie Lushnat Bellair,  
Hon. Joe Heflin '93,  
Linda Heflin '78



Mi Sook Lewis, Don Hunt, Mark Lanier '84,  
Becky Lanier, Reyes Sanchez-Leria



Reed Quilliam,  
Kathryn Quilliam

be filled.

"According to Dr. Collins," Dean Huffman, in addressing the audience, said, "in the case for social organizations, the question of its greatness is, very simply, if that institution disappeared tomorrow, would it matter? Would anybody miss it, or would the waves simply come back together where it once stood and everything be the same?"

"What I hope to do... is convince you that not only is the Texas Tech School of Law an asset to this community, to this state, and to this nation that would be very much missed if it were to disappear tomorrow, but more so, it would be irreplaceable."

Christina Sanchez '08, who was present at the gala, came away from the presentation with a strong sense of pride in her school. Sanchez was especially impressed with the School's continual strong performance on the Texas Bar

Examination, as well as the successes over the years of the moot and mock trial teams.

"I knew that the School of Law was one of the younger law schools in the country," Sanchez said, "but what I was unaware of were the great strides the faculty and students made for themselves in gaining recognition and acclaim for academics and advocacy competitions in such a short period of time."

Earning recognition as the 2006 Distinguished Alumnus for the School of Law, Texas Supreme Court Justice Phil Johnson imparted wisdom gained from his time in private practice and on the bench. Justice Johnson, who is the first alumnus from the School of Law to sit on the Texas Supreme Court, stated, "I recognize that my being on the Supreme Court is a result of efforts of the alumni and people that support me. It is interesting to be on the Supreme Court, but I recognize that it only comes as a

result of other people's efforts. We stand on their shoulders."

Justice Johnson gave credit to alumni, Representative John Smithee, Senator Jeff Wentworth and Senator Robert Duncan, for his placement on the Supreme Court: "The reason we have a position in this law school on the Supreme Court is because of legislative efforts that I can only classify as heroic."

Professor Emeritus W. Reed Quilliam made a special appearance at the event to sign copies of his history of the School of Law, and was recognized by those in attendance for his tenure and dedication to preserving the history of the law school.

Embarking on the next 40 years, the School of Law commemorated the successes and achievements of the law school community on February 1, 2008, at the fifth annual gala and the grand opening of the Mark and Becky Lanier Professional Development Center on April 22, 2008. The event was a memorable one. ■





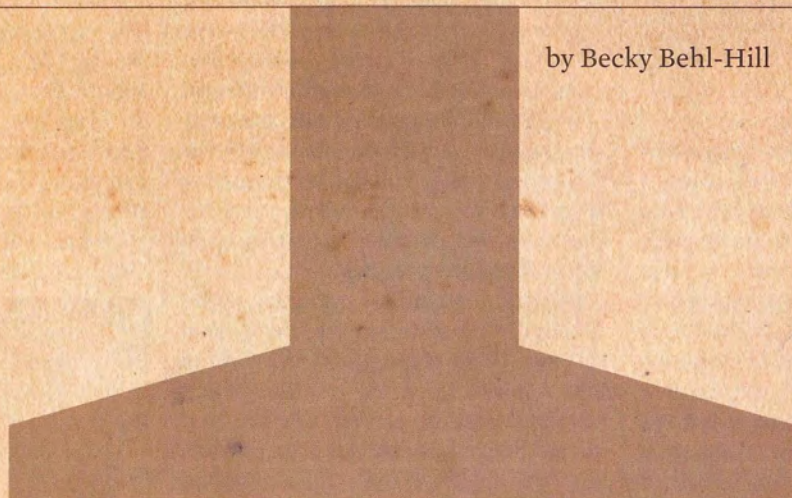
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# CLASS REUNION

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by Becky Behl-Hill







In 1967 something new was happening on the Texas Tech University campus. Seventy-three men and women in business suits were lining up for an adventure of a lifetime. Fifty of these individuals were selected to become the inaugural class of Texas Tech School of Law. >>



## Thirty-six years later, the graduates from this very special class met for a reunion during the weekend of the annual law school gala.

Varied circumstances made this group decide to be part of an inaugural law school class instead of attending a school with a proven history and track record. Every person who attended during the early years had his or her own reasons, but the reunion's planning team, Martin Cude, David Segrest and Hershell Barnes, all recognized it was a calculated risk that has turned out well for them. All three men realized that Texas Tech had put together a great law school; however, Barnes had a unique perspective because his uncle, Ben Barnes, was the Lieutenant Governor of Texas at the time.

"My uncle said that I had the chance to be in the first graduating class, and with Preston Smith's support and what he [knew] about the new dean and faculty, he said I would look back and be glad I had the distinction to be in the first class," Barnes said. "It has played out like his prognostication."

Barnes said the planning team, who dubbed themselves as the "Breakfast Club," recognized the need to involve the class of 1970 with the current law school, and noted that this would not only be positive for the law school, it would also be fun for the alumni to see each other again.

As president of the first graduating class, the primary organizational responsibilities fell to Cude. Although he admitted to voluntarily taking on the task, Cude said he had plenty of help from his wife and office assistant in planning and organizing the reunion.

Segrest, the president of the Texas Tech School of Law Foundation Board of Trustees, also credited the hard work of Dean Walter Huffman and the administration staff of the law school for the success of the reunion.

"They did a marvelous job pulling it all together," Segrest said. "Dean Huffman has done a great job in reaching out to the alumni."

Cude said that arranging the reunion was not difficult, but it was emotional. "After the first letter, we wept. It was such an emotional thing looking back."

Both Cude and Segrest said the biggest challenge in organizing the reunion was obtaining their former classmates' current addresses and contact information. Many alumni move and do not update their information, so the Tech Law alumni office recently established a better database which makes contacting alumni easier than in the past.

Thirty alumni from the Class of

others company away from the daily formalities of law school. Cude, Segrest and Barnes all have fond memories of the annual law school goat roast and were delighted to have one during the reunion.

"I thought the goat we cooked during law school was better, but the one at the reunion didn't have hair on it," Cude said. "That was the most fun."

The class was also given a tour of the law school during the reunion. Students and more recent alumni may not realize that the first graduating class attended classes in old military barracks placed on the Texas Tech

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*Arranging the reunion was not difficult, but it was emotional. "After the first letter, we wept. It was such an emotional thing looking back."*

- Martin Cude

---

1970 arrived for what was sure to be a weekend full of camaraderie and good memories. The goal was to reconnect with old friends. The reunion began with a distinguished alumni dinner that honored the entire inaugural graduating class.

Cude and his wife, Karen, followed the dinner with a reception for all of the alumni who attended, which lasted until the wee hours of the morning. In addition to the formal dinner and reception, Cude, Segrest and Barnes wanted to remind students of their special time together. The first graduating class had started a goat roast that became an annual event for many years. The annual roast was a time when the students could get together and enjoy each

University campus. The law school building was under construction during their final semester. All three men recognize differences between then and now.

Barnes reminisced about some of the more obvious differences in attending during his time at the law school. "In 1967 and 1968, the rule was that you had to wear a coat and tie; it was very funny. We all looked like itty bitty soldiers in the barracks," he said.

Segrest remembered his years in the barracks fondly. "We started school in the barracks," he said. "The wind would whistle through the barracks like cardboard. It was sort of like going to war together but with the brightest group of people I had ever been with."





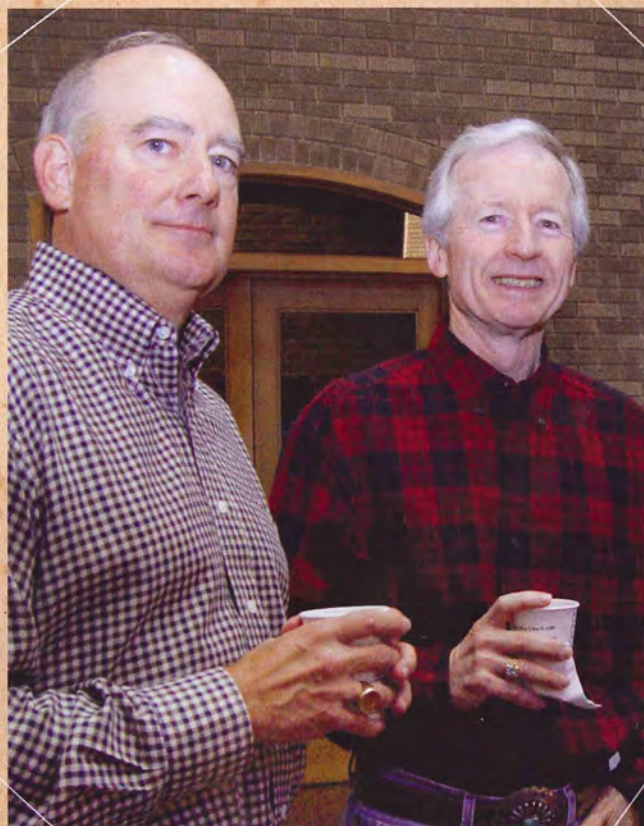
1st Row: Robin Green, Dennis Fullingham, Herb Becker, Martin Cude, Errol Friedman , Jerry Miller, Charles Gentry, Hon. Cecil Puryear 2nd Row: Leota Alexander, Alan Murray, Tim Evans, Ralph Belter, Bill Terry, John Wheir, David Segrest, Ed Craighead, Dick Whittington, Mike McKinney, Bill Shaw, Robert Williams



Leota Alexander, Charles Gentry, Gerry Gentry



Martin Cude, Vicky Becker, Bill Shaw



David Segrest, Tim Evans



Unfortunately, not every member of the Breakfast Club was able to attend the goat roast or the law school tour. Barnes learned on Saturday that he was a first-time grandfather and had to leave the reunion early to spend time with his daughter and the newest additions to his family. "I'll always remember the reunion as the time when the twins came," he said.

Segrest admitted that his favorite part of the reunion was the opportunity to visit with old friends. Some he had not seen since graduation. He felt fortunate not only to have been a part of the first graduating class, but also to have had the opportunity to meet and share such an experience with his classmates.

"[The first graduating class was] one of the brightest groups of people and one of the most eclectic groups of people," Segrest said. "It was just wonderful visiting with them and seeing what each of them had reached—the different career paths they'd chosen."

Imagine attending law school without upper classmen to seek advice from, no old tests or papers to refer to and no idea of what professors historically expected of students. Those are only some of the obstacles faced by this graduating class. This class was truly unique and special. The class admitted 75 students, 73 students started classes and 50 students ultimately graduated.

They were the first class who graduated from our law school and they received the top five scores that year on the Texas bar exam—their average score was 81 percent. They achieved all of this together, without outside help.

Cude remembers that school was competitive while he attended, but it was not cutthroat. "We worked together and helped each other to succeed. Wanting to survive was our motivation. We did not know until the final whether we would graduate or not," he said.

The inaugural class has moved on from being law students to successful and respected law professionals, and

all three men credit their time at Tech Law. Barnes wanted to express appreciation to the law school, not only during the time he attended, but also to the law school today.

"I'm grateful for the reputation that I get to share in from all that gets accomplished by today's students. Aren't we fortunate to have an alumnus like Mark Lanier? [We have a] genuinely outstanding faculty and as great a leader as we'll ever have in Dean Huffman," he said.

These graduates have the experience of education and time, and all believe that future graduates should remember that practicing law is an honor and that it is important to give back whenever the opportunity arises.

Barnes offers classic advice to new graduates. "It really is a marathon,

a three-year period. You have a different perspective and are able to see gray where it is not apparent. Your approach to problem solving is just different. [Y]ou aren't going to feel it, but you will be different," he said.

All three men urged students to keep in touch with their fellow classmates after graduation. Barnes said that there is value, both professionally and personally, in keeping up with old friends, whom he calls "the best kind" of friends. Cude expressed surprise that other classes are not holding reunions. He recommended starting reunions at five years, but no later than ten years after graduation.

"It helps keep up with people. The more people you keep in contact with, the more resources you have,"

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*"I'm grateful for the reputation that I get to share in from all that gets accomplished by today's students."*

- Hershell Barnes

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it's not a sprint, so you have to pace yourself—it is hard work. It's all-consuming, so bear in mind that you simply must take some time for yourself and family. Work hard and keep in mind that you are privileged to have the opportunity to represent people, and every chance you get, give something back to society. If you like it, if you are blessed and can look back after 35 years with the best job in the world, then you are lucky," he said.

Segrest cautioned new graduates. "Apply what you've learned academically with common sense. Work hard and learn to carve out time for family and friends. It is important to lead a balanced life," he said.

Cude offered a reminder and warning for current students.

"Know this: you will be different. It's subtle because it happens over

Cude said.

Cude closed with a request for graduates to remember that practicing law is not a selfish profession.

"We go to law school looking for different things, but you know, I'm 64 and have been practicing since 1970. This is not a selfish thing, and we are gifted to have a law degree; it is not for yourself. Don't be selfish," Cude said. "You are helping people, and your whole thrust should be for others. We are no different than the medical profession; we heal people economically and protect their property and their person. We are dealing with people."

The first graduating class of Tech Law set the bar high for future law students. If all law students follow the wisdom of these men, hopefully the bar set at Tech Law will continue to raise. ■

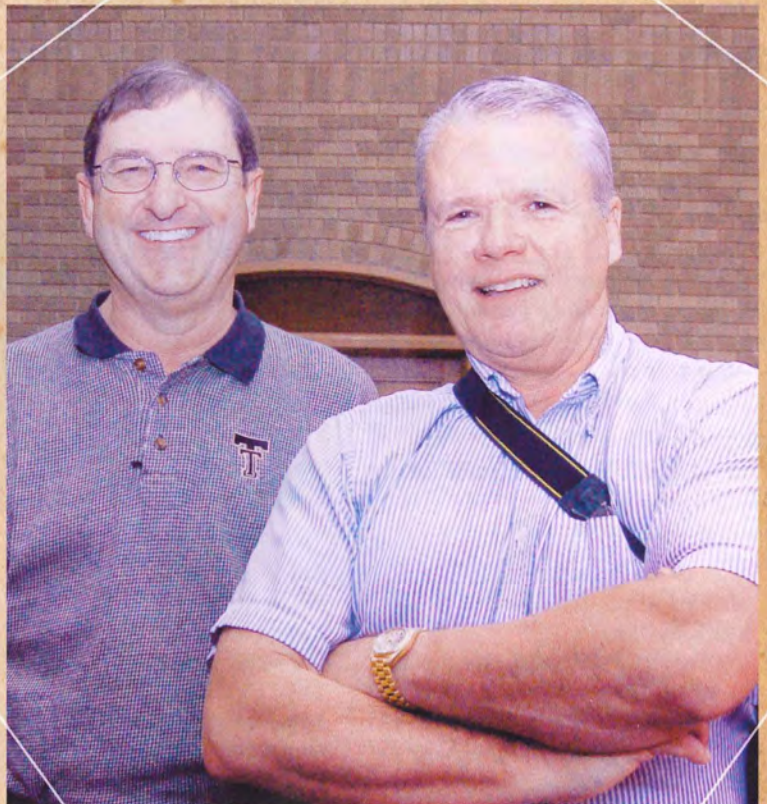




Ann Puryear, Hon. Cecil G. Puryear, Robert A. Williams



Walter Ray Phillips



Mike McKinney, Jerry Miller



# ALUMNI INDUCTED TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION

by Kathleen Nacozy

**I**n April 2007, Texas Tech School of Law Dean Walter Huffman took eleven alumni to Washington, D.C. to join the ranks of attorneys inducted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court.

"We were looking for a way to reward some of our most special alumni," Dean Huffman said. The alumni invited on the trip have supported Tech Law especially well through gifts of their time and resources.

The alumni who participated in the event are listed below.



Shelton, Perrin, Key, Hall, Simpson,  
Huffman, Carrington, Riddle, Segrest,  
Mateja, Henry

**M.C. Carrington '82**

*Mehaffy Weber, Beaumont*

**Mark Griffin '79**

*Rip Griffin Companies, Lubbock*

**Tom Hall '81**

*Hall and Heygood, Fort Worth*

**Mike Henry '81**

*Jose, Henry, Brantley, MacLean & Alvarado, Fort Worth*

**Roger Key '76**

*Key & Terrell, Lubbock*

**Bill Mateja '86**

*Fish & Richardson, Dallas*

**Doug Perrin '77**

*The Perrin Law Firm, Dallas*

**Mike Riddle '72**

*Middleberg, Riddle & Gianna, Dallas*

**David Segrest '70**

*Gardere Wynne Sewell, Dallas*

**Wade Shelton '81**

*Shelton & Valadez, San Antonio*

**John Simpson '74**

*Splawn Simpson Pitts, Lubbock*

"This was a great opportunity for us to do two things that are most important to us: award our alums and show off our law school," Dean Huffman said.

"I was excited about Dean Huffman's invitation to participate in the admission ceremony," Wade Shelton said. "I thought it would be fun to go to Washington, D.C., especially when I would be with such a good group of people. An enjoyable trip to the Capitol with friends proved to be so much more than I thought it would be."



The trip was a huge success and a memorable experience for all who participated. "Until this trip, I did not fully appreciate the majesty of the United States Supreme Court. The experience was much richer than I anticipated. My appreciation for the American legal system was lifted high-

er," Shelton said.

Shelton also said, "My respect for Dean Huffman deepened as I witnessed the obvious deference and affection the Court's staff showed him in our presence."

Dean Huffman was himself admitted to practice before the Supreme Court when

he served as Judge Advocate General and the top military lawyer for the U.S. Army. During his distinguished 25-year career in military service, Dean Huffman became friends with William K. Suter, who is the Clerk of the Supreme Court.

Suter played an integral part in arranging the trip for our alumni, and Tech Law Alumni Director Casey Carson and Associate Professor Richard Rosen, who was then Associate Dean for

two dining rooms with Justice Anthony Kennedy. The group then proceeded to the courtroom and observed the justices in process. After the justices heard cases, the admissions ceremony began.

Dean Huffman was able to propose the alumni for admission because he is a previous inductee of the Court. "I was honored to make the motion for each alum," he said. Upon nomination, Chief Justice John Roberts granted their admission. The Tech Law alumni were the largest group admitted that day.

The Tech Law alumni concluded their day with a special "behind the scenes" tour of the Supreme Court. They saw parts of the Court that tourists do not usually get to see. They saw the Supreme Court library and dining room, and Suter showed them what he calls the real "highest court of the land," a basketball court atop the Supreme Court building.

"This trip was a wonderful thing. I won't ever forget it," Dean Huffman said.



**Top Photo:**  
Professor Rick Rosen,  
Hon. William K. Suter

**Right Photo:**  
Perrin, Huffman, Segrest,  
Carrington, Suter

**Bottom Photo:**  
Carrington, Shelton, Hall,  
Rosen, Riddle, Simpson,  
Perrin, Justice Kennedy,  
Mateja, Segrest, Henry,  
Griffin, Huffman



“They saw the Supreme Court library and dining room, and Suter showed them what he calls the real “highest court of the land,” a basketball court atop the Supreme Court building.”

“It went as perfectly as it possibly could.”

Dean Huffman plans to take a group of Tech Law alumni to the Supreme Court every two years and looks forward to making the trips a special Tech Law tradition. "I cannot tell you how many times, still, the alumni who went on the trip tell me what a special event it was in their lives," Dean Huffman said.

The alumni participants would like to thank Dean Walt and Anne Huffman, Professor Rick and Randee Rosen, and Casey Carson whose planning and care made the inaugural Tech Law Supreme Court trip a success. ■

Administration and External Affairs, did most of the planning.

The group arrived in Washington and embarked on a full agenda. The night of their arrival, they dined at the historic Old Ebbitt Grill, founded in 1856, one of the oldest and most historic establishments in Washington, D.C.

The following morning, the group had breakfast in one of the Supreme Court's



# TECH LAW ALUMS

## PLAN TO HELP PERSONAL INJURY VICTIMS SUCCEED

A personal injury victim will often require both physical therapy and financial therapy after an accident, especially if a large settlement is offered. Enter three Texas Tech School of Law alumni, who have created a new business to serve as “financial” therapists.

Joseph W. Tombs '88, Greg Maxwell '03 and Matthew Hayes '04 started Amicus Financial Advisors, LLP, a financial planning firm dedicated to helping personal injury victims protect and preserve the settlement proceeds they receive. The biggest obstacle for victims is usually the overnight change in their financial circumstances, and without professional help, that change is often fleeting.

“Wealthy people generally become wealthy over a period of time during which they develop a network of professional advisors,” Maxwell said. “However, personal injury victims are often handed the largest check they will ever see with no preparation

whatsoever and no network of advisors. They are often descended upon by well-meaning relatives and friends eager to ‘help’ them invest their money. The results are often disastrous.”

Maxwell and Hayes were introduced to settlement planning while enrolled at Texas Tech through a unique set of circumstances. Texas Tech and the Graduate School of Texas Tech University offer a joint degree program that allows students to concurrently earn a Doctor of Jurisprudence and Masters of Science in Personal Financial Planning. It is the first and only program of its kind in the country, and since its inception in 2001, it has become increasingly popular among students and employers alike.



L to R: Aubrey J. Moore, Greg Maxwell,  
Joe Tombs, Matthew Hayes, Brit Inman  
Swanson, seated: Jesus A. Longoria







This pioneer program is designed for students who want to complement their legal training with a broad understanding of financial planning issues. This combination can be particularly helpful to students intending to practice in areas such as settlement planning, taxation, estate planning, retirement planning or employee benefit design. To complete the joint degree program, students take 78 hours of law courses and 24 hours of financial planning courses. Texas Tech's personal financial planning program is considered among the elite programs in the country and a pioneer in the field with programs at the undergraduate, master's and doctorate levels.

Maxwell and Hayes first knew Tombs as their professor in a couple of financial planning courses. Tombs had become a nationally recognized speaker and consultant in settlement planning and brought the topic up in class. Tombs recalled of Maxwell and Hayes, "They seemed immediately

fascinated with the field, and we discussed it often inside and outside of class." When the time came, Tombs introduced Maxwell and Hayes to Jack Meligan, the owner of a leading settlement planning firm in Portland, Oregon. "Jack hired them immediately when he saw their enthusiasm and their academic preparation received in the joint degree program at Tech," Tombs said.

Settlement planning—financial planning for injury victims—requires knowledge of the law and the litigation process as well as an understanding of personal financial planning concepts.

In Oregon, Maxwell and Hayes saw firsthand the difficulty personal injury victims have stretching the funds from their tort recoveries to meet their long-term medical and personal income needs. They decided it was important to help victims secure not only their present, but their future as well. "Few people understand the traumatic experience of a serious injury followed by the gristmill known as the U.S.

tort system," Hayes said. "Our goal is to help these injury victims become financially secure instead of just temporarily wealthy."

In late 2004, Maxwell and Hayes decided to move back to Texas and hang their own shingle. Their goal was to create a one-of-a-kind financial planning practice devoted to helping injury victims realize their post-injury financial goals safely and securely. Realizing they would need some help breaking into the business, they scheduled an appointment with Tombs, the financial planning professor who had first introduced them to the topic of financial planning for the seriously injured.

"They came in for advice and a couple of introductions, but they left with a partner," Tombs said. "At first, I thought I would consult on a part-time basis and just help them organize their business. I soon realized that this new venture was consuming a lot of my time and most of my passion. I quit my faculty position after the fall semester of 2005 to devote myself full-time to our growing list of clients." Tombs said what really attracted him to the settlement planning industry was the lack of plaintiff-specific help for victims, as most settlement brokers are brought in by the defendant in the lawsuit.

"There was really nobody in the settlement planning industry really looking out for and addressing the comprehensive financial planning needs of severely injured plaintiffs," he said. "The norm had been simply to sell the plaintiff a structured settlement annuity without really looking at their complete financial situation—and that really bothered me." Tombs said that few plaintiff attorneys have the requisite expertise to handle the financial aspects of settling a case, and even if they did, their malpractice coverage may not cover financial advice.

"Our malpractice coverage covers liability for financial advice, their's often does not," Tombs said. "Plaintiff attorneys should expect more from a structured settlement broker than simply supplying annuity quotes or checking the quotes provided by the defendant. We have found that most







“Plaintiffs often arrive at settlement years after the accident with their finances in shambles and feeling totally powerless.”

-Greg Maxwell

plaintiff attorneys are shocked to know of the many ways their clients can get short-changed in the structured settlement process, and are happy to know that they have a liability firewall when it comes to the financial aspects of a tort settlement.”

Amicus Financial Advisors is 100 percent “plaintiff-loyal,” meaning they work exclusively for the injury victims and their attorneys, and have no relationships with the defense casualty or liability companies that pay the tort settlements. Tombs said that along with focusing on helping plaintiffs, they also help plaintiffs regain control over the settlement process. “We believe in putting the plaintiff in control, to allow breathing space between the litigation and the financial decisions that need to be made,” Tombs said.

Maxwell said the lawsuit settlement process often can have a severe impact on the mental state of the victim, which is often exacerbated by a settlement broker who is working closely with the defendant. “The litigation process tends to wear down and demoralize the victim,” Maxwell said. “Plaintiffs often arrive at settlement years after the accident with their finances in shambles and feeling totally powerless. In this vulnerable state, the last thing they need is an annuity broker loyal to the defendant hard-selling an annuity that may or may not be right for their situation.

“Unfortunately, that is the state of the industry. The result is that people who need a structured settlement annuity often don’t consider it and those who do often ‘over structure’ the case. Our approach is more holistic and includes trust services, portfolio management

and ongoing advising long after the case is settled.”

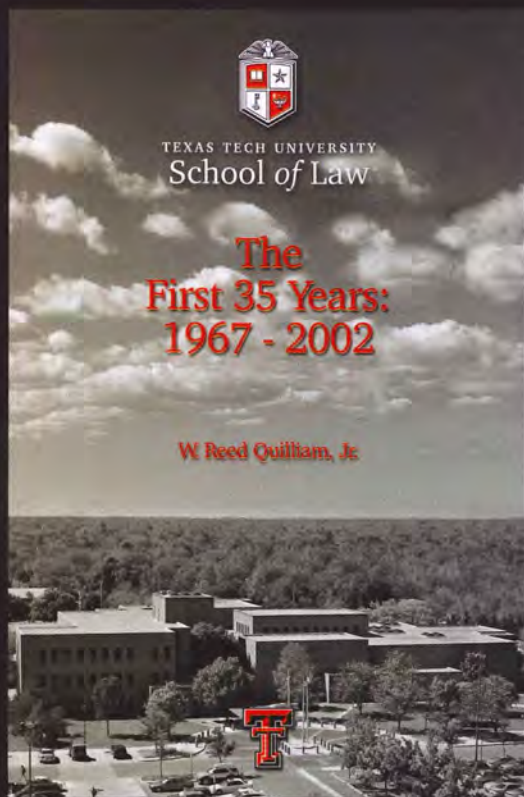
Another positive aspect of their partnership is that Maxwell, Hayes and Tombs have been able to provide a haven for up-and-coming settlement planners to gain a foothold into the industry.

Three of the four partners have law degrees from Texas Tech and the other partner, Jesus Longoria, holds a master’s in personal financial planning from Texas Tech. In fact, between the four partners they hold eight degrees from the university. Amicus now has six offices in four states, and all eleven of the financial planners have a degree from Texas Tech.

“We’re proud of Tech and we like to hire Tech grads—we know the quality of the education Tech produces and the work ethic of most Tech graduates” said Tombs, who received JD and MBA degrees from Texas Tech. The future of



# Texas Tech University School Of Law: The First 35 Years: 1967-2002 by W. Reed Quilliam Jr



...Lieutenant Governor Smith, who served in that capacity for six years before becoming Governor of Texas from 1969-73, recalled an agreement he made with Bill Heatly which put the law school back on track. "Representative Heatly came to the Lieutenant Governor's office while the conferees were meeting and said that he had a problem in his district because of an invasion of pink boll weevils," Smith related. "He said he needed about \$200,000 a year for an eradication program and that he thought we could get matching funds from the Department of Agriculture.

"While I was basically sympathetic to Representative Heatly's program, especially since it would help all of West Texas, I reminded Bill very strongly that Texas Tech had been trying to get a law school and suggested that we might strike a deal,"...

- excerpt from Chapter 2

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the legal profession appears to be heading more and more towards specialization, and the joint degree program allows future lawyers to gain great experience in a growing industry. It also gives students the opportunity to learn a new skill set that makes them more marketable.

"Most lawyers don't know their way around a financial calculator and most financial planners know just enough law to make them dangerous," Tombs said. "That combination can lead to problems if both groups are unwilling to ask for help in a specialized area like settlement planning."

The real key to the success of Tombs, Maxwell and Hayes is their attitude toward the people they help. Hayes

"Our goal is to help  
these injury victims  
become financially  
secure instead of just  
temporarily wealthy."

-Greg Maxwell

said that occasionally a case will not require a structured settlement, but even so, there is often an opportunity to make someone's life better.

"I think all of us at Amicus are social workers at heart," Hayes said. "In a recent engagement, we were brought in to help a badly injured plaintiff. There were some causation problems with the case, the defendant had shallow pockets and was underinsured and tort reform had emboldened the defense counsel to only offer a small portion of what was required to fund the victim's life care plan. After discussing the matter, we determined that the best use of the recovery proceeds was to reduce the plaintiff's debt. We didn't make any money on the engagement, but we were able to help nonetheless." ■



# Faculty Publications

*From July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007*

Compiled by Sharon Blackburn

## Jennifer Bard

*Immaculate Gestation? How Will Ectogenesis Change Current Paradigms of Social Relationships and Values?* in *Ectogenesis: Artificial Womb Technology and the Future of Human Reproduction*, eds. Scott Gelfand and John R. Shook. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2006. pp. 149-57.

## Gerry W. Beyer

*Modern Dictionary for the Legal Profession*. 3d ed. 2006 Cumulative Supplement. Buffalo, NY: William S. Hein, 2006. 78 pp.

*Texas Trust Law: Cases and Materials*. Bloomington, Ind.: AuthorHouse, 2007. 215 pp.

*Veterinary Medicine and the Law: What Every Veterinarian Needs to Know About Pet Trusts*, 229, no. 10 *J. Am. Veterinary Med. Ass'n* (2006): 1576-79.

*Wills, Trusts, and Estates. Examples & Explanations*. 4th ed. Aspen, 2007. 677 p.

*Wills, Trusts, and Estates for Legal Assistants*, 2d ed. (with John K. Hanft). New York: Aspen, 2007. 541 p.

*Wills and Trusts* (Annual Survey of Texas Law), 59 *SMU L. Rev.* 1603-48 (2006).

## Christopher Bruner

*Good Faith, State of Mind, and the Outer Boundaries of Director Liability in Corporate Law*, 41 *Wake Forest L. Rev.* 1131-89 (2006).

## Bryan T. Camp

*Camp's Compendium: The Equal Protection Problem in Innocent Spouse Procedures*, Tax Notes, July 17, 2006, pp. 281-92.

*Camp's Compendium: The Mysteries of Erroneous Refunds*, Tax Notes, Jan. 15, 2007, p. 231.

## William R. Casto

*'Dear Sister Antillico . . .': The Story of Kirksey v. Kirksey*, 94 *Georgetown L.J.* 321-97 (2006).

## Susan Saab Fortney

*Challenges and Guidance for Lawyering in a Global Society* (forward to the Sixth Annual Symposium on Legal Malpractice and Professional Responsibility), 38 *St. Mary's L.J.* 849-57 (2007).

## Jarod Gonzalez

*SOX, Statutory Interpretation, and the Seventh Amendment: Sarbanes-Oxley Act Whistleblower Claims and Jury Trials*, 9 *U. Pa. J. Lab. & Emp. L.* 25-85 (2006).

## Michael Hatfield

*Fear, Legal Indeterminacy, and the American Lawyering Culture*, 10 *Lewis & Clark L. Rev.* 511-29 (2006).

*Legitimacy, Identity, Violence and the Law*, 24, no. 1 *So. Cent. Rev.* 131-50 (2007).

## Vaughn E. James

*The African-American Church, Political Activity, and Tax Exemption*, 37 *Seton Hall L. Rev.* 371-412 (2007).

## Arnold H. Loewy

*Critiquing Crump: The Strengths and Weaknesses of Professor Crump's Model Laws of Homicide*, 109 *W. Va. L. Rev.* 369-77 (2007).

*The Wisdom and Constitutionality of Teaching Intelligent Design in Public Schools*, 5 *First Amendment L. Rev.* 82-89 (2006).

## Marilyn Phelan

*Duties and Liabilities of Trustees, Board Members and Officers of Nonprofit Organizations*. Thomson/West, 2007. 19 pp.

*Environmental Mandates for a Proposed Highway or Bridge Project When the Habitat of an Endangered Species and/or Historical Properties Are in the Vicinity*, 133 *J. Prof. Issues Engineering Educ. & Prac.* 163-67 (2007). (with R. Scott Phelan)

*Impact of Federal Environmental Requirements on Proposed Highway or Bridge Project*, 133 *J. Prof. Issues Engineering Educ. & Prac.* 158-62 (2007). (with R. Scott Phelan)

*Nonprofit Organizations Law and Policy*. 2d ed. American Casebook Series. Thomson, West, 2007. 807 pp. (co-author Robert J. Desiderio)

*Representing Nonprofit Organizations*. Tax Practice Series. Thomson/West, 2007. Looseleaf.

## Richard D. Rosen

*America's Professional Military Ethic and the Treatment of Captured Enemy Combatants in the Global War on Terror*, 5 *Geo. J. L. & Pub. Pol'y* 113-44 (2007).

## Brian D. Shannon

*The Time Is Right to Revise the Texas Insanity Defense: An Essay*, 39 *Tex. Tech L. Rev.* 67-100 (2006).

## Vickie Sutton

*Wind and Wisdom*, 1 *Envtl. & Energy L. & Pol'y J.* 345-71 (2007).





## Rebuilding New Orleans' School System

by Chelsi Kever

It is no longer news that Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005. Likewise, it is not surprising that the cities impacted by this disaster are still reeling due to a slow and tedious recovery process. One of the areas most devastated by the disaster is the New Orleans school system.

With the school system still in disarray and many schools still undergoing reconstruction, it has become important for persons of varied backgrounds to get involved in the process of reopening the individual schools. Chris Williams '04 is one of the privileged who has the opportunity to contribute to these recovery efforts on behalf of the New Orleans school system.

Hurricane Katrina was only a secondary problem for New Orleans' schools, though. New Orleans' schools, initially run by the Orleans Parish School Board, ranked as one of the poorest performing school systems in Louisiana. In an effort to correct this problem, the Louisiana Legislature created the Recovery School District, which is a sub agency of the Department of Education. The function of the Recovery School District is to take over the poorest academically

performing schools and restructure them in such a way as to improve the students' performance. Today, the Recovery School District is operating approximately 80% of New Orleans' schools. Alvarez & Marsal was initially hired by the New Orleans Parrish School Board to help restructure the operations, finances, human resources and administration previously operated by the district personnel. Following Hurricane Katrina, the firm was asked to also assist with the district's FEMA and insurance claims.

After graduating from Texas Tech School of Law, Williams accepted a position at a mid-sized litigation firm in Houston. Seeing an opportunity to broaden his legal horizons and provide much needed assistance to a devastated community, he accepted a consulting position with Alvarez & Marsal, a professional services company with a global presence. The project sounded interesting and had a good Samaritan feel, William said. His immediate interest was working on the rebuilding efforts in New Orleans.

Since he began consulting the Orleans Parish School Board and the State of Louisiana in March 2006, Williams has primarily drafted policy arguments on behalf of the school district aimed at maximizing

reimbursement funds for construction costs. Williams is also actively involved in settling the school district's insurance claim. Although he lives in Houston, he spends four to five days each week in New Orleans visiting school sites and speaking with various school board officials regarding the needs of the school system. He sees firsthand the level of construction needs at each site and the monumental task of rebuilding virtually an entire city.

In addition to appeals and insurance coordination last summer, he consulted with the State of Louisiana on the logistics in supplying new chairs, desks and other school furnishings to approximately 30 schools. Additionally, he has seen the implementation of the charter school concept in New Orleans. Although

he admits that rebuilding an entire school system is a slow and challenging process, he has seen the opening of approximately 60 of New Orleans' 130 schools. Williams explained that his work with the State of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans has been personally rewarding and allowed him to play a key role in laying the foundation for a better future for the children of New Orleans. He credits Tech Law for giving him the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in a nontraditional legal setting. ■



## Alum Giving Back With Young Lawyers Association

by James Urban

Not too long ago, Joel Heydenburk '03 was sitting in the middle of a law school classroom. Like most students in their first year, Joel had his share of problems, most notably with legal writing. One of his professors helped him with his writing, and he kept improving, eventually becoming the Business Manager of the *Texas Tech Law Review*. When Heydenburk arrived in the professional world, he learned a similar lesson—get involved.

Heydenburk graduated from Texas Tech School of Law, and when he started working for Jackson Walker in Fort

Worth as an Associate in the Business Transactions Section, he was encouraged to begin participating in organizations outside the office walls. Heydenburk said that his boss was influential in the decision to become involved.

"My boss said, 'Get involved now, so it's not a burden, but a standard,'" Heydenburk said. He knew a few people who were already involved as members of the Fort Worth Tarrant County Young Lawyer's Association (FW-TCYLA), including Heather Raiden '03, a friend and classmate who was then serving on the board. He decided he would give it a chance and get involved, but Joel did a little bit more than get involved.

For two years, Heydenburk was instrumental in planning the FW-TCYLA's annual golf tournament, which benefits Legal Aid of North West Texas. Heydenburk still wanted to do more and now serves as the organization's treasurer. He said he must



be knowledgeable about the organization's finances in his new role, but it also gives him the duty to serve on the board of directors, which sets the direction of the organization. The ability to help guide the organization gives Heydenburk an opportunity to effect the ways the organization serves its members.

"It's gratifying to give back to the community," Heydenburk said. His background in community service traces back to his undergraduate studies at Texas Christian University. "With my fraternity, there was a huge emphasis on community service," he said.

FW-TCYLA gives back to the community in many forms, including giving monetary donations to local charities, providing volunteers for a legal helpline in Tarrant County and helping to make sure kids have the supplies they need for school.

FW-TCYLA also aids lawyers through member services. The organization assists in localizing some of the State Bar's objectives and gives lawyers opportunities to earn credit for Continuing Legal Education (CLE). Each month, the group organizes a luncheon for a one-hour CLE credit. The event occurs regardless of the number of people that attend.

But perhaps the most important thing for Heydenburk is the contacts he makes through the organization. Heydenburk said that being involved builds collegiality among peers, allows opportunities to meet people with different knowledge, helps establish relationships with others in the community and creates friendships that might be important down the road.

Heydenburk encourages his colleagues to get involved as well. "It is important to remember that you represent who you are working for, as well as yourself as a professional," he said.

Not only does he consider it a professional responsibility to be involved, but the State Bar and other local associations encourage giving back to the community. FW-TCYLA does just that, which is probably why it is sometimes referred to as the "service wing" of the Tarrant County Bar Association.

Heydenburk encourages his colleagues to get involved in something they are passionate about and that they care about. Being involved should have a purpose for each person, he said. The time spent being involved and giving back to the community is priceless and can never be a waste. In his own words, "Time might be at a premium, and it can't be billed, but it's never a waste of time." ■



## New Tech Law Alumni Directory

by Merwan Bhatti

Staying in touch with fellow Tech Law graduates and maintaining a connection with the Tech Law has never been easier. This past year the Office of Alumni Relations introduced the online Texas Tech School of Law Alumni Directory. The Office of Alumni Relations strives to help alumni to keep in touch with fellow graduates and happenings at the law school. This is an extension of the Office's broader goal to increase outreach initiatives to alumni, friends and the entire legal community on the local, state and national levels.

Access on the Tech Law Alumni Directory is available only to alumni, and is provided over a secure network. The online directory contains

information about all alumni, beginning with the first-ever graduating class, the Class of 1969. The online directory not only allows alumni access to alumni information; it has many other features as well. For instance, an alumnus can post notes, read notes posted by others and use the search engine to find other alums. Searches can be conducted by last name, home city, business city and practice area(s). The directory is a great way to network with old friends, and it is a great way to make new friends.

Updating your profile is very simple, and you can have access to the directory in minutes. To access the directory, visit [www.law.ttu.edu/alumni](http://www.law.ttu.edu/alumni). You will need to follow a few easy steps:

1

First, to login you will need your Alumni ID. The Alumni ID number is the number that appears on the mailing label of this magazine (you may omit leading zeroes). If you do not know your Alumni ID, contact Ms. Casey Carson, Director of Alumni Relations at the Texas Tech School of Law, at [casey.carson@ttu.edu](mailto:casey.carson@ttu.edu) or (806) 742-3990 ext. 315.

2

After obtaining your Alumni ID, enter it into the database. Logging in for the first time, you will need to check your profile and edit any pre-loaded information that is incorrect. To protect your privacy, the only information that appears by default when you first log in is name and graduation year. To change what information is visible to other alumni, you can change privacy settings under the "Edit Your Profile" tab. Remember, you must click the "Submit" button for any changes to be saved.

3

After correcting information, you can also enter information about your practice area/specialty in your profile under the "Edit your Practice Areas" tab. This, among other things, allows other alumni to easily seek you out for business referrals. Again, remember that each time you make a change, you must click the "Submit" button to save any changes you make to your profile.

The Office of Alumni Relations aims to keep you in touch with your school and fellow alumni. Your assistance is needed to make this directory a success, so update your profile soon. ■





## Amy Hardberger: Environmental Champion

by Mahsa Tajipour

Law school was definitely not the first thing on Amy Hardberger's list of things to do and she actually avoided law school as long as possible. Hardberger '05 started by getting a geology degree from Earlham College in Illinois, then completed a graduate program at the University of Texas at San Antonio, and worked for several years as an environmental consultant before accepting the fact that getting a law degree was necessary to do the type of policy work that interested her, which was environmental and water law.

Hardberger said she was fortunate to be at Tech Law because she was able to focus her law school involvement toward those subjects as much as possible.

"Law school helped me focus my interest. When I started, I only knew I was interested in the general topic, but during law school I was able to target my specific interests," Hardberger said.

Also while in law school, Hardberger was able to get several articles published in law reviews. After graduating in 2005 from Tech Law, she clerked for the Honorable William Wayne Justice in the Western District of Texas. Her clerkship provided incomparable insight into effective oral and written advocacy.

"One of the great things about clerking is that you get to experience chambers from the inside out so it is no longer a mysterious black box," Hardberger said.

She was able to gain insight into the chambers where she worked, and she had the opportunity to spend time with other judges

and learn how they work as well.

"This is very helpful for practice because you know what judges, and their clerks, appreciate and don't appreciate," she said.

Another benefit Hardberger received from her clerkship was that she was able to see a case from beginning to end, whereas in law school, that certainly is not taught. She was also better able to understand the process of filing a lawsuit. "As a law school graduate, you may feel like you wouldn't know how to file a lawsuit," she said. Lastly, the clerkship was very good legal research and writing practice.

After her clerkship ended, Hardberger was ready to further her legal career. She secured a very prestigious and competitive position with the Environmental Defense Fund in Austin.

The Environmental Defense Fund is a national nonprofit organization representing more than 400,000 members. Since 1967, the Environmental Defense Fund has "linked science, economics, and law to create innovative, equitable, and cost-effective solutions to society's most urgent environmental problems." The Environmental Defense Fund is devoted to defending the environmental rights of present and future generations.

Hardberger works in two departments, air and water, and her background in science has helped in dealing with both scientific and legal perspectives. Her job changes from day to day, but it is a mixture of project management, law and policy work.

"I can write a legal memo in the morning and have conference calls in the afternoon about

our policy agenda for the upcoming session. For me, this variety is a life saver," she said.

Hardberger knew early on that she would not "practice law" full time and feels fortunate to have found this position. Soon after she began the job, she was representing the Environmental Defense Fund against the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The suit alleges that the agency has not complied with Texas state law, including its own rules. The Environmental Defense Fund is asking for a temporary or permanent injunction to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to follow its own rules and not authorize statutes in its permitting process of the handful of new coal-fired power plants, which TXU plans to build, without properly considering the environmental impacts.

"The new TXU plants would more than double the company's annual emissions of carbon dioxide, the leading cause of global warming, from 55 million tons per year to 133 million tons," Hardberger said.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requires any entity seeking to build a new power plant to apply for an air permit from them and demonstrate that the proposed plant employs the "best available control technology."

The suit also alleges that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality violated Texas law by not requiring permit applicants to evaluate the prospective cumulative impact their plants may have on the air quality of downwind areas. The dispute that has arisen will definitely be an ongoing venture for Hardberger.

Hardberger also comes from a political background. Her father, Phil Hardberger, is the current mayor of San Antonio and served as Chief Justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals. However, Hardberger believes her father's political career affected her life very little. "My father did not gain his current position until I had already graduated from law school, and he didn't run for judge until I was in college," she said.

When asked if she would consider running for public office, she said she enjoys politics and policy and would not mind a political appointment some day if it was offered to her, but "the problem is that elections have become so personal that I don't think I would want to be involved in a campaign. It would be difficult not to take everything personally." For now, Hardberger seems content in her role as an advocate for the environment, and the world will undoubtedly be a better place because of her work. ■



# Alum From First Graduating Class Serves 25 Years as DA

by Meredith Coffman

Michael Fostel '70 didn't plan on being a lawyer. Fostel went to Texas Christian University with the intention of becoming a writer. In fact, he received a degree in journalism. It wasn't until his last year of college that Fostel decided he wanted to go to law school. Even with the decision to attend law school, Fostel's journalism degree didn't go to waste. During his time at Texas Tech School of Law, Fostel wrote for the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* and edited the women's section of the paper.

When the time to apply to law school arrived, Fostel applied to all of the law schools in Texas and was accepted to each school. Tech Law was just starting at the time, and Fostel decided to check it out for a visit. When he arrived, he saw that Texas Tech wasn't throwing a law school together for the sake of having one. Instead, the university was "building an actual, genuine law school that I thought would some day be recognized as one of the better schools in the United States," Fostel said. After his visit, he chose to attend Tech Law and has never regretted that decision.

Fostel has the distinction of being a member of the first class to graduate from Tech Law. He said that many people from the first few classes of the law school have been extremely successful in their careers after they graduated. His brother, John, was the example Fostel used to illustrate his point. John went to Texas Christian University and Tech Law School like his older brother; he left a private practice to become the 271st District Judge of Texas.

At the start of law school, Fostel thought he wanted to practice business law. By the end of his three years, Fostel had changed his mind from business law to something more favorable to trial work. When the time came to find a job, Fostel found that a law degree from Texas Tech gave him an immediate boost. Employers in the South Plains felt that since Fostel went to school in the area, he was more comfortable and more adjusted to West Texas than others from Dallas or Austin, and that gave him a slight advantage.

After graduating from law school, Fostel was offered two jobs: one at a civil practice firm in Kermit, Texas and one at a firm in

Midland, Texas. He chose the firm in Kermit. In 1972, Fostel became the Winkler County Attorney, and he remained in that position for seven and a half years. He then worked as a criminal defense attorney for three years.

In 1982, Fostel was appointed to be the 109th District Attorney, an area that originally covered Andrews, Crane and Winkler counties. When Fostel began this position, the cases in Andrews County accounted for about 60 percent of his case load. Because of this, and because he was unable to be in Andrews County as often as he was needed, Fostel requested to have an Assistant District Attorney. When the request was denied, Fostel was able to work with his local representatives so that Andrews County was split into its own district. He still serves in this position; April 2007 marked 25 years as the District Attorney. Fostel also keeps a small private practice where he represents mostly people who have been badly injured or killed in the gas field.

Having worked as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney, Fostel prefers the prosecution side of the law. One of the things he likes is that occasionally he receives letters thanking him for his work. An example of this occurred during one of the three capital murder cases he has tried. The defendant was a "genuine, bona fide serial killer," Fostel said.

The defendant was on trial for kidnapping and murder; he was given the death penalty at the end of the trial. During the sixteen years the defendant spent on death row, more murders he committed

were discovered. Three bodies were found buried, and the defendant gave away the location of a fourth body just to show that he was telling the truth. He offered to give the location of five more graves in exchange for reducing his sentence to 40 years, but the offer was rejected. Fostel said that he couldn't agree to a deal that resulted in the defendant's eventual release because the defendant would go back to killing once he was out. For rejecting that offer, he received several letters thanking him for his judgment. He said that he does receive some negative letters in addition to the positive ones, but the positive ones make up for it.

Another one of Fostel's capital murder cases resulted in an acquittal because there wasn't enough evidence to convict the defendant for organizing the murder. After the trial ended, the defendant contacted Fostel, told him that she planned to turn over a new leaf, and offered to tell him what she knew about crime. Fostel then turned her over to the Texas Department of Public Safety Criminal Intelligence Division, who used her as an informant for several years. Fostel was later told that the defendant had an amazing knowledge of crime, and she was one of the best informants the division ever had. Because of the post-trial events, Fostel views the case as a success.

Fostel's current term as District Attorney expires next year, and he plans on running for another term. For Fostel doing something that he loves and getting paid for it is the best of both worlds. ■





## Walking Across Texas: More Than Campaigning

by Ashley Hutchinson

An effective political campaign must capture the attention of voters. The goal is to make people remember you. Politicians want people to know what issues they support, but voters must first know who the candidates are before they will care about those issues. Candidates for public office want their names, embedded into voters' minds and for voters to be able to recall their names on election day. To accomplish this, campaigns must consist of more than just television ads bashing the opponents. That has become the typical campaign approach, with few exceptions. There are still one or two candidates who think outside the box.

Judge Bill Moody '75 is part of the minority of politicians who strive to be different. His 2006 campaign was truly unique. He campaigned all over the state of Texas. Now, you might be thinking to yourself, that is not unusual. That is what most successful politicians do—campaign wherever they hope to get elected. But Moody went beyond that. He walked the entire distance—1,019 miles.

Though his bid for office was ultimately unsuccessful, Moody gained a lot of publicity when he chose this campaign approach, which he reluctantly admits

was his idea. The "Walk Across Texas" campaign consisted of walking up to 12 hours a day for 44 days, in hopes of being elected to the Texas Supreme Court.

His son and campaign coordinator, Joe Moody '06, was with him almost every step of the way. Having his son with him made being away from his home and family easier. The campaign also provided his son a real-life political science lesson in what his father called "Campaigning 101."

One thing Moody recognized as vital to Texas politics, and winning an election, is small towns. A large part of his campaign trail consisted of smaller Texas towns such as Brady, Monahans, Sweetwater, Schulenberg and Katy. While making sure not to leave anyone out, he also included larger cities including San Antonio, Austin, Houston and the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

The goal was to encounter people from every walk of life. "We met with people from every group you can imagine, from bankers to the homeless," Moody said.

Some of his favorite places on this walk were those small towns. Monahans and Orange were friendly places and Moody said he had the opportunity to meet and talk with the Mayor of Colorado City, who Moody described

as a very interesting person. Crossing a famous river was also exciting for him. "The serenity and beauty of crossing the Llano River," and looking at the water filled with turtles, was one of his favorite parts of the trip.

Another aspect of his campaign that set him apart from his opponents was his rule not to campaign on Sundays. While most politicians will make use of every opportunity they can to campaign, Moody recognizes the need to give everyone, including himself, a rest. No ads of his were to run on Sundays and no phone calls on his behalf were to be made on what some people, including Moody, feel is a sacred day of the week. This rule seemed to fit well with his religious beliefs; Moody is an active member at St. Matthews Catholic Church in El Paso.

"We've always had a spiritual feeling in our family and Sunday has always had a spiritual element to it," Moody said. He added that he believes Sunday, his favorite day of the week, is for prayer, meditation and family.

Family is a priority for Moody. He said the most enjoyable parts of his life have been getting married and having children. He and his wife, Maggie, have been married for 31 years. They have four children: two boys, Joe and Jim, and two girls, Melissa and Emily.

Before he attended Texas Tech Law School of Law, Moody earned his bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in history from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). While attending UTEP, he was in the Army ROTC. Upon graduation, he became a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army and was later honorably discharged at the rank of Captain.

Moody's resume and experience is extensive. He began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in El Paso, a job at which he remained for three years. He was then promoted to First Assistant District Attorney, serving in that capacity for eight years before being appointed to the 34th Judicial Court in El Paso. He has also served on the State Ethics Commission, and was Vice Chairman in 1986.

Currently, Moody is earning his







(from L to R): Travis Rodak 3L,  
Joe Moody '06, Bill Moody and  
Amanda Galbraith '07.

*The goal was to encounter people from every walk of life. "We met with people from every group you can imagine, from bankers to the homeless."*

- Bill Moody

master's degree in history at UTEP and is working on a second book, *Presidents at the Pass*. He assisted with the research and writing of *Custer's Look*, which was published in September 2000.

Shortly before the 2006 election, when Moody finished his Walk Across Texas, he reflected on the next election.

"What we're fighting for is more important than if we win or lose," he said. "Of course, I want to win, but even if we lose, this was still a wonderful experience and we've done everything we could do to win. It's out of our hands."

The best part about the Walk Across Texas for Moody was being able to see all the scenery. "When walking you take everything in and use all of your senses," Moody said, unlike flying or driving 70 miles an hour past it, because then you miss it.

The opportunity to walk more than one thousand miles across Texas is rare. It captured the attention of the people in those towns Moody visited. Moody summed up his Walk Across Texas, as a "tremendously wonderful experience." ■





## Dual Degrees Get Dual-Use For Fortune 500 Exec

by Micah Malouf

In just a short time, Chris Mathis '99 has combined his law degree and his M.B.A. to help lead one of America's largest corporations. He was recently named Vice President of Resource Planning of Temple-Inland's Forest Products group.

Austin-based Temple-Inland, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, operates four core businesses: corrugated packaging, forest products, real estate and financial services. Mathis' business unit manages facilities that manufacture a wide range of construction and industrial building products, including lumber and studs, wood trim and siding, particleboard, medium density fiberboard (MDF), gypsum wallboard, and other fiberboard products.

The forest products segment also maintains an interest in an MDF joint venture and manages the company's two million acres of forest land in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Georgia.

Upon graduating from Texas Tech School of Law, Mathis joined Temple-Inland as a corporate attorney. He was named Senior Corporate Attorney just five years later.

"Even early on, I knew I didn't want to go the traditional law firm route," Mathis said. "Plus, I wanted to do something with real estate so it was a very easy fit for me."

As a young transactional lawyer in a major corporation, he quickly succeeded by being attentive.

"It's important for young lawyers to learn to get involved in their clients' business. When you can make substantive suggestions and changes, you can add trust and value to your work. People always want to talk about their business because they care about it," Mathis explained.

He cited the benefits of in-house counsel to both the corporation and the corporate attorneys: "In the context of in-house counsel, everyone wants to focus on the lower cost of the legal services, but that's only one aspect. To me, the second benefit is that the department knows the business and has the ability to see the big picture of what's going on around the company."

At the same time, Mathis was cognizant of the advanced responsibilities of in-house counsel. "One must focus on being responsive and service oriented because your internal clients have greater expectations for your level of service. But in-house expectations should be higher," he said.

After only six years in the Temple-Inland legal department, Mathis was named Vice President of Resource Planning of the Forest Products group in Diboll, Texas. With this promotion, his responsibilities switched to operations. He recognized that going from the legal to the operational side of the corporation creates a certain learning curve—a learning curve that he welcomes.

"Instead of asking the questions about what terms should be, you now have the obligation to go figure out those details. But the learning part is good," Mathis said.

Such a career transition is not uncommon in corporations, especially Temple-Inland. He explained that a number of executives of Temple-Inland are lawyers including the Executive Vice President, Chief Governance Officer and Chief Administrative Officer. "It's a good way to get ahead because people like the way lawyers think," Mathis said.

Mathis supports Temple-Inland's forest products business unit with resource planning in land exchange programs, gypsum rock and paper supply, Sabine Investment Company, and other resource issues. Their manufacturing facilities are strategically located in Alabama, Arkan-

sas, Georgia, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas.

Temple-Inland is the largest private landowner in Texas and the fifth largest corporate forest land owner in the Southern United States. Mathis is also the President of Sabine Investment Company of Texas (SIC), a small commercial and residential development company primarily located in East Texas. SIC develops tracts of land into multi-use, master-planned communities, or acreage communities with manageable home-steads of 1 to 20 acres.

Having just settled into his new role, Mathis is very optimistic about the future. In 2005, the Forest Products group reported \$238 million operating income. Through the third quarter of 2006, the group reported \$266 million operating income with \$984 million in total revenue.

"Our forest product group is uniquely positioned in the Southeast. We are looking at the expected demand for housing with great enthusiasm," Mathis said.

Having experienced their third record year in a row financially, he believes the company is now in a prime position to capitalize on projected long term growth in the South and the Southeast.

"We believe our two million acres of forest land is in just the right place, and we are currently converting more facilities to capture the housing market over the next 30 to 40 years," Mathis said.

Mathis and his wife, Robin, will surely make their home among this forest land in Diboll for years to come. ■





# He Ain't Kinky. He's My Client.

by Stacy Stockard

**K**inky Friedman, the "Independent Texan" whose gubernatorial run ended November 7, 2006, with a fourth place finish, ran anything but an unsuccessful campaign.

The Jewish cowboy, musician and author gained a following through college visits, small-town rallies and philanthropic causes, including the arts and the Utopia Animal Shelter. But how does an outspoken Texan, known for his music and friendship with Willie Nelson, manage a heavily publicized campaign? It all begins with an army of people.

Enter Blake Rocap, a 2003 graduate of the Texas Tech School of Law. While working as a lawyer in Austin, Rocap found an unusual job posting on the University of Texas law school's online board: Friedman's campaign needed volunteers.

Rocap applied for the job in May 2005, interviewed with a campaign field director and began working for the campaign in June 2005. In September 2005, the campaign hired him full time as the sole general counsel. The San Angelo native, University of Texas graduate and class speaker for the spring 2003 law school graduation started the job running.

The campaign opened offices in Dallas, San Antonio and Houston in addition to its home office in Austin. Rocap worked with five to six senior staff members in the Austin office, including Dean Barkley, a seasoned campaign manager. Barkley, a former attorney and campaign manager for Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura, had campaign work waiting for Rocap.

"He had questions already," Rocap said. "He wanted to know the best way to get on the ballot, memos on the election code and what the ballot access statute was in Texas."

According to a February 2006 *Dallas Morning News* article on Friedman's website, the campaign overcame a huge obstacle to ensure Friedman's name appeared on the ballot. Registered voters may sign a petition for an independent candidate only if they do not vote in the primary elections, which left Fried-

man to collect the required 45,540 signatures from people willing to give up their right to vote in the primaries.

Rocap said that successfully completing this petition process was one of the most meaningful and rewarding experiences during his job. "Getting our petition to be on the ballot and knowing we would be able to get the signatures nine months early when everyone was saying there's no way and it's impossible" stood as a major accomplishment for the campaign. Rocap was proud of these efforts "to accomplish something that people thought was impossible" and "prove the naysayers wrong."

Rocap's chief responsibilities as general counsel included advising the campaign, maintaining contact with the Press Secretary to ensure accuracy of information about Friedman and his campaign, bookkeeping, communicating with and reporting to the ethics commission, double checking advertising, and paying the campaign's bills.

Certain tasks provided Rocap's most memorable experiences. On the campaign trail, he met Friedman's friends in the music industry and saw Lyle Lovett perform in a small, intimate venue. Rocap also fondly recollects attending the gubernatorial debate in Dallas at the Belo Building, the eight-sided building downtown that houses the A.H. Belo Corporation, owner of WFAA Channel 8 and *The Dallas Morning News*. "Going to the press gaggle afterward," he said, "that was a very cool moment where it was just the staff and the candidate at the TV station."

But with the positive comes the negative, and Rocap soon found that Friedman's work did not receive the attention Rocap thought it should. The downside to his work, he explained, was seeing how the media never covered Friedman's serious side and his ideas to improve his home state, but favored Friedman's lighter side with which the public was already familiar.

"What was unexpected and surprised me was the media's reporting of Kinky's candidacy," Rocap said. "He's just all over

the state, and the reporting would always focus on several of the funny lines that peppered his speech, but not so much on the ideas in the speech. And it was like that repeatedly. I think people got a real impression from reading the media that everything he was saying was one-liners and jokes."

"He had a good stump speech," Rocap said of Friedman's platform. "I think the media did a disservice by not accurately reporting what his speech was by only reporting the jokes. That changed the perception of everything that it was a joke . . . They had a story they wanted to report . . . and that story was not necessarily what was closer to the truth."

Through the myriad of events and experiences, Rocap found that his role as general counsel made a difference to others affected by the campaign.

"Having the job reaffirmed to me that being a lawyer is about providing good advice to your client and allowing whatever part of the system they're seeking access to," he said. "As a lawyer, you're a gatekeeper. As a lawyer, you give them access . . . I really gave lots of people access to the electoral process by advising the campaign well."

After election day, Rocap's work for the campaign slowed down to paying the final campaign bills, finishing a finance report for the campaign's expenses and tying up loose ends. His career, however, picked up with a new job. In the words of Friedman's song *When the Lord Closes the Door (He Opens a Little Window)*:

"When you find yourself alone in your house and in your head,

And you blow the candles out and you take yourself to bed,

And you're old enough to realize, young enough to know,

When the Lord closes the door, he opens a little window."

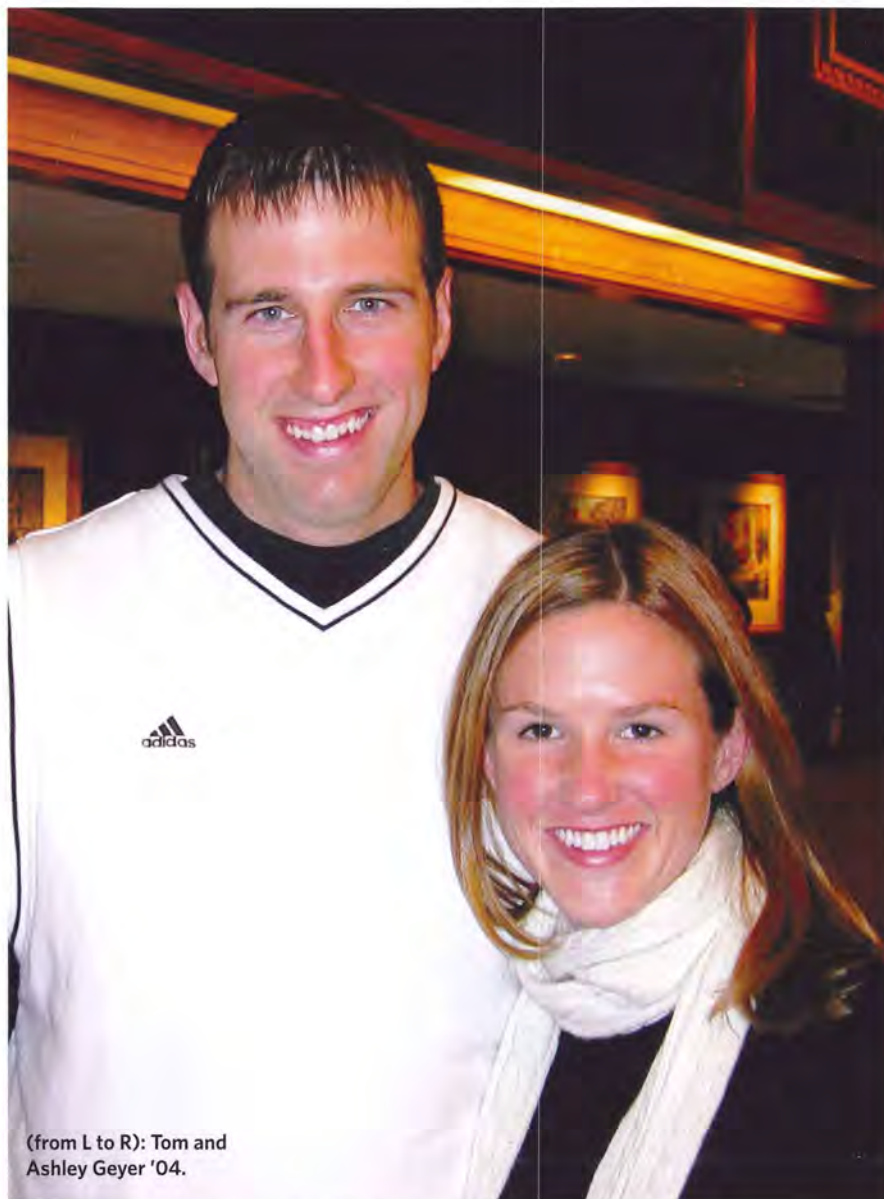
Rocap now reflects on his experience with Friedman's campaign and how it helped him focus on his true interests. "I learned a whole lot," he said, "but I found out that I really like more of the real policy work and not the campaigning part of it, like the media."

In February 2007, Rocap began working for the Texas House of Representatives in the House Committee on Pensions and Investments for which he does policy work and advises the chairwoman of the committee. ■



(from L to R): Rocap and Jimmy Dale Gilmore.





(from L to R): Tom and Ashley Geyer '04.

## Locker Room Lawyers

by Adam Rieck

They came in from under the lights, leaving the glory of performing before thousands to shine before judges, juries and clients. At Texas Tech School of Law, among case briefs and tumbleweeds, some men and women have turned from athletes into attorneys.

While some sports stars fade into oblivion, these alumni found a new way to be the best. The ranks stand stocked with judges, partners and regents—proof that true competitors never stop competing. They smile through their bittersweet release, having found new life in the law.

To the North lies a compelling story of personal growth and a young man who

dreamt of playing for a man Red Raiders later called “Coach.” Tom Geyer '04 is now a hard-working attorney with the Yates Law Firm in Denver, Colorado. Long before Geyer became an attorney, he was a hard-working forward for Coach Bobby Knight's Indiana Hoosiers. Coach Knight gave Tom the rare type of opportunity that can show a person who they are—the shot of a walk-on.

There are really only two things that can happen in this situation. The player can let the odds crush him, or the player can accept that he must work twice as hard as everyone around him and refuse to quit. Geyer chose the latter and clawed

his way to a scholarship. He arrived at practice earlier than other players, stayed later and worked so hard he set the emotional tone for the entire team. Truly, this was a defining experience. As only Geyer's mother could articulate, “I was sending Coach Knight what I thought was a good boy, when I got him back he was a great man.”

*While fans watch as athletic careers play out under the lights, Tech Law watches as these former National Champions, All Americans and professional athletes create new light with their law degrees.*

If you look to the South of Lubbock on a Friday night in autumn, the pinnacle of light you see is Odessa, Texas. This is the home of tremendous football and also one of Tech Law's most famous athletes, Brian Chavez '96. *Friday Night Lights* is a book and a movie, and is now a television series inspired by Odessa, Texas football. The book's tale of Odessa's Permian High School 1988 football team and their pursuit of the state championship introduced Chavez to the nation. This story rightfully portrays Chavez as the scholar athlete that he is. Graduating from Harvard and Tech Law, he now has a personal injury practice in Odessa.

Stories singling out the perfectionism of a scholar athlete and the enormous heart of a man given one shot are not your normal sports stories. What commands attention are championships, awards and trophies. Among Texas Tech lawyers, there is no shortage of these.

In the water, we have Katie McClelland '05, swimming for Southern Methodist University from 1995-1999. McClelland has three national championships in relays. She now practices



with the Dallas firm Cooper & Scully.

Controlling the diamond, we have Texas Tech University Regent, Mark Griffin '79. A University of Texas scholarship baseball player, Griffin played from 1972-1976. His team was the Southwest Conference Champions all four years, and captured the NCAA National Championship in 1975.

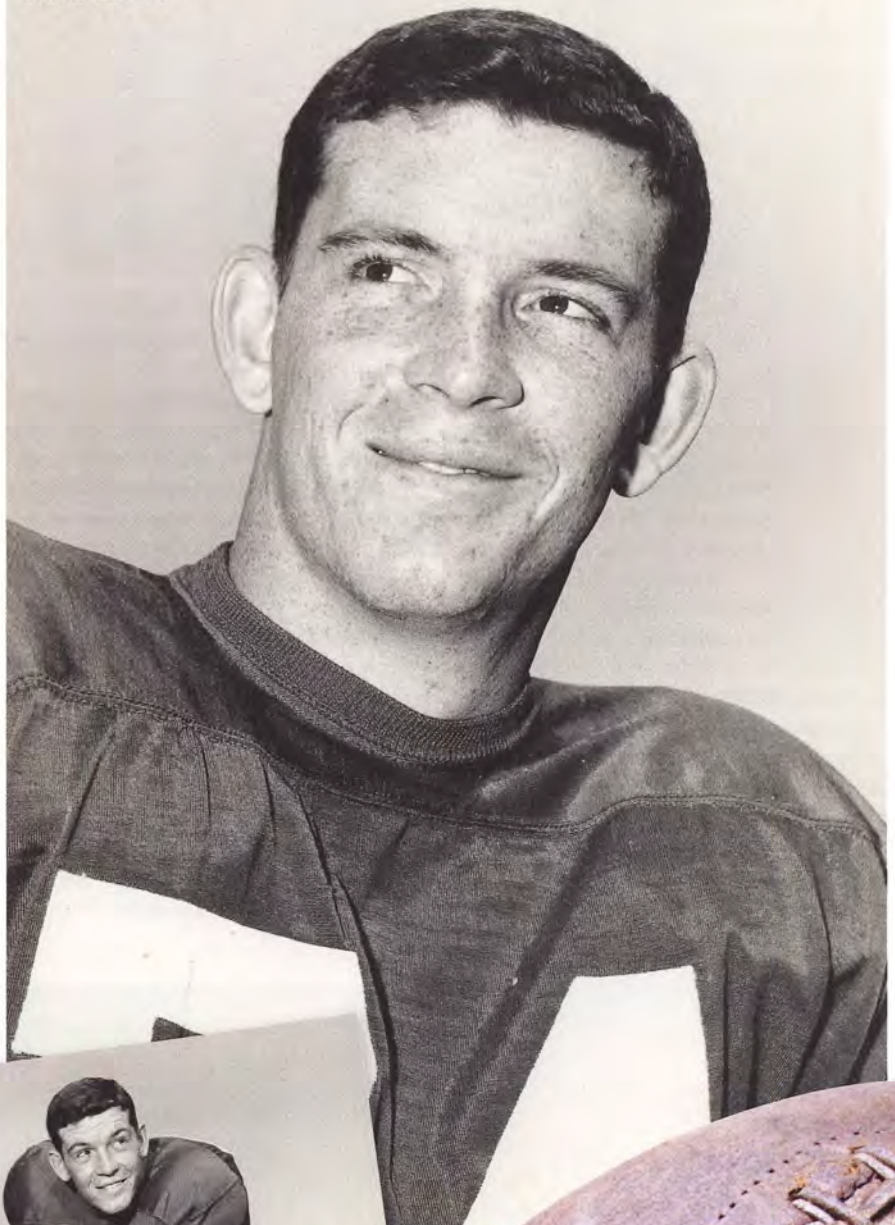
While it is no great surprise that athletic excellence can run throughout a family, the Segrest brothers are rare examples of a bloodline that supported academic excellence as well. Gene Segrest '86 graduated from Tech Law and served as Associate Editor of the *Texas Tech Law Review*. Gene is now partner at the Dallas branch of Kirkpatrick Lockhart Nicholson Graham, LLP. When he wasn't hitting the books, Gene was hitting homeruns. At Texas Tech, Gene was a two-time First Team Academic All American and an All District VI first baseman. Gene also received All Southwest Conference honors and received the prestigious Berl Huffman Courage Award.

It is likely that Gene got some of this courage from his older brother, David Segrest '70. David walked onto the Texas Tech football team an underweight and undersized linebacker. David walked away with a scholarship. After graduating from Tech Law, David received the second highest score on the Texas bar and is now a partner at the Dallas firm Gardere Wynne Sewell, LLP.

Another Tech Law Alumnus, and former SMU Mustang who once may have stood defiantly across the field from David Segrest, is Martin Cude '70. Cude was a First Team All Southwest Conference guard and an Honorable Mention AP All American. He lettered three years and was the freshman and varsity team captain. Martin is now a prominent mortgage and real estate lawyer in Dallas.

The pride of being a Texas Tech lawyer radiates outward with power equal to any of these athletes trophies and accolades. They go forth into the world, bearing this pride and their competitive spirit. ■

Martin Cude '70





## A School / Life Balance

by Mahsa Tajipour

Everyone has heard of the Freshman 15. Well in law school, 1L weight gain can be just as ominous. Prioritizing time in law school is a major problem, and students often neglect their physical wellbeing. As a law student, there are many days I have realized that the only thing I managed to accomplish was finishing the next day's reading assignment. The sleep deprivation and the lousy fast food meals, consumed regularly for convenience, are a health disaster. But Sarah Brown, a third year law student, learned how to live a healthy lifestyle and lose 18 pounds—and Body-for-LIFE awarded her \$50,000 for doing it! Here's what Sarah had to say about her tremendous achievement.

### Was your weight always an issue for you?

I have always struggled with my weight. Growing up, I played a lot of sports, so I was able to keep my weight at a normal level. After I got to college, it became more difficult to maintain my weight, and I could never reach my goal weight. I was exercising all the time and trying all the fad diets.



### And how about in law school, did you gain more weight?

Yes, I gained more weight when I started law school. I think the stress of being a first-year student, coupled with bad eating habits and a sedentary lifestyle, were the main reasons I gained more weight. Law school made it easier to put off exercising and eating right because studying seemed much more important than my health. At the beginning of law school, living a healthy lifestyle was not a priority—studying and making good grades were my main goals.

### What made you decide to drop the extra pounds?

After I finished my first year of law school, I competed in an olympic distance triathlon. It was a 1-mile swim, a 25-mile

bike ride, and a 6-mile run. To train for the triathlon, I was running six miles at least three times a week, and doing cycling classes at the recreational center the other two days. After so much training, I thought my body would be in better shape, but I was still overweight and unhappy with the way I looked and felt. When I got a body fat test done, I found out that I was 26 percent body fat, and that really motivated me to find a program that would work for life.

### There are so many different weight loss programs out there, what made you decide to pick Body-for-LIFE?

I decided to pick Body-for-LIFE after seeing all the before-and-after photos in the book and on the website. The people in these pictures started out overweight and out of shape, but after following the Body-for-LIFE program for 12 weeks, they transformed their bodies and lives. I was so impressed and wanted to see how I could change on the program; and the great part about Body-for-LIFE is that it isn't a fad diet. It's a complete lifestyle change and it gives you principles to follow for the rest of your life so you never gain that weight back. Fad diets set you up for failure. This program teaches you how to eat healthy and exercise, and it even gives you a free day once a week where you can eat whatever you want!

## Joe Knows West Texas

by Adam Rieck

When it comes to advocating client's interests, conducting yourself in the courtroom or pressing issues in the House, Joe Heflin '93 knows West Texas.

State Representative Joe Heflin (D-Crosbyton) was elected in November 2006 to the District 85 seat in the 80th Texas Legislature previously held by Pete Laney. After taking a risk and resigning as Crosby County Judge, Heflin started what would be one of the more stressful and yet most rewarding journeys to becoming elected as a state representative.

Heflin traveled to the 16 counties in District 85. The extensive campaigning paid off as Heflin prevailed over Plainview Republican Jim Landtroop. Heflin said he was overall pleased with the hard-

working efforts of his campaign.

"During 2006, the year of campaigning, the stress of traveling over the District was sometimes difficult," Heflin said. "Many times [my wife] and I would split up and each attend different functions."

With the runoff now in hindsight, Heflin utilizes his experience from law school, private practice and former judgeship to cater to the District. As a true rancher and native of the plains, Heflin plans to keep West Texas interests close at heart.

While studying at the Texas Tech School of Law, Heflin served on the editorial board of the *Texas Bank Lawyer*, was a research assistant for the Farm, Ranch, Agri-business Bankruptcy Institute and interned for the U.S. District Attorney's Office.

After graduating from law school, Heflin decided to open his own practice in Lubbock. With the help of mentors, Heflin gained invaluable experience and took on at least 50 cases within the first couple of years. While keeping an office open in Lubbock for general practice,

Heflin moved to Crosbyton in 1996 and was elected as County Judge from May 2001 to December 2005.

Heflin said he enjoyed working as a county judge because he could affect more lives and see a variety of cases.

"Being a judge helped me to be a better lawyer; you gain a lot and learn from the lawyers who bring cases in front of you."

In addition to learning lessons of the law, Heflin remembered a few interesting moments while working as a judge.

"Two interesting experiences come to mind. One being the only time I had occasion to use the panic button in the courtroom only to be more scared when all the officers burst into the courtroom with weapons drawn," Heflin said.

Another interesting event occurred when Heflin was attending a seminar on courtroom security.

"I discovered that out of 100 judges present, I was only one out of three that did not carry a weapon to the bench," he said. "I was never able to convince my



Sometimes it's very difficult to maintain a steady routine to incorporate into your daily schedule. How have you kept up with yours?

Body-for-LIFE was actually fairly easy to incorporate into my routine, and after more than a year on the program, I am still able to maintain the lifestyle. Usually, I cook my meals the night before and pack them in a lunchbox to bring with me to school and work. On weekdays, I go to the gym after I get off work. What I like about Body-for-LIFE is that the workouts aren't very time consuming. On the weight training days, the entire workout takes about 40 minutes, but on cardio days, you only have to work out for 20 minutes.

How did you prioritize your Body-for-LIFE routine with law school?

It was a little difficult to manage at the beginning because law school itself is so time consuming and often times we get so focused on grades and studying that we neglect our family, friends and, of course, our health. Ultimately, I decided to make my health a priority. Once I decided that I wasn't going to put off getting into shape and made it a priority, it really changed my life. Now, I make sure to pack healthy meals and never miss my workouts be-

cause it actually makes me more productive with school in the long run.

The Body-for-LIFE program also hosts a challenge where one person is chosen as the Grand Master Champion and wins \$50,000. How did you feel when you found out that it was you?

Excited! I couldn't believe that I had won! I started this program just to lose weight and get muscle tone, and didn't decide to officially enter the contest until a few weeks into my Challenge. I honestly never thought I had a chance of winning, but I entered the Challenge to hold myself accountable. When I got a phone call that I was selected as the 2006 Grand Champion, I was shocked!

What do you plan on doing with the \$50,000 or what have you done with it?

Well, I did a lot of shopping, which was fun! And I also paid off my giant credit card bill that has been accumulating since I started college—that was a weight off my shoulders. But I think I'm going to save most of it for a rainy day.

Overall, how has this changed your life?

The benefits of winning the Body-for-LIFE Challenge have been fantastic. I'm often asked to be a guest speaker at



events for people interested in the Body-for-LIFE program and help others reach their own fitness and health goals. It's a very rewarding feeling to know that your help inspired someone else to change their life. Body-for-LIFE changed the way I live. It's not just about losing weight—it's about taking care of yourself and developing healthy habits that you can use for the rest of your life. ■

county clerk that her job was to jump in from of me and be my shield so I could run from the courtroom."

Heflin is not the only one in the family with knowledge of the law. His wife, Linda, graduated from Tech Law in '78. After graduating, Linda worked for U.S. District Judge Halbert Woodward and for U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings. She was also in private practice.

In the Texas Legislature, Heflin works as a strong advocate for West Texas interests by making sure that he is aware of the needs and concerns of his constituents. Water conservation and underground water law are some of the more important concerns of West Texas.

"Water is always an issue that will affect West Texas," he said. "Agriculture is the backbone of the Texas economy and must be supported. Education is also a major issue. We must provide a good public education for other children; we must make sure that college is available and affordable."

Heflin emphasized how he utilizes his law school experiences while working in the legislature. He explained that the analysis skills learned in law school help when passing bills, and are key in understanding the underlying reasons why a law needs to be amended.

In addition to juggling the complexities of his work, Heflin finds a balance in law and family. He has two daughters and three granddaughters. Golfing and gardening are his favorite hobbies to calm the stresses of daily life, however, he said both are suffering at the moment.

"As a law student, and continuing as a baby lawyer, I was impressed by older attorneys that would always take time to visit about the practice of law and how to balance the practice with life outside the law, such as family. I hope that I can be as gracious to others," Heflin said.

Heflin tries to stay involved with Tech Law whenever possible. He is an avid fan of his alma mater and expressed a sad sentiment in stating that 2006 was the first year

he did not attend freshmen orientation.

While climbing the ladder of his successes, Heflin was also involved in city council from 1999 to 2001. He participated because he liked being involved with the current events of the city.

Throughout his journey attaining a polished and accomplished resume, Heflin has given advice to students who will start their careers practicing law with a lesson on preparation and the importance of integrity.

"One thing to remember: treat every case like it's going to trial, learning the strengths and weaknesses of your case," he said. "One of the things I have learned through experience after law school is the importance of communication. One of the things we have is our integrity in working with other lawyers and clients, and to maintain that integrity. You'll make a lot of friends at law school that will help you out later on, so it's important to maintain these lifelong connections." ■





## Texas Tech Teaching Goes to Africa

Nancy Soonpaa shares her legal practice lessons with law students in the great continent  
by Ruth Bradbury

Nairobi, Kenya generally brings to mind images of exotic animals; but March 15-17, 2007, those images were replaced by visions of the Conference on the Pedagogy of Legal Writing for Academics in Africa. When Mimi Samuel and Lauren Oates, the conference organizers, invited Texas Tech School of Law Professor Nancy Soonpaa to attend, she was excited for a number of reasons—

not only would Soonpaa travel to Nairobi, she would also have the unique opportunity to expand her knowledge by teaching and learning from fellow professors about legal writing.

The conference in Nairobi was held by the Legal Writing Institute, which was established over 22 years ago at Seattle University School of Law. Twenty participants from the United States and thirty from Africa gathered in Nairobi to attend the conference and share with each other their legal writing strategies and research skills, all with the underlying goal of better preparing their students for the continuing growth of the global community.

Along with learning from other legal writing professors, Soonpaa also took away from the experience some lessons about the differences and similarities between Tech Law and law schools in Afri-



ca. For example, while professors at Tech Law usually teach to very small to medium-sized groups of students, professors in Nairobi typically teach 240 to 250 students at a time. Soonpaa found that many of the professors in Nairobi had concerns about giving students individualized help and attention. This made Soonpaa appreciate the class sizes at Tech Law and the opportunity to give students one-on-one assistance when they need it.

Soonpaa also discovered that a major issue many law students in Africa face in legal writing is actually finding their clients' addresses to address client letters. While a typical legal writing student at Tech Law spends little time finding and labeling a letter with the proper address, the situation in Nairobi is quite different. In areas of Nairobi and throughout Africa, there are no streets or numbered apartments. Instead, there are unmarked villages. Soonpaa realized that in Nairobi, teaching students how to find and address the location of these villages in order to find their clients is something that professors must teach their students how to do.

Differences notwithstanding, Soonpaa also noticed similarities, the most obvious being the goal of the conference itself. Professors from all over the world came to Nairobi to help law students. Despite coming to the conference from different perspectives and situations, the overall goal of each attendee was the same. Soonpaa reflected, "Despite the cultural differences, in the end, clients are clients and lawyers are lawyers. No matter where we practice, the overall legal concerns and issues are very similar." ■



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## Project Bringing Justice to the Innocent

by Cynthia Hall Clements

**J**eff Blackburn hopes to work himself out of a job.

As Chief Counsel for the West Texas Innocence Project, if Blackburn is unemployed, it means that no wrongly convicted people remain in Texas prisons, without access to counsel or the courts, and without hope.

If Blackburn is out of a job, it means that he will have righted many wrongs done.

It means there will not be people in Texas prisons like Larry Fuller, wrongly convicted for rape and released from prison on October 31, 2006, after serving 25 years. Blackburn, along with attorney Barry Scheck, helped secure Fuller's freedom.

Blackburn began the West Texas Innocence Project in the fall of 2004 with a mission, some money and a motto.

Before beginning the Innocence Project, Blackburn practiced criminal defense and civil rights law for 23 years in his hometown of Amarillo. He has been board certified in criminal law since 1988.

His claim to legal fame was his relentless representation of the Tulia defendants in association with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and other local attorneys. In Tulia, a small town located in the Texas panhandle, nearly half of the African-American population was arrested and subsequently convicted for dealing cocaine, based primarily on the testimony of a white undercover police officer.

Blackburn's efforts eventually totally discredited the undercover officer which, in turn, both exonerated most of the persons convicted and forced legislative change to protect against similar occurrences in the future. The Tulia exonerations were the largest number ever in Texas.

In talking about his work in the Tulia case, Blackburn said, "It's not just what I do. It's what I'm about."

His law practice has been in the areas of criminal defense and civil rights, and the Innocence Project is the "pinnacle" of that career—the work he was always meant to do, according to Blackburn.

The Innocence Project is personal to Blackburn.

He invested the fees he earned from the Tulia lawsuits to get the Innocence Project up and running.



By Blackburn's own admission, he is "less interested in gradual dialogue than in dramatic change," and he brings that take-charge, take-no-hostages, all-else-be-damned attitude to the Innocence Project.

"So you're innocent. What's the big deal?" Blackburn asks that question to any prisoner who requests his assistance.

It's the Innocence Project's motto, and it's Blackburn's commentary that there are too many innocent people decaying in Texas prisons.

In his opinion, the Texas criminal justice system is more obsessed with efficiency than it is with justice.

Don't expect Blackburn to sugarcoat his passion and intensity for freeing the wrongly convicted from Texas prisons. He zealously advocates on behalf of the innocent.

Any prisoner who wants Blackburn's counsel and representation, however, must get past that initial question to offer justification of why he or she needs the help of the Innocence Project. According to Blackburn, too many people are wrongly convicted and in Texas prisons, so the Project must pick and

choose among the eligible clients. The staff at the Project is rather minimal, as is the budget. It consists of Blackburn, staff attorney Natalie Roetzel and students in Texas Tech School of Law's Innocence Clinic program. The law students commit to working both the fall and spring semesters. Over the past year, 44 students have participated in the Project and have donated nearly 3,800 hours to case investigation. The Project is funded through the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense and receives approximately \$100,000 per year. Blackburn donates his time pro bono.

The Innocence Project has a procedure for each prisoner who requests help. The first step is a rather lengthy and specific questionnaire for the potential client. After the staff receives the answers, they file open records requests with the courts, contact the trial and appellate attorneys, and attempt to track down the evidence and witnesses.

The staff re-creates the case history for the client, to the extent possible, before deciding whether to open a case file. Blackburn was careful to note, "We treat all potential clients with respect and dignity, the same respect and dignity that they would receive in any law office."

At each level, the staff, under Blackburn's supervision, screens out clients. Some prisoners who claim their innocence provide faulty and condemning information on the questionnaire. Many prisoners never return the questionnaire. In other situations, the witnesses and the evidence have disappeared over the years.

Blackburn said the Innocence Project must choose from the voluminous requests they receive. The Project received over 1,064 in 2005 alone. He expressed his frustration and sadness in saying "no" to "people we know are innocent."

Blackburn said, "We choose symbolic



cases, cases we know we can win," to make the larger political and social point, and to force change in Texas' criminal justice system.

The work is, at times, "tedious" and "time consuming" according to Blackburn. The Project's staff meets many dead ends. Reasonable doubt, the standard in a criminal trial, is not enough to release an innocent person from prison.

Instead, Blackburn said, they need "overwhelming evidence" before securing a client's release. The Project's staff is "up against incredible odds." In his view, an innocent prisoner's chances of release, barring a pardon from the governor, are somewhere between "slim and none."

Last year the Innocence Project opened 218 new investigations and completed 88 of them. The current group of 13 students has 36 cases under active investigation and 168 cases that are open and await investigation. As of now, the Project has six cases at the litigation stage, which does not include Fuller's case, four recently-added ones in Dallas County and one at the clemency stage.

Blackburn wants the Innocence Project to be a counterweight, an institutional check and balance, to the criminal justice system. Texas does not have a statewide Innocence Commission, so Blackburn's Project and other, similar ones fill that gap.

Blackburn believes the advent of DNA testing changed the discussion on a prisoner's innocence. Previously, many people, including judges and prosecutors, refused to believe innocent people were convicted.

"But we know now that innocent people get convicted," he said.

Blackburn has several goals for the Innocence Project. Most importantly, he works to secure the release of the

wrongly convicted from Texas prisons. However, Blackburn also hopes to provide practical training to current law students to show them "how to be real criminal defense lawyers."

He hopes to create "a cadre of good criminal defense lawyers from Texas Tech and reseed them across the state." Blackburn wants to reinforce what he regards as the venerable statewide and national reputation of Tech Law and its graduates.

Blackburn quite graciously thanks others for their support of the Innocence Project. "By Texas Tech School of Law providing us a place from which to operate, I was able to use it as a springboard to organize other groups statewide," he said. The Innocence Project currently coordinates its efforts with similar organizations at Texas Wesleyan University, University of Texas at Arlington, the University of North Texas and the University of St. Thomas.

He gives his regard to Dean Walter Huffman and former Associate Dean for Administration and External Affairs Richard Rosen for their involvement in the Project. Blackburn also thanks Tech Law alumnus and plaintiff's attorney Kevin Glasheen '88, who donated the office space in downtown Lubbock for the Innocence Project. Blackburn also anticipates future and productive coordination between his Project and the criminal defense clinic at Tech Law under the supervision of its new director, Professor Patrick Metze.

Blackburn's ultimate goal is for the program to achieve a level of success to be able to abolish itself, perhaps in just a few years. He said, "We just try to make the system work for people who deserve it." ■



*Any prisoner who wants Blackburn's counsel and representation, however, must get past that initial question to offer justification of why he or she needs the help of the Innocence Project. According to Blackburn, too many people are wrongly convicted and in Texas prisons, so the Project must pick and choose among the eligible clients.*



## Professor Shannon Appointed

Governor Rick Perry appointed Brian Shannon to Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities for a 2nd Term

Governor Rick Perry appointed twelve to the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities; among them, Charles B. Thornton Professor of Law Brian Shannon. The committee works to ensure Texans with disabilities may live their lives with integrity, independence and productivity. Professor Shannon was appointed to his first term with the committee in 2003 and serves as board chair of the Lubbock Regional Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center and is a former chair of the State Bar of Texas' committee on disability issues. He is also an elected member of the American Law Institute. He received a bachelor's degree from Angelo State University in San Angelo and a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. ■



## Greater Diversity for the Future

Texas Tech School of Law and Estacado High School partner to provide opportunities for high school students and greater diversity for the future of the legal profession

by Dr. Amy L. Jarmon, Assistant Dean for Academic Success Programs, Texas Tech School of Law



Independent School District have agreed on a new five-year partnership. This partnership is unique; there is no other such partnership in Texas.

The partners have joined to provide participation in more academic opportunities for the high school students in the Law and Justice Magnet Program. These opportunities

will develop informed citizens for our communities and nation, encourage diverse students to attend college and graduate education, and increase student interest in pursuing careers in law and law-related fields.

The Law and Justice Magnet Program at Estacado High School was established in 1993. The Program provides course offerings for 9th through 12th graders in such topics as Introduction to Criminal Justice Careers; Crime in America; Courts and Criminal Procedures; and Fundamentals of Criminal Law. Students participate in field placements in various law-related settings in the community. In addition, students are selected to participate in mock trial competitions and participate in field trips.

The partners will provide a number of new or expanded experiences for these students. Law and Justice students will attend a variety of speakers, court hearings, classes and competitions at Tech Law. Faculty and staff at Tech Law will serve as guest speakers in the classrooms at the high school. Tech Law Clinics will provide additional field placements for seniors in the program. At least one law class, possibly a trial advocacy class, will be offered on the high school campus so that the Law and Justice students can participate in class sessions.

Members of the Board of Barristers (the law school's organization for competitive

national teams) will provide law student coaches for the high school's mock trial team as students prepare for regional and state competitions. Other law student volunteers will pair with Law and Justice students as mentors.

Law and Justice students in the 10th and 11th grades will attend one-week summer camps at Tech Law, with both Tech Law and Estacado faculty participating in the planning and teaching. In addition, Tech Law will host a morning law conference for high school juniors in the region who are interested in law and law enforcement.

Law and Justice students voiced their enthusiasm for the partnership at a recent press conference announcing the program. The high school students have already benefited from invitations to the law school campus for events. The Board of Barristers members are looking forward to coaching these students in their trial competitions. Faculty at both the law school and the high school are very supportive of the combined efforts.

This program is a "win-win" situation for everyone. The program focuses on helping young people stay excited about school, learn critical skills for their education, and reach for their dreams for higher education and professional careers. Whether or not these young people ultimately attend Texas Tech School of Law or become lawyers, this program has big pay-offs when they stay in school, gain confidence in their abilities and make positive contributions as citizens. ■

For more information about the partnership, please contact Dr. Amy L. Jarmon at [amy.jarmon@ttu.edu](mailto:amy.jarmon@ttu.edu) or (806) 742-3990, ext. 294.

For more information about the Law and Justice Magnet Program, please contact Mr. Lucio Trevino at [luciotrevino@lubbockisd.org](mailto:luciotrevino@lubbockisd.org) or (806) 766-1388.

The legal profession has provided leaders for our country since its founding. Statistics show that lawyers hold a number of important positions in our democracy: 100 percent of judges are attorneys; 48 percent of the U.S. Senators; 38 percent of the U.S. Representatives; and 25 out of 43 presidents.<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately, the same legal profession is still not diverse in its membership: more than 90 percent of our legal profession is Caucasian.<sup>2</sup> It is imperative that the legal profession increase its diversity so that attorneys will reflect the diversity of the client population in the United States.

To be licensed to practice, attorneys must attend college and law school and pass the bar examination. However, preparation for success on these educational and licensing requirements must begin in the lower grades of education.

If students are going to have the academic backgrounds in critical thinking, writing, public speaking and other skills for success in law school and as lawyers, they need to learn the skills early. During the first 12 years of education, students need to be encouraged to gain the academic credentials for higher education so that their dreams of being attorneys to serve a diverse client population can come true.

In response to the need for diversity in the legal profession and proper preparation before college, Texas Tech School of Law and the Estacado High School of Lubbock

1. SARAH REDFIELD, UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC, MCGEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW, WINGSPREAD VI CONFERENCE DOCUMENT, 2006.

2. JOHN M. NAGLE, UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC, BERNARD SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, AND SARAH REDFIELD, UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC, MCGEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW, RENOVATING THE P-20 PYRAMID OF EDUCATION - WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF SCHOOLS OF LAW: WINGSPREAD P20 LEADERSHIP PIPELINE, MCGEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW, 2005 AND 2006, PAGE 1.



## Law Students Working to Rid Prejudice at the Polls

by Andrew Cates

Many law students rarely take the opportunity to step outside of their day-to-day lives of studying to get involved with activities such as politics. However, since February 2005, a group consisting of Texas law students has emerged as the paradigm of voter protection efforts for the whole United States.

The group is called the Texas Democratic Lawyer's Council (TDLC), and although the words Texas and Democrat in the same sentence may be too much for many to bear, the goals of the group are sincerely nonpartisan. TDLC was formed along with its national counterpart, the National Democratic Law Students Council (NDLSC), in response to the quagmire of problems in the 2004 presidential election when it came to the actual process of voting.

The founding students realized that it was time for someone to step in and represent disenfranchised and disillusioned voters who have consistently been denied the right to vote through coercion, misleading statements and outright prejudice at the polls. Nonpartisan leadership is key. TDLC members believe all that matters is that people respect and believe in the system.

The last few decades have shown a

marked decline in voter participation, likely because of voter fraud and a lack of faith that any one particular person's vote will count for anything. Who better to start this movement of protecting the unprotected and upholding the civic right and duty to vote for our elected leaders than students with grassroots organizing skills who will soon enter the legal profession? Thus spawned the emergence of NDLSC and TDLC.

The objectives of TDLC members are to organize law students all over the state who are committed to free and fair elections regardless of party ties; increase awareness at their respective law schools; and network with local attorneys who share their passion. These students have been trained by the best attorneys in the United States, including J. Gerald Hebert, a professor of Election Law at Georgetown Law School, and Sabine Romero, an election law attorney in Austin, Texas. These brilliant minds taught law students at the 2006 Texas Democratic Party Convention in Fort Worth about the finer points of the Texas Election Code and how to prevent fraud and coercion at the polls on election day.

The students, armed with this newfound knowledge, returned to their respective

cities and counties and prepared lists of volunteer students and attorneys to work the phones on election day. These volunteers are capable of dealing with calls regarding any possible sign of illegality at the polls. They are also capable of answering questions regarding the identification needed to vote, and if certain persons should be allowed to vote. If the issue demands action, volunteer attorneys are called to file injunctions with local courts to demand a stop to the illegal action.

Law students often feel limited by and inability to affect change. They feel trapped in the bubble of law school. While many law students are opinionated and outspoken, sometimes they just need to find the right cause to make a difference. TDLC gives law students that opportunity. ■

## ABA Awards Tech Law Efforts

by Megan Myers

Aristotle once said, "In the arena of human life, the honors and awards fall to those who show their good qualities in action." This quote accurately describes Texas Tech School of Law students' participation with the American Bar Association (ABA). Within the last few years, Tech Law students participated in ABA's Work-A-Day and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance programs, attended ABA conferences, and greatly increased ABA membership of their classmates. These actions did not go unnoticed.

At the ABA Law Student Division

Circuit Conference held in New Orleans in the spring of 2007, Tech Law was awarded the prestigious ABA Silver Key Award for the 13th Circuit. The Silver Key is the highest award given by ABA Circuit Governors to law schools and outstanding individuals in their circuits who have contributed at the school, circuit, or national levels. It is only granted when exemplary service warrants such merit.

Tech Law was also honored with the Bronze Key Award. Circuit Governors award only three Bronze Keys — school with the highest membership, school with the most improved membership

and school with the highest percentage of ABA membership. Tech Law was awarded for most improved membership. ABA representative and third-year law student Angela Hughes noted that "membership has more than doubled this past year."

Angela Hughes and George Pigg '07 (former President of the Student Bar Association) were also individually recognized for their significant ABA contributions. Both worked extremely hard to help students understand and realize the advantages offered through ABA. ■



## Retirement of Oil and Gas Legend

by Mandi Lea-Tejeda Duncan

After more than 30 years of service, Maddox Professor Bruce M. Kramer has retired to Colorado, the "Centennial State." While his favorite class to teach was Property, Kramer was a favorite in a number of courses, including: Copyright, International Petroleum Transactions, Land Use Planning, Oil and Gas, State and Local Government Law, and Water Law. Kramer also served as the advisor for the Mineral Law Interest Group.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, (his father was a lawyer) Kramer received both his B.A. and his J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). He later received his LL.M. from the University of Illinois College of Law. Following law school, he worked in a general practice firm for a few months before coming to Texas Tech School of Law where he began teaching in 1974. While at Tech Law, Kramer was a visiting professor at many different schools.

During his career, Kramer has had numerous works published, including his most recent, a casebook entitled *Cases and Materials on the Law of Oil and Gas*. Kramer also contributed a multitude of articles to various law journals in such areas as oil and gas law; planning and zoning; and land use and environmental law.

Since 1980, Kramer prepared papers and gave speeches at approximately 80-90 continuing education programs. Among his numerous awards, he received the Texas Tech University President's Excellence in Teaching Award, and he twice received the Texas Tech University Dub Rushing Research Award. Along with teaching and other professional service activities, Kramer served as a consultant or expert witness on many cases.

While Kramer fully supports the open-



door office policy, he came from a generation where professors were not friends but educators and mentors. In short, his door was always open, but largely unentered. His advice to students was, "Do things and make decisions based on what you are interested in because you'll be happier based on doing something that you find personally satisfying."

Kramer noted that his greatest professional accomplishment was walking out of his first class knowing that he had added something to the educational value of his students. While many of his first-year property students would tell you that he used the Socratic Method to teach, Kramer said that the Socratic Method is too generous a description for his teaching style. He said his style was just "question and answer."

Kramer's desire to teach came from the freedom of not having a boss and having the ability to research and write. He became an oil and gas expert by working hard, studying, mastering skills, writing, attending conferences, teaching conferences and having discussions with other experts. Kramer said that the oil and gas field is made up of supportive people who generally like each other.

Outside the classroom, Kramer's greatest personal accomplishment was having all

four of his daughters graduate from college this past year (over a fifteen year spread). His hobbies are golf, skiing, basketball and collecting U.S. stamps. Regarding the rumor circulating the law school that Kramer played basketball for UCLA, he was flattered. However, while Kramer did try out for the UCLA freshman team, he did not make the squad but noted that he still enjoys playing the sport.

When asked what he would miss the most, Kramer said that he would not know until he was gone. "Maybe the classroom, or maybe colleague interaction." He won't miss the research and writing, because he will continue to do that in retirement. He may also continue to do CLEs and maybe even associate with a law firm.

Law school was an almost last-minute decision for Kramer, but he couldn't imagine doing anything else. He is most appreciative and thankful to Tech Law for giving him the opportunity to teach for more than 30 years. Kramer said the support made it easier for him to do something that he likes to do. As he retires to Colorado with his wife and his dog, he will be greatly missed by everyone here at Tech Law. Kramer's extraordinary reputation and humble attitude add to the admiration given to him by students and colleagues alike.

Professor Kramer was honored on December 1, 2006 at the Bruce Kramer Commemorative Roast hosted by the Class of 2008 at the Lubbock Club. All proceeds from the event were used to establish The Bruce Kramer Endowed Scholarship. If you would like more information on the scholarship or would like to make a donation, please contact Sid Walker with the Texas Tech Law School Foundation at (806) 742-3990, ext. 356 or [sid.walker@ttu.edu](mailto:sid.walker@ttu.edu). ■



## Professor Fortney Receives Tech's Highest Teaching and Professorship Honors

by Lawyer Staff

In December 2006, George H. Mahon Professor of Law Susan Saab Fortney received the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award, Texas Tech System's highest teaching award. This spring, the Texas Tech Board of Regents awarded Professor Fortney another highest honor: the Paul Whitfield Horn Professorship. The Horn Professorship is Texas Tech's most prestigious faculty designation. Professor Fortney is an expert in legal ethics and professional responsibility. In fall 2007, she organized and taught the nation's first Health Care and Bioethics Mediation Clinic to help prepare law students to mediate health care-related disputes. In 2008, she published the nation's first textbook on legal malpractice law. A winner of numerous teaching awards, Professor Fortney continuously earns high marks on student evaluations and from her peers. She earned her bachelor's degree from Trinity University, her juris doctor degree from Antioch School of Law and a doctor of the sciences of law degree from Columbia School of Law. She came to Tech Law in 1992. ■



# Student's Life Gives Guidance to Future Students

by Stacy Stockard

**B**rendan Murray showed a deep passion for three things in life: criminal defense work, sports and the Texas Tech School of Law democrats' student organization. Murray, a second-year law student from Lubbock, joked with his friends about hobbling into the first fall 2006 Tech Law Democrats meeting on crutches following his knee surgery.

Tragically, Murray passed away two weeks after his surgery due to complications. Though Murray's friends and family endured a heartbreaking turn of events, his passing led to the creation of the Brendan Murray Criminal Defense Scholarship Fund to support law students who embody his passion for criminal defense work.

Rusty Gunter '00, Phil Wischkaemper '89, Lois Wischkaemper '91, Charles S. Chambers '82, Sarah Mitchell-Gunter '01 and Professor Patrick Metze—all leaders of the Lubbock defense attorney's bar association—created the scholarship fund in honor of Murray.

Within two months of its creation, the fund received donations totaling \$17,780 from 100 individuals and organizations, including sizeable contributions from the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

Brendan's parents, Brian '82 and Lynne Murray, asked mourners for donations either to the scholarship fund or to the Tech Law Democrats in lieu of flowers at Brendan's services.

Sid Walker, Director of Development at the law school, said the school plans to give an annual scholarship in Brendan's name to a student "interested in practicing criminal defense law as a champion for the oppressed."

Walker added that students applying for the scholarship will write an essay which will be judged to determine if students "reflect certain ideals exhibited by Brendan Murray throughout his life."

"I think that scholarships are the most direct investments in our students that a donor can make," Walker said.

The Tech Law Democrats also



contributed to the fund by raffling a basketball autographed by Coach Bobby Knight. Chris Gardner, third-year law student and Liaison Chair of the Tech Law Democrats, said he and Rob Ambrosino, another third-year student and President of the Tech Law Democrats, formulated the idea of holding a raffle to raise money for the fund. Dean Walter Huffman secured the free autograph, and the raffle raised \$500 for the fund.

Gardner met Brendan when they both were elected to Tech Law Democrats' offices in March 2006. Gardner said he and Brendan talked about sports—mostly the Houston Astros and the Longhorns (Brendan received his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas in May 2005)—to give them a reprieve from the stress of their first year of law school.

Amanda Galbraith, '07 who served as the organization's president, also met Brendan through Tech

Law Democrats. She attended the visitation service for Brendan, and she said she wondered why so many foreign students came to the service.

Galbraith later found out that Brendan enjoyed befriending these first-generation Americans who attended area universities and helped them adjust to life in Lubbock and at Texas Tech by socializing with them and taking them to events such as football games.

Gardner said he knew Brendan as someone who, once in practice, would accept a pro-bono case rather than meet a certain quota of cases.

"He tried to make a difference," Gardner said. "It's difficult to say you're out there to make a difference and then not pursue the almighty dollar. That's where his heart was—in the law and in politics . . . There's a greater good than the money. He was one bright, shining example of someone who cared about the law and not the money."

Brendan's parents agreed.

"He was doing it to help the underserved," Lynne said. Both she and Brian said Brendan was compassionate and sensitive to differences in people. Although he identified himself as a very liberal democrat, he discussed politics with conservatives without getting upset but would still try to prove them wrong.

Gardner refuses to part with a letter from a donor to the Brendan Murray Fund, and he carries it with him in his school bag. Gardner said the letter perfectly depicts Murray's passion for life and the law. The letter and donation came from the father of one of Murray's lifelong friends and schoolmates.

"Don't tell me what you are doing with this donation," the donor wrote, "just use it the way Brendan would . . . with fiery commitment, the best of intentions and a little bit of a swagger." ■

For more information about the Brendan Murray Scholarship Fund, donating to a different scholarship or establishing a new scholarship, please contact Sid Walker at (806) 742-3990, ext. 356 or [sid.walker@ttu.edu](mailto:sid.walker@ttu.edu).



## Report from the Inaugural Criminal Law Symposium

Professor Arnold Loewy answers questions about the event

by Kathleen Nacozy, Interview by Matthew J. Phillips



Rebecca Ellis Whitacre '07, who was then Law Review Editor in Chief.

Professor Arnold Loewy is a recent addition to the Texas Tech School of Law faculty, and he is the first to hold the position of Texas Tech's Judge George R. Killam Jr. Chair of Criminal Law. As part of this position, Loewy will hold a series of annual symposiums in the area of criminal law or criminal procedure. His first symposium was held April 6, 2007, and included 12 panelists, each with a national reputation in criminal law and procedure. Loewy gave the following report to the *Lawyer* about the success of his first annual symposium.

### How has our law school benefited from the symposium?

Well, I think we've benefited in several ways. First, most of the people who

were here had not been here before, and as the Dean likes to say, people who come here almost uniformly think better of us than before they came here. Second, the Law Review benefits because it gets a series of articles that it might not have had previously from people who I think it's very happy to have heard from. Third, because of the Law Review, the whole country of people who teach criminal law will in one way or another get copies of these articles and they'll be aware of the symposium and they'll be aware of the work that came from it. I think institutionally we benefit that way. Of course, I'm able to announce the symposium at the American Association of Law Schools meeting, and they're aware this is happening so it goes to the benefit of the institution.

And of course what many of the people had to say was beneficial to those in the audience and consequently those in the audience, who are mostly Tech people, get to hear what's been said. I think those are the primary ways Tech benefits.

I think the involvement of the publishers with Texas Tech is a big thing, too. There's the obvious benefit of the funding the institution received from the publishers who were sponsoring dinners and lunches, who included Aspen, Lexis and [West Foundation/Thompson]. I think not only did we get the benefit of their actual dollars, but we got them aware of the fact we were holding a significant conference and I'd like to think that would make them look more favorably on us if say some of my colleagues wanted to do a casebook or a textbook or something. They might feel more favorable to Texas Tech by virtue of having sponsored the conference, although I have no way of knowing, I suspect as much.

### Were your views on citizen ignorance, police deception and the Constitution altered in any way by the professors' discourse?

I don't think so. I'd been thinking about this topic for a long time!

### Have you gotten any feedback from the professors who contributed to the symposium?

Yes, and it's been uniformly positive. Some of it, most of it, while the conference was actually going on. Professor Weaver, one of the conference attendees, continues to mention how positive he thought the conference was.

### What was the biggest success of this year's symposium?

Well, I think one, [is] the caliber of people we were able to get. I had about a two-to-one rate of acceptances to declinations in invitations I did give people, and I think that's unusually high for conferences like this. And I was really excited about that. I think the sense that the people who were here had as to how well the conference ran are things they'd



Law Review  
Members working  
at the welcome  
table the day of  
the symposium.



Inside the courtroom during the symposium.

certainly like to take beyond the conference here and report back to their own faculties and people who they know [about] how well they think this conference went.

#### What will you do differently for next year's symposium?

It's possible that because of the nature of the topic, that there'll be more non-academics attending, possibly former judges. If I'm able to arrange it, maybe a former governor and probably some practitioners. [We will] probably have more practitioners-slash-judges-

slash-politicians. But that's just because of the nature of next year's topic, which is "Do we convict too many innocent people and if so what can we do to prevent it?"

Next year's panels will probably be why do we convict as many innocent people as we do, two, is there any way to convict fewer innocent people without acquitting too many guilty ones, and three, given that we know we convict innocent people, what if anything does that have to say about retaining capital punishment.

Oh, and I may even have a former death row inmate who was later found to be not

Before coming to Tech Law, Loewy taught for 38 years at the University of North Carolina School of Law and four years at the University of Connecticut School of Law. He received both his bachelor's juris doctor degrees from Boston University, where he achieved the top academic average in his graduating class and was a senior editor for the *Boston University Law Review*. Professor Loewy obtained his LL.M. from Harvard Law School in 1964.

Loewy was chair of the criminal justice section of the Association of American Law Schools in 1993 after serving for seven years on the executive board and as an officer. He also chaired the AALS Constitutional Law Section from 1973 to 1975. In addition to being an invited speaker at law schools and conferences throughout the nation, Loewy addressed the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law in 1990 on the topic of criminal speech, in 2002 on the topic of virtual child pornography, and again in 2006 on "Systemic Changes to Reduce the Conviction of the Innocent." He also taught American Constitutional Law to European students at Katholieke University, Nijmegen, Netherlands.

guilty on one of the panels. That's certainly different from the type of people we had on this year's panel, so far as I know nobody on this year's panel was ever on death row.

Professor Loewy would like to thank the members of *Texas Tech Law Review* Volume 39 for their hard work, especially Symposium Coordinator Mary Wahne Baker; symposium lunch sponsor LexisNexis; Sandy MacDonald and Mary Pollard for their exceptional efficiency in paying the expenses of our visitors; and Dean Walter B. Huffman "for his unqualified support, as he always gives." ■



## Faculty Spotlight: Professor Gonzalez Receives a Well-Deserved Promotion

by Shatorree Bates

**T**exas Tech School of Law is fortunate to have among its faculty Jarod Spencer Gonzalez, who was recently promoted to Associate Professor. Professor Gonzalez's academic excellence and accelerated legal career have earned him an outstanding reputation among his colleagues and his students.

As an undergraduate International Business major at the University of Oklahoma, Gonzalez became interested in the law when he enrolled in a Business Law course his junior year. He took many more legal courses as his interest in the law increased. The summer after he graduated from college summa cum laude, he studied abroad in Shanghai, China. Soon after, Gonzalez returned to the University of Oklahoma to pursue his law degree.

Gonzalez left his mark at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. He received numerous writing and scholarship awards, participated in moot court competitions, and graduated with highest honors in May 2000. After displaying his academic excellence in law school, Gonzalez received the opportunity to clerk for U.S. District Court Chief Judge John Hannah, Jr., in the Eastern District of Texas. Working as a clerk allowed Gonzalez to assume a great deal of responsibility straight out of law school; he was placed in a judge's role as he critically analyzed trials for procedural and substantive error, reviewed attorneys' motions and briefs, and drafted opinions and orders for Judge Hannah's review. He learned to "think like a judge" and absorbed the oral advocacy process by following many trials from initiation to disposition.

Gonzalez's legal aptitude was further expanded the following year when he transitioned from the trial court level to the appellate court level to clerk for Judge Robert M. Parker at the 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. Professor Gonzalez contrasts his appellate experience to his trial experience by noting that his role in the appellate process was to critically analyze and review judges' opinions, as opposed to lawyers' briefs, for reversible error. At the appel-



*Professor Gonzalez "practices what he preaches" and demonstrates his dedication to teaching, mentoring and maintaining an open door policy. "There is a place for all lawyers entering the legal profession," he explained, "it's difficult to know where your place is during law school."*

late level, Gonzalez said he learned to be highly focused and analytical when dealing with complex issues.

After clerking for two years, Gonzalez joined the law firm Thompson & Knight as an associate practicing labor and

employment law. He acted in an advisory capacity and as a litigator for corporate clients. Working with attorneys at the firm who were extremely knowledgeable and more experienced than he was, Professor Gonzalez said he understood the importance of seeking legal mentors, both within the firm and at outside agencies.

Professor Gonzalez left private practice to join Tech Law in 2004. Professor Gonzalez currently teaches a broad range of law school subjects, drawing on his myriad legal experiences. His classes include Texas Pretrial Procedure, Texas Civil Procedure: Trial and Appellate, Employment Benefits, Disabilities and the Law, Employment Discrimination, and Employment Law.

Professor Gonzalez's passion for teaching and dedication to students goes beyond the classroom. He serves as the faculty advisor for three law student organizations, a judge for students' moot court and mock trial competitions, and a coach for a statewide administrative law moot court team. His efforts have not gone unnoticed; in the spring of 2007, he was voted "Professor of the Year" by the Texas Tech Hispanic Law Students Association. Shortly after receiv-



ing the award, Professor Gonzalez experienced an aggressive illness that required him to be hospitalized; however, showing his dedication to his students, Professor Gonzalez made arrangements to tape his lectures via his hospital room. From the classroom, his students viewed the lectures in awe as the videotape captured doctors entering his room to administer his medication during the videotaping of the lectures.

For law students, Professor Gonzalez “practices what he preaches” and demonstrates his dedication to teaching, mentoring and maintaining an open door policy. “There is a place for all lawyers entering the legal profession,” he explained, “it’s difficult to know where your place is during law school.” For this reason, he is among many faculty members at Tech Law who strive to “raise the value of Tech Law degrees and foster more opportunities for our law students.”

Professor Gonzalez also strives to balance his energy and efforts among his family, teaching and giving back to the community. “In large law firms, there is a tremendous amount of pressure to bill hours and other pressures which, in effect, are disincentives for mentoring. As a professor, I am able to mentor and engage in meaningful pro bono work practicing employment law,” Gonzalez said.

Professor Gonzalez has received numerous awards for his pro bono service, including recognition from Legal Aid of Northwest Texas and the Lubbock County Bar Association.

When asked about his remarkable career, Professor Gonzalez exudes his dedication to his wife and Tech Law. He attributes much of his success to his wife, Leisha, who is his avid supporter and an active participant in his career-related activities. When asked where he sees himself in the next five to ten years, Professor Gonzalez unhesitatingly replies “a proud father and husband, and hopefully still teaching and writing here at Tech.”

Professor Gonzalez’s education, experience, dedication, work ethic, integrity and reputation surpass expectations. He is an asset to Texas Tech School of Law, and the legal profession as a whole. We are as proud to have Professor Gonzalez as part of Tech Law’s family and look forward to him making a difference in our law school and community. ■

## W. Frank Newton Professor of Law Dean Huffman

by James Urban

**A** Tech Law legend. An improver and idealist. A legal educator, a lawyer and a leader. Only a few people fit this description, and one of them is the current Dean of Texas Tech Law School of Law, Walter B. Huffman. Another is former Texas Tech School of Law Dean W. Frank Newton, which is why it is fitting that Dean Huffman has been commended our W. Frank Newton Professor of Law.

Wayne Reaud ’74 of Beaumont made a generous gift to the law school and endowed the professorship honoring Dean Newton.

The W. Frank Newton Professor of Law is an endowment benefiting the Dean of Tech Law and makes both the position and the law school more prestigious. The endowment helps bring Tech Law to par with older law schools, as an endowed deanship is a mark of maturity. Not every law school can boast of such an accomplishment and a position of honor, but now Tech Law can. The endowment will assist in freeing up funding that was used to assist our dean with the important costs of his office, including travel and representative responsibilities, as well as other important law school expenditures and programs—scholarships and money for student competition teams, just to name a few. The professorship may also assist in attracting the best candidates for the Dean’s position in the future.

And why name the award after W. Frank Newton? Simple—because he is a legal legend. Those who currently roam the halls of Tech Law know this from either his picture hanging in the law school forum or the dedication outside the law library, the first icon you see when entering the main doors of the law school. He is, and will likely remain for quite some time, the longest serving dean in the history of Tech Law. During his sixteen years as dean, 1985-2001, Dean Newton expanded the law library, attracted more prestigious professors and increased the visibility of Tech Law. Dean Newton also served as President of the State Bar of Texas, giving Tech Law a more state-wide image.

Dean Newton is probably most remembered for his zealous advocacy for

the underrepresented. His philosophy could best be described as law for all, and that everyone deserves equal access to justice, regardless of their wealth or social status. The State Bar annually honors an outstanding law firm for their pro bono work, and the award is named after W. Frank Newton.

Dean Huffman shares many of the qualities W. Frank Newton is notable for, especially in his accomplishments for, and his dedication to, Tech Law. Dean Huffman, like Dean Newton, is presiding over one of the most important expansions of the law school in its forty-year history with the Lanier building addition. Dean Huffman—now embarking on his sixth year as Dean of Tech Law—has also continued to improve the image of the law school right where Dean Newton left off. Dean Huffman’s hard work to attract the best and brightest students and professors is evident with nationally recognized faculty, like Gerry Beyer who began at Tech Law in 2005 and Arnold Loewy who began in 2006, as well as the rest of the remarkable faculty and staff currently serving the law school. Dean Huffman is constantly working on improving the quality of legal education here at Tech Law.

What may be more important than the similarities between these two Tech Law legends is the fact that Dean Huffman is the first to receive the award. It is fitting that Dean Huffman would be the first to receive the endowment, given the uncanny resemblances of their two administrations. More interesting still is that Dean Huffman and Dean Newton are also friends. Both share the same respect and care for Tech Law and the legal profession in general.

No one knows for sure whether Dean Huffman will be at Tech Law as long as W. Frank Newton, just like no one knows who the next dean will be whenever that day comes. We can only hope that the deans’ predecessors will lead the law school just as commendably. We must remember that though we are all part of the legal profession, and most of us are leaders, it takes dedication, hard work and persistence to become a Texas Tech School of Law legend. ■



## Family Law Society is Hopping!

by Elizabeth Lieb

During my marital property class one day, the professor went around the room and asked what field of law each student planned to practice. As I listened to students' responses, I realized that I was not one of few, but one of many who planned to practice family law. "Wow," I thought. "If there are so many students interested in family law, why isn't there a forum for discussion, training and networking?" It was time that Texas Tech School of Law had a family law venue. As I've learned, the life of a lawyer is about evolving in areas of knowledge, communication, finesse and growth.

After realizing the need for an organization suited to our field of interest, Julie Bohrer '08, and I founded the Family Law Society. We recruited Joey Dyson '08 to be Treasurer and Victor Wanjura '08 to be Secretary. Each of us took active roles in getting the organization rolling. We are now proud that the Family Law Society is one of the law school's newest—and most successful—organizations.

The administration and staff at Tech Law are extremely supportive of all the organizations and ours was no different. We were encouraged and accommodated as we journeyed through the process.

After writing the Family Law Society Constitution and applying for organization status with the Student Bar Association, we began our first semester in the spring of 2007. We thought recruiting members would be hard, but the amount of interest among fellow students surprised us.

"I was so excited to hear about this organization because family law, with a focus on juvenile law, is my passion. I am thankful that Julie and Elizabeth started this organization so that we can bring more light into the family law arena, a field that pulls at my heart," said Cory Beth Davis '08.

Monica Escamilla '08 joined the organization "because I want to practice family law and hoped this organi-

zation would introduce me to speakers and events that were more oriented to my desired field of practice."

Professor Larry Spain agreed to advise the Family Law Society and helped us contact our first speaker, Jolyn Wilkins '90. Wilkins is an alum of our law school and one of only two Board Certified Family Law Specialists in the Lubbock area. She spoke to a packed courtroom (over 70 attendees) about collaborative law across the South Plains. Her presentation was educational and thought provoking. "Ms. Wilkins was a wonderful speaker—she was entertaining, informative and receptive to everyone's questions," Julie Bohrer said. The event was a huge success, and frankly, I was

elated and very proud.

In April 2007, the organization teamed up with the Volunteer Law Students Association for the law school's chili cook-off on accepted students' day. In the words of our team's head chef, Victor Wanjura, "The chili cook-off was a lot of fun and a great way for the Family Law Society to kick off its first semester of activity." The group made "Rockabilly Chili," which won third place in the contest.

"The Family Law Society is growing rapidly. The chili festival assisted our organization in becoming better known to the rest of the community and helped spark growth," Joey Dyson said.

*"If there are so many students interested in family law, why isn't there a forum for discussion, training and networking?" It was time that Texas Tech School of Law had a family law venue.*





Our most entertaining event was the Beyer Bunny fundraiser. Gerry Beyer, one of Tech Law's most popular and most respected faculty members, after a small amount of persuasion (well, I begged) agreed to dress up as the Easter Bunny. Faculty, staff, students and children were invited to take pictures with the Beyer Bunny. Not only did the law school faculty and staff support the event whole-heartedly, but their families did as well. Mrs. Beyer was also a huge help. She sent a special invitation to the Tech Law Partners, an organization for law students' significant others, and many came with children in tow to

enjoy the very honorable bunny. Adults and children alike had a wonderful time as this rather tongue-in-cheek event proved profitable and unique. We raised over \$300 dollars in a little over an hour. We intend to use this money to pay for speakers during the upcoming year.

The success of this event shows that our Family Law Society must focus, as often as possible, on families. As Family Law Society members, we intend to serve the law school by offering new, fun events like this one. It is in the best interest of any community to serve the family, and at the end of the day, that is what family attorneys are

striving for.

"At some point in time every attorney will practice some form of family law and an organization that is growing like ours will help our colleagues become better prepared in the future," Joey Dyson said.

The Family Law Society officers for 2007-2008 are President Amber Thompson '09, Vice President Monica Escamilla, Secretary Caitlin Thomas '09 and Treasurer Cory Beth Davis. The officers expect to have many more speakers and continue to help the organization grow. I look forward to being part of their team, and I am very proud of their spirit and tenacity. ■

## A Distinguished Professor Helps Raise Tech Law to a New Level

by Ronn Garcia

**O**n March 30, 2007, the Texas Tech University Board of Regents named three new Horn Professors—one of who was Texas Tech School of Law's very own Professor William R. Casto.

"Appointment as a Paul Whitfield Horn Professor is both an exceptional personal achievement for Bill Casto and a significant event for the School of Law," Dean Walter B. Huffman said. "The Horn Professorship is the highest honor Texas Tech University bestows upon faculty."

Casto received his B.A. in 1970 and his J.D. in 1973 from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He received his J.S.D. in 1983 from Columbia University. During his time in private practice, Casto worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority on special litigation projects, particularly relating to energy matters.

Before coming to Tech Law, Casto had the rare honor of arguing cases before multiple federal appellate courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. One case Casto argued in front of the Supreme Court was *T.D.A. v. Hill* (citation omitted). In *Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain*, 542 U.S. 692 (2004), the U.S. Supreme Court cited Casto multiple times in a case involving the Alien Tort Statute and adopted his analysis as the legal authority.

Professor Casto joined the Tech Law faculty in 1983. Naturally, among the courses that Casto teaches at Tech Law, his favorite subject is federal courts. Throughout Casto's career at Tech, law students around the country have also had the privilege of learning from Casto's expertise in the law; Casto has been a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Alabama, the University of Tennessee, the University of South Carolina and the University of Connecticut. Casto emphasizes that while his experiences as a visiting professor have been enjoyable, he simply "loves Tech."

During his career, Casto has also authored a number of publications, including books, law review articles, and legal essays. Casto's recent publications include *Foreign Affairs and the Constitution in the Age of Fighting Sail* (University of South Carolina Press, 2006); *"Dear Sister Antillaco ...": The Story of Kirksey v. Kirksey*, 94 GEORGETOWN L.J. 321 (2006); and *The New Federal*

*Common Law of Tort Remedies for Violations of International Law*, 37 RUTGERS L.J. 635 (2006).

Prior to receiving a Horn Professorship, Casto held the Alvin R. Allison Professorship, named after the attorney who helped establish Tech Law. When named a Horn Professor, "Casto [became] only the fifth professor in the history of Tech Law to be so honored—joining Horn Professor Marilyn Phelan and Horn Professor (emeritus) Daniel Benson on our current faculty—which is the first time in our history that Texas Tech Law has had more than one active Horn Professor in the Law School," Dean Huffman said.

"We are extremely proud of Professor Casto and very excited about his appointment as a Horn Professor. As many of our alumni are well aware, Bill Casto is not only an exceptional teacher, but also a nationally-renowned scholar in the fields of both law and history; thus, his selection as a Horn Professor is very well-deserved," Dean Huffman added.

"You don't really strive to be a Horn Professor; there's so few of them. It's such an exceptional honor that it just happens," Casto said. "The honor is nice recognition, but most of all it brings honor to the law school."

In addition to Casto's legal expertise, he is well-respected for his character among his colleagues. "Bill is the kind of colleague I had hoped to find when I joined the legal academy—he is someone who loves to 'talk the law' and has both the interest and ability to discuss almost any legal subject with wit and acumen," Professor Bryan Camp said. Professor Robert Weninger agreed: "Some of the most delightful times that I have had are just going to lunch with him and enjoying the conversation. Unquestionably, Bill Casto is one of the preeminent scholars in the area of legal history."

Along with the influence that Professor Casto has already made in the legal community and the study of law, his most current achievement simply represents another level of greatness. As Dean Huffman put it, "It is just another indication that our law school is moving from great to even greater." ■



Dean Walter B. Huffman and the members of the Texas Tech Law School Foundation thank the Alumni & Friends who have generously contributed to Tech Law

*The following gifts were received July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007*

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Johnson & Vasquez, El Paso

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Cowles & Thompson, Dallas

**Joshua T. Westrom '01**

Cowles & Thompson, Dallas

**Sandra R. White '98**

Clear Channel Communications, San Antonio

**Ashleigh R. Wilkes '04**

Atkins & O'Toole, Dallas

**Greg C. Wilkins '96**

Orgain Bell & Tucker, Beaumont

**Wesley P. Williams '98**

Thompson & Knight, Dallas



# Tech Law Alumni Named Super Lawyers of 2007 by *Law & Politics* and *Texas Monthly*

## Rodney Acker '74

Fulbright & Jaworski, Dallas

## Bruce W. Akerly '82

Bell, Nunnally & Martin, Dallas

## Leota H. Alexander '70

Attorney at Law, Dallas

## William R. Allensworth '74

Allensworth and Porter, Austin

## Christy Amuny '90

Jenkins & Martin, Beaumont

## Henry J. "Hank" Anderson, III '73

The Anderson Law Firm, Wichita Falls

## George Paul Andritsos '93

Attorney at Law, El Paso

## Douglas C. Atnipp '85

Greenberg Traurig, Houston

## Carlos A. Balido '90

Walters, Balido & Crain, Dallas

## Brian D. Barnard '81

Haynes and Boone, Fort Worth

## Hershell L. Barnes, Jr. '70

The Barnes Law Firm, Dallas

## Daniel R. Barrett '79

Taylor, Olson, Adkins, Sralla & Elam, Fort Worth

## Tommy Bastian '74

Barrett Burke Wilson Castle Daffin & Frappier, Addison

## Daniel L. Bates '78

Decker Jones McMackin McClane Hall & Bates, Fort Worth

## Steve A. Bavousett '75

Attorney at Law, Houston

## E. Link Beck '75

Beck & Given, El Paso

## Robert A. Black '80

MehaffyWeber, Beaumont

## Ernest W. Boyd '92

MehaffyWeber, Houston

## Eric M. Brittain '92

Scott Hulse Marshall Feuille Finger & Thurmond, El Paso

## Deborah L. Brown '77

Baker Brown & Thompson, Lubbock

## J. David Brown '78

Winstead Sechrest & Minick, Dallas

## Dennis R. Burrows '73

McCleskey Harriger Brazill and Graf, Lubbock

## Marcus J. Busch '82

United States Attorney's Office, Dallas

## Alan L. Campbell '85

Kyle Campbell Mathis & Lucas, Dallas

## Christopher William Carr '94

Jones Carr McGoldrick, Dallas

## M.C. Carrington '82

MehaffyWeber, Beaumont

## Milton C. Colia '77

Kemp Smith, El Paso

## Curry L. Cooksey '82

Orgain Bell & Tucker, Houston

## Richard W. Crews, Jr. '72

Hartline Dacus Barger Dreyer & Kern, Corpus Christi

## Timothy J. Crowley '83

Crowley Douglas & Norman, Houston

## Greg W. Curry '89

Thompson & Knight, Dallas

## Erwin Davenport '75

Gibson, Hotchkiss, Roach & Davenport, Wichita Falls

## Clinton J. David '80

David Goodman & Madole, Dallas

## William B. Dawson '75

Vinson & Elkins, Dallas

## Henri J. Dussault '85

Brackett & Ellis, Fort Worth

## Robert N. Eames '70

Holmes, Woods, Diggs & Eames, Denton

## Sally Holt Emerson '79

Underwood, Wilson, Berry, Stein & Johnson, Amarillo

## Lance T. Evans '91

Evans, Daniel, Gandy & Moore, Fort Worth

## Suzan E. Fenner '71

Gardere, Wynne, Sewell, Dallas

## Guy N. Fields, III '74

The Fields Law Firm, El Paso

## S. Rafe Foreman '88

Foreman Lewis & Hutchison, Grapevine

## Daniel C. Garner '75

Hunton & Williams, Dallas

## Risher Smith Gilbert '78

The Gilbert Law Firm, El Paso

## Kevin T. Glasheen '88

Glasheen, Valles & DeHoyos, Lubbock

## Brett C. Govett '90

Fulbright & Jaworski, Dallas

## Thomas A. Greenwald '92

Goranson, Bain, Larson & Greenwald, Dallas

## Lynn A. Grisham '83

Waltman & Grisham, College Station

## Gene S. Hagood '77

Hagood & Neumann, Alvin

## Randy J. Hall '76

Decker, Jones, McMackin, McClane, Hall & Bates, Fort Worth

## Robert W. Hammer '82

Attorney at Law, Fort Worth

## J. Richard Harmon '91

Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, Dallas

## Steven A. Harr '80

Munsch, Hardt, Kopf & Harr, Dallas

## Amy S. Harris '87

MacDonald Devin, Dallas

## Martha Harris '84

Thompson & Knight, Dallas

## Jim S. Hart '91

Williams & Bailey Law Firm, Houston

## Grover Hartt, III '73

U.S. Department of Justice, Dallas

## Jay Harvey '82

Winckler & Harvey, Austin

## Gregory A. Harwell '90

Gardere, Wynne, Sewell, Dallas

## David P. Hassler '76

Scott, Hulse, Marshall, Feuille, Finger & Thurmond, El Paso

## Joe W. Hayes '72

Templeton Smithee Hayes Heinrich & Russell, Amarillo

## Brian P. Heinrich '91

Templeton Smithee Hayes Heinrich & Russell, Amarillo

## John R. Henderson '75

Brown McCarroll, Dallas

## D. Steven Henry '84

Gardere, Wynne, Sewell, Dallas

## Michael J. Henry '81

Jose, Henry, Brantley, MacLean & Alvarado, Fort Worth

## Paul R. Heyburn '93

MehaffyWeber, Houston

## Larry W. Hicks '80

Hicks & Lucky, El Paso

## Richard C. Hile '74

Dies & Hile, Austin

## Tom E. Hill '72

Hill & Woodard, Fort Worth

## Lin Hughes '87

McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore, Austin

## Michael S. Hull '81

Hull, Henricks & MacRae, Austin

## Charles W. Hurd '73

Fulbright & Jaworski, Houston

## Daniel W. Hurley '78

Hurley & Guinn, Lubbock

## Michael L. Hurst '85

Hermes Sargent Bates, Dallas

## Susan E. Hutchison '87

Foreman, Lewis & Hutchison, Grapevine

## David M. Hymer '89

Hermes Sargent Bates, Dallas

## Shawna Johannsen '85

Bank of America, Dallas

## Timothy D. Johnson '91

Gordon & Mott, El Paso

## Latrelle Bright Joy '82

Mullin Hoard Brown, Lubbock

## E. Paul Keiffer '81

Hance Scarborough Wright Ginsberg & Brusilow, Dallas

## Heather L. King '95

The King Firm, Fort Worth

## Karl W. Koen '91

Grau Koen, Dallas

## Stephen T. Krier '77

Clifford, Krier, Wilkerson & Wright, Lubbock

## Rick L. Lambert '91

Sessions Lambert Selwyn, Dallas

## Mark Lanier '84

The Lanier Law Firm, Houston

## George L. Lankford '83

Fanning, Harper & Martinson, Dallas

## Randy T. Leavitt '80

Attorney at Law, Austin

## Neel Lemon '79

Baker Botts, Dallas

## Roland Leon '75

Barker Leon & Fancher, Corpus Christi

## Kern A. Lewis '86

Foreman Lewis & Hutchison, Grapevine

## Kyle R. Lewis '76

Moore, Lewis & Russworm, Dumas

## Joe L. Lovell '87

Lovell, Lovell, Newsom & Isern, Amarillo

## Jackie Wayne Marr '74

Marr Meier & Bradicich, Victoria

## William B. Mateja '86

Fish & Richardson, Dallas

## Randal Mathis '80

Mathis & Donheiser, Dallas

## Kenneth L. McAlister '79

Attorney at Law, Fort Worth

## David R. McClure '75

Attorney at Law, El Paso

## Lisa E. McKnight '91

Attorney at Law, Dallas

## Mary Alice McLarty '83

The McLarty Firm, Dallas

## Wade H. McMullen '82

McMullen Law Firm, Fort Worth

## Steven L. Mierl '94

Cornell Smith & Mierl, Austin

## Carmen S. Mitchell '82

Mitchell, Goff & Mitchell, Dallas

## Michael R. Mitchell '89

Mitchell, Goff & Mitchell, Dallas

## H. Christopher Mott '83

Gordon & Mott, El Paso

## Frank E. Murchison, III '74

Attorney at Law, Lubbock

## Thomas W. Myers '82

Andrews Myers Coulter & Cohen, Houston

## Danny M. Needham '75

Mullin, Hoard & Brown, Amarillo

## Tim Newsom '92

Lovell, Lovell, Newsom & Isern, Amarillo



**R. Michael Northrup '88**  
Cowles & Thompson, Dallas  
**Keith V. Novick '84**  
Gardere, Wynne, Sewell, Dallas  
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Brin & Brin, Corpus Christi  
**James R. Old, Jr. '88**  
Germer Gertz, Beaumont  
**Holland N. O'Neil '87**  
Gardere, Wynne, Sewell, Dallas  
**Jordan M. Parker '90**  
Cantey & Hanger, Fort Worth  
**E. Lee Parsley '89**  
Attorney at Law, Austin  
**Stephen M. Pezanosky '91**  
Haynes and Boone, Fort Worth  
**Rothwell B. Pool '73**  
Attorney at Law, Terrell  
**Ron Poole '74**  
Attorney at Law, Wichita Falls  
**Craig E. Power '79**  
Cokinos, Bosien & Young, Houston  
**Wade R. Quinn '88**  
Lyman, Twining, Weinberg & Ferrell, Houston  
**Laurie Ratliff '92**  
Ikard Wynne & Ratliff, Austin  
**Wayne A. Reaud '74**  
Reaud, Morgan & Quinn, Beaumont  
**Alan Rhodes '83**  
Underwood, Wilson, Berry, Stein & Johnson,  
Amarillo  
**Barbara K. Runge '74**  
Attorney at Law, Houston  
**David L. Sargent '81**  
Hermes, Sargent, Bates, Dallas  
**Jerry K. Sawyer '74**  
Whitaker, Chalk, Swindle & Sawyer,  
Fort Worth

**Toby L. Shook '83**  
Dallas County District Attorney's Office, Dallas  
**Ron Simank '84**  
Schauer & Simank, Corpus Christi  
**John E. Simpson, III '74**  
Splawn Simpson Pitts, Lubbock  
**Ken K. Slavin '85**  
Kemp Smith, El Paso  
**Craig Smith '76**  
Demarest Smith & Giunta, Dallas  
**John T. Smithee '76**  
Templeton Smithee Hayes Heinrich & Russell, Amarillo  
**James M. Stewart '78**  
Stewart Stimmel, Dallas  
**C.W. Stocker, III '78**  
Whitaker, Chalk, Swindle & Sawyer, Fort Worth  
**Mark E. Stradley '84**  
Stradley & Wright, Dallas  
**Scott Summy '90**  
Baron & Budd, Dallas  
**David G. Surratt '84**  
Canterbury, Stuber, Elder, Gooch & Surratt, Dallas  
**Mitchell A. Toups '82**  
Weller, Green, Toups & Terrell, Beaumont  
**Kelly D. Utsinger '79**  
Underwood, Wilson, Berry, Stein & Johnson,  
Amarillo  
**Darryl Vereen '92**  
Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi & Galatzan, El Paso  
**Behrooz P. Vida '90**  
Venable & Vida, Bedford  
**Susan Vrana '77**  
Moore & Vrana, Dallas  
**Robert B. Wagstaff '89**  
Wagstaff & Watson, Abilene  
**W. Scott Wallace '79**  
Haynes and Boone, Dallas  
**Robert B. Waltman '83**  
Waltman & Grisham, College Station

**Charles R. Watson '77**  
Locke Liddell & Sapp, Austin  
**Frank E. Weathered '78**  
Dunn, Weathered, Coffey, Rivera, Kasperitis &  
Rodriguez, Corpus Christi  
**Philip R. Weems '82**  
King & Spaulding, Dubai  
**Geoffrey D. Weisbart '86**  
Hance Scarborough Wright Woodward & Weisbart,  
Austin  
**John A. Wenke '93**  
Attorney at Law, El Paso  
**Glenn D. West '78**  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges, Dallas  
**Greg Westfall '93**  
Westfall, Platt & Cutrer, Fort Worth  
**Larry Wharton '75**  
Jones, Flygare, Brown & Wharton, Lubbock  
**Mark D. White '82**  
Sprouse Shrader Smith, Amarillo  
**Jo Ben Whittenburg '73**  
Orgain, Bell & Tucker, Beaumont  
**Melody M. Wilkinson '88**  
Cooley Manion Jones, Fort Worth  
**Gene M. Williams '78**  
Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Houston  
**Amy K. Witherite '93**  
Eberstein & Witherite, Dallas  
**James T. Womack '88**  
Attorney at Law, Longview  
**Channy F. Wood '94**  
Wood Law Firm, Amarillo  
**Douglas R. Woodburn '75**  
Woodburn, Watkins & Jackson, Amarillo  
**Kay Woods '86**  
Holmes, Woods, Diggs & Eames, McKinney  
**Brian K. Yost '88**  
Decker, Jones, McMackin, McClane, Hall & Bates,  
Fort Worth



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## 3rd Annual Law School Gala & 40th Anniversary Celebration

September 22, 2006 | McInturff Conference Center



L to R: Hon. Phil Johnson '75, Kimberly Blankenship, Mark Blankenship '88



L to R: Kevin Nelson '96 and Ginger Pearson Nelson '95



L to R: Mark Lanier '84, Hon. William Moody '75, Joe Moody '06



L to R: Carolyn Simpson, Julie Doss '99, Arlene Matthews '00



L to R: Dub Bratcher '75, Barbara Bratcher, Ann Key, Roger Key '76



L to R: Tiffany Colunga '06, Joni Ogle '07, Casey Alcantar '07, Amber Ramon '07



L to R: Jerry Dixon '81, Walt Huffman '77, Hon. Robert Duncan '81, Debbie Dixon, Evan Dixon



L to R: Sarah Segrest, David Segrest '70, Sid Walker



## Houston Area Alumni Reception

November 6, 2006 | Home of Mark '84 & Becky Lanier



L to R: Michael Holley '98, Renee Holley, Renee Parker, Kevin Parker '86, Jane Campbell '06, Dwana Waltman '96



L to R: Kim Green, Kenneth Green '02, Barbara Runge '74



L to R: Walt Huffman '77, Becky Lanier, Mark Lanier '84



L to R: Konor Cormier '03, Bob Hancock '02, Jennifer Hancock



L to R: Kristi Cormier, Jeremy Kennedy '03, Kara Kennedy



L to R: Will Petit '05, Walt Huffman '77, Lee Thweatt '98



L to R: Walt Huffman '77, Hon. Kem Thompson Frost '83



## Distinguished Alumnus Recognized at Texas Tech University Football Game



L to R: Hon. Phil Johnson '75, Carla Johnson, Walt Huffman '77, David Segrest '70

## Bryan/College Station Alumni Reception

March 5, 2007 | Cafe Eccell



L to R: Cory Crenshaw '04, Cameron Reynolds '94, Danny Smith '04



L to R: Walt Huffman '77, Steve Rodgers '78



L to R: Sid Walker, Wes Hall '77



# BUILDING ON EXCELLENCE

Naming Opportunities at the  
Mark & Becky Lanier Professional Development Center



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**A. Brick Pavers** Engraved, black on red, 4" x 8". Located near main entrance of the Lanier Professional Development Center. \$100

**B. Stone Pavers** Engraved, black on gray, 11.5" x 18". Located near the entrance of the Lanier Center. \$500

**C. Wall Markers** Engraved stone, black on gray, 11.5" x 18". Located on landscape accent wall near entrance of the Lanier Center. \$1,000

**D. Study Carrels** Engraved black on brass plaque on wood, 4" x 6". Located in the law library (main law school facility). Specific carrels available on a first come, first served basis. \$2,500

**E. Benches** Cast bronze plaque (2" x 24") on outdoor wooden bench. Benches located throughout the School of Law. \$5,000

For information on naming opportunities, please e-mail [casey.carson@ttu.edu](mailto:casey.carson@ttu.edu)



## Bruce Kramer Roast

December 1, 2006 | The Lubbock Club



L to R: Bruce Kramer, Drew Vaughan, Walt Huffman '77, Josh Henderson



L to R: Leila Kallel, Bruce Kramer, Sonya Jones '06



L to R: Bruce Kramer, Jud Waltman '96



L to R: Michael Holley '98, Walt Huffman '77, Marilyn Kramer, Bruce Kramer, Dwana Waltman '96, Jud Waltman '96, Kevin Parker '86

## Dallas Area Reception

March 30, 2007 | Tower Club



L to R: Eric Klein '03, Kortney Klein '03, Kara Altenbaumer-Price '03



L to R: Amanda Catlin '02, Julie Doss '99



L to R: Krisi Kastl '99, Carrie Morris '98



L to R: Ken Hevron '78, Sam Boyd '77, DeLilah Boyd, Anne Huffman



## KEVIN GLASHEEN ANNOUNCES EXPANSION FROM LUBBOCK TO SAN ANGELO

Kevin Glasheen (Class of 1988) and Noe Valles (Class of 1993) have teamed up with Rick DeHoyos in San Angelo to open a new office in San Angelo, Texas. The new firm is Glasheen, Valles & DeHoyos, L.L.P. The Lubbock based firm is well known for representing plaintiffs in personal injury cases.

Kevin Glasheen and Noe Valles have been practicing together in Lubbock where their past successes include two of the largest jury verdicts in railroad crossing accident cases. The firm also handles a number of oilfield, trucking, industrial, agricultural and automobile accident cases. The firm has long been a leader in technology, employing a full-time audio-visual graphic, arts department which includes medical illustrations and animations in accident cases.

Some of the firm's more notable recent achievements include: a motorcycle injury case where the client netted 6.3 million dollars; a Gas Plant Explosion death case where the clients netted 1.9 million dollars; and, an oilfield chemical burn injury case where the client netted 2.5 million dollars.

Rick DeHoyos brings a lot of experience and expertise to the firm. Rick grew up in Ozona, Texas and graduated from Angelo State University and University of Texas School of Law. Rick's 20 year law practice includes representing the State Attorney General's Office in tort cases, the City of San Angelo and the last ten years in private practice representing plaintiffs in personal injury matters. The firm's presence in San Angelo is a natural extension of its focus on oilfield, truck wreck, industrial, and agricultural accident cases from around the region. "Most of our cases are referrals from other attorneys and so it is important for us to work with a guy like Rick who has a great reputation among other attorneys", says Kevin Glasheen, partner at the firm.



*Noe Valles, Kevin Glasheen and Rick DeHoyos*

Other lawyers at the firm include Chad Inderman (Class of 2003) and Jason Medina who is a 2003 Baylor graduate.

The firm has strong ties to Texas Tech. Its principal office in Lubbock employs law clerks from Tech Law School, and Kevin Glasheen serves on the Board of the Law School Foundation. The firm also provides office space for the "Texas Tech Innocence Project" where law students work with adjunct professors to help review claims of innocence by convicted persons.

The firm is excited about its expansion. Despite changes in tort law over the past several legislative sessions, the firm believes there is still plenty of work for personal injury lawyers. "Even with the changes in the law, a wrongful death case is still a significant case. We find that if you take an aggressive approach to these cases and put the resources into them, you can still achieve significant results for your clients". With its five attorneys and staff of 15 support personnel the firm is capable of handling cases ranging from simple soft tissue injuries to wrongful death and catastrophic injury cases.

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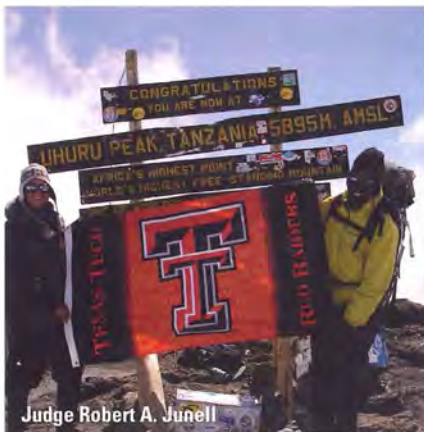
# Texas Tech School of Law Alumni



Barbara K. Runge

## 1974

**Barbara K. Runge** was named a Top Family Lawyer for 2006 and 2007 by *H Texas Magazine*. Runge has been board certified in family law since 1981 and is also a mediator and arbitrator.



Judge Robert A. Junell

## 1976

**Judge Robert A. Junell** spent two weeks with his son, Ryan, in Africa. Led by their guide, Ernest Edwards, they climbed and were fortunate to summit Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest peak in Africa standing at a height of 19,340 feet.

## 1978

**Tom Parrish** is teaching International Law at the Liberty University School of Law and undergraduate Business Law at the School of Business.



Toby Shook

## 1983

**Toby Shook**, a longtime assistant district attorney in Dallas who was recognized as one of the nation's top prosecutors, has joined the criminal defense firm of Fitzpatrick Hagood Smith & Uhl in Dallas. The full-service firm represents defendants in state and federal white-collar criminal cases and other high-profile legal matters.

## 1984

**Martha Harris** has been selected as a Texas Super Lawyer for 2006 as well as one of the Best Lawyers in America for 2007. Harris is a partner at Thompson & Knight in Dallas and her primary practice area is real estate law.

**Tanya K. Pierce** has been named Chief of Staff to Administrator **Karen Tandy '77** at the Drug Enforcement Administration.



Tanya Pierce

The international law firm of Thompson & Knight LLP has announced that **Frank Waite** has joined the Firm as Of Counsel in the Dallas office. Waite has more than 20 years of experience representing municipal governments on matters involving constitutional, employment and tort claims.

## 1985

**Alan Campbell** has joined the firm of Kyle Mathis & Lucas. The firm will now be known as Kyle Campbell Mathis & Lucas, LLP. Campbell can be reached at (214) 706-7602 or [acampbell@kcmlaw.com](mailto:acampbell@kcmlaw.com).

Thompson & Knight is pleased to announce the expansion of its Real Estate and Banking Practice Group with the addition of **Jay Gibson** as Partner in the Dallas office. Gibson focuses his practice on real estate and business transactions.

## 1987

**Tim Perrin**, a longtime professor and associate provost for Pepperdine University, has been selected as Vice Dean for the Pepperdine University School of Law. Perrin will be working closely with Dean Kenneth Starr in his new position as Vice Dean.

## 1988

**Charles "Charlie" Morse** is now board certified in workers' compensation law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He is associated with the firm of Downs & Stanford and manages their Austin office. His



office is located at 4425 S. Mopac, Bldg. III, Suite 500, Austin, TX 78735. He can be reached at (512) 891-7771.

## 1989

**Greg W. Curry** has been selected as a Texas Super Lawyer for 2006 as well as one of the Best Lawyers in America for 2007. Curry is a partner at Thompson & Knight in Dallas and his primary practice area is commercial litigation.

## 1994

**Mollee B. Westfall** was recently sworn in as a Tarrant County District Judge for the 371st District Court.

## 1997

**Cheryl Lay** was appointed as a full-time magistrate for the City of El Paso, effective January 1, 2007. Lay remains a partner in the law firm of Leslie & Lay, P.C. She was also named a Rising Star by *Texas Monthly*.

**Adam Reed** was named a partner at Hermes Sargent Bates LLP in Dallas. Hermes Sargent Bates is a full-service defense firm with a wide range of litigation and transactional practice areas. Reed concentrates his practice primarily in transportation litigation and commercial litigation.

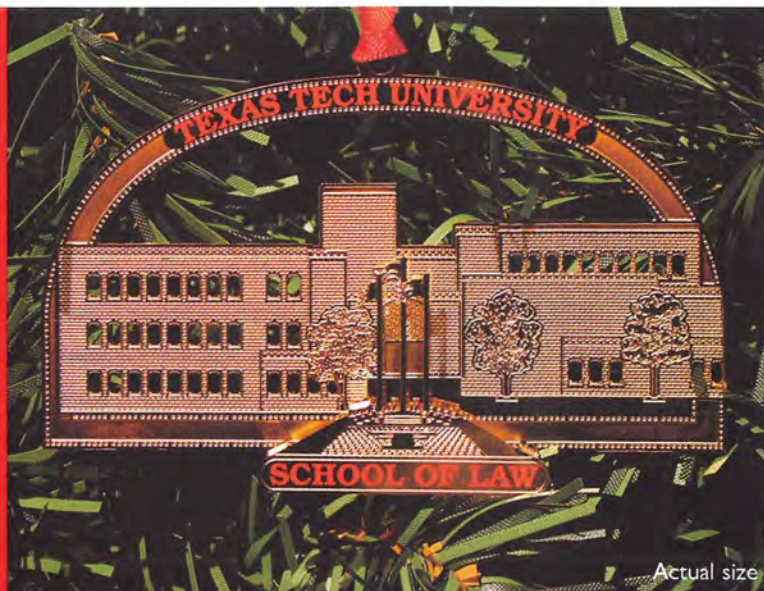


Charles Miller

## 1998

**Charles Miller** has joined Heygood, Orr,

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Reyes & Bartolomei as a partner. Miller's practice will focus on complex commercial litigation. Heygood, Orr, Reyes & Bartolomei is a Dallas firm.

Marvin E. Sprouse III



**Marvin E. Sprouse, III** has been named a partner in the Litigation and Bankruptcy, Creditors Rights, and Corporate Reorganization sections of Jackson Walker. Sprouse practices in the firm's Austin office.

## 1999

**Walker F. Crowson** was presented with the El Paso Society for Human Resource Management Professional of the Year Award. Crowson is certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in labor and employment law.

**James "Beau" Eccles** has been appointed as the Deputy Chief of the General Litigation Division of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas.

**Lee A. Kirksey** has been named a Shareholder at Maddox, Holloman & Kirksey, P.C. in Hobbs, New Mexico. Kirksey's practice areas include litigation, civil practice, juvenile law, commercial litigation, guardianship and conservatorship, and family law.

**J. Frasher Murphy** has been named a Shareholder with Winstead Sechrest & Minick, P.C. Murphy practices in Winstead's Dallas office in the Bankruptcy and Business Restructuring Practice Area.

**Mark E. Scott** has been named a Shareholder with Conley Rose, P.C. Scott specializes in complex patent prosecution and related litigation in the Austin office of Conley Rose.

## 2000

**George "Toby" Wommack, III** was recognized by *Fort Worth, Texas* magazine for his excellence in banking law. Wommack is an associate with Jackson Walker LLP in Fort Worth.

## 2002

**Mark J. Elmore** and Marisa Pruett Elmore of Dallas were proud to welcome their son, Elliott Jude Elmore, into their family on May 15, 2006.



Joel W. Heydenburk

## 2003

**Joel W. Heydenburk** has been elected President of the Board of Directors for Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association. Heydenburk was also recognized by *Fort Worth, Texas* magazine for his excellence in the field of real estate law. He is an associate with Jackson Walker LLP in Fort Worth.

**Gregory J. Kish** has founded the law firm of Kish & Manktelow, P.C. in Richardson, Texas, along with partner **Michael J. Manktelow '04**. The firm handles

personal injury and business litigation matters in the Dallas area and throughout Texas.

**Danielle E. Needham** was recognized by *Fort Worth, Texas* magazine for her excellence in appellate law and labor employment law. Needham is an associate with Jackson Walker LLP in Fort Worth.

**Chris M. Riley**, formerly an associate with Shannon, Gracey, Ratliff & Miller LLP in Fort Worth, has moved to Abilene to join his alma mater, Abilene Christian University as Associate General Counsel. Riley can be reached at ACU Legal Services, ACU Box 29125, Abilene, Texas 79699 or (325) 674-2485.

## 2004

**Mark S. DesNoyer** has accepted a position as Appellate Counsel at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C.



Chris W. Hogue

**Chris W. Hogue** has accepted a position as an associate with Sayles Werbner P.C. in Dallas. Hogue can be reached at [chogue@swtriallaw.com](mailto:chogue@swtriallaw.com) or (214) 939-8749.

Thompson & Knight is pleased to announce the expansion of its Real Estate and Banking Practice Group with the addition of **Misty Willcox** as Associate in the Dallas office. Misty focuses her practice on real estate and real estate finance matters. She assists clients with acquisitions and dispositions, and drafting and negotiating commercial leases.





## 2006

**Megan H. Brignon** is an associate in the Litigation section of Jackson Walker. Megan practices in the Dallas office.

**Camisha Simmons** will join the New York office of Weil Gotshal & Manges as an associate following her clerkship with the United States Bankruptcy Court of the District of Delaware.



Alice Anderson in Austin?  
Plaintiff's attorney in Port Arthur?

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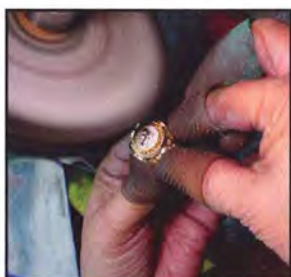
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