

TEXAS TECH LAWYER

FALL 2015

AT THE HELM: LAW-FIRM LEADERS

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CAPITOL LAWYERS

PG. 15

Holland N. O'Neil '87
Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

Douglas C. Atnipp '85
Greenberg Traurig LLP



THANKS TO OUR 2014–2015 ADJUNCT PROFESSORS!

“Adjunct professors allow Texas Tech Law to offer a curriculum broader and deeper than it could with just our full-time faculty. Adjunct professors also allow our students to interact on a regular basis with practicing attorneys and sitting judges. We appreciate you sharing your expertise and time with us!”

—Dean Darby Dickerson



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Sarah M. Gunter, J.D. '01
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Dustin Howell, J.D. '08
Hon. James R. Jordan, J.D. '77
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W. Mark Lanier, J.D. '84
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TEXAS TECH LAWYER

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DOCKET

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2014-2015 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Inspiring lectures, thought-provoking panel discussions,
and exposure to live court proceedings.



West Texas Legal Legend: Broadus Spivey

On September 26, 2014, Texas Tech Law inducted former State Bar of Texas President Broadus Spivey as its eighth West Texas Legal Legend. Spivey has been likened to Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* for his service across the state, from his solo practice in Lubbock to a partnership with former American Association for Justice President Bob Gibbins in Austin. *Pictured [left to right]:* Dean Darby Dickerson, Ruth Ann Spivey, Broadus Spivey, TTU System Chancellor Robert Duncan ('81), and Dean Emeritus W. Frank Newton.

A Visit from the Texas Supreme Court

On October 9, 2014, the Texas Supreme Court heard two cases at Texas Tech Law. The court also heard cases at the law school in 1999 and 2008. *Pictured:* Dean Darby Dickerson with justices of the Texas Supreme Court.



Mark Lanier ('84) Book Signing

Lanier signed copies of his book, *Christianity on Trial*, after a presentation at Texas Tech Law on November 13, 2014. *Pictured:* Lanier greets State Bar of Texas 2014-2015 Board of Directors Chairman Roger Key ('76).

December 13, 2014 Hooding Ceremony

Keynote speaker Kem Thompson Frost ('83), chief justice of the 14th Court of Appeals in Houston, discussed the roles of gratitude, service, and passion in the legal profession.



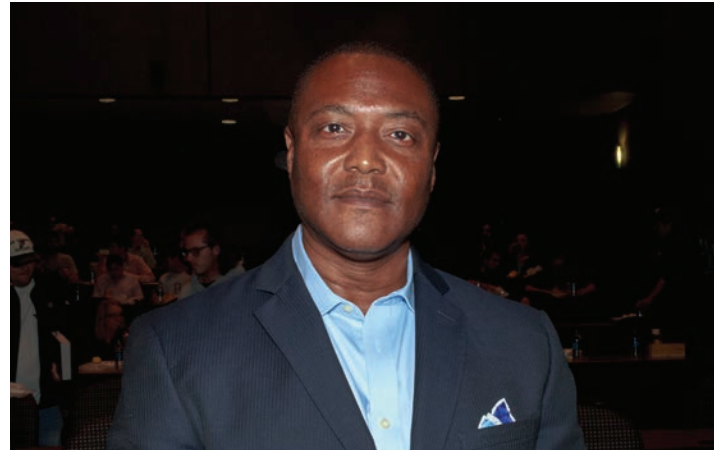


Seventh Court of Appeals

The Seventh Court of Appeals, which usually presides in Amarillo, heard four cases in the Hunt Courtroom on February 2, 2015. *Pictured:* Lauren Murphree ('13) makes her case before the court.

Exonerated Death-Row Inmate Anthony Graves Visits Texas Tech Law

Anthony Graves, who was wrongfully convicted of murder in 1992 and spent 12 years on death row and 18 total years in prison before being exonerated, shared his story on April 28, 2015.



9th Annual Criminal Law Symposium: The 4th Amendment in the 21st Century

Pictured: Texas Tech Law Review editors Matt McKee ('15) and Samantha Hock ('15) with Professors Brian Shannon and Arnold Loewy, keynote speaker and George Washington University Law School Professor Orin Kerr, Vanderbilt Law Professor Chris Slobogin, and TTU System Chancellor Robert Duncan ('81) on April 17, 2015.

May 16, 2015 Hooding Ceremony

U.S. Magistrate Judge Irma C. Ramirez of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas asked the graduates to lead by example in changing the profession's reputation. The Class of 2015 included 184 J.D. and eight LL.M. students.



BRAGGING RIGHTS

Regional Externship Program

Many law schools strive to educate practice-ready graduates. Thanks to the Regional Externship Program—the only full-time externship program in Texas—Texas Tech Law is proving that its students are prepared to practice.

The program, which expanded to Houston in Fall 2014, has partnered with more than 40 organizations in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio. Its expansion to Lubbock in Spring 2016 will push that number north of 50. Lubbock placements include the Texas Tech University System's General Counsel Office and United States Bankruptcy Court Judge Robert L. Jones ('82).

Several placements have hosted more than one Texas Tech Law extern during the program's four-year

run. "Within Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, Texas Tech externs have become somewhat of a brand—a brand demonstrating exceptional work product and commitment to learning," said Ericka Hightower, supervising attorney in the organization's Housing, Consumer Protection, and Economic Benefit Division. Lillian Kirstein, vice president and deputy general counsel at 7-Eleven, is similarly impressed with Texas Tech Law externs and the extent of work they handle. "In a tough job market, learning what the client wants is critical," she said in an interview with *D CEO* magazine this summer.

This past academic year, thirty 2L and 3L students were paired with organizations across the state. For Drew Thomas ('15), observing the judiciary

in action as an extern with the Dallas Court of Appeals was a formative experience. "What better way to learn how the judiciary operates than by writing opinions, hearing oral arguments, and watching all the cogs fit into place?" said Thomas, now an associate attorney with Hartline Dacus Barger Dreyer LLP in Dallas. "This was not just an externship; it was an apprenticeship, and I learned how to become a lawyer."

Samantha Kelly's ('16) externship with the policy office of Texas House of Representatives Speaker Joe Straus was an eye-opening glimpse of a career path she had not previously considered. "My time in Austin taught me that finding a job as an attorney is not an either-or classification between litigation and transactional

law," said Kelly. She now plans to pursue a career in the public sector.

Students who participate in the Regional Externship Program are also exposed to valuable networking opportunities that can lead to job offers. Lara Wynn ('14) was placed with the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Northern District of Texas during the Spring 2014 session and stayed in contact with the attorneys she worked alongside. "Public Defender Jason Hawkins emailed me personally with a job posting right before bar results came out," said Wynn. "More than 150 people applied for three positions, and I was offered one of them. I am 100 percent sure that if I did not have a four-month opportunity to show the office what I was capable of, I would not have landed this job."



Pictured [left to right]: Christopher Sisk ('15), Alexandra Presnal ('15), Sarah Waller ('15), Kathryn Williamson ('15), and Scott McFadin ('15) during the DFW externship orientation in Fall 2014.

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Advocacy Program

Texas Tech Law's advocacy program celebrated several milestones during 2014–2015. In addition to securing our 34th national advocacy title, we became only the second law school in history to make a third-consecutive appearance in the final round at the prestigious ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition in Chicago. Kristen Vander-Plas ('16) brought home the National Best Advocate Award from that competition.

Katherine Handy Calhoun ('15) became the first three-time national moot court champion in Texas Tech Law history when her team won the National Energy and Sustainability Moot Court Competition in Morgantown, West Virginia.

"When I first came to Tech Law, I had no idea what I wanted to do other than to become a good, hard-working attorney," said Calhoun. "Through Professor Rob Sherwin's guidance and the incredible advocacy opportunities I was provided, I know I am on my way to accomplishing my goal." Calhoun added that competing at the National Energy and Sustainability Moot Court Competition was the most memorable experience of her law school career. "It was exciting because it was my third national title, but that's not why the win meant so much. My teammates, Clay Watkins and Stephanie Ibarra, worked tirelessly to help make the team a success. Getting to see these 2Ls win

their first national title was exceptionally rewarding."

The law school won its 32nd national title during Fall 2014 at the National Pretrial Advocacy Competition, which Dean Darby Dickerson created during her tenure as dean of Stetson University College of Law. The competition tests a range of abilities through brief writing, moot-court-style oral argument, and mock-trial-style witness examination. Texas Tech Law has advanced to the semifinals of this competition four times and finished second in 2013, so to win in 2014 was an exciting progression.

"I truly believe this is one of the hardest—if not the hardest—advocacy competitions to win, because it involves many

different skills and has so many moving parts," said Professor Rob Sherwin ('01), director of Advocacy Programs. "Students can't be good at just one thing. They have to be well rounded in essentially every advocacy skill, and our consistent success at this competition over the years proves how well-rounded our students are."

In addition to winning the top prize, the Texas Tech Law team returned from the National Pretrial Advocacy Competition with additional titles in hand. Calhoun won Best Advocate of the final round, Laney Crocker ('15) received the Best Memorandum of Law Award for the Plaintiff, and John Roddy Pace ('15) secured the Best Advocate award in the semifinal and preliminary rounds.

The advocacy program added another national title to its roster this summer. Vander-Plas, a decorated advocate now in her third year, won the Joseph M. Perry, Jr. Award for Parliamentary Advocacy at the Delta Theta Phi International Law Fraternity's biennial competition in Washington, D.C. She defeated more than 60 global challengers in a competition that tests oral-advocacy skills in parliamentary proceedings.

In all, the Texas Tech Law advocacy program added three national championships, four national finals, four national semifinals, six national quarterfinals, four best-brief awards, and six best-advocate awards to our tally.

With a top-10 ranking on the University of Houston Blakely Advocacy Institute's list of the best Moot Court programs for five consecutive years, the advocacy program continues to be a defining experience for students and a point of pride for the Texas Tech Law community.



Pictured [left to right]: National champions Clay Watkins, Katherine Handy Calhoun, and Stephanie Ibarra.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

Pro Bono Projects

Texas Tech Law's Pro Bono Program provided underserved people throughout Texas with more than 3,700 hours of pro bono legal aid during 2014-2015. In the process, law students applied lessons learned in the classroom to the practice of estate planning, immigration, and general litigation.

Under the guidance of volunteer attorneys, bar groups, and the Texas Tech Law School community, students worked with many legal-services organizations, including the Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas in Abilene, Dallas, Fort Worth, Lubbock, and San Angelo; Disability Rights Texas in Lubbock; the Innocence Project of Texas in Lubbock; and the Human Rights Initiative in Dallas.

In the fall, 73 students participated in a two-part wills clinic coordinated by the law school and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas. Students drafted wills and assisted with the execution of advanced directives and powers of attorney for Lubbock-area clients. A few weeks later, 37 students traveled to Amarillo to help with two immigration clinics coordinated by the Equal Justice Center. Equal Justice Center attorneys credited the students, who prepared and reviewed 45 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals applications, as the "backbone of the entire operation." Seven Texas Tech Law delegates joined student leaders from all ten Texas law schools at the Access to

Justice Summit in Austin, a forum to discuss civil-justice issues faced by Texas's 5.8 million poor.

The momentum continued in the spring with the 2015 Pro Bono Spring Break, a program coordinated by the Texas Access to Justice Commission and sponsored by the State Bar of Texas. Texas Tech Law provided the largest number of law school applicants, and 17 students were placed with a variety of legal-services organizations throughout the state. In April, 13 students participated in the Wills for Heroes Clinic hosted at Texas Tech Law. The clinic, coordinated by the Lubbock Area Bar Association, assisted veterans and first responders in Lubbock and contiguous counties.

In perhaps the most formidable challenge of the year, Professor Dustin Benham, with Miranda Grummons ('16) and John Reyna ('15), went toe-to-toe with Wal-Mart on behalf of an indigent client. The client alleged the corporation rendered his vehicle inoperable after a routine oil change. Though Wal-Mart and its claims company initially denied responsibility, the trio negotiated a favorable settlement for the client. "This case was a win-win," said Benham. "A client who was in a tough situation got the compensation he deserved, and two students were able to experience litigation firsthand while helping someone in their community."

Texas Tech Law will add to its pro bono contributions with a new public-service graduation requirement announced by Dean Darby Dickerson and Texas Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman in August. Effective with the Class of 2018, all J.D. students must complete at least 30 hours of public service to graduate, with at least half of those hours in law-related service. In addition, faculty are required to perform a minimum of ten public-service hours each year.

Visit www.law.ttu.edu/acp/programs/probono to view a full list of participating organizations and to learn how you can become involved.



Pictured [left to right]: John Reyna, Professor Dustin Benham, and Miranda Grummons.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession



Pictured: Chief Judge Carl E. Stewart of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit with Dean Darby Dickerson.

Hard work. Determination. Self-awareness. Relationship management.

Students say they developed these soft skills from participating in the Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession (ALLP), a three-phase program of lectures, workshops, and self-directed leadership projects.

With presentations ranging from ethics to typography, the program hosted ten leadership lectures during 2014–2015. Texas Tech University President M. Duane Nellis, Ph.D., shared strategies he uses as a university administrator. Texas State Representative Dustin Burrows ('04), a partner at McCleskey Harriger Brazill & Graf LLP, explained how law firms evaluate their associates and clerks. Kliff Kingsbury, Texas Tech University head football coach, discussed how he motivates individual athletes to become team players. Chief Judge Carl E. Stewart of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit encouraged students to seize

every day as an opportunity to learn something new.

Students in Phase 2 attended small-group workshops about financial planning, personal self-defense, online personal branding, and Wine 101 for business dinners. They also networked with prominent local alumni during book discussion groups. District Court Judge Les Hatch ('88) was one of several alumni who hosted a book discussion group. Students joined Hatch at his home to discuss *Managing Up: How to Forge an Effective Relationship with Those Above You*, by Rosanne Badowski, long-time assistant to General Electric CEO Jack Welch. "The students learned how to maximize productivity by maintaining a successful relationship between legal management and support staff," said Hatch. "It was interesting for all of us to read about a famous CEO through the eyes of his assistant."

"These discussions allow our students to think through

the leadership challenges they will face as they enter practice," added Professor Rishi Batra, ALLP director. "Students consistently say that the book discussion groups are the highlight of the program." Each year, Batra leads a well-received discussion on how to run an effective meeting and attain group consensus.

Two students earned fellow status in the Academy after completing a Phase 3 leadership project. Last November, Grace Preston ('15) planned and facilitated a panel discussion featuring eleven experts in the legal, medical, science, and public-policy fields who explored how lawmakers can better address Ebola and similar global health crises. "I hoped to begin a conversation between the medical and law departments of the Texas Tech University System that would foster broader understanding and greater cooperation between the two departments in the future," said Preston.

To fulfill his leadership project, Roberto Blum ('15) founded the South Texas Students Association, an organization designed to create and identify opportunities for Texas Tech Law students to apply their legal skills through community service. After Blum participated in a legal-aid workshop hosted by the State Bar's Pro Bono College, he mobilized the South Texas Students Association to implement the inaugural pro bono winter break workshop. In partnership with the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (TRLA) in Harlingen, the workshop completed more than 20 intakes. "TRLA's rural location made it hard for them to find volunteers," said Blum. "By recruiting the necessary manpower, we established a relationship that will likely result in a continued partnership for next year's pro bono winter break workshop."

In all, 379 students—more than half of the total student body—participated in ALLP programs during 2014–2015. "All lawyers are called upon to lead, whether in government, in their community, at firms, or with their clients," said Batra. "I am confident our Academy graduates are prepared to be leaders wherever they go."

BRAGGING RIGHTS

Clinical Programs

When asked why they returned to support their alma mater's legal clinics, Dwight McDonald ('93), Terri Morgeson ('03), and Donnie Yandell ('01) answered in unison: a shared passion for mentoring students who are tireless advocates for the region's indigent population.

"Few law school clinical operations are as immersive as ours, which is beneficial not only from an experience standpoint but also from a perspective standpoint," said Morgeson. "Students see how easy it is for low-income individuals to get taken advantage of." This dogged drive for justice strikes a chord with Morgeson, who assumed leadership of the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic in May 2014 after serving as a clinical fellow for the Civil, Family Law and Housing, and Criminal Defense Clinics since 2007. A former family-law practitioner, Morgeson is a founding member and current president of the Lubbock Private Defender's Office, the first organization of its kind in Texas supported by staff-licensed social workers and mental-health professionals.

"Our Tax Clinic clients have a lot at stake and are overwhelmed by the system," she added. "It's rewarding to help them navigate and lay groundwork to avoid similar problems in the future."

Although Yandell initially doubted whether clients would trust student-attorneys with sensitive casework, he noted that

former clients routinely request clinic students after they have graduated to represent them in different cases. "This is because our students are not taught to take the easy route," he said. "Even veteran prosecutors have found them to be formidable opponents who do not immediately accept plea deals." As chief public defender of the Caprock Regional Public Defender

dismiss theft charges against a cashier who had initially considered a guilty plea. "Our students are willing to put forward the effort to find even the smallest problem in the case," said Yandell. His leadership has not gone unnoticed. The Texas Indigent Defense Commission honored Texas Tech Law, along with Lubbock and Dickens counties, with a 2015 Gideon

As a clinical fellow for the Family Law and Housing, Criminal Defense, and Caprock Clinics, McDonald urges students to avoid the mindset of the profession as just a "job."

"Coming back to the law school has rekindled my sense of purpose in the profession," said McDonald. "As someone who has practiced for more than 20



Pictured [left to right]: Dwight McDonald, Terri Morgeson, and Donnie Yandell.

Office—the only combined full-time, in-house Public Defender's Office and law school clinic in the country—Yandell draws from his experience as a former police officer and criminal-defense practitioner to teach aspiring attorneys how to be confident in their representation. "My goal is for students to graduate at the level I was at after my first two years of practice," he said.

In fact, Yandell supervised a student last fall who—after a thorough investigation uncovering multiple evidentiary discrepancies—convinced a prosecutor to

Recognition Award for their successful formation of the Caprock Clinic and its subsequent contributions to indigent defense throughout the state.

The clinics' emphasis on self-guided learning is well-suited for McDonald, who recently transitioned from his 21-year criminal-defense and family-law practice with fellow alumnus Ron McLaurin ('87). He recalled a recent graduate who appeared in court to finish a case she started as a clinic student. "She worked hard to get a great deal for this client and wanted to see it through," he said.

years, the students challenge me to reexamine how we interpret and apply the law."

Morgeson, Yandell, and McDonald agreed that the opportunity to shape the next generation of Texas Tech lawyers was one they could not pass up. "We mentor and guide the students, but we don't tell them the answers. They get there on their own," said McDonald. "Every day is invigorating, because we're interacting with aspiring attorneys who are committed to effecting positive change."

At the Helm

In an evolving legal climate where transition is the norm and longevity the exception, many Texas Tech Law alumni have risen through the ranks to lead major law firms. Vision, drive, and stamina are a few qualities that led them to the top. Below, several share key strategies for success.

Leading by Example

Showing respect is the best way to earn respect as a manager. “In learning to manage your own time, you come to appreciate its value for yourself and for your colleagues. That inspires others to do the same,” said Heather King ’95, managing shareholder of KoonsFuller, PC, which has offices in Dallas, Denton, Houston, Plano, and Southlake.

King is a skilled litigator who handles family-law cases requiring tax, real-estate, and business-valuation expertise. Her involvement with a high-profile lawsuit involving a pregnant woman in Texas who became brain dead landed King in the crosshairs of a media blitz last year. She credits her tenacity in the case—and her career at large—to a mixture of leadership abilities she refined at Texas Tech Law. “I want my firm colleagues to learn self-discipline and compassion, and to never take their careers for granted. The best way to expect that from them is to display these traits myself,” King stated.

As shareholder of MehaffyWeber—which has offices in Houston, Beaumont, and Austin—Bob Black ’80 sets a high standard for firm-wide service. “MehaffyWeber encourages pro bono work and active participation with our communities, churches, and charities,” stated Black. “We let our actions demonstrate our professionalism.” Black, who served as 2011–2012 president of the State Bar of Texas, was the first Texas Tech Law alum and the youngest-ever inductee selected by the State Bar of Texas Litigation Section as a Legal Legend. As bar president, he initiated an interactive civics-education website

demonstrating how court decisions have shaped the state and country. Several of Black’s colleagues have followed his lead, earning the Cris Quinn Award for Public Service and the John Hannah, Jr. Award for Public Service by the Eastern District of Texas Bar Association.

Building Consensus

Management style can have a wide-ranging impact on everything from employee retention to conflict resolution. “All of our lawyers work with each other on cases; we don’t have rigid teams or formal practice groups,” said B. Ross Pringle ’87, president and managing shareholder of Austin-based Wright & Greenhill. “We share ideas and strategies on cases with the understanding that any lawyer can teach or provide counsel to another lawyer, regardless of years of practice.”

Serving as chief executive officer, litigation section chief, and managing attorney during his tenure with Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr in Dallas, Steven A. Harr ’80 commented that overbearing leadership is prone to disorder. “Law-firm management styles tend to fall in one of three categories: dictatorships, benevolent dictatorships, and those built and managed by consensus,” said Harr. “The consensus firms seem to last longer with less stress, departures, and disagreement.” Legal managers who are accessible to and interact with their personnel lead more unified teams.

Throughout his 30-year career with Brackett & Ellis, PC, Henri J. Dussault ('85)—who now serves as the firm's president in Fort Worth—paid close attention to the way his colleagues handled disagreement. "Law firms are businesses that require you to wear your 'owner's' hat when you tackle a firm issue," said Dussault. "Legal managers need to prioritize visits with fellow attorneys and staff to get a pulse on pending issues. Learning to surround yourself with competent administrative and management staff is also key to a successful firm."

"As a lawyer, there is a tendency to focus on your workload," added Jason S. Schulze ('96), managing partner of Cozen O'Connor's Houston office. "As a manager, you must constantly remind yourself to make sure that the people in your office are actively engaged with one another."

Several alumni stressed the need to subdue legal instincts in favor of other managerial practices. "As a manager, I have to resist handling a problem as I would a lawsuit. While it is fun to cross-examine a witness, a fellow member of the firm may not appreciate that approach," said Black. Recalling how he approached a recent internal dispute, Black "asked the two attorneys who felt strongest to spend a few hours with [him] in a conference room so we could work through each detail of the problem." "We found our differences were non-existent on the issues and were limited to a difference on how to accomplish the goal," said Black. "We resolved it quickly and I came away encouraged by the strength and importance of a collaborative effort."

Black knows a thing or two about conflict resolution. During his 34-year career with MehaffyWeber, he has mediated and arbitrated more than 4,000 cases, and has processed more than 450 appeals as a panelist for the Deepwater Horizon Multi-District Litigation.

On the other hand, Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam, LLP Managing Partner W C "Dub" Bratcher ('75) of Lubbock does not distinguish as much between lawyering and managerial skills. "At the end of the day, both involve problem-solving and people skills," he commented. "Legal managers need to develop the information necessary to make an informed decision, be willing to make a decision, and then support it. I have found that many times people like to discuss a problem, but are reluctant to make a decision that actually addresses it."



Bob Black ('80), MehaffyWeber



Heather King ('95), KoonsFuller, P.C.

Values-Based Structure

Firms that adhere—in word and in deed—to shared ideals often have enhanced morale and productivity. While our alumni lead firms of varying sizes and structures, nearly all commented on the cohesive nature of common values. "Our firm consists of people who have worked together for a long time and share similar beliefs: loyalty to each other and the firm; wariness of debt; and a belief in transparency and fairness," said Black. "Our structure works because it reflects our values."

A well-oiled structure is particularly important for global firms. As managing partner of Baker & McKenzie LLP's Dallas office, Michael Santa Maria ('92) indicated that large firms are only as good as the sum of their parts. "What really matters is how a global firm is stitched up and how the 'internal networks' in a firm are put to use in delivering top service to our clients," he said.

Firm leadership also sets an example through proper conduct regardless of the outcome. "Our integrity, even in defeat, is of utmost importance to establish and maintain the respect of our clients, fellow lawyers, and our judiciary," added Dussault.

Open Communication

In a legal climate where firms are facing generational shifts, adjusting to constantly-changing technology, and merging or considering mergers, open communication is more important than ever.

"While new technologies are designed to create efficiencies, they can remove much of the personal interaction lawyers have historically relied upon to get to know their colleagues and grow as lawyers," said Schulze. "It's important to be nimble in managing an office, but just as important is to maintain personal interactions within the office and with our clients." Schulze, who frequently travels to loss sites for his subrogation practice, acknowledges that technology boosts offsite productivity. "However, when it comes to management and more sensitive issues, there is no substitute for being in the office and meeting with people face-to-face," he added.

Effective communication requires a well-structured team and an open mind. "You are working with highly educated, intelligent, motivated professionals, most of whom have



Micheal Santa Maria ('92), Baker & McKenzie LLP

Type-A personalities. You are not 'managing' them; you are helping them to succeed," noted Joel Reese ('93), managing partner of Reese Gordon Marketos LLP in Dallas. "To do that, you must be flexible and open to different views. Your goal as a managing partner is to listen to those views, decide the best course of action based on all information, and then do whatever you can to help your lawyers succeed."

Reese's approach appears to be working. Just two years after opening, his commercial litigation boutique won 2013 Texas Litigation Department of the Year from *Texas Lawyer* magazine.

While differences will always exist among those in a group, generational-inspired chasms can be uniquely challenging. "Though all generations are equally aligned on meeting or exceeding client-service standards, a law firm must address everything from the younger associates' desire for the office to be more than a workplace to the senior partners' desires to have a 'buttoned-down' workplace," said Santa Maria. "This requires management to spend more time understanding the needs of the different constituencies, establishing initiatives that provide the needed workplace environment for all to 'win,' and appropriately communicating in a manner that resonates with all constituencies."

Open dialogue is particularly important when it comes to employee retention during mergers and other structural shakeups. "The key to the long-term success of firm mergers is how the cultures of the firms mix," said Harr. "I have been told by leading law-firm-management consultants that the result of most mergers is that half the people in the acquired firm will be gone in two years because of the lack of a mix of culture and good communication."

All Hands on Deck

Time management is perhaps the trickiest challenge faced by many law-firm managers. "A managing attorney has to be a lawyer and a manager, and has to keep his or her clients and employees satisfied," said King. A supportive staff is crucial to the balancing act. "Legal management takes an inordinate amount of time, as does maintaining a full-time cross-border practice," added Santa Maria. "To do both of these jobs, one needs to have very talented teams with which to work. I am fortunate to have a strong administrative team and a fantastic team of attorneys."

Santa Maria, who has been listed for five consecutive years in the Who's Who Legal list published by Law Business Research Limited and was recently named by *Franchise Times* as one of the top-101 franchise lawyers in the United States and Canada, also credits his success to proper training and good timing. "My success is a combination of a broad-based international

practice, a long-term trend of growth in cross-border matters, having obtained the right training early in my career, and an unwavering dedication to high standards," he stated.

Legal managers who delegate projects and communicate expectations are better equipped to focus on growing their firms. "The more a firm supports the fact that it needs individuals engaged in management who are not expected to bill and collect on their time at the same level as others, the greater freedom such leaders will have in addressing the enormous challenges of leading and building a successful law firm," added Harr.

When it comes to visionary leadership, Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP Partner and Board of Directors Chair Holland N. O'Neil ('87) is a prime example. After several mergers in the 1990s that propelled Gardere from a Dallas-centric firm to a statewide powerhouse, O'Neil executed the firm's global expansion with a full integration of its Mexico City office last year. "What I am interested in is ensuring the longevity of our client relationships, and a strong platform for all of our lawyers to be able to be successful and increase their client base," she said in an interview with *Law360*. "In a shrinking global economy, we don't want to be viewed as just a Texas firm. To serve the needs of our clients, that means on an almost-daily basis going beyond the borders of Texas."

Cultural Caretakers

Many alumni have seen substantial change in the legal industry during the time they have practiced—one major change being a shift to firms that are run more like businesses than membership-only clubs. "I believe Greenberg Traurig's culture of mutual respect amongst the attorneys in our 37 offices is what drives the firm's success," said Doug C. Atnipp ('85), co-managing shareholder of Greenberg Traurig LLP's Houston office and co-chair of the firm's global Energy and Infrastructure Practice. "The reason I agreed to take on the role was to have a positive impact on the direction of our Texas offices, from which lawyers we hire to the kinds of legal work we do," said Atnipp.

In fact, Greenberg Traurig's Houston and Austin offices were named as Top Workplaces by the *Houston Chronicle* and *Austin Business Journal* respectively, with Houston making five consecutive appearances on the list. "Texas Tech Law is



Holland O'Neil ('87), Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

earning a good reputation at our firm on the management side of law,” Atnipp commented, specifically noting fellow alum Barry Senterfitt ('86), who co-manages the firm's Austin office. “The role of legal manager is to do whatever you can do to make the practice of law as stress-free as possible for other firm attorneys,” added Atnipp. “We want our attorneys practicing law and not worrying about things that they should not have to worry about.”

Santa Maria learned how to treat employees properly by watching his father manage a multinational pharmaceutical corporation subsidiary in Mexico City. “My father always displayed humility and fairness, and rewarded focus and drive,” said Santa Maria. “People who manage their teams or practice through fear and intimidation go the way of the dinosaurs. I have never seen someone who is secure in his or her abilities rely on fear and intimidation.”

“Intimidation, in my view, is counterproductive,” said Bratcher. “Our firm conducts regular associate reviews and provides all associates with a mentor with whom they can discuss any problem or raise any question.”

Pringle advised aspiring managing partners to abide by the lawyer's prayer, “Please help me to be less of a jerk to the people I depend on to get my job done every day.” He added: “Though constant stress and deadlines can take a toll, it's important to treat support staff—and people outside your management—with respect.”

The bottom line for many of our alumni was to build a culture in which everyone, not just the attorneys, wants to come to work every day. “The recipe is simple – if people love the place they work and those they work with, their service to clients will be superior and they will build practices that help the law firm grow and prosper every year,” stated Harr.

A Flexible Outlook

Change is inevitable, and the legal industry is no exception. “Firms have to accept that change is required to survive, and cautiously but efficiently make the required changes to operations and attitudes,” noted Harr. Our alumni in legal management have also seen several boom-and-bust cycles, which are often indicative of shifting client attitudes and a changing legal environment.

When Dussault started his insurance-defense practice 30 years ago, workers' compensation claims were the most common personal-injury lawsuit filed. “That's how many civil litigators gained trial experience,” said Dussault. “Laws changed and the need for lawyers to be involved in workers' compensation claims diminished. This caused lawyers and firms to retool to survive and keep their doors open.” He recalled a similar cycle from 12 years ago when tort reform and damage caps dramatically impacted the number of medical malpractice case filings.

“Law firms—just like the economy—go through cycles. I suspect that will always be the case,” said Dussault.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI FOR SPEAKING TO THE TEXAS TECH LAWYER

Douglas C. Atnipp ('85)

Texas Co-Regional Managing Shareholder; Co-Managing Shareholder of the Houston Office; Co-Chair of Global Energy & Infrastructure Practice
Greenberg Traurig LLP – Houston, TX

Robert A. Black ('80)

Shareholder
MehaffyWeber – Houston, Beaumont & Austin, TX

W C “Dub” Bratcher ('75)

Managing Partner
Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam, L.L.P. – Lubbock, TX

Henri J. Dussault ('85)

President
Bracket & Ellis, P.C. – Fort Worth, TX

Steven A. Harr ('80)

Founder, Shareholder & General Counsel
Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr – Dallas, TX

Heather L. King ('95)

Managing Shareholder
KoonsFuller, P.C. – Dallas, Denton, Houston, Plano & Southlake, TX

Holland N. O'Neil ('87)

Chair of the Board of Directors; Partner, Financial Restructuring and Reorganization
Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP – Dallas, TX

B. Ross Pringle ('87)

President; Managing Shareholder
Wright & Greenhill, P.C. – Austin, TX

Joel Reese ('93)

Managing Partner
Reese Gordon Marketos LLP – Dallas, TX

Michael Santa Maria ('92)

Managing Partner – Dallas Office
Baker & McKenzie LLP – Dallas, TX

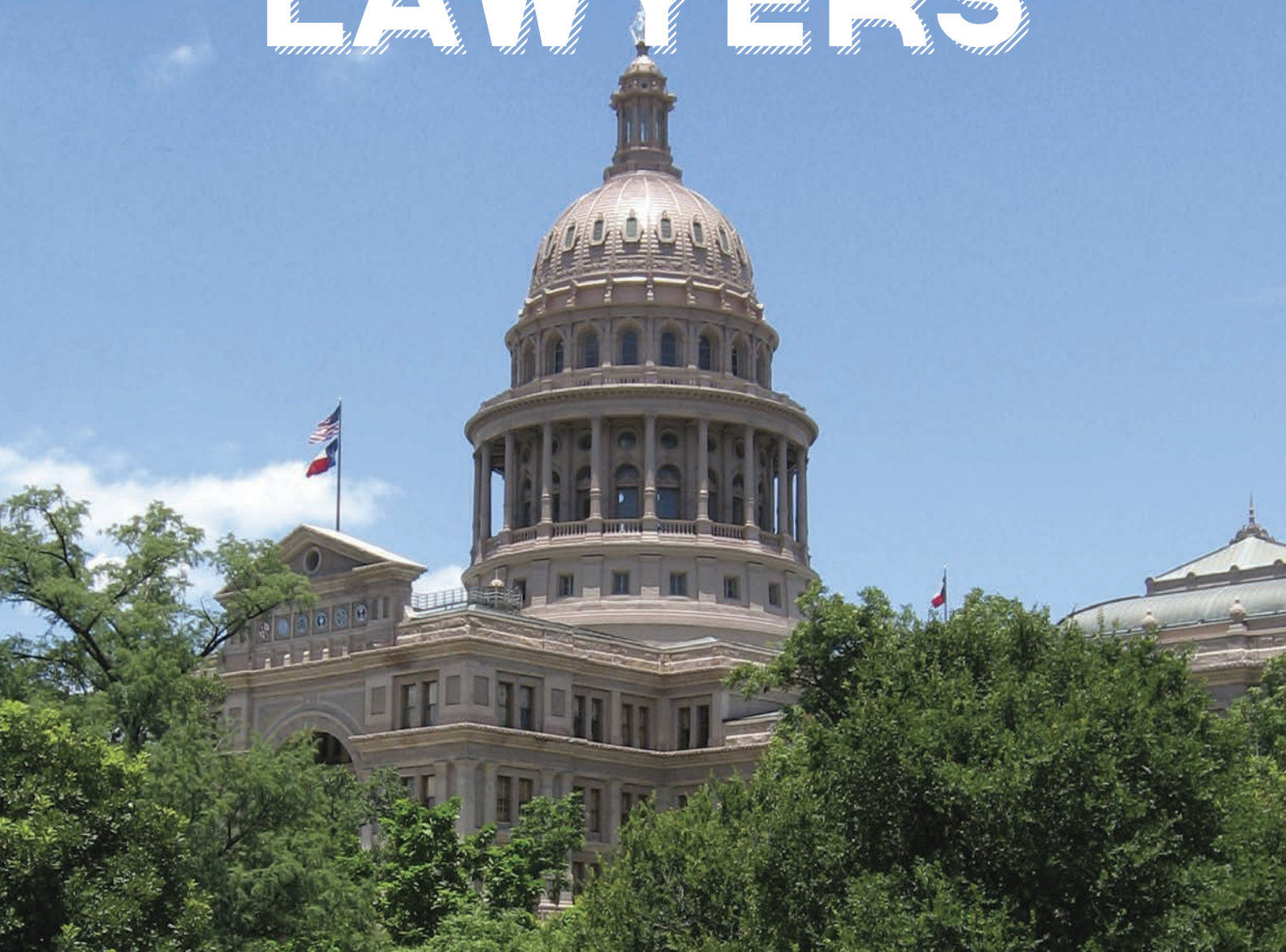
Jason S. Schulze ('96)

Managing Partner – Houston Office
Cozen O'Connor – Houston, TX

CAPITOL



LAWYERS



AT his Capitol office in May, state Rep. Joe Moody ('06), D-El Paso, recalled an inspirational message from his first week of law school at Texas Tech University.

Professor Brian Shannon closed his presentation to the incoming class with a film clip from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which portrayed lawyer Atticus Finch as virtuous, and told the students to go forth, always remembering the high calling of being an attorney.

"I don't think people in our society today think of lawyers in that way," Moody said. "So his message to us was that if we don't believe it's a high calling and profession to be respected, then how can we expect anyone else to think that?"

Moody is among a number of Texas Tech Law alumni committed to the high calling of their work in the state Capitol. These alumni hold powerful positions ranging from the House parliamentarian and the state education budget analyst to chiefs of staff, legislators, and a close advisor to the governor. Though their duties and positions vary widely, they share their legal training at Texas Tech and a desire to make a positive and lasting difference for the people of Texas.

For the Greater Good

One reason these alumni are motivated to excel in their jobs is the power their positions afford them to advance wellbeing on a large scale.

For Chris Griesel ('88), that means facilitating the democratic process. As parliamentarian and special counsel for the House of Representatives, he sits by the speaker during session and provides nonpartisan advice to members about the Texas Constitution and legislative rules and procedures.

From his office just outside the House chamber, he relayed his dogged loyalty and sense of duty with a smile: "Anyone who wants this job cares about that room out there more than anything else. They care about their 150 members and are willing to stand at a barricade in front of our chamber to repel the horde that tries to enter our space."

Other alumni at the Capitol are inspired to help vulnerable populations. A wish to help children motivated former elementary school teacher Emily Howell ('08) to apply to law school. She knew many excellent teachers who wanted to provide more, but had limited resources.

"I wanted to be in a position where I could do more for the children by doing more for the teachers," Howell said.

Last year, she became the public-school and higher-education budget analyst and general counsel for the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives. As such, she works in a support capacity, advising legislators as they decide how to allocate education funds.

"Being here in the Capitol has given me the knowledge that there are some really great elected representatives, who truly care about education issues and who are in good positions to



Rep. Joe Moody ('06), D-El Paso.

do the best that they can for our school children," Howell said.

As deputy policy director for Gov. Greg Abbott, Constance Allison ('95) also is in a position to help ensure the wellbeing of the state's children, among others. Her responsibilities include staying abreast of developing legislation, working with senators and representatives as they draft bills during the session, reviewing the nearly 1,500 bills passed that are sent to the governor's office for signature, advising the governor on policy ramifications of other issues, and working with executive-branch agencies to adopt rules to implement various bills.

"It is most satisfying when I know that a piece of legislation will have a significant positive impact on people's lives, such as a bill that will improve Child Protective Services and reduce incidents of child abuse or save children's lives," Allison said.

Rahul Sreenivasan ('07) also spoke about the fulfilling nature of his role. As chief of staff for Rep. Armando Walle, D-Houston, he spent countless hours working on legislation to resolve a recurring water outage problem in that district, for example. Though Sreenivasan says it's often an uphill battle for a minority party member to get a bill passed in the Republican-dominated House, he finds his work rewarding.

"Every job I've considered has had an element of helping people and a connection to doing the greater good," he said. "I feel very good about being a chief of staff for a member who



Rep. Dustin Burrows ('04), R-Lubbock.

is very committed to public service and to representing his constituency.”

In the busy final days of the recent legislative session, Rep. Dustin Burrows ('04), R-Lubbock, paused briefly to reflect on the importance of prioritizing measures that relate to the state’s most pressing needs, such as education and transportation.

“We need to take care of the things we need to spend money on first, and if we do that, then we can start talking about other things,” Burrows said.

This year, he worked on several bills, including one that would protect the livelihoods of farmers, and another that brought attention to the steeply rising costs of

pharmaceuticals.

For Moody, a pressing priority through the years has been criminal justice. Most recently, he jointly authored a bill that the governor signed into law in June that calls for the creation of a commission to review cases of wrongful conviction to help prevent their recurrence.

“You don’t want innocent people snagged in the process. That is a grave injustice,” he said. “Anything we can do to make the system less susceptible to those problems, the better for everybody. The more fair the system is, the more just the system is.”

He reached for a letter on his desk from the mother of the late Timothy Cole, a young

black Texas Tech student and U.S. military veteran who died in prison in 1999 after being wrongfully convicted of raping another student. In her letter, she thanked Moody for supporting legislation benefiting the wrongfully convicted, and a House resolution honoring her son.

“That letter was written to me six years ago, but I always keep it handy because it reminds me that there are very important things that we have to do here. And if I forget the story of Tim Cole, then I’m not doing my job,” he said.

Power Starts with Knowledge

Alumni at the Capitol credit their legal education at Texas Tech for preparing them for the work they do today.

The law school’s core classes teach students to think analytically and logically and are the building blocks of everything legislators do, Burrows said.

“That’s very important up here as we analyze policy—to take some of the emotion out of it and try to look at it from a logical perspective about what’s good for the region and for the entire state,” he said.

Law school also teaches how to consider issues from many different angles—a skill that comes in handy when trying to anticipate the unintended disasters of well-intended legislation, Allison said.

“Sometimes it’s just not apparent from a piece of legislation, but if you’re thinking critically and from different perspectives, you’re



Emily Howell ('08), Texas House Appropriations Committee staff member.

going to have an easier time picking up on those unintended consequences,” she said.

Sreenivasan added that law school teaches students to write more concisely and strategically, “a crucial skill for politics.”

“Instead of just thinking about the policy idea you want passed, you also have to think about how you communicate that policy. How people feel about a lot of policy ideas really boils down to how you pitch them,” he said.

Moody mentioned a book from law school called *Texas Criminal Procedure*, co-authored by his Texas Tech Law Professor Charles Bubany. Moody keeps it at his desk at the Capitol and has referred to it multiple

times in past legislative sessions.

Griesel also spoke fondly of his law professors. Walking through the underground corridors of the Capitol, he occasionally stopped to point out wall photos of people with ties to Texas Tech who have served at the Capitol, including Chancellor Robert Duncan ('81) and the late W. Reed Quilliam Jr., who was Griesel's wills and trusts professor. As a state representative in the 1960s, Quilliam was instrumental in getting the appropriations needed to found the Texas Tech Law School.

Griesel expressed gratitude to those lawyers who have gone before him in serving the state: “I listen a lot to these ghosts on the wall that surround us, and that's why I keep coming back.”



Members gather around Parliamentarian Chris Griesel('88) (seated) as they await Griesel's comments regarding the interpretation of the law on May 26, 2015.



Rahul Sreenivasan ('07), chief of staff for Rep. Armando Walle, D-Houston.

Unintended Careers

Some Texas Tech Law alumni who talk about unintended consequences are in jobs they did not anticipate. They arrived in their positions as the unforeseen but positive outcomes of circumstance, experience, and service.

“Each job built on the last one...I've never really had a plan. I've just done whatever came next, and it all worked out,” said Allison, whose journey to the governor's office included jobs with the state attorney general's office, a small law firm, a state senator, the former governor, and the former lieutenant governor.

Toward the end of law school, Howell discovered the Texas Legislative Council by chance and

soon went to work there helping legislators write education and other bills and amendments. Through that work she learned about opportunities at the Capitol and landed a job with the House Appropriations Committee last year.

“As with the Legislative Council, I'm not sure this job was my dream because I didn't really know that these kinds of positions existed... It's just something that I came across,” she said.

Perhaps no alum is more explicit in calling his job accidental than Griesel, who says he never planned to become a parliamentarian.

“I have a saying that anyone who wants to apply for this job should probably be disqualified, because they have the wrong idea of

what the job is. The job isn't anything to covet," he said.

A parliamentarian is called to serve the body and its membership, which requires considerable dedication and institutional knowledge, he said.

"You have to have a clear understanding of what the members need and want before you even step in. You have to be someone in that institution who has helped along the way," he said.

Griesel's career began with a job that his torts professor, the late J. Hadley Edgar, helped him secure with Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Phillips. Griesel then worked for a prestigious law firm before putting in eight years of service at the Texas Legislative Council and later returning to the Texas Supreme Court as its rules attorney.

"It was a great precursor to this job of parliamentarian," he said, noting it taught him how rules were developed among the judges and applied in state courts, and gave him experience interacting with the Legislature.

He went to work for the House as deputy parliamentarian in 2004 and was appointed parliamentarian in 2011.

Grit and Stamina

Texas Tech Law alumni working at the Capitol value the enviable positions they hold, but insist their work is not as glamorous as it may appear.

Being a legislator is much more work than people

probably realize, Burrows said, noting that the House takes about 3,600 votes in a given session, many relating to major policy decisions.

"So it's a lot of early mornings and late nights just reading and having conversations with your staff and other members to try to understand what the policy implications are," he said.

Part of the job also involves reaching back to the district and visiting with people to get their input on upcoming legislative issues, which takes time, he said, noting: "A good way for a lawyer to look at it is, it's like having 170,000 different clients."

One of Howell's most vivid memories is watching the House debate the budget one afternoon this spring until about 6 a.m. the next morning.

"The members are so tired, but they do a great job of not losing focus as they go through the budget," Howell said. "It's exciting, and when they do the final vote and it gets passed out of the chamber, that's a real moment of satisfaction."

For her, passage is the reward for many long days and nights of her own spent working to help prepare the education section of the budget.

Though asked about awards and accolades, Howell, like other alumni, did not boast any.

"When you're working in a support capacity, it's more of a team effort. You don't have many individual honors," she said. "Your purpose is to help those elected members you work for. In some respect,

their successes are yours."

Allison concurred: "There are no awards flying around up here. The governor is a very generous person with his kind words, but most of the things we do here don't make headlines, and that's fine. It doesn't matter if anybody ever knows."

She said her satisfaction comes from seeing the

results of her work and making a positive difference in others' lives: "Sometimes you have an opportunity to do something that is particularly meaningful. That will keep you going for a while."

—Staci Semrad



Sean Opperman, Mark McHargue, Preston Streufert, and Zachary Stephenson on the Texas Senate floor. Photo credit: Texas Senate Media Services.

OTHER CAPITOL LAWYERS

Mark McHargue ('90)

Legislative Director for Texas State Senator Craig Estes

Andrew Murr ('03)

Texas Representative, R-Kerrville

Sean Opperman ('10)

Director, Texas Senate Committee for State Affairs

Margaret M. Orgain ('12)

Session Analyst, Texas House of Representatives Research Organization

Jaime Pesantes ('14)

Deputy Director, Texas House of Representatives Committee for International Trade and Intergovernmental Affairs

Ron Reynolds ('99)

Texas Representative, D-Missouri City

Matt Schaefer ('05)

Texas Representative, R-Tyler

John T. Smithee ('76)

Texas Representative, R-Amarillo

Zachary Stephenson ('10)

General Counsel for Texas State Senator Brandon Creighton

Preston Streufert ('11)

Legislative Director for Texas State Senator Joan Huffman

Brian Thornton ('13)

Legislative Director for Texas Representative Dustin Burrows



A Q&A WITH DEAN DARBY DICKERSON

TTL: Texas Tech Law counted several exciting developments this past year, one of which is the new Public-Service Graduation Requirement. What was the impetus for that and how will it work?

As a public law school, we need to give back to the citizens of Texas, and as lawyers, we have a professional and ethical obligation to give back. We wanted our students to learn and understand these duties. In addition, performing pro bono and community-service work allows students to gain hands-on experience, to interact with lawyers and leaders, and to impact those who need but cannot otherwise afford legal services. It will allow them to see the true impact that individual lawyers can have on the lives of their clients. Students in our clinics and in our voluntary pro bono program were already giving more than 20,000 hours per year. Imagine the exponential impact Texas Tech can have now!

Starting with this entering J.D. class, students will perform 30 hours of public-service to graduate. Half must be law-related and half may be either law-related or more community focused. The hours can be performed anywhere the student chooses.

Each student must perform at least 10 hours per year, until the requirement is satisfied. We know from experience that students who get involved early see the value of their efforts and give back much more.

Faculty committed to give back at least 10 hours per year as well.

We were pleased that Texas Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman, liaison to the Texas Access to Justice Commission, was able to join us on August 31 to announce this program. We're now the 42nd law school nationwide to have this requirement; 42 translates to about 20% of the accredited law schools.

In connection with this requirement, we will be holding two Days of Service each year. At the first on August 29, about 150 members of the Tech community joined to help clean up the Canyon Lakes area. The next Day of Service is planned for Saturday, February 27. We hope many of our alums will consider joining us!



Dean Dickerson with Texas Access to Justice Foundation Executive Director Betty Balli Torres, Texas Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman, and Texas Tech Law students.

TTL: Another new development is Texas Tech Law's appointment as the national headquarters for Scribes—The American Society of Legal Writers. How will this complement our nationally recognized Legal Practice Program?

Texas Tech Law has a top-notch Legal Practice Program. It's one of the few programs in the country staffed primarily by full-time professors with tenure or on the tenure-track—which means we can recruit and retain outstanding professors in this area. Students often remark that their Legal Practice experience was one of the best of their law-school careers. Scribes promotes clear, concise legal writing. Its national membership includes judges, practitioners, and academicians. Having the Scribes headquarters at Tech will help students understand that good legal writing is essential to their practice, and hopefully it will also attract additional attention to the great work our Legal Practice Program does day-in and day-out.

TTL: Our Energy Law Program is continuing to thrive with the addition of new faculty members, an expanded curriculum, and energy-related externships. What are your short-term and long-term goals for the program?

Texas Tech Law's Energy Law Program is built on a legacy of excellence—starting with Professor Richard Hemingway, who then passed the torch to Professor Bruce Kramer. My first goal was to recruit some additional new professors, and we've done that with Professors Bill Keffer and Kristen van de Biezenbos, and Associate Dean Stephen Black. My other short-term goals—which we've started but are continuing—include developing the high-profile Energy Law Lecture Series, which launched last year; developing a Nuts-and-Bolts lecture series, which debuted in April 2015; building the curriculum and including new experiential courses; and strengthening our ties with the industry. We want to give our students an understanding of both the law and business in this area.

In the long-term, we want to be the premier Energy Law Program in the nation. We also want to leverage the other energy assets at this wonderful university, which has first-class programs in Energy Commerce through the Rawls College of Business, Petroleum Engineering through the Whitaker College of Engineering, and Wind Energy through the National Wind Institute. We want our graduates to be the most sought-after energy-law attorneys anywhere.

TTL: The law school secured our 34th national advocacy championship and collected 26 advocacy titles during 2014-2015.

We have also been on the University of Houston Blakely Advocacy Institute's list of the best Moot Court programs for five consecutive years. Why do you think our advocates are so successful?

First, Rob Sherwin is the best advocacy director in the country. Second, we recruit students who are smart, hard-working, and talented. They know how to work in teams and are willing to take direction. Many excelled in undergraduate advocacy competitions. We are also fortunate to have many professors—especially our Legal Practice professors—and alumni who devote untold hours to coaching the teams.

TTL: In its July/August 2015 issue, D CEO magazine called our Regional Externship Program a "more immersive experience" than those of other law schools. What should prospective employers know about hiring a Texas Tech Law extern?

Our regional externs have amazing experiences during their semester in the program. Each extern spends about 500 hours at a legal organization performing legal work under the supervision of a licensed attorney. Some have bar cards and can engage in direct representation. All are integrally involved in the organization's work. These students learn to manage and take ownership of multiple projects. They learn how to interact with supervisors, support staff, peers, and clients. They see firsthand that actions have consequences. They learn about key values of the legal profession, such as integrity, confidentiality, avoiding real and perceived conflicts, diversity, and client service. They learn the value of networking, and of giving back to the community. They learn the line between being proactive and overstepping boundaries. It's been a pleasant development that several placements have hired their former externs after graduation.

TTL: What is the most common question you hear from those who are unfamiliar with Texas Tech Law?

Some are not aware that our faculty and students come from all over, and that our largest alumni base is in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. The perception is that everyone at Texas Tech is from West Texas.

TTL: You have served as Texas Tech Law Dean for four years. What is your favorite part of the job?

Two things: First, the people. That's what attracted me here. The faculty and staff are dedicated to the students' success. The students work hard and don't have a sense of entitlement. It's simply a great group to be part of. Second, I love building programs and matching resources with projects. I've been able to do this here, which has been gratifying. The Regional Externship Program, the Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession, the professional development fund for students, our study-abroad program in Lithuania, the LL.M. program in U.S. Legal Studies, the Summer Pre-Law Academy, new aspects of the Energy Law Program, our collaboration with the Brain Performance Institute, the new public-service program—and the list goes on. All of these programs make our students more competitive and give them insights they can use to help their clients in the future.

TTL: In a new faculty Q&A series—which can be viewed on our Texas Tech Law Communications YouTube channel—we are asking each faculty member to share an item from his/her bucket list. What would yours be?

I'll give you three! I want to enter a powerlifting competition. If I stay healthy, I'll cross that one off this calendar year. I would like to visit all 50 states. I'm missing three: North Dakota, South Dakota, and Alaska. And I want to attend the 2020 Olympics in Japan.

Stay connected to Texas Tech Law via:

🐦 @TTU_Law

📘 facebook.com/TexasTechLaw

🌐 bitly.com/TexasTechLaw

📺 youtube.com/user/TTULawCommunications

Energy Law Program Professors van de Biezenbos, Black, and Keffer at an independently owned oil-and-gas company site.



CLASS NOTES

1971 *Bobby Burnett* was appointed by former Texas Governor Rick Perry as judge of the 50th District Court in Baylor County.

1973 *Bob Collier*, managing partner of Meadows, Collier, Reed, Cousins, Crouch & Ungerman, LLP in Dallas, received a 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award at Texas Tech University School of Law's 11th Annual Law Gala.

1978 *Daniel W. Carney*, partner at Vick, Carney & Smith, LLP, is among the top-100 criminal defense attorneys as designated by the National Trial Lawyers, an organization comprised of the country's leading trial attorneys.

Glenn West, managing partner of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP in Dallas, was among 35 recipients of the 2015 Distinguished Legal Writing Award—Law Firm, presented by the Burton Foundation, a non-profit program run in association with the Library of Congress.

1980 *Carolyn Johnsen*, an attorney with Dickinson Wright in Phoenix, was named one of *Az Business Magazine's* Most Influential Women in 2015.

Fred D. Raschke was recognized with the Founder's Award during the Texas Association of Defense Counsel's Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner.

Sharen Wilson was elected as Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney.

1981 *Jerry Dixon*, Dixon, Scholl & Bailey PA shareholder, received a 2014 Distinguished Service Award at Texas Tech University School of Law's 11th Annual Law Gala.

Wade Shelton, Shelton & Valdez PC founding shareholder, received a 2014 Distinguished Service Award at Texas Tech University School of Law's 11th Annual Law Gala.

1982 *Greg Neeley* was appointed by former Texas Governor Rick Perry as judge of the 12th Court of Appeals in Smith County.

1983 *Kem Thompson Frost*, chief justice of the 14th Court of Appeals in Houston, served as keynote speaker for the law school's December 2014 hooding ceremony. She also received a 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award at Texas Tech University School of Law's 11th Annual Law Gala.



Gala awardees Bob Collier, Jerry Dixon, Chief Justice Kem Thompson Frost, and Wade Shelton with Dean Darby Dickerson at the 11th Annual Gala.

1984

W. Mark Lanier was named 2015 Trial Lawyer of the Year by the National Trial Lawyers, an organization comprised of the country's leading trial attorneys. He was recognized by the Texas Bar Foundation with the 2015 Ronald D. Secrest Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award, and later received the American Association for Justice Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, the Lanier Law Firm was named the 2015 Texas Litigation Department of the Year by *Texas Lawyer*.

Timothy A. Menikos, who was elected to a new term as judge of the 323rd District Court in Tarrant County, was presented with the Judge Scott Moore Award during CASA of Tarrant County's 21st annual dinner to recognize his exemplary efforts on behalf of abused and neglected children.

W. Stacy Trotter was elected to a new term as judge of the 358th District Court in Ector County.

Carey Walker was elected to a new term as judge of Tarrant County Criminal Court No. 2.

1985

David L. Campbell accepted a position as senior counsel at Underwood Perkins, P.C. He was also appointed as the ABA RPTE advisor to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws Drafting Committee on the Residential Real Estate Mortgage Foreclosures Process and Protections Act.

Judy Crowder Parker, presiding judge of Lubbock County Court at Law No. 3, was honored with the 2015 Judge Merrill Hartman Pro Bono Judge Award during the Bar Leaders Recognition Luncheon at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting. The award is given to a judge, sitting or retired, who provides outstanding pro bono service.



1986

Heidi Cox (pictured left middle), general counsel for the Gladney Center for Adoption, will be inducted into the Adoption Hall of Fame at the National Council for Adoption Annual Gala this November in Washington, D.C. The Gladney Center also honored Cox's 25 years of service during a recognition ceremony earlier this year.

Penny Prater, of counsel in DLA Piper LLP's Patent Litigation practice, was elected as a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

1990

Craig Stoddart was appointed by former Texas Governor Rick Perry to the 5th Court of Appeals in Dallas County, Place 5.

1991

Russell Wilson was elected to a new term as judge of the 218th District Court in Atascosa County.

1992

John H. Barr, Jr. joined the Houston office of international law firm King & Spalding as a partner in its Intellectual Property practice.

Leonard "Bud" Grossman was recognized with the President's Award during the Texas Association of Defense Counsel's Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner.

M. Mitchell Moss was recognized with the President's Award during the Texas Association of Defense Counsel's Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner.

Michael Santa Maria was elected managing partner of Baker & McKenzie's Dallas office.

Above: Heidi Cox (center) during a Gladney Center recognition ceremony to honor her 25 years of service.

Opposite, right: Lauren Lockett ('01), Judge Melody Wilkinson ('88), and Carrie Morris ('18) at Fort Worth alumni reception.

1994

Billy Eichman was elected to a new term as judge of the 364th District Court in Lubbock County.

Barbara Ellis, of counsel in Locke Lord's Austin office, was recognized at the Austin Bar Foundation Gala with the David H. Walter Community Excellence Award, the Austin Bar Foundation Board of Directors' most prestigious recognition of a member who has made a significant impact in the community while also raising the profile of the profession.

Riley Shaw, chief of the Tarrant Criminal District Attorney's Juvenile Unit, was confirmed by the Texas Senate to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department's Board of Directors.

1995

Greg Fouratt was unanimously confirmed by the New Mexico Senate to continue as the New Mexico Department of Public Safety Cabinet Secretary.

Donna King was appointed by former Texas Governor Rick Perry as judge of the 26th District Court in Williamson County.

Elizabeth LaMair was hired by the Texas Council of Community Centers as its healthcare policy director.

George Leal received the U.S. Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service, the second-highest award for employee performance given by the U.S. Department of Justice.

1996

Bill Miller was appointed by former Texas Governor Rick Perry as judge of the 5th District Court in Bowie County.

Heather Duncan Webb joined The Trust Company, a San Antonio-based trust, fiduciary, and wealth management firm, as its vice president and trust officer.

1997

Joseph F. Coniglio was named managing shareholder of the Dallas office of international law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP.

Lane DeYoung was appointed general counsel for Del Frisco's Restaurant Group, Inc., which owns 47 restaurants in 20 states and Washington, D.C.

Susan Redford, Ector County Judge, was selected as judicial program manager of the Texas Association of Counties Judicial Education Program.

1998

Ed Richardson, an Austin College graduate and partner at the Richardson Law Firm in Sherman, Texas, was selected as coach of Austin College's Mock Trial Teams.

1999

Lawrence Doss, partner in the Lubbock office of Mullin, Hoard & Brown, was elected to the American Bar Foundation, a status shared by just 0.3% of the overall United States bar membership.

Bridget Moreno Lopez, managing partner of the Dallas office of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, was appointed to the DFW International Airport Board by the Dallas City Council.

2000

Ryan Gleason was appointed chief of staff for New Mexico House Speaker-nominee Nate Gentry.





Above: Alumni and friends recognized during alumni reception held in conjunction with State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting.
 Opposite, right: Barrett Thomas ('08) sworn in as TYLA president by his wife, Charla Hundley Thomas ('08).

2001 *Michael Cubeta*, vice president of legal services for the San Antonio-based Security Service Federal Credit Union, was elected as a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

Wesley Hill, partner in Longview-based firm Ward & Smith, was included in the firm renaming to Ward, Smith & Hill, PLLC.

Wendy Adele Humphrey, associate professor at Texas Tech University School of Law, was named assistant dean for educational effectiveness. Humphrey will focus on student-learning outcomes and assessment for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and the American Bar Association. She was also appointed by the Texas Supreme Court to a three-year term on the Board of Disciplinary Appeals (BODA).

2002 *Evan Clay Stubbs* was elected to a new term as judge of the 424th District Court in Burnet County.

2003 *Trevor Woodruff* was appointed as acting general counsel for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

2004 *Robin Perkins*, an associate attorney in the Las Vegas office of Snell & Wilmer LLP, was elected to The Animal Foundation Board of Directors, which operates and manages an eight-acre refuge for more than 40,000 lost, unwanted, neglected, and abandoned animals every year.

2005 *Priscilla D. Camacho* was sworn in as 2015–2016 Texas Young Lawyers Association chair during the association's annual meeting and reception.

2006 *Casey Blair* was elected to a new term as judge of the 86th District Court in Kaufman County.

Karolyne H.C. Garner, general counsel for LawProse, Inc. in Dallas, was elected as a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

Beth Atkinson Ryan, partner in the Roswell firm Carson Ryan LLC, was appointed by Governor Susana Martinez to the New Mexico Game and Fish Commission, which promotes wildlife management and its sustainable use for food, recreation, and safety.

2007 *J. Shane Brooks* joined the Amarillo office of Sprouse Shrader Smith PLLC. He practices oil-and-gas, real-estate, wealth-planning and probate, banking and financial-services, and agriculture and agribusiness law.

Lindsay H. Ferguson was named partner in the Dallas office of Hunton & Williams LLP.

Stephen M. Robertson was hired by the Permian Basin Petroleum Association as its executive vice president.

2008

Craig P. Barbolla was accepted into Leadership Fort Worth's 2015 Leading Edge Class, a program that connects up-and-coming professionals with influential members of the community to strengthen their leadership skills.

Amber James earned the Texas Young Lawyers Association President's Award of Merit during the association's annual meeting and reception.

Andrew Sefzik, an attorney with Strasburger & Price in Frisco, was appointed to the State Bar of New Mexico Board of Editors.

C. Barrett Thomas (pictured below) was sworn in as 2015-2016 Texas Young Lawyers Association president during the association's annual meeting and reception.



2009

Laura Pratt was recognized with the Texas Young Lawyers Association Commitment to Service Award during the association's annual meeting and reception.

2011

Alex Yarbrough was recognized by Angelo State University as a Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumnus.

2014

Reid Johnson was hired by Polsinelli as a corporate and transactional associate in its Dallas office.

Kathy Kassabian joined Fort Worth-based McDonald Sanders as an associate.

Grant Sorenson joined Fort Worth-based McDonald Sanders as an associate.

IN MEMORIAM

Jim R. Alexander '73
H. Michael Bartley '75
Ralph H. Brock '75
Adam Brzostowski '16

Colin A. Coe, Sr. '96
Stephen C. Coen '86
Chris Cook '14
Charles Gentry '69
Sharon C. Jobe '72

Charles L. Lasley '72
John LeVick '87
Major Jason R. Lindbloom '99
Colonel Robert P. McIntire '89
James F. Mobley '84

Jeffery L. Robenalt '85
Reverend Elizabeth Sisco '79
Diana D. Ulrich '76
C. Michael Ward '76

FACULTY UPDATES



Rishi R. Batra

Assistant Professor of Law; Director, Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession

Professor Batra was selected as one of four university-wide recipients of the inaugural Lawrence Schovanec Teaching Development Scholarship, which enables scholars to study new teaching techniques from conferences across the nation and present their findings at the Texas Tech University Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Center. In April, he presented “Producing Job-Ready Students” to professors across the university. He was also honored with the W. Frank Newton Service Award for his service to the Board of Barristers coaching the ABA Negotiation and Energy Law Negotiation teams and judging several competitions

throughout the year.

Batra moderated and presented in two panels at the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution spring conference. The first discussed ethical issues and techniques to work with parties who cannot meaningfully participate in mediation. The second was a discussion among negotiation professors on how to bring real-world negotiations into the classroom and featured a salary negotiation written by Batra. He presented at several other conferences, including the Southeastern Association of Law Schools conference, where he discussed improving the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act; the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning conference, where he discussed incorporating experiential learning into the classroom; and the University of Missouri School of Law Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution’s Judicial Education and the Art of Judging conference, where he presented his paper *Judicial Involvement in Plea Bargaining: A Dispute Resolution Perspective*. This paper was published in the top-50 *Ohio State Law Journal*.

Batra also works with the Office of Research Commercialization as director of entrepreneurship education, where he develops training for and leads student teams to commercialize and accelerate the transfer of new technology.

Dustin B. Benham

Associate Professor of Law

Professor Benham continued to teach procedure and litigation courses during 2014-2015. His efforts in the classroom earned him the Texas Tech University President’s Excellence in Teaching Award. Benham also continued his research in the litigation-secrecy area, publishing an article, *Proportionality, Pretrial Confidentiality, and Discovery Sharing*, in the top-50 *Washington and Lee Law Review*, along with a related op-ed in the *Austin American-Statesman* in response to a pending Texas case. He was a frequent source on litigation secrecy in major newspapers following the GM ignition and West, Texas fertilizer disasters.





Gerry W. Beyer

Governor Preston E. Smith Regents Professor of Law

Professor Beyer received many awards over the past year, including the President's Academic Achievement Award from Texas Tech University; the Gardener DeMallie Award for being the highest-rated speaker at the Douglas W. Conner 36th Annual Advanced Estate Planning and Administration Seminar held in Williamsburg, Virginia; and Professor of Year awards from the law school's chapters of Phi Alpha Delta and the Hispanic Law Students Association.

Traveling coast-to-coast, throughout Texas, and via the Internet, Beyer spoke at approximately forty conferences, seminars, and CLE programs. His presentations focused on cutting-edge legal topics such as estate planning for digital

assets, pet animals, and weapons governed by the National Firearms Act, as well as more traditional topics including estate-planning ethics, avoiding will contests, and recent judicial and legislative developments.

Beyer continues his service as the Keeping Current—Probate column editor for the American Bar Association publication *Probate & Property*, and as editor in chief of the *REPTL Reporter*, the official quarterly publication of the Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, which is the largest section of the State Bar. He was recently selected as the vice-chair of the State Laws Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Council.

Many books and articles Beyer authored were published during the 2014–2015 academic year, including *Wills, Trusts, and Estates: Examples & Explanations* (6th ed. 2015), *Beyer's Texas Property Code Annotated* (2014), and *Texas Wills and Estates: Cases and Materials* (7th ed. 2015).

Beyer's blog, *Wills, Trusts & Estates Prof Blog*, was included for the fifth consecutive year in the *ABA Journal's* Blawg 100 and remains the top-ranked estate-planning blog in the nation and the twenty-first ranked legal blog overall. He continues to be one of the most downloaded legal authors on the Social Science Research Network and is currently ranked 57 on the list of the top 3,000 legal authors. He also served as a "virtual" visiting professor for the Boston University School of Law, leading a course in Estate Planning & Drafting for its online LL.M. in Taxation program.

Catherine M. Christopher

Assistant Professor of Law; Director, Bar Preparation Resources

Professor Christopher researches and writes about developing technologies in the banking industry. She published two articles on Bitcoin, including *Why on Earth Do People Use Bitcoin?* in Texas Tech's own *Business and Bankruptcy Law Journal*, and *Whack-A-Mole: Why Prosecuting Digital Currency Exchanges Won't Stop Online Money Laundering* in the top-50 *Lewis & Clark Law Review*. Her current project, an article on how mobile banking may be able to bring currently unbanked Americans into the financial system, was selected from a pool of more than 70 papers to be included in the Fifth Annual Junior Faculty Business and Financial Law Workshop at George Washington University Law School's Center for Law, Economics & Finance.



Christopher also writes about academic support. She presented "Eye of the Beholder: How Perception Management Can Counter Stereotype Threat Among Struggling Law Students" at the Fourth Colonial Frontier Legal Writing Conference on Teaching the Academically Underprepared Law Student. A companion article was published in the *Duquesne Law Review*. At the AALS 2015 annual meeting, Christopher described Texas Tech Law's recent conversion of its legal-practice faculty to tenure-track positions and the impact that decision made on the gender diversity of the tenured and tenure-track faculty. A companion article is forthcoming in the top-50 *Columbia Journal of Gender and the Law*.



Jarod S. Gonzalez

Professor of Law

Professor Gonzalez served as the Texas Tech University School of Law associate dean for academic affairs from 2012–2014. In August 2014, he completed his term as associate dean and returned to full-time teaching. In Spring 2015, he received the President's Mid-Career Faculty Award from Texas Tech University. The award recognizes faculty who are emerging leaders in their disciplines, who serve as role models and mentors for students, and who further the academic mission of the university.

DeLeith Duke Gossett

Associate Professor of Law

Professor Gossett taught International and Comparative Family Law at the Universidad de Guanajuato in Guanajuato, Mexico, during Summer 2014. She taught the course again this summer at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania, where she also served as associate director. Gossett presented her latest research for the top-100 *Santa Clara Law Review*, titled *Take off the [Color] Blinders: How Ignoring The Hague Convention's Subsidiarity Principle Furthers Structural Racism Against Black American Children*, at the Central States Law Schools Association 2014 Annual Scholarship Conference, hosted at the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on October 10–11, 2014. She was also elected as a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation in April 2015.



Wendy Adele Humphrey '01

Assistant Dean for Educational Effectiveness; Associate Professor of Law; Director, Pre-Law Academy

Dean Humphrey's article, "*But I'm Brain-Dead and Pregnant*": *Advance Directive Pregnancy Exclusions and End-of-Life Wishes*, was published by the *William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law*. She also presented the article at the 31st Annual Conference on the Advancement of Women. She has a forthcoming article on affirmative consent in the top-100 *University of San Francisco Law Review*. In addition, she and Adjunct Professor Shery Kime-Goodwin presented "The Art of Negotiating as an Inherent Principle of Successful Advocacy" at the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference at the University of New Mexico School of Law.



Humphrey was elected to the Executive Committee of the Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research Section of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS), and she was selected to serve on the 2016 Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference program committee. She also served on the national program awards committee for the American Inns of Court. In August 2015, the Supreme Court of Texas appointed Humphrey to a three-year term on the Board of Disciplinary Appeals (BODA).

Humphrey continues to be involved in bar associations at the local, state, and national levels. Locally, she received a President's Award of Merit from the Lubbock Area Bar Association and was elected to serve as 2015–2016 Treasurer. At the state level, Humphrey was elected to serve as the Treasurer of Law-Focused Education, Inc. and serves on the Local Bar Services committee. At the national level, she is now a Fellow in the American Bar Foundation, and was selected as the Chair of the 2016–2017 Negotiation Subcommittee of the ABA Law Student Division's Competitions Committee.

Vaughn E. James

Judge Robert H. Bean Professor of Law

Dr. James's article, *Interfaith Relations: Practical Guidelines and Steps to Living Together in Harmony*, was published in the international religious freedom journal, *Conscience and Liberty*, in Spring 2015.

From June 18 to July 20, 2014, *THE SUN* weekly newspaper in Dominica, West Indies, published a five-part series of articles written by James titled *FATCA and You*. The series sought to educate Caribbeans on the background and implications of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act passed by the United States Congress on March 17, 2010, and signed into law by President Obama the following day. The controversial statute was scheduled to take full effect in July 2014.

James's latest book, *Current Conflicts in Law and Religion: Cases and Materials*, was released in May 2015.

**Amy Jarmon**

Assistant Dean for Academic Success Programs

Dr. Jarmon served as chair of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Academic Support until January 2015. She also served as chair of the Nominations Committee and as a member of the Program Committee. She was elected to the Section Executive Committee for 2015-2016.

Jarmon authored articles for the May 2014, September 2014, November 2014, January 2015, March 2015, and April/May 2015 issues of *Student Lawyer*, the ABA Student Division magazine. She also presented a session, "Dilemmas of Legal Practice in the United Kingdom," at a CLE seminar in Cambridge, England, sponsored by the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association and the University of Waynesburg Stover Center for Constitutional Studies and Moral Leadership in July 2014.

William R. Keffer

Visiting Associate Professor of Practice; Director, Energy Law Lecture Series; Assistant Director, Bar Preparation Resources

In his inaugural year at the law school, Professor Keffer spoke at the Fracturing Impacts and Technologies Conference co-sponsored by Texas Tech's Petroleum Engineering Department and the Air & Waste Management Association in September 2014. He also contributed to, and was responsible for, a chapter of articles to be published in the proceedings from that conference, the collection of which is titled *Hydraulic Fracturing Impacts and Technologies: A Multidisciplinary Perspective*. Keffer also served as a panelist and moderator at the Energy Law Symposium in January 2015, co-sponsored by the *Texas Tech Law Review* and *Texas Tech Administrative Law Journal*. He is also a regular contributing columnist for *SHALE* magazine.





John E. Krahmer

Foundation Professor of Commercial Law

Professor Krahmer presented a Uniform Commercial Code update at the 37th Annual Convention of the Texas Association of Bank Counsel. A portion of his presentation was published by the Conference on Consumer Finance Law in the *Consumer Finance Law Quarterly Report*. His *Annual Survey of Commercial Law* was published in the digital version of *SMU Law Review* in May 2015. The 2013-2014 edition of *Texas Practice, Methods of Practice: Uniform Commercial Code*, and the 2013-2014 Supplements for Volumes 1 & 2 of *Vernon's Texas Code Forms Annotated* authored by Krahmer were published by Thomson West. His 2014-2015 editions of these works were published in Fall 2014.

Arnold H. Loewy

George R. Killam, Jr. Chair of Criminal Law

Professor Loewy had two articles published in the *Texas Tech Law Review* this past academic year: *The Exclusionary Rule as Remedy*, and *Unintentional Killings*, which was part of the eighth-annual Criminal Law Symposium. This year, he hosted the ninth-annual Criminal Law Symposium with several outstanding scholars from the nation's top law schools to discuss the Fourth Amendment in the 21st century. Additionally, he has maintained a bi-weekly column in the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* called *It's Debatable*. His speaking engagements included Federalist-sponsored debates at UNC School of Law and the University of Houston Law Center on the topic of "Universal Collection of DNA." Loewy also participated in a debate at Texas Tech sponsored by the Secular Law Society on the topic of "Teaching Intelligent Design in Public Schools." He also participated in a panel discussion about "Guns on Campus."



Alyson L. Outenreath '00

Associate Professor of Law

Professor Outenreath's article, *Asset Acquisitions: Things That Make You Go Hmmm...Are You Really Entitled to that Beloved Occasional Sale Exemption?* was published in the top-100 *Indiana Law Review*. She assisted with several regulatory rule-making projects regarding proposed changes to Title 34 (Public Finance) of the Texas Administrative Code. Outenreath was elected to the Texas Tech University Teaching Academy, a designation shared by just 20 percent of Texas Tech faculty since the Academy's inception in 1997. She was also elected to serve as chair of the State Bar of Texas Tax Section for the 2015-2016 term. With more than 2,000 members, the Tax Section is the third-largest state-bar tax organization in the United States.



Dean G. Pawlowic

Professor of Law

In July 2014, Professor Pawlowic traveled to Melbourne, Australia, to teach a short course on USA Corporations in the Global Business Law Program at La Trobe University School of Law. Pawlowic has been teaching this short course at La Trobe most summers since 2004. In September 2014, he was invited to present at the Chapter 7 Panel Trustees Seminar in Dallas, where he delivered a paper titled *Section 544 Powers & the Evolution of Causes of Action Belonging to the Trustee*. Pawlowic continues to assist in coaching the Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court team, which represents the law school in the Duberstein competition in New York, and in the Elliott Cup competition in Houston.

**M. Alexander Pearl**

Assistant Professor of Law; Director, Center for Water Law and Policy

Professor Pearl addressed emerging issues in water and property law relevant to vineyard owners and agricultural entities at the September 2014 Water to Wine Symposium in Fredericksburg, Texas. He also presented his work-in-progress on trademark rights in the team name and logo for the Washington, D.C. professional football team at a symposium sponsored by the University of Georgia School of Law.

Pearl, who served as chair of the AALS Section on Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples, addressed citizenship issues among American Indian tribes at the annual AALS conference in Washington, D.C.

At the 2015 Permian Basin Environmental Regulatory Seminar, he discussed the ownership of groundwater in Texas, regulation of groundwater extraction, and potential sources of litigation between oil and gas companies and landowners.

The California Law Review Circuit published his article, *How to Be an Authentic Indian*, in November 2014. His article, *The Tragedy of the Vital Commons in Environmental Law*, is forthcoming in the top-50 *Lewis & Clark Law Review*.

He also delivered a presentation on groundwater extraction and regulation in the context of climate variability to the Texas Tech University Climate Science Center faculty.

Tracy Hresko Pearl

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Pearl's article, *Restoration, Retribution, or Revenge? Time Shifting Victim Impact Statements in American Judicial Process*, was published the Fall 2014 issue of *The Criminal Law Bulletin*. Her article, *Crowd Crush: How the Law Leaves American Crowds Unprotected*, is forthcoming in the top-100 *Kentucky Law Journal*. She presented that article on June 29, 2015, at the 2nd Annual International and Comparative Urban Law Conference at the Sorbonne Law School in Paris, France. Pearl also moderated the New Scholars Administrative and Environmental Law Panel at the Southeastern Association of Law School's annual conference on August 5, 2014.





Jorge A. Ramírez

Associate Dean for International Programs; Walter and Anne Huffman Professor of Law

Dean Ramírez directed and taught in our 2015 Summer Law Program at Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) in Lithuania, which celebrated its second year of operation. While there, he also chaired one of VMU's Master Thesis Defense Committees, and was asked to address the graduating class at commencement for the second year in a row. Ramírez received a number of accolades during the 2014–2015 school year. He was voted “Man of the Year” by the 2014 graduating class at VMU in recognition of his contributions to international education for students at both VMU and Texas Tech Law. He was named as the inaugural Walter and Anne Huffman Professor of Law at Texas Tech Law, and received the 2014

Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award, which is among the most prestigious honors in the Texas Tech University System. Finally, his proposal to spend the next academic year on faculty development leave in Mexico researching and writing about recent revolutionary changes in Mexican legal reform was approved by the Texas Tech Board of Regents.

Richard Rosen

Glenn D. West Endowed Professor of Law; Director, Center for Military Law and Policy

Professor Rosen wrote the Second Amendment chapter of the Aspen book *Inside Constitutional Law*, published in 2015. He and Dean Emeritus Walter Huffman ('77) completed a comprehensive treatise on military law titled *Military Criminal Justice: Administrative and Judicial Procedure* (West 2015). Rosen also served as the keynote speaker for Texas Tech's Phi Beta Kappa chapter's annual induction ceremony. He was named as the Glenn D. West Endowed Professor in October 2014.



Brian D. Shannon

Paul Whitfield Horn Professor of Law; Texas Tech University Faculty Athletics Representative

Professor Shannon, who had served as the Charles “Tex” Thornton Professor of Law for the last fifteen years, was named by the Texas Tech Board of Regents as a Paul Whitfield Horn Professor in March 2015. This is the highest academic recognition for a professor at Texas Tech. He joins our other two Horn Professors with this distinction, Bill Casto and Victoria Sutton.

Shannon continues to serve as Texas Tech University's Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA and Big 12 Conference. In that role, he began his second term as president of the national 1A Faculty Athletics Representatives Association

in September. Shannon was also appointed by the NCAA to its newly formed Governing Council for Division 1 collegiate athletics programs (representing more than 300 universities across the country). Shannon began his four-year appointment in January. In January 2015, Shannon was designated as the parliamentarian for the inaugural business meetings and forum for the 65 universities from the five major athletics conferences (the Big 12, Big 10, Pac-12, SEC, and ACC). That meeting resulted in sweeping changes to the scholarship model for student-athletes at these major universities.

Shannon delivered a number of presentations and lectures throughout the year on topics ranging from athletics governance to civil and criminal processes involving persons with serious mental illness. During the American Sniper homicide trial earlier this spring, Shannon was interviewed and quoted by a host of media outlets, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, and

Shannon continued

ABCNews.com, and he was interviewed on-air for the NBC Nightly News national telecast.

He also worked with NAMI–Texas (National Alliance for Mental Illness–Texas) to develop a successful grant application to the Texas Bar Foundation for funding to support the publication and free distribution of the 5th Edition of his book, *Texas Criminal Procedure & The Offender with Mental Illness: An Analysis & Guide*. The first four editions of this book (1994, 2000, 2005, and 2008) were all made possible through previous grants from the Texas Bar Foundation and were co-authored by Shannon and the late Horn Professor Daniel Benson. The grant award was announced in late April, and Shannon anticipates that the new edition will be published by late 2016.



Brie D. Sherwin '01

Assistant Professor of Law

Dr. Sherwin's article *The Lizard, the Scientist, and the Lawmaker: An Analysis of the Trending Fight over the Use of Science under the Endangered Species Act and How to Address It* was published in *Animal Law*. She co-authored a piece for *Environmental Science & Technology* titled *C60 fullerene soil sorption, biodegradation, and plant uptake*.

She was appointed adjunct professor of public health at the Texas Tech Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and taught Environmental Health Sciences in Spring and Summer 2015. She also coached three national moot court teams in 2014–2015, including the National Health Law Competition finalists and the National Energy and Sustainability Law Moot Court Competition quarterfinalists and finalists.

Robert T. Sherwin '01

Assistant Professor of Law; Director, Advocacy Programs

Professor Rob Sherwin's article *Clones, Thugs, 'N (Eventual?) Harmony: Using the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to Simulate a Statutory Defamation Defense and Make the World Safe from Copyright Bullies* was published as the lead article in the top-50 *DePaul Law Review*. His article *Teaching Negotiation to 1Ls*, co-authored with Texas Tech Law Professors Catherine Christopher, Brie Sherwin, and Adjunct Professor Shery Kime-Goodwin, was published in the Winter 2015 edition of *The Learning Curve*, the newsletter published by the AALS Academic Support Section.

Sherwin presented *The Moot Court Competition Brief and Pedagogy: How Coaches and Advisors Can Teach When Competition Rules Seem to Prevent It* at the Legal Writing Institute Moot Court Conference in October 2014. He co-presented *Lessons from Our Founding Fathers: The Art of Negotiating as an Inherent Principle in Successful Advocacy* with Texas Tech Law Professors Catherine Christopher, Brie Sherwin, and Adjunct Professor Shery Kime-Goodwin at the Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference in July 2014.



**Nancy J. Soonpaa**

Professor of Law; Director, Legal Practice Program

Professor Nancy Soonpaa gave seven presentations at law-teaching and legal-writing conferences during the 2014-2015 school year, with topics ranging from leadership to experiential learning (co-presenting with Professor Rishi Batra) to effective pedagogies and assessment. The conference sponsors included several regional conferences, the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning, and the Association of Legal Writing Directors. She also coached two teams for the inaugural Energy Law Negotiation Competition at South Texas College of Law; one of Texas Tech's teams placed second.

Soonpaa was invited to help develop a new legal-writing track of programming at SEALS for its Summer 2015 conference. She also spoke on effective assessment at that conference. This spring, she was elected to a three-year term on the Texas Tech Teaching Academy's Executive Council.

Victoria V. Sutton

Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development;
Paul Whitfield Horn Professor; Director, Center for
Biodefense, Law, and Public Policy

In October 2014, Dr. Sutton was named to former Texas Governor Rick Perry's Texas Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response. The task force was created in response to the Ebola virus diagnosis in the Dallas area.

She presented *The Truth About Ebola* at the Texas State Bar's Military and Veterans Law Section annual CLE. Sutton was a keynote speaker at the Houston Global Health Collaborative conference held at Rice University, and sponsored the 14th Annual Biosecurity Law Symposium at Texas Tech Law. She was invited to serve as a panelist alongside the chair of the Ebola Task Force at the plenary session *No Longer Science Fiction—Emerging Infectious and Tropical Diseases and the New Realities and Risks of World-Wide Pandemics* during the Medical World Americas Conference and Expo in Houston, Texas.

Sutton also published a new book titled *Emerging Technologies Law* (Volume 1). The series applies substantive areas of law to various emerging technologies.

**Arturo Torres**

Associate Dean for the Law Library; Professor of Law

Professor Torres presented "Is Linkrot Destroying Stare Decisis?" at the State Bar of Texas 28th Annual Advanced Civil Appellate Practice on September 4-5, 2014.

JUDGE WILLIAM R. SHAVER

ENDOWMENT IN ETHICS

Honest, humble, and hard-working, Judge William R. Shaver commanded respect inside and outside the courtroom. With more than three decades of service as a district judge in Lubbock County, he left a lasting legacy of ethics and professionalism.

Shaver's son Dr. Andy Shaver—an internist in Lubbock—established the Judge William Shaver Endowment in Ethics at Texas Tech Law shortly after his father's passing in 2014. "We could always use more ethics in the legal profession, and in the medical profession for that matter," said Dr. Shaver. "I hope aspiring attorneys will learn from his example."

The endowment will support the annual Judge William R. Shaver Legal Ethics



Judge William R. Shaver

Lecture Series at Texas Tech Law. The inaugural lecture will feature Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod of the United States Court of Appeals on February 8, 2016. "Attorneys have a responsibility to uphold ethical representation," noted Dr. Shaver. "There's no better way to honor Dad's memory than by laying the groundwork to do just that."

A World War II veteran who flew 17 missions over Japan, Judge Shaver earned a bachelor of business administration and a law degree from Southern Methodist University. He moved to Lubbock to begin his law practice and soon joined the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office. As assistant district attorney, he is remembered for delivering one of the shortest closing arguments in history at the time. "I said, 'If you want that type of person turned loose in Lubbock County, go back and find him not guilty,'" Judge Shaver later told the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*.

After fifteen years in private practice with Shaver, Hurley and Sowder, he served as county judge, judge of the 72nd District Court, and first general counsel of Texas Tech University. According to his son, he never regretted his decision to return to the courtroom as judge of the 140th District Court. "Dad had many valuable lessons, but perhaps most poignant was his advice to pursue your passion and let life take care of itself," Dr. Shaver reflected.

His father's passion for law was both inspiring and genuine. Dr. Shaver recalls spirited debates in which the judge would staunchly defend the American legal system against any challenge to its authenticity. "He believed that if both counsel did the best job they could, then the system worked," stated Dr. Shaver. "You often hear about situations in which justice was eluded, but it's important to remember that our system is only as good as the judges, attorneys, and jurors who honor it."

Revered for his decency, Judge Shaver was above reproach when it came to political ties and the money trail behind them. He never accepted more than \$125 in judicial campaign contributions, and opposed running for a judicial seat as Republican or Democrat. "He thought the system required objectivity rather than partisanship, and refused to change his principles for the sake of winning an election," said Dr. Shaver.

His reputation for fairness resulted in a highly trafficked courtroom that handled the region's most challenging legal issues. The judge was unwaveringly devoted to protecting the vulnerable and the underprivileged. His establishment of the Lubbock Juvenile Detention Center is often cited as his most impactful accomplishment. With no alternative to traditional incarceration, Judge

Shaver believed that young offenders had a better chance for rehabilitation when removed from adult offenders.

"Dad believed there is a difference between one's trade and one's profession," said Dr. Shaver. "The former is driven by financial gain, whereas the latter is motivated by societal contributions. The same can be said for medicine. True job satisfaction comes from connecting with people and promoting the greater good."

Dr. Shaver and the School of Law hope others might contribute to the judge's memory and legacy. To make a gift to the Judge William R. Shaver Endowment in Ethics, please call Texas Tech Law School Foundation Manager Lisa Green at (806) 834-6550.

From supporting aspiring criminal law attorneys to retaining exemplary faculty members, Texas Tech Law offers a wide range of other endowments that benefit the law school community. Contact Development Director Kevin Goertzen at (806) 834- 1941 to learn how you can support an existing fund or create your own legacy.

DONOR HONOR ROLL

Texas Tech Law is exceedingly grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their support during the 2015 fiscal year (September 1–August 31). Your generosity positively impacted our students, faculty, and staff. It has also facilitated many of the exciting developments you have read about in this latest issue of Texas Tech Lawyer. If we have overlooked anyone, or if you would prefer that your name not be listed in the future, please contact our Office of Development at (806) 834-1941 or kevin.goertzen@ttu.edu.

\$25,000 and up

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