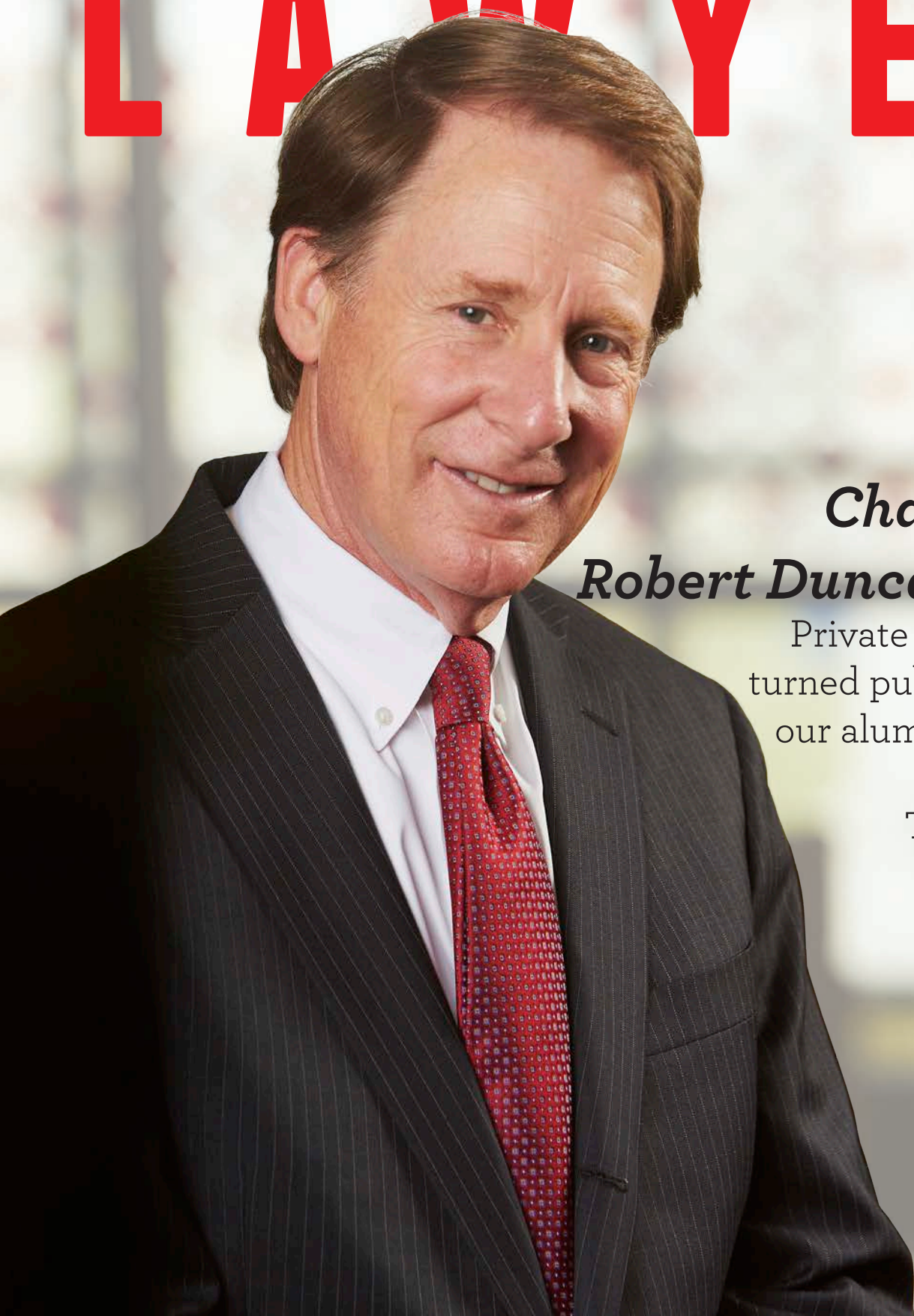


T E X A S T E C H L A W Y E R

FALL 2014



Chancellor Robert Duncan ('81)

Private practitioner
turned public servant,
our alumnus returns
to lead the
TTU System



TEXAS TECH LAWYER

School of Law Administration

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Dean

and W. Frank Newton Professor of Law

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*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
and Professor of Law*

Jorge A. Ramírez
*Associate Dean for International Programs
and Professor of Law*

Victoria V. Sutton
*Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development
and Paul Whitfield Horn Professor*

Arturo Torres
*Associate Dean for Law Library and Information Technology
and Professor of Law*

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**TTU System
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**GENERAL
COUNSEL
— T —
CORPORATE
AMERICA**

**Share your favorite
stories by visiting our
digital edition at
www.law.ttu.edu/lawyer.**

**Texas Tech Law is Counsel
to Corporate America
[pg. 24]**

AUSTIN REGIONAL EXTERNS

The Regional Externship Program launched in the state capital in Spring 2014.



The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Legal Division and Texas Tech Law extern John S. Mercurief, II ('14) [First row, third from right] visit Lockhart State Park in late April.

What do the Supreme Court of Texas, Court of Criminal Appeals, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Indigent Defense Commission, and State Office of Administrative Hearings have in common?

All hosted a Texas Tech Law student for the Regional Externship Program's Austin debut in Spring 2014.

"We are honored to collaborate with Texas Tech Law on such a tremendous program," said Ann Bright, General Counsel for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "Not only do we benefit from the students' work, we hope that we provide students with practical experience and knowledge about the diverse legal needs and challenges of state agencies." Bright was also an M. D. Anderson Visiting Professor at Texas Tech Law in Spring 2014.

The Regional Externship Program finished its second full academic year with seven externs at public or nonprofit placements in Austin, along with nine externs in the original placement cities of Dallas and Fort Worth. An eighth extern in the Office of General Counsel for the San Antonio Spurs also attended the Austin support-course sessions.

Those biweekly sessions alternated between various private law firms and the Office of the Solicitor General, where appellate lawyer and support course Adjunct Professor Dustin Howell ('08) works.

"It has been a great privilege to serve as an adjunct professor this year for Texas Tech Law's externship program in Austin," Howell said. "I've had a great time interacting with the students, particularly during our round-table discussions

about their real-world experiences and challenges over the course of the semester. The students' enthusiasm has been infectious, and it's been a lot of fun to watch their creative and collaborative approaches to their first full-time legal jobs."

The spring-semester Austin venture will expand next year to include placements in the Legislature, the Railroad Commission, and Comptroller. The new crop of Austin externs will likely follow in the footsteps of the inaugural crew, whose River City experience included a boot camp tour of the Capitol and a night on the town at the Austin Bar Foundation's annual gala.

"I know each of the students has really enjoyed the opportunity to not only work in, but truly integrate into, the Austin legal market by participating in local bar activities and meeting local attorneys," Howell said. "I think the program has been a great success in Austin, and I look forward to working with future students in the coming years." ↗

Anticipated Spring 2015 Austin/San Antonio Placements

Court of Criminal Appeals
Office of General Counsel, San Antonio Spurs
Office of the Speaker, Texas House of Representatives
Parliamentarian's Office, Texas House of Representatives
Railroad Commission of Texas
State Office of Administrative Hearings
Supreme Court of Texas
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Texas State Representative Drew Darby
Texas State Representative Rafael Anchia

ACADEMY FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

The innovative leadership program wrapped its inaugural year.



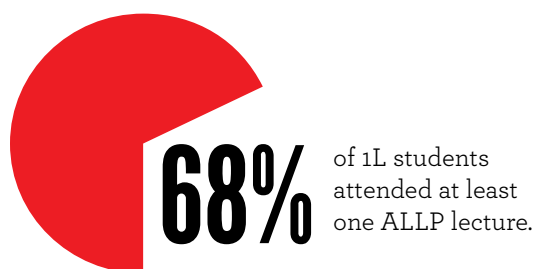
Texas Tech Law launched a three-year leadership training program in Fall 2013. The program, directed by Professor Rishi Batra, requires leadership lectures in the first phase, small-group workshops and book-discussion groups in the second phase, and special leadership projects in the third phase.

Here is a glimpse of the success the Academy has had in just one year.

14 high-profile speakers

partner at Thompson & Knight LLP in Dallas • Lamar Smith, U.S. Congressman (TX-21) • Geoff Connor, 104th Secretary of State of Texas • Dustin Burrows ('04), partner at McCleskey, Harriger, Brazill & Graf LLP • Walter Huffman ('77), Texas Tech Law Dean Emeritus • Michael Sawaya ('75), Stakeholder at The Sawaya Law Firm • Dr. Aliza Wong, Texas Tech University Faculty Senate President • Forrest Bowers, Texas Legal Legend • John Akard, Retired U.S. Bankruptcy Judge • Marsha Sharp, Head Coach Emeritus of the Lady Raider 1993 NCAA Championship

Kent Hance, Texas Tech University Chancellor Emeritus • Linda Swindling ('91), CSP • Casey Flaherty, Kia Motors America corporate counsel • Roberta Cooper Ramo, American Law Institute President • Emily Parker, managing



4 core competencies developed



Leadership Theory



Ethics



Personal Impact



Professional Communication and Technology

147 1Ls attended leadership lectures.

41 students participated in small-group workshops and book discussion groups.

5 3Ls implemented innovative leadership projects.

Need for lawyers addressed...

...through Anh Tran's ('14) leadership project, an Angel Tree with ornaments representing unattended cases at the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program for individuals who fall below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines.



TEXAS TECH ADVOCATES

The teams won three national championships in the 2013–2014 season.

Although he knew it would be tough to match the four national championships Texas Tech Law's advocacy teams won during 2012–2013's "Season for the Ages," Professor Rob Sherwin ('01), Director of Advocacy Programs, thought the school's 2013–2014 teams might come close.

He just didn't realize how close.

"We had a great crop of returning 3L students, and an incredibly talented, exciting group of up-and-coming 2L students," Sherwin said. "So we knew at the outset it could be a special year."

Indeed, Texas Tech Law's teams claimed another three national championships, bringing the number of national and international advocacy titles to 31. But that number could have just as easily been 33, as two Texas Tech Law teams lost in championship rounds that Sherwin thought should have gone the other way.

"Winning four national championships in one year was an amazing feat, so coming as close as we did to winning five? Yeah, it stings a little," Sherwin said. "Still, I'm so proud of all our teams. They represented their law school in ways that should make our alumni very proud."

Along with the three national championships and two national final finishes, the law school's advocacy squads claimed four national semifinal finishes, four regional and state championships, and seven individual

best brief/best advocate awards. That record contributed to the moot court program's highest ranking in the past three years: number four in the nation, according to the University of Houston's Blakely Advocacy Institute.

The first of the advocacy program's three 2013–2014 national championships came in mid-October at the Hassell National Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Aaron Tatyrek ('14), Bridget O'Shaughnessy ('15), and Drew Robertson ('15) won the top prize, which was the law school's first at this particular competition.

The next title came less than a month later at the National Entertainment Law Moot Court Competition in Malibu, California. Stephanie Chipley ('14), Katherine Handy ('15), and Lauren Welch ('15) defeated 23 teams to claim the law school's third Entertainment Law tournament win in six years.

The third championship came early in the spring at the ABA Arbitration Competition in Chicago. After winning their regional competition in November, Delaney Crocker ('15), Caleb Miller ('15), Taylor Stoechner ('15), and Drew Thomas ('15) prevailed at the national rounds in January, marking the fourth Arbitration title in the past six years.

Aside from the three national championships, Sherwin is particularly proud of one of the law school's top moot court teams, which carried on Texas

Tech Law's recent trend of dominance at the nation's two most important appellate advocacy competitions. Lorna McMillion ('14), Stephanie Basom ('14), and Jessica Rugeley ('14) finished as finalists at the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition (NAAC) and as semifinalists at the New York City Bar Association's National Moot Court Competition.

Over the past five years at those two tournaments, Texas Tech Law teams have advanced at least to the national Final Four eight times, with three wins (the National Moot Court Competition in 2011 and 2012, and the ABA NAAC in 2013).

"What Lorna, Jessica, and Stephanie did this year was just remarkable," Sherwin noted. The trio came within eight-hundredths of a point of advancing to the championship round of the National Moot Court Competition, and yet regrouped from that heartbreak to make the championship round of the ABA NAAC less than two months later. "That doesn't happen unless you're the best moot court team in the country, which I truly think they are."

So what does 2014–2015 have in store for Texas Tech Law's teams? "It's always impossible to predict," Sherwin said. "But we think we can build on our successes from this past year and continue to do what we do best—beat other schools and spread the word about the great things we're doing here in Lubbock." 🦋



[left to right] Jessica Rugeley ('14), Stephanie Basom ('14), and Lorna McMillion ('14), National Finalists at the ABA's National Appellate Advocacy Competition in Boston.

CLINICS

Practical experience with a measurable impact.

"The Criminal Defense Clinic has provided me with invaluable practical experience that will allow me to 'hit the ground running' when I start practicing. Professor Metze says that all we need now is a license, and I believe that he is right. I am eternally grateful to Professors Metze and Morgeson for teaching me how to be a diligent, effective attorney."

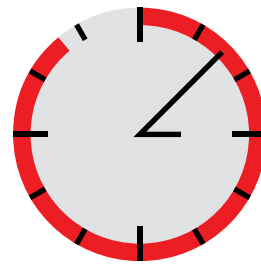
This is how J. Deniz Kadhiran ('14) responded when asked to summarize her clinic experience. Her testimonial mirrors many others given by students who have participated in Texas Tech Law's clinical program throughout its 14-year operation.

Here is a glimpse at the program's contributions in Fall 2013 and Spring 2014.

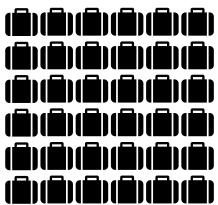
83 students participated in **7** faculty-supervised clinics

Advanced Alternative Dispute Resolution Clinic • Capital Punishment Clinic • Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic • Civil Practice Clinic • Criminal Defense Clinic • Family Law and Housing Clinic • Low Income Tax Clinic

69% resolution rate on cases handled by the Advanced Alternative Dispute Resolution Clinic



16,648.25 hours contributed by clinic students



36 cases completed in the Civil Practice Clinic

24 family law cases finalized by the Family Law and Housing Clinic



\$99,433 in corrected tax liabilities saved for taxpayers by the Low Income Tax Clinic

63% dismissal rate on the cases handled by the Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic

*A special thanks to Professor Vaughn James, who stepped down as Tax Clinic Director in April 2014 to return to the faculty and assume directorship of the LL.M. program. In his **6** years of service to the Tax Clinic, James supervised **68** students and represented **245** clients.*

INTERNATIONAL LAW PROGRAMS

A new summer program in Lithuania and the first LL.M. class.

As the economy becomes increasingly globalized, lawyers with international experience are in high demand.

The Texas Tech Law International Programs Office is designed to meet those demands by educating internationally savvy attorneys. A glimpse at the past year alone indicates that it is well on its way toward accomplishing that goal.

The law school's latest international innovation is the Summer Law Program in Kaunas, Lithuania, at the Vytautas Magnus University (VMU). The program, which recently wrapped its first year, offers students an opportunity to study alongside Lithuanian law students and participate in an externship with international law firms operating throughout that country.

When Dean Darby Dickerson began her tenure, she asked Jorge Ramírez, Associate Dean for International Programs, to implement a study-abroad program in Europe. Ramírez taught Public International Law at VMU for several years. Vickie Sutton, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, had also developed a strong relationship with the VMU faculty during the many years she taught law courses at the university.

Sutton noted that Lithuania's political and economic transitions over the past two decades, since its declaration of independence from the Soviet Union in 1990, provide a unique laboratory in which our students can study international law. "We thought that it was important to give students the opportunity to study in a country with an emerging democracy," said Sutton. "The changes in the Lithuanian laws aren't history. Our students are studying in a country where these changes in the legal system occurred during their lifetime."

Sutton added that the experience will provide students with an important lesson regarding the cost of democracy and freedom. "Our students are embarking on a career of respecting the rule of law and they're studying in a country, and in a classroom, with people who staked their lives and the lives of their families on a respect for the rule of law."

This first year was a great success. Sixteen Texas Tech Law students studied alongside twenty-eight Lithuanian honors law students at VMU. Six of our students also served as externs with four international law firms in Lithuania.

Not only is Texas Tech Law sending students abroad to expand their horizons, but it is also internationalizing its classrooms.

Texas Tech Law recently established a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree in U.S. Legal Studies. During the 2013-2014 academic year, it welcomed its inaugural LL.M. class. Due to the degree's exclusive focus on U.S. law, admission to the LL.M. program is restricted to students who earned their law degree at a foreign institution; however, LL.M. students take classes alongside J.D. students.

These LL.M. students bring to the classroom a wealth of comparative legal knowledge and experience that offers their American classmates a viewpoint that they might not otherwise have discovered. The LL.M. students also internationalize Texas Tech Law by sharing their experiences across the globe. Abeer Shabaneh ('14) graduated with her law degree in Jordan and later made the decision to pursue her LL.M. degree at Texas Tech Law.

"I had always been told good things about Texas Tech Law's professors and teaching methods," said Shabaneh.

"When the LL.M. degree opened up, I applied, was accepted, and discovered that what I had been told was correct. The professors at Texas Tech Law will do whatever it takes to ensure their students' success."

In addition to the budding LL.M. degree program and the Summer Law Program in Lithuania, the International Programs Office also offers students the opportunity to participate in the Summer Law Institute in Guanajuato, Mexico, which celebrated its 25th anniversary this summer.

Finally, Texas Tech Law continues to administer an active international student exchange program with law schools in Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, and Lithuania. The program brings law students from these various nations to study law at our campus for a semester each year, and allows our students to reciprocate by studying law in these same countries for a semester.

With so many international experiences to take advantage of, Texas Tech Law grads will continue to lead the way both at home and abroad. ↗



Dean Ramírez hoods LL.M. graduate Abeer Shabaneh ('14), May 2014.

INTRODUCING PROFESSORS ALEX AND TRACY PEARL

Water law expert and criminal-law expert joined the faculty.



Professors Alex and Tracy Pearl recently traded the balmy breeze of South Florida for the blustery winds of West Texas. In so doing, the law school gained an expert in water law, one of the most vibrant fields of environmental law.

Texas Tech Law recruited the Pearls from Florida International University in Miami. Alex teaches Property, Water Law, and an advanced seminar focusing on water-law issues specific to the West Texas region. He also leads the Center for Water Law and Policy. Tracy teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Environmental Law, and Professional Responsibility.

“Water rights law is particularly dynamic, with western states increasingly seeking federal legislation to resolve disputes over what’s become a scarce resource,” said Alex. “It’s a thorny issue that needs political and legal resolution so it doesn’t get worse.”

The shifting legal landscape surrounding water rights is wide-reaching, given that it impacts everything from hydraulic fracturing to drought preparedness to groundwater restructuring.

Both of the Pearls structure their coursework to prepare students to practice law in the 21st century. “I challenge students to think about litigation strategies, ethics, and some of the more practical concerns that lawyers today face,” said Tracy. To prove that last point, she recalls her early days as a litigation associate with Hogan Lovells LLP in Washington, D.C.

“I went to work on my very first day feeling confident about the subject matter. However, when a partner asked me to draft a strategy memo outlining how we would litigate a case, it was odd, because I’d never talked about strategy during law school,” said Tracy. “I felt unprepared for the practical experience of lawyering, and have since made it a priority to teach both legal doctrine and applied law.”

Alex similarly draws from his litigation experience in driving

students to probe beyond textbook lawyering. Exclusively representing individual Indians and Indian tribes as a litigation associate with Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP in Washington, D.C., he often dealt with trespass claims and easement violations. “There are times when I’ll talk about what a trespass claim looks like in a certain context,” he said. “I want my students to dig deeper than the case that’s presented on paper and learn how to go about finding and developing facts. It gives them an on-the-ground perspective on what it’s really like to litigate.”

As an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, Alex credits his heritage as the driving force behind his career. “I went to law school fully resolved to represent tribal communities,” he said. “I was one of the lucky few that knew exactly what I wanted to do upon graduation.”

Both Alex and Tracy are thrilled to be back within driving distance of Alex’s family in Oklahoma, and to raise their young family in a cultured, close-knit community. Having first met as judicial law clerks during a special sitting of the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the Pearls discovered that they were both planning to move to Washington, D.C. A few years later, they would also shift their careers from private practice to academia.

“We both knew upon graduating law school that we wanted to return as professors,” said Tracy. The student body at Texas Tech Law, which Tracy describes as energetic, committed, and intelligent, is a particularly appealing place to do so.

“There’s always some competition in law school, but the positive vibe at Texas Tech Law allows students to rightly focus on becoming the best lawyers they can be,” said Alex. “We’re excited to be part of a law school that is both traditional and progressive.” ➦

2013–2014 HOODING CEREMONIES

Texas Tech Law hooded 216 practice-ready graduates.

The most recent graduates of Texas Tech University School of Law received sage advice from distinguished keynote speakers at the December 2013 and May 2014 hooding ceremonies. Below is a glimpse of the keynote remarks and what some of the graduates are doing now.

December 14, 2013

The Texas Tech Law alumni network gained sixteen new members at the December 2013 hooding ceremony.

Keynote speaker William B. Dawson ('75), partner in the Dallas office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and a 2012 School of Law Distinguished Alumnus, related the rags to riches story of his friend Phil McGraw, best known as television personality Dr. Phil. Born in Oklahoma and raised in poverty, McGraw went on to receive his doctorate in psychology. He eventually became one of the most successful jury consultants in the country.

“He set out not just to get a job, but to do a job,” said Dawson. “Was he lucky? Yes. But we all make our own luck.”

Dawson left the graduates with three bits of advice. First, life awards decisive action. “A goal must be specific,” he said. “If you can’t name it, you can’t claim it.” Second, whether you’re motivated by financial, spiritual, or psychological factors, the most important foundation of success is at home. Third, have courage to seize life’s defining moments.

Briana Marie Teter ('13) delivered the closing remarks, reminding her classmates of the roles that honor and integrity will play in their career path. “This profession is about how we use our learned skills to defend others,” said Teter.

May 17, 2014

Two-hundred new alumni were hooded at the May 2014 graduation.

The keynote address was delivered by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott. While studying for the Texas Bar Exam, Abbott went for a jog and was left paralyzed by a falling tree that struck his back. After relearning everyday skills, Abbott went on to serve as a justice on the Texas Supreme Court, as the Attorney General of Texas, and now, as a gubernatorial candidate against State Senator Wendy Davis.





Abbott stressed the importance of adapting to life's inevitable curve balls. "Exactly thirty years ago today, I sat right where you are sitting, on the threshold of law school graduation. I was ready to embark on what I hoped would be an exciting career in law," he said. "Little did I know that the picture of me walking across the stage to receive my law school degree would be the last picture of me walking."

"The future I had taken for granted was changed in an instant," he continued. "But I have found that our lives don't have to be defined by our circumstances. Instead, our lives can be determined by our character. Your path and your legal career will probably, like mine, face many challenges. Your lives are not defined by how you're challenged; instead, you get to define your lives by the way you respond to the challenges you face."

In his farewell remarks for the class, Jefferson Fisher ('14) challenged his classmates to redefine what success looks like, both as a lawyer and as an individual. He closed with an apropos quote from Irish political philosopher Edmund Burke: "It is not what a lawyer tells me I may do; but what humanity, reason, and justice tell me I ought to do." 🐘

Where are they now?

Neha Casturi ('14), Judicial Clerk
The Honorable E. Scott Frost ('87), United States District
Court for the Northern District of Texas
Abilene, Texas

Colleen Ferrall ('14), Legal Counsel for Project Development
Group NIRE
Lubbock, Texas

Kayla Frank ('14), Judicial Clerk
The Honorable Phil Johnson ('75), Texas Supreme Court
Austin, Texas

Megan James ('14), Associate
Thompson & Knight LLP
Dallas, Texas

Joe Mims ('14), Assistant Criminal District Attorney
Bexar County District Attorney
San Antonio, Texas



**TTU System Chancellor
Robert Duncan ('81)**

“From here, it’s possible.”

Some readers will recognize this slogan from Texas Tech University’s recent branding campaign. It is also what Texas Tech University System Chancellor Robert Duncan (’81) cited when asked what makes Texas Tech such a special place, as an educational institution and for him personally.

“Everyone with whom I’ve met, here in Lubbock and at our branch campuses, is excited to be a part of Texas Tech and to move their institution to the next level,” said Duncan. “In this huge system—which includes two medical schools and a law school—collaboration is key among the leadership. Fortunately, West Texans have a proclivity for teamwork.”

Throughout a career spanning from private practice to service in the Texas Legislature, Duncan has retained a deep-seated respect for his alma mater. Returning to Lubbock this year as the system’s fourth chancellor, he plans to support and expand the resources that set Texas Tech apart from the pack—such as its close-knit network of alumni. “You can’t beat that kind of marketing when it comes to recruitment,” he said.

Duncan can attest to the power of personal connection, as his history with Texas Tech is something of a family affair. His uncle, Marshall Formby—a former Regent and Texas State Senator—was the first person to recommend renaming Texas Technological College as Texas Tech University. Clint Formby, his cousin, was chairman of the Board of Regents. Clint also served as student-body president while an undergraduate, a title he would later share with his cousin, Robert. Three of Duncan’s four sisters, and all of his children, attended Texas Tech. Duncan himself enrolled at Texas Tech as an undergraduate and as a law student, and graduated with an Agricultural Economics degree in 1976 and a law degree in 1981.

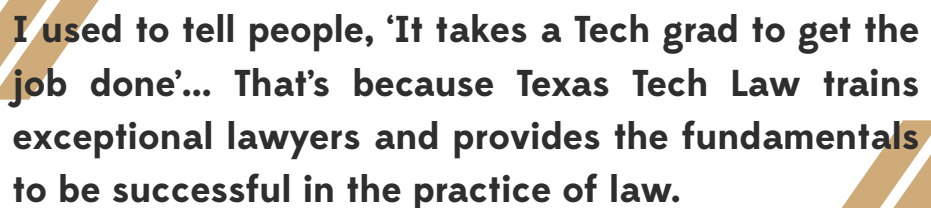
The start of Duncan’s political career traces back to his sophomore year at Texas Tech. A fraternity brother encouraged him to run for an open seat on the Student Senate. Duncan initially had reservations about his first attempt at elected office—but he set them aside, entered the race, and won. “I was inspired by my professors and mentors to do more than I thought I could do,” said Duncan. “Otherwise, I would have just gone through the motions.”

A law degree was not something he had planned to pursue, either. The farming industry was in a tumultuous period in the mid-1970s, so Duncan—inspired by his newfound success in student government—decided to explore a legal career. He enrolled at Texas Tech Law with the Class of 1981. “It seemed

like the right thing to do,” he said. “I had no idea what I was doing that first day, and I nearly wore out my copy of *Black’s Law Dictionary* within the first week. In the end, law school was very good for me. It matures your thinking process.”

He credits Texas Tech Law’s curriculum for instilling the nitty-gritty aspects of law that students begrudgingly accept, but ultimately appreciate. “Procedure, for instance, does not sound like the most exciting course,” said Duncan. “But you cannot conduct a formal legal analysis unless you understand those basic tenets of law.” More than three decades later, Duncan vividly recalls lessons he learned in law school. Some of his instructors, including Professors John Krahmer and Robert Weninger, are still teaching at the law school. “Everyone recalls Professor Krahmer’s collection of ties,” Duncan chuckled. “I took his course when the bankruptcy code was in the midst of changing. He was an expert in the field, and we all admired him for it.”

Thanks to Texas Tech Law’s focus on practical education, his fellow alums were always highly-regarded, Duncan noted. “When I served in the Texas Legislature, I used to tell people, ‘It takes a Tech grad to get the job done,’” he said with a smile. “That’s because Texas Tech Law trains exceptional lawyers and provides the fundamentals to be successful in the practice of law. The faculty are wonderful mentors, and they take pride in the caliber of the lawyers they are educating.”



I used to tell people, ‘It takes a Tech grad to get the job done’... That’s because Texas Tech Law trains exceptional lawyers and provides the fundamentals to be successful in the practice of law.

During his second and third years of law school, Duncan worked for William “Bill” Moss, the top litigator at revered Lubbock firm Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam, LLP. “Although there was some grunt work involved, I really enjoyed the hands-on experience,” said Duncan. “Bill tasked me with finding and interviewing witnesses, maintaining the library, and briefing the attorneys.” The firm hired him as an associate when he graduated from Texas Tech Law in 1981. Five years later, he became partner.

“I was fortunate to work alongside first-rate lawyers who taught me to apply the law in an ethical manner,” he said. “‘Win at any cost’ is not your job as an attorney. The more mentoring you have, the better your judgment will be.”

Duncan took a short leave of absence from the firm in 1989 to work alongside Judge John Montford, former Texas State Senator and Texas Tech University’s first chancellor, on the Finance Committee of the Texas State Senate. Much

like the friend who encouraged Duncan to run for Student Senate, Montford recognized his protégé's rising star. He convinced Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam, LLP's Jim Milam to sign off on Duncan's campaign for a seat in the Texas House of Representatives. "Though the firm typically didn't want its partners involved in politics, they took a risk and supported my political career for more than 20 years," said Duncan. "When you're part of a firm that makes its money by the hour, that's a significant investment in the community. It was a great experience for me, and the firm benefitted as well. When you contribute to the community, you become a part of that community."

After serving two consecutive terms in the Texas House of Representatives, Duncan secured a seat in the Texas State Senate through a special election. "If you're going to represent West Texans, Texas Tech must be a top priority," Duncan said. "The university is the economic engine of this whole region, and our presence with health-related academic opportunities is huge. It's important for this region to grow, and I knew that I could make that happen in the Senate."

That he did. Duncan was an influential force behind major legislation impacting public and higher education, including a statute that recognized the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center as a separate institution from Texas Tech University, and another statute that established workers' compensation insurance coverage for state employees, including those within the Texas Tech University System. Duncan's service on the State Senate's Finance, State Affairs, and Budget Conference Committees and his reputation for decisive leadership earned him more spots on *Texas Monthly* magazine's "Ten Best Legislators" than any other member of the legislature.

When the Board of Regents began its search for the System's next chancellor earlier this year, Duncan's first-hand knowledge of Texas Tech, the West Texas region, and the inner workings of state funding were hard to beat. "Senator Duncan has a vision for higher education in Texas and, in particular, the Texas Tech University System that will prepare globally competitive and workforce ready students," Board of

Regents Vice Chairman Larry Anders said in a statement released after Duncan's appointment as chancellor. "During his more than two decades in the Texas Legislature, Senator Duncan has proven time and again to effectively bring people together for the common good of the state."

One of his first priorities as chancellor is the progression of Texas Tech's educational product. "My job as chancellor is to help get the resources to fund excellence," Duncan said. "Money is not the whole equation, but it's a big part of it. We need to be competitive with our salaries and facilities, which is why I'll be looking for other sources of revenue through increased external and philanthropic support." Recruitment and retention of students and faculty is also important. "We're fortunate to have passionate students and talented faculty," he added. "As long as we maintain our positive energy about what we do and who we are, we will grow as an institution."

Texas Tech must also continue to groom its graduates for prestigious careers at high-profile organizations, a process that is underway with the law school's Regional Externship Program. Duncan said that the program, spearheaded by Dean Darby Dickerson and Associate Professor Dustin Benham, is a great model for the institution as a whole. The program has secured externships for rising 3Ls at the Supreme Court of Texas, the U.S. Department of Labor, and other prominent organizations.

From retired President and CEO of SBC Communications Inc. Ed Whitacre to former Governor of Texas Preston Smith to former WNBA player and Olympic Gold Medalist Sheryl Swoopes, Texas Tech's existing roster of alumni is certainly impressive. "You could have 20 different ads like the ones running at Love Field featuring our successful alumni, and it's because they were inspired here," said Duncan. "As long as we capitalize on our existing strengths, donors will support us and communities will continue to partner with us."

A West Texan by blood and a Red Raider at heart, Duncan's allegiance to and passion for Texas Tech will surely serve him well as he leads the university system to its next chapter of excellence. ⚡



'Win at any cost' is not your job as an attorney. The more mentoring you have, the better your judgment will be.

2014 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Thanking alumni and friends for their contributions to the law school and the legal profession.

Thirty-seven alumni and friends of Texas Tech Law were recognized with awards at the law school's alumni reception on June 26, 2014. The reception was held in conjunction with the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Austin. The full list of award winners follows.

The G.O.L.D. Awards recognize alumni who graduated during the last decade (Graduates of the Last Decade) for significant achievements in the practice of law, the judiciary, public service, government, business, or commerce. **Recipients:**

Ricardo Barrera ('10), The Barrera Law Firm, Harlingen, Texas
Priscilla Camacho ('05), Vice President of Education/
Workforce Development at The Greater San Antonio
Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, Texas
Chad West ('06), Chad West, PLLC, Dallas, Texas

The D. Murray Hensley Service Award recognizes an alumnus who has served the law school by coaching advocacy teams. **Recipient:**

Lawrence M. Doss ('99), Partner, Mullin, Hoard & Brown, LLP,
Lubbock, Texas

The Hershell L. Barnes Ambassador Awards recognize alumni who have served as goodwill ambassadors of the School of Law and general community. **Recipients:**

Cecilia Morgan ('77), JAMS The Resolution Experts, Dallas,
Texas
Laura Pratt ('09), City Attorney's Office, Lubbock, Texas
Barbara Ellis ('94), Locke Lord LLP, Austin, Texas

The President's Award recognizes the outgoing president of the Texas Tech Alumni Association. **Recipient:**

Wade Shelton ('81), Shelton and Valadez, PC, San Antonio,
Texas

The Bob Black Bar Leaders Awards recognize Texas Tech Law alumni who during the past year has served as president of a local, state, national, international, or specialty bar association. This award is named in honor of Texas Tech Law alumnus Bob Black ('80), who served as president of the State Bar of Texas during 2011-2012. **Recipients:**

James E. Beam '08
Renee M. Castillo-De La Cruz '09
Todd Clement '86
Clinton W. Dennis '10
Michele N. Dodd '05
Marcy M. Erwin '07
Brooke Hendricks-Green '06

Laura L. Hale '04
David J. Hazlewood '79
Brian P. Heinrich '91
Lisa K. Hooper '06
Rick McPherson '76
Frank T. Messina '09
Jody L. Myatt '02

The Daniel H. Benson Public Service Awards recognize alumni who have furthered ideals of public service in the law. **Recipients:**

The Honorable Jim Jordan ('77), 160th District Court, Dallas,
Texas
Lee Parsley ('89), E. Lee Parsley, PC, Austin, Texas
The Honorable Cathleen Parsley ('81), State Office of
Administrative Hearings, Austin, Texas
Greg Fouratt ('95), Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico
Department of Public Safety, Albuquerque, New Mexico

The Outstanding Service Awards recognize non-alumni individuals and organizations who have a history of (a) hiring Texas Tech Law alumni, (b) serving or mentoring Texas Tech Law students, (c) participating in externship programs for Texas Tech Law students, or (d) contributing monetarily or otherwise to the success of Texas Tech School of Law. **Recipients:**

Tracy Brown, Texas Young Lawyers Association, Austin,
Texas
Texas Access to Justice Foundation, Austin, Texas
New Mexico Public Defender, Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Rising Star Awards recognize alumni (usually out 15 or fewer years) whose service and leadership, either professionally or at the School of Law, has brought credit to the graduate and the institution. **Recipients:**

Chris Pepper ('01), Winstead PC, Austin, Texas
William C. Petit ('05), Jackson Gilmour & Dobbs, Houston,
Texas

Victor R. Rodriguez, II '09
James E. Teague '99
C. Barrett Thomas '08
Celeste I. Villarreal '05
Mark S. Zachary '89
Alexandria K. Zant '99

THE 10TH ANNUAL GALA

Honoring alumni with exceptionally distinguished careers.



[left to right] Carolyn Moore (79), Irene Ladd, Rodney Acker (74), Dean Darby Dickerson, John Simpson (74), and Frank McDonald (79).

Texas Tech Law welcomed more than 340 alumni, faculty, staff, and students to its 10th Annual Gala at The Overton Hotel and Conference Center on Friday, March 7, 2014.

Guests enjoyed the temperate—and unseasonably dust-free—weather during cocktail hour, which was hosted on the Overton patio. The evening officially kicked off in the Overton ballroom with remarks from Dean Darby Dickerson. Bukky Oyewuwo (14) followed the Dean at the podium, thanking the guests at large for the opportunities facilitated by her scholarship support.

C. Rodney Acker (74) and Frank McDonald (79) were recognized with 2013 Distinguished Alumni Awards. Thanking his wife of 42 years, Judy, for her unwavering support, Acker also praised the law school for producing “practice-ready” attorneys. McDonald, after some self-deprecating humor regarding his work at the Department of Energy, similarly thanked his family for tolerating his long work hours.

Carolyn Moore (79) and John Simpson (74) accepted the 2013 Distinguished Service Awards. Moore also accepted a Distinguished Service Award on behalf of her late husband, Ralph H. Brock (75). “Our law professors inspired Ralph and me to give back to our profession and to society,” said Moore. Simpson proudly accepted his award from a law school he

described as growing “from a middle of the road law school to a major, national presence.”

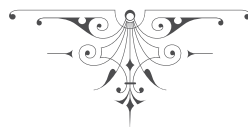
This year’s Gala included a new Humanitarian Award that was conferred posthumously to The Honorable Larry B. “Rusty” Ladd (88). His wife, Irene, accepted the award on his behalf. “Rusty is remembered for his selfless, charitable nature, which was evident through his 15 years of service and advocacy on behalf of the Lubbock-area homeless community,” she said.

Several events were held in conjunction with the Gala. The morning after the Gala, Board of Barristers and *Texas Tech Law Review* alumni gathered for breakfast during the law school open house. Dean Darby Dickerson also delivered a “State of the Law School” address where she shared updates about how the law school continues to provide affordable, high-quality legal education and about its progress with curriculum, experiential learning, and faculty research.

Later that evening, members of the classes of 1974, 1984, 1989, and 2004 reassembled at The Overton Hotel and Conference Center for class reunions.

In addition, legal writing expert Bryan Garner conducted a two-day “Legal Writing in Plain English” course and CLE at the law school on March 8–9. Garner is author of *The Winning Brief* and editor in chief of *Black Law’s Dictionary*. 🐘

Please join us next year for the 11th Annual Law School Gala



*March 6, 2015
The Overton Hotel and Conference Center*

2013–2014 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

All-star speakers shared lessons learned.



“Our democracy cannot function unless its lawyers—the architects and foot soldiers of American democracy—practice supreme civility.”

—Roberta Cooper Ramo, president of the American Law Institute and former president of the American Bar Association, visited as the year’s Huffman Distinguished Lecturer, September 25, 2013.

“I think one important thing for judges to remember is that judging is what they do, not who they are. Because if ‘judge’ becomes who you are, then you can’t ever get away from it. Make it your job, not your person.”

—Justice Cheryl Johnson of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The Court, which typically presides in Austin, heard two cases in the Donald M. Hunt Courtroom, October 2, 2013.



“The key to relationships is respect, which leads us to the other golden rule: always treat others how you want to be treated in the workplace.”

—Emily Parker, managing partner at Thompson & Knight LLP in Dallas. Parker was recruited by the Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession, directed by Professor Rishi Batra, for its leadership lecture series, October 21, 2013.

“Though a colleague may be perceived as ‘smarter,’ the ability to outwork is the best prerequisite for success in any profession.”

—U.S. Congressman Lamar Smith (TX-21). Smith was recruited by the Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession for its leadership lecture series, November 1, 2013.



“If someone opens the door, walk through it.”

—Cecilia G. Morris, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. Morris was invited as part of the Judicial Conversation Series coordinated by Professor Sally Henry, November 8, 2013.

Texas Tech Law is grateful to all of our guest speakers throughout the past school year for sharing their time and insight. The newest cohort of Texas Tech lawyers will graduate as ethical, communicative, practice-ready leaders thanks in part to these words of wisdom.

The following is a glimpse at some of the advice that was shared.

“A goal must be specific. If you can’t name it, you can’t claim it.”

—William B. Dawson (’75), partner in the Dallas office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and 2012 School of Law Distinguished Alumnus. Dawson was the keynote speaker at the law school’s hooding ceremony, December 14, 2013.



“A rule of thumb for any legal writing assignment: if you wouldn’t speak it, don’t write it.”

—Bryan A. Garner, legal writing expert, author of *The Winning Brief*, and editor in chief of *Black’s Law’s Dictionary*. Garner hosted his “Legal Writing in Plain English” course and CLE at Texas Tech Law as part of the annual Gala weekend, March 8–9, 2014.

“The jury instills in all classes a respect for judicial decisions and the idea of law. Remove those two things and love of independence becomes a destructive passion.”

—Forrest Bowers, legendary Lubbock attorney. Bowers, who was also inducted as a West Texas Legal Legend, recited a famous quote by Alexis de Tocqueville on the role of trial by jury in America during his induction by the State Bar as a Texas Legal Legend, April 1, 2014.



“The things we are able to accomplish in our lives are limitless; until we learn that lesson, we are probably a little hindered.”

—Marsha Sharp, Head Coach Emeritus of the Lady Raider 1993 NCAA Championship. Sharp was recruited by the Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession for its leadership lecture series, April 14, 2014.

“In a criminal or civil case, don’t ever assume that your client’s grievances are not important. You should not be practicing law if you think otherwise.”

—Kent R. Hance, Chancellor Emeritus of Texas Tech University. Hance was honored as a West Texas Legal Legend at the School of Law, May 2, 2014.





Get to Know Darryl Vereen ('92)

2014-2015 president of the Texas Tech Law Alumni Association

The Texas Tech Law Alumni Association has new leadership, and the man in charge is ready to get to work. Darryl Vereen ('92), a 22-year veteran of Mounce, Green, Myers, Saft, Paxson & Galatzan in El Paso, is dedicated to his family, his practice, and his beloved alma mater.

As 2014-2015 president of the Texas Tech Law Alumni Association, Vereen hopes to unleash the full potential of the alumni base by expanding the channels of communication and appealing to the law school's close-knit community.

In a Q&A with the Texas Tech Lawyer, Vereen talks about his childhood, career, and goals for the next chapter of the Alumni Association.

TTL: Tell us about your formative years.

DV: I was born on the base at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. We were only there for 6 months before my dad was deployed to Korea. Dad retired upon his return from Korea after 21 years in the U.S. Army, and we later moved to North Richland Hills, a suburb of Ft. Worth.

When I was about 11 years old, I went with one of my friends to visit his dad, who was (and still is) a farmer and rancher in Clarendon, Texas. Through the 10th grade, we would go up there and work on his ranch on school holidays and during the summer. It was there that I learned how to work, about being responsible, and about everything that is important in life. It is also where I developed a lifelong love of West Texas and its people.

TTL: How about your personal life—family, hobbies?

DV: My wife Meg is from Perryton, Texas, a small town in the panhandle about two hours north of Amarillo. I met her at Texas Tech, and we've been married for 25 years. Our oldest daughter, Amanda, is a senior at Texas Tech and is one of the drum majors for the Goin' Band. Next is Kyle, who has shipped off to pursue his dream of becoming a United States Marine. I'm very proud his commitment. Youngest is Ryan, who is a senior in high school this fall and is a starter on the Franklin High School football team. He is probably the biggest Red Raider of the whole bunch; look for him to be in Lubbock next year.

As far as hobbies, I enjoy all things Texas Tech. I support Ducks Unlimited and the National Rifle Association. I enjoy shooting and hunting and have hunted in South Africa, Mozambique, and New Zealand. However, my biggest passion for many years now has been hunting quail out here in West Texas with my bird dogs, who I train myself and are a big part of our family.

TTL: You graduated from Texas Tech in 1987. Why did you decide to pursue your law degree a few years later? And why at Tech?

DV: After graduation, I worked in Dallas as a sales engineer and estimator of oilfield and natural gas equipment. I always wondered about whether I could be a lawyer, but never really thought I could due to money issues and, honestly, self-doubt. But I decided to give it a shot and was accepted at Wyoming, Baylor, and Texas Tech. I drove out to Lubbock for Accepted Students Day, and [former Associate Dean] Joe Conboy introduced himself. I was very honest about my interest in Tech, and the following week, I got a letter saying that I had a full academic scholarship at Tech if I was inclined to accept it. It was a life-changing event for me. I quit my job, got married, came back home to Lubbock, and the rest is history. I have never looked back or regretted a single minute.

TTL: Any memorable stories from your time at the law school?

DV: I was pretty intimidated at first, and really doubted whether I would make it. I was fortunate to get some great advice from Larry Casto ('90), who was a 3L at the time (and is now a lobbyist for the city of Dallas). He told me to just relax and study the way I had in the past, and most importantly, introduced me to the advocacy programs. I became close friends with Stace "The Ace Man" Williams ('92). He served as class president for a few years, and I served as class vice president for one year. We were also mock trial partners and won it as third years. Dean Frank Newton always treated me well, and I had a great deal of respect for him. I was very close to Joe Conboy the whole time, and he hooded me at graduation. I was a disciple of Professor Hadley Edgar. He was tough, but you definitely learned the materials. I also had Professor Brian Shannon at least three times, and we're still in close touch today. Of course, I cannot say enough about Professors Don Hunt and Murray Hensley. With their guidance, I was ready to step into the courtroom upon graduation. And I did.

TTL: What does a typical day look like for you with Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan?

DV: Pretty darn busy. I usually work an 11-12 hour day during the week, and 4-6 hours most Saturdays. My workload is pretty typical for a trial lawyer, with depositions, client meetings, training young lawyers, court hearings, way too many emails, client development, and, of course, trials.

TTL: You've been with the firm since you graduated from Texas Tech Law in 1992. What enticed you to stay?

DV: I am very loyal to those who are good to me, and my stay here has been no exception. I was given training, mentoring, friendship, and the opportunity to succeed by some really outstanding lawyers, who I still do not measure up to. Everyone works hard. Everyone does a great job. I think we have a great reputation that is hard-earned.

TTL: How do you think your professional experience will be an asset to the Alumni Association?

DV: I work with attorneys from all different practice areas. I think I have a pretty good understanding about what we do, how we do it, and the challenges we face. I think to be an effective trial lawyer and successful at developing clients, you have to be a good communicator. Of course, some folks you just can't reach, but the real challenge is getting past that. I have learned a lot the hard way and I think that will help me help our alumni, particularly the young ones.

TTL: How do you plan to engage our alumni?

DV: It's all about communication. Letters, emails, telegrams, smoke signals—whatever it takes to get the word out. It's also important to realize that not everyone is in a big law

firm, or works for the government. There are a lot of solos and small practices that I think are underserved. I would like to energize our El Paso alums, since I am here. El Paso is a really underappreciated legal market, largely due to our geographic isolation. It is, however, the largest metropolitan area in West Texas by far, and our university was created to serve West Texas. It will continue to be a growth area for our school and has some unique legal issues because we are on the international border with Mexico.

TTL: Can you describe your primary goal for the upcoming year at the helm of the Alumni Association?

DV: To get the word out. We should have membership cards, levels of sponsorship, etc. People want to be part of a group that they can say “I’m a member” with pride. They also want to have fun. It’s also important to engage the students. Law school is short, but your career is long. Students who have a good experience are more likely to be supportive and engaged alums.

TTL: What do you think sets Texas Tech Law apart from the pack? And how can the alumni work together to better promote our brand?

DV: We don’t have the big name, big money, or reputation of UT or Harvard. But we do have hard-working students and lawyers who get it done every day. If we keep doing that, everything else will follow.

It all starts with hard work. We teach that, and it shows. It’s what employers want, and it’s what clients want, so let’s promote it. True story: when I was thinking about what law school I would attend, I randomly called six lawyers and asked them what they thought. Five out of six said “Texas Tech.”

TTL: If there’s one thing you think someone unfamiliar with Texas Tech Law or Texas Tech Law lawyers should know about our institution, what would that be? And how do you plan to make it more known?

DV: If you come here, you are literally part of a family. I can’t think of another major institution with that very unique and

personal quality. Twenty-two years later, I am still on a first name basis with people who remember me. I could walk in and get a hug from Donna Williams in the admissions office. If it ever becomes a cold, impersonal lawyer factory, I will quit; but I don’t see that happening.

TTL: Are there any misconceptions about the law school, its alumni, or the profession as a whole that you strive to change?

DV: Those who have never been here think it’s a trade school in the middle of nowhere with tumbleweeds blowing down the street. Those who have actually been to our school know better. By and large, I think our alumni are well-respected. There are lots of misconceptions about the profession, which are almost entirely self-inflicted. We need to better understand how non-lawyers perceive things. At the end of the day, we are public servants. The very best lawyers are the ones who view things from the perspective of non-lawyers, but with the benefit of our training and knowledge.

TTL: It’s no secret that law school applicants are dwindling. How can the alumni base assist the law school in attracting quality students and retaining them as active alumni?

DV: I think this is cyclical. If people don’t think they can make a good living as a lawyer, they won’t invest in the education to become one. As alumni, we need to do a better job in educating prospects about the profession itself. There is quite a bit more to being a lawyer than just a paycheck. Also, if alumni know of qualified applicants, they should try to refer them to Texas Tech Law.

TTL: On a similar note, aside from the obvious answer of making regular gifts, how can alums better assist our development campaigns and assure future growth?

DV: Other than money, the best and only way to do this is by doing what we do every day. Be good lawyers. Be good people. Be an example. You never get a second chance to make a first impression, and what you want to happen is for people to say, “Wow, who was that? I’m very impressed.” The response should always be, “He/she is from Texas Tech Law. They are like that.” It’s really that simple. 🐾



*Darryl & Meg Vereen with their dogs, Gus and Cash.
Photo credit: Andrea Salmon*

WEST TEXAS LEGAL LEGENDS

Honoring those who practice with supreme integrity.

Texas Tech Law inducted three new West Texas Legal Legends during the 2013–2014 academic year.

Wayne A. Reaud ('74), 1998 Distinguished Alumnus, and his wife Dana established the West Texas Legal Legends Scholarships in 2004 to celebrate regional lawyers who have made an impact in the profession. As part of this program, the Reauds have endowed scholarships to honor John F. "Buddy" Maner, W. Frank Newton, Travis D. Shelton, and W. Royal Furgeson, Jr. Forrest Bowers, James H. Milam, and Kent R. Hance were inducted in the 2013–2014 school year.

These scholarships, each requiring a minimum endowment of \$250,000, are awarded to law students based on academic promise and commitment to service and are the most prestigious offered by Texas Tech University School of Law.

Get to know the most recent West Texas Legal Legend inductees.



Forrest Bowers

Inducted November 8, 2013

"Forrest Bowers has integrity, he has honesty, and he knows how to defend those who can't defend themselves."

—James Wes Christian of Christian Smith & Jewell

Born and raised on a cotton farm in Dunn, Texas, Bowers learned the value of hard work and dedication at a young age. He served as a P-51 pilot during World War II. He farmed for two years after the war, and then returned to school and received his law degree in 1951. During his six-decade legal career, Bowers tried hundreds of jury trials throughout Texas and beyond and handled more than a hundred reported appellate cases.



James H. Milam

Inducted May 2, 2014

"My father had a deep-seated love of learning and the law and encouraged both men and women to enter this honorable profession."

—Milam's daughter, Dr. Mary Whiteside, professor at the University of Texas at Arlington

"Mr. Jim," as he was known, earned his LL.B. from the University of Texas School of Law in 1935 and was licensed to practice the same year. He joined Bledsoe, Crenshaw & Dupree which later became Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam. He served four years during World War II and was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge. In 1945, he was discharged a captain and returned to the Lubbock firm. In 1991, he envisioned and secured passage of the Texas Limited Liability Partnership Statute, widely used by attorneys and other professionals.



Kent R. Hance

Inducted May 2, 2014

"Kent was always there for people, and the jury realized it. And, later in his career, voters realized it, too."

—George L. Thompson III, Partner, Thompson & Kerby Law Offices

A native of Dimmitt, Texas, Hance received his B.B.A. from Texas Tech University in 1965 and his law degree from the University of Texas in 1968. Hance was a Texas Tech University faculty member for five years and is a founding partner of his Austin-based firm, Hance Scarborough, LLP. He is a former Texas State Senator, Texas Railroad Commission Chairman, and U.S. Congressman. In 1981, Hance authored President Reagan's tax bill, which remains the largest tax cut in American history. In December 2006, Hance became chancellor of the Texas Tech University System. Since then, the System has doubled in size and set records in enrollment, research, and degrees awarded. 📌

GENERAL COUNSEL — TO — CORPORATE AMERICA

Dell. 7-Eleven. Pier 1.

Aside from major brand recognition, these companies share another distinction: our alumni serve as general counsel and as members of the senior executive teams.

Texas Tech Law has traditionally been recognized for producing practice-ready attorneys, but many focus on our superstars in the courtroom and are not as keenly aware of the power our alumni wield in the boardroom. Nearly 400 of our graduates serve as counsel at some of the nation's most powerful companies in the energy, education, retail, and manufacturing industries.

Texas Tech Lawyer spoke with a handful of our alumni who serve as corporate counsel about their daily routines, proudest professional accomplishments, advice for recent and future alumni seeking similar roles, and how Texas Tech Law prepared them for practice.



It is no surprise that Boettcher advises aspiring in-house counsel to invest time and energy understanding how a particular business works. When he joined the Eagle Rock Energy enterprise in 2007, Boettcher had first-hand knowledge of the energy industry as a former member of Thompson & Knight LLP's energy practice group in Dallas. During his eight years at Thompson & Knight, he handled private equity and mergers and acquisitions in the oil and gas industry, as well as securities compliance and disclosure for public companies.

Boettcher now oversees all disputes and litigation for Eagle Rock Energy's upstream exploration and production business in Texas, Oklahoma, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. He recently managed the legal processes—including a protracted antitrust review by the Federal Trade Commission—for the enterprise's divestiture of its \$1.3 billion third-party stand-alone midstream services business.

"Work hard to learn the fundamentals in law school or in the private practice of law, but be prepared to devote as much time to learning in your first few years in-house," Boettcher said. "Much of what you will need to master to be successful in-house simply cannot be taught in school or acquired in the private practice of law."

Charles C. Boettcher '99 · Eagle Rock Energy Partners, LP

Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Secretary, and Chief Compliance Officer
Houston, Texas

Michael A. Carter '85 · Pier 1 Imports

Senior Vice President, Compliance and General Counsel, Secretary
Fort Worth, Texas

"Working for a brand that was started in Fort Worth more than 50 years ago, and which has since developed great name recognition and brand loyalty, is quite rewarding," said Carter. "And it's a great Texas story."

As General Counsel for Pier 1 Imports, Carter oversees department heads in the legal, risk management, loss prevention, internal audit, and global procurement services areas of the Company.

This diverse workload exposes him to a myriad of "back-office" challenges and opportunities. Additionally, the compliance role has its onset of rapidly developing issues. "The most crucial step to becoming a successful in-house lawyer is understanding your role within the company," said Carter. "In the business world, lawyers don't always lead the decision-making process. That being said, at Pier 1 Imports, I am a member of the Company's executive team, which helps determine the organization's strategic direction. I also provide counsel to our senior leaders and associates regarding the broader legal implications of the decisions we make as an organization."

Carter credits Texas Tech Law's J.D./M.B.A. dual-degree program, and specifically his commercial law course, as his most practical preparation for in-house counsel work. He also believes that the "trial by fire" atmosphere in a law firm is the best way for young lawyers to learn the tools and traits necessary for entry into the world of in-house lawyering.



Equal parts advisor, communication facilitator, and air-traffic controller. That is how Gasaway described his daily routine, which consists of a balancing act to ensure the more than 53,000 7-Eleven stores worldwide are working efficiently and effectively across the enterprise.

Twenty-three years after he first joined the 7-Eleven team, Gasaway says he still pinches himself on a regular basis to believe that he holds a coveted position with a respected organization. “I truly enjoy being associated with 7-Eleven, both the company and the brand,” he said. “Many things get labeled ‘iconic’ in our culture these days, but the word truly is an apt descriptor for the 7-Eleven brand, and that’s really true on a worldwide basis.”

Gasaway is all the more grateful considering the competitive nature of the current market, noting that most companies—aside from the very largest—do not have the flexibility to hire and train young lawyers. That said, attorneys who benefit from Texas Tech Law’s pragmatic approach to the practice of law and who cultivate a strong personal network will have the upper hand. In fact, 7-Eleven accepted its first Texas Tech Law extern this fall through the Regional Externship Program.

“The more practical and reality-based a program of legal study is, the better preparation it will be for functioning in that ‘real world,’” said Gasaway. “The most successful in-house lawyers combine technical excellence with an ability to relate to, and effectively communicate with, both their fellow lawyers and their non-legal colleagues within the organization.”



Rankin L. Gasaway '88 · 7-Eleven
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Dallas, Texas

Louis P. Gregory '81 · Atmos Energy Corporation

Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary
Dallas, Texas



Whether he’s meeting with the board of directors, department heads, or outside counsel, Gregory is sure to have at least several meetings on his calendar every day. Not that he minds.

“In-house counsel have an opportunity that most attorneys only dream of—the opportunity to be the client,” said Gregory. “Rarely are attorneys at a law firm given the opportunity to participate in shaping the culture, developing the strategy, and implementing the tactics of an organization the way that our in-house counsel do at Atmos Energy.”

“Humble” would be apropos description for Gregory, who cites his role on a team that coordinated the acquisition of TXU Gas in 2004—a purchase that doubled the size of Atmos Energy—as his most significant professional achievement. “One of my favorite quotes is that ‘luck is where preparation meets opportunity.’ With the experience gained in nine prior acquisitions, our seasoned team completed the large and complicated acquisition in record time,” said Gregory.

As with many in-house counsel positions, Gregory is required to “know a little about a lot and a lot about a little.” His formula for success? A track record of achievement and a strong professional network.



John T. Huffaker '74 · Texas Tech University System

Vice Chancellor and General Counsel
Lubbock, Texas

Huffaker is a bona fide Red Raider, earning both his bachelor's and law degrees from Texas Tech. Before returning to Lubbock as Vice Chancellor and General Counsel for the Texas Tech University System, he was in private practice in Amarillo for 38 years. From 2009 to 2012, Huffaker served Texas Tech as a member of the Board of Regents. With a team of ten attorneys, he provides legal services to the System's four universities. Doing so requires careful navigation of state and federal regulations, as well as the special statutes and rules related to the higher education industry.

"Like all clients, our Texas Tech clients are not interested in why they can't do something; but rather how they can legally and ethically achieve the initiative they have in mind," said Huffaker. "Understandably, it is a constant effort to educate the thousands of individuals who work for the Texas Tech University System of the particular legal framework in which they function."

Huffaker credits Texas Tech Law's "broad and diverse" curriculum and his prior experience in private practice as the best preparation for serving as in-house counsel. "Because the subject matter encountered in our office, and I assume, in many corporate offices, is so diverse, broad exposure to many legal issues in many different contexts will serve the future in-house lawyer well," said Huffaker.

Tonya L. Johannsen '83 · The Beck Group

General Counsel
Dallas, Texas

From leading company-wide compliance training to directing outside counsel, Johannsen says there is never a dull moment as General Counsel for construction powerhouse The Beck Group.

"Once I have negotiated the contracts, and the business obstacles have been removed, I have the pleasure of seeing the building or structure that has often been both designed and constructed by Beck in its completed state," said Johannsen. "That is gratifying."

Before she was hired by The Beck Group, Johannsen served as a trial attorney, first with Winstead PC in Dallas for 15 years and later with Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP for 10 years. "I saw what can go wrong in a corporation through poor documentation, inadequate internal communication, improper analysis of business risks, and fluctuations in the economy," Johannsen said. "I now enjoy proactively addressing and preventing problems before they reach a critical stage that results in litigation."

As the only female attorney for a brief period when she joined Winstead PC, and now as General Counsel in a statistically male-dominated industry, Johannsen encourages aspiring female attorneys to develop a thick skin and a sense of humor. She advises all young attorneys to avoid specializing too early in one's career and to be prepared to work harder than expected. "A successful lawyer, whether corporate or otherwise, must be flexible, creative, and willing to maintain a learning curve in many different subject matter areas," she said.



According to Krahmer, there is no such thing as a “typical day” when it comes to in-house counseling, particularly in a retail setting. “Corporate retail litigation often involves the sale of a product mixed with the provision of a service wrapped up in a well-known brand name; thus, there are multiple bodies of law that can govern disputes,” said Krahmer. “Also, there is a greater likelihood of publicity than in garden-variety lawsuits because parties involved in retail litigation often involve household names.”

But it is precisely the element of surprise and diversity of workload that kept Krahmer engaged. She firmly believes that educating the corporate client about the legal system is the best way to manage expectations and deliver results.

“In today’s world, law and business go hand-in-hand,” said Krahmer. “I have noticed over the years that executives are more open than ever before to the concept of in-house counseling because it is a money saver if done correctly.”

One of Texas Tech Law Professor John Krahmer’s three children, she is also a firm believer in pursuing what you love. “A passion for business and for working with people are necessary traits of a corporate lawyer,” said Krahmer. “You should be passionate about the practice of law and hold it dear to your heart.”



Alyssa Y. Krahmer '95 · Zale Corporation
Former Director, Senior Attorney
Irving, Texas

Dean R. Quinn '85 · S&B Holdings Ltd.

Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary
Houston, Texas



After more than a dozen years of litigation work, Quinn found that his transition to an in-house counsel career was more seamless than he expected. “The General Counsel who hired me for my first in-house position explained that negotiating contracts and working in-house involves the same skill set as trial work,” said Quinn. “One must be prepared, know the subject matter and the law, think on one’s feet, be able to deal with all sorts of personalities and people, anticipate what the other side will do, and be able to react accordingly.”

As Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary for a privately-held engineering and construction company, Quinn leads a team that oversees the company’s entire legal function, risk management, and insurance to five core businesses that service the oil and gas, petrochemical, power, and infrastructure industries.

“Our industry can be cyclical, so we have to face the realities of the market and approach projects from that perspective,” said Quinn. “We work hard to maintain profits and personnel in up and down markets, and that takes creativity.”

A typical day for Shewmake, as for many attorneys who serve as in-house counsel, involves a steady stream of meetings, conference calls, and e-mails. However, the intensity is well worth it.

“We help farmers grow crops and get them to market. We are helping the United States reduce our trade deficit by delivering domestically-produced petroleum in lieu of imported petroleum. We are helping consumers by delivering the goods they want in the most efficient way possible,” said Shewmake. “I feel like I am a part of something important at BNSF Railway and have always felt proud to belong to this particular organization.”

While successful lawyers are often associated with powerful oratory, Shewmake believes that listening and communication skills are equally important, particularly in an in-house setting. “What are the people who work for you saying, and what are they really telling you? The same goes for your clients, your regulators, and your opponents,” said Shewmake. “A successful corporate lawyer is able to process all of what they have learned into actions or proposed courses of action.”

In addition to utilizing lessons from Professor William Casto’s Contracts course nearly every day, Shewmake also has Casto to thank for opening the door to his 26-year career at BNSF Railway. “Professor Casto had previously worked with a senior BNSF litigation attorney when they were both at the Tennessee Valley Authority,” said Shewmake. “That in-house attorney was coming to Texas Tech Law to interview at Professor Casto’s suggestion, and Professor Casto encouraged me to interview with the railroad. It worked out really well.”



Charles W. Shewmake '90 · BNSF Railway Co.

Vice President and General Counsel
Fort Worth, Texas

Doreen L. Wheeler '89 · Dell Inc.

Senior Legal Counsel – Corporate and Financial Services
Round Rock, Texas



Many in-house counsel attorneys balance cooperation, creativity, and communication to achieve success. Wheeler is no exception.

“Every time I have been part of a collaboration that has resulted in a positive outcome for the company or for our customers and their experience with the company, I feel a sense of pride,” she said. “It’s also important to be familiar with the business processes of the company you’re supporting and to keep up to date with the regulatory environment for that particular type of business.”

Wheeler credits Texas Tech Law’s comprehensive curriculum for her ability to execute critical thinking on-the-spot, mediate between different business segments, and provide accurate, thorough, and common-sense legal guidance to non-lawyers.

She advises future in-house counsel to harness the power of the internet. “Be prepared. Research the company you are interested in. Most professionals have a profile on LinkedIn,” said Wheeler. “If you don’t have a LinkedIn profile, create one. Each company will have its own ideas about the degree to which it wants legal staff to give business advice, but I have found that it’s helpful to have worked in the area of business you will be supporting in an in-house capacity.”



As the longest-serving member on the Texas Tech Law faculty, Professor John Krahmer has seen a tidal wave of change in legal education and practice.

But one thing has stayed the same: law students must be willing to work harder than they ever have before. And that is precisely what Krahmer prepares them to do.

In his Contracts, Commercial Law, and Consumer Law courses, Krahmer challenges his students to think just as practicing lawyers do in representing their clients. Through his style of “problem-method teaching,” he presents actual cases and statutes and requires his students to find and apply the relevant legal principles.

"It's critical that students know how to learn law, not just how to recite rote memorization of the law," Krahmer said. "When law inevitably changes, memorization won't get you very far."

In today's legal environment, and especially in light of rapidly changing banking and payment systems, students need exposure to actual casework and banking industry trends. In his role as Faculty Editor of *The Texas Bank Lawyer*, a monthly newsletter published by the Texas Association of Bank Counsel (TABC), Krahmer offers students a platform to do just that.

"Serving as an editor of *The Texas Bank Lawyer* improved my writing, editing, time management, and leadership skills," said Stephanie Chipley ('14) of Arvada, Colorado. "I was exposed to numerous bankruptcy and commercial law issues that I would not otherwise have been exposed to during law school."

Student editors write 30 to 35 brief case summaries for recent cases involving financial and credit institutions. After thorough examination by the student editors, Krahmer conducts a final editing pass during which he often adds information to which the students are not privy. The final electronic copy is available on the TABC website for distribution to their Texas practitioner membership.

"TABC has been very pleased with the newsletter since its inception in 1977," said Krahmer. "Its membership reads it pretty religiously. The short case summaries are an easy way for busy attorneys to keep current with case law." Unlike competing publications from commercial publishers that run \$200 to \$1,400 per annual subscription, *The Texas Bank Lawyer* is financed through TABC

membership dues that support student scholarships at Texas Tech Law.

The electronic publication format also provides students with the groundwork for networking opportunities. Each student editor may include his or her name and email address with each case summary, providing attorneys with an easy way to contact a particular student. "Students often end up practicing banking law thanks to the connections they made through their involvement with the publication," said Krahmer.

But Krahmer notes that Texas Tech Law graduates don't always practice law. In fact, many students who contribute to *The Texas Bank Lawyer* also earn an MBA. Archie Overby ('74), the TABC's largest individual donor, is a case in point. Overby, now president of First National Bank in Waupaca, Wisconsin, graduated from Texas Tech University with a business degree and later earned his J.D. from Texas Tech Law.

"There's a much tighter market today, so it's important that law students have a defined career path," said Krahmer. "If they choose a business track, our comprehensive curriculum will prepare students for in-house counsel positions, which are highly desirable because of the generous pay and manageable schedule."

Krahmer has received several prestigious awards from the President and Chancellor's offices at Texas Tech University, but it's no surprise that he cites six student-awarded teaching recognitions as his most poignant. "The best part about teaching is helping someone grasp a concept," he said. "Nothing beats the visible satisfaction of their 'a-ha' moment." ✎

A Seasoned Professor

The number of female tax attorneys in the United States is still somewhat scarce. Yet, Texas Tech Law boasts two alumnae who are thriving in the field.

Michelle Kwon ('98) and Alyson Outenreath's ('00) strikingly parallel achievements can be traced to law school, with shared Order of the Coif and *Texas Tech Law Review* credentials. While there was a year of overlap during which Kwon and Outenreath were both law school students, they were not yet friends at that time.

"She may not know this, but I knew who Michelle was when I was a first-year student," said Outenreath. "I'd heard she was a tax guru, and I wanted to be like her."

After graduating from law school, Kwon accepted a position with Thompson & Knight LLP in Dallas. Two years later, Outenreath joined the firm. Their friendship blossomed during the long hours spent working on similar projects. "Although our paths didn't cross while we were in law school, it was the best coincidence in the world," Outenreath said. "We experienced the joy and the happiness of being at Tech, even though we experienced them separately."

What's more, both women were both guided by Emily Parker, managing partner of Thompson & Knight LLP. Parker, who served as Deputy Chief Counsel and acting Chief Counsel for the IRS from 2002-2004, was the first female attorney and later the first female partner in Thompson & Knight's history. Parker now serves as the firm's first female managing partner. "Michelle often came to me for advice about how to interact with senior partners for whom she worked. I was able to help her to understand the different working styles and personalities of the partners and assist her in navigating those relationships," said Parker. "In Alyson's case, I served as a mentor as she deliberated leaving the firm to pursue teaching at Texas Tech Law."

Parker's counsel undoubtedly benefitted Kwon and Outenreath, given that both women were elected partner at Thompson & Knight LLP and earned "Rising Star" designations by *Texas Monthly*.

After nearly six years at Thompson & Knight, during which Kwon benefited from wonderful mentors and abundant intellectual stimulation, a former colleague suggested that she consider an academic career. She interviewed with several law schools and ultimately decided to return to her alma mater in Lubbock.

"Initially, it was comically strange working with professors that I had as a student," said Kwon. "But in the end, it felt very comfortable to me and was a great place to start my teaching career."

Kwon stayed in touch with Outenreath and occasionally invited her to Texas Tech Law as a guest speaker in tax and transactional courses. Outenreath's role as a guest speaker sparked a comparable sense of purpose in the classroom, so when Kwon accepted a faculty position at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville College of Law in 2011, she knew just who to recommend to take her place.

"I could see why there's so much passion and fulfillment that comes from it, especially teaching students tax law, which is something that I love," Outenreath said.

Their shared passion for teaching was reinforced by the caliber of students at Texas Tech Law, who Kwon described as "incredibly hard-working, polite, respectful, and passionate."

Outenreath agreed, noting that the qualities exhibited by Texas Tech Law students are precisely what she looked for when she was the firm-wide hiring partner at Thompson & Knight.

"What's great about Texas Tech Law graduates is that from day one, they know what to do," said Outenreath. "They know how to write, how to assemble a memo, and how to research. They're ahead of the game and don't require any hand-holding. They're ideal candidates because they're practice-ready."

With their academic careers now in full swing, both women are making headway inside and outside of the classroom. Kwon speaks and writes about the IRS and its ability to effectively administer the tax system and enforce tax laws. Outenreath writes in the area of state and local taxation and currently serves as the Chair-Elect of





Michelle Kwon ('98)

the Tax Section of the State Bar of Texas. She also presented "Tax for the Non-Tax Lawyer: Tax Considerations in the Choice of Entity Decision" at a CLE hosted by the law school in Roswell, New Mexico, earlier this year.

Though they now live more than a thousand miles apart, Kwon and Outenreath remain friends and continue to find all their similarities amusing. Both women received faculty awards from Texas Tech. Kwon received the 2009-2010 Hemphill-Wells New Professor Excellence in Teaching Award, which is conferred to only one recipient for the entire university. Just this past year, the Texas Tech Alumni Association presented Outenreath with its New Faculty Award.

"Michelle's wonderful; she's one of my best friends," said Outenreath. "Every single day, when I think about how lucky



Alyson Outenreath ('00)

I am to be back at Texas Tech Law, I think of Michelle and how she inspired me to pursue our shared passion."

While the women are clearly bonded by their similarities, Parker fondly reflected upon Kwon and Outenreath as individual role models for success. "I think Michelle and Alyson are perfect examples of how successful we can be when we capitalize on our personal interests and talents," Parker said. "Michelle was more technically focused on corporate tax and the niche in which she wanted to practice, and Alyson took a broader approach and used her interpersonal skills and interests to become hiring partner for the firm. Both were highly respected, and focused on developing their careers and delivering results, but I would say the paths they took to get there were different." ✎

A Glimpse at the Business & Bankruptcy Law Journal

Texas Tech Law's *Business & Bankruptcy Law Journal* is making headway as an innovative resource guide for practicing business attorneys.

The journal, which launched in April 2013, published its inaugural volume this past May (available at <http://ttubblj.org/>). It covers a variety of issues, from the best practices in dealing with business and bankruptcy disputes to the latest trends in civil litigation.

The inaugural issue featured five practitioner pieces and three student submissions. Unlike traditional law journals, the *Business & Bankruptcy Law Journal* publishes rolling content online that is later compiled into a large print volume. In so doing, the journal makes articles available on more of a real-time basis.

Volume One editor in chief Alex Good ('14) played a major role in marketing the journal as a go-to source for a wide array of practitioners. "We're trying to make ourselves relevant to anyone whose practice touches on business and bankruptcy, even in a minor way," Good said.

Drawing contributions from practitioners, professors, and students, Good hopes the journal will continue to provide a proven training ground for students to polish their writing.

"It's with great effort and intention that we've tried to cultivate a community tied not just by shared experience, but also through an investment made in themselves and each other," Good said. "Law school offers the ideal setting to experiment with your writing and develop a unique skill set." ✎



Adjunct Professor Glenn West ('78)
Photo credit: Cranston Reid

A Crash Course in Transactional Lawyering

Young lawyers have been known to panic when confronted with the real-world practice of transactional lawyering. But thanks to Advanced Contracts Workshop, a course for 2L and 3L students taught by Adjunct Professor Glenn West ('78), newly hired associates who have taken the course are a step above their peers.

"Law school grads may be smart, but they may not have the necessary exposure to certain buzz words and protocol," said West. "My goal is to prepare students to draft preliminary contracts and navigate the multilayered deal making process within their first month in a law firm environment."

West, managing partner of the Dallas office of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP brings a wealth of experience to the classroom. Dual-qualified as a U.S. lawyer and an English solicitor, West has represented private equity and M&A transactions spanning from the sale of Koch industries' Mid-Continent NGL assets to the acquisition, financing, and subsequent sale of the Dallas Stars Hockey Club. His work has drawn a series of acclaim, with *Best Lawyers* naming him "Dallas Corporate Lawyer of the Year" in 2010 and "Dallas Mergers & Acquisitions Lawyer of the Year" in 2013.

Framing much of his coursework around hypothetical cases, West often presents a frequent M&A scenario in which a private equity firm is seeking to acquire a business. Just as junior associates would, students draft a series of agreements, ranging from side letters to term sheets to preliminary indications of interest. "In the real world, these documents have binding effects, so they must be carefully crafted," said West.

Though contract drafting is a large component of the coursework, students are also required to examine situations

in which a lack of clarity or outright error resulted in a lawsuit. West then takes the exercise further, asking students to draft an alternative contract that avoids the highlighted error.

"My goal is for students to apply lessons learned in first-year Contracts and Torts classes to the real world of transactional lawyering," said West. "In studying, drafting, and revising preliminary agreements, students are exposed to the sophisticated nature of deal agreements so that they fully understand why every contract provision is crafted the way that it is."

According to West, students have been extremely receptive to the course. "My favorite part of the class was discussing the impact of our chosen language," said Bethany Peterson ('14) of Lake Jackson, Texas. "My classmates and I sometimes found that what we initially drafted was far from the intended result."

In his syllabus, West likens his course preparation to an iconic scene from *Karate Kid*. "It was not until Mr. Miyagi threw that first real punch that Daniel LaRusso learned that he had actually acquired some basic karate skills while performing the seemingly menial tasks of waxing, sanding, and painting," said West. "I tell my students that this class offers a chance to have some of those punches thrown at you before you graduate so that you will be better prepared to practice transactional law."

And it is best to be prepared for those punches, considering the legal job market is still difficult to penetrate. "Passion is key," said West. "Students need to determine whether their passion for practicing law, particularly transactional law, is strong enough to endure those knocks. This course is a good means of doing so." 🥋

CLASS NOTES

1982 (CONT.)

Philip R. Weems was one of 30 nationwide recipients of the 2014 Burton Award for Distinguished Legal Writing. The award, recognizing his article "Overview of Issues Common to Structuring, Negotiating and Documenting LNG Projects" published in the *Journal of World Energy Law & Business*, was presented at the Library of Congress in June 2014.

1983

Mike Farris's thriller novel, *The Bequest*, was published by Stairway Press.

Kem Thompson Frost, Chief Justice of the 14th Court of Appeals in Houston, received her LL.M. in Judicial Studies from Duke Law. She was also one of six women selected as "Premier Women in the Law" by the Houston Association of Women Attorneys, and received the Judge Merrill Hartman Pro Bono Judge Award during the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Austin.

1984

Rick Kennon was appointed by Governor Rick Perry as judge of the 368th Judicial District Court in Williamson County.

W. Mark Lanier secured his largest-ever personal injury verdict in the U.S. with \$9 billion in punitive damages levied against a pharmaceutical conglomerate.

Sharon Smith joined the firm of Armbrust & Brown, PLLC as Senior Counsel. Her practice primarily focuses on utility, municipal, and environmental law.



[Left to right] Christian Smith & Jewell's James Wes Christian, Haltom & Doan's Jennifer Doan, Bob Black ('80), Dean Darby Dickerson, and Bain & Barkley's Christy Amuny ('90) during Black's induction by the State Bar of Texas as a Texas Legal Legend. Photo credit: Lindsay Stafford Mader

1974

William Allensworth, founder of the Austin-based firm of Allensworth & Porter, LLP, argued before the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Atlantic Marine Construction Co. v. U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas*.

1976

Roger A. Key was elected as chair of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors. Key, who is also immediate past president of the Texas Tech Law School Foundation, assumed office on June 26, 2014.

1977

Chuck Lanehart received a Texas State Bar Award for his feature story in *Law Notes*.

Randy Robason was appointed as Grant Thornton LLP's national managing partner of Tax Services.

1978

Glenn West, managing partner of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and Adjunct Professor at Texas Tech Law, was recognized as "Adviser Dealmaker of the Year" by the Association for Corporate Growth and *D CEO* magazine.

1980

Bob Black, Managing Shareholder of MehaffyWeber, was appointed to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals by the Supreme Court of Texas. He was also the first alumnus inducted by the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas as a Texas Legal Legend.

1982

Gage Paine, Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, received the inaugural Dr. V. Ray Cardozier Alumni Excellence Award from The University of Texas at Austin Higher Education Administration Program. The award recognizes a graduate of the doctoral program who recently demonstrated excellence in their scholarly and professional work.

1990

Jennifer Balido was appointed by Governor Rick Perry as judge of the 291st Judicial District Court in Dallas County.

1992

John M. Bailey was appointed by Governor Rick Perry as justice on the 11th Court of Appeals.

Jason C.N. Smith opened the Law Offices of Jason Smith in Fort Worth, Texas.

1994

Barbara Ellis, attorney with Locke Lord LLP in Austin, was honored as an outstanding attorney in the pro bono category at the 2014 Travis County Women Lawyers' Association annual Grants & Awards luncheon.

Michael Truesdale was elected secretary for the State Bar of Texas Appellate Section.

1995

Greg Fouratt was appointed by New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez as Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety.

Benjamin Smith was appointed by Governor Rick Perry as judge of the 132nd Judicial District in Borden and Scurry counties.

April R. Terry joined the Dallas office of Gray Reed & McGraw, PC as a Member.



[Left to right] Judge Lisa Michalk ('91), Chuck Boettcher ('99), an accepted student, and Chris Nichols ('01) mingle during the alumni and admitted students reception in Houston earlier this year.

1996

David Miller, former vice chancellor of research and commercialization for the Texas Tech University System, was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to chair the Texas Emerging Technology Advisory Committee. The committee works with the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the Texas House of Representatives to attract high-tech jobs and companies to Texas.

1997

M.C. Cottingham (Cottie) Miles, a partner in the law firm of Martin & Drought, PC in San Antonio, Texas, was elected as the 2013-2014 Chair of the Oil, Gas & Energy Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas.

1999

Julie C. Doss, Associate Dean for External Affairs at Texas Tech Law, was appointed Vice-Chair of the State Bar of Texas standing committee on Public Affairs.

Bridget Moreno Lopez was appointed Managing Partner of the Dallas Office of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, a nationwide collections law firm and one of the largest private collectors of delinquent governmental revenue in the United States.

Chris Nickelson received the prestigious Dan R. Price Award, the highest honor given by the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Texas.



During the law school's alumni reception held in conjunction with the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Austin this summer, 37 alumni and friends of Texas Tech Law were recognized for their contributions to the School of Law, public service, and the general community.

(pg. 16)

Photo credit: Jerry Hughes

2004

Joseph P. Griffith was named shareholder in the Dallas office of international law firm Greenberg Taurig, LLP.

2005

Priscilla Camacho was selected as the 2014-2015 Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) Chair-Elect.

Chris Greer was named Partner at Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP in Fort Worth, Texas.

Stephanie S. Harrison was named Partner at Cantey Hanger LLP in Fort Worth, Texas.

2006

Kevin M. Flahive was elected as a member of Armbrust & Brown, PLLC in Austin, Texas.

2008

Dustin Howell was selected as the 2014-2015 Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) Executive Committee Chair.

Oscar Mendez was named Outstanding Attorney for 2013 by the Mexican American Bar Association.

C. Barrett Thomas was chosen as president-elect of the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA).

2009

Laura Pratt received several Texas State Bar Awards for her news article, series of substantive law articles, and series of general interest articles in *Law Notes*.



Heather King ('95), partner at KoonsFuller, P.C. in Southlake, Texas, in the midst of a media frenzy during her representation of a case involving a brain dead, pregnant woman. Photo credit: CBC News

2012

Will Johnson joined the Dallas office of international law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP as an associate.

Nathan White joined international law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP as an associate in its Dallas office.

2013

Bradly A. Carlson of the Texas Tech University Army ROTC was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force by Major General Walter Huffman ('77).

2014

Brett Epstein's article, "Should the Crime Determine the Extent of Due Process?: The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Followed Such Logic During the Penn State Scandal," was published in Tulane University Law publication, *The Sports Lawyers Journal*.

Megan James was one of 15 law school students nationwide to receive the 2014 Burton Award for Distinguished Legal Writing. She accepted her award alongside Philip Weems ('82) at the Library of Congress in June 2014.

Keep us informed by emailing your accomplishments and updates to communications.law@ttu.edu

In Memoriam

Jim R. Alexander '73
H. Michael Bartley '75
Ralph H. Brock '75
Colin A. Coe, Sr. '96
Stephen C. Coen '86
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 BATRA

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW AND DIRECTOR OF ACADEMY FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Professor Batra moderated and presented a panel on *Making a Deal in Criminal Law—Dispute Resolution Perspectives on Plea Bargaining* at the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution's 16th Annual Spring Conference in Miami, Florida, in April 2014. The panelists discussed how to apply negotiation theory to improve plea bargains, and analyzed the recent and upcoming Supreme Court jurisprudence in this area and what it will mean for the future of plea bargaining. He is currently working with Duquesne University Professor Wesley Oliver on a paper on the same topic. The paper is to be published in the *Harvard Negotiation Law Review* in 2015. Batra is also a founder and first director of the new Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession program at Texas Tech University School of Law, which helps prepare Texas Tech Law students to become effective leaders in the profession and community.

GERRY W. BEYER

GOVERNOR PRESTON E. SMITH REGENTS PROFESSOR OF LAW

Professor Beyer was invited to speak at more than twenty conferences, seminars, and CLE programs during the past year, including the Notre Dame Tax & Estate Planning Institute, the Kasner Estate Planning Symposium, the Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia, the All Children's Hospital Foundation Estate, Tax, Legal, and Financial Planning Seminar in Florida, and the Financial Planning Association of Minnesota. He also presented two half-day programs for the Texas Association of Counties' Judicial Education Sessions. 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 and recent judicial and legislative developments.

Beyer was selected 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 with approximately 6,500 members. He continues to serve in his twenty-first year as the *Keeping Current—Probate* column editor for *Probate & Property* magazine, a publication of the American Bar Association.

Many books and articles Beyer authored were published during the past year, including BEYERS' TEXAS PROPERTY CODE ANNOTATED (2013 ed.), TEXAS ESTATE PLANNING STATUTES WITH COMMENTARY (2013-2015 ed.), *Digital Planning: The Future of Elder Law*, 9 NAELA J. 135 (2013) (co-authored with Naomi Cahn), *Wills & Trusts*, 66 SMU L. REV. 1219 (2013), and *Who*

Said Learning Trusts & Estates Can't Be Fun?, 58 ST. LOUIS UNIV. L.J. 713 (2014).

Beyer's blog, *Wills, Trusts & Estates Prof Blog*, was included for the fourth consecutive year in the *ABA Journal* 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 number 44 on the list of the top 3,000 legal authors. He has also been cited in dozens of print and Internet articles dealing with various aspects of estate planning as well by several Texas courts.

WILLIAM R. CASTO

PAUL WHITFIELD HORN PROFESSOR

In December 2013, Professor William Casto presented lectures on international tort law at the University of Passau in Germany.

DELEITH DUKE GOSSETT

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LEGAL PRACTICE

Professor Gossett presented her paper, *If Charity Begins at Home, Why Do We Go Searching Abroad? Why the Federal Adoption Tax Credit Should Not Subsidize International Adoptions*, 17 LEWIS & CLARK L. REV. 839 (2013), at the Eighth Biennial Adoption Initiative Conference *Sleeping Giants in Adoption: Power, Privilege, Politics, and Class* on May 29-31, 2014, at St. John's University in Queens, New York. Gossett's research was recently mentioned in the following news articles: Frank Ligetvoet, *International Adoption. The Times They*

Aren't-a-Changing. From Holt to CHIFF, DAILY KOS, (Apr. 26, 2014, 9:23 AM), <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/04/26/1294844/-International-Adoption-The-Times-They-Aren-t-a-Changing-From-Holt-to-CHIFF>, and Frank Ligetvoet, *A Calculation: The 'Orphan Crisis' in Ethiopia*, THE HUFFINGTON POST, (Mar. 7, 2014), http://www.huffingtonpost.com/frank-ligetvoet/a-calculation-the-orphan-_b_4918763.html?utm_hp_ref=impact&ir=Impact.

AMY L. JARMON

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAMS AND LECTURER

Dean Jarmon was elected Chair for the Section on Academic Support of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) for 2014-2015. She authored articles for the September 2013, November 2013, January 2014, and March 2014 issues of *Student Lawyer*, the ABA Student Division magazine (*School Success in Seven Steps*, STUDENT LAW., September 2013, at 18; *Study Aids: Proceed with Caution*, STUDENT LAW., November

2013, at 19; *Outlines and Graphic Organizers: Making Sense of a Course*, STUDENT LAW., January 2014, at 18; *Determining Your Study Priorities and Strategies for Exam Preparation*, STUDENT LAW., March 2014, at 18). She also authored an article in *Learning Curve*, a newsletter for the AALS Section on Academic Support (*The Writing Process and ASP's*, LEARNING CURVE, Winter 2014, at 21).

JOHN KRAHMER

PROFESSOR OF LAW AND 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 will be published by the Conference on Consumer Finance Law in the *Consumer Finance Law Quarterly Report*. His *Annual Survey of Commercial Law* will be published in an upcoming issue of the *SMU Law Review*. The 2013-2014 edition of 12 TEXAS PRACTICE, METHODS

OF PRACTICE: UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE, and the 2013-2014 Supplements for Volumes 1 & 2 of VERNON'S TEXAS CODE FORMS ANNOTATED (VERNON'S TEX. CODE FORMS ANNO., UCC FORMS (4th ed.)) authored by Krahmer were published by Thomson West. Krahmer will be preparing the 2014-2015 editions of these works with publication expected in Fall 2014.

ARNOLD H. LOEWY

GEORGE R. KILLAM JR. CHAIR OF CRIMINAL LAW

Professor Loewy convened the 8th annual criminal law symposium, this year on the topic of homicide. His guest speakers included professors from Harvard, Stanford, University of Pennsylvania, University of Texas, and George Washington University, among other institutions. In addition to Loewy's own presentation, *On Unintentional Homicides*, he presented a talk on Capital Punishment. He participated in Federalist-sponsored debates at Texas A&M and University of Louisville. Here at Texas Tech, he participated in a debate on the establishment clause sponsored by the Christian Legal Society and the Secular Legal Society, and filled in as a Federalist

speaker on the 4th and 1st Amendment aspects of the Snowden affair.

Loewy has continued to participate in the *It's Debatable* column of *Lubbock Avalanche - Journal*, having debated his colleagues Professors Brian Shannon, Victoria Sutton, and Eugenia Charles-Newton as well as alumnus Dustin Burrows, and former Congressional Candidate Dr. Donald May, on such topics as airport security, immigration, pay for college athletes, and religion and the law. His article, *Juveniles and the Constitution*, was published by the *Texas Tech Law Review*.

JORGE A. RAMÍREZ

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PROFESSOR OF LAW

Dean Ramírez helped guide our new Summer Law Program at Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) in Kaunas, Lithuania through its inaugural class this past summer, which included a site inspection from the American Bar Association. Ramírez has been working on the development of the Lithuania program for almost two years. It becomes the second summer program established by the law school, joining our Summer Law Institute in Guanajuato, Mexico, which celebrated its 25th year anniversary this past summer.

Like the program in Guanajuato, the Lithuania program provides students with an optional externship program, providing

participants with an opportunity to work with multinational law firms operating in Lithuania. Sixteen Tech law students joined twenty-eight VMU law students in the combined international and comparative law classes, and six of the Texas Tech law students participated in the externship program.

VMU also honored Ramírez by inviting him to participate as a guest speaker at the VMU law school graduation that took place on June 16, 2014.

VICTORIA SUTTON

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT, PAUL WHITFIELD HORN PROFESSOR, AND DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR BIODEFENSE LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY

Dean Sutton authored two books, *THE THINGS THAT KEEP US UP AT NIGHT: REEL BIO HORROR AND BIOSECURITY LAW AND POLICY: BIOSECURITY, BIOSAFETY AND BIODEFENSE LAW*, which were released in Spring 2014. She also sponsored the Annual Biosecurity Law Symposium on April 22, 2014, at Texas Tech Law.

On April 16, 2014, she gave a lecture at Yale University for

the Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics and Technology and Ethics program on law and emerging technologies in the area of artificial intelligence.

On April 1, 2014, Sutton was a speaker for the Sigma Delta Pi Sixth Annual Forum on Peace and Security on the topic, *Cybersecurity and Privacy*. The forum was moderated by Ambassador Tibor Nagy, Texas Tech University's Vice Provost

BRIAN SHANNON

CHARLES "TEX" THORNTON PROFESSOR OF LAW

Professor Shannon continues to serve as Texas Tech University's Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA and Big 12 Conference. In that role, he has been re-elected to serve a second, two-year term as president of the national 1A Faculty Athletics Representatives (1A FAR) association. His new term as president will continue through September 2016.

Shannon received the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award in December 2013. He also received the Texas Bar Foundation's 2014 Outstanding Law Review Article Award in June 2014 at the State Bar Convention for his *Texas Tech Law Review* article, *Incompetency to Be Executed: Continuing Ethical Challenges & Time for a Change in Texas*, 45 Tex. Tech L. Rev. 420 (2013) (co-authored with Dr. Victor

Scarano). This is Shannon's third time to win this award.

He authored an article that was published in April 2014 by the Baylor Law Review entitled, *Specialty Courts, Ex Parte Communications, and the Need to Revise the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct*, 66 BAYLOR L. REV. 127 (2014).

Shannon also prepared a chapter on the History of ADR in Texas for the forthcoming *State Bar of Texas ADR Handbook*. With Texas Tech Professor Arnold Loewy, he co-authored two editorial page debates for the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal.

He also delivered several presentations and lectures throughout the year, on topics ranging from NCAA Governance Redesign to revisions to the Texas Mental Health Code.

for International Affairs, at the International Cultural Center.

On January 15, 2014, Sutton was a speaker at the inauguration of the Texas Tech University BSL-3 Laboratory at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) in the BSL-3 Mini-Symposium at TIEHH.

In January 2014, Sutton gave a presentation on Biosecurity Law and Dual Use Issues for

the Biolaw section program at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) in New York City. She was also elected as Treasurer of the Biolaw Section of AALS.

Sutton continues to serve as Founding Chief Editor of the *Journal for Biosecurity, Biosafety and Biodefense Law*, the first e-journal and the first with international scope and distribution at Texas Tech Law.

ALUMNI RAISE MORE THAN \$3 MILLION THROUGH TALKINGTON MATCH

Last fall, our alumni were presented with a rare giving opportunity. Thanks to a generous gift from the J.T. and Margaret Talkington Foundation, matching funds were made available for philanthropic gifts to scholarship endowments.

Our alumni stepped up to the plate, giving more than \$3 million to benefit current and future students at Texas Tech University School of Law. A sincere thank you to the following donors, and all those who supported our law school throughout the year.



Beaumont Foundation of America

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

Five separate West Texas Legal Legends endowed scholarships.

Who it's for: Law students with exceptional academic promise and commitment to service.

Why they gave: Wayne A. Reaud ('74), 1998 Distinguished Alumnus, and his wife Dana established the West Texas Legal Legends Scholarships in 2004 to celebrate regional lawyers who have made an impact in the profession.



Pat '83 & Laura '83 Gordon

EL PASO, TEXAS

Pat and Laura Gordon Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: Any student who can benefit from financial assistance in attaining his or her dream of a law degree.

Why they gave: "Our scholarship recognizes that a high quality education requires a financial commitment that presents a very real barrier to many people. We value our Tech degrees very highly so we want to give other people the same opportunity."

—Laura Gordon



Karen '79 & Stephen Brand

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Karen (Harrison) Brand Endowed Scholarship

Why they gave: "My husband Stephen and I both received scholarships while we were attending graduate school. The money we received helped us achieve our goals and set the foundation for future success. We wanted to provide the same assistance to deserving students. We were already considering providing a scholarship to Texas Tech School of Law, but when we heard about the Talkington matching funds, we knew the time was right as our donation would have a greater impact."

—Karen Brand



Robert Don Collier '73

DALLAS, TEXAS

Robert Don Collier Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: A second or third year student who is in the top 10% of his or her class and active on a student-run journal.

Why he gave: "I received an almost free legal education at Texas Tech that changed virtually every aspect of my life in so many wonderful ways. I established an initial scholarship fund as a token of my appreciation and in hopes of helping others have the same opportunity I was given."

—Robert Don Collier



Glenn '78 & Christy West

DALLAS, TEXAS

Christy & Glenn West Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: Students who attended Glenn or Christy's alma mater, Tarleton State University (or a school of similar size), students from Glenn and Christy's home towns of Mineral Wells, Texas, or Wink, Texas, or special recruitment

students intended to advance the national standing or prestige of Texas Tech Law.

Why they gave: "Christy and I have been tremendously blessed since my graduation from Texas Tech Law. My law school education and experience has enabled me to succeed at the highest levels of the legal profession; and I believe it is important that we all give back to our alma mater. The value of our degrees require constant investment in our law school and in the students who choose to attend it. This scholarship is just one way of trying to do that."

—Glenn West



The Honorable Philip W. '75 & Carla Johnson

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Justice Phil and Carla Johnson Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: To be used at the discretion of the Law School Scholarship Committee to recruit quality students.



David H. Segrest '70

DALLAS, TEXAS

David H. Segrest, Sr. Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: A student who graduated from a Texas high school and is lettered in high school athletics. Students must have graduated from a Texas Tech University System school with their undergraduate degree and have a minimum of a 3.25 undergraduate GPA. Preference will be given to students whose parent(s) are school teachers and/or administrators.

Why he gave: "My parents were school teachers and were not able to help me financially while I was in law school, although they had dedicated their lives to education. I was fortunate to receive scholarships which allowed me to go to law school. As a result, I have always wanted to give back to the law school by creating a scholarship for children of teachers who attend law school. The

Talkington Matching Funds gave me the impetus to do that—for which I am very appreciative."

—David H. Segrest



Suzan E. Fenner '71
DALLAS, TEXAS
Fenner Family Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: To be used at the discretion of the Law School Scholarship Committee to recruit quality students.

Why she gave: "When I went to Texas Tech Law, scholarships were minimal, but I managed to land one and it made a huge difference. We are delighted that we are able to help other deserving students afford to come to Texas Tech School of Law, and to help Tech attract the best and the brightest students."

—Suzan E. Fenner



Ken & Kathy Johnson
LUBBOCK, TEXAS
David and Amanda Johnson Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: For a third-year member of the *Texas Tech Law Review* who has not been otherwise awarded any scholarship assistance.

Why they gave: In honor of their son, David, a 2001 Texas Tech Law graduate. David worked hard to be a "write-on" for the *Texas Tech Law Review*, so Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are supporting future students in similar situations.



Douglas C. '85 & Veronica O. Atnipp
HOUSTON, TEXAS
Douglas C. and Veronica O. Atnipp Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: To be used at the discretion of the Law School Scholarship Committee to recruit quality students.

Why they gave: "The Talkington Matching Scholarship allowed me to give what I believe to be a truly meaningful gift for future Texas Tech Law students. Within minutes of

hearing about the opportunity, I knew I wanted to participate and made my single largest contribution to date to any endeavor of this sort. It was a chance for me to give back because I am still reaping the benefits from my Texas Tech Law School education."

—Douglas C. Atnipp



Bill '86 & Sondi Mateja
DALLAS, TEXAS
Class of 1986 Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: To be used at the discretion of the Law School Scholarship Committee to recruit quality students.

Why they gave: "My wife and I donated the money for the scholarship because we feel a strong bond to Texas Tech and TTU Law, specifically. We're hopeful that other Class of 86'ers will follow suit to help deserving students enjoy the same first-class education that I did when I attended TTU Law."

—Bill Mateja

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Michael G. Sawaya '75
DENVER, COLORADO
Michael Sawaya Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: To be used at the discretion of the Law School Scholarship Committee to recruit quality students.

Why he gave: "Speaking for the lawyers from my vintage class of 1975, I can say that we received a premier education from a select and motivated faculty at a cost that was nearly free. Never have I heard of a greater opportunity than was afforded me and my cohort. I love the law and I love Texas Tech. I hope that I speak for the greater majority of those who graduated before me and after me in saying that the education we received prepared us for meaningful and successful careers. Now we find that law school tuition is no longer as affordable. Those of us who traveled this road before owe it to those on the road now to help out as best we can."

—Michael G. Sawaya



Darryl S. Vereen '92
EL PASO, TEXAS
Darryl S. Vereen Family Advocacy Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: A third-year student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and made substantial contributions to the advocacy program.

Why he gave: "Whatever success I have achieved as a trial lawyer over the last 22 years started with my participation in the advocacy programs at Texas Tech Law. The Board of Barristers, the competitions, and the invaluable mentoring from former Professors Don Hunt and Murray Hensley all had me ready to appear in any courtroom from the day I graduated. My family wanted to help give a student the same opportunities that were given to me, and help sustain Texas Tech Law's outstanding reputation for graduating exceptionally talented and highly effective advocates."

—Darryl S. Vereen



James Gill
DALLAS, TEXAS
James Gill Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: Students who are currently serving in the U.S. Marines or Navy, or in the U.S. Army, Air Force, or Coast Guard, or are veterans with an honorable discharge.

Why he gave: "My service in the U.S. Marines was life-changing. This scholarship opportunity was a way to both support my alma mater and to honor its young soldiers and veterans."

—James Gill



Rhonda L. Rhodes '88
ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO
Virginia Rhodes Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Who it's for: Preference will be given to students who are single parents.

Why she gave: Rhonda was a single mother when she attended law school. Her late mother, Virginia Rhodes, encouraged her to stay the course and finish. Rhonda is now a successful attorney in the Denver area who focuses on federal employee law.



A Q&A WITH DEAN DARBY DICKERSON

Texas Tech Law's chief strategist recapped recent successes and forecasted the year ahead.

TTL: This past year saw many firsts: the first year of the Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession (ALLP), Texas Tech Law's first LL.M. class, the Inaugural Summer Law Program in Kaunas, Lithuania, and the new Texas Tech Law Pro Bono Program. What are your observations about the rollout of these various initiatives, and what do you hope to see in the year ahead?

DD: I'm very excited about all of these programs and the educational opportunities they provide our students. One of my top goals was to create programming that will allow Texas Tech Law students to develop skills that will not only make them attractive to employers, but will help them to reach their full potential as attorneys.

The Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession brought outstanding speakers to campus on a variety of topics—including working collaboratively in a team, using technology effectively, succeeding in a diverse workplace, understanding law-firm economics, and writing clearly and

persuasively. ALLP also allowed students to interact with alumni in a variety of settings, and to put leadership skills into practice by designing special projects. We have some outstanding speakers already committed for 2014-2015, including TTU President Duane Nellis; Texas Tech Head Football Coach Kliff Kingsbury; George Washington Law Center Dean Blake Morant, who is also incoming president of the American Association of Law Schools; Jonathan Smaby, Executive Director of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics; and TTU Chancellor Robert Duncan ('81).

The LL.M. program brings foreign attorneys to campus to study for one year. These students add a perspective in the J.D. classroom that helps broaden our students' thinking. With the new report from the Texas Supreme Court Task Force on International Practice, Texas is poised to become an even more attractive designation for foreign attorneys who wish to learn about the U.S. legal system and potentially become admitted to practice.

I had the pleasure of going to Lithuania for a week of this year's inaugural summer program. That program had 16 Texas Tech students and 28 Lithuanian honors students. The students studied public international law, EU law concepts, and international environmental law, among other topics. They learned a great deal in the classroom, but even more from interacting with students and attorneys from another country and legal system. I think it gave our participating students a new perspective about how to approach legal issues, and a new understanding of our own legal system. They also grew as individuals and broadened their horizons, which is exactly what I had hoped for.

I'm also excited about our new pro bono program. We are a public law school, and public service is part of our mission. We want to give back, and we want our students to understand the importance of promoting access to justice. An added benefit, though, is that they gain important legal skills when they work on pro bono matters. Experiential learning is the touchstone. On July 8, Meryl Benham ('06), Associate Director of Pro Bono Projects, and I joined several students and alumni to staff an evening pro bono clinic in south Dallas. That was a fantastic experience that we will work to replicate in Lubbock and other cities, possibly through distance-technology.

This coming year, we want to continue refining these programs and encourage even more students to participate. In addition, we plan to launch an Energy Law Speakers series and some related programming. Texas Tech Law should be a leader in the energy field, and we are working toward that goal. And finally, we'll keep bringing courts to campus. The Seventh Court of Appeals holds arguments at the law school almost every semester. We had the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals last October, and this October, the Texas Supreme Court will be on campus.

I love our alumni! They are simply fantastic and give back in so many ways. And we want to keep giving back to them, not only by increasing the value of their diploma, but in more tangible ways.

TTL: In similar vein, the Regional Externship Program expanded to Austin last spring, and launched in Houston this fall. What can we expect to see in Houston, and is there an update on the program's potential expansion to Midland and Washington, D.C.?

DD: The Regional Externship Program now allows students, primarily in their third year, to spend a full semester living and externing in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio. As you note, Houston is new this year. In Houston, we have placements with the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Harris County District Attorney's Office, Houston Immigration Court, Judge Lisa Michalk ('91), and

the Fourteenth Court of Appeals. We're excited that alumnus Doug Atnipp ('85), managing director of Greenberg Traurig's Houston office, will be working with us as the local adjunct.

Overall, we have 42 potential placements. Some of the newer ones include the Railroad Commission of Texas, the Securities and Exchange Commission, 7-Eleven, Inc., various positions in the Texas Legislature for the upcoming session, and the Human Rights Initiative in Dallas.

The students who have participated in the program rate it as their best educational experience in law school, and maybe ever. Many are truly transformed, which is exciting to see. I want to thank our placement supervisors and all of the alumni who have worked with our students over the past two years. Having such a high level of alumni and community involvement has been truly amazing.

We have opportunities to expand the program, and we are studying those options. We want to ensure that we have the right mix of placements, and the right level of faculty involvement. We run the program as a cohort, so we need to find at least five or six opportunities in each city or region. Right now we are studying the possibilities of future expansion into Washington, D.C., West Texas (Lubbock, Midland, and Amarillo), and more opportunities in San Antonio. Opening some spots in West Texas and San Antonio may come as early as Fall 2015. Because of the distance, D.C. is likely at least two years away.

TTL: The law school secured three new national advocacy titles in the 2013-2014 academic year. How do you think this success helps the law school as an institution, particularly new graduates who are seeking employment?

DD: We have a fantastic advocacy program, led by Professor Rob Sherwin ('01). Our students and coaches represent us so well across the nation. When I travel, people often know us because of those advocacy successes.

But the students also benefit from getting to work with outstanding advocates and teachers who help them master a wide range of skills, from oral persuasion, trial techniques, editing, time management, and collaboration. People who hire our advocacy students simply rave about them, both as people and lawyers.

TTL: Our alumni coach students for these advocacy competitions, among the many other ways they give back to the law school. Because alumni outreach is a top priority for you, what ongoing efforts to that effect will we see in the year ahead?

DD: I love our alumni! They are simply fantastic and give

back in so many ways. And we want to keep giving back to them, not only by increasing the value of their diploma, but in more tangible ways. For example, we have started offering high-quality but low- or no-cost CLE programs targeted for alumni. This coming academic year, we have planned a half-day program in El Paso on September 5, a full-day program in Fredericksburg on September 19, and a full-day program in Roswell, New Mexico, on May 21, 2015. The El Paso and Roswell programs are free to our alumni, and the Fredericksburg program is \$80. We are seeking CLE approval in Texas and New Mexico. We will also offer CLE credit for at least some of the programs in the new Energy Law Lecture Series, and we intend to offer some of these after-the-fact as video replays for those who cannot join us live.

We will continue to hold alumni networking receptions around Texas and in a few other areas, such as New Mexico, Colorado, and Washington, D.C. This year we plan to be in Amarillo, Austin, Beaumont, Dallas, Eastland, Fort Worth, Houston, Lubbock, Midland/Odessa, Roswell, San Antonio, Sherman, Washington, D.C., and hopefully a few other places. We will also continue the Alumni BBQ (November 1 in connection with the UT game) and the Gala (March 6, 2015), and our various awards that recognize the service and talents of our alumni base.

Our Career Services office is available to assist alumni with job searches and career transitions. In fact, they debuted a series of instructional webinars this fall for 2014 graduates on networking, job search strategies, resumes, cover letters, interviews, and salary negotiation. Additionally, our library is willing to assist if alumni have research questions.

The Alumni Association is also looking for ways to increase alumni participation, and we have some exciting ideas that we hope to roll out very soon.

TTL: What is the most common question you are asked when you are meeting people on the road? How do you respond?

DD: “Is Chuck Bubany still teaching?” “Absolutely!”

TTL: What are some of the challenges you foresee in the year ahead?

DD: Nationally, applications to law schools are at the lowest level since 1972, so admissions will continue to pose a special challenge. Texas Tech Law has been fortunate to attract outstanding applicants and students, and our decline in enrollment has not been as steep as that of many other law schools. This year, our 1L enrollment levels are strong, but we have lost a few more students than usual in transfer to higher-ranked schools within Texas. The legal job market has also changed, and we constantly monitor that situation and think of new ways to help our students secure post-graduation employment. And, there’s always a need for

money for student scholarships and professorships. We’ve lost some terrific faculty to other law schools. Although it’s flattering they think highly of our professors, I want to keep them here, and that often takes an endowed professorship or other incentive.

TTL: On a personal note, what activities have kept you busy in your free time?

DD: Readers who’ve followed along over the past three years know I spend a good bit of time in the gym. I’ve also started running, and have finished several 5Ks and a half-marathon. I’m scheduled to run another half in February.

For the past 18 months, I’ve been a “Big” in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program here in Lubbock. My “Little” is a 12-year-old from East Lubbock. We spend several hours together each week. She’s fantastic at crafts, so we often visit the local Clay Café. This year we’re going to focus on learning about different foreign countries.

I also love to travel. This year, I had the opportunity to teach at La Trobe University in Melbourne, with whom we’ve had a long relationship. I taught U.S. Dispute Resolution—in five days—to a group that was about 50% German, 40% Aussie, and 10% from other parts of the globe. That was a fascinating experience, and I also had a few days to see native wildlife, attend a concert at the Sydney Opera House, and climb the Sydney Bridge. During Spring Break, I spent time in Italy, and after I finished up with our program in Lithuania, I spent a few days in Poland and Germany. During that trip, I visited both Auschwitz and Nuremberg. Auschwitz, as you might imagine, was intense and sobering. Nuremberg was fascinating, and I was thrilled to stand in the courtroom where the famous trials were held, and the rule of law prevailed.

Finally, I spend a good bit of time giving back to the profession through service to various professional and community organizations, like the Association of American Law Schools, the American Bar Association, the Red Cross, and Scribes—The American Society of Legal Writers, of which I am the national president. So, there’s never a shortage of activities to keep me very busy!

For Real-time Updates...

Follow Dean Darby Dickerson on Twitter @darbydickerson. While you’re at it, keep up with the official law school account @TTU_Law!

DONOR HONOR ROLL

Texas Tech Law is exceedingly grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their support during the 2014 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.

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