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UHLC Community Service Day
Members of the UHLC entering class, staff, and faculty are among those who participate in the UH Law Center’s Community Service Day each year. This project was initiated in August 2014, and will continue annually as part of new student orientation for all incoming students. This outreach instills in UHLC’s future attorneys the value of public service and paying it back to the community.

Data accurate as of printing – October 2016.
You have decided to go to law school and now face the daunting task of choosing a school that is right for you. Both decisions will have a profound effect on your life. At the University of Houston Law Center, you will experience the power of a legal education by learning to think like a lawyer. This means that you learn to write precisely, analyze rigorously, advocate persuasively, and uphold the highest standards of professional conduct. A UH Law Center education will empower you to secure justice for clients, advocate for those in need, and perhaps help set right some societal wrongs. The University of Houston Law Center is the right school to start you on this rewarding career path. The UH Law Center is a top ranked school with a first class faculty, nationally ranked academic centers and institutes, innovative clinics, an enthusiastic and talented staff, great students, and a vibrant and engaged alumni base. On a practical level, the UH Law Center ranks among the nation’s “Best Value” law schools and boasts an employment record that places it among the top “Go To” law schools for the number of graduates hired by the nation’s 100 largest firms. Big or small firms, government sector, public interest, or elsewhere, UH Law Center graduates are in great demand. I am extremely excited about the future of the University of Houston Law Center and deeply committed to the future success of all of its students.

Leonard M. Baynes
Dean and Professor of Law
Why the UH Law Center?

Location...
We are located in Houston, one of the nation’s top legal markets. The city is also home to the world’s largest health care and medical complex and is recognized as the energy capital of the world with multiple Fortune 500 companies headquartered here.

Best value...
Distinguished by its relatively modest tuition, the UH Law Center has been cited as one of the “best values” in legal education today.

Highly ranked...
We are ranked 50 out of the nearly 200 ABA-accredited law schools in the United States.

Career services...
UHLC’s outstanding Career Development Office offers support in and out of the classroom with its mission to equip students and graduates with the resources and skills to successfully generate and take advantage of professional opportunities.

Exceptional faculty...
Our outstanding faculty are recognized leaders in their respective fields as well as classroom teachers of the first rank. Adjunct faculty drawn from the practicing bar augment our curriculum with “real world” perspectives on the law.

Global reach...
The UH Law Center is truly a “global” school with strong connections to the international legal and education communities. The international activities of our faculty include visiting professorships, publications in foreign journals, and participation in international symposia and conferences. Students can also be exchange students at other legal institutions around the world.

Nationally recognized specialty programs...
The special programs and institutes housed at the UH Law Center add depth and dimension to our curriculum, and U.S. News & World Report ranks our Intellectual Property & Information Law and Health Law programs among the “Top 10” in the nation. This year, our part-time program was ranked sixth in the nation.

Active alumni...
The UH Law Center has more than 15,000 alumni, and many live in the greater Houston area, as well as all over the country. Regardless of where they make their home, UH Law Center alumni are recognized as high achievers in the legal profession.

A leading library of the law...
Our O’Quinn Law Library includes more than 570,000 volumes and meets legal information needs with an extensive collection of electronic and traditional resources.

Dual degrees...
The UH Law Center offers eight combined and concurrent degree programs.

Practical training...
Upper-division students can participate in our nationally ranked Clinical Training Program under the supervision of clinical faculty, learning invaluable skills while serving members of the community who require legal assistance.

Janelle Valdez ’16
Education: B.B.A., The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Current position: I am working at Roerig, Oliveira & Fisher, LLP, an insurance defense firm in the lower Rio Grande Valley, which is where I’m from originally (specifically, McAllen). I was fortunate enough to find my position through a friend who let me know about the job opening – networking at its finest!

Describe your involvement at the Law Center: I was the president of the Hispanic Law Students Association during my 3L year, and I was also very involved in the Consumer Law Clinic while serving as a consumer law research assistant to Professor Rick McElvaney.

What was the best thing about your time at the Law Center? In my opinion, the best thing and the most helpful to me was having the support from our faculty. The professors genuinely care about the students and want to see us succeed.

What advice do you have for prospective law students? I recommend that you really do your research about what both law school and the legal career entails before you apply. While you can’t completely prepare yourself for either, it helps to have a general idea of what you’re getting into before you make the leap.
Houston: Exceptional City. Exceptional Value. Exceptional Law School.

Houston has all the amenities and advantages that you would expect from the fourth largest city in the United States, but there is a lot more to our city than its status as a thriving metropolis. For example, Houston’s cost of living is lower than almost every other major city in the U.S., so law students can enjoy all the benefits of big-city living without the big-city price tag. Houston has also been recognized as a great place to build both a life and a career, with Forbes Magazine ranking Houston number 25 for America’s Favorite Cities in 2016.

Houston is more than a great place to earn a law degree — it’s also a great city in which to pursue a legal career. According to Forbes Magazine, Houston was ranked sixth for the best big cities for jobs in 2015. We boast a vibrant legal community that has weathered the ups and downs of the economy better than most other major metropolitan cities, and Houston offers unparalleled career opportunities in many booming practice areas such as intellectual property, health care, energy, immigration, tax, and international law. If you’re looking for a top law school in a perfect urban setting, you will find it at the University of Houston Law Center.

Ward Goolsby ’14
Education: B.S., Northwestern University
Current position: I handle complex commercial litigation at a litigation boutique called AZA.
Describe your involvement at the UH Law Center: I was Editor-in-Chief of the Houston Law Review. Through this experience, I was able to develop my talents as a writer, legal researcher, leader, manager, and aspiring lawyer. In addition, I was able to network with other former Editors-in-Chief who have gone on to outstanding legal careers.
What was your favorite class? I had many I really enjoyed, but the best class I took at UHLC was Federal Courts. It’s one of the toughest classes offered, but it was also one of the most rewarding.
What advice do you have for prospective law students? You should go to law school in the city in which you want to practice. Houston has a thriving legal market, and if you have your heart set on being a lawyer, the University of Houston Law Center is the place to start your career.
Our Career Development Office’s mission is to equip students and graduates with the resources and skills to successfully generate and take advantage of professional opportunities. In support of this mission, the Career Development Office (CDO) guides students and alumni in the use of tools and strategies for successful job searches. The cornerstone of our service is our one-on-one career advising.

University of Houston Law Center graduates can be found throughout the United States and abroad practicing in a wide array of legal and non-legal arenas, including law firms, government, academic, judicial, business, and the public service sector.

The CDO hosts numerous programs and events designed to help students explore career options and develop vital job search skills. These services and programs include:

**FIRST YEAR INITIATIVE (FYI)** introduces first-year students to legal employment. This program includes tailored one-on-one advising on résumé and cover letter drafting, networking, and first-year summer employment options.

**MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAM** pairs law students with our counselors and local attorneys to practice interviewing techniques.

**PART-TIME PARTNERS** connects part-time students with alumni of the part-time program to discuss special demands facing this particular student population.

**SMALL & MIDSIZE FIRM OPEN HOUSE** invites local legal employers with 50 or fewer attorneys to campus to speak to students about their practice and any available jobs.

**Victoria Velasquez ’18**

*Education:* B.B.A., University of Texas-Pan American

*Describe your involvement at the UH Law Center:* During my first year I was a Student Ambassador and involved with the Hispanic Law Students Association (HLSA). Being an ambassador has been a great way to talk to students interested in law school and to highlight why I chose UH Law Center. When I joined HLSA, I was thrilled to find other students from the Rio Grande Valley to whom I could relate. I ended the year by becoming a member of the HLSA executive board. There are many opportunities to get involved on campus, so it’s easy to find a group that you fit into.

*What has been the best thing about your time at the UH Law Center?* I’ve met so many people, and my section quickly became my new group of friends. Professors are definitely the best resource and are always more than willing to talk and to help students succeed. My classmates have also been great resources because we are very supportive of each other.

*Why did you choose the UH Law Center?* One of the main reasons why I chose UH Law Center was because I found it interesting how a significant percentage of students from every Texas law school choose to move to and work in Houston after graduation.
### GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INTEREST TABLE TALK

hosts over 45 employers seeking to meet and hire UH Law Center students for government and public interest positions.

### FALL AND SPRING ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEW (OCI) programs attract over 100 prospective employers to campus to place students in summer clerkships and permanent positions after graduation.

### JOB FAIRS expose students to potential employers from around the nation. UH Law Center participates in ten job fairs each year.

### PASSPORT TO SUCCESS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES is co-sponsored by the CDO and Andrews Kurth LLP, and is a mandatory program for 1Ls. The Series consists of four mandatory learning sessions that are each designed to cover facets of new attorney professionalism most sought after by legal employers. The sessions will be taught by nationally known industry experts with proven track records of teaching and training attorneys on these subjects. Each attendee will receive an actual “passport” booklet that will be marked upon attendance and completion of each training session.

### EMPLOYERS OF OUR RECENT GRADUATES INCLUDE:

- Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
- Andrews Kurth LLP
- Bailey Peavy Bailey Cowan Heckaman, PLLP
- Baker Botts LLP
- Baker & Hostetler LLP
- Baker Hughes
- Baker & McKenzie
- Carstens & Cahoon LLP
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston
- Chamberlain Hrdlicka White Williams & Aughtry
- City of Houston Legal Department
- Deloitte & Touche
- Edison McDowell & Hetherington LLP
- Fourteenth Court of Appeals
- Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP
- Harris County District Attorney’s Office
- Haynes and Boone, LLP
- Internal Revenue Service
- Latham & Watkins LLP
- Littler Mendelson
- Lone Star Legal Aid
- McKool Smith PC
- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP
- Norton Rose Fulbright LLP
- Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP
- U.S. Army Judge Advocate General
- U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General
- Vinson & Elkins LLP

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**Bobby Joe Dale, III ’17**  
**Education:** B.A., University of Mississippi  
**Describe your involvement at the UH Law Center:** I’m President of the Evening Law Students Association, a Student Ambassador, and a member of the Student Bar Association. I previously served as a member of the Career Development Office’s Student Advisory Board and as a student member of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Part-Time Program. In the summer of 2015, I was the inaugural Health Legislative Fellow for Congressman Gene Green in Washington, D.C. as part of the Health Law & Policy Institute’s Health Congressional Fellowship program.  
**How did you find the job you currently have?** I obtained my summer legal internship in the Health Law & Policy Clinic at the Center for Health Law & Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School through a posting on the Career Development Office’s Symplicity job bank.  
**What has been the best thing about your time at the UH Law Center?** The UH Law Center’s faculty and staff are easily its best resource. I have had several professors go out of their way to help me succeed in their classes and in law school.  
**In what area of the law will you specialize?** I hope to work in public policy advocacy with a focus on health or immigration law and policy. Within that, I would love to specialize in legislative or regulatory advocacy.
Class of 2015 – Employment

The class of 2015 found employment in a wide variety of fields. While the predominant sector has historically been law firm employment, graduates also found employment within the category of “J.D. Advantage Positions.” These are jobs for which the employer sought an individual with a J.D., the J.D. provided a demonstrable advantage in performing the job, or a J.D. was required, but the job itself did not require bar passage or an active law license. Some graduates found employment in the category “Other Professional Positions,” which may require professional skills or training but for which a J.D. is neither required nor a demonstrable advantage.

Employers who hired our grads for J.D. Advantage or Other Professional positions include:
- Alliantgroup
- Bank of America/US Trust
- Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP
- Department of Homeland Security
- ExxonMobil Corporation
- GE Oil & Gas Drilling & Production
- Kids In Need of Defense
- KPMG LLP
- Schlumberger Limited

The types of positions that are classified as J.D. Advantage or Other Professional include:
- business development
- commercial negotiator
- compliance
- consultant
- contract specialist
- landman
- lease analyst
- project manager

Maryann Zaki ’13
Education: B.A., Boston University
Current Position: I am a litigation associate for Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, where I am an energy and commercial litigator who helps clients resolve disputes in state and federal courts.

Why did you choose the UH Law Center? I was mainly attracted to UHLC’s reputation in Houston and its success in post-graduation employment rates.

What was your favorite thing about the UH Law Center as a student? I really appreciated how nice everybody was, from the professors to the administration. The professors were always available to help and really appreciated your interest and hard work in their class. I always felt as if everything was fair, and nobody tried to make life difficult. If I believed something wasn’t fair or done the right way, I had the opportunity to speak up, and my voice was heard.

Describe your involvement at the UH Law Center: Moot Court, Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy, and research assistant for Professors Tracy Hester and Joseph Sanders.

What advice do you have for prospective law students? Go to UHLC! You will meet nice people and will receive great training that will prepare you for the practice of law.

Class of 2015

Employment by category

- Business & Industry 22%
- Government 7%
- Public Interest 5%
- Judicial 2%
- Education 1%
- Law Firms 63%
**NALP Employment Summary for 2015 Graduates**

### Full-Time Long-Term Salaries (5 or more)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Number Reporting Salaries (5 or More)**</th>
<th>25th Percentile</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>75th Percentile</th>
<th>Total Employed</th>
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<td>Employed – Non-Professional Position</td>
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<td>Unemployed – Not Seeking</td>
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### Employment Type

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<th>Employment Type</th>
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<th>25th Percentile</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>75th Percentile</th>
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<td>Law Firms</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>115</td>
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<td>$90,500</td>
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<td>195</td>
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### Employment Location

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<td>Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outside of Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Countries</td>
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* This chart has been populated with the employment data submitted to NALP. There may be slight variances from ABA data due to differences in definitions and reporting requirements of the respective organizations.

** NALP requires a minimum of five reported salaries from graduates in full-time long-term positions for salary analysis. 60.5% of all employed graduates submitted salary data.

For more detailed information, please see the NALP Class of 2015 summary report.
The UH Law Center Experience

Faculty
The faculty of the UH Law Center is recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise in fields such as intellectual property & information law, health law, international law, energy law, and tax law. Professors lecture, teach, and participate in symposia the world over. The collective scholarship of tenured faculty ranks in the upper tier nationally based on the number of law journal citations over the past five years. Our faculty members are not only authors and scholars, they also are dedicated teachers committed to your success. The low student to faculty ratio of 9.7 to 1 allows a more personal relationship than found at other schools. The combination of legal theory and practical application taught by a faculty of recognized experts, clinical professors, researchers, and adjuncts drawn from practitioners with “real world” perspectives on the law gives our graduates the tools to succeed in today’s competitive market. The bottom line for UH Law Center students is easy to define: at the UH Law Center, you have the chance to learn from the best.

UH Law Center Courses
The University of Houston Law Center offers one of the largest course selections in the country, which prepares students for almost any legal discipline and allows concentrations in specific areas. In their second and third years, J.D. students have only three course requirements — Professional Responsibility, six credit hours of experiential courses (including simulation courses, law clinics, and field placements), and an upper-level writing requirement. Students may customize their remaining coursework with a range of recommended and elective courses, seminars, and clinical experiences.
The following pages provide a partial list of courses from our extensive catalog. For a comprehensive list of courses offered, please visit law.edu/schedule/homepage.asp. Please note that not all courses are offered during every semester. Students may also augment their legal education by enrolling in select courses from other graduate departments at the University of Houston. Counseling on individual degree plans is available from faculty and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

### FULL-TIME PROGRAM

#### First Year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Courses</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Semester</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Procedure I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torts</td>
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<td>Lawyering Skills and Strategies</td>
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<td>Constitutional Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statutory Interpretation &amp; Regulation</td>
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<td>Lawyering Skills and Strategies</td>
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### PART-TIME PROGRAM

#### First Year

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<td>Procedure I</td>
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<td>Torts</td>
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<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statutory Interpretation &amp; Regulation</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall Semester</strong></td>
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<td>Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Note: The order of classes is subject to change.

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Sireesha Chirala ’13

**Education:** B.A., The University of Texas at Austin

**Current Position:** I am an assistant attorney general in the Environmental Protection Division, part of the Civil Litigation Division, in the Office of the Attorney General. I represent the state of Texas and its agencies in environmental enforcement matters, including violations of the State’s air, waste, and water laws. I also represent the Veteran’s Land Board in tax and eviction cases arising from its land program. After I graduated from UHLC, I was awarded a Graduate Fellowship in the Environmental Protection Division, where I was then hired permanently.

**What was your favorite thing about the UH Law Center as a student?** The variety of organizations, programs, journals, and competitions that it offers its student body is unparalleled. There are so many opportunities for students to gain practical skills through clinics, moot court and mock trial teams, and competitions. The UH Law Center has organizations for every philanthropic cause, political ideology, and practice area.

**What is your favorite thing about Houston?** Houston is diverse in every sense of the word. People come from all over the world to make their home in Houston, and they bring culture and food with them. As a result, Houston has some of the best restaurants and the best fine arts.
Upper Level Courses

BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL LAW
- Antitrust
- Bankruptcy
- Business Organizations
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Products Liability
- Sales & Leasing
- Secured Financing
- Securities Regulation
- Sports Law
- Texas Consumer Law

CONSTITUTIONAL & CRIMINAL LAW
- Civil Rights
- Criminal Procedure
- Death Penalty Law
- First Amendment
- Supreme Court Term
- White Collar Crime
- Women & the Law

EMPLOYMENT & LABOR LAW
- Employment Discrimination
- Employment Welfare & Benefit Plans
- Labor Law
- Workers’ Compensation

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES LAW
- Clean Air Act
- Energy Law & Policy
- International Energy Transactions
- International Environmental Law
- Oil & Gas
- Public Land & Resource Management
- Toxic Torts
- Wildlife Law

FAMILY LAW
- Children’s Rights
- Domestic Violence
- Family Law
- Juvenile Law
- Marital Property Rights

GOVERNMENT REGULATION
- Administrative Law
- Disabilities & the Law
- Election Law
- Higher Education Law
## The UH Law Center Experience

### Upper Level Courses

#### HEALTH LAW
- Biotechnology & the Law
- Food & Drug Law
- Fraud & Abuse
- Genetics & the Law
- Health Law I: Bioethics & Quality Care
- Health Law II: Access, Regulation & Enterprise Health Legislation
- HIV & the Law
- Medical Malpractice Litigation
- Public Health Law

#### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INFORMATION LAW
- Computer Law
- Copyright Law
- Entertainment Law
- Intellectual Property Survey
- Licensing & Technology Transfer
- Patent Prosecution
- Patent Remedies & Defense
- Trade Secrets
- Trademark & Unfair Competition

#### INTERNATIONAL LAW & ADMIRALTY
- Admiralty Law
- Comparative Law
- European Union Law
- Human Rights
- Immigration Law
- International Business Transactions
- International Trade
- Introduction to Chinese Law
- Jewish Law
- Latin American Comparative Law
- Law of International Organizations
- North American Free Trade Agreement
- U.S. Import Regulations

#### LAW & SOCIETY
- American Legal History Colloquium
- English Legal History
- Introduction to Jurisprudence
- Law & Economics
- Law & Literature
- Race Theory and the Law

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### Alissa GiPson ’16

**Education:** B.B.A., Texas A&M University  
**Current Position:** I will be practicing tax law and estate planning with Chamberlain Hrdlicka.  
**Describe your involvement at the UH Law Center:** I was a Student Ambassador, a member of the Black Law Students Association, the Symposium Editor for the Houston Business and Tax Law Journal, and a member of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Program. For the summer of 2015, I was a summer associate with Chamberlain Hrdlicka for the first half, and a summer associate with Schlanger, Silver, Barg & Paine for the second half.  
**What has been the best thing about your time at the UH Law Center?** I greatly enjoyed my time at UHLC. The best part of my time here was the support I received, not only from the administration, but also from other students! Although law school is a competitive atmosphere in general, I found that the students at UHLC are extremely supportive of one another.  
**What was your favorite class?** Criminal Law with Professor Duncan. I would always save my readings for that class for the end of my night because they were so fun and engaging to discuss in class.
Upper Level Courses

LITIGATION, ADVOCACY AND RELATED COURSES
- Appellate Advocacy
- Attorney Communication & Persuasion
- Civil Trial Advocacy
- Conflicts of Law
- Criminal Trial Advocacy
- Legal Negotiations
- Pretrial Procedure
- Remedies
- Trial & Appellate Procedure

PRACTICE SKILLS TRAINING
- Advanced Legal Research
- Civil Practice Clinic
- Consumer Law Clinic
- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic
- Environmental Law Externship
- Government and Nonprofit Externship
- Health Law Clinic/Externship
- Immigration Clinic
- Innocence Investigations
- Judicial Externship
- Mediation Clinic/Externship

PROCEDURE & PRACTICE
- Arbitration
- Federal Pretrial Procedure
- Mass Tort Litigation
- Personal & Professional Ethics
- Professional Responsibility
- Texas Civil Procedure

REAL PROPERTY, TRUSTS & ESTATES
- Construction Law
- Land Use & Finance
- Landlord & Tenant
- Modern Real Estate Transactions
- Trusts & Wills

TAXATION
- Corporate Tax
- Estate Planning
- Federal Income Tax
- International Tax
- Real Estate Tax
- State & Local Tax
- Tax Ethics
- Tax Fraud & Money Laundering
- Tax Policy
**Centers of Excellence**

Eleven institutes and centers, two of which are perennially ranked among the “Top 10” in the nation, distinguish the University of Houston Law Center. Each of these special programs adds depth to our curriculum and creates educational opportunities that other law schools simply cannot match.

- **Center for Children, Law & Policy** pursues legal and interdisciplinary advocacy, scholarship, and teaching to advance the interests of children through public policy ([law.uh.edu/center4clp](http://law.uh.edu/center4clp)).
- **Center for Consumer Law** hosts two “People’s Law School” sessions every year. These are half-day programs that offer free legal information on everything from trusts and wills to family law and bankruptcy ([law.uh.edu/ccf/](http://law.uh.edu/ccf/)).
- **Center for U.S. and Mexican Law** is the first independent research center in the United States dedicated to the study of Mexican law and legal aspects of U.S.-Mexico relations ([law.uh.edu/mexican-law/](http://law.uh.edu/mexican-law/)).
- **Criminal Justice Institute** aims to enhance the practice of criminal law at the local, national, and international levels ([law.uh.edu/cjj/homepage.asp](http://law.uh.edu/cjj/homepage.asp)).
- **Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center** is housed in the acknowledged Energy Capital of the World, which provides a forum for education and discussion of some of the most important issues of the day, such as climate change, air pollution, clean coal, and renewable energy ([law.uh.edu/eenrcenter](http://law.uh.edu/eenrcenter)).
- **Health Law & Policy Institute** offers one of the nation’s top-ranked programs in health law. The institute works to advance understanding of health law issues and to provide guidance for significant policy decisions affecting every element of health care ([law.uh.edu/healthlaw](http://law.uh.edu/healthlaw)). HL&PI also houses the Center for Biotechnology & the Law.
- **Institute for Higher Education Law & Governance** provides information and analysis to colleges and universities worldwide on higher education legal issues ([law.uh.edu/ihelg](http://law.uh.edu/ihelg)).
- **Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law** is one of the nation’s strongest and oldest IP programs, and coordinates study, research, and writing on patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret, and information law ([law.uh.edu/ipil/homepage.asp](http://law.uh.edu/ipil/homepage.asp)).
- **Program on Law and Computation** is designed to bring together a spectrum of specializations united by a heavy reliance on computation and the law. The program examines the many ways in which computers and software technologies change how law is perceived and studied ([law.uh.edu/polac/homepage.asp](http://law.uh.edu/polac/homepage.asp)).
- **Tax Law Program** boasts a level of sophistication that has earned it national prominence and status in the southwest United States. Proficient tax lawyers are in demand, and UHLC is poised to fill that need ([law.uh.edu/tax](http://law.uh.edu/tax)).
- **Texas Innocence Network** is comprised of two divisions: the Capital Division and the Non-Capital Division. Attorneys and student interns work together on these cases to provide the support needed for both divisions ([law.uh.edu/TIN](http://law.uh.edu/TIN)).

**The UH Law Center Experience**

**Professor Sapna Kumar**

**Education:** B.S., B.A., The University of Texas at Austin; J.D., University of Chicago

**Career Highlights:** Patent litigator, recipient of the University of Houston Teaching Award in 2012-13

**Classes Taught:** Patents, Administrative Law, Property

**Areas of Specialization:** Patents and administrative law

**Years at the UH Law Center:** 7

**What attracted you to the UH Law Center?** The Intellectual Property & Information Law Institute and the large intellectual property faculty were my biggest draws to UHLC.

**What is your favorite class to teach and why?** Administrative law, because students come into class not seeing the subject’s relevancy to practice and come out with an appreciation of how interwoven government bureaucracy is with the practice of law.

**What is your favorite thing about the city of Houston?** Montrose. I love my neighborhood!

**What are your hobbies outside of teaching?** I sing in the Houston Symphony Grand Chorus.

**What is your favorite thing about the UH Law Center?** I have a deep appreciation for the energetic and committed junior faculty.
Clinical Legal Education Program

Clinics provide students with hands-on, practical legal experience while still in law school. Under the guidance of clinical faculty, students handle all aspects of cases from interviewing to filing motions to conducting trials in court. Our clinical programs seek to accomplish three goals:

- Train students to be competent, professional, and ethical advocates;
- Provide first-rate pro bono legal representation to indigent clients and communities in Harris County; and
- Support the courts and legislature in developing policies that can improve the surrounding communities.

UHLC offers six clinic options:

- **Civil Practice Clinic** handles matters including bankruptcy, divorce, domestic violence, juvenile cases, landlord-tenant, estate planning, and probate (law.uh.edu/clinic/civil.asp).
- **Criminal Defense Clinic** assigns students misdemeanor cases with a high probability of going to trial. Students handle all aspects of the case from arraignment to fact investigation to trial (law.uh.edu/clinic/criminaldefenseclinic.asp).
- **Consumer Law Clinic** focuses on cases ranging from deceptive trade practices to credit and debt collection problems and other consumer issues (law.uh.edu/clinic/consumerlaw.asp).
- **Immigration Clinic** handles various immigration issues, including asylum, domestic violence, and human trafficking (law.uh.edu/clinic/immi.asp).
- **Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic** gives students the tools to assist small businesses and non-profits with legal matters ranging from lease agreements to employment policies (law.uh.edu/clinic/transactional.asp).
- **Mediation Clinic** teaches students to mediate consumer issues, landlord-tenant disputes, and breach of contract cases for the Justice Courts in Harris County (law.uh.edu/clinic/mediate.asp).

**Professor Geoffrey A. Hoffman**

*Education:* A.B., Columbia University; J.D., Tulane Law; LL.M., Harvard Law School

*Career highlights:* Immigration attorney, law professor, law clerk for a federal judge

*Classes taught:* Immigration Clinic (Director), Immigration Law, Asylum Law, Crimmigration

*Area of specialization:* Immigration

*Years at the UH Law Center:* 7

*What class is your favorite to teach and why?* No question – my favorite class to teach is the immigration clinic. The clinic challenges students, forces them to question their assumptions, and makes them better advocates and listeners.

*What advice do you have for prospective law students?* Prospective students should be ready for an intellectual adventure. Your first year will be like nothing you have ever done before, so read up on how to prepare for it. During your second and third years, think broadly about the kinds of courses you wish to take.

*What is your favorite thing about the UH Law Center?* The people. We have wonderful people here who work so hard to make this place a great teaching institution. I am very excited about the spirit of change and being on the cutting edge of legal education.
The UH Law Center Experience

Externships, Clerkships & Fellowships
The UH Law Center administers several programs to help upper-level students gain hands-on experience and exposure to the legal field, while building their résumés and expanding their professional networks.

• **Judicial Externship Program** partners students with federal and state judges at the trial and appellate levels, allowing them to view the courts’ inner workings and gain insight into the legal system from the perspective of the bench (law.uh.edu/externship/judicial.asp).

• **Criminal Practice Externship** allows students to assist prosecution of misdemeanor cases at the Harris County District Attorney’s Office, and occasionally assist with felony prosecutions (law.uh.edu/externship/criminal-practice-externship.asp).

• **Government and Public Interest Clerkships/Externships** are supported through the Government and Public Interest Table Talk (GPITT). Each year, the Career Development Office hosts 45+ employers seeking to meet and hire UH Law Center students for government and public interest positions. Through the externship program, students take what they are learning in the classroom and see how it applies to real-world situations. (law.uh.edu/pil/UHTTemployerinfo.asp); (law.uh.edu/externship/externship.asp).

• **Apprentice Program** is coordinated through the Career Development Office and matches rising second- and third-year students with small law firms. The UH Law Center subsidizes a portion of the hourly wage paid to students.

• **Firm Clerkships** are coordinated through the Career Development Office through a variety of programs including: OCI, Small and Mid-Size Firm Open House, and an active job bank.

• **Global Fellowship Program** is a new venture that was started in 2015. Although students have interned in Mexico City for years, this expanded program allows for our public interest students to gain experience through global fellowships in Calgary and New Delhi as well. The Program is open to all 1Ls, 2Ls, and part-time 3Ls in good academic standing (law.uh.edu/pil/Global-Fellowship-Program.asp).

• **Public Interest Fellowship Program** is a program hosted by the Career Development Office that gives students and recent graduates the opportunity to build legal skills, hone their portfolio of accomplishments, and contribute to the community (law.uh.edu/pil/summer.asp).

**Megan Arnold ’15**
**Education:** B.A., Texas A&M University
**Current Position:** I am an associate attorney in the Asbestos Litigation Division of Bailey Peavy Bailey Cowan Heckaman, LLP.

**How did you find the job you currently have?** I found my job by participating in the Career Development Office’s midsize/small firm open house.

**What has been the best thing about your time at the UH Law Center?** I feel that I made the right choice deciding to attend law school here. I’ve made tons of friends and built lasting relationships and have been exposed to many areas of the law through class selections and internships. I don’t think I can narrow UHLC’s resources down to the one best thing! I’ve used the Career Development Office, Symplicity [UHLC’s job bank], professors, students, and the Admissions Office as resources, and I think it’s having all of those resources together that makes this school and its students successful.

**What is your favorite thing about Houston?** We have so many things to offer! We have a variety of music festivals and venues, waterparks, and a beach. We have professional football, baseball, soccer, and basketball teams. The aquarium and the zoo are both awesome. The shopping is to die for. We also have an IKEA, which I think should be a bragging point!
Examples of public interest fellowships include:
- Anti-Defamation League – Marvin Nathan Fellowship
- Children’s Assessment Center
- City of Houston Legal Department
- Disability Rights Texas
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
- Federal Public Defender
- Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office
- Galveston Bay Foundation
- Harris County District Attorney’s Office
- Internal Revenue Service
- Lone Star Legal Aid
- Montgomery County Women’s Center
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
- Social Security Administration
- State Counsel for Offenders
- Texas Attorney General
- The Texas Innocence Network
- U.S. Attorney’s Office
- University of Houston System Office of General Counsel
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Blakely Advocacy Institute
Advocacy skills are central to the practice of law, and the UH Law Center’s advocacy program is recognized as one of the broadest and best in the nation.

All first-year students compete in one round of the John Black Moot Court Tournament under the UH Law Center’s Lawyering Skills and Strategies program and then may later elect to compete in the competitive rounds of the tournament. Upper division students are eligible to join the UH Law Center’s highly successful mock trial, moot court, and alternative dispute resolution interscholastic teams, which continue to fill the Institute’s trophy cases with their impressive wins. Some of the nation’s most experienced and acclaimed trial and appellate lawyers assist our faculty in teaching a wide variety of programs and courses, including Trial Advocacy, Appellate Advocacy, Pretrial Litigation, and a range of courses covering all aspects of the alternative dispute resolution techniques of mediation, negotiation, and arbitration (law.uh.edu/blakely/homepage.asp).
Joint Degree Programs
The UH Law Center is among the national leaders in the number of dual degree programs offered. Our innovative programs allow students to earn two degrees in less time than it would take to complete the degrees separately.

Students interested in pursuing dual degree options must apply to, and earn acceptances from, both programs within one calendar year. If one of the approved dual degree programs does not fulfill a student’s educational goals, the UH Law Center also allows students to earn credit in other graduate programs with prior course approval (law.uh.edu/academic/dual-degree.asp).

Dual degree programs include:
• J.D./MBA with the University of Houston C. T. Bauer College of Business
• J.D./MA in History with the University of Houston
• J.D./MSW with the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work
• J.D./MPH with The University of Texas Health Science Center
• J.D./M.D. with Baylor College of Medicine
• J.D./Ph.D. in Medical Humanities with The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
• J.D./J.D. with the University of Calgary
• J.D./LL.M. (both completed at UHLC)

The UH Law Center’s newest joint degree program is the J.D./LL.M. program, allowing students to earn both degrees in 3.5 years (105 credit hours). Students in the J.D. program can apply to the LL.M. program after the conclusion of their 1L year. Students who visit the UH Law Center during their 3L year may be eligible to participate through the LL.M. Visitor Program, and must be admitted to the LL.M. program prior to their visit or in the first semester of their 3L year. Students in the joint program must complete an additional 15 Law Center credits after graduating from their home law school in order to obtain the LL.M. Joint degree students must meet all degree requirements in order to complete the program. LL.M. specialty programs eligible for this joint degree include Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Law; Health Law; Intellectual Property & Information Law; International Law; and Tax Law.

Barrett Schitka ’15
Education: B.A.S., B.A., University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
Current Position: I am an associate attorney in the Oil and Gas Transactions group at the Houston office of Latham & Watkins LLP. My group focuses on upstream and midstream mergers and acquisitions and international petroleum transactions.

Why did you choose the UH Law Center? I chose UHLC because of its unique partnership with the University of Calgary for the International Energy Lawyers Program and its ties to the burgeoning oil and gas industry. I think the real draw to the UH Law Center is the opportunities it provides. The amount of networking and learning opportunities I have had are truly unparalleled. If you want to learn more, develop lifelong skills, and meet movers and shakers in the oil and gas world, Houston is the place to be.

What advice do you have for prospective law students? Do your research. Law school isn’t easy, and it is a large investment both in terms of time and money. One of the greatest things about UHLC and the city of Houston is the pulse of the industry and the prevalence of the entrepreneurial spirit. If you work hard, people are willing to reward you for your efforts.
After completing the first year of study, UH Law Center students can gain valuable writing experience while working on one of the school’s acclaimed student-run journals.

First-year grades and demonstrated proficiency in legal writing are the critical criteria that lead to membership in these journals, and membership is offered during the summer after first year.

- **Houston Law Review**, widely cited as one of the nation’s top journals, publishes a varied body of legal scholarship to serve the professional and academic communities (*houstonlawreview.org/*).
- **Houston Business and Tax Law Journal** ranks as a “Top 10” journal in its specialty area. The HBTLJ focuses on a wide range of law, including corporate, securities, bankruptcy, antitrust, intellectual property, employment, labor, mergers/acquisitions, and tax (*hbtlj.org/*).
- **Journal of Consumer & Commercial Law** is published by UH Law Center students on behalf of the Consumer and Commercial Law Section of the State Bar of Texas (*www.jtexconsumerlaw.com/*).
- **Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy** builds on the strength of the UH Law Center’s highly-ranked health law program with a widely-respected scholarly publication focusing on emerging issues in the field (*law.uh.edu/hjhlp/*).
- **Houston Journal of International Law** assembles articles written by practicing professionals, educators, and students on a broad range of topics in international and comparative law, including international business, finance, torts, crime, and human rights (*hjil.org/*).

**Professor Whitney Werich Heard**

**Education:** B.A., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; J.D., Georgetown University Law Center

**Career Highlights:** Law clerk for federal court trial judge; litigation associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP

**Classes Taught:** Lawyering Skills and Strategies I & II

**Area of Specialization:** Legal research, writing, and analysis

**Years at the UH Law Center:** 8

**What is your favorite thing about the UH Law Center?** Without a doubt, my favorite thing about the UH Law Center is the student body. Our students are bright and hard working, but they are also fun and enthusiastic. Nothing makes me happier than having a former student come back to tell me that she was selected for Law Review or won a moot court competition, or was offered a job. Their successes are my greatest professional joys.

**What is your favorite thing about Houston?** There is something for everyone in Houston. We have a world-class museum campus, an impressive theater district, an expansive park system, and a dynamic food scene.

**What advice do you have for prospective law students?** My advice would be to appreciate the versatility of a law degree. Often, students discover that having a law degree can open doors that they didn’t even know existed before going to law school.
Student Organizations
The UH Law Center extends learning beyond the classroom with a full range of student organizations that represent students’ diverse interests and provide tools to help students succeed.

Whatever you’re looking for in a student group, you can find it here (law.uh.edu/organizations/homepage.asp).
Some of our student organizations include:
• The Advocates
• Aggie Law Society
• American Bar Association
• Asian Law Students Association
• Association of International Petroleum Negotiators
• The Association of Women in Law
• Black Law Students Association
• Christian Legal Society
• Corporate & Taxation Law Society
• Criminal Law Association
• Energy and Environmental Law Society
• Evening Law Students Association

• Family Law Organization
• Federalist Society
• Health Law Organization
• Hispanic Law Students Association
• Houston Young Lawyers Association
• Intellectual Property Student Organization
• International Law Society
• Labor & Employment Law Society
• Law & Order LSU
• Law-Horns at the UH Law Center
• Order of the Barons
• Outlaw: Students for GLBT Concerns
• Phi Alpha Delta
• Public Interest Law Organization
• Sports and Entertainment Law Organization
• Student Bar Association

Student Services
The Office of Student Services exists for one reason: to help UH Law Center students achieve their educational goals while keeping other pressures in check. This is the one-stop shop for answers to challenges ranging from counseling and registration services to financial aid.

The UH Law Center Experience

Jacob M. Karam ’17
Education: B.A., Texas Tech University

What are you involved in at the UH Law Center? I am the Senior Articles Editor of the Houston Journal of Health Law & Policy, the President of Advocates for Life, a member of The Advocates, and a member of the Student Bar Association.

What has been the best thing about your time at the UH Law Center? UHLC provides all its students with the tools and resources it takes to have a successful legal career. Our people set us apart: the professors, the Career Development Office, and the staff are all committed to helping students maximize their full potential. UHLC is the best school in one of the best legal markets in the country. Students have the chance to explore various interests and pursue their calling within the legal profession.

What advice do you have for prospective law students? Law school will help you in your career no matter which path you ultimately choose, even if you decide later you don’t want to practice law. If you want to think critically, write concisely, and speak persuasively, you should highly consider attending law school – especially at the UH Law Center! Attending law school just gets better with time. Treat it like a full-time job: be organized, committed, and work hard. If you do, you will reap the benefits.
Resources for new students include the Academic Enrichment Program, which helps incoming law students transition into law school by providing section tutors to help with course materials and to augment study and test-taking skills. Tutorials are open to all first-year students approved for this program. The UH Law Center also offers the 1L Mentoring Program that helps new students acclimate to life at law school. The program pairs first-year students with faculty and upper-class law students who serve as mentors and share perspectives on everything from course selections to career goals (law.uh.edu/student/).

Diversity

If you want a melting pot, look no further than Houston — our region (including the suburbs) is consistently ranked as one of the most culturally diverse cities in the nation. The fact that many Fortune 500 companies, global corporations, law firms, and oil and gas firms house either their headquarters or major offices here contributes to our city’s incredible diversity, bringing people from all over the world right to our doorstep. As the fourth largest city in the United States, Houston is more than a great place to earn a law degree — it’s also a great city in which to pursue a legal career. The UH Law Center offers a top-notch education in a collegial, welcoming environment, and in a city with excellent career prospects — a highly desirable combination that helps us to recruit a diverse student body. UHLC is recognized as one of the most diverse law schools in the nation by preLaw and the National Jurist magazines. Law schools are evaluated in several categories, including percentage of minority faculty and the diversity of the student body.

Professor Jim Hawkins

Education: B.A., Baylor University; J.D., University of Texas School of Law

Career highlights: Law clerk for a judge on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals

Classes taught: Contracts, Secured Financing, Texas Consumer Law, and writing seminars on consumer credit topics

Areas of specialization: Consumer credit, especially payday loans and medical financing

Years at the UH Law Center: 8

What is your favorite thing about Houston? The food. Whether it is a gourmet restaurant, a place in Chinatown selling dim sum, or the taco truck within walking distance of my home, the food is incredibly diverse and amazing.

What attracted you to the UH Law Center? Being in such a vibrant legal community in Houston, the Law Center is strategically positioned to train new lawyers in a strong market. The faculty is both kind and rigorous, and people really emphasize excellence in their teaching and research.

What are your hobbies outside of teaching? I am really involved in my church, and I also love to read fiction books. My favorite non-legal author is C.S. Lewis.
Campus Resources

The resources offered to students reach far beyond the UH Law Center campus. Whether you need exercise for stress relief, help with student accommodations, or childcare, the University of Houston campus has it all.

- **Campus Recreation and Wellness Center** is located a few blocks from the UH Law Center. This amazing facility offers everything from a three-story rock-climbing wall to a world-class natatorium. A full range of exercise classes is available, along with multiple settings for indoor sports, ranging from soccer to basketball to martial arts ([uh.edu/recreation](http://uh.edu/recreation)).

- **Students with Disabilities** can receive assistance through the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with Disabilities. The Center provides auxiliary aids, exam assistance, transcription services, and library services for students with special needs. With early notice, the Office of Student Services will work with students to approve and secure accommodations for anyone in need of assistance ([uh.edu/csd](http://uh.edu/csd)).

- **Student Health and Insurance** is provided by the UH Health Center, which offers a range of medical services and health counseling, and can refer students to acute health care facilities when necessary. Health and accident insurance is recommended for all students and is required for all international students ([uh.edu/admin/hc](http://uh.edu/admin/hc)).

- **Counseling and Psychological Services** has professional counselors who are able to assist students with personal issues ranging from stress-related disorders to alcohol or drug dependency ([uh.edu/caps](http://uh.edu/caps/)).

- **Child Care** on campus is provided by the UH Children’s Learning Center, which enrolls children of students, faculty, and staff. Children ages 3 months to 5 years are eligible ([uh.edu/clc](http://uh.edu/clc)).

- **Graduate and Professional Housing** is available at the Calhoun Lofts. The lofts offer an urban-style living experience with the convenience of being located across the street from the UH Law Center ([housing.uh.edu/housing/calhoun-lofts](http://housing.uh.edu/housing/calhoun-lofts)).

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**The UH Law Center Experience**

**Professor Jessica L. Roberts**

**Education:** B.A., University of Southern California; J.D., Yale Law School

**Career Highlights:** Associate-in-Law at Columbia Law School in New York City, Greenwall Faculty Scholar in Bioethics Grant Recipient

**Classes Taught:** Foundational Issues in Health Law, Genetics & the Law, Disabilities & the Law

**Area of Specialization:** Antidiscrimination protection of health-related information

**Years at the UH Law Center:** 7

**What is your favorite class to teach and why?**

Disabilities & the Law. My father lost his legs in a car accident in 1965, so I grew up with a parent with a disability. That experience shaped my understanding of the world and taught me to value and appreciate difference. My support for disability rights is what made me want to go to law school in the first place! It is an honor to have the opportunity to share my knowledge and passion with my students. Disability provides an invaluable opportunity to discuss social justice. I hope that students leave my class with a new perspective on the world that will serve them not just in the context of disability law but also in the whole of their legal careers.

**What advice do you have for prospective law students?**

Find what you love about the law and focus on that. People with passion make the strongest advocates.
Jeff Brown ’95

Education: B.A., The University of Texas at Austin

Current Position: I’m a justice on the Supreme Court of Texas. The nine-member court is the highest court in Texas for everything but criminal cases.

What is your favorite thing about Houston? I like Houston because it’s big, it’s diverse, and it works hard. In spite of all it has to offer in the way of culture and character, it’s an unassuming city. Houston is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

As an alumnus, how do you stay involved with the UH Law Center? I have served on both the boards of the UH Law Alumni Association and the Houston Law Review. I have also taught at the UH Law Center as an adjunct professor and served as Moot Court coach. I also try to give regularly to the school.

What was your favorite thing about the UH Law Center as a student? I was really impressed with the quality and accessibility of the faculty. In the time since I was a law student, I believe the faculty’s well-deserved stellar reputation has gotten even better.

What advice do you have for prospective law students? My advice is to look for a school with a well-regarded faculty, a variety of well-run clinical programs, and a good record of placement in desirable legal markets. I believe that the University of Houston Law Center measures well in all of those categories.
The economy is booming, the arts are thriving, and there's a food truck on nearly every corner. But don't just take our word for it: Business Insider has ranked Houston as one of the hottest cities in America, and Forbes Magazine named Houston as number one among U.S. cities where paychecks stretch the furthest. We are recognized as the nation’s most rapidly growing job market, creating new jobs at a rate unparalleled by other U.S. cities. Still need persuading? Take a look at our list of why we cannot get enough of Houston.

**Sports**

Houston has four amazing stadiums, two of which are regularly used for concerts and other events: NRG (formerly Reliant) Stadium, home of the Texans (football); the Toyota Center, home of the Rockets (basketball); Dynamo Stadium, home of the Dynamo (soccer); and Minute Maid Park, home of the Astros (baseball).

Did you know Houston is home to the “eighth wonder of the world?” That’s right, it’s the Astrodome, which used to house our baseball and football games!

**Things We Love about Houston**

Professor David Kwok

**Education:** B.S., Northwestern University; M.P.P., J.D., Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

**Career highlights:** Law Clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

**Classes taught:** White Collar Crime, Criminal Law, Law & the Social Sciences

**Area of specialization:** White Collar Crime

**Years at the UH Law Center:** 3

**What attracted you to the UH Law Center?** The intellectually curious faculty was a huge draw for me, particularly a welcoming health law faculty. The city of Houston is also an attractive, diverse destination.

**What is your favorite thing about Houston?** The city has been surprisingly bike-friendly! The bayou provides a rather serene commute to UHLC.

**What is your favorite class to teach and why?** I particularly enjoy teaching White Collar Crime. White collar issues such as public corruption often trigger intuitive condemnation from law students, but establishing clear legal guidelines is an ongoing challenge for students and attorneys alike.

**What advice do you have for prospective law students?** Law school is a professional school. It’s a great chance to learn and develop analytical skills, but it’s also the development of your professional reputation. A reliable, trustworthy, professional reputation in the law will last you a long time.
Entertainment

One of our biggest attractions is the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, taking place every March and bringing in big-name performers, as well as donating millions of dollars in scholarships to Texas high school students. Houston attracts all types of bands and singers, big and small, from every musical genre imaginable. We have a phenomenal local live music scene that showcases our Texas talent. Bars and restaurants all over the city take pride in our musicians, and you can hear live music almost any night of the week.

Need some culture in your life? Try visiting the Houston Museum of Natural Science (dinosaurs!), the Museum of Fine Arts, the Contemporary Arts Museum, the Health Museum, the Children’s Museum, or the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum – just to name a few.

In the mood for wildlife viewing? The Houston Zoo is incredible and constantly has different exhibits to appeal to both the young and young at heart. Musicals, theater, opera, ballet! Our top-notch theater district boasts the Hobby Center, Miller Outdoor Theatre, the Wortham Center, and the Alley Theatre. Broadway shows are aplenty in Houston.

Parks, parks, and more parks! Memorial Park is over 1,500 acres and is home to 30 miles of trails for biking and running, as well as sports fields and picnic spots, and also contains the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center. Hermann Park is a 445-acre oasis in central Houston that includes Japanese Gardens, nature trails, a golf course, a lake with pedal boats, playgrounds, and plays host to various festivals throughout the year. Buffalo Bayou Trails along the bayou connect Memorial Park to downtown and includes ten miles of hike and bike trails, as well as canoeing and kayaking; the park is undergoing significant redevelopment to improve the trails, including the addition of pedestrian bridges, artwork, canoe launches, and native landscaping.

Got the shopping bug? We’ve got the cure. Houston has tons of fantastic shopping districts, including the Galleria, Rice Village, Highland Village, Memorial City, Town and Country/ City Centre, and The Woodlands. Our city also happens to be home to Chloe Dao, the fashionista designer and winner of Project Runway Season 2. Her store, Chloe Dao Boutique (formerly Lot 8), is a big attraction for seasoned shoppers.

NASA! Space City, anyone? Just a short trek down to the Clear Lake area and you can have space in your backyard.

For all you runners out there, the Houston Marathon is a crowd-drawing event that takes place each January.

Steven Denman ’17

Education: B.A., The University of Texas at Austin

Describe your involvement at the UH Law Center: I am a member of the Student Veteran Association and the Student Bar Association.

What has been the best thing about your time at the UH Law Center? As a combat veteran and non-traditional student, I value that the Law Center has such a diverse student body and that everyone who makes up our student body has a unique background. The best thing about my time here, though, has been participating in the various intramural competitions with my friends, whereas I feel that the best resource for me has been the Career Development Office.

How did you find the job you currently have? Right now, I am an intern for the Harris County District Attorney’s Office, which I found using the Career Development Office’s resources.

In what area of the law will you specialize? I’d like to become a criminal prosecutor with the Harris County District Attorney’s Office after graduation.

Why did you choose the UH Law Center? Houston has an excellent legal market, and you can’t beat that since that’s one of the most important factors when choosing a law school. I chose UHILC because it’s the preeminent school in Houston, but also because of the quality graduates that are produced here.
Travel

No claustrophobia here! Houston is known for its sprawling landscape and many suburbs that are just a short drive from the city’s center.

If you need a little surf and sand on the weekends, we have beaches and water-fronts only an hour away in Galveston, Kemah, and Surfside.

Need to get away? You can fly almost anywhere from George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) or Hobby Airport (HOU).

Despite Texas’s size, Houston is close to other destination cities (Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Galveston), making for easy weekend trips.

Food

Hungry? We’ve got you covered in Houston with an amazing, ethnically diverse restaurant scene, saturated with award-winning chefs and every type of cuisine imaginable. If you can’t find it in Houston, chances are you can’t find it anywhere!

Great beer. Local craft breweries are popping up everywhere! A few of the more notable ones include Saint Arnold’s, Karbach, Southern Star, No Label, and 8th Wonder.

Houston Restaurant Weeks. An entire month dedicated to eating out and contributing to a good cause while you’re at it – a portion of the proceeds from meals at participating restaurants benefits the Houston Food Bank.

We’ve got food trucks, yes we do! These are an increasingly popular staple in the Houston community – and we now have food truck parks!

It may seem silly to list a grocery store as one of the things we dig about our city, but if you’ve never been to an HEB... just trust us, it’s the best thing since sliced bread (which, incidentally, they carry)!

Things We Love About Houston

Rocio Rodriguez Ruiz ’17

Education: B.A., Agnes Scott College

Describe your involvement at the UH Law Center: I am a member of the Houston Law Review, the Hispanic Law Students Association, the Irene Merker Rosenberg Scholars Program, and I am a UHLC Pre-Law Pipeline Program Mentor.

Why did you choose the UH Law Center? I was enticed by how well-rounded UHLC was on paper, and that included the vast course and program offerings.

What has been the best thing about your time at the UH Law Center? The faculty members at UHLC are phenomenal because they set high expectations but provide the support and availability to ensure that students can be successful. Even in my larger first year courses, I always felt that my professors were accessible and willing to help; their commitment to our success consistently shines through and undoubtedly makes a difference in our academic growth.
Bradley J. Aiken ‘07

Education: B.B.A., The University of Texas at Austin

Current Position: I am currently a partner at Edison, McDowell & Hetherington, LLP. I handle a broad range of corporate litigation matters with an emphasis on the financial services sector. A large portion of my caseload involves the management of EMH’s Property & Casualty Docket in Texas and the surrounding states.

What is your favorite thing about Houston? I am always amazed by Houston’s incredible diversity. That diversity is what keeps Houston fresh and thriving regardless of swings in the socioeconomic climate. Houston’s constant evolution makes it one of the few cities where a person can simply reinvent himself with ease if they so choose. Even as a native Houstonian, I am always rediscovering what the city has to offer.

As an alumnus, how do you stay involved with the UH Law Center? Currently, I am the founding President of the University of Houston Law Alumni Foundation Moot Court Alumni Committee, the Fundraising Chair for the Moot Court National Championship, and a member of the Law Captains Committee of the University of Houston Law Alumni Association.

General

You can get all of this big city living without big city cost. Houston ranks first among U.S. cities where paychecks stretch the furthest, according to Forbes Magazine.

Yes ma’am, no sir, please, and thank you – and people hold the doors open for each other! Come get a dose of our second-to-none Southern hospitality.

You want diversity? Houston has it! More than 145 languages are spoken in Houston, which is the third largest number of languages spoken in a U.S. city behind New York and L.A.

Have we mentioned that our weather is temperate year-round? Snow is almost unheard of in Houston, and our below-freezing days are few and far between. Say hello to the sun!

One of our biggest claims to fame is our job market that has been mostly sheltered from economic downturns. According to Wallet Hub’s ranking of the best and worst cities to find a job, Houston ranked 25th overall, and 16th in ease of finding a job in the current market. Our unemployment rate is consistently below the national average.

Industry! Houston is known for many industries attractive to prospective law students (and job-seekers in general): health law, oil and gas, intellectual property & information law, immigration law, international law, and tax law, to name a few.

No one likes to think about getting sick, but just in case, Houston is home to the Texas Medical Center, the largest in the world and one of the top medical centers in the nation, with hospital systems such as St. Luke’s, Methodist, and Texas Children’s.
Admission to the J.D. Program

The J.D. program is a 90-hour curriculum culminating in the Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. Students can pursue the degree on either a full- or part-time basis. The full-time program is designed for students who plan to devote nearly all of their time to the study of law while the part-time program is designed for students who plan to work during law school. Applicants must designate in their application to which program they are applying. Both programs begin in the fall semester.

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<th>CAS Receipt Deadline</th>
<th>Decision Sent**</th>
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<td>by February 28, 2017</td>
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<td>Regular Decision</td>
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• Applicants must take the LSAT no later than October to receive early decision consideration. Early decision is non-binding.

• Applicants to the full-time program are encouraged to take the LSAT by December, but February and June scores will be considered on a space-available basis.

• Applicants to the part-time program are encouraged to take the LSAT by February, but June scores will be considered on a space-available basis.

* Any application received after the regular decision deadline will be considered at the end of the process on a space-available basis.

** Decisions are sent on a rolling basis as they are finalized, and notifications are sent both by mail and through an online status check system.
To be eligible for admission to the J.D. program, all applicants must:

- Hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university;
- Have a recent score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT); and
- Register with the Law School Admission Council’s (LSAC) Credential Assembly Service (CAS).

Your application must include the following, which should be submitted electronically:

- Completed application form;
- A personal statement of up to three pages, double-spaced. The personal statement is extremely valuable in the selection process. Because we do not grant personal interviews, this is your opportunity to tell the Admissions Committee more about yourself. It is, in essence, your personal interview on paper. You may write your personal statement on any subject, but you should include a brief description of your reason for applying to the University of Houston Law Center. In the alternative, this information may be included in an optional statement;
- Résumé, or a list of civic and extracurricular activities, honors, and work experience;
- Optional statement to explain or highlight elements in your application that are not readily apparent. You may write an optional statement regarding your diversity, disadvantaged background, socioeconomic status, grade trends, substantial discrepancy between your performance on standardized tests and your actual level of academic achievement, your interest in attending the University of Houston Law Center, or any other information you believe is relevant to the Admissions Committee that has not been previously included in your personal statement. Please limit this statement to no more than one page; and
- Immigration documents (for international applicants requiring a student visa).
Admission to the J.D. Program

Your application file must also include a complete CAS report, which must include:

- Recent LSAT score, not older than five years prior to date of enrollment;
- Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended; and
- At least two letters of recommendation (but no more than three). The most useful letters of recommendation are those from employers, professors, or colleagues with whom you have had close working relationships.

Please note that no application will be reviewed without the CAS report. It is the applicant’s responsibility to make sure that his/her CAS report is complete; your CAS report will not become complete until you have a valid LSAT score, transcripts from all undergraduate institutions, and two letters of recommendation. You may review your CAS report status by accessing your LSAC online account.

For more information on registering for the LSAT or CAS, please visit lsac.org.

2016 Entering Class Statistics

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Please note, this information represents accepted applicant statistics as of printing in September 2016. Statistics for the 2016 entering class will be provided at law.uh.edu/admissions after the start of Fall 2016 classes. These statistics will be updated after they have been certified by LSAC and will represent the 1L class as of October 2016.

Laura W. Duncan ’14

Education: B.A., M.A., The University of Texas at Austin

Current Position: I am a Trial Attorney with the Department of Justice’s Environment and Natural Resources Division through the Attorney General’s Honor Program.

What is your favorite thing about Houston? The restaurant scene is incredible! It is constantly growing and changing, and there is always something new to try, even on a law school student’s budget. Also, most people (including me) who haven’t ever lived in Houston think it’s all concrete, highways, and smog. It’s not! The city has beautiful neighborhoods with lots of green space and parks throughout, and they are constantly expanding bike trails, outdoor theaters, and other activities. Given the great year-round weather, it’s a surprisingly nice place to live.

Why did you choose the UH Law Center? Not only is UHLC the top school in the Houston market, its selection of energy, environment, and natural resources classes is a selection that I don’t think anyone in the nation can beat.
High quality and low cost is a rare combination. At the UH Law Center, excellence and value are our hallmarks.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Every applicant accepted for admission is automatically considered for available merit scholarships, and no additional application is required. Dean’s Scholarships are offered to highly qualified students in each incoming class. These scholarships vary in number and are unconditionally renewed each year. Additional information regarding scholarship selection criteria and retention information is available at law.uh.edu/financialaid/scholarships.asp.

Additionally, the UH Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid administers a variety of need-based financial aid programs. Applicants should begin the financial aid process by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1. The code for the University of Houston is 003652. For current information on tuition and fees, sample budgets, and need-based financial aid, visit law.uh.edu/financialaid.

BUDGET

The UH Law Center has one of the lowest tuition rates among top schools in the nation, particularly for Texas residents, and is ranked among the nation’s “Best Value” law schools by National Jurist magazine. Relatively low tuition, coupled with Houston’s affordable cost of living, allows our students to graduate with an overall indebtedness below the national average.
Applying to Transfer or Visit

If you have attended another ABA-accredited law school and performed well, you may apply for admission with advanced standing. Considerations include available space at the UH Law Center, academic records at all previous schools, and compelling circumstances.

TRANSFERS

Transfer applicants must have completed the equivalent of the first year of law school and all or most of the UH Law Center’s first-year required courses. Transfer applicants may transfer a maximum of 30 semester hours of credit, with hours rather than grades noted on your final UH Law Center transcript. Transfer credit will not be awarded for any course in which the student has earned lower than a “C.” Transfer applications will not be considered with fewer than 22 graded hours, and we accept applications for fall and spring start.

SEMESTER IN HOUSTON/ VISITING

Students in good standing at another ABA-accredited law school may apply to visit, with permission from the home law school. Credits earned go toward degree requirements at their home school. Current UH Law Center students have first priority at registration, and visiting students should submit primary and alternate course selections to their home school when seeking approval of potential credits. Visiting students are not permitted to register for first-year courses, and they must arrange their financial aid through their home school via a consortium agreement arranged through the Office of Admissions. Visiting applications are accepted for fall, intersession, spring, spring break, and summer. Please go to law.uh.edu/admissions/transfer-visiting.asp for additional details, including application requirements and deadlines.

Jim Pappenfus ’14

Education: B.S., University of Kansas

Current position: I am an associate in the Energy and Natural Resources Industry Group at Reed Smith, LLP in Houston.

Describe your involvement at the UH Law Center: I was the Executive Editor of the Houston Journal of International Law.

What was the best thing about your time at the UH Law Center? I had the fantastic opportunity to tailor my courses to my eventual practice area that strengthened my skills in a relevant, in-demand field. The UHLC faculty and Houston’s unique position in the natural resources arena positioned me for success in front of a multitude of employers.

In what area of the law do you specialize? I specialize in energy and natural resources.

What is your favorite thing about Houston? Houston possesses a uniquely diverse professional environment. The energy and medical sectors draw a variety of social, political, and professional influences.

Why did you choose the UH Law Center? UHLC is well-positioned in the Houston legal market and possesses an incredible asset in its faculty. The UH Law Center has a fantastic set of adjunct faculty with real-world practice experience in a major city at the tip of the economic development spear. The relevance and benefit of these factors cannot be understated!
Visiting the
UH Law Center

The Office of Admissions encourages all prospective students to visit the UH Law Center. We host numerous information sessions during the fall and early spring to help applicants navigate the admissions process and learn more about our programs. A complete list of our available visitation opportunities, including our off-campus recruiting schedule, is available at law.uh.edu/admissions/visiting-uhlc.asp. If one of our formal programs does not fit your schedule, individual visits can also be arranged, including a tour of the UH Law Center with one of our Student Ambassadors, a visit to a first-year class, or an appointment with a member of the admissions staff. Visits are best scheduled when classes are in session and should be arranged in advance by calling 713.743.2280 or by sending an e-mail to lawadmissions@uh.edu.
Houston Heights/
Washington Ave.

Quirky and offbeat, “the Heights” is beautifully preserved Houston history. But you’ll also find just as many families and retirees among these eclectic arts-and-crafts bungalows, antique shops, and local coffeehouses. Washington Avenue, once a strip of industrial relics, has exploded into Houston’s newest entertainment district.

Galleria/
Greenway Plaza/
River Oaks/
Memorial

World-class shopping and dining, a thriving business district, upscale apartments, a high concentration of law firms, and quick access to Memorial Park, an inner-city green space nearly twice the size of New York’s Central Park.

Rice/West U./
Bellaire/Upper Kirby

Rice Village is a unique dichotomy of upscale establishments and college haunts, while West University Place and Bellaire – cities within the city – are upper-middle class bedroom communities. New loft apartments and high-rise condos define the urban chic of Upper Kirby. Many of the UH Law Center’s second-career students live in these areas.

Montrose

Historic. Eclectic. Bohemian. Artsy. LGBTQ-friendly. Pierced and tattooed. In addition to good times and great people-watching, the area offers plenty of affordable housing options less than four miles from the UH Law Center. Look for garage apartments, duplexes, fourplexes, or rooms for rent among the porch-swing bungalows.

Downtown

Home to some of the world’s largest law firms and more than 100 courts, downtown Houston offers UH Law Center students a wealth of opportunity right outside their front door.

Midtown

A vibrant and trendy mixed-use community with a variety of dining, shopping, and entertainment venues within walking distance of large loft-style apartment communities. Home to young professionals who know how to work and play.

Histörict

Third Ward

Two new light rail lines and two institutions of higher learning – the University of Houston and Texas Southern University – make this close-in neighborhood one of the city’s most accessible and diverse.

Texas Medical Center/NRG Park

The world’s largest medical complex offers UH Law Center students – especially those in our nationally-ranked Health Law program – unrivaled access to the broadest range of health-related internship and career opportunities imaginable. The area has a variety of apartments and condominiums with easy access to NRG Park’s sporting and entertainment events.

University of Houston

Main Campus

UH Law Center students may avail themselves of upscale graduate housing in the Calhoun Lofts, ten dining halls and food courts, cross-campus shuttle service, a state-of-the-art recreation facility, and even a pub – all within walking distance of the UH Law Center. Even amidst a bustling city like Houston, UH offers a rich student life right on campus.

DIRECTIONS

From North

To reach the UH Law Center from Bush Intercontinental Airport, take I-45 South through downtown. Take the Spur 5 exit and follow it to the first stop light (University Drive). Turn right, and proceed past the Campus Wellness Center to the stop light (Calhoun). Turn right, and proceed past Calhoun Lofts to the last entrance on your left. Turn into Parking Lot 19B.

From South

To reach the UH Law Center from Hobby Airport, take I-45 North to the Elgin-Cullen/Lockwood exit. Turn left at the light, and proceed under the freeway to the traffic light at Entrance 18. Turn left; then turn left again at the first inner-campus road, and follow it as it curves right. Turn left into the first driveway, and the UH Law Center buildings will be on your left. Use Parking Lot 19B.

Parking

Metered parking is available in Lot 19B at the UH Law Center. A parking garage is adjacent to the Welcome Center on Calhoun.