As ninth dean of the University of Houston Law Center, Leonard M. Baynes brings a national reputation as a communications law scholar with specializations in business, media, and diversity issues. Baynes was previously the inaugural director of the Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development at St. John’s University School of Law. He has also served in leadership positions at the Association of American Law Schools, as scholar-in-residence at the Federal Communications Commission, as in-house counsel at NYNEX Corp, and as an associate at the Wall Street office of Gaston and Snow LLP.

He has written more than 25 law review articles on corporate law, communications law, and diversity and is in the final stages of co-authoring the case book “Telecommunications Law: Convergence and Competition” to be published by Wolters Kluwer. Baynes is admitted to practice in both New York State and Massachusetts.

Baynes has also been an expert witness at the FCC Federal Advisory Committee for Diversity in broadcast ownership. He was inducted into the Minority Media & Telecommunications Council Hall of Fame, where former FCC Commissioner and MMTC Chair Henry Rivera described Baynes as “a champion for diversity.”

In 2010, Baynes received the Diversity Trailblazer Award from the New York State Bar Association, and in 2011, he accepted the American Bar Association Alexander Award on behalf of the Ronald H. Brown Law School Prep Program for College Students, which is a premier program Baynes designed to increase socio-economic diversity in the legal profession.

He received his B.S. from New York University and his J.D. and M.B.A. from Columbia University. Baynes was awarded the Earl Warren Scholarship and the COGME Fellowship at Columbia, where he also served as associate editor of the Columbia Human Rights Law Review. After law school, Baynes served as a Law Clerk to Federal District Court Judge Clifford Scott Green in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
THE "POWER OF LEGAL EDUCATION"

The University of Houston Law Center is an outstanding law school committed to providing our students with a superior legal education. Our highly ranked programs by U.S. News and World Report, including Health Law and Policy (#2), Intellectual Property and Information Law (#6), and part-time program (#6), combined with our #50 ranking among top law schools, attract exceptional students year after year. Our faculty and staff continue to raise the bar, while our strong alumni network exemplifies the excellence of a UH Law Center education throughout the world.

Dean Leonard M. Baynes has focused his deanship around the Power of Legal Education. Dean Baynes envisions the Law Center as a resource-rich institution, where students are fundamentally transformed as they are taught to think like lawyers – to write precisely, to analyze rigorously, to transform as they are taught to think like lawyers – to advocate persuasively, and to conform to the highest professional standards. The Power of Legal Education can be realized with the support of our alumni and friends. The Law Fund, our unrestricted annual giving program, provides an opportunity for everyone to contribute and be the best.

WHAT IS THE DEAN’S SOCIETY?

The Dean’s Society is an integral force behind the Power of Legal Education. The generous support of its members allows the Law Center to innovate and respond to emerging opportunities that will help the Law Center continue rising and be the best. Members are called upon for their insight and input in order to make a meaningful impact in the quality and capabilities of the Law Center. The Dean’s Society provides a forum where everyone can make a difference.

Deriving its name from the continuum of leadership guiding the Law Center, the Dean’s Society is the highest giving level of the Law Fund. It recognizes the most exclusive group of alumni and friends devoted to providing significant unrestricted support to the Law Center each year.

DEAN’S SOCIETY PRIORITIES

The flexible nature of the Law Fund allows Dean Baynes to direct funds to the highest priorities of the Law Center, including:

- Increasing student scholarships to aggressively recruit our top applicants and retain our best students
- Recruiting and retaining distinguished faculty with support for scholarly research and innovative teaching
- Providing nationally-recognized academic programs that prepare our students to be practice-ready in whichever area they choose
- Boosting student and career development services to equip students and graduates with the resources and skills to successfully take advantage of professional opportunities
- Building relationships with our alumni that will produce greater opportunities for our students, as well as enable us to support our alumni in their careers
- Addressing the challenges of our law facilities to manage current needs and plan for the future

WHY HAVE DEAN’S SOCIETY MEMBERS MADE THE LAW CENTER A PRIORITY?

“When we gather at Dean’s Society meetings, the people in the room clearly care about the Law Center. Our gifts to the Law Fund are unrestricted, and they open the door to a wide range of possibilities to benefit students and faculty alike.”

- Susan Bickley ’84

“My Dean’s Society gift is my way of thanking the Law Center for providing me the opportunities that helped to begin my legal career and ensuring that current and future students continue to have those same opportunities.”

- Cynthia Mabry ’10

RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION

As part of a unique group of Law Center donors, Dean’s Society members enjoy benefits for their dedication to enhancing the UH Law education, including:

- Reserved invitations to special dinners, receptions, lectures, and other events
- Access to Dean Baynes and input on the Law Center’s strategic direction
- Special Recognition in the Honor Roll of Donors, Law Center website, and other publications

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Dean’s Society members are recognized based on their giving level within the society. Membership ranges from a minimum annual gift of $2,500, up to $24,999.

- Dean’s Council: $20,000 to $24,999
- Founders Council: $15,000 to $19,999
- Leadership Council: $10,000 to $14,999
- Scholars Council: $5,000 to $9,999
- Fellows Council: $2,500* to $4,999

*$1,000 for young alumni graduates of the last ten years.

THE "POWER OF LEGAL EDUCATION"

Thank you for generously supporting the University of Houston Law Center!

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