Houston is the perfect place to study health law and policy. The nearby Texas Medical Center, the world’s largest medical complex, offers extraordinary opportunities to interact with health care providers and to assist them in addressing the legal issues that affect their work. The Texas Medical Center includes dozens of academic and research institutions, hospitals and related organizations. Unmatched for its scale and diversity, the Texas Medical Center is a critical link in HLPI’s acclaimed programs of interdisciplinary study. The concentration of health practice and research in the Houston area creates the ideal location to study and practice health law.

The Texas Medical Center (foreground) is Houston’s largest employer. Its size rivals Houston’s downtown (background), located just minutes away. Photo courtesy of Texas Medical Center.
For three decades, the Health Law & Policy Institute (HLPI) at the University of Houston Law Center has been at the forefront of legal education, scholarship and policy analysis related to health care and biotechnology. In October 2009, the University became a member institution of the famed Texas Medical Center, solidifying HLPI’s link to the world’s largest complex for health care and biomedical innovation. Formed in 1978 to advise the Texas Legislature on health law and policy issues, HLPI has built a diversified portfolio of research on a variety of topics, including health finance systems; disability law; health information exchange; genetic data; research; health care quality and access improvement; integrated provider organizations and questions of individual rights in health care and biomedical research. Our mission is threefold:

- **Education**: to provide one of the nation’s most rigorous, comprehensive and up-to-the-minute programs of health-related legal education at the basic (J.D.) and advanced (LL.M.) levels with the goal of preparing students for careers in health law practice or in scholarly or policy-oriented positions.

- **Research**: to facilitate independent and sponsored research and to cultivate the next generation of health law scholars by providing mentoring and support to our students.

- **Service**: to share our knowledge through public commentary and engagement and to advise the Texas Legislature and state regulatory agencies on matters involving health care and public health.

**JESSICA L. ROBERTS**
Director, Health Law & Policy Institute
George Butler Research Professor

**JESSICA L. MANTEL**
Co-Director, Health Law & Policy Institute
Associate Professor of Law

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TURN ON THE TELEVISION; PICK UP A NEWSPAPER; CLICK ON A SEARCH ENGINE. All will quickly confirm the importance of health law and policy issues in the world around us. As the debates continue, leaders in government and private industry must rely on legal scholars to help inform and refine their perspectives. HLPI has advanced the understanding of health law issues and provided guidance for significant policy decisions affecting health care for almost four decades.

On the campus of the UH Law Center, it directs curriculum, teaching, research, publications and conference activities relating to health law and policy. Beyond the university, HLPI maintains connections with academic and health institutions locally, nationally and around the world. Our advisory board of leading academics; business and community leaders; legal and medical health practitioners assist in these collaborations.

HLPI’s concentrations are as varied as the topics in health care, one of the fastest growing areas of the economy. They include biotechnology, public health, electronic medical records, health care reform, genetics, bioethics, disability discrimination, health care finance, health insurance, end-of-life issues, corporate transactions, health care fraud and abuse, children’s health, hospital law and ethics, health legislation, regulation of health care, Medicaid and Medicare.

The UH Law Center’s Health Law program tied for #2 in the 2017 U.S. News & World Report rankings. HLPI has been ranked consistently among the top 10 programs in the country for the last sixteen years.

Source: U.S. News & World Report
Houston... a city on the move!

Houston’s dramatic skyline is a showcase of post-modern architecture. The nearby Johnson Space Center is NASA’s Mission Control. The Hobby Center is a jewel for Houston’s vibrant performing arts scene. The Kemah Boardwalk beckons tourists on the way to Galveston Island. Bicycle riding and racing are year-round pursuits in Houston. NRG Stadium, home to the Houston Texans of the NFL, dwarfs the legendary Astrodome. Nightclubs and outstanding restaurants add energy to downtown Houston. Houston is one of a handful of cities with resident troupes in the major performing arts. A Hermann Park sculpture honors the city’s namesake: General Sam Houston.

There’s a good reason why 56 percent of the UH Law Center’s alumni live in the greater Houston area. Along with its friendly, laid-back sensibility, Houston still offers a low cost of living compared to many larger American cities.
Jessica L. Roberts is the Director of the Health Law & Policy Institute and a George Butler Research Professor, who specializes in health law, disability law, and genetics and the law. Prior to UH, Professor Roberts was an Associate-in-Law at Columbia Law School and an Adjunct Professor of Disability Studies at the City University of New York. Immediately after law school, she clerked for The Honorable Dale Wainwright of the Texas Supreme Court and The Honorable Roger L. Gregory of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Professor Roberts’ research operates at the intersection of health law and antidiscrimination law. Her scholarship has appeared, or is forthcoming, in the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, the Boston College Law Review, the Indiana Law Journal, the William and Mary Law Review, the Iowa Law Review, the Minnesota Law Review, the Notre Dame Law Review, the Vanderbilt Law Review, the American Journal of Law and Medicine and the Journal of Law and the Biosciences, among others. Her book on “healthism,” co-authored with Elizabeth Weeks Leonard, is forthcoming with the Cambridge University Press. In 2015, she received the university-wide Teaching Excellence Award and the Provost’s Certificate of Excellence. Professor Roberts was named a 2018 Greenwall Faculty Scholar in Bioethics. She teaches, or has taught, contracts, disabilities and the law, genetics and the law and health law.

Jessica L. Mantel is an Associate Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Health Law & Policy Institute at the UH Law Center. Her research interests include the impact of legislative and regulatory schemes on emerging trends in the health care delivery system, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the allocation of limited health care resources. Her most recent work has focused on payment reform, accountable care organizations and cross-sector collaborations to address the social determinants of health. Prior to joining the UH Law Center in 2010, Professor Mantel served as a senior attorney in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. While in government, Professor Mantel worked on a range of Medicare matters, including advising the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on implementation of the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, inpatient hospital payments and incentive payments for providers adopting electronic health records. Previously, she was a health analyst at the Government Accountability Office and was an associate in the health care practice at Ropes & Gray.
SETH J. CHANDLER

Law Foundation Professor of Law
A.B., Princeton University
J.D., Harvard Law School

Seth J. Chandler is a Law Foundation Professor of Law at the UH Law Center who specializes in insurance law and the application of mathematics and computer science to law. Professor Chandler won a prestigious university-wide teaching excellence award in 1995, was a first-year winner of the Innovator Award from Wolfram Research, received the President’s Medal from Loyola University for extraordinary service in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and has been called on twice to testify before Congress on the Affordable Care Act. Professor Chandler has a broad Internet presence; he is the author of over 100 interactive Demonstrations on the Wolfram Research website. He founded two blogs, academathspiral.org, which addressed the ACA and catrisk.net, which addressed catastrophic insurance in Texas. He is currently a blogger on health care finance issues for Forbes Magazine on its Apothecary site. He is a Visiting Scholar at the Mercatus Center of George Mason University and continues his work as a Lecturer in Rice University’s Professional Science Master’s program, teaching a course titled “Shaping Health Policy.” He practiced with Munger, Tolles & Olson in Los Angeles and Williams & Connolly in Washington, D.C. before beginning his academic career in 1990 at the UH Law Center. Professor Chandler teaches contracts, health law and constitutional law.

DR. MICHAEL S. EWER

Distinguished Visiting Professor and Health Law LL.M., Director, Health Law & Policy Institute
Professor of Medicine and Special Assistant to the Vice President, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

B.A., Hunter College
M.D., University of Basel, Switzerland
M.P.H., UT School of Public Health
J.D., UH Law Center
LL.M., UH Law Center

Dr. Michael S. Ewer is a Professor of Medicine and an administrator at MD Anderson Cancer Center, where he has served for the last 37 years. He is also a faculty member at the University of Bern in Switzerland. Dr. Ewer holds a Master of Public Health degree from The University of Texas and received his J.D. and LL.M. degrees from the University of Houston Law Center. He has broad experience in medical ethics, conflicts of interest and uncompensated (charity) medical care. Dr. Ewer has published extensively in the fields of oncology, medical ethics and philosophy of medical care; has authored three medical texts and is a sought-after international speaker. He teaches hospital law & ethics, HIPAA privacy law and foundational issues in health law.
**Jim Hawkins**

*George Butler Research Professor of Law*

J.D., The University of Texas School of Law  
B.A., Baylor University

Jim Hawkins earned his J.D. from The University of Texas, where he was the Grand Chancellor and served as the Chief Articles Editor of the Texas Law Review. He has published articles in the UCLA Law Review, the Minnesota Law Review, Indiana Law Journal, the Washington and Lee Law Review, the William and Mary Law Review and the Harvard Journal on Legislation, among other journals. His papers have been selected for the Yale/Stanford/Harvard Junior Faculty Forum and for the Petrie-Flom Center's annual conference at Harvard Law School.

Professor Hawkins joined the University of Houston Law Center after clerking for The Honorable Jerry E. Smith of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and working with the Houston office of Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP. His research and teaching interests include consumer borrowing, the fringe banking industry and the fertility business. His research has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post and other media outlets.
DAVID KWOK

Assistant Professor of Law

B.S., Northwestern University
M.P.P., University of California, Berkeley
J.D., University of California, Berkeley
Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

David Kwok graduated Northwestern University with a B.S. from the McCormick School of Engineering and received his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, where he was elected to Order of the Coif. At Berkeley, he also received his Master’s Degree in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy and his Ph.D. in Jurisprudence and Social Policy.

After law school, Professor Kwok clerked for The Honorable John T. Noonan, Jr. of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Professor Kwok teaches and writes about white collar crime, public policy, and law and the social sciences.

ELLEN MARRUS

Royce Till Professor of Law

B.A., Kean College
J.D., University of San Francisco
LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center

Ellen Marrus teaches in the areas of juvenile law, professional responsibility, children and the law and practice skills. She concentrates her scholarship in the areas of children’s rights, juvenile justice and professionalism. Professor Marrus also directed and taught in the clinical programs at the UH Law Center for 10 years. She currently directs the Center for Children, Law & Policy at the UH Law Center. Professor Marrus serves on various local and national boards, including the National Juvenile Defender Center, the Southwest Regional Juvenile Defender Center, the Houston Association of Counsel for Children and the Clinical Legal Education Association.

RONALD TURNER

A.A. White Professor of Law

B.A., Wilberforce University
J.D., University of Pennsylvania

Ronald Turner is the A.A. White Professor of Law and teaches and writes in the areas of labor and employment law, constitutional law, torts, race and the law, and HIV/AIDS and the law. He has published over 90 articles and is the author or co-author of three books as well as employment discrimination and torts casebooks.

Prior to joining the Law Center, he practiced labor and employment law in Chicago, Illinois and was a member of the faculty at the University of Alabama School of Law. He has also served as a Visiting Professor of law at the William & Mary School of Law and as a Visiting Professor of history at Rice University. Professor Turner is a member of the American Law Institute and an American Bar Foundation Fellow.
RESEARCH FACULTY

ALLISON N. WINNIKE
Research Director, Health Law & Policy Institute
Research Professor
B.A., Rice University
J.D., Georgetown University Law Center

Allison N. Winnike is a Research Professor and the Research Director for the Health Law & Policy Institute. Her teaching and research interests focus on public health law and health legislation and policy. Particular areas of expertise include immunization law and policy; public health emergency preparedness and response; health legislative drafting; health information technology and health system transformation. She serves on several committees, including the Conference of Chief Justices Pandemic and Emergency Response Task Force and numerous Texas Medical Board stakeholder advisory groups. Prior to joining the faculty of the UH Law Center, she worked on health policy in the U.S. Senate Office of the Majority Leader for former Senator Bill Frist, M.D. and the Subcommittee on Public Health.

RONALD L. SCOTT
Research Professor
B.A., M.A., J.D., University of Oklahoma
LL.M., University of Houston Law Center

Ronald L. Scott has been teaching and writing about health information technology, telemedicine and health care privacy for more than a decade. He teaches courses in introduction to American law for foreign LL.M.s, health information technology, telemedicine and related legal and ethical issues. He has also written and lectured on other issues in medical ethics, including physician-assisted suicide. He is the Managing Editor of Update on Health, a monthly publication for the Texas Legislature. Prior to obtaining an LL.M. in Health Law and his academic appointment, Prof. Scott practiced corporate and international law in Texas and London, England. He is admitted as a Solicitor to the High Court of England and to the Texas Bar.
ADJUNCT FACULTY

DONNA CLARK, J.D.
Partner, BakerHostetler LLP

NATHANIEL KUMMERFELD, J.D.
Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney’s Office

EMILY W. LAWSON, J.D.
Reference and Research Librarian, UH Law Center

VIRGINIA LOOTENS, J.D.
Private Law Practice

ALFONSO LÓPEZ DE LA OSA ESCRIBANO, J.D., PH.D.
Affiliate Scholar, Center for US and Mexican Law, UHLC

GREGORY SAIKIN, J.D.
Partner, BakerHostetler LLP

KATHERINE T. VUKADIN, J.D.
Associate Professor of Law, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

APRIL F. MORENO
Program Director

ELAINE FIALA
Executive Secretary

“...exposes students to both academic and practical aspects of health law, allowing the individual to gain an appreciation for the many specific areas of law that are encompassed within the general term ‘health law.’ The program provided a pathway to confidence and poise, allowing me to constructively manage the various issues encountered while serving as in-house counsel for a hospital.”

NATHAN ANDERSEN, LL.M. ‘08
Senior Legal Officer
The University of Texas Medical Branch
Following is a representative sampling of recent faculty scholarship and activities:

**JESSICA L. ROBERTS**  
Director, Health Law & Policy Institute  
George Butler Research Professor of Law


**JESSICA L. MANTEL**  
Co-Director, Health Law & Policy Institute  
Associate Professor of Law


**SETH J. CHANDLER**  
Law Foundation Professor of Law


*Affordable Care Act Turmoil: Large Losses in the Individual Market Portend an Uncertain Future* (with Brian Blase, Doug Badger & Edmund F. Haislmaier), Mercatus Center, George Mason University (2016).

*ACADeathSpiral.org* (authored over 70 lengthy entries discussing the Affordable Care Act) (2013–present).

*Catrisk.net* (authored over 100 entries discussing Texas windstorm insurance regulation) (2012–present).
BARBARA EVANS
Alumnae College Professor of Law
Director, Center on Biotechnology & Law


Genomic Data Commons, in Medical Commons and User Innovation (Katherine Strandburg, Brett Frischmann & Michael Madison, eds., Cambridge University Press forthcoming 2016).


JIM HAWKINS
George Butler Research Professor


DAVID KWOK
Assistant Professor of Law

Controlling Excessive Off-Label Medicare Drug Costs Through the False Claims Act, --- Health Matrix (forthcoming).


ELLEN MARRUS
Royce Till Professor of Law
Director, Center for Children, Law & Policy


RONALD TURNER
A.A. White Professor of Law


ALLISON WINNIKE
Research Director, Health Law & Policy Institute Research Professor


CONCURRENT AND ADVANCED DEGREE PROGRAMS

LL.M. PROGRAM

The UH Law Center offers a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Health Law. Since its inception in 1992, over 200 attorneys have graduated from the program. Students must complete 24 credit hours, including a minimum of 18 hours in health law courses. Students also have the option of writing a 50-page thesis. Many LL.M. students combine classes with research projects, externships or other practice or policy experiences. They frequently publish their research.

PLEASE SEND INQUIRIES TO:
University of Houston Law Center
LL.M. Program
4604 Calhoun Road
Houston, Texas 77204-6060
713.743.2081
llm@uh.edu

J.D./M.P.H. PROGRAM

The UH Law Center, in conjunction with The University of Texas School of Public Health, Health Sciences Center at Houston offers students a concurrent degree program to pursue a law (J.D.) degree and a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree. By receiving joint credit for courses approved by both institutions, a student may earn both degrees in a shorter time than it would take to earn the degrees separately. The joint degree allows students to concentrate their studies on such areas as health services delivery, occupational and environmental health, access to insurance, patient safety issues and other public health concerns.

PLEASE SEND INQUIRIES TO: healthlaw@uh.edu

J.D./PH.D. PROGRAM

The UH Law Center, in conjunction with the Institute for the Medical Humanities at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, allows students to receive both a law degree (J.D.) and a doctorate in medical humanities (Ph.D.) in five to six years. The medical humanities program trains teachers, clinicians, researchers and administrators in the health care professions to address critical issues such as ethical problems in clinical practice, health policy, bioethics and law and to link them with literature, history, anthropology and religion. Students in this program are eligible to apply nine hours of approved credit taken at the UH Law Center toward their Ph.D. coursework and to apply 12 hours of approved classes taken in medical humanities toward their J.D.

PLEASE SEND INQUIRIES TO: healthlaw@uh.edu
J.D./M.D. PROGRAM

The UH Law Center, in conjunction with Baylor College of Medicine, provides students with the opportunity to pursue concurrent degrees in law (J.D.) and medicine (M.D.) in six years of full-time study. This extraordinary educational program highlights the relationship between law and medicine and provides students important enrichment in their interdisciplinary studies. Students in this program attend their first, second and fifth years of study at Baylor College of Medicine, start their law school curriculum during their third and fourth years and complete both degrees in their sixth year.

PLEASE SEND INQUIRIES TO:
Office of Admissions
Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza, Room N104
Houston, Texas 77030
713.798.4842
admissions@bcm.edu
www.bcm.edu

SEMESTER IN HOUSTON

Second- and third-year law students in good standing at an ABA-accredited law school are eligible to apply to spend a semester at the UH Law Center to enroll in a semester of health law courses. Students may also enroll in other courses at the UH Law Center, the UTMB at Galveston and UTSPH, Health Sciences Center at Houston.

Students transfer credit to their home institution according to that institution's requirements. Students in the program have “visiting” status and receive their law degrees from their home institutions.

HEALTH LAW EXTERNSHIPS

Students may earn academic credit by serving in externship positions in nonprofit or public entities with an accompanying classroom component. Numerous placements are available in the Houston area, including hospital general counsel offices, hospital risk management departments, government and compliance agencies, the Texas legislature and nonprofit advocacy groups.

“The dual J.D./M.D. program helped position me to have a successful career in health policy. Health policy is a difficult field to break into, but having both degrees gives me a unique perspective and understanding of the complexities of health care and health policy, which has set me apart from others working in the field.”

QUIANTA MOORE, M.D., J.D. ’09
Scholar in Health Policy
Baker Institute for Public Policy
Rice University
PLANNING YOUR HEALTH LAW CURRICULUM AFTER THE FIRST YEAR

1. Students seeking a general introduction to health law should take three core courses (1) Foundational Issues in Health Law: Patient, Provider, Society & Law; (2) The U.S. Health System: An Introduction to Managed Care, Transactions, and Policy; and (3) Health Industry Basics: Providers-Innovators-Regulators.

2. Consider taking groupings of courses that are relevant to different careers in health law. Health lawyers may work, for example, as private lawyers, government attorneys, lobbyists, legislative staffers and government officials. A health law practice may involve representing clients in traditional civil or criminal litigation, transactional/health care business arrangements, litigation before administrative agencies and regulatory/policy development.

3. Identify other core and building-block courses. For example, Business Organizations, Evidence and Tax may be useful to take early in law school, depending on your area of interest.

4. Develop a curricular plan that takes into account the frequency of course offerings. Not all courses are offered every year. Check the website for current offerings.

5. Consider interdisciplinary opportunities, such as the J.D./M.P.H., J.D./M.D. and J.D./Ph.D. programs. Investigate graduate courses in public health, business, psychology and social work. Explore the possibility of combining your health law interests with other substantive areas, such as international law–border health issues, intellectual property law–biotechnology issues and environmental law–toxic torts. Ask advisors in Student Services or the HLPI faculty for more information.
COURSE OFFERINGS

THE UH LAW CENTER OFFERS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE health law curricula in the country, with 30 courses. The UH Law Center also has recognized strengths in the complementary fields of intellectual property, environmental law, international law, business/transactional law, trial advocacy and other areas. Health law classes are taught by full-time HLPI faculty members with national and international reputations and by successful practicing attorneys who serve as adjunct professors. The following is a list of recent health law offerings.

Advanced Health Law
AIDS and the Law
Biotechnology and the Law
Comparative Health Law
Disabilities and the Law
E-Health Law
Elder Law
Employment Discrimination
ERISA
Food and Drug Law
Foundational Issues in Health Law: Patient, Provider, Society and Law
Fraud and Abuse
Genetics and the Law
Health Care Transactions
Health Industry Basics: Providers-Innovators-Regulators
Health Law Externship
Health Law Research
Health Legislation and Advocacy I and II
Health Regulatory Process
HIPAA
Insurance Law
Life and Health Insurance
Long-Term Care Law
Medical Malpractice Litigation
Mental Health Law
Obamacare
Public Health Law
Scientific Evidence
The U.S. Health System: An Introduction to Managed Care, Transactions and Policy
Toxic Torts

* Not all classes are offered every year, and offerings are subject to change. Please visit www.law.uh.edu/healthlaw/ for current information and course descriptions.

“My LL.M. studies gave me a strong foundation for my own career as a professor. My teachers provided me with a wealth of substantive knowledge and were committed to helping me network and obtain an academic job. My former professors have now become colleagues in the field of health law.”

SHARONA HOFFMAN, LL.M. ’99
Edgar A. Hahn Professor of Jurisprudence
Co-Director of Law-Medicine Center
Case Western Reserve University
School of Law
THE HEALTH LAW ORGANIZATION

The Health Law Organization (HLO) is one of the largest and most active student organizations at the UH Law Center. HLO provides opportunities for students to meet informally to discuss health law issues and to work with faculty on projects that promote learning in health law and policy. HLO also sponsors speakers, initiates charity fundraisers, provides information and networking for students on career opportunities in health law and organizes social activities for health law students.

HOUSTON JOURNAL OF HEALTH LAW & POLICY

The Houston Journal of Health Law & Policy is a student-edited publication made possible by the financial support of private donors and the commitment of HLPI's faculty, students and administration. Staffed by law students who are committed to health law, editors earn academic credit while gaining valuable research, writing and editing experience.

The Journal provides a scholarly forum for the interdisciplinary exploration of issues in health law and policy. It publishes one issue of professional and student-authored pieces each year focusing on an emerging issue in health care. Symposium topics have included our patchwork health care system (2013), America’s future health care system (2014) and vulnerability in health care (2015).

MOOT COURT

HLPI supports two health law moot court competitions in collaboration with the Law Center’s Blakely Advocacy Institute. The L. Edward Bryant, Jr. National Health Law Transactional Moot Court Competition and the SIU National Health Law Competition are the two premier health law competitions in the nation. Students hone their advocacy skills by analyzing and arguing a health law legal issue.

HEALTH LAW FELLOWSHIPS

HLPI offers congressional and state legislative fellowships for students to work with policymakers in Washington D.C. each summer and Austin, Texas every biennium. The fellowships provide students with a unique opportunity to participate in health policymaking at the federal and state level and forge strong networks with policy leaders. Fellows research issues related to health law, analyze health policies and contribute to the development of legislation.
HLPI is deeply committed to research and is actively engaged in the study of health issues affecting the state and nation. Its studies on mental health, nonfinancial barriers to health care, e-Health, long-term care, universal health insurance, and family violence and the health care system have provided the foundation for legislative action. HLPI and its faculty receive research funding from external entities, including the Greenwall Foundation, the city of Houston, the Texas Legislature, the Texas Department of State Health Services, the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, TIRR Memorial Hermann and Rice University. Selected areas of faculty research interests include:

- Health Care Modernization
- Health Care Reimbursement
- Regulation of Provider Organizations
- Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment and Research
- Disability Rights
- E-Health
- Health Insurance
- Genetic Data
- Treatment and Punishment of Sex Offenders
- Consciousness and Neuroethics
- Health Disparities
- Children’s Rights
THIRD ANNUAL HEALTH LAW SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOP

HLPI sponsored the third Houston Journal of Health Law & Policy Symposium Workshop in the fall 2015. The symposium, entitled “Vulnerability in Health Care,” was held October 15-16 at the Four Seasons in Houston, Texas. The participants focused on various vulnerable patient populations, including the mentally ill, diabetics, African American HIV patients, military service members and attorneys with gambling disorders. Presenters were Michele Goodwin (UC Irvine), John Jacobi (Seton Hall), Efthimios Parasidis (Ohio State), Stacey Tovino (UNLV) and Lindsay Wiley (American). Commentators were Robert Gatter (Saint Louis) and Christopher Robertson (Arizona).

UHLC Professors Jessica Mantel, Jessica Roberts, Seth Chandler, Barbara Evans, Allison Winnike, Daphne Robinson and Steven Chen also participated in the workshop. The presenters’ articles will be published in the Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy’s 2016 symposium issue.
On Friday, April 8, 2016, HLPI held a workshop on the Zika virus to address public health preparedness and legal measures that would control the spread of the disease, which can cause severe birth defects. Attendees included public health professionals, county and city government officials, and the public. There was also a livestream of the workshop, which attracted viewers from around the country.

Speakers included:

- Peter Hotez, M.D., Ph.D., Dean for the National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine
- Umair Shah, M.D., M.P.H., Executive Director, Harris County Public Health and Harris County Local Health Authority
- Mustapha Debboun, Ph.D., Director, Mosquito Control Division, Harris County Public Health
- Allison Winnike, J.D., Research Director and Research Professor, University of Houston Law Center Health Law & Policy Institute

These experts addressed the current understanding of how the virus is spread and its health effects; public health control measures, including mosquito control; and legal issues regarding control measures and emergencies. Dr. Hotez explained the clinical aspects of the Zika virus, including its link to microcephaly, and described the spread of the disease internationally. He noted that poor, urban communities are the most at-risk for a Zika outbreak. Dr. Shah outlined the public health response to Zika in Texas and Harris County and how the response plan would shift should we escalate from travel-related Zika infections to locally-transmitted Zika infections. Dr. Debboun detailed the cutting edge mosquito surveillance techniques employed in Harris County and explained just how difficult the Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, termed the “cockroach of mosquitoes,” are to exterminate. Professor Winnike described the important legal tools available to local, state and federal governments to abate mosquito nuisance breeding grounds and to prevent the spread of the Zika virus within the community.
UHLC STUDENTS COMPETE IN HEALTH LAW MOOT COURTS

HLPI sent students to two health law moot courts. Two teams competed in the Lane Edward Bryant, Jr. National Health Law Transactional Moot Court Competition in Chicago on March 18. The 3L team (Kyle Seabolt, Amanda Theinpont, Amy Westergren) placed 3rd and got 2nd Best Memo. The 2L team (Stefan Casso, Jack Frazee, Jeannie Nguyen) received honors for Best Oral Presentation.

Another team (Leah Buenik, Josh Christopher and Jack Frazee) competed in the SIU National Health Law Competition, making it to the quarterfinals. Josh Christopher received the 3rd Best Speaker award.

HLPI SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIP

HLPI funded Mikeyia Dawkins’ trip to attend the American Health Lawyers Association’s Legal Issues Affecting Academic Medical Centers and Other Teaching Institutions held on March 14-15 in Washington, D.C.

“I was able to connect the information that I am learning while pursuing my LL.M. Degree with the real world experiences that health care attorneys are currently facing,” Dawkins said. “Attending this conference provided me with real world insight, and it has helped reinforce the textual information that I am currently learning in school.”
HLPI TEAMED UP WITH FCC FOR BROADBAND HEALTH CONFERENCE AT UHLC

HLPI partnered with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to host a daylong conference on May 18 exploring the future of broadband technologies in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues, as part of the Connect2HealthFCC Task Force’s Beyond the Beltway Series. The conference, entitled “Broadband Prescriptions for Mental Health: A Policy Conference,” served as a platform to identify regulatory barriers and incentives to the deployment of broadband technology in the field of mental health to lead to effective policy and regulatory solutions.

Conference speakers included FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn; University of Houston Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes; Dr. Bernard A. Harris, Jr., a former astronaut and CEO of Vesalius Ventures; Dr. Francisco Fernandez, Dean of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine; Dr. Robert C. Robbins, President and CEO of the Texas Medical Center; Texas State Rep. Garnet F. Coleman; Texas State Rep. Dr. John Zerwas; Lex Frieden, Professor at the UT Health School of Biomedical Informatics and HLPI Advisory Board member; Dr. David Persse, City of Houston EMS Physician Director/Public Health Authority; Dr. Yahya Shaikh of the Connect2HealthFCC Task Force; and HLPI Research Professor Allison N. Winnike, among others.
HLPI LAUNCHED HEALTH LAW SPEAKER SERIES

In fall 2015, HLPI launched its health law speaker series. The speaker series provides an opportunity for speakers from around the country to discuss current health law issues with UHLC faculty, students and staff. This past year was very successful. Speakers included:

- Alison Dundes Renteln, Ph.D, J.D., Culture and Cutting: Does Hymenoplasty Violate Human Rights? (October 2015)
- Richard Craig Smith, LL.M., J.D., M.A., Health Law Issues That Impact Players in the NFL (February 2016)
- Rachel V. Rose, J.D., M.B.A., The Various Facets of Cybersecurity (March 2016)

Professor Alison Dundes Renteln explains the legal and medical obstacles preventing women from receiving an elective surgery.

HLPI Advisory Board Member and Alumnus Richard Craig Smith, LL.M. ’00 recently spoke on “Health Law Issues That Impact Players in the NFL” at the UHLC.

HLPI PROFESSOR CHANDLER’S BLOG MOVES TO FORBES

Professor Seth Chandler’s ACA Death Spiral blog expanded the audience when Forbes began posting it on its site, The Apothecary. The blog deals primarily with issues involving health care finance and the Affordable Care Act. Forbes invited Chandler to contribute twice a month. He will continue posting to his own blog with links to items of interest to his readers in The Apothecary.

Professor Seth J. Chandler
HLPI sponsors the 10-week Congressional Fellowship program that allows fellows to research issues related to health law and proposed legislation. 2015 Alumnus Kevin Dyer spent this summer working with Representative Gene Green. Representative Green serves as the ranking member on the House’s Subcommittee on Health.

Dyer’s work included funding for mental health bills, initiatives to fight the Zika virus and writing and proofreading memoranda. One of his favorite aspects of the fellowship was sitting in on a subcommittee meeting.

“\[I\] enjoyed my time in Washington, D.C. quite a bit,” Dyer said. “\[S\]eeing all the representatives there, actually negotiating the brass tacks of a bill and what their strategy would be, it made me get a bit of an itch for politics that I hadn’t felt before. \[I\]t made me think, ‘I want to be at that table someday.’”

Dyer said he credits instruction from Law Center’s HLPI Director Jessica Roberts and Professor Barbara Evans for nurturing his passion for health law. His Health Legislation & Advocacy course taught by Allison Winnike, HLPI Research Director, gave him his first hands-on experience at the state level.
THE HEALTH LAW & POLICY INSTITUTE ADVISORY BOARD meets to discuss the goals and achievements of the HLPI and advises the HLPI on operational, academic and policy matters. Members include legal, medical and public health practitioners as well as business leaders.

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TIRR-The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research
Houston, TX

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Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX, US

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University of Houston

AASHISH SHAH, M.D., J.D., FACOG
Vice President, Medical Affairs
Valence Health, Inc.
MARY ANNE BOBINSKI, J.D., LL.M., PH.D.
Mary Anne Bobinski has been at the Allard School of Law since 2003 and served as Dean from 2003 to 2015. She previously served as the John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Law and Director of the Health Law & Policy Institute at the UH Law Center. Professor Bobinski's research and teaching interests include torts, health law, health care finance and bioethics, legal aspects of HIV infection and reproductive health law issues.

JOSÉ RAMÓN COSSÍO DÍAZ
José Ramón Cossío Díaz is Justice of Mexico’s highest court, the Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación. He is also a professor of constitutional law at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM). He graduated with a law degree from the Universidad de Colima, obtained a Master’s Degree in Constitutional Law and Political Science at el Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales in Madrid and a Doctorate in Law from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Cossío Díaz was the Dean of ITAM’s law faculty for nine years. He is a National Researcher Level III investigator of the Mexican National System of Researchers and a member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences, the American Law Institute, the Science Advisory Council, the National Institute of Genomic Medicine and the Mexican Health Foundation.

RICHARD CRAIG SMITH, LL.M., J.D., M.A.
Partner,
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Washington, D.C.

GERALD ZIMMERER, J.D., LL.M.
Shareholder,
Zimmerer & Associates, PLLC

MELODY J. WANG, J.D.
Attorney,
Kane Russell Coleman & Logan PC