UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
LAW CENTER

DEAN’S AWARDS
2011

Wednesday, April 20, 2011
5:00 PM

Krost Auditorium

COVER GRAPHICS: Sheila Childers
Ron Bass Scholarship
The Ron Bass scholarship is given in memory of Ron Bass, a solo practitioner who had a strong belief in civil liberties and a sincere interest in making a positive difference in his clients’ lives. This scholarship will be awarded to a continuing student who shows a sincere interest in civil liberties and/or making a difference in others’ lives as demonstrated through volunteer activities, coursework, and other relevant factors, and is in need of scholarship support for the continuation of her education.

Donor: Meyer Levy Charitable Foundation
Recipient: Marcella C. Burke

Jackson Lewis Scholarship
Awarded to a student from a group underrepresented in the legal profession who has demonstrated an interest in the study and practice of labor and employment law.

Donor: Jackson Lewis LLP
Recipient: Marc N. Cayabyab

Judge Mary Bacon ’72 Scholarship
Awarded to UHLC students who exemplify professionalism while maintaining a two generation household.

Donor: Friends and Family of Judge Mary Bacon
Recipients: Cara H. Johnson, Pamela L. Taylor, Paul Glenn Thomas III, Stephanie S. Tillman

Leonard Rosenberg Family Scholarship
This scholarship is given to an entering student based on financial need, academic achievement and extra curricular activities.

Donor: Leonard B. Rosenberg ’53
Recipient: Jeremy A. Williams

James E. Crowther Scholarship
Awarded to students who have shown a commitment to public interest work.

Donor: The Hobby Foundation
Recipients: Sireesha V. Chirala, Kathy M. Goodwin, Cara H. Johnson

Gulf Coast Power Association (GCPA)
David Oliver Memorial Scholarship
Awarded to students who have excelled in coursework or written papers that have a significant electricity component.

Donor: Gulf Coast Power Association
Recipients: Ryan T. Becker, Daniela Oliveira, West M. Rhoden, John H. Ritch

Houston Bar Association, Oil, Gas & Mineral Law Scholarship
Awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and an interest in Oil and Gas.

Donor: HBA Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Section
Recipient: Benjamin W. Walther

Texas State Bar Oil and Gas Section Scholarship
Awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and an interest in Oil and Gas.

Donor: Texas State Bar Oil and Gas Section
Recipient: Brian A. Finch

Jacqueline Lang Weaver ‘75 Excellence Award in Oil & Gas
Awarded to the student who has demonstrated the highest degree of excellence in studies relating to the field of Oil and Gas Law.

Donor: James L. Connor, III ‘91
Recipient: Claudia I. Oviedo
ConocoPhillips Energy Studies Award
Awarded to a graduating law student who has shown a significant interest in the area of energy, environmental and natural resources.
*Donor:* ConocoPhillips
*Recipient:* Joshua P. Gautreau

Buck J. Wynne Memorial Scholarship
The State Bar of Texas Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section established this scholarship in memory of Buck J. Wynne, a prominent environmental attorney who died in 1996. It is awarded to the top students in introductory environmental law classes.
*Donor:* State Bar of Texas Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section
*Recipient:* Chelsea M. Keeton

Gus A. Schill, Jr. Maritime Law and Professionalism Scholarship
Awarded to a third year student in recognition of his professionalism and dedication to the study of maritime law.
*Donor:* Friends of Gus A. Schill
*Recipient:* Daniel A. Paschal

Nancy Snyder-Nepo ’00 Scholarship
In memory of Nancy Synder-Nepo, a lawyer and mother, who lost her life to cancer at a young age. This scholarship is awarded to provide financial assistance for a Law Center student who is balancing the role of parent and student.
*Donor:* Family and Friends of Nancy Snyder-Nepo
*Recipient:* Pamela L. Taylor

Black Law Student Association (BLSA) Alumni Scholarship
This award was established by the BLSA Alumni to assist a student member of the organization in her quest for professional success.
*Donor:* Alumni of the Black Law Students Association
*Recipient:* Tamecia G. Harris

Houston Intellectual Property Law Association (HIPLA) Scholarship
Awarded to students who demonstrate interest in intellectual property through coursework, prior internships, prior employment and participation in student organizations.
*Donor:* HIPLA
*Recipients:* Allan Bullwinkel, Lavonne D. Burke, Craig E. Walter

UH Law Center AIPLEF Jan Jancin Award 2010 Nominee
Awarded to the Law Center’s sole nominee to a national scholarship competition conducted by the American Intellectual Property Law Education Foundation (AIPLEF), an organization formed by the nation’s preeminent IP bar organization, the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA). The scholarship is in honor of the late Jan Jancin, who served not only as President of AIPLA, but served with distinction in several other leadership roles within the intellectual property bar.
*Donor:* Institute for Intellectual Property and Information Law
*Recipient:* Blaine A. Larson
UH Law Center 2010 IPIL Award for Distinguished Accomplishment
Awarded to a student who has exemplified excellence in intellectual property academic studies and is interested in pursuing a career in intellectual property or information law.

Donor: Institute for Intellectual Property and Information Law
Recipient: Donna M. Haynes

IPIL Co-Directors Award
Awarded for the best student-authored paper in the field of intellectual property and information law from a seminar course taught by IPIL core faculty.

Donor: Institute for Intellectual Property and Information Law
Recipient: Jeffrey M. Hemming

IPSO Service Award
Awarded to a member of the Intellectual Property Student Organization (IPSO) for outstanding contributions to the community of students studying intellectual property and information law at the Law Center.

Donor: Institute for Intellectual Property and Information Law
Recipient: Katherine L. Jackson

Sondra Tennessee Scholarship
Awarded to a law student who has demonstrated leadership and commitment to her alma mater.

Donor: Anonymous
Recipient: Tamecia G. Harris

Alumni Association Scholarship
Awarded to students exhibiting leadership, character and involvement in extracurricular activities. Preference is given to students who have volunteered with the Law Gala and Auction.

Donor: Annual Law Gala and Auction
Recipient: Allan Bullwinkel, Melissa A. Grobler, Jeanene Holliday, Mary Catherine G. Isensee, Deborah K. Levy

John Ventura Scholar
To honor the memory of John Ventura, the founding Director of the Texas Consumer Complaint Center, the Center for Consumer Law has established the position of “Ventura Scholar.” This position is awarded to a second- or third-year student interested in furthering the rights of consumers.

Donor: Texas Consumer Complaint Center
Recipient: Jesus A. Chapa

Judge Shearn Smith Scholarship
Awarded to law students who have demonstrated great improvement in the study of law.

Donor: Friends of Judge Shearn Smith
Recipient: Winford Adams, Briana L. Deane, Kathleen M. Hays, Lisa A. Smith

Nathan, Sommers, Jacobs Scholarship
Awarded to a student who has demonstrated academic achievement and a commitment to the Law Center.

Donor: Nathan, Sommers & Jacobs, A professional corporation
Recipient: Charles M. Greenlee
Yale Rosenberg Memorial Prize
In memory of Yale Rosenberg, long time UHLC faculty member and renowned expert in habeas and Jewish law, this student prize is awarded every other year for the best student paper in Administrative Law, Civil Procedure, Federal Jurisdiction or Jewish Law.

Donor:  Friends of Yale Rosenberg
Recipient:  Daniel G. Swearingen, “Alien Tort Reform: Should the Alien Tort Statute Be Revised?”

Tax Executives Institute Scholarships
Awarded to students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and an interest in the practice of tax law as evidenced by coursework.

Donor:  Tax Executives Institute
Recipients:  James H. Cole
Kyle C. Clifton
Clare R. Staub

Andy B. Thigpen ‘93 Scholarship
Andrew “Andy” Byron Thigpen believed in obtaining justice for “the little guy” through practicing law with honor. He was inspired by both literature and attorneys around him who practiced with integrity. The scholarship is awarded to the student who wrote the most inspirational essay about why he went to law school.

Donor:  Friends of Andy Thigpen
Recipient:  Joseph R. Struble

Eugene Smith Memorial Scholarship
Awarded to a student who shows academic promise and financial need.

Donor:  Eugene Smith
Recipient:  Joshua S. Campbell

Samson Memorial Scholarship
This scholarship is in memory of Moe and Louis Nasr’s beloved German Shepherd dog, Samson. Awarded to a student who has demonstrated a passion for and commitment to animal advocacy.

Donor:  Moe and Louise Nasr
Recipient:  Kathy M. Goodwin

Lipscomb Scholarship
Awarded to a student who is fulfilling professional aspirations and who will be a credit to the legal profession.

Donor:  Charles Blankenburg and Myra Stubbefield
Recipient:  Demetrice M. Walker

John O’Quinn ‘67 Memorial Scholarship
In memory of John O’Quinn, one the nations leading attorneys, this scholarship is awarded to a deserving student who is involved in the Houston Law Review and The Advocates.

Donor:  The John O’Quinn Memorial Fund
Recipient:  Kyle O. Jones

International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award
Awarded to a student exemplifying outstanding ability in courtroom advocacy.

Donor:  Mr. Donald F O’Brien
Recipient:  Matthew S. Yezierski

The Order of the Barristers
The Order of Barristers is a national honorary organization whose purpose is the encouragement of oral advocacy and brief writing skills through effective law school oral advocacy programs. The Order also provides national recognition for individuals who have excelled in advocacy and service at their respective schools. In 1973, Martindale-Hubbell, Inc. acknowledged the distinction of being...
selected to membership in the Order by agreeing to list it among the scholastic distinctions included in a lawyer's biographical sketch.

Recipients: Seth C. Gagliardi
Charles M. Greenlee
Patrick R. McKee
Michelle R. Meriam
Roy A. Otto
Megan E. Smith
Lisa R. Stewart
Jameson J. Watts
Alyssa J. White-Olanitori
Matthew S. Yezierski

Claire V. Smith Scholarship
Awarded to assist a law student in fulfilling her professional aspirations.
Donor: Claire V. Smith Charitable Foundation
Recipient: Mary Catherine G. Isensee

Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. Fultz Memorial Scholarship
Awarded to students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement.
Donor: Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. Fultz
Recipients: Shaun A. Cassin
Michelle B. Gray
Jonathan L. Smith

Joseph Vail Memorial Scholarship
Awarded to a student who has demonstrated interest in immigration law and also great advocacy on behalf of immigrants through course work and involvement with the clinic.
Donor: University of Houston Law Center
Recipient: Nathaniel R. Martinez

Murray M. Nusynowitz Memorial Fund
Awarded to a law student who is active in the recruitment or admissions process.
Donor: Friends and Family of Murray M. Nusynowitz
Recipient: Tamecia G. Harris

Irene Merker Rosenberg Child Advocacy Scholarship
In memory of Irene Merker Rosenberg, a scholar and advocate of children’s rights, this scholarship is designed for law students who are interested in working in the area of children and the law. In addition to providing a financial scholarship the program also provides advanced educational opportunities, career counseling and year-round employment opportunities to students committed to advancing the legal interests of children.
Donor: University of Houston Law Center
Recipients: Amanda J. Hill
Katherine B. Murray
Jeanene Holliday
Patricia H. Zesut

Barksdale Stevens Award
Awarded to a deserving third-year law student who is active and shows interest in the Law Center.
Donor: BakerBotts
Recipient: Andrew J. Cobos

Phyllis Randolph Frye ’81 Writing Competition Award
For the best paper in topics relating to an area of law (i.e. family, employment, education K-12, insurance, criminal) dealing with gender identity or gender expression, with preference given to transgender and intersex issues.
Donor: Ms. Phyllis R. Frye
Recipients: Meghan A. Baker
Cheryl A. Lovelady
DeAnna Mack ‘08 Memorial Scholarship
This scholarship is awarded in memory of Deanna Mack who died at a young age shortly after graduating from the Law Center.
Donor: Jones McClure Publishing, Inc. and Friends and Family of Deanna Mack
Recipient: Natasha N. Hawkins

Houston Bar Association, Probate, Trusts and Estates
Awarded to a student who has shown exemplary success in coursework related to probate.
Donor: HBA Probate, Trusts & Estates Section
Recipient: Clare R. Staub

Houston Bar Association, Real Estate Law Section Award
Awarded to the top student in selected Real Estate courses.
Donor: HBA Real Estate Law Section
Recipient: Mitchell A. Ward

Caroline Hirsch (Vanik) Beers ‘97 Award
Awarded to a single parent law student who has a love of the law and a commitment to social service.
Donor: Lauren and Lindsay Vanik and Caroline Vanik Beers
Recipient: Pegah Rahgozar

Robert Allen Memorial Student Excellence Fund
In memory of Robert Allen, this scholarship was established to provide assistance to a part-time student who has a passion for the law.
Donor: Elizabeth Allen
Recipient: Seth E. Jaffe

Celia Figueroa ‘94 Memorial Scholarship
The Celia Figueroa Scholarship was established in honor of the late Celia Figueroa by her family, friends, and employer, BBVA Bancomer USA, for whom she served as General Counsel. The Scholarship is to be awarded annually to a UHLC student who has displayed excellence in her studies and service to the Law Center community. Preference is given to a 2L who has family obligations and/or whose career involves international business experience.
Donor: Bancomer Transfer Services, Inc. and Friends and Family of Celia Figueroa
Recipient: Zuotian Deng

Ann Dinsmore Forman ‘91 AWIL Award
In memory of the co-founder and founding president of the Association of Women in Law, Ann Dinsmore Forman, this award is presented to the student who best exemplifies advocacy of matters of particular concern to the Association of Women in Law.
Donor: Friends of Ann Dinsmore Forman
Recipient: Kristen N. Young
Ann Dinsmore Forman ‘91 Child Advocacy Award
Ann Forman spent nearly her entire professional life in the Travis County District Attorney’s Office in its unit devoted to the protection of abused and neglected children. She was a tireless advocate for her charges, and an inspiration to all who knew her. This scholarship is awarded to the students whose careers demonstrate a high level of commitment to the welfare of abused or neglected children, or other children with special needs.

Donor: Friends of Ann Dinsmore Forman
Recipients: Amanda J. Hill
           Amber J. Ramirez

William Coats Construction Law Scholarship
In memory of William Coats, an expert in the area of construction law, this scholarship is awarded to a student who shows an interest in construction law, demonstrated through coursework, internships and work experience.

Donor: Chris E. Ryman ‘79
Recipient: Clayton J. Huff

American Bankruptcy Institute Medal of Excellence
Awarded to a student who has shown exemplary success in coursework and activities related to Bankruptcy.

Donor: Thatcher Proffitt & Wood LLP
Recipient: Jameson J. Watts

Ewer-Oren J.D. Health Law Writing Award
This writing award was established by Professor Laura Oren in honor of two very special people. One is Dr. Michael Ewer, Law Center J.D. and LLM, Adjunct Professor at the Law Center, Professor of Cardiology, and Special Assistant to the Vice President at M.D. Anderson hospital.

The other is her mother, the late Grace Oren, who dedicated her career (paid and unpaid) to cerebral palsied children. The writing prize is to be awarded annually to a UHLC student who has written the best research paper in the field of Health Law.

Donor: Professor Laura Oren

Recipient: 1st Place – Kim C. Gordy, “Adding Life to the Adolescent’s Years, Not Simply Years to the Adolescent’s Life: the Integration of the Individualized Care Planning & Coordination Model and a Statutory Fall-Back Provision”


2nd Place – Lindsay N. Taylor, “The ‘Meaningful Use’ of EHR: A High Bar for Providers”

Clinical Legal Education Association Outstanding Student Award
The Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) recognizes law students who have excelled in a clinical course in law school and thus created this award. The award is based on excellence in case work, in the seminar component of the course, and, if relevant, the nature and extent of the student’s contribution to the clinical community at their law school.

Donor: Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA)
Recipient: Whitney C. Larkin
Outstanding Student Award
Awarded to a student in the graduating class, who contributes to the advancement of women in society; promote issues and concerns of women in the legal profession; exhibits motivation, tenacity and enthusiasm, academic achievement; and earns respect of her colleagues.

Donor: National Association of Women Lawyers
Recipient: Michelle B. Gray

ALI-ABA Scholarship and Leadership Award
Awarded to the law student in the graduating class who best represents a combination of scholarship and leadership.

Donor: American Law Institute-ABA Committee on Continuing Professional Education
Recipient: Robin F. O’Neil

National Order of Scribes
Awarded to graduating law students who demonstrate the highest levels of professionalism and are outstanding legal writers.

Donor: Scribes
Recipients: Michelle B. Gray
Michelle R. Meriam
Justin P. Tschoepe
Jameson J. Watts
Robin K. Weinburgh

Student Bar Association Professor of the Year
Adam M. Gershowitz

Order of the Barons Professor of the Year
Douglas Moll
LEX AWARDS

Awarded to students receiving the highest grade in a first year course.

Recipients:

**Constitutional Law**
- Erin B. Boeer
- Lauren A. Messer
- Juliana Ong
- Jonathan L. Smith
- Cody T. Vasut

**Contracts**
- Jonathan P. Heins
- Melissa R. Morris
- David K. Nguyen
- Sagar U. Patel
- Jillian M. Rae
- Rebekah D. Smith
- Katherine M. Witty

**Criminal Law**
- Jonathan M. Brooks
- Elizabeth A. Eakin
- Jonathan L. Smith
- Benjamin W. Walther

**Procedure I**
- Natasha B. Breaux
- Patricia D. Cowling
- Guylaine V. Kepeden
- Rebekah D. Smith

**Property**
- Annie Kwan
- Kim P. Mai
- Heather L. Sherrod
- Pamela L. Taylor
- Cody T. Vasut

**Torts**
- Katherine A. Barnhill
- Shaun A. Cassin
- Melissa R. Morris
- Benjamin D. Smolij
- Caleb J. Talbot

**Legal Research and Writing**
- Katherine A. Barnhill
- Orson J. Bell
- Erin B. Boeer
- Natasha B. Breaux
- Anneka J. Burdell
- Shaun A. Cassin
- Christopher L. Conatser
- Yolande C. Ditewig
- Jarrett S. Dziuk
- Cory J. Fox
- Stephanie E. Fourquarean
- Karol S. Furmaga
- Carolina Martins de Azeredo Guerra
- Michael J. Hoffman
- Clayton J. Huff
- Mary Catherine G. Isensee
- Ashley M. Kahn
- Modinat A. Kotun
- Blaine A. Larson
- Katherine T. Larson
- Ryan C. Myers
- Juliana Ong

**Administrative Law**
- Maryam Tabatabai

**Intro to American Law**
- Francisca Kusi-Appiah

**Law Practice Strategies**
- Cory J. Fox
- Brooke E. Sizer
- Paul H. Taskalos
- Cody T. Vasut

**Texas Consumer Law**
- Jonathan L. Smith
- Pamela L. Taylor
2011 SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWS

Awarded for public interest work with an agency that has limited financial support.

Emiliano Fragoso  Harris County District Attorney’s Office
Kelsey M. Heaton  Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
Cara H. Johnson  Disability Rights Texas (formerly Advocacy, Inc.)
Sarah P. Loeffler  Texas Impact
Tram T. Luu  Boat People SOS
Kourtney L. Osegueda  U.S. Attorney’s Office, SDOT
Michael A. Quirke  Harris County District Attorney’s Office
James A. Rogers  Harris County District Attorney’s Office
Jordan M. Sanders  Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse
James M. Santangelo  Lone Star Legal Aid (Galveston)
Ron Y. Sung  Appleseed
Katherine M. Witty  Lone Star Legal Aid (Galveston)
Julia Y. Zhang  University of Houston Office of General Counsel