BLACK LAWYERS MATTER: Strategies to Enhance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 30, 2020 | 8:15 AM – 6 PM CDT

Course # 174100145 | Total Texas CLE hours: 8

#BLACKLAWYERSMATTER2020

Bracewell LLP Distinguished Lecture in Racial and Social Justice

Keynote Speaker:

David B. Wilkins, Lester Kissel Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, Vice Dean for Global Initiatives on the Legal Profession, Faculty Director of the Center on the Legal Profession and the Center for Lawyers and the Professional Services Industry
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15 – 8:30 AM</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Opening Speaker .5 General CLE hours with .25 ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:30 AM</td>
<td>Increasing Black Enrollment in Law Schools 1.5 General CLE hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>The Role of Historically Black Law Schools 1.25 General CLE hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10 – 12:45 PM</td>
<td>Bracewell LLP Distinguished Lecture in Racial and Social Justice Keynote Speaker .5 General CLE hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:30 PM</td>
<td>The LSAT, Socioeconomics and U.S. News &amp; World Report 1.5 General CLE hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 – 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Pathways to the Profession: Hiring for Firms and Corporate Positions 1.25 General CLE hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15 – 5:45 PM</td>
<td>Diverse Pathways to the Profession: Law Faculty Hiring, the Judiciary, and Judicial Clerkships 1.5 General CLE hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45 – 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Concluding Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 – 8:30 AM</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and Introduction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leonard M. Baynes, Dean and Professor of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jennifer Collins, Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Houston Law Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SMU Dedman School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael F. Barry, President and Dean, South Texas College of Law Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Opening Speaker</strong> (.5 General CLE hours with .25 ethics)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, U.S. Member of Congress for 18th District of Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:30 AM</td>
<td><strong>Increasing Black Enrollment in Law Schools</strong> (1.5 General CLE hours)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CO-MODERATORS:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patricia Roberts, Dean and Charles E. Cantu Distinguished Professor of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas Tech School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Wade Nowlin, Dean and W. Frank Newton Professor of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas Tech School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PANELISTS:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meredith J. Duncan, Professor of Law and Assistant Dean of Diversity,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inclusion and Metropolitan Programs, University of Houston Law Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rebecca Ruppert McMahon, CEO Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Meyerson, Piper Professor of Law and Director of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Baltimore Law School, Fannie Angelos Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academic Excellence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James O’Neal, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Legal Outreach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bill Weaver, Director of UTEP’s LSPI College Summer Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 10:45 AM</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>The Role of Historically Black Law Schools</strong> (1.25 General CLE hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MODERATOR:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. Felecia Epps, Dean and Professor of Law, UNT Dallas College of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PANELISTS:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joan R.M. Bullock, Dean and Professor of Law, Texas Southern, Thurgood Marshall School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danielle Holley-Walker, Dean and Professor of Law, Howard University School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Renée McDonald Hutchins, Dean and Professor of Law, University of District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deidré A. Keller, Dean and Professor of Law, Florida A&amp;M University College of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Browne C. Lewis, Dean and Professor of Law, North Carolina Central University School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Pierre, Chancellor and Vanue B. Lacour Endowed Professor of Law, Southern University Law Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 12:10 PM</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10 – 12:45 PM</td>
<td><strong>Bracewell LLP Distinguished Lecture in Racial and Social Justice Keynote Speaker</strong> (.5 General CLE hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>INTRODUCTION:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bradley J.B. Toben, Dean &amp; M.C. &amp; Mattie Caston Professor of Law, Baylor Law School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Bracewell LLP Distinguished Lecture in Racial and Social Justice Keynote Speaker:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David B. Wilkins, Lester Kissel Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, Vice Dean for Global Initiatives on the Legal Profession, Faculty Director of the Center on the Legal Profession and the Center for Lawyers and the Professional Services Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45 – 1:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>The LSAT, Socioeconomics and U.S. News &amp; World Report</strong>&lt;br&gt;(1.5 General CLE hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MODERATOR:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Leonard M. Baynes, Dean and Professor of Law,&lt;br&gt;University of Houston Law Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PANELISTS:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Robert B. Ahdieh, Dean and Anthony G. Buzbee Endowed&lt;br&gt;Dean’s Chair&lt;br&gt;Paul L. Caron, Duane and Kelly Roberts Dean,&lt;br&gt;Pepperdine Caruso School of Law&lt;br&gt;Robert Morse, Chief Data Strategist, U.S. News &amp; World Report&lt;br&gt;Victor Quintanilla, Professor of Law and Val Nolan Faculty Fellow;&lt;br&gt;Co-Director, Center for Law, Society &amp; Culture, Indiana University Maurer School of Law&lt;br&gt;Kellye Testy, President and Chief Executive&lt;br&gt;Officer of the Law School Admission Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 – 2:45 PM</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 – 4:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Pathways to the Profession: Hiring for Firms and Corporate Positions</strong>&lt;br&gt;(1.25 General CLE hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MODERATOR:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jennifer Collins, Judge James Noel Dean&lt;br&gt;and Professor of Law SMU Dedman School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PANELISTS:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sandra Phillips Rogers, Group Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Chief&lt;br&gt;Diversity Officer, Toyota Motor North America&lt;br&gt;Chequan Lewis, Chief Equity Officer, Pizza Hut Corp.&lt;br&gt;James Leipold, Executive Director of National Association for Law&lt;br&gt;Placement&lt;br&gt;Jami McKeon, Chair, Morgan, Lewis &amp; Bockius&lt;br&gt;Christa Brown-Sanford, Partner and Deputy Department Chair,&lt;br&gt;Intellectual Property (Firmwide) Baker Botts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 – 4:15 PM</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15 – 5:45 PM</td>
<td><strong>Diverse Pathways to the Profession: Law Faculty Hiring, the Judiciary, and Judicial Clerkships</strong> (1.5 General CLE hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MODERATOR:</strong> Ward Farnsworth, Dean and John Jeffers Research Chair in Law, University of Texas School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PANELISTS:</strong> Honorable Judge Roger Gregory, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Honorable Judge Gregg Costa, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Honorable Judge Vanessa Gilmore, Southern District of Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Honorable Judge Nathan Hecht, Chief Judge, Texas Supreme Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dean Daniel Tokaji, University of Wisconsin Law School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor Meera E. Deo, 2020 – 2021 American Bar Foundation William H. Neukom Fellows Research Chair in Diversity and Law, Director of the Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE), a Professor of Law at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Visiting Professor, UC Irvine School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45 – 6:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Concluding Remarks</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dean Jennifer M. Collins, Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law, SMU Dedman School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dean Leonard M. Baynes, Dean and Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Number 174100145**

For an attorney to report attendance, simply scan the QR code, log in, certify the requested credit is accurate, and submit.

For out-of-state Certificate of Attendance or questions about CLE credit email tcgreen3@central.uh.edu
LEONARD M. BAYNES
DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

As the 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. Dean Baynes initiated an award winning Pre-Law Pipeline Program designed to create more opportunities for first-generation, economically challenged, and under-represented college students who are considering law school. In 2010, Baynes received the Diversity Trailblazer Award from the New York Bar Association, and in 2019 he accepted the American Bar Association Alexander Award on behalf of the Pre-Law Pipeline Program. Also in 2019, Dean Baynes was the recipient of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc.’s Edge Award, the John Mercer Legal Education Leadership Award from the National Black Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair, and was named a Diversity Champion by the National Diversity Council. In 2020, Baynes was named to the Lawyers of Color Power List by the Lawyers of Color Foundation.

The Pre-Law Pipeline Program recently completed its sixth year, with the 2020 class including students representing more than 21 universities from across the country. The program has been honored by numerous organizations and publications, including the American Bar Association, the Law School Admission Council, the AccessLex Institute and INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine (HEED Award).

Baynes holds a B.S. degree with a double major in finance and economics from New York University and an M.B.A. and J.D. from Columbia University. Baynes has served 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.

JENNIFER M. COLLINS
JUDGE JAMES NOEL DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF LAW
SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW

Jennifer M. Collins is the Judge James Noel Dean at SMU Dedman School of Law. She received her B.A. cum laude from Yale University and her J.D. magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where she served as a Notes Editor for the Harvard Law Review. Prior to joining SMU, Dean Collins was a law professor and the Vice Provost at Wake Forest University. Dean Collins had an extensive career in practice, including serving in the Office of Legal Counsel at the United States Department of Justice and as an Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, D.C., specializing in homicide cases. She is the co-author of Privilege or Punish? Criminal Justice and The Challenge of Family Ties, and many other articles and essays. Dean Collins’ scholarship and teaching are focused on issues involving families and the criminal justice system.
ROBERT B. AH DIEH

Robert B. Ahdieh was appointed Dean and Anthony G. Buzbee Endowed Dean's Chair at the Texas A&M University School of Law in July 2018. A graduate of Princeton University’s School of Public and International Affairs and Yale Law School, Ahdieh served as law clerk to Judge James R. Browning of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit before his selection for the Honors Program in the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.


Prior to coming to Texas A&M, Ahdieh was the K.H. Gyr Professor of Law at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. During his tenure at Emory, Ahdieh also served as Associate Dean of Faculty and as Vice Dean. In those capacities, he helped expand and diversify the faculty, increase the incoming credentials and diversity of the J.D. class, and introduced an array of new degree offerings and curricular reforms.

Ahdieh, an elected member of the American Law Institute, has served as a visiting professor at Columbia and Georgetown law schools, as well as at Princeton University. He has also visited at the Institute for Advanced Study, the University of British Columbia, the University of Warsaw, and Singapore Management University, among other overseas institutions.

MICHAEL F. BARRY

Michael F. Barry is the 11th president and dean of Houston's oldest law school, South Texas College of Law Houston.

Dean Barry received a B.A. in English and Religious Studies from the University of Virginia, an M.A. in Theology from the University of San Francisco, and a law degree from Yale Law School.


Dean Barry then served as Assistant Dean and Practitioner in Residence at St. Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio, where he was a committed teacher, designed the law school’s comprehensive Law Success academic support program, and directed operations and budget for the law school.

With expertise in leadership and management, strategic planning, board relations, and the intersection of law and business, Dean Barry joined South Texas as president and dean in the summer of 2019. Under his leadership, the college of law not only is navigating successfully through the Covid-19 pandemic, but also is actively preparing for South Texas’ centennial in 2023.

Dean Barry has served on several nonprofit boards, including San Antonio’s Lighthouse for the Blind, DoSeum, and Alamo Colleges Foundation; is a member of Class LI of American Leadership Forum in Houston; and is an avid runner, having completed a marathon in less than four hours in each of the 50 states. He and Lee, his wife of 30 years, have two adult daughters.

JOAN R. M. BULLOCK

Joan R. M. Bullock is the dean of Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Dean Bullock began as a professor at then-nascent Georgia State University College of Law. She obtained her tenure at the University of Toledo College of Law before becoming one of the 7 founding faculty members reestablishing the Florida A&M University College of Law. She subsequently served as the College of Law’s Associate Dean for Teaching and Faculty Development and later as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs before leaving to become the president and dean of Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Dean Bullock is a Michigan lawyer and CPA who has practiced before the United States Tax Court and has assisted many start-up enterprises with outsourced general counsel and CFO services and law firms with business advisory services.

Dean Bullock is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and is a member of the American Bar Association (ABA) House of Delegates. She is a past chair of the ABA Law Practice Division and is a member of the Council of the ABA Section of Science and Technology Law. She is the author of How to Achieve Success After the Bar: A Step-by-Step Action Plan and a chapter contributor to The Best Lawyer You Can Be: A Guide to Physical, Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual Wellness, both published by the ABA Law Practice Division.
JUDGE GREGG COSTA

Gregg Costa is a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He grew up in Richardson, Texas and graduated from Dartmouth College. After college, he taught elementary school in the Mississippi Delta town of Sunflower through the Teach for America program. He then attended the University of Texas School of Law. After law school, he clerked for Judge A. Raymond Randolph on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and Chief Justice William Rehnquist on the Supreme Court. He also served as a Bristow Fellow in the Office of Solicitor General.

After his time in Washington, he returned home to Texas where he was in private practice before serving as an Assistant United States Attorney. As an AUSA, he focused on prosecuting white collar crime, which included prosecuting Allen Stanford for orchestrating a multibillion dollar Ponzi scheme. President Obama appointed Judge Costa to the district court in 2012 and the court of appeals in 2014.

MEERA E. DEO

Meera E. Deo, J.D., Ph.D., is Director of the Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE), Professor of Law at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and the William H. Neukom Fellows Research Chair in Diversity and Law at the American Bar Foundation. She has held previous visiting positions at UC Davis School of Law, UC Irvine School of Law, UCLA School of Law and Berkeley Law.

The Coalition for Asian Pacific American Law Faculty awarded her their 2018 Eric K. Yamamoto Award for demonstrating “outstanding promise.” She was also a 2019 Scholar-in-Residence at Berkeley Law’s Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice. Professor Deo has served as a Senate-appointed Member of the California Commission on Access to Justice, an empirical research consultant to the ACLU of Southern California and Chair of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Law and the Social Sciences.

Her research utilizes empirical methods to interrogate institutional diversity, affirmative action and racial representation. Professor Deo’s scholarship has been widely published and cited in numerous amicus briefs filed in the U.S. Supreme Court. Professor Deo’s book, “Unequal Profession: Race and Gender in Legal Academia” (Stanford University Press, 2019), draws from her landmark Diversity in Legal Academia project, the first national empirical study of law faculty utilizing an intersectional framework.

Professor Deo’s sobering findings expose ongoing raceXgender inequities. She also proposes structural solutions to improve legal education. Her current research builds on findings from her book to consider the ways in which the global pandemic may affect scholarly productivity and retention of faculty of color, women faculty, and especially women of color.
**MEREDITH J. DUNCAN**

Professor Meredith J. Duncan joined the University of Houston Law Center faculty in 1998. Her areas of expertise include legal ethics, criminal law, and torts. Since joining the faculty, Professor Duncan has received several teaching awards and has been nominated numerous times by the graduating students as their "hooder" commencement. Professor Duncan is also one of only 26 law professors studied nationwide in the recent Harvard University Press book What the Best Law Teachers Do, a study of the "methods, strategies, and personal traits of professors whose students achieve exceptional learning." She teaches Torts, Criminal Law, and Professional Responsibility at the Law Center.

Duncan oversees the award-winning Pre-Law Pipeline Program, a program designed to increase the diversity of the law school applicant pool. Her responsibilities also involve working with the Juvenile and Children's Advocacy Project, a program whose mission is to reduce juvenile crime and delinquency and improve the long-term educational success rates and life outcomes for socially and economically disadvantaged juveniles. In addition to her work with Metropolitan Programs she heads the Law Center's Judge Ruby Kless Sondock Jurist-In-Residence Lectureship in legal ethics, a program which brings sitting jurists to the Law Center for a day of interaction with students, faculty, and the Houston legal community.

Duncan graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from Northwestern University and earned her law degree from the University of Houston Law Center in 1993. Upon graduation from the Law Center, she clerked for the Honorable Edith H. Jones, Judge for the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit and was an associate at Vinson & Elkins, L.L.P.

**A. FELECIA EPPS**

A. Felecia Epps joined UNT Dallas College of Law as Dean and Professor of Law on July 1, 2018. Epps served as Professor of Law at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University College of Law from January 2016 to May 2018 and as Dean of the FAMU College of Law from January 2016 to May 2017.

Dean Epps received a B.A. from Cornell College and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). After graduating magna cum laude from Creighton University School of Law in 1983, she attended The Basic School in Quantico Virginia followed by Naval Justice School (NJS). Epps graduated with honors from NJS and was certified as a Judge Advocate in the United States Navy. She served 10 years on active duty in positions ranging from Defense Counsel to Chief Military Justice Officer, to Chief Civil Law Officer. Epps was awarded the Naval Achievement Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal while on active duty.

In 1999, Epps started her career in legal academia at the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law. She served as supervising attorney in the Mental Health Law Clinic, part of the Bowen Legal Clinic. Epps went on to teach Trial Advocacy, Legal Interviewing and Counseling, Criminal Law and Pre-Trial Criminal Procedure. She served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from May 2008 to December 2014.

Epps served on the Board of Directors of several community organizations at Bowen, including the Black Community Developers of Little Rock Arkansas and the Lonoke Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund. Epps also served as Co-chair of the Arkansas Criminal Code Revision Commission and Chair of the UALR Undergraduate Curriculum Revision Task Force.

**WARD FARNSWORTH**

Ward Farnsworth is Dean of The University of Texas School of Law. He is the author of books and articles on a wide range of subjects, including *Restitution: Civil Liability for Unjust Enrichment* (2014). He is the Reporter for the American Law Institute's Restatement (Third) Torts: Liability for Economic Harm. Dean Farnsworth graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 1994, and afterward served as a law clerk to Anthony M. Kennedy, associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, and to Richard A. Posner, chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He has also served as legal adviser to the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal in the Hague.
JUDGE VANESSA GILMORE

Vanessa D. Gilmore grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland. She attended Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, graduating in 1977, and the University of Houston Law Center, graduating in 1981.

In 1982, Gilmore began a 13-year tenure at a Houston law firm that later became known as Vickery, Kilbride, Gilmore & Vickery where she specialized in civil litigation.

Gilmore also became an active member of the Houston civic community, including service as president of the YWCA and chairperson of the Texas Department of Commerce.

In 1994 when Judge Gilmore was sworn in, she was then the youngest sitting federal judge in the nation. She was the first graduate of the University of Houston Law Center to be appointed to the federal bench.

CHIEF JUDGE ROGER GREGORY

Roger L. Gregory, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, formerly a partner in the law firm of Wilder & Gregory, grew up in Petersburg, Virginia and graduated from Virginia State College and the University of Michigan Law School. He is the first African-American to sit on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, which includes the states of Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. President William J. Clinton recess appointed him to the Court on December 27, 2000, and President George W. Bush commissioned his lifetime appointment to the Court in July 2001. Judge Gregory is the only person in the history of the United States to be appointed to a federal appellate court by two presidents of different political parties. Judge Gregory became Chief Judge on July 9, 2016. He is a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States that governs the Federal Judiciary.

Judge Gregory’s past leadership positions include Rector of Virginia Commonwealth University, and President of the Old Dominion Bar Association.

Judge Gregory presently serves as Trustee Emeritus for the University of Richmond.

Judge Gregory’s numerous awards include the National Conference of Christians and Jews Humanitarian Award, the National Bar Association’s Gertrude E. Rush and Equal Justice Awards, the Washington Bar Association’s Charles Hamilton Houston Merit Medallion, the Old Dominion Bar Association’s L. Douglas Wilder Vanguard Award, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Award of Excellence, and the University of Richmond School of Law’s William Green Award for Professional Excellence.

Judge Gregory is an inductee in the Virginia Interscholastic Heritage Association’s Hall of Fame, a Fellow of the Virginia State Bar Foundation, and a member of the American Law Institute. He holds honorary degrees from Virginia Union University, Virginia State University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Widener University, Saint Paul’s College, and The American University.

CHIEF JUDGE NATHAN L. HECHT

Nathan L. Hecht is the 27th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas. He has been elected to the Court six times, first in 1988 as a Justice, and most recently in 2014 as Chief Justice. He is the longest-serving Member of the Court in Texas history and the longest-tenured Texas judge in active service. Throughout his service on the Court, he has overseen revisions to the rules of administration, practice, and procedure in Texas courts, and was appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States to the federal Advisory Committee on Civil Rules. He is also active in the Court’s efforts to assure that Texans living below the poverty level, as well as others with limited means, have access to basic civil legal services. Chief Justice Hecht was appointed to the district court in 1981 and was elected to the court of appeals in 1986. Before taking the bench, he was a partner in the Locke firm in Dallas. He holds a B.A. degree with honors in philosophy from Yale University, and a J.D. degree cum laude from the SMU School of Law, where he was a Hatton W. Sumners Scholar. He clerked for Judge Roger Robb on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and was a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps. He is President of the national Conference of Chief Justices, a Life Member of the American Law Institute and a member of Council, and a member of the Texas Philosophical Society.
DANIELLE HOLLEY-WALKER

Danielle Holley-Walker is the Dean and Professor of Law at Howard University School of Law. Holley-Walker teaches Civil Procedure, Administrative Law, Legislation and Regulation, Federal Courts, and Inequality and Education. Holley-Walker’s ongoing research agenda deals with the governance of public schools, and diversity in the legal profession. She has published articles on issues of civil rights and education, including recent articles on No Child Left Behind, charter school policy, desegregation plans, and affirmative action in higher education. Prior to joining the Howard faculty, she was the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of South Carolina. Holley-Walker has also won numerous awards, including the Heman Sweatt award from the National Bar Association, the GWAC Trailblazer Award, and the Lutie Lytle Conference Outstanding Scholar Award; and is active in her community.

She clerked for Chief Judge Carl E. Stewart of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. She also practiced civil litigation at Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP in Houston, Texas. Holley-Walker earned a B.A. from Yale University and her J.D. from Harvard University.

RENÉE MCDONALD HUTCHINS

Renée McDonald Hutchins is Dean and Joseph L. Rauh, Jr. Chair of Public Interest Law of the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law (UDC Law). Dean Hutchins joined UDC Law as dean after fourteen years on the faculty at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. Dean Hutchins also taught in the Lawyering Program at the New York University School of Law.

Dean Hutchins is widely recognized as a leading expert on the Fourth Amendment and criminal appellate practice. Her legal scholarship has been published in high-impact journals like the UCLA Law Review and NYU Journal of Legislation and Public Policy, among others. She has also provided legal analysis and insight for outlets including MSNBC, “Voice of America,” and CSPAN-TV’s “Landmark Cases” series.

She has authored or co-authored three textbooks: Learning Criminal Procedure, Developing Professional Skills: Criminal Procedure, and Essential Lawyering Skills. She has also written on the law of racial profiling and stop and frisk, most recently as a contributing author to the anthology Policing the Black Man: Arrest, Prosecution & Imprisonment and in David Tanenhaus’ Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Dean Hutchins is a member of the American Law Institute. She also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. She is a former member of Maryland’s Appellate Courts Judicial Nominating Commission and the ACLU of Maryland’s Committee on Litigation and Legal Priorities and a former board member of both the Judicial Institute of Maryland and the Clinical Legal Education Association.

Dean Hutchins graduated cum laude from Spelman College with a B.A. in Mathematics. She went on to receive her J.D. from Yale Law School. Dean Hutchins clerked for the late Hon. Nathaniel R. Jones of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

DEIDRÉ A. KELLER

Deidré A. Keller is the Dean of the Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law in Orlando, Florida. Prior to joining FAMU, she was the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law where she taught for ten years. Dean Keller’s teaching experience includes Property, Intellectual Property, Law & Literature, Internet Law, Legal Problem Solving & Analysis, Estates, Wills, and Trusts, and The Legal History of Montgomery, Alabama. Deidré Keller writes at the intersections of intellectual property, personhood theory, critical race theory, and the Constitution. Prior to teaching, Keller practiced law in Atlanta, Georgia, with the firms of Sutherland, Asbill and Brennan, LLP and Seyfarth Shaw, LLP. She specialized in intellectual property counseling and procurement, focusing on trademarks and copyrights.
CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee is serving her eleventh term as a member of the United States House of Representatives. She represents the 18th Congressional District of Texas and sits on three Congressional Committees. Additionally, she is a founder, member and Co-chair of the Congressional Children’s Caucus, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Energy Braintrust and Co-chair of the Justice Reform Task Force. She serves as Chief Deputy Whip for the Democratic Caucus, past Chairperson of the Texas Congressional Democratic Delegation for the 113th Congress and past Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Board.

As Chairwoman, Congresswoman Jackson Lee supported enhanced technology, better intelligence and implementation of the 9/11 Commission report. She was named by Congressional Quarterly as one of the 50 most effective Members of Congress, and the U.S. News and World Report named her as one of the 10 most influential legislators in the U.S. House of Representatives.

She introduced several bills, including the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act, H.R. 71, the Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act of 2015 and H.R. 4660, an Amendment to the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, affirming the authority of the Attorney General to reduce prison overcrowding. She co-authored HR 1417, a bipartisan bill which has been touted as the best vehicle for accomplishing comprehensive immigration reform in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee earned a B.A. in Political Science from Yale University with honors in the first graduating class including females, followed by a J.D. from the University of Virginia Law School.

JAMES LEIPOLD

James Leipold is the Executive Director of the National Association for Law Placement (NALP), a position Leipold has held since 2004. Prior to joining NALP, Leipold worked at the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) for five and a half years. Prior to joining LSAC in 1998, Leipold was the director of admission at Temple University School of Law, and was also an instructor in legal writing and research. Leipold speaks and writes frequently on trends in legal employment for recent law school graduates and is a magna cum laude graduate of Brown University and Temple University School of Law.

BROWNE C. LEWIS

Browne C. Lewis is the Dean of North Carolina Central University School of Law. Dean Lewis graduated first in her class from Grambling State University. Prior to attending law school, she received summer fellowships to study at Carnegie-Mellon University, the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Dean Lewis started her academic career as a legal writing instructor at Hamline University School of Law (Mitchell-Hamline School of Law). She has taught at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, Seattle University, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Cleveland Marshall School of Law and the University of Louisville School of Law. Dean Lewis has taught Aging and the Law, Biomedical Ethics and the Law, Estates and Trusts, Law and Artificial Intelligence, Property, and Sports Law.

Dean Lewis has made numerous national and international presentations. In 2016, she had the honor of delivering a Gresham College Lecture in Central London, England. Dean Lewis received her M.A. in Public Policy (Economics and Statistics) from the Humphrey Institute and her J.D. from the University of Minnesota School of Law. She received her LL.M. in Energy and Environmental Law from the University of Houston Law School.
JAMI MCKEON

Jami McKeon is the Chair of Morgan Lewis and was elected unanimously to a second five-year term in 2019. Implementing a strategic approach focused on client needs, she has spearheaded large combinations that have significantly expanded the elite services provided by the firm’s 2,000-plus lawyers in 31 offices across 17 time zones.

Under Jami’s leadership, Morgan Lewis has created a multitude of industry-leading initiatives, including ML Women, which leverages the strength of Morgan Lewis women in client relationships, a Remote Working Program for associates and ML Well, which promotes health and well-being for the firm’s personnel.

In the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, Jami launched a Mobilizing for Equality Task Force to make global progress in the areas of racial equality and justice that focuses on impact areas such as economic development, education access, community engagement, law enforcement policy and voting rights.

Jami has a commitment to pro bono work and the critical role nonprofit organizations play throughout society. She sits on the board of directors for the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia and is a member of both the advisory board of the Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession and the Penn Law Board of Overseers.

Jami has received the American Red Cross Lifetime Achievement Award and the United Way Women’s Leadership Initiative Award as well as the Paradigm Award from the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, ranking among The Business Journals’ top 100 Influencers in Law. Jami also was named Attorney of the Year by The Legal Intelligencer and one of the 75 Most Outstanding Women Lawyers by The National Law Journal.

CHEQUAN LEWIS

Chequan Lewis is the Chief Equity Officer for Pizza Hut U.S. In this role, he champions, promotes and guides the company’s equity and inclusion vision, strategy and initiatives across Pizza Hut’s footprint as a franchiser, employer and community pillar. Lewis is responsible for helping shape Pizza Hut as a resilient business by encoding equity into the company’s structure, processes and decision-making for the benefit of employees, franchisees, licensees and customers.

A Howard University and Harvard Law School graduate, he has worked with the Office of Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings to analyze economic revitalization efforts in southern Dallas and previously served as Chairman of Dallas’ South Dallas-Fair Park Opportunity Fund. As Chairman, he led the city board’s efforts to invest municipal funds, via grants and loans, in a historically marginalized area of Dallas. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for both the Dallas Zoo and City Square and on the Board of Advisors for the SMU Dedman School of Law Robert B. Rowling Center for Business Law & Leadership.

Chequan is a Presidential Leadership Scholar and a recipient of the Dallas Business Journal’s Minority Business Leader Award. He is also an alumnus of the Latino Center for Leadership Development Leadership Academy and the Dallas Mayor’s Star Council. Chequan is also a contributor to the Dallas Morning News, focusing on sociopolitical issues.

REBECCA RUPPERT MCMAHON

Since January 2015, Rebecca Ruppert McMahon has served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. She is responsible for the day-to-day operations and resources of the nearly 5000-member professional association, as well as its charitable arm – the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation.

Prior to joining the CMBA, Becky served from 2009 to 2012 as the General Counsel for Cuyahoga Community College. Between 1999 and 2009, Becky was a member of the KeyBank National Association eyBank National Association, serving in a variety of roles of increasing responsibility including five years as Deputy General Counsel.

Since 2013, Becky has served as a member of the Board of Directors for First Federal Lakewood, the largest independent depositor-owned bank headquartered in Ohio with assets of $2 billion. In 2015, she became a founding Director for First Mutual Holding Co., a member-owned holding company created to serve a singular mission: to help mutual banks serve the community and prosper in today’s financial climate. She has also served on several nonprofit boards including most recently Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital Foundation (2015-2020), Lake Ridge Academy (2011-2019, including serving as Board 2015-2018), and the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland (2010-2013).

Becky is a 1989 graduate of Smith College, and a 1993 graduate of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.
MICHAEL MEYERSON

Michael Meyerson is the DLA Piper Professor of Law, at the University of Baltimore School of Law, and Director and Co-Founder of Fannie Angelos Program for Academic Excellence. He is the author of numerous law review articles and several books including: Endowed by Our Creator: The Birth of Religious Freedom in America (Yale University Press 2012); Liberty’s Blueprint: How Madison and Hamilton Wrote The Federalist Papers, Defined the Constitution, and Made Democracy Safe for the World (Basic Books 2008), and Political Numeracy: Mathematical Perspectives on Our Chaotic Constitution (W.W. Norton 2002).

ROBERT MORSE

Robert Morse is the chief data strategist for U.S. News. He takes the lead role in survey design, ranking methodology and higher education research as well as monitoring data collection for all of the company’s academic rankings, including Best Colleges, Best Graduate Schools and Best High Schools, as well as Best Global Universities and Best Online Programs. Morse developed almost all of the current methodologies that are used in the Best Colleges and Best Graduate Schools ranking projects and has been working full-time on both the Best Colleges and Best Graduate Schools editions since 1989.

Morse is the author of the U.S. News blog, Morse Code: Inside the College Rankings. He is also one of the founding members and on the board of the International Ranking Experts Group, and a frequent speaker at higher education conferences in the U.S. and around the world. Prior to joining U.S. News in 1976, he also worked at the U.S. Treasury Department and the New York investment bank E.F. Hutton Co. Inc.

Morse has a B.A. in economics from the University of Cincinnati and an MBA in finance from Michigan State University.

JACK WADE NOWLIN

Jack Wade Nowlin, Dean and W. Frank Newton Professor of Law, joined the Texas Tech University School of Law in 2017. Dean Nowlin is a member of the Texas Bar, the Lubbock Area Bar Association, the Texas Bar Foundation and the Texas Tech Law School Foundation Board. As Dean of the Law School, Nowlin has over 20 years of experience and is committed to teaching outstanding practical lawyering skills in a student-supportive environment.

Prior to joining Texas Tech, Nowlin served on the faculty of the University of Mississippi School of Law for 17 years. At UM, Nowlin was Jessie D. Puckett, Jr., Lecturer in Law, Professor of Law and Senior Associate Dean. Nowlin was twice recognized by students as Law Professor of the Year and received the Ben A. Hardy Faculty Excellence Award for outstanding teaching, research and service.

Nowlin has taught courses on constitutional law, philosophy of law, criminal procedure, criminal law and academic legal writing. Nowlin has also spearheaded student publishing programs, and his student advisees have published articles in journals such as the Gonzaga Law Review, the South Dakota Law Review and UVA’s Journal of Law and Politics. Nowlin also served as a faculty member of the National Judicial College for over a decade and taught Fourth Amendment law to trial and appellate judges.

He has written over 30 articles, book chapters and book reviews, including placements with the Notre Dame Law Review, the Illinois Law Review and Princeton University Press. Nowlin received a B.A. from Angelo State University, a J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University.
JAMES B. O'NEAL

James B. O'Neal is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Legal Outreach, Inc., a law-related, college access and pipeline-to-diversity non-profit established immediately upon graduating from Harvard Law School and after his selection as the first recipient of the Harvard Fellowship in Public Interest Law. He has devoted his professional life to changing educational outcomes for minority and low-income youth residing in urban communities in NYC. The early intervention program he created seeks to facilitate the pursuit of higher education and is built upon three essential pillars: vision, skill development and support. Vision is fostered as rising ninth graders are annually immersed in one of six Summer Law Institutes (SLI) implemented in partnership with Columbia, NYU, Fordham, St. John’s, Cardozo and CUNY Law Schools. Over five weeks, students study the law, interact with legal professionals and compete in mock-trials. These programs include study and life-skills workshops, a four-year writing program, a three-year constitutional law debate program, an intensive SAT prep program and a college philosophy class. In addition, students are provided with guidance and support through academic advisories, mentoring and college access and admissions workshops.

Mr. O'Neal has received the Root/Stimson Award from the NYS Bar Association for Outstanding Service to the Legal Profession and the Community, Diversity Awards from the ABA and the NYC Bar Association, an honorary degree from CUNY Law School, a “Heroes” Award from the Robin Hood Foundation and the Visionary Leadership Award from Legal Services NYC for his exemplary approach to integrating law and education. Mr. O'Neal is an attorney, Harvard Law School and Emory College graduate and former Lecturer-in-Law at Columbia Law School.

JOHN K. PIERRE

John K. Pierre has devoted his career to molding lawyer leaders and being a champion of innovation. Since 1990, Pierre has served as a faculty member at the Southern University Law Center, where he taught courses, such as tax law, security devices, local government law and more. In 2006, he became the vice chancellor of institutional accountability and the evening division. Currently, he has been serving as the Law Center’s chancellor since 2016.

Pierre has previous teaching experience as a visiting and adjunct professor at California State University, Southern Methodist University School of Law, Loyola University Law School, Southern University College of Business, Saint Leo’s College, Webster University, Louisiana State University, and Baton Rouge Community College.

Pierre has published numerous articles on tax law, sales and contracts, real estate and commercial law, ranging from magazine features to legal journal and law review articles. He is a member of numerous state and national organizations, including the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Texas Bar Association.

He received the bachelor’s degree in accounting from Southern University in 1980, a master’s degree in tax accounting from Texas Tech University in 1982, and a juris doctor degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1985.

VICTOR D. QUINTANILLA

Victor D. Quintanilla is the Co-Director of the Law School’s Center for Law, Society & Culture, an Indiana University Bicentennial Professor, Professor of Law, and an Affiliated Professor of the Indiana University Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. Quintanilla’s research investigates civil justice design, access to justice, and legal education by drawing on theory and methods within the field of psychological science. He is currently serving as the principal investigator of a research line on Mindsets in Legal Education (MILE), seeking to create, implement, and evaluate social psychological interventions to promote productive mindsets, diversity and inclusion, and enhance the student experience and performance throughout the pipeline of legal education, which has received funding from the AccessLex Institute. He is also serving as the principal investigator of a second research line that harnesses psychological methods to examine how unrepresented persons are socially constructed and stereotyped into pro se parties, which designs and evaluates social psychological interventions to improve their experiences and outcomes.

He served as a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University (2015-2016). He has presented his research at a variety of academic conferences, including the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, the Conference for Empirical Legal Studies, and the Law and Society Association.

Before joining the Law School, Quintanilla served as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division; an associate of Sidley Austin LLP; a staff law clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, and a law clerk to the Honorable Peter J. Messitte of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.
PATRICIA ROBERTS

Patricia Roberts became the tenth dean of St. Mary’s School of Law on June 1, 2020. The majority of her career has been spent in clinical teaching, supervising law students and providing assistance to underserved members of the community. Roberts earned her B.A. from Randolph-Macon Woman’s College. She practiced law for eight years as a solo practitioner and later as a managing partner of a civil practice law firm after earning her law degree from William & Mary.

As Vice Dean of William & Mary, Roberts was Chief Academic Officer and simultaneously served as the Director of Clinical Programs, overseeing a center and nine legal clinics that provided pro bono representation to underserved clients in Virginia’s Hampton Roads area. The school’s first in-house clinics, including those specializing in veterans’ benefits, elder law, special education, appellate and Supreme Court litigation and coastal policy, were created during her tenure.

Roberts was the inaugural President of the Board of Directors of the National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium and speaks on veterans’ law and access to justice topics nationwide. She is on the Advisory Board for the Troops to Teachers Virginia Center and a member of the Veterans Advisory Council for William & Mary. She has been recognized at both the state and national levels for her service. She was inducted into the American Bar Foundation in 2017 and the Virginia Law Foundation’s 2016 Class of Fellows. In 2015 she was selected as one of the Influential Women of Virginia by Virginia Lawyers Weekly. Most recently, she was selected as a William & Mary Woman of Influence for 2019-2020.

SANDRA PHILLIPS ROGERS

Sandra Phillips Rogers is the Group Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel, Chief Diversity Officer and Corporate Secretary for Toyota Motor North America, Inc. (TMNA). Rogers oversees legal services for TMNA and representation of the company and its affiliates, helping to navigate Toyota’s significant business and legal challenges while supporting its expansion as a global mobility company. She also serves as Chief Diversity Officer for TMNA. She is an advisor to the TMNA Executive Committee and a member of Toyota’s global leadership team.

Rogers is a founding member of the Center for Women in Law at The University of Texas School of Law and in 2018; she received the Outstanding Alumna Award from the school, her alma mater. Her recognitions include the Legacy Award from the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, the Burton Foundation Legend in Law Award, being noted as D CEO's GC Impact Player of the Year (2017), one of Black Enterprise’s 75 Most Powerful Women in Business (2017) and one of 300 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America (2018). Sandra was also featured on the cover of Black Enterprise’s Most Powerful Women in Corporate American & Corporate Diversity (2019).

Rogers serves on the Board of Directors for United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and MSA Safety Incorporated; on the board of trustees for The University of Texas Law School Foundation; and on the advisory council for the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. She is a member of the Executive Leadership Council. She holds a B.A. in journalism and a J.D. from The University of Texas at Austin.

CHRISTA SANFORD

Christa Sanford is a Partner and the Deputy Chair of the Intellectual Property Department at Baker Botts LLP. Christa has a full-time patent practice, with the ability to advise on various issues – working together with her clients to be a true counselor. She provides guidance on patent procurement, patent portfolio development, patent litigation and patent licensing – particularly involving telecommunications, blockchain, electronics, artificial intelligence, software, personal mobility and other cutting-edge technologies. Christa also assists companies in developing and managing patent portfolios and generating revenue from their intellectual property assets through licensing campaigns.

In addition, Christa serves as the Co-chair of the firm’s Diversity and Inclusion Initiative. Christa also serves on the boards of Southern Methodist University, SMU Dedman School of Law and New Friends New Life. She is the President-Elect for the Junior League of Dallas and will serve as President during the League’s Centennial Year in 2021-2022. Christa regularly speaks on patent matters and is an adjunct professor at SMU Dedman School of Law.

Christa is recognized by Chambers USA and IAM 1000. She also has been recognized as one of the Top 50 Most Powerful Women in Tech by the National Diversity Council; a Distinguished Alumni – Emerging Leader by SMU Dedman School of Law, 2019; a Texas Trailblazer by Texas Lawyer, 2019; a Most Influential Black Lawyer by Savoy Magazine, 2018; a Minority Business Leader by the Dallas Business Journal, 2018; a Top Woman Lawyer by Texas Diversity Council, 2018.

Christa earned her B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Rice University in 2001, and her J.D., cum laude and Order of the Coif, from SMU Dedman School of Law in 2004.
KELLYE Y. TESTY
Since 2017, Kellye Y. Testy has served as president and chief executive officer of the Law School Admission Council. Under her leadership, LSAC has worked with its partners in the legal education community to promote universal access to justice as a way to build a more just and prosperous world. Testy came to LSAC from University of Washington School of Law, where her eight-year term as dean made her the first woman to hold that post. She also served as a professor and dean of Seattle University School of Law. While dean at UW and SU, Testy founded numerous programs, was named the nation’s second most influential leader in legal education by National Jurist, and served as president and in other roles for the Association of American Law Schools.

Testy is a member of the American Law Institute and has served on the Board of Governors of the Society of American Law Teachers and on committees and initiatives of the ABA Section on Legal Education. She currently serves on the boards of the Washington Law Institute and LSSSE, and she is a nationally sought-after speaker, panelist, and consultant on legal and higher education, leadership, diversity and access, and corporate law and governance.

Testy is a first-generation college graduate who earned both her undergraduate degree in journalism and her law degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, her hometown. She graduated summa cum laude from Indiana University Maurer School of Law-Bloomington, where she was editor-in-chief of the Indiana Law Journal. After graduating, she clerked for Judge Jesse E. Eschbach, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

BRADLEY J.B. TOBEN
Brad Toben graduated from Baylor Law School with the J.D. degree, with honors, in 1977, after completing his B.A., with honors, in political science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He received the LL.M. from Harvard Law School in 1981 and then taught at Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis. In 1983, Toben joined the Baylor Law School faculty. His academic interests have focused in the areas of commercial law and the relationship of debtors and creditors under state and federal law.

Toben was named as Dean of Baylor Law School in 1991. He is currently the longest serving law school dean in the nation among the 203 ABA accredited law schools. He holds the M.C. & Mattie Caston Chair of Law. Dean Toben has been honored by the Texas Trial Lawyers Association for “exemplary service and commitment as a guiding light in legal scholarship and the pursuit of justice.” He has served by appointment of the Governor of Texas as a Commissioner to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and has been recognized as an Outstanding Young Alumnus of Baylor University. He also has been recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis and has received the University of Missouri-St. Louis Distinguished Alumni Political Science Award. Dean Toben has participated regularly in accreditation and membership inspections of law schools for the American Bar Association and Association of American Law Schools and has been active in the State Bar of Texas, including in the bankruptcy specialization certification program. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute, has been a Master of the Bench in the Judge Abner V. McCall American Inns of Court and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation. He is licensed in Texas and Missouri and practiced in St. Louis, Missouri.

DANIEL P. TOKAJI
Daniel P. Tokaji is the Fred W. & Vi Miller Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin Law School. He previously served as Associate Dean for Faculty and Charles W. Ebersold & Florence Whitcomb Ebersold Professor of Constitutional Law at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. A leading authority in the field of Election Law, Dean Tokaji’s scholarship addresses questions of voting rights, free speech, and democratic inclusion. He has published over 50 law review articles, book chapters, and other scholarly papers on a wide range of topics. He is also the author of Election Law in a Nutshell (2d ed. 2016), and co-author of Election Law: Cases and Materials (6th ed. 2017) and The New Soft Money (2014). His recent scholarship addresses the challenges facing democracies around the globe, including the free speech issues surrounding digital disinformation and the need for trustworthy electoral institutions. Dean Tokaji graduated summa cum laude Harvard College, with an A.B. degree in English and American Literature and Language and Philosophy, then earned a J.D. from Yale Law School, Professor Tokaji clerked for the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. A former civil rights lawyer, he has brought many free speech, racial justice, and voting rights cases over his career.
BILL WEAVER

Bill Weaver served in U.S. Army signals intelligence for eight years in Berlin and Augsburg, Germany. He subsequently received his law degree and Ph.D. in politics from the University of Virginia, where he was on the editorial board of the Virginia Law Review. He is presently Director of the Patti and Paul Yetter Center for Law. Professor Weaver teaches the torts session during Phase I of the LSPI College Summer Program.

Professor Weaver’s research focuses on executive branch secrecy policy, governmental abuse, and law and bureaucracy. His articles have appeared in American Political Science Review, Political Science Quarterly, Virginia Law Review, Presidential Studies Quarterly, Journal of Business Ethics, Organization and other journals. He has co-authored several books on law and political theory, including Presidential Secrecy and the Law (with Robert Pallitto) (Johns Hopkins U.P., 2007).

DAVID B. WILKINS

David B. Wilkins is the Lester Kissel Professor of Law, Vice Dean for Global Initiative on the Legal Profession and Faculty Director of the Center on the Legal Profession at Harvard Law School. He is also a Senior Research Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a Fellow of the Harvard University Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics.

Professor Wilkins has written over 80 articles on the legal profession and is the co-author or editor of five books, including one of the leading casebooks in the field. His current scholarly projects include Globalization, Lawyers, and Emerging Economies, Disruptive Innovation in the Market, the Reemergence of the Big Four Accountancy Networks in the Market for Legal Services and After the J.D.: A Ten-Year Longitudinal Study of Lawyers Careers.

Professor Wilkins teaches several courses on lawyers, including The Legal Profession, and Challenges of a General Counsel. He co-founded Harvard Law School’s Executive Education Program, where he teaches several courses, including Leadership in Law Firms and Leadership in Corporate Counsel. Professor Wilkins has given over 50 endowed lectures at universities around the world and is a frequent speaker at professional conferences, law firms and corporate retreats.

He holds honorary degrees from Roger Williams University and Stockholm University in Sweden. He is also the recipient of the Harvard Law School Alumni Award, the Aptíssimi Award for Academic Excellence from Esade University in Spain, the Distinguished Visiting Mentor Award from Australia National University, the American Bar Foundation Scholar of the Year Award, the J. Clay Smith Award from Howard University School of Law and the Order of the Coif Distinguished Scholar Award.
Adams and Reese LLP
African American Lawyers
Section of the State Bar
Alexander DuBose Jefferson
Appellate Counsel
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
American Bar Association
Asian American Bar Association of Houston
Association of American Law Schools
Austin Bar Association
Austin Black Lawyers Association
Baker Botts LLP
Baylor Law School
Beck Redden LLP
BlankRome LLP
Bracewell LLP
Dallas Asian American Bar Association
Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
Dallas Bar Association
Dentons US LLP
Haynes and Boone LLP
Houston Bar Association
Houston Young Lawyers Association
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
J.L. Turner Legal Association
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton
L. Clifford Davis Legal Association
LatinoJustice
Law School Admission Council
Lawyers of Color
McDowell Hetherington LLP
Middle Eastern Bar Association of Texas (“MEBAT”)
Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP
San Antonio Area African American Community Fund
San Antonio Bar Association
San Antonio Black Lawyers Association
Society of American Law Teachers
South Asian Bar Association of Houston
South Texas College of Law Houston
Southwestern Law School
St. Mary’s University School of Law
Tarrant County Bar Association
Texas A&M University School of Law
Texas Diversity Council
Texas Tech University School of Law
Thurgood Marshall School of Law
The Houston Lawyers Association
University of Texas School of Law
UNT Dallas College of Law
Vinson & Elkins LLP
Winstead PC

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One institution and an EEO/AA institution.