New John M. O’Quinn Law Building Celebration and Dedication Conference

Friday, September 23, 2022
9 AM – 6 PM Central

Approved for 6 Texas MCLE hours
Today is a historic gathering. Some of the biggest names in bar association leadership, the judiciary, law firms, legal employers, and academia are joining us for the John M. O’Quinn Law Building Celebration and Dedication Conference.

It is an exciting time for the University of Houston Law Center. We are celebrating our 75th anniversary and the move into our new home. The John M. O’Quinn Law Building is the newest law school building in the state of Texas and one of the newest in the nation.

For the Law Center’s new home, we envisioned a building that could host conferences of this magnitude and impact. With that goal in mind, the John M. O’Quinn Law Building was designed with collaborative spaces, creating a versatile facility that can serve students as well as the wider legal community.

We are pleased to have you participate in our first large-scale conference in the new world-class building. Our conference theme is “Legal Education and the Legal Profession in Promoting Democracy and Community in the 21st Century.”

Last week, we marked the 235th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution, and this is an excellent time to reflect on the role of laws in our everyday lives. We also want to fuel the discussion for how lawyers engage with the community and impact democracy.

The UH Law Center is fortunate to be based in Houston, a city with one of the most sophisticated and diverse legal communities in the country.

We are proud to be a platform for thought leadership conferences such as this one that bridge our educational community with local, national and international legal and business leaders.

Please take a few minutes to read the biographies on the following pages of the more than 20 distinguished speakers and panelists. Thank you for joining us.
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<td><strong>Dr. Robert H. McPherson</strong>, Interim Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston</td>
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<td><strong>Alex B. Roberts</strong>, Partner at Beck Redden; President of University of Houston Law Alumni Association</td>
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<td><strong>Leonard M. Baynes</strong>, Dean and Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center</td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Greg R. Vetter</strong>, Associate Dean and HIPLA Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center</td>
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<td><strong>Panelists:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DOMINIQUE D. CALHOUN</strong>, President-Elect of the National Bar Association; Managing partner at Calhoun Meredith, PLLC</td>
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<td><strong>Carlos M. Bollar</strong>, President of the Hispanic National Bar Association, Co-Chair of Archer &amp; Greiner P.C., Environmental Justice Group</td>
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<td><strong>A.B. Cruz III</strong>, Acting President of the National Asian Pacific Islander Bar Association, Rear Admiral of the U.S. Navy (ret.), Senior Advisor of BarkerGilmore</td>
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<td><strong>Laura Gibson</strong>, President, Texas Bar Association; Managing Partner, Dentons</td>
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<td><strong>Christopher V. Popov</strong>, President, Houston Bar Association; Partner, Vinson &amp; Elkins</td>
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| 11:15AM – 12:30PM | Judicial Perspectives of Legal Education and the Legal Profession in Promoting Democracy and Community the 21st Century  
**Moderator:**  
Renee Knake Jefferson, Joanne and Larry Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics, Professor of Law, Director, Outcomes and Assessments, University of Houston Law Center  
**Panelists:**  
Judge Jeffrey V. Brown, U.S. Southern District Court of Texas  
Justice J. Brett Busby, Supreme Court of Texas  
Judge J. Michelle Childs, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit  
Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit  
Judge Jenny Rivera, New York Court of Appeals |
| 12:30 – 12:45PM | Break                                                                                        |
| 12:45 – 2:00PM | Luncheon Speech  
**Erwin Chemerinsky,** President of the Association of American Law Schools, Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law, UC Berkeley School of Law |
<p>| 2:00 – 2:15PM  | Break                                                                                        |</p>
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| 2:15 – 4:00PM| **Roundtable Discussion on Perspectives on Legal Education and the Legal Profession in Promoting Democracy and Community in the 21st Century**  
Moderator:  
**Leonard M. Baynes**, Dean and Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center  
Panelists:  
**Gregory M. Bopp**, Managing Partner, Bracewell LLP  
**Alison L. Chen**, Managing Partner, Akin Gump  
**Shauna J. Clark**, U.S. Chair; Head of Employment and Labor, Norton Rose Fulbright  
**Paul Furrh**, Attorney and CEO, Lone Star Legal Aid  
**Roland Garcia**, Partner, Greenberg Traurig; Chair of the Mayor’s Hispanic Advisory Board  
**Kim Ogg**, Harris County District Attorney |
| 4:15 – 4:45PM| **Closing Remarks**  
**Deborah Enix-Ross**, President of the American Bar Association, Senior Adviser to the International Dispute Resolution Group, Debevoise & Plimpton |
| 4:00 – 4:15PM| **Break**                                                                       |
| 5:00 – 6:00PM| **Reception and Building Tours**                                                 |
LEONARD M. BAYNES

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. He manages more than 60 full-time faculty and oversees 12 centers and institutes, including the No. 7 ranked Health Law & Policy Institute and the No. 6 ranked Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law as well as the No. 9 ranked Part-Time Program.

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. He instituted a voluntary “Community Service Day” during which incoming first-year students, faculty and staff fan out across the city to work on public service projects. He also has increased the number of scholarships and opportunities for students to serve in school-funded, public service internships at home and abroad. Baynes was inducted into the Minority Media & Telecommunications Council Hall of Fame. Baynes previously served as the inaugural director of the Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development at St. John’s University School of Law.

In 2020, Baynes was named to the Lawyers of Color Power List by the Lawyers of Color Foundation. During his deanship, he was named one of the nation’s top 100 most influential lawyers of color.

CARLOS M. BOLLAR

Carlos Bollar is the President of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA). Carlos is also a member of the Board of Directors at his firm, Archer & Greiner, P.C. Carlos represents clients in complex toxic tort, product liability and environmental litigation matters. He is experienced in handling environmental litigation cases in all of the contexts in which they arise, including single plaintiff cases, mass actions involving hundreds of plaintiffs, class actions and defending clients against state and federal government. Carlos typically handles high stakes litigation with massive potential damages. He has tried numerous contested matters in federal and state courts and has experience in all aspects of pre-trial and trial work. In addition to serving on his firm’s Board of Directors, Carlos is currently the Co-Chair of the firm’s Personnel Committee and Environmental Justice Practice Group.

Carlos has received numerous awards and recognition over the years. Carlos is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. Carlos was recently named “Top Attorney” for environmental law by Sj Magazine (2021). In 2020, Carlos was named “Top Lawyer” by Al Día News. In 2019, Carlos was named to the list of the “Nation’s Best Attorneys” by Lawyers of Color. Carlos was also named “Latino Lawyer of the Year” by the HNBA in 2019. In November 2017, Carlos was named one of the “2017 Professional Lawyers of the Year” by the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law.
**GREGORY M. BOPP**

Greg Bopp serves as the firm-wide managing partner of Bracewell. Prior to becoming managing partner, he co-chaired the firm’s business and regulatory section and served numerous terms on the firm’s management committee.

As a practitioner, Greg has extensive experience in a broad range of corporate M&A and capital markets transactions and has been involved with many of the largest transactions in the energy sector over the past two decades. He was named a “Dealmaker of the Year” by The American Lawyer for his role in representing Kinder Morgan, Inc. in the $76 billion acquisition of Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, Kinder Morgan Management and El Paso Pipeline Partners.

Chambers USA describes Greg as a “brilliant strategist,” “steeped in the practice and lore of MLPs,” “a real authority in the area of MLP tax issues,” and “as good as it gets.” He is also recognized by The Legal 500 United States as one of the “biggest names in energy M&A” and for having a “talent for working complex deal structures to creatively solve business objectives.” Greg serves on the advisory board of The Kinder Institute for Urban Research and on the board of directors of the Greater Houston Partnership. He is a past director of Goodwill Industries of Houston and the Alley Theatre.

**JUDGE JEFFREY V. BROWN**

Judge Jeff Brown has served as the United States District Judge on Galveston Island since 2019. He previously served six years each as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Texas, a Justice on Texas’ Fourteenth Court of Appeals and Judge of the 55th District Court. A sixth-generation Texan, Brown was born and raised in Dallas County. He received a B.A. in English from The University of Texas and his law degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Houston Law Center.

He then clerked on the Texas Supreme Court for Justices Jack Hightower and Greg Abbott before practicing at Baker Botts in Houston. He is just the fourth Texas Supreme Court law clerk to later return to the court as a Justice. Brown was named Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas in 2006 and Appellate Judge of the Year by the Texas Association of Civil Trial & Appellate Specialists in 2010. He also received two Judge-of-the-Year awards as a state trial judge. While serving on the court of appeals, Brown volunteered weekly as a Judge for Harris County’s Success Through Addiction Recovery (STAR) Drug Court, a therapeutic program for non-violent felony offenders who suffer from drug addiction. While on the Supreme Court of Texas, Brown co-founded and co-chaired Texas’ Judicial Commission on Mental Health. As the court’s liaison to the Texas Board of Law Examiners, he oversaw Texas’ adoption of the Uniform Bar Exam. A member of the American Law Institute and the Maritime Law Association, Judge Brown also serves on the boards of the Houston Law Review, the UH Law Foundation and the Galveston County Bar Association.
JUSTICE BRETT BUSBY

Brett Busby was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Abbott in February 2019, confirmed unanimously by the Texas Senate and elected to a full term in November 2020. He previously practiced law in Houston, served on the Fourteenth Court of Appeals and taught at The University of Texas at Austin School of Law as an adjunct professor.

Justice Busby is a seventh-generation Texan, third-generation Eagle Scout and life-long violinist who grew up in Amarillo and Austin. He graduated with high honors from Duke University and Columbia Law School. He then served as a law clerk to Justices Byron R. White (Ret.) and John Paul Stevens, U.S. Supreme Court, and to Judge Gerald Bard Tjoflat, U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit. In his appellate litigation practice, Justice Busby handled dozens of appeals in the U.S. Supreme Court, Supreme Court of Texas and federal and state appellate courts.

He is board certified in civil appellate law, and his fellow Texas appellate lawyers elected him as Chair of the State Bar of Texas Appellate Section in 2018. Justice Busby serves as the Court’s liaison to the Texas Access to Justice Commission and Foundation, which help assure that Texans with limited means have access to basic civil legal services. Justice Busby and his wife, Erin, met while clerking at the U.S. Supreme Court. They have two children.

Dominique D. Calhoun

Dominique D. Calhoun is the managing partner at Calhoun Meredith, PLLC, a boutique law firm specializing in advocating for its clients in tort-related issues, commercial litigation, and government relations matters.

Prior to becoming a partner at the law firm, Calhoun was the chief government relations officer for Texas Southern University where he developed the legislative and appropriations strategies for federal, state, and local governments. During his tenure, Calhoun secured over $40 million through state and local government for the institution. Key among his achievements was obtaining $16 million in state appropriations to improve the university’s infrastructure and $15 million from county appropriations for the Cleburne Street Improvement project. Before joining TSU, Calhoun was the district director for a state senator and clerk for legal and budgetary affairs for then-State Representative Sylvester Turner, who is now the Mayor for the City of Houston.

In 2022, Calhoun is President-Elect of the National Bar Association, the oldest and largest bar association in the United States of America comprised of Black lawyers, judges, and members of the legal profession.

Calhoun is a graduate of Texas Southern University’s Thurgood Marshall School of Law and two-time graduate of Midwestern State University, where he earned a Master’s in Business Administration and Bachelor of Science.
ERWIN CHEMERINSKY

Erwin Chemerinsky is Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. Before assuming this position in July 2017, he was the founding Dean and Raymond Pryke Professor of First Amendment Law at the University of California, Irvine School of Law from 2008-2017. Prior to that, he was the Alston & Bird Professor of Law at Duke Law School from 2004-2008, and a professor at the University of Southern California Law School from 1983-2004.

He is the author of 15 books, including leading casebooks and treatises about constitutional law, federal jurisdiction and criminal procedure. He also has written over 200 law review articles and is a contributing writer for the Opinion Section of the Los Angeles Times, as well as writing a regular column for the Sacramento Bee, the ABA Journal and the Daily Journal. He regularly argues appellate cases, including in the United States Supreme Court. In 2022, he is the President of the Association of American Law Schools. He is a graduate of Northwestern University and Harvard Law School.

ALISON CHEN

Alison Chen is the partner in charge of the Akin Gump’s Houston office and member of the firm’s partnership admission committee and firmwide diversity & inclusion council. She also chairs the Houston office women’s professional development initiatives. Chen advises clients on the federal income tax aspects of business transactions such as mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and other partnership arrangements; recapitalizations; restructuring (in- and out-of-court); and other financing transactions, with a focus primarily in the energy sector.

She also frequently serves as tax counsel in capital markets transactions, advising public companies, including master limited partnerships (MLPs) and underwriters in connection with initial public offerings (IPOs), follow-on equity and debt offerings, public mergers and spin-offs. Involved in the legal community, Chen is on the Board of Directors for the Asian American Bar Association of Houston and is a member of the Houston Bar Association Tax Section, the Texas Bar Association Tax Section and the State Bar of Texas Asian Pacific Interest Section. Chen earned her B.A. from The University of Texas at Austin, her J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center and her LL.M. from New York University School of Law.
JUDGE J. MICHELLE CHILDS

The Honorable J. Michelle Childs was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina in August 2010. On December 23, 2021, President Biden nominated Judge Childs to United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Judge Childs holds a B.S. in Management from the University of South Florida Honors College, a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law, a Master’s in Personnel and Employment Relations from the University of South Carolina’s Darla Moore School of Business, a Master’s of Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law and an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Public Service from the University of South Carolina.

Prior to serving as a U.S. District Judge, Judge Childs served as a South Carolina At-Large Circuit Court Judge. Judge Childs also had the distinct honor of receiving gubernatorial appointments as a Workers’ Compensation Commissioner and the Deputy Director for the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation’s Division of Labor. Judge Childs was formerly a partner with the law firm of Nexsen Pruet, LLP, in Columbia, South Carolina, where she practiced employment and labor law and general litigation. Judge Childs is very active with various local, state and national bar organizations, as well as community organizations. Throughout her career, she has lectured and served frequently on panels regarding litigation and trial techniques, courtroom practices and procedures, e-discovery, expert witnesses, evidence and various topics for new lawyers.

SHAUNA CLARK

Shauna Clark is Norton Rose Fulbright’s US Chair and the Head of Employment and Labor, United States. Shauna Clark became the first woman of color to be Global Chair of Norton Rose Fulbright and held the distinction of being the only woman of color to be Chair of an Am Law 200 firm. Joining the firm in 1994 and certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization for Labor and Employment Law in 2003, she served as the Partner-in-Charge of the Houston office from 2011 until 2013 and was named Norton Rose Fulbright’s Global Chair for 2021.

Shauna is a trusted advisor to clients in a wide variety of industries. She offers a broad range of services to employers, ranging from preventive advice and training to aggressive litigation when a mutually agreeable settlement cannot be reached. Shauna is trusted by clients to conduct thoughtful and effective workplace investigations involving allegations of harassment, hostile work environments, discrimination, retaliation, whistleblowing and violation of company policies, and provides strategic advice to employers on best practices. She counsels clients on the full spectrum of employment issues, including diversity and inclusion. The Anti-defamation League Southwest honored Shauna with the Karen H. Susman Jurisprudence Award in spring 2022. Shauna was selected for this honor due to her commitment to securing justice and fair treatment for all through her work in the legal community, including her leadership of Norton Rose Fulbright’s Global Charitable Initiative featuring the Race Against Racism at the University of Houston in fall 2021.
A.B. CRUZ III

A.B. Cruz III has helped lead four public and three private companies — spanning several very different highly regulated industries and representing over $60B in total annual revenue — through challenge, crisis and change. He is also a former Navy Admiral who during his 33+ year military career shaped and led numerous high-performing operational teams in demanding, high-stress and ambiguous environments, and represented the United States internationally in multiple high-level engagements with foreign militaries. A.B. is a Board Director and the Nominating & Governance Committee Chair at Graf Acquisition Corp. IV and is a Senior Advisor at BarkerGilmore LLC where he provides executive coaching, leadership development and executive search services to legal leaders, CEOs and corporate boards. He is also currently the President of the Board of Governors for the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

He previously served as Senior Vice President & Divisional General Counsel at USAA, a Fortune 100 financial services company, where he led the legal teams that supported the company’s C-suite members and their organizations. A.B. holds a JD from The Catholic University of America, an M.A. in Marketing from The University of Maryland and a B.S. in General Engineering & Physical Sciences from U.S. Naval Academy.

JUDGE JENNIFER WALKER ELROD

For the past 14 years, Jennifer Walker Elrod has served as a Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Prior to serving as a Circuit Judge, Judge Elrod was appointed and then twice elected Judge of the 190th District Court of Harris County, Texas, where she spent over five years presiding over more than 200 jury and non-jury trials.

Judge Elrod is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Baylor University. She graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School, where she was an Ames Moot Court finalist and a Senior Editor of the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy. She clerked for the Honorable Sim Lake in the Southern District of Texas. Before serving as a judge, Judge Elrod was in private practice, focusing on civil litigation, antitrust and employment matters.

Judge Elrod is actively engaged in academic and legal communities. She is a former member of the Board of Regents at her alma mater, Baylor University, and a current member of the American Law Institute. She has taught legal writing and advocacy at the University of Houston Law Center, where she also delivered the Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Jurist-in-Residence Lectureship in Legal Ethics. Her lecture, “Trial by Siri: AI Comes to the Courtroom,” was published in the Houston Law Review in 2020. Judge Elrod will serve as a Jurist-in-Residence for the 2022–23 school year at the South Texas College of Law.
DEBORAH ENIX-ROSS

Deborah Enix-Ross, a Senior Adviser to the International Dispute Resolution Group of Debevoise & Plimpton in New York City, is president of the American Bar Association, the world’s largest voluntary association of lawyers, judges and other legal professionals.

Enix-Ross served as Chair of the ABA’s policymaking House of Delegates and as Chair of the ABA Center for Human Rights. As Chair of the ABA International Law Section, she co-founded the Women’s Interest Network and worked with the International Bar Association to create its Women’s Interest Group. She also led an international legal exchange delegation to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ghana. Enix-Ross is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and has served as vice president of the World Justice Project, chair of the ABA Section Officers Conference, Vice Chair of the International Bar Association’s Bar Issues Commission and ABA representative to the IBA. She is a member of the American Law Institute.

Enix-Ross was appointed by the U.S. Departments of Commerce and State as one of the original eight U.S. members of the trilateral NAFTA Advisory Committee on Private Commercial Disputes. Enix-Ross earned a B.A. in broadcast journalism from the University of Miami and J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law.

PAUL FURRH

Paul Furrh serves as CEO of Lone Star Legal Aid, one of the nation’s largest LSC-funded programs, headquartered in Houston, Texas. Lone Star Legal Aid serves a client community of over 2 million in 72 counties in the eastern third of Texas, and along the Gulf Coast with a staff of over 175 attorneys. In 2021, LSLA closed over 25,000 individual cases providing a full range of legal services, while representing over 60,000 clients before administrative agencies, J.P. and County Courts, and State and Federal Courts.

He is a member of the Legal Services Corporation Disaster Relief Task Force. He served three terms as a Commissioner on the Texas Access to Justice Commission; former Chair and member of the Supreme Court of Texas Task Force on the Expansion of Legal Services; former Chair and member of the State Bar of Texas Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters Committee; former President of the Nacogdoches County Bar Association; Stanford Graduate School of Business Center for Social Innovation Fellow; and Peter Drucker Foundation Hesselbein Community Innovation Fellow. He has published articles regarding children’s rights and legal aid in Child Welfare, Clearinghouse Review, Journal of Poverty Law and Policy and Management Information Exchange Journal for Legal Services. Mr. Furrh earned a B.A. from The University of Texas and a J.D. from the University of Houston. He also completed the Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders at Stanford Graduate School of Business.
ROLAND GARCIA

Roland Garcia is a founding shareholder of the Houston office of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, an international law firm. He handles civil trial and appellate matters, governmental relations and compliance, and commercial and copyright cases. He has tried lawsuits in state and federal trial courts and has argued appeals in state and federal appellate courts.

Garcia was the first minority elected President of the Houston Bar Association, the fifth largest voluntary bar association in the country, with over 11,000 members. He was elected state-wide as President of the Texas Young Lawyers Association, with over 22,000 members. He was President of the Hispanic Bar Association and President of the Dispute Resolution Center. He was a Director of the State Bar of Texas and a Trustee of the Texas Bar Foundation. He is a Fellow of the ABA, Texas and Houston Bar Foundations. He served on the Texas Supreme Court’s Judicial Selection Task Force, Gender Fairness Task Force, and Rules Advisory Committee. President Barack Obama appointed him to the prestigious Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy. He is Co-Chair of the Mayor’s Hispanic Advisory Board. He also serves on the boards of the Greater Houston Partnership, Memorial Hermann Health System, Harris County Hospital District Foundation, and the Board of Pilot Commissioners of the Ports of Harris County. He received his BBA from Baylor University with Honors in 1981 and his J.D. from South Texas College of Law in 1986.

LAURA GIBSON

Laura Gibson is Dentons’ Houston Office Managing Partner and head of the Texas Employment & Labor Group. She earned her J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center in December 1984 and joined Locke Lord in 1985. She made partner in 1992. In 1993, she co-founded a four-lawyer firm where she practiced until 2016 when she joined Dentons. Gibson has been certified in labor and employment law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 2001 and currently serves as a member of the board of directors of Goodwill Industries of Houston. She is a proud graduate of Texas A&M University. Gibson served as 2011-2012 president of the Association of Women Attorneys and founded the Premier Women in Law Luncheon.

She served as 2015-2016 president of the Houston Bar Association. In 2013, she received the Trailblazer Outside Counsel of the Year Award from the Texas Minority Counsel Program for her commitment to diversity. Gibson was 2018-2019 chair of the State Bar Board of Directors. She served as District 4 director from 2016 to 2020, and served on the Executive Committee and Nominations and Elections Subcommittee. She is a past co-chair of the Texas Minority Counsel Program Steering Committee. On June 10, 2022, she was sworn-in as the 142nd President of the State Bar of Texas and only the eighth woman to serve in that role. She will serve as President of the Texas State Bar until the annual meeting in Austin in June 2023.
RENEE KNAKE JEFFERSON

Renee Knake Jefferson is a law professor and an award-winning author. She holds the Joanne and Larry Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics at the University of Houston Law Center where she teaches ethics, constitutional law, and a writing seminar on gender, power, law, and leadership. She also serves as the Director of Outcomes and Assessments.

A Fulbright recipient and elected member of the American Law Institute, she regularly consults on matters related to lawyer and judicial ethics. She has testified before Congress about judicial recusal and before the federal judiciary about reform to sexual harassment and workplace misconduct rules.

She is the author of three casebooks, more than 20 law review articles, and the highly-acclaimed book “Shortlisted: Women in the Shadows of the Supreme Court”. Her work has been featured in CNN Opinion, Ms. Magazine, the New York Times, Politico, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post and other news media. She regularly appears on television and radio, including MSNBC and National Public Radio.

DR. ROBERT MCPHERSON

Robert “Bob” McPherson is the Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of Houston. He previously served as dean of the UH College of Education since 2011 and held the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair. During his four decades at the University, McPherson has held various roles, including interim associate provost for academic affairs and operations for UH at Sugar Land and at Katy. He also served as assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs/dean of students, coordinator of Learning Support Services and staff psychologist at Counseling and Psychological Services.

In the College of Education, his other leadership positions included Ph.D. program director, department chair and executive associate dean. He is a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association and the American Psychological Association. He earned the 2018 Robert B. Howsam Award from the Texas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 from the Texas Psychological Association.

He is a recipient of APA’s Karl F. Heiser Award for Advocacy. McPherson began his career as a classroom teacher and guidance counselor at a high-poverty Title I school in Odessa, Texas. He was one of the first graduates of UH’s counseling psychology Ph.D. program in 1987. He has a B.S. from Texas Tech University and an M.A. from The University of Texas Permian Basin.
KIM OGG

Kim Ogg, Harris County District Attorney, is a native Houstonian licensed by the State Bar of Texas in 1987 and recognized as a specialist in Criminal Law by the Board of Legal Specialization since 1992.

In 2016, DA Ogg was elected by a margin of more than 100,000 votes on a platform of criminal justice reform. She believes in equal justice, insuring a just process for the victim, the accused and the community in every case and has focused her prosecutors on public safety by prioritizing prosecution of crimes against people and property.

Her legal career began in 1987 as a prosecutor for the Harris County District Attorney’s Office. While serving as a Chief Felony Prosecutor, she was appointed Houston’s first Anti-Gang Task Force Director by Mayor Bob Lanier in 1994. Under her leadership, Houston’s gang crimes declined by approximately 40%. From 1999-2006, Ogg served as the Executive Director of Crime Stoppers of Houston, leading that organization to international record-breaking years by capturing thousands of violent felons. From 2006-2016 Ogg practiced law with her father, Senator Jack Ogg, and was managing partner of the Ogg Law Firm. She now brings her strong track record of public service and 34 years of professional experience to the position of Harris County District Attorney.

CHRIS POPOV

Chris Popov is a trial lawyer at Vinson & Elkins in Houston. He practices before courts and arbitration tribunals across the country. He has litigated and tried cases involving commercial contracts, corporate governance, environmental events, licensing disputes, intellectual property, constitutional rights, Internet media, class actions and other commercial matters. Earlier this year, he won a $93 million jury verdict in a breach of contract case in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Chris has been recognized by Chambers (USA) in general commercial litigation, and 11 times in Texas Monthly as a “Super Lawyer” or “Texas Rising Star.” In 2022, he was selected as one of Lawdragon’s 500 Leading Lawyers in America.

He is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin School of Law and received his undergraduate degree in Economics from Louisiana State University. After law school, he clerked on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals for the Honorable James L. Dennis.

After clerking on the Fifth Circuit, he joined Vinson & Elkins, where he has spent his entire career in private practice. Finally, Chris has been a bar leader for his entire career. He currently serves as President of the Houston Bar Association.
ALEX ROBERTS
Alex Roberts is a trial lawyer and partner in Houston’s Beck Redden, LLP, a nationally recognized litigation boutique. As a former judicial law clerk and AmeriCorps Member, he has seen the law in action from many angles and knows first-hand the value of careful discernment and the strong dedication it takes to be an effective advocate. His experience before judges and juries in a variety of matters equips him to be a trusted advisor to his clients, who come to him in search of solutions to complex problems.

Alex represents both plaintiffs and defendants in complex commercial litigation, professional liability and attorney disciplinary matters, fiduciary litigation, business disputes, employment, trade secret, products liability and personal injury matters, to name a few. He has deep experience in the oil and gas and other energy-related industries, professional services industry, construction and real estate sectors, among others.

Alex currently co-chairs the firm’s Hiring Committee and maintains a strong commitment to pro bono legal work. Alex has been repeatedly recognized as a “Texas Super Lawyer” (2016-2022) and was named to Benchmark Litigation’s nationwide “Under 40 Hot List” (2016-2018). Before joining the firm, he served as a law clerk to Judge Lee H. Rosenthal of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Alex is a 2006 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center where he served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Houston Law Review.

JUDGE JENNY RIVERA
Jenny Rivera, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, has spent her entire professional career in public service. She clerked for the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor, on the Southern District of New York, and clerked in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals Pro Se Law Clerk’s Office. She worked for the Legal Aid Society’s Homeless Family Rights Project, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (renamed Latino Justice PRLDEF) and was appointed by the New York State Attorney General as Special Deputy Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Judge Rivera has been an Administrative Law Judge for the New York State Division for Human Rights and served on the New York City Commission on Human Rights. Prior to her appointment, she was a tenured faculty member of the City University of New York School of Law, where she founded and served as Director of the Law School’s Center on Latino and Latina Rights and Equality.

Judge Rivera is an elected member of the American Law Institute. Judge Rivera has received several awards, including the ABA Spirit of Excellence Award and the NYSBA Diversity Trailblazer Lifetime Achievement Award. She graduated from Princeton University and received her J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden Scholar. She received her LL.M. from Columbia University School of Law.
GREG VETTER

Greg Vetter is the Associate Dean and HIPLA College Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center. He is a leading expert on intellectual property as applied to software, with particular emphasis on free and open source software (FOSS) licensing. His scholarship is at the intersection of software and the business of software with patent law, copyright law, and licensing law. After receiving his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering, he worked full-time for nine years as a manager in the software field, gaining expertise in enterprise software design, management and marketing. During these years he obtained a master’s degree in computer science and an MBA, both through evening programs in Kansas City.

He then obtained his J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law, attending from 1996 to 1999. After law school, he worked for two years at the law firm of Kilpatrick Stockton before clerking for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit for the Honorable Arthur J. Gajarsa. Since his clerkship completed in 2002, he has served as a law professor at the University of Houston Law Center and served as a Co-Director of the Law Center’s Institute for Intellectual Property and Information Law (IPIL). He has taught as a visiting Professor at three other law schools: The University of Texas at Austin School of Law, the University of Washington School of Law and the Texas A&M University School of Law.
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