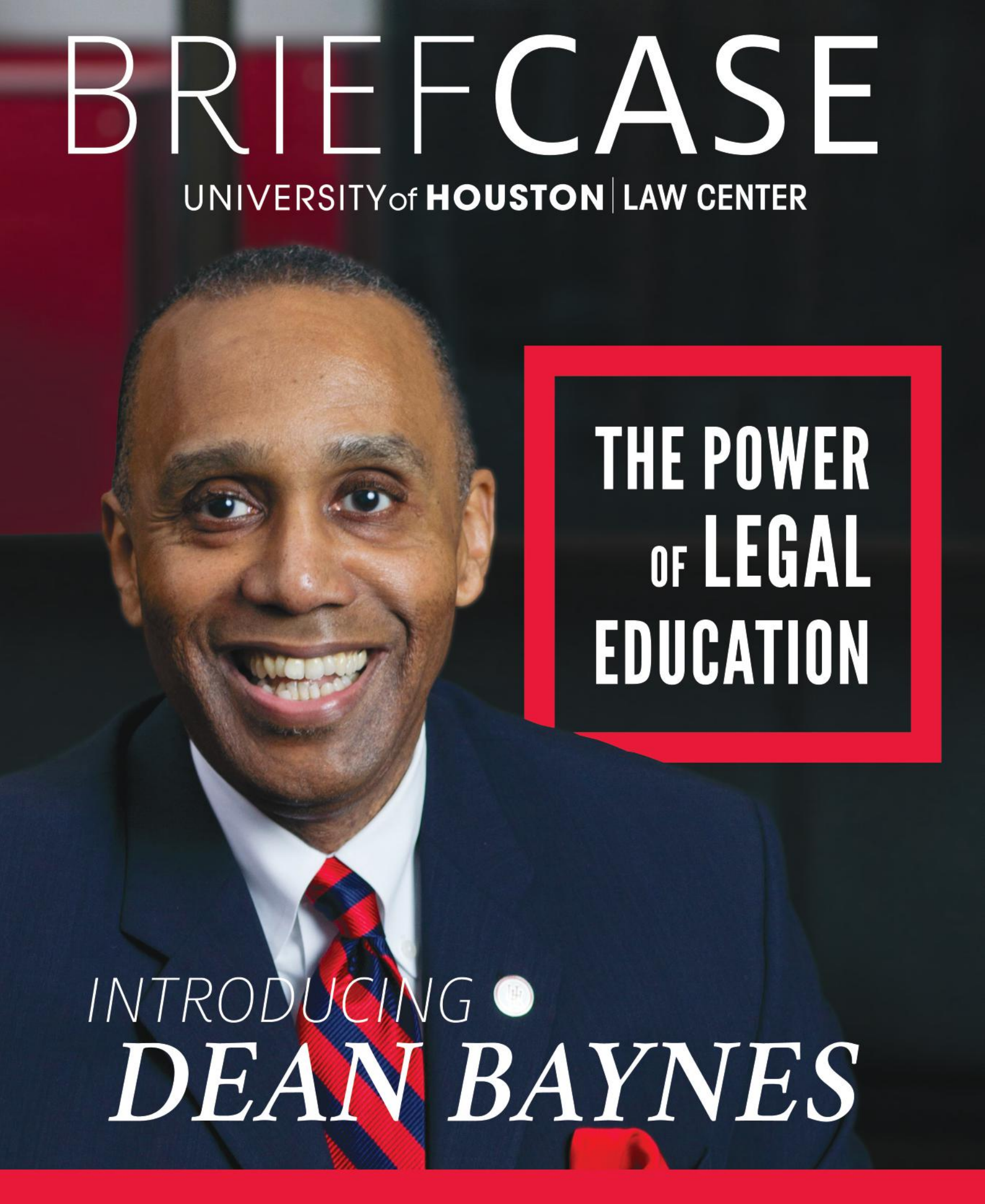


# BRIEF CASE

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | LAW CENTER

A portrait of Dean Baynes, a Black man with short dark hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a white shirt, and a red and blue striped tie. The background is dark with some red vertical stripes.

THE POWER  
OF LEGAL  
EDUCATION

INTRODUCING •

*DEAN BAYNES*

# BRIEFCASE

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | LAW CENTER

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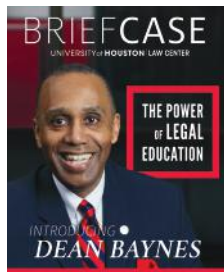
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# DEAN'S NOTE

I remain humbled and honored to serve as the ninth dean of the University of Houston Law Center. It has been about eight months since I started my deanship. Time speeds by when you are doing what you enjoy.

Over the course of my deanship, I have focused on the "Power of Legal Education" and how the Law Center embodies that power. We fundamentally transform each student by teaching them how to think like lawyers. Then the students can transform their world in their practices by seeking justice for their clients. The Law Center remains instrumental in empowering generations of law school students in achieving their dreams.

Things are on the upswing for the Law Center. The Law Center is a top tier institution with nationally ranked programs in Intellectual Property and Health Law, and the part-time program is ranked as well.

## STUDENTS:

Our students are our greatest asset. The credentials of the 2014 entering class remain strong despite the national decline in applications. They had an overall median GPA of 3.47 and median LSAT score of 159. There are 231 students in the 2014 entering class, divided among three full-time sections and one part-time section. There are 197 students in the full-time program and 34 in the part-time. This class is one of the most diverse in our history, with students representing a wide range of backgrounds. The students come from 17 states and 12 countries. They have graduated from 98 different colleges and universities. They represent 57 majors, everything from Accounting to Zoology. Twenty-six students in the entering class have earned graduate degrees, including one M.D., one Ph.D, two M.P.H.s and four M.B.A.s, plus a slew of master's degrees in other subjects as diverse as Accounting to Petroleum Engineering and Theology.

Their average age is 25, ranging from 20 to 51. The entering class is almost evenly divided between women and men; it is 38 percent minority, and 16.9 percent are non-residents of the State of Texas. They speak 23 languages other than English. These are the highest percentages of women and minority students in the Law Center's most recent history.

## FACULTY:

The faculty is a powerhouse -- highly credentialed and well-published. In addition to having the J.D. degree, the Law Center faculty holds 10 LL.M. degrees, seven Ph.Ds, five M.B.A.s, and 13 other master's degrees in a wide variety of disciplines. The Law Center faculty has held 16 federal circuit court clerkships (including 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 9th Circuits, and Federal Circuit and U.S. Court of Customs Appeals), eight federal district court clerkships, and clerkships with the Texas Supreme Court, Texas First Court of Appeals, and Harris County 125th (Civil) District Court.

Sixteen current Law Center faculty members (as well as several adjunct or emeritus faculty) are members of the prestigious American Law Institute ("ALI"). Only the most recognized and well regarded judges, lawyers, and legal academics are members of the ALI, which is responsible for the Restatements of Law and Model Statutes and Principles of Law.

## ALUMNI:

The Law Center has outstanding alumni who have taken the educational opportunity the Law Center provided and run with it. They have succeeded at the top of the profession as partners in prominent law firms and as leaders in the upper echelons of government service, business, the judiciary, public service, and public interest.

Over the past few months, I have traveled to Austin, Dallas, San Antonio, Washington, D.C., New York City, and the Rio Grande Valley to meet with alumni and other important Law Center constituents. Each of these events has been a great success, and has helped me get the pulse of the alumni. Through these trips and meetings, I have been told by alumni that the Law Center has been instrumental in their formation as lawyers by providing them with a world class education. The alumni are very appreciative of the opportunities this has afforded them.

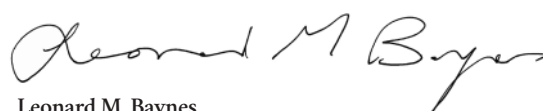
## THE FUTURE:

Despite the downturn in national and regional law school applications and the structural changes in the legal profession, I remain bullish on the future of the Law Center. The Law Center has been blessed by the past stewardship and leadership of former deans Stephen Zamora, Nancy Rapoport, Ray Nimmer, and former Interim Dean Richard Alderman. The Houston legal marketplace remains strong.

The national decline in applications provides the Law Center with opportunities. The Law Center will seize these opportunities as it fulfills its mission to train highly skilled professionals ready to succeed in the legal workplace.

In this edition of Briefcase, I detail a number of steps already taken to attract and retain the highest quality applicants. Those efforts include an initiative to expand our student pool by reaching out through a Pipeline Program to those who might otherwise not consider a legal education. We are also working to encourage alumni networking to enhance school pride and support, and provide a pathway to career opportunities. Our alumni mentoring initiative is growing; we have expanded our career counseling program; and redoubled efforts to reach out to employers of all kinds, large and small, through job fairs and interview opportunities. Our legal clinics have long been a strong component of a Law Center education, and we plan to broaden those programs to provide our students with additional opportunities to become practice-ready. In that same vein, we also are exploring ways to get students involved in more semester-long externships.

Our school remains strong. Our faculty comprises world-renowned scholars who are equally adept in the classroom, admission standards are high, our classes filled with highly qualified, committed students, and our rankings remain top tier. Please take the time to read through Briefcase and catch up with all that's happening at the Law Center, and then stay in touch so you can be a part of the University of Houston Law Center's future.



Leonard M. Baynes

Dean and Professor of Law

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## HIGHLY RANKED

The Law Center and its graduates have earned high marks in various surveys assessing everything from overall educational quality to readiness to practice law.

UHLC ranked 58th among the nation's 194 ABA accredited law schools, according to the annual survey conducted by U.S. News & World Report. Two specialty programs – Intellectual Property and Information Law and Health Law – maintained their positions among the Top 10 best in the country and were joined in that elite ranking by the school's part-time program. The IPIL program ranked 7th while Health Law claimed the 9th spot and the part-time program 10th.

The Law Center also was recognized among the "Best Value" law schools in The National Jurist's annual survey which also found it among the "Most Diverse."

The Houston Law Review ranked in the top 3.3% (53rd) of more than 1,600 law journals by Washington & Lee based on the number of citations to articles in the Review.

The Andrews Kurth national championship rankings place the Blakely Advocacy Institute at 13th among the nation's best moot court programs and the rating was featured in The National Jurist.

Attesting to the education and training gained at the Law Center, alumni associates at 132 of the nation's largest law firms tied for 12th place in expressing how well they felt prepared for their jobs, according to the American Lawyer.

The National Law Journal ranked the Law Center 30th among "Go to" law schools based on the percent of graduates hired by the top 250 law firms in the U.S. And, Forbes magazine determined Law Center graduates ranked 17th in median starting salaries among graduates of the nation's 97 most popular law schools.



## 2014 ARRIVAL AWARDS

Friends of the UHLC Immigration Clinic gathered in March to raise funds and honor four Houstonians for the outstanding achievements in their careers since immigrating to the United States.

Winners of the 2014 Arrival Awards are: **Sofia Adrogué**, Law Center class of '91, of Gray Reed & McGraw, P.C.; **Taseer Badar**, of ZT Wealth and Altus Health; **Mary Foreman**, a philanthropist; and **Dr. Adan Rios**, of The University of Texas Medical Branch. Former heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman accepted the award on behalf of his wife who was unable to attend.

"I'm honored to be at this event which celebrates immigrant achievement," said Associate Clinical Professor **Geoffrey A. Hoffman**, director of the Immigration Clinic. "The videos portraying the life stories of these amazing immigrants provide tangible evidence of the crucial importance of immigrants to our economy, society, and nation."

## HEALTH LAW WORKSHOP

The Health Law & Policy Institute held a workshop in November to examine legal matters and procedures related to Ebola and to present the most recent version of "Control Measures and Public Health Emergencies: A Texas Bench Book." The publication was edited by **Allison Winnike**, a research assistant professor of the Institute at the Law Center.

The manual can be downloaded at <http://law.uh.edu/healthlaw/>.

Key speakers at the event included **Adrian Garcia**, sheriff of Harris County, **Dr. David Persse**, the city's public health authority and EMS medical director, **Kevin Troutman**, partner at Fisher & Phillips, and Winnike.

"It turns out that there are actually a lot of legal and practical issues that arise if a potentially apocalyptic threat comes," said Professor **Seth Chandler**, director of the UHLC Health Law & Policy Institute and moderator of the event.

The workshop was attended by attorneys, law enforcement, county and city government officials, area judges, and public health officials.





### IPIL FALL LECTURE

The patent law system is in a state of upheaval, caused by the many questionable claims that evoke uncertainty in the marketplace said a leading scholar and blogger on U.S. patent law who spoke at the annual IPIL Fall Lecture in November.

“A huge problem in our system is that we have an incentive to write patent claims that obscure the invention. When you read a patent document, it’s almost impossible to identify what really was the invention. What was invented here; what’s novel? I don’t know, a technical expert doesn’t know, nobody knows,” said **Dennis Crouch**, an associate professor at the University of Missouri School of Law.

The Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law Fall Lecture is sponsored by the Ronald A. Katz Foundation.

### WEAVER CITED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Professor **Jacqueline L. Weaver** has been honored with the 2014 Clyde O. Martz Teaching Award by the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation for excellence in natural resources law.

Weaver, A.A. White Professor of Law and interim director of the Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center, was presented the award at the Foundation’s 60th Annual Institute in Vail, CO.



### WILLIS WINS SECOND TERM ON STATE MEDIATION BOARD

Clinical Assistant Professor **Tasha Willis** was re-elected to a second term on the Texas Mediator Credentialing Association board of directors.

“Serving as the educational representative has allowed me to help promote the need for regulation of ethical standards for mediators and in turn incorporate those standards into the UHLC mediation trainings.”

Willis is director of the Law Center’s Alternative Dispute Resolution program and a professor in the mediation clinic. She is currently the only law professor in Texas to serve on the TMCA board, the HBA ADR section board, and the State Bar of Texas ADR council.



### WELLS URGES SENATE TO STRENGTHEN TAX LAWS

Testifying before a Senate subcommittee hearing in April, UHLC tax Professor **Bret Wells** called for stricter controls on multinational companies to prevent them from allocating taxable profits to “tax haven entrepreneurs” overseas.

Wells, who specializes in federal income, corporate, and international taxation, was invited as an expert witness by Senators John McCain and Carl Levin.

The hearing involved the offshore tax strategy of Caterpillar Inc. which restructured its spare parts supply chain in 1999 to allocate a greater percent of its profits to an affiliated company in Switzerland. Although nothing else had changed in the design, production, or management of Caterpillar’s lucrative spare parts business, Wells testified, the “dominate share” of taxable profits was shifted to the foreign company.

### GRADUATION 2014

Texas Supreme Court Justice **Jeff Brown**, a graduate of the Law Center in 1995, called upon members of the class of 2014 to serve as ambassadors and statesmen of the law in their careers and communities, and as zealous stewards of the law itself.

Brown delivered the commencement address to 351 graduates, 258 earning J.D. degrees and 93 L.L.M., who crossed the stage at Hofheinz Pavilion in May.

In closing, the proceedings, then-Interim Dean **Richard M. Alderman** offered one final thought to the new crop of lawyers: “I encourage you to adopt excellence as your goal from day one, and for every day that follows. I trust that path will allow you to do well.”





## A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT

The University of Houston Law Center honored five of its outstanding faculty on Nov. 6 for their “lifetime of service” in teaching thousands of students how to be successful lawyers.

Recognized with a reception at the Crystal Ballroom at the Rice Hotel downtown for their combined service to the school of more than 150 years were Professor Richard M. Alderman, who joined the faculty in 1973 and served as associate dean and interim dean; Professor Geraldine Szott Moohr, who joined in 1995; Professor Laura E. Oren, who joined in 1986; Professor Robert Schuwerk, who joined in 1982; and Professor Stephen Zamora, who joined in 1978, who also served as dean.

“These five exemplify ‘The Power of Legal Education’ and all it means,” Dean Leonard M. Baynes said, referring to the theme of his deanship which underscores how the law school experience and dedicated professors help transform each student by teaching them how to think like lawyers and practice at the highest of professional standards.

Baynes called the honorees “trailblazers in the teaching of law,” outstanding in scholarship, teaching, mentoring, and service to the law.

The occasion served as a celebration of service, and not a farewell, as the retirees will continue their close association with the Law Center in the years to come. Though leaving the classroom, Alderman will continue as director of the Center for Consumer Law, including his popular “People’s Law School” program, and Zamora will continue his work as head of the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law.



### RICHARD ALDERMAN



If there is a name that is synonymous with consumer law, it belongs to Richard Alderman.

Known for years as “The People’s Lawyer,” Alderman has appeared in media outlets, including on local and national television and in his own syndicated newspaper column.

Alderman received a B.A. from Tulane University in 1968 and went on to attend Syracuse University Law School, where he graduated first in his class. After graduation, Alderman practiced poverty law in a legal

services office for about a year before earning a Master’s of Law degree from the University of Virginia Law School.

He joined the University of Houston law school faculty in 1973. He realized that consumer law was then, and remains to this day, an area of the law that was not widely recognized.

“Not many law schools even teach consumer law, and there are very few practitioners of it,” Alderman said. As a consequence, he said, consumers who feel their rights have been infringed don’t have the same access to good representation as clients in other areas of the law.

Alderman set out to change that by founding the Center for Consumer Law, recognized as a leader in this field. He will remain director following his official retirement from teaching duties at the Law Center.

As part of his work in consumer law, Alderman has given more than 1,000 presentations to community groups and associations, and has appeared regularly on Houston television stations, currently KTRK-TV Channel 13, for more than 30 years. Among his countless appearances on radio, television, and in newspapers, Alderman was featured on a segment of the Oprah Winfrey show. His weekly column, “Know Your Rights!,” now appears in 20

newspapers.

Alderman also began and continues to conduct “The Peoples’ Law School,” the oldest and most successful law program for the lay person in the nation. More than 55,000 people have attended his “school” since its inception.

“It has been a wonderful opportunity to serve as both an academician in a law school environment and do all I can to bring attention to the area of consumer law. Without the support of the Law Center, I don’t think I could have been as effective,” he said.

Alderman has written more than 20 books and numerous articles, appearing in publications in South Korea, Serbia, Japan, Spain, and Mexico. His books on the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act and Consumer Credit and Consumer Protection are the best-selling in the field.

He has received numerous awards, including a university-wide teaching award and highest honor Silver Gavel from the Texas Bar and has been recognized by the American Bar Association for his work in educating the public about the law. In 1999, the mayor and city council of Houston declared October 16 as Richard Alderman Day in recognition of his contribution to the city.

## GERALDINE MOOHR



Geraldine Szott Moohr didn't attend law school until she was 40. But, she more than made up for lost time.

Moohr, who this year is stepping down from her teaching duties at UH Law Center, is a renowned scholar of criminal law, particularly fraud, corruption, intellectual property theft, and other types of "white-collar crime."

Moohr graduated first in the 1991 class at American University College of Law, where she was editor-in-chief of the law review. She joined the UHLC faculty in 1995, after working as an associate at the Washington, D.C., firm of Covington & Burling, where her practice focused on commercial fraud and included arbitrations as well as trials.

"I began in their nascent white-collar crime

section. In a few years it had grown into a thriving, though small, practice," Moohr says. She was fascinated by the porous line between civil wrongs and crimes like fraud, leading her to research and write about such issues.

"White-collar crime is fairly new, undefined, and replete with undecided issues," she says. "It's unlike street crime, unlike robbery or assault, where we know what the harm is and can judge the immorality of conduct. In white-collar crime, we still don't have a single definition of terms like fraud. Prosecutors and defense attorneys are faced with a set of statutes that are still unformed."

In her research, Moohr suggested how certain statutes could be applied and their varying interpretations made more uniform to accomplish a better result. She explains, "By better, I mean a statute that's stronger, that's more likely to deter others, that's more likely to punish the really wicked, and not punish those who are less culpable."

In the fall of 2001, the Enron bankruptcy and fraud demanded her attention. "It was staring me in the face because we in Houston were so affected by it," she says. "I wrote several pieces on the legal issues presented by the Enron scandal, following a trail of cases through appellate courts, and watched how succeeding courts applied the initial rulings."

In addition to numerous articles in law review journals, Moohr presented many papers at academic conferences throughout her career. She also co-authored the sixth edition of the text "Criminal Law" (with Joseph Cook, Linda Malone, and Paul Marcus), as well as the casebook, "The Criminal Law of Intellectual Property and Information."

Moohr counts among her proudest accomplishments the numerous students who have turned their seminar papers into articles published in various law reviews, as well as the use of her own work by other scholars, as shown in citations in more than 500 law review articles.

"I have thrived as a law professor. I enjoy teaching very much. I enjoy working with students, getting to know them personally. I enjoy very much working with my research assistants. I always help them learn from helping me, so they are participating in the project," she says.

For Moohr, her experiences have demonstrated "the happenstance or serendipity of life. I don't believe you can overly plan or have one purpose in life. Everyone adjusts to new paths, and that's part of living."

Now that she's retiring from teaching, she's looking forward to completing two other books under contract, as well as writing more articles. She will also resume some activities that she hadn't been able to pursue while teaching.

Those activities include traveling abroad – she thoroughly enjoyed a recent trip to Turkey – as well as reading for pleasure, such as her current foray into George Eliot's "Middlemarch." "I'm looking forward to a broader life. When you teach and write, it's quite a narrow path, though a deep one," she says.

Moohr feels that the Law Center has provided so much to her: a good life, wonderful colleagues, exceptional staff, engaging students, and most of all, a challenging and productive career. No matter where her future plans may lead, she says she will always "stay in touch."

## LAURA OREN '80



Research in London about the historical welfare of women in working-class families and first-hand experience with gender inequality in

America of the '70s led Laura Oren to a career in law that would focus over three decades on civil rights, constitutional law, women's rights, family law, and children.

"I came to Houston in 1974 when there were a lot of things going on with women and their roles," said the Queens, NY, native. Armed with a Ph.D. in British history from Yale, Oren already had taught history at the college level. She became very active in the Houston community just after Congress had passed the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974. She was an organizer and first president of the Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union (HAFFCU), a federally chartered institution with 26 affiliated women's groups. Oren and many other volunteers, including several women and men who also graduated from the Law Center, founded HAFFCU in response to the discriminatory lending practices of the day.

In 1977, she enrolled in the University of Houston Bates College of Law. She graduated

first in her class in 1980 and was second in the State of Texas on her bar exam. She took a clinic course during law school that fortuitously involved her at the trial level in the *Plyler v. Doe* case. The Supreme Court's landmark decision struck down laws denying public education to undocumented immigrant children. After graduation, Oren went on to private practice in civil rights law and appellate work. She joined the Law Center faculty in 1986, specializing in teaching Constitutional and Family Law. She also served as co-director of the school's Center for Children, Law & Policy, a natural outgrowth of her interest in children's rights and welfare that she "stumbled into" in her student clinic experience with the *Plyler* case.

Oren has seen many changes in the school, students, and the law itself over the years. Incoming classes are smaller, and the average age is generally younger, she said. "When I started teaching, many of the students were older than the average student today and had a previous career." Classes are much



## LAURA OREN (Continued from page 5)

more diverse now, she added. The percentage of women has fluctuated over the years, but stands at just under 50 percent of current 1Ls. “There are more people with different backgrounds, and that is different from a teacher’s point of view,” she said. “The more experiences that people bring into the classroom, the more interesting the conversation is in the classroom. I enjoy that very much. Constitutional law is very argumentative, open to a lot of interpretation. It’s much more interesting to explore with people who have different viewpoints.” The law itself has undergone great changes with the sheer number of sweeping,

specialized civil rights statutes enacted since the mid-’60s, she said. “Lawyers have to practice strategically,” she said, weighing Constitutional case law and the ever-changing, myriad of state and federal statutory laws.

Despite well-documented challenges facing law schools, Oren is optimistic about the Law Center’s future under the direction of its new dean, Leonard M. Baynes. “He comes from New York as I do. In fact, his former school (St. John’s University School of Law in Queens) is a few miles from where I grew up. He knows what it’s like to be a school in a big city. We benefit greatly from the expertise of our

adjuncts who practice in Houston and we wouldn’t have access to those people anywhere else. There are also ways that we could give back, become more integrated in the community. We could see what it’s like to be a really good urban law school.”

As to her own immediate future, Oren plans to finish a book examining Constitutional Law in relation to race and gender as it evolved through specific historical periods. She also volunteers at a legal aid office and is auditing various classes at UH-Clear Lake with her husband, and fellow historian, Bruce Palmer, retired dean of Human Sciences and Humanities at the school.

## ROBERT SCHUWERK



Robert Schuwerk seemed destined for a career in law. His grandfather, father, uncles, and cousins were lawyers, two of them judges. They all felt he would make a good lawyer as well and urged him to join the family profession. He wasn’t so sure, and felt a bit intimidated by the legal footsteps he was being urged to follow. He majored in mathematics and taught in Chicago area high schools instead. “But in time I came around to their point of view,” he says. “I started law school at age 27; did well; loved it, and never looked back.”

After earning his J.D. at the University of Chicago School of Law in 1972, he clerked for a federal judge in Louisiana, worked as staff counsel for the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, and handled complex civil litigation as an associate for a small Chicago law firm. After several years, it seemed he was being consumed by a demanding practice, “primarily because I bought into the ‘only acceptable number of mistakes is zero’ mentality,” he said. He felt his “life was out of balance,” to the detriment of

his young family and that it wouldn’t change if he continued in that type of work. He says he always thought he would enjoy teaching law, and joined the faculty of the University of Houston Bates College of Law in 1982. He taught courses in criminal law and procedure and became a nationally recognized authority on professional responsibility and malpractice.

During his years in the classroom, Schuwerk developed several ways of helping students deal with the stress and competitiveness of law school as well as issues of ethics, professional responsibility, and “burnout” that may arise in the practice of law.

“I initiated a “law firm” approach in all of my classes, in which the students were allowed to form small firms which I would then call on rather than individuals,” he explains. “This created a dynamic of collaboration and teamwork — help your friends look good, have one another’s back — as opposed to the more traditional hierarchical professor/student interaction with forced responses from unwilling or unprepared students.” He also has advocated doing away with the curve grading system which he feels would eliminate cutthroat competition to win the scarce “A” and “result in higher student morale and a surge in collaborative learning.”

Schuwerk also developed a course, “Personal and Professional Responsibility,” that dealt with the pressures of both law school and the profession and how they can distort moral judgments and lead students and practitioners astray. He invited psychologists who spoke about lawyer-clients and the stresses they faced as well as practicing attorneys and even disbarred lawyers who described how they lost their ethical way. Students examined their personal moral compasses and frailties and discussed how they would react if confronted by ethical dilemmas in their future practice.

Today, law schools and the legal profession itself are facing challenges with rising tuition costs, declining enrollments, a tighter marketplace, and the public’s poor perception of lawyers.

Schuwerk believes the profession’s reputation might improve for the next generation of lawyers if law schools placed a greater emphasis on developing a sense of collegiality and collaboration in the practice of law, and engendered what he terms “‘temperamental competence:’ the ability to weather the emotional and psychological ups and downs of the practice of law and to exercise good judgment under fire.”

He urges schools to place a greater emphasis on integrating legal doctrine with practical skills and to make a concerted effort to serve the un-met needs of lower-income people. To do that, he proposes creation of a new professional position, a “lawyer’s assistant” similar to a “physician’s assistant,” trained in general law to provide routine legal services at reasonable rates. While conceding the plan would face numerous hurdles — winning bar approval, setting up licensing procedures and standards, developing curriculum — Schuwerk believes the proposal would be attractive to many students and help ease enrollment shortfalls at many law schools. “What I am suggesting could leapfrog the Law Center over most other schools in providing decent legal representation to that under-served market,” he says.

Schuwerk’s future in “retirement” is more certain: “I will continue to consult in the legal ethics field, keep up my portion of the ethics treatise, (“The Handbook of Texas Lawyer and Judicial Ethics,” which he has co-authored for many years), enjoy the blessings of my wife and our children and grandchildren to the fullest, and help out at the Law Center if, as, and when needed.”



## STEPHEN ZAMORA



If Stephen Zamora and his wife had not been able to find teaching jobs at the same campus, his career likely would have turned out much differently.

In 1978, Zamora, a native Californian of Spanish Basque descent, was looking for a faculty position at a major law school. His wife, Dr. Lois Parkinson Zamora, an English professor who specializes in the comparative study of literature of the Americas, was also seeking a teaching job.

"We were looking around for a university with two teaching positions. It's not so easy. That determined why we came to Houston," he says.

Zamora, who received a B.A. in political science from Stanford University and a J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, had previously worked at a Washington, D.C., law firm and at the World Bank, specializing in international business law and Latin America. Though not familiar with the city, he was attracted to Houston's reputation in international trade and investment, and was happy to find an academic home at the University of Houston, while his wife joined the UH College of Humanities and Fine Arts, (now the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences).

Shortly after his arrival at UHLC, then-

Dean George W. Hardy asked the Spanish-speaking professor to take over as director of the school's summer study program in that country. Zamora, whose primary academic interests were international trade and international banking, particularly in Latin America, agreed. For the next 15 years or so, the Zamoras spent their summers in Mexico. Along the way, he became a Senior Fulbright Lecturer in that country.

"I did not profess any expertise on Mexico per se or Mexican law. But over the years, I developed an interest in and greater facility in understanding how the Mexican legal system works from having directed the program," he says. That greater understanding ultimately led to his being the lead author of "Mexican Law," published by Oxford University Press in 2004 and considered one of the preeminent texts in the field.

Under Zamora's leadership, the ties between the Law Center and Mexico continued to grow, especially after the signing in 1994 and later implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement. During those years, Mexico's Foreign Ministry decided it needed to train its lawyers in specific legal issues between that country and the United States. That led to a formal agreement signed by the foreign minister and the UH System chancellor in 1989 for UHLC to offer master's degree scholarships each year to ministry lawyers, while UHLC students are offered summer internships with the ministry in Mexico City.

"And so now there are UHLC alumni all over the world working in the Foreign Ministry," Zamora says, including two who have gone on to become legal advisors to the foreign minister.

Not long after that, the school signed a similar agreement with Pemex, the national oil company of Mexico. More recently, the Law Center has reached an exchange agreement with the country's National Hydrocarbons Commission, which regulates Pemex, and with ITAM University in Mexico City, one of the country's leading private institutions of higher learning.

Zamora is also the founding director of UHLC's Center for U.S. and Mexican Law,

the first research center in any U.S. law school devoted to the independent, critical study of Mexican law and legal aspects of U.S. - Mexico relations.

"The location of Houston is important, I think. Because Houston is a gateway in two directions, both for Mexicans coming into the United States to do business, and for U.S. businesses to launch into Mexico," he says.

From 1995 to 2000, Zamora served as dean of the Law Center. Almost concurrently, his wife served as dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

"We suspended our individual scholarly pursuits to become academic leaders - positions we didn't necessarily seek, but which we gladly accepted. That was a very rewarding time, and it helped me appreciate the excellence and commitment that pervade the law school. In our quest to excel, we can sometimes be too self-critical," he says. "In the dean's office, one can appreciate the wide range of accomplishments we've made."

Although he's retiring from teaching, Zamora will continue to direct the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law until such time as Dean Leonard M. Baynes appoints a new director. "I want to continue to enhance the UH Law Center's reputation as a major center for the critical study of legal issues related to Mexico and U.S.-Mexican relations," he says.

He'll also continue developing another project he started, the Global Law Alumni Network, a UHLC-based website that connects alumni who practice law throughout the world. "We have UH law alumni who live abroad, including many distinguished foreign lawyers who are professional leaders in their home countries," he says. "We want to engage with them more effectively through this network."

"When I joined the Law Center faculty in 1978, I had no expectation that I would spend my entire academic career on Calhoun Boulevard," Zamora says. "Luckily for me, Calhoun Boulevard turned out to be a very wide avenue that would connect me with the world."

# MEET THE DEAN

*LEONARD M. BAYNES  
EMPHASIZES  
THE POWER OF  
LEGAL EDUCATION*







Armed with a business background and a deeply-rooted commitment to community outreach and creating job opportunities for students, Leonard M. Baynes assumed the reins of the University of Houston Law Center in August as its ninth dean. He plans to bring both of those interests to bear during his tenure. In one of his first official acts, Baynes initiated a “Community Service Day” at a neighborhood food bank before students even attended their first class of the semester, and he will draw on his business acumen and fund-raising skills to cope with the new realities of law school finances.

Baynes came to the Law Center from St. John’s University School of Law where he taught Business Organizations, Communications Law, Regulated Industries, Perspectives on Justice, and Race, and the Law. He was the inaugural director of The Ronald. H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development at St. John’s for which he raised approximately \$1.6 million from various sources. He previously taught at Western New England University School of Law in Springfield, MA, and served as Scholar in Residence for the Federal Communications Commission.

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.

Polished and in his own words, “very deliberative,” Baynes sat down and answered a few questions for Briefcase about his background, and qualifications, and his hopes, and plans for the Law Center:

### **What brought you to the Law Center?**

It was the power of networking. For the past eight years I’ve held a reception at the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) conference. The AALS Conference is where all the law school deans, faculty, and staff convene to discuss emerging legal trends and issues confronting legal education. Sondra Tennessee, associate

dean of students and a member of the Law Center’s Dean Search Committee, and Marcilynn Burke, a Houston law faculty member, attended the 2014 reception, and we talked about the opportunity of being the law dean at the University of Houston. After much research and many interviews, I found the Law Center to be a perfect fit for me. It has an outstanding and well-credentialed faculty, terrific alumni, great students, and

dedicated staff. It is part of a Carnegie Tier One Institution that is on the move. After my interviews and when the offer was made, I had no hesitation in saying yes!

### **What surprised you most about Houston?**

I love Houston! There have been hardly any surprises. I have a lot of experience



here. My oldest niece, Denise, who is just eight years younger than me, was the first to move to Texas when she attended (and graduated from) the University of Texas Graduate School of Business. She works as a financial analyst at IBM and has lived in Houston for more than 20 years; she married a native Houstonian. My older brother, John, who is my godfather, retired and moved to Houston about five years ago to live near his daughter, Denise. His other daughter, Kim, moved down to Houston with her family about three years ago. So there have been few surprises, because I have been back and forth visiting family in Houston for years. I guess the surprise is why it has taken me so long to move to Houston. It has been no surprise how easily I have adapted to living in the great state of Texas.

### Tell us a bit about your background.

Searching for the American Dream, my parents immigrated to the United States from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. St. Vincent is a volcanic island about 150 square miles in size with about 150,000 residents. It offers very few opportunities for the average person. To achieve a college education, a Vincentian would have to leave the island, which limits the opportunities, except for the most affluent. My parents had little formal education. My father did not graduate from high school, and my mother completed a commercial high school degree in the United States; however, they were incredibly smart with a great deal of business savvy and strong values. In the United States, they worked in the garment district of New York City as a presser and a seamstress. They saved their money, bought a two-family home in Brooklyn and eventually opened several women's ready-to-wear shops in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Harlem.

My parents' life story has served as a sustaining example and constant inspiration to me. It has taught me the power of having big dreams; it has taught me that all things are possible even if the odds seem stacked against you; it taught me the importance of hard work, self-sacrifice, and self-discipline in order to succeed; lastly, it taught me that the United States can be the land of opportunity, especially for those who achieve a strong education.

### What drew you to the law?

As a young person, I did not personally know any lawyers, but I did know that smart people were either doctors or lawyers. At that time, I steered myself to the study of law because I liked history, business, and politics which seemed a natural segue into law; plus I didn't want to be a doctor since I didn't like the sight of blood! As I became more mature and educated and exposed to the legal profession, I recognized that law provided the architecture and structure of our civil society. More importantly, I observed that the law helped resolve the client's and society's sometimes seemingly intractable problems. The lawyer is able to resolve the client's problems. That is what is exciting to me.

### What personal strongpoints do you bring to the dean's office?

First, I have broad practical and academic legal experience. I served as a law clerk to Federal District Court Judge Clifford Scott Green; worked in the corporate sector as an associate at the Wall Street office of Gaston and Snow and in-house counsel at NYNEX Corp. (now Verizon), and worked in government as a scholar-in-residence at the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. I also served as a tenured law professor at two other law schools—Western New England University School of Law in Springfield, Massachusetts, and St. John's School of Law in Queens, New York. At St. John's, I was also the director of the Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development. In

this role, I brought faculty together with a common vision, served as a faculty advisor for the Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development, and raised \$1.6 million from foundations, corporations, law firms, and state and local government over the course of eight years.

Second, I have a national reputation as a legal scholar; I have written more than 27 articles, and I'm in the process of completing a casebook on Communications Law with two co-authors. I have been recognized for leadership by the American Bar Association with the Alexander Award for creating a law school pipeline program at St. John's School of Law and the New York State Bar Diversity Trailblazer Award, the Minority Media Telecommunications Association Trailblazer Award, the St. John's Presidential Medal, and the National People of Color Extraordinary Service Award.

Third, my background and my managerial approach is an asset. One Law Center faculty member described me as a businessman with the heart of a social engineer. Having a Master's of Business Administration has allowed me to see problems from a business perspective. I approach matters with full deliberation and collaboration. Through brainstorming sessions with different constituents, my team works to find the best means to approach the situation. We are looking for the best ways to set us apart from the competition. I have instructed my team to analyze each matter holistically, searching for the best ways to ensure that our decisions are made to improve the overall reputation of the Law Center and in a manner that helps students pass the bar and build careers, attracts highly qualified applicants, and encourages faculty to develop as scholars and teachers.



**Your theme as dean is “The Power of Legal Education.” Can you define what that means to you?**

The “Power of Legal Education” fundamentally transforms each student and teaches them how to think like lawyers. Through this process, each student learns to write precisely, to analyze rigorously, to advocate persuasively, and to conform to the highest professional standards. Our law graduates then take these tools to transform the world by representing individual clients to secure justice and providing the legal architecture of global and national social, political, and economic movements, for example in the areas of civil rights, women’s rights, marriage equality, immigration reform, tort reform, tax reform and deregulation. The “Power of Legal Education” also resonates with the Law Center’s “Strategic Vision” to deliver “excellent, affordable education,” to produce high quality legal scholarship coupled with high quality teaching, and to engage with the larger legal community.

Moreover, the “Power of Legal Education” enables students to transform their economic circumstance and advance their social mobility. I use myself as an example, and my opportunity of coming from an immigrant family with little education to being dean of the University of Houston Law Center, a great American law school. For me and so many others like me, legal education empowered and catapulted me into opportunities that would have been unavailable to me but for my education. This type of social mobility also demonstrates the fundamental and transformative “Power of



*Dallas Reception*

Legal Education.”

The Law Center demonstrates the “Power of Legal Education” through its highly credentialed and well-published faculty, imparting knowledge to our students and through legal scholarship transforming the debate and discussion of globally and nationally significant issues. Our clinics and centers are exemplars of the “Power of Legal Education” by their cutting-edge work (with our students) to transform the world through their research and advocacy. Through their hard work and dedication, our staff exhibits “the Power of Legal Education” by ensuring that the Law Center runs smoothly and professionally to provide opportunities for our students and support for our faculty. Our students demonstrate the “Power of Legal Education” through their pro bono, extracurricular, and co-curricular activities while pursuing their studies. After graduation, our alumni embody the “Power of Legal Education” through their legal practice in representing clients and advocacy of socially and economically important issues.

**What are your immediate priorities and short-term goals?**

My immediate plan is to keep the Law Center on the positive trajectory set by my predecessors: former Deans Ray Nimmer, Nancy Rapoport, Steve Zamora, and Interim Dean Richard Alderman. It is to implement my vision of the Law Center as a global, national, and metropolitan law school. To do this, it is important for me to connect with the Law Center’s constituents. That is why I am taking the time to engage and meet alumni wherever they are. To achieve this vision, we have to cultivate an engaged alumni base. So far, we have held the following alumni events:

- Houston, Hotel ZaZa
- Austin, Fritz, Byrne, Head & Harrison, PLC
- San Antonio, Westin Hotel and Strasburger & Price, LLP
- Dallas, The Residence of Joy and Billie Ellis
- New York City, Latham and Watkins

Moreover, I have met with the following alumni affinity groups:

- African American Alumni and Friends, University of Houston Hilton Hotel
- Young Alumni, Ouisie’s Restaurant
- Law Patrons, The Grove

I have been honored by the gracious and warm receptions that the alumni have given me. The alumni are excited about the future and eager to help as we chart the Law Center’s future.

As I reflect on these events, I have come to recognize that one of the most important things that the Law Center can offer the alumni is the power of the University of Houston Law Center alumni network. I was struck by one young alumnus who told me that he wished he had stayed in closer touch with his classmates because they are now in a position to provide him business.



*Austin Reception*



It is important for me as dean to provide value to the alumni. We have to enhance the alumni networks that facilitate opportunities for members of our alumni family to meet classmates but also to get leads on jobs and business opportunities.

In the first quarter of 2015, I met with alumni in Washington, D.C. on January 3, and met with other alums in the Rio Grande Valley on January 22, and am planning visits to Los Angeles and Denver. I also want to put the alumni in touch with the admitted students. These connections will help with recruitment by showing admitted students that if they come to the Law Center, they will be part of this larger alumni network.

### **Legal education and the practice of law have undergone major changes in recent years. How do you plan to deal with declining enrollments, rising costs, and a stagnant job market?**

We are taking several short-term measures that are likely to increase applications and acceptances. First, we are working to make scholarship awards earlier in the admissions process to let students know that we really want them when we accept them. This should help us increase the conversion of admitted students into accepted students. Second, as I mentioned above, we are organizing admitted student events in the spring in College Station, Dallas, Austin, and Houston where we plan to connect the admitted students with alumni. It is important that the admitted students feel like a part of the larger UHLC alumni family. I have encouraged my team to think holistically about these events, and we have collectively brainstormed to determine how we can get the most bang for everything that we do so that it has a positive impact on admissions, current students, career services, and ultimately on development.

In terms of long term strategies, we are working on pipeline programs designed to increase the pool of students with the credentials that we want. First, the law faculty approved a 3+3 program with the Honors College that will allow a select number of highly qualified Honors College students to complete their undergraduate degree and law degree in six years. Our aim is to make it the best 3+3 program in the country and have almost a captive source



*Black Alumni Reception*

of high caliber undergraduate students. Second, we are working on establishing a pilot pipeline program with UH undergrads, UT-Rio Grande Valley and other colleges and Universities that would help develop first-generation college students so that they will meet our high standards for admissions. The program will be launched this summer and is expected to provide students who have completed their sophomore year in college with law school classes, legal internships, and an intense overview of the LSAT. Lastly, faculty members have spoken to undergraduate students in an effort to stimulate their interest in going to law school.

All these measures should help buttress us against still rather strong national and regional headwinds.

### **Why should anyone invest the time and money in a legal education?**

As I reflect on the “Power of Legal Education,” I have come to appreciate that it is a gift that endures and grows more valuable over time. Legal education literally changed the trajectory of my life. It provides access to the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed. Legal education provides its graduates with the skills to find justice for their clients whoever their clients are. Their clients may be women battered by their partner, an immigrant seeking asylum, a businessman frozen out by his partners, or a company that seeks fair treatment in a merger. Moreover, law school graduates have significantly increased

long-term economic outcomes over college graduates. A study shows that for most lawyers, “the mean pretax lifetime value of a law degree is approximately \$1 million.” [[bit.ly/1yn4RZs](http://bit.ly/1yn4RZs)]. In my meetings with Law Center alumni, I have found they recognize this transformative power and the increased economic value in holding a law degree; they are overwhelmingly grateful for the opportunities that the Law Center afforded them. I like to tell current and admitted students that a legal education is like buying a home in a very nice neighborhood: The investment is likely to grow over time, and in making a decision on whether to go to law school, it is important to see the long term value of a law degree.

### **Where does the Law Center need to be in five years?**

I envision that the Law Center will move steadily into the top ranks of law schools. It will improve outcomes for current students in terms of bar passage and employment at graduation and nine months thereafter. It will continue to provide (and increase) value to its alumni. It will continue to attract and enroll a diverse group of well-credentialed students and law faculty who are not only noted scholars but talented teachers. It will continue to instill in its students the value of public service and remain a forum for discussion of important global, national, and local issues. It also will continue to find ways to provide value to the burgeoning energy and business community.

## What are your long-term goals for the school?

The Law Center requires a new building. The University of Houston Law Center is a world-class institution located in a world-class city, and it requires a world-class building!

A building is more than bricks and mortar. It is the corporeal manifestation of who we are and who we aspire to be. The Law Center building is unrepresentative of the highly credentialed and well-published faculty. It is unrepresentative of our clinics and centers and their cutting-edge research and advocacy. It is unrepresentative of the Law Center's accomplished alumni, talented students, and energetic staff.

The Law Center's building needs to reflect our aspirations, hopes, and dreams. A new building will facilitate the recruitment and retention of outstanding students, faculty, and staff. A new facility will enhance

our already strong reputation and raise our standing in the U.S. News & World Report and other rankings. A new Law Center building will support the latest technology and equipment with appropriate space for additional simulation courses, clinical programs, and other experiential learning so that our graduates are more practice-ready for the legal marketplace. For all these reasons, a new Law Center building is essential.

I envision the new Law Center building as the embodiment of the "Power of Legal Education." It will be modern, state-of-the-art, ADA compliant, and family friendly, with sufficient and varied classroom space;

a properly functioning heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system; and a design that brings faculty, staff, alumni, and students together.

The University has engaged Dini Spheris, a very well-regarded fund-raising consultant, to help us assess the capacity and inclination of our alumni and friends to determine the level of philanthropy available to fund a new building. This commitment by the University is significant progress and "unsticks" the building discourse.



San Antonio Reception



## MARCILYNN BURKE ASSOCIATE DEAN

Professor Marcilynn Burke brings years of experience in the classroom as well as the administrative skills she drew upon while serving in the Obama Administration to her new role as associate dean of the Law Center.

Burke was appointed by Dean Leonard M. Baynes to succeed Lonny Hoffman.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with Dean Baynes and the Law Center's faculty, senior administrators, staff, students, and alumni to help write the next

great chapter of the Law Center," Burke said.

"My government leadership experience — as the deputy director of the Bureau of Land Management and as acting assistant secretary for land and minerals management at the U.S. Department of the Interior — will serve me well as a member of the Baynes administration."

"Marcilynn is an exceptional teacher and a highly qualified administrator forged by her successful tenure in two high-level presidential appointments in Washington," said Baynes. "She is highly regarded by

her colleagues, and I will rely on her advice and support as we work with the faculty to chart the future course of the Law Center."

The associate dean is a key member of the dean's senior leadership team, responsible for policy development and strategic initiatives and their implementation. Burke will provide overall administrative leadership for academic affairs, including curriculum development, scheduling, and hiring and supervising adjunct faculty. She also will support faculty members in their teaching, scholarship, and service.

Burke joined the Law Center in 2002 and teaches courses in property law, land use law, and federal natural resources law. After receiving tenure in 2009, she took a leave of absence until 2013 to serve at the U.S. Department of the Interior, where she began as the Bureau of Land Management's deputy director for programs and policy. In 2011, President Barack Obama designated her as the acting assistant secretary for land and minerals management.

Burke received her bachelor's degree in International Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She received her law degree from Yale Law School, where she was an editor for both the Yale Journal of Law and Feminism and the Yale Journal of International Law. After graduating from Yale, she clerked for the Honorable Raymond A. Jackson of the Eastern District of Virginia. Following her clerkship, she joined the Washington, D.C., office of Cleary Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton.



## FACULTY

### EMILY BERMAN

*Assistant Professor*



Emily Berman's scholarship explores the relationships among government institutions in the development, implementation, and oversight of national security policy. In particular, she focuses on

changes to domestic laws and institutions brought about by domestic counterterrorism policy. She teaches National Security Law and Constitutional Law. "Since I'm the only member of the faculty who focuses on national security law, I hope to add value to the school, both in the classes I am able to offer students and as a national security law scholar," she says.

Berman earned an A. B. in political science at Duke University and a J.D. and an LL.M. from New York University School of Law. After graduating from law school, Berman clerked for the Hon. John M. Walker, Jr. of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to joining the Law Center faculty, Berman taught for two years as a visiting assistant professor at Brooklyn Law School. She previously was a Furman Fellow and Brennan Center Fellow at New York University School of Law and held positions as counsel and Katz Fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice where she developed policy recommendations and engaged in advocacy regarding U.S. national security policy and its impact on civil liberties. Berman's work

has appeared in numerous law reviews and other publications.

"The Law Center has made my transition to Houston as smooth as it could be," she says. "It's been a pleasure to get to know the faculty and staff, who have been remarkably welcoming and generous with their time and advice, and the students have impressed me with their level of engagement -- both in the law generally and with the materials in my class."

In addition, she adds, "As a newcomer to Houston who enjoys both the arts and outdoor activities, I've been excited to see how much the city has to offer in those areas."

## STAFF

### JENNIFER AARON

*Secretary, Student Services*



Jennifer Aaron helps keep the Student Services Office running smoothly by answering student questions, copying documents, and assisting in academic

record keeping and accounts payable. Prior to joining the Law Center staff she attended Lamar University and worked at Vinson & Elkins and Buckeye Partners, L.P. She is active in her church and enjoys reading in her spare time.

### KECIA BRANCH

*Program Coordinator, Career Development*



As program coordinator, Kecia Branch provides support to the Career Development Office by performing administrative duties related to planning, directing, and

coordinating recruiting, networking, job fairs, and workshop programs for students and alumni. Before joining the Law Center staff, Branch worked several years as a legal assistant and building manager at the Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic & Center for Social Justice at Loyola New Orleans College of Law, assisting clinical professors and students. She previously worked as a legal assistant to the senior attorney at a New Orleans area law firm. Branch is a graduate of Tulane University in New Orleans with a B.A. in paralegal studies.

### ANNE ELISE DOISE

*Senior Specialist, Career Development*



Anne Elise Doise joined the Career Development Office after practicing commercial litigation in a large Louisiana-based firm. She earned a B.S. in finance from Baylor University, a master's

degree in dispute resolution from Southern Methodist University, and a J.D. from Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. While in law school, Doise was an active member of the Student Bar Association and Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity. As a senior career specialist at the Law Center, she helps students achieve their career goals whether through résumé or cover letter reviews, discussing personal objectives, or helping find the right resources to guide them in their career decisions. She also assists the Career Development Office in hosting various career programs throughout the year. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and taking cooking classes as well as watching college football -- especially Baylor and LSU.

## STAFF

### KATE GIGLIOTTI

*Director of Events*



Kate Gigliotti holds a B.M. degree in Music Business Administration and Vocal Performance from SUNY Potsdam, where she obtained a combination of skills that serve her well as an events director. Before coming to the Law Center, the Rochester, N.Y., native worked for two years as assistant director of alumni affairs at the Albany Law School and manager of education and community engagement and grants coordinator for the Albany Symphony. She also worked as youth opera program coordinator for the Sarasota Opera. She has served as a board member of the SUNY Potsdam Alumni Board of Trustees and president of the SUNY Potsdam Capital Region Alumni Chapter. After spending much of her life in upstate New York, Gigliotti is enjoying the warmer weather in Houston, where her significant other also works and some cousins live. She continues to sing, although not professionally.

### KRISTEN GUISEPPI

*Program Manager, Pipeline Program*



Kristen Guiseppi came to the Law Center with more than seven years of experience in student services. In her last position, she coordinated a successful pipeline program for four years at The Ronald H. Brown Center of Civil Rights and Economic Development at St. John's University School of Law in New York. She brings her enthusiasm and drive for student success to her position as manager of the Pipeline Program at the Law Center. Hailing from the beautiful, Caribbean islands of Trinidad and Tobago, she is an avid supporter of multiculturalism, inclusivity, and a self-proclaimed foodie. She holds a B.S. in marine biology and a M.S. in higher education/student affairs.

### KENDRA MURPHY

*Accountant, Law Foundation*



Murphy worked as a financial analyst before joining the Law Foundation staff. She attended the University of Texas at San Antonio and in her spare time enjoys any, and all, types of outdoor activities.

### HELEN WANG

*Assistant Director, Law Foundation*



Prior to joining the Law Foundation staff, Wang worked as the Workforce Solutions accounting manager at Neighborhood Centers Inc., a community based social service agency.

She is a CPA with a bachelor's degree in economics from Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing, China. She assists with the administration of business and financial services for the Law Foundation, which may include financial and human resources management, procurement and contract administration, and endowments. In her free time, Wang enjoys traveling, reading, and cooking.

## FEASIBILITY STUDY

In the late 1960s, the law school at the University of Houston embarked on a program to enhance its national presence. The school's leadership determined a major part of that effort was the need to finally build a new, dedicated home for the law school. It had been meeting in various buildings around the UH campus, including in a library basement.

The result was the complex now known as the University of Houston Law Center, designed by the local architectural firm Freeman and Van Ness in the Brutalist style that was in vogue in the late 1950s through early 1970s but less favored today.

For the past several years, members of the UHLC community, including prominent alumni, have been pressing for a new facility to reflect the much enhanced prominence that the Law Center holds today.

According to Russ Gibbs, associate dean of external affairs, to remediate environmental and compliance issues (including requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act), it would cost more to renovate the existing complex than it would to build an entirely new facility, at around \$100 million.

In a talk with students in October, Dean

Leonard M. Baynes said, "We need a shiny new building that brings people together, that is ADA-accessible, that has adequate parking, that has opportunities for people to network with each other."

To that end, the University of Houston System has engaged a Houston-based consulting firm, Dini Spheris, to conduct a "feasibility study" to gauge how much support there is among a select group of alumni and other "friends" of UHLC for making significant donations to a capital campaign.

This is a significant first step in gauging the funding support for a new building.



### CJI FALL LECTURE

The American bail system is broken said **Timothy Murray**, a guest speaker at the Criminal Justice Institute fall lecture held in October.

Under the current system, bail is determined by a bond schedule. Murray said this typically gives those with financial means an advantage in being released, while disadvantaging the poor.

Murray, director emeritus of the Pretrial Justice Institute, recommended that bail be determined on the basis of risk assessment and encouraged law students as they move forward in their careers to consider their role in helping to make changes in bail policies.



### CHANDLER TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS

Professor **Seth J. Chandler** testified on the Affordable Care Act in June before the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Chandler discussed two Obama administration decisions in the implementation of risk corridors that he says push the nation away from insurer profitability.

Chandler challenged the analysis by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) that concluded risk corridors would net the government \$8 billion. In his testimony, Chandler said in his view it is more likely that over the three years in which it is projected to be in effect, risk corridors will add significantly to the cost of Title I of the Affordable Care Act.

### OLIVAS RECEIVES MAYOR'S AWARD

Professor **Michael A. Olivas** has been honored with the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award.

At ceremonies held in September, Olivas was commended for educating the community and preserving Hispanic heritage. He is the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law and director of the Institute of Higher Education Law & Governance at UHLC.

Two graduates of the University of Houston Law Center, Council members **C.O. Bradford '92** and **Mike Laster '88**, congratulated Olivas on the award. "He is the authority when it comes to immigration laws and citizenship issues," said Bradford, who was a student in Olivas' immigration class. "He has spent years as an advocate for human rights."

The two council members also welcomed the school's new dean, **Leonard M. Baynes**, who attended the presentation.



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## HAVANA NIGHTS

39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LAW GALA & AUCTION

BENEFITTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

SAVE THE DATE: **FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2015**

RIVER OAKS COUNTRY CLUB  
1600 RIVER OAKS BOULEVARD

**2015 GALA CHAIRS: SUSAN L. BICKLEY '84 & BOB SCOTT**

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UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** | LAW CENTER



### FRANKEL LECTURE

The “original meaning” of the Constitution’s equal protection clause requires the state to recognize same-sex marriage, a Yale Law School professor maintained in the Houston Law Review’s 19th annual Frankel Lecture held in October.

“Original meaning theories ask what meaning a constitutional text like the 14th Amendment would have had to a neutral reader of the English language at the time of the framing,” said **William Eskridge Jr.**, John A. Garver Professor of Jurisdiction at Yale University. Eskridge was the keynote speaker of the program titled, “Marriage Equality as a Testing Ground for Original Meaning.”

One of the two commentators, **Nan Hunter**, a professor at Georgetown University Law School, said the problem she saw with Eskridge’s original meaning framework is that the issue of equal marriage before the Supreme Court is fundamentally political.

The real question she said is “whether we can put this Humpty Dumpty of how to properly interpret equal protection theory back together again.”

Professor **Jane Schacter** of Stanford Law School said the issue needs to be analyzed in context, not looked at in historical terms, because the concept doesn’t depend on the original meaning, but on current popular views.

Law Center Associate Professor **Aaron Bruhl** served as moderator of the annual program, which is hosted by the Houston Law Review and underwritten by the Frankel Family Foundation.



### FOREIGN LL.M.

The University of Houston Law Center has enrolled the largest class of foreign-trained LL.M. students in the 31-year history of the advanced degree program. The Class of 2014 comprises 59 students, including two Fulbright Scholars, with law degrees from 25 countries. Almost half of the students were admitted to the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources program with the remainder selecting one of the other five LL.M. specializations: Health Law, Intellectual Property & Information Law, International Law, Tax Law, and the Foreign Scholars programs.

### TURNER HELPS JAMAICA DRAFT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW

Professor **Ronald Turner** is lending his expertise in the areas of civil rights and discrimination in the workplace and elsewhere to a project analyzing proposed anti-discrimination laws in Jamaica, West Indies.

The overall goal of the worldwide program is to help nations grow and develop the kind of society that improves quality of life for all its citizens.

Turner and a team of legal experts will review proposed anti-discrimination legislation to make sure it will benefit those vulnerable to HIV as well as other key groups such as the disabled, poor, women, and children.

The research is a project of the International Legal Research Center, a joint partnership of the American Bar Association and the United Nations Development Program.

### PEOPLE’S LAW SCHOOL

Hundreds of Houston area residents heard from judges, volunteer attorneys, and law professors at the People’s Law School held Oct. 4.

It is the oldest and most successful law program for the average person in the country, said **Richard M. Alderman**, a

professor and director of the Center for Consumer Law at UH Law Center.

Over the years, more than 55,000 people have attended the program co-sponsored by the Center for Consumer Law and the Houston Bar Association. Attendees can choose from 14 different courses in areas

such as business law, tax, employment, health insurance, consumer law, credit and debt collection, and family law.

“Although People’s Law School does not make someone an attorney, it helps settle disputes,” Alderman said.



### ZEALOUS ADVOCACY CONFERENCE OFFERS TOOLS TO AID JUVENILES

The 13th annual Zealous Advocacy Conference held in May trained attorneys to help them represent children in various legal matters.

The two-day CLE conference was attended by juvenile justice advocates, professors, and jurists. It was sponsored by the Center for Children, Law & Policy and the Southwest Juvenile Defender Center, both based at UH Law Center.

"The emphasis for this conference is to provide additional tools for attorneys to provide holistic representation and to be able to respond to matters that fall outside of delinquency court such as immigration, school misdemeanors, linguistic and developmental differences, employment issues, benefits, and housing," said **Ellen Marrus**, director of the Center for Children, Law & Policy and George Butler Research Professor of Law.

### FACULTY MEMBER TALKS ABOUT LIFE LESSONS IN MEMOIR

Professor **David R. Dow** in his latest memoir reveals how dealing with life and death issues in his professional life as an advocate for death row inmates affected him in his private life.

Dow faces mortality with fresh perspective as his father-in-law is diagnosed with cancer, his dog of 13 years becomes ill, and as he appeals to stop the execution of a client convicted of shooting a man during a home burglary.

"Things I've Learned from Dying" is distributed by Grand Central Publishing.

### FROM THE LAW CENTER TO THE GRIDIRON

**Travis Cross**, an offensive lineman for the Houston Cougars football team, is a first year law student following his dream of playing college ball and then developing an energy practice with a downtown law firm.

"I enjoy football, but I know it won't last forever. For that reason, I find joy in other things such as the time and effort I put into law school," he said.



### UH LAW CENTER WINS 2014 INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATION COMPETITION

**Niki Roberts** and **Brandon Schrecengost** came in first place at the International Negotiation Competition in Pohang, South Korea, in June as representatives of the United States, surpassing law students from 16 other countries.

The UHLC team defeated Singapore, New Zealand, and England to take the championship.

Roberts is a recent part-time program graduate who is now working for Bracewell & Giuliani, and Schrecengost is a 3L.

### ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Recent news of Internet security breaches at Target and eBay and other well-known companies prompted questions and lively discussions during the Third Annual Ethics and Compliance Symposium held in June.

**Daniel Trujillo**, senior vice president and chief compliance officer for Walmart, and

**Andy Hinton**, vice president and chief compliance officer for Google, noted the importance of having a team dedicated for cyber security breaches.

Experts in the field also addressed a broad range of challenges facing Fortune 500 companies and other businesses from

navigating regulatory frameworks and third party risk management to data security. The Law Center also shared data from its empirical Code of Conduct database, which was later released as a searchable database containing compliance codes for Fortune 500 companies in October.



The University of Houston Law Alumni Association is dedicated to helping alumni connect with each other and the Law Center. Please contact us if you want to get involved with our events or have ideas for upcoming programs – we are here to serve you! Email us at [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu).

Tom Hetherington '98

2013-2015 UH Law Alumni Association President, University of Houston Law Alumni Association Partner, Edison, McDowell & Hetherington LLP

## ALUMNI EVENT PHOTOS



*Young Alumni Breakfast*



*Austin Reception*



*Washington, D.C. Reception*



*Rio Grande Valley Reception*



*Wine Tasting*



## UH Law Alumni Association Awards

*It is our pleasure to congratulate the recipients of the University of Houston Law Center Alumni Awards. The recipients will be honored at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Gala @ Auction on March 6th. Many thanks to all who participated in the nomination process.*

### RICHARD ALDERMAN



Former Professor Richard Alderman, who held the Dwight Olds Chair in Law and serves as director of the Consumer Law Center, joined the faculty of the University of Houston law school in 1973. He most recently served as associate dean and interim dean. A 1968 graduate of Tulane University, Alderman graduated first in his class from Syracuse University Law School and practiced poverty law in a legal services office before earning a Master's of Law degree from the University of Virginia Law School.

Upon joining the UH faculty, Alderman pursued his interest in consumer law, which he felt was an area of law that was not widely recognized. He founded the Consumer Law Center and became known as "The People's Lawyer" through his many appearances on local and national media outlets and his own syndicated newspaper column, "Know Your Rights!"

Alderman has given more than 1,000 presentations to community groups and associations, and has appeared regularly on Houston television stations, most recently KTRK-TV Channel 13, for more than 30 years. Among his countless appearances on radio, television, and in newspapers, Alderman was featured on a segment of the Oprah Winfrey show.

Alderman also began and continues to conduct "The People's Law School," the oldest and most successful law program for the lay person in the nation. More than 55,000 people have attended his "school" since its inception.

Alderman has written more than 20 books and numerous articles, appearing in publications in South Korea, Serbia, Japan, Spain, and Mexico. His books on the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act and Consumer Credit and Consumer Protection are the best-selling in the field.

He has received numerous awards, including a university-wide teaching award and highest

honor Silver Gavel from the Texas Bar and has been recognized by the American Bar Association for his work in educating the public about the law. In 1999, the mayor and city council of Houston declared October 16 as Richard Alderman Day in recognition of his contribution to the city.

### JEFF BROWN '95



Jeff Brown was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to a vacancy on the Supreme Court of Texas in 2013. In 2014, he won a statewide election to retain the seat. A sixth-generation Texan, Judge Brown was born and raised in Dallas County. He became an Eagle Scout at age 16. He received a B.A. in English from the University of Texas at Austin and his law degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Houston. While in law school, he served as chief note and comment editor of the Houston Law Review and as class representative on the Student Bar Association. He was also a member of the Order of the Coif, the Order of the Barons, Phi Delta Phi, and was awarded a Dean's Scholarship.

After law school, he worked as a law clerk for the Supreme Court of Texas, first for Justice Jack Hightower, a Democrat, then for Justice Greg Abbott, a Republican. He later joined Baker Botts in Houston where he had a diverse civil litigation practice, trying jury cases throughout southeast Texas. He is board certified in civil trial law.

In 2001, Perry appointed him to the 55th District Court, where he served until 2007, when the governor appointed him to the 14th Court of Appeals. In 2013, his colleagues chose him to serve as interim chief justice of the court.

Judge Brown is co-author of the "Texas Rules of Evidence Handbook," a 1,100-page scholarly treatise originally published by the Houston

Law Review and now published by Jones McClure Publishing. A member of the American Law Institute, he is chairman of the board of the Houston Law Review. He has served as an adjunct law professor at the University of Houston and taught constitutional law at the National Judicial College. He also served several years as vice-president of the University of Houston Law Alumni Association.

### KIMBERLY FRYE, '97



Kimberly Frye joined Key Energy Services, Inc. in October 2002 as associate general counsel. She handled a wide variety of corporate and securities matters, including issues arising from the company's delayed financial reporting process beginning in 2004 and culminating in the re-listing of Key's stock on the NYSE in October 2007. In July 2008, she was promoted to senior vice president and general counsel.

Prior to joining Key, Frye was an attorney with Porter & Hedges, L.L.P. in Houston. Her experience includes private and public offerings of equity and debt securities, venture capital transactions, acquisitions and sales of privately and publicly held companies, equity compensation, SEC reporting and compliance, formation and structuring of startup ventures and corporate governance.

Prior to attending law school, Frye worked as a federal bank examiner for the FDIC. She received her B.S. in corporate finance and investment management from the University of Alabama in 1991 and her J.D. from UHLC in 1997.

Frye is a member of the State Bar of Texas and the Texas General Counsel Forum. Featured in the November 2008 issue of Corporate Counsel, she was also a finalist for the Houston Business Journal's 2009 "Outstanding Corpo-

rate Counsel” and “Best Handling of a Complex Issue” awards. In 2010, she was recognized by the National Diversity Council as one of the “Most Powerful & Influential Women in Texas.” In 2013, the Association of Women Attorneys honored her with the “Premier Women in Law Honoree Award.” In 2014, she was recognized with the “Influential Women Leaders” award, as well as one of the “Top 50 Women in Oil and Gas” by the National Diversity Council.

## LAURA CARTER HIGLEY '89



Justice Laura Carter Higley has served three terms on the Texas First Court of Appeals, having first been elected in 2002. In 2008, she received the highest number of votes of any female opposed by a major party in the State of Texas.

During her 12 years on the bench, Justice Higley has authored 865 opinions and has participated in approximately 1,570 panel decisions.

Prior to her election as judge, she was special counsel in the tax department at Baker & Botts, with a focus on employment benefits and health care law. Previously, she also served on the West University Place City Council as mayor pro-tem, and also was elected mayor.

Justice Higley, a fifth-generation Texan, was born and raised in Port Arthur. She received her undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University, her master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and graduated among the top of her class at the University of Houston Law Center. At UHLC, she was selected as an associate editor of the Law Review, a member of the Order of the Barons, and the Order of the Coif.

Currently, she serves as an elder of First Presbyterian Church, as a director on the advisory board for the Houston Law Review, and as a director of the board of directors of Presbyterian School and Brazos Presbytery Homes. She is a life member of the Houston Bar Association

and the Texas Bar Foundation.

Justice Higley has served as development chair and chairman of the board of the Nehemiah Center, a faith-based community center initiated by First Presbyterian Church, and as a director of the Harris County Children's Assessment Center and the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

In recognition of her devotion to the community, Justice Higley's Rotary Club made her a Paul Harris Fellow in 2008. She was one of five Houstonians to be awarded the Mayor's Award for Volunteer Service in 1986.

## DEBORAH HIRSCH



Deborah Hirsch served the students of the University of Houston Law Center for 23 years, including leading the Career Services operation for many years before directing the Office of External Affairs.

As assistant dean for career services, Hirsch established relationships with many law students as, together, they explored the journey and adventure of moving from student life to professional life. She deeply values these relationships and is honored to have participated in these important transitions.

As assistant dean for external affairs, Hirsch worked to keep alumni relationships active among UH Law Center graduates through event planning and annual fundraising. This participation by Law Center alumni volunteers included dynamic growth of the annual Law Center gala.

In 2005, Hirsch joined DePelchin Children's Center as vice-president for development.

She became senior director of development at Houston Grand Opera in 2006. While increasing her own love for opera, she has helped build a development organization that recently completed the largest comprehensive campaign in the history of the company.

The true pride of Hirsch's life is her family, which she has built with great joy with her husband, Michael. Her family has always taken a sincere pleasure in her work life, and particularly enjoyed the association with the UH Law Center.

## LONNY HOFFMAN



Lonny Hoffman, Law Foundation Professor and immediate past associate dean, joined the Law Center faculty in 2001. An expert on procedural law in federal and state courts, he is a prolific scholar whose work has appeared in the country's leading law reviews and been highly influential with commentators, lawyers, and courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the classroom, he is an acclaimed and dedicated teacher. One of several teaching awards he has won put it this way: “Professor Lonny Hoffman embodies all the qualities of a great educator. Not only does he have an astounding command of his subject area, he takes pride and pleasure in sharing that knowledge with his students. Professor Hoffman's energetic approach and ‘real world’ attitude to teaching bring a freshness to the classroom which inspires his students to give one hundred percent of their efforts to live up to his high standards.”

In addition to his scholarly work, Hoffman is actively involved in professional practice. He has testified before Congress on several occasions, spoken by invitation to federal rule makers, and lectured around the world on civil litigation subjects.

In 2009, he was elected to the American Law Institute. Previously, he has served as chairman of the Civil Procedure Section of the American Association of Law Schools. At the request of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, Lonny was the reporter for a project to revise the circuit's civil Pattern Jury Instructions.

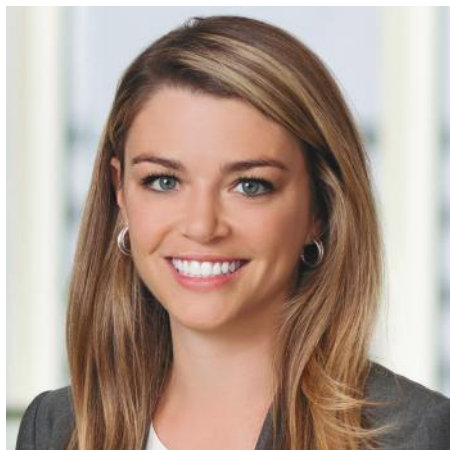
At the state level, Hoffman has served on numerous professional committees and organizations. He remains an active member



of the Supreme Court of Texas Rules Advisory Committee, which he has served on since 2005. For more than a decade, he has been Editor-in-Chief of the Advocate, a quarterly journal published by the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas.

Hoffman earned his B.A. degree from Columbia University in 1989 and his J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 1992.

## BRITTANY SAKOWITZ KUSHNER, '10



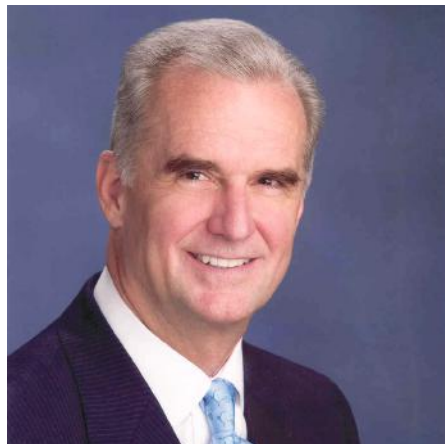
Brittany Sakowitz Kushner is an attorney at Vinson & Elkins LLP in the mergers and acquisitions and capital markets group. She assists a variety of public and private companies as well as private equity investors and their portfolio companies in connection with acquisitions, mergers, divestitures and strategic investments. She also works with issuers and underwriters in public offerings and private placements of debt and equity securities, and securities law compliance and periodic reporting matters. Prior to joining Vinson & Elkins LLP, she was an associate with Baker & Hostetler LLP. Kushner received recognition as a "Texas Super Lawyers Rising Star" in 2014 and 2015.

Born in Houston, Kushner earned a bachelor's degree in mass communications from Louisiana State University and a J.D. and M.B.A. from the University of Houston. She received graduate certificates in energy investment analysis and energy accounting and finance from the University of Houston Bauer College of Business. While in law school, she received the 2009 Writing Award for an "Outstanding Comment on a Topic in International Law" and was elected as a justice to the UH Law Honor Court.

Kushner is an avid supporter of Hermann Park, serving on the Hermann Park Conservancy Advisory Board and as a member and past chair of the Urban Green Young Professionals Group. She serves as a committee member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Mutton Bustin' Committee and is a young alumni supporter of the Kinkaid School. She is a member of Texas

Executive Women and serves on the board of Women on the Move. She also volunteers through the Junior League of Houston.

## GRAY H. MILLER, '78



U.S. District Judge Gray H. Miller was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Southern District of Texas in April 2006.

After attending the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy from 1967 to 1969, Judge Miller served as a Houston police officer from 1969 to 1978. He received a B.A. from the University of Houston in 1974 and a J.D. from the UH Law Center in 1978.

Upon graduation, Miller joined the firm of Fulbright & Jaworski as an associate. He became a partner in 1986 and a senior partner in 1998. He served in that role until his appointment to the federal bench.

He received many accolades as a practicing lawyer, including being listed in the 2001-2006 editions of "The Best Lawyers in America" as one of the top admiralty lawyers in the country, inclusion in the 2003 edition of "Euro Money's Guide to the World's Leading Maritime Lawyers," and being chosen as a "Texas Super Lawyer."

He is a member of the Houston Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, the Maritime Law Association of the United States, and the Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association. He also has served as a vice chairman of the Admiralty and Maritime Law Committee of the Tort and Insurance Practice Section of the American Bar Association.

Additionally, he is a life fellow of the Houston Bar Foundation and a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. He is a member of the Houston Marine Insurance Seminar Executive Committee and has served on the planning committees for seminars on Admiralty and Maritime Law sponsored by the State Bar of Texas, the University of Texas, and South Texas College of Law. He is a frequent speaker at these seminars.

Judge Miller is a judicial liaison to the Federal Bar Association, Southern District of Texas Chapter, and an honorary member of the Phi Delta Phi International Legal Honor Society. He is a member of the Board of the Insurance Council of the State Bar of Texas, and served as vice president and counselor to the executive committee of the Garland R. Walker American Inn of Court from 2010 to 2014.

Judge Miller is also active in many non-legal groups. He is a member of the advisory boards of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Greater Houston and the Cavalla Historical Foundation, and he is a life member of the 100 Club of Houston. He is also an associate member of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association and Foundation.

From 2002-2004, he was a board member of the Texas Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation. From 1991-1999, he was a member of the board of trustees of the Harris County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority, and served as chairperson from 1997-1999.

## ALEX ROBERTS, '06



Alex Roberts came to Houston in 1997 from South Dakota as an AmeriCorps volunteer at Casa de Esperanza, a children's crisis shelter, where he met his wife Anne, also a volunteer. Following AmeriCorps, Roberts graduated from the University of Houston in 2002 and from the UH Law Center in 2006. While at UHLC, he served as editor-in-chief of the Houston Law Review and received the Distinguished Service Award in 2006.

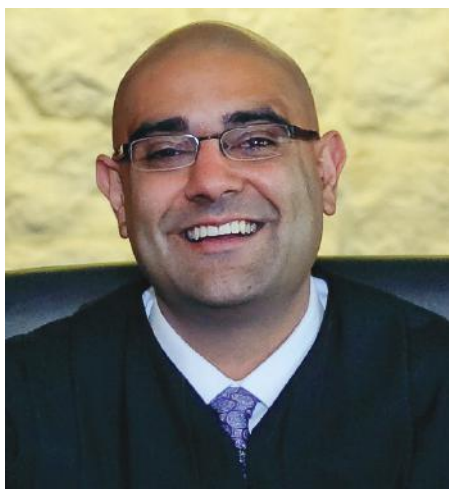
After graduation, Roberts served as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Lee H. Rosenthal from August 2006 to August 2007.

Roberts joined the boutique litigation firm of Beck Redden LLP in the fall of 2007. He became a partner in January 2015. He represents both plaintiffs and defendants in complex commercial litigation, business disputes,

employment, trade secret, products liability, personal injury, and professional liability matters. Roberts represents clients in the energy, legal, financial, and real estate sectors, among many others.

Roberts also maintains a strong commitment to pro bono legal work and is actively involved in community service. Among his other professional activities, he serves on the board of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the Houston Law Review, is a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and serves as an assistant editor of the Texas State Bar Litigation Section's the Advocate. He was recognized as a "Texas Super Lawyers Rising Star" in 2012, 2013, and 2014.

## JUDGE R. K. SANDILL, '01



R. K. Sandill is a state district judge presiding over a civil docket in the 127th District Court in Harris County, having first been elected in 2008.

Judge Sandill has been a member of the State Bar of Texas since 2001, a Fellow of the State Bar Foundation since 2011, and a Houston Young Lawyers' Foundation Fellow since 2010. He served on the Racial Diversity in the Profession Committee from 2009 to 2013 and on the Texas Minority Counsel Program Steering Committee in 2010 and 2012.

He is a member of the Houston Bar Association, for which he has served as a biannual speaker at meetings of the Litigation Section and the Employment Section. In 2011-2012, he was co-chair of the Bone Marrow Match Committee. In 2012-2013, he co-chaired the Minority Opportunities in the Profession Committee, for which he received the President's Award for Outstanding Service. He has been a member of the Speakers' Bureau since 2013.

He has been a member of the Garland R. Walker Inn of Court since 2004 and has served on its Executive Board since 2009. He has chaired both the Scholarship Committee and the Reception Committee.

He is a frequent speaker, panelist, and moderator, at numerous Continuing Legal Education events across the State of Texas and the nation. He has made several appearances at the University of Texas Labor & Employment Conference. In February 2015, he will serve on the "Men Joining Women for Change: Harnessing the Power of Inclusivity" panel at the American Bar Association's mid-year meeting in Houston.

Among his many civic activities, he has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Gulf Coast Chapter, as well as its advisory board; served as a speaker and mentor with the Indian Cultural Center's Youth Leadership Development Program; and served as inaugural gala keynote speaker for the Indian American Cancer Network. He serves as an advisory board member of iTeach.

In 2011, he received the Indian Cultural Center's Award for Legal Service. In 2012, he received the Asia Houston Network's Leadership Award. In 2014, he received the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston's Pioneer in Public Service Award. Since May 2013, he has convened a weekly breakfast to discuss issues regarding the Houston area. The breakfast series brings together members of various industries in the city.

## BOB M. SCHICK, '81



A Houstonian since age 10, Bob Schick graduated from Princeton University in 1976 and spent the next two years working in Alaska and Michigan. He came "home" to attend the University of Houston Law Center, graduating in 1981. While at UHLC, he served as chief justice of the Advocates.

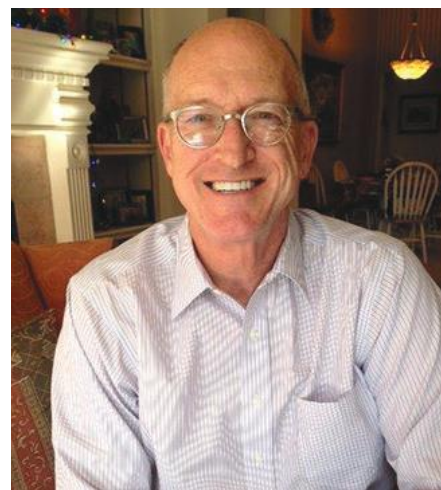
Upon graduation from UHLC, Schick joined Vinson & Elkins, where he has practiced in the litigation group for 32 years, served on the firm's management committee for 12 years and as co-head of the litigation department.

In early 2014, he and fellow VE partner and

friend Morgan Copeland formed the firm Schick & Copeland.

Schick's practice has involved virtually every kind of litigation—business disputes, breach of contract, energy-related litigation, products liability, mass tort, environmental and class-wide litigation. His extensive lead trial experience is attested to by his membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates and his Fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers.

## JIM F. TILLSON, '79



Jim F. Tillson is a senior counsel with Phillips 66 and a perennial leader in the alumni association's 100% Challenge fundraising campaign. After earning a B.A. in English from Southern Methodist University and his J.D. from the Law Center, Tillson joined the litigation section for the firm of Dyche and Wright in Houston and subsequently practiced at Calvin, Dylewski, Gibbs, Maddox and Verner until 1986.

At that time, he moved to an in-house counsel role with Conoco Inc. and had an active trial practice in the areas of oil and gas and toxic torts. His career continued in a case management role with ConocoPhillips Company, and he is now a senior counsel with Phillips 66 where he specializes in the defense of benzene and asbestos claims.

Tillson has been a stalwart supporter of the Law Center Alumni 100% Challenge since its inception in 2010. He has successfully led his companies to achieve the full participation goal in each year he has served as captain. Additionally, he is a member of the Dean's Society.

Tillson donates his time and talent to the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program and to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Cypress. He is married to Patti, a therapist in Houston, and together they have one daughter, Erica Jade.



## DEAN'S AWARD WINNER

### *Jeff Dodd*



In the summer before he started law school at the University of Houston, Jeff Dodd unloaded boxcars to earn money to pay his tuition. To this day, he keeps a model boxcar that his mother gave him on his office bookshelf at the Andrews Kurth law firm, where he is a senior partner.

"When I get aggravated about something, I look at that boxcar and say, 'Things could be a lot worse,'" says Dodd, who will be the recipient of the Dean's Award at the 39th Annual Law Gala and Auction on March 6.

"This institution gave me the tools that I needed to go out and succeed. I'm very committed to making it even better than when I was here," Dodd says, who graduated from UHLC in 1979.

Dodd's roots at the University of Houston and UHLC run deep. He received his undergraduate degree from the Honors College, and met his wife, fellow UHLC graduate, Susan Ohsfeldt, at the Law Center. Her father, Ronald Ohsfeldt, is also a UHLC alumnus, and their daughter, Katharine, graduated in 2014.

Dodd also has taught as an adjunct professor, focusing on licensing law, and has taught an undergraduate Constitutional law course at UH. He has written articles for the Houston Law Review, and is the co-author with Professor and former Dean Ray Nimmer of the treatise *Modern Licensing Law*, one of the industry's most respected publications on the topic of intellectual property licensing.

At Andrews Kurth, Dodd is the chair of the firm's global intellectual property and technology group. He also practices in

the area of corporate securities, which involves mergers and acquisitions, taking companies public, and corporate compliance and governance.

A longtime member of the UHLC Dean's Society, Dodd also serves as a member and president of the University of Houston Law Foundation Board of Directors and as University of Houston Honors College Advisory Board member. He is a lifetime

fellow in both the Texas Bar Foundation and the Houston Bar Foundation.

Dodd says that most higher education institutions "will give you more opportunities to learn than you can possibly absorb."

"It's what you make of your educational opportunity and what you do with it after," he says. "So it is incumbent on those who have benefited from that type of experience to help those who follow. That is what will make the institution strong."

"I would not be where I am today without a first-class education, which I did receive from the University of Houston," Dodd says. "I have a truly high regard for the institution. I'm very excited about its prospects."

"We as alumni all have a vested interest that this institution remains top-notch. I think that the leadership at this institution has been fantastic. We have a good faculty, and new faculty coming up that will enable the Law Center to maintain and even enhance its reputation over time," he says.

## ALUMNI PROFILES

## Celina Moreno '10



Celina Moreno is living her dream, serving as a voice for the socially and economically challenged throughout the Southwest by advocating for education, immigration, and voting and employment rights as a legislative counsel.

A 2010 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, Moreno is the legislative staff attorney in the Southwest regional office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) based in San Antonio, which covers nine states. MALDEF, founded in 1968, is a leading Latino civil rights organization sometimes described as "the law firm of the Latino community."

Moreno, who grew up in working-class San Antonio, said she was always drawn toward serving the underprivileged, particularly in regard to disparities in the quality of public education. As an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin, she studied journalism and often wrote about race and class for *The Daily Texan*. But simply writing about those issues ultimately wasn't satisfying.

"I wanted to be more of an advocate," she said. Growing up in San Antonio, she'd often heard about legendary civil rights attorney Albert Kaufman, who worked for more than 20 years at MALDEF, where he was involved in several landmark public education cases. His example inspired her to pursue a path toward impacting policy and the law.

Following graduation from UT, Moreno studied public policy at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. She then spent a year teaching English to middle-school children in Mexico.

It was always in the back of her mind to attend law school, Moreno says, and after several years away, she longed to return to Texas. As a proponent of public education, she says, it was also very important that she attend a public law school. She enrolled at UHLC in 2007.

Moreno credits the school's immigration clinic and summer externship program -- along with her clerkships with state and federal judges -- with giving her the opportunity to broaden her knowledge of public interest law and enhance her advocacy skills. That is something she relishes in her role at MALDEF, which she joined in April 2013. Much of her work involves tracking bills during the biennial sessions of the Texas Legislature and educating the public, as well as litigation.

For Moreno, the "power of a legal education" means that she has a wide variety of options available to her, ranging from working in the corporate sector to practicing public advocacy, which is her passion. The analytical thinking she learned has helped her not only frame her own arguments, but understand how factors such as a business perspective might impact the policies she advocates. As an example, she cited the recent issue of unaccompanied minors from Central America who arrived at the Texas border in large numbers in 2014.

As the Law Center looks toward enhancing its reputation, Moreno says the school, located in the nation's fourth-largest city and one of its most diverse, should capitalize on those features by expanding its outreach into the community.

## Judge Ken Owens '83



Ken Owens planned a private practice as a trial advocate, but began working for the state while still a law student and has spent his entire career in state government.

He recently began as an administrative law judge with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Before his current position, he served as general counsel at the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) and worked in various management roles at the former Department of Human Services (DHS).

Owens received a B.A. in social sciences administration, with a specialization in political science and history, from the University of Houston in 1977. He attended the evening program at UHLC while working full time, and began his career in state government during his second year.

"I thought I wanted to do trial advocacy, but I was not sure which area of the law I wanted to be an advocate," Owens says. "At some point, I found out that the state hired attorneys who prosecuted administrative actions. This seemed interesting to me, so I eventually was hired to do various types of administrative hearings for (DHS)."

He began working at DHS in 1980, remaining there until 2004 except for a brief stint with the Texas Rehabilitation Commission in 1995.

"I initially intended to work a few years and then open my own practice," he says, "but I kept getting opportunities and eventually moved into management with DHS. Around that time, I realized that I could make state employment my career and decided to stick around. I became board certified in administrative law and settled in to see where my journey would take me."

Owens went to the DADS in 2004, serving as that agency's general counsel for seven and a half years.

In early 2004, Owens decided to "slow down a bit and get back to my administrative law roots." He retired from DADS and accepted a position as an administrative law judge with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

"As both a general counsel and an administrative law judge -- and in the many positions I have held over my legal career -- I have enjoyed the analysis and decision-making that is associated with my job. The training that I received at the University of Houston Law Center played a significant part in my ability to do the work that I do."

In addition to his service with the State of Texas, Owens served for seven



## ALUMNI PROFILES

years as the president of the Austin chapter of the UH Alumni Association, of which he is a life member and Cougar Pride member.

He also served as board member of the Greater Texas Federal Credit Union for 12 years, serving as chairman for three years. He is presently on the board of the Cedar Ridge High School Theater Arts Booster Club, where he serves as parliamentarian.

### The Thrower Dynasty

For most families, having just one member graduate from a prestigious law school would be considered a great accomplishment. The Thrower family has had four members from three generations graduate from the University of Houston Law Center.

Vern Thrower, a Missouri native born in 1921, served with distinction in



Three generations of the Thrower family have graduated from the University of Houston Law Center (clockwise from bottom left): Patriarch Vern Thrower, '54 (deceased); son, Gregory Thrower, '70; his daughter, Lilly Thrower King, '91; her husband, Alan King, Jr., '91; and Vern's son, Lynn Thrower, '75.

the U.S. Army's 103rd Infantry Division in France during World War II. He earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his participation in the assault of the Siegfried Line during the Battle of the Bulge.

After mustering out at the end of the war, Vern was determined to go to college and then law school on the newly created G.I. Bill. He and his wife, Midge, had two sons, Gregory, born while Vern was overseas, and Vernon (Lynn).

Vern graduated from Missouri's Alma College in 1951. When the then-new University of Houston College of Law accepted him, Vern packed up his

Owens is a graduate of the Governor's Executive Development Program, a longtime member of the College of the State Bar of Texas, and a member of the litigation and administrative law sections of the State Bar and the Austin Bar Association.

He and his wife, Lena Brown-Owens, have two children, Max and Olevia.

young family, as well as his father, Logan, and headed south. The school provided barracks-style housing for veterans and their families, and Vern worked in a sheet metal shop while attending both day and night classes. He graduated in 1954 and immediately set up his own practice with classmate and fellow veteran, Chris Cole.

Gregory says he and his brother Lynn virtually grew up on the UH campus, often hanging out at the M.D. Anderson Library, where the law school held classes in the basement. The family would often visit the homes of faculty members, including Professor Dwight Olds and Deans A. A. White and Newell Blakely.

After receiving a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, Gregory went to the rechristened University of Houston School of Law, earning his J.D. in 1970 as a member of the first class to graduate from the then-new Brutalist-style building that broke ground two years earlier. He promptly joined his father's practice, where he continues to this day, with his wife, Carole, serving as the small firm's executive assistant.

Younger brother Lynn also graduated from the UH law school in 1975 and joined the family firm before becoming associate judge of the 311th Family District Court, remaining on the bench for nearly 10 years.

But Vern's dream was for a third generation of the Thrower family to graduate from the law school – a dream that was fulfilled when Gregory's daughter, Lilly, received her J.D. in 1991.

Lilly, who like her father received her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, says she thought about attending law school there. But her grandfather's persuasive abilities – including talking about his admiration for White and Blakely – eventually steered her toward the University of Houston Law Center. There, she met her future husband, Allen A. King, Jr., who graduated the same year.

One of her grandfather's proudest moments, Lilly says, was when the family was able to gather for her graduation, marking one of only a few instances when a third generation graduated from UHLC. Vern Thrower, who also realized his dream of owning a ranch near Wimberley, died in 2007 at age 85 with his sons by his side.

Lilly didn't follow her father's example to join the family firm. She set her sights on joining a large corporate firm, and succeeded by becoming a partner at Baker & Hostetler. But eventually, she decided she wanted a better "family-work-life balance," and left to co-found her own firm, Breitbeil & King, which gives her the flexibility she sought. And, as it turns out, she's able to do some work with her father as well.

Both Gregory and Lilly agree that the educations they received at UHLC provided them with the tools to do a wide range of things professionally, both within the legal realm and outside, in keeping with Dean Leonard M. Baynes' mantra of "the power of legal education."

"It doesn't matter whether you decide to practice the law or not," Gregory says. "The discipline that it takes to earn a law degree, the knowledge of the rule of law, will be a big asset."



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



*Erin Osborn, director of the JCAP program, assists two students with online projects.*



## JUVENILE CAPITAL & ADVOCACY PROJECT

As a third-year law student, Erin Osborn took to heart the message from a professor all too familiar with Texas' death row: the best way to lessen the need for capital punishment is to break the "school to prison pipeline" by reaching out to at-risk youths long before they head down the pathway to crime.

Osborn, a 2013 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, was struck by David Dow's writing on capital punishment in his first book, "The Autobiography of an Execution." He has represented more than 100 death row inmates as director of the Texas Innocence Network based at the school. His TED Talk on the subject, "Lessons from Death Row Inmates," has been viewed more than 1.5 million times.

Osborn, a former algebra and biology teacher at a small private school in Dallas specializing in at-risk youth, decided to focus her own fierce determination in the same direction by serving as the inaugural mentorship director of the Juvenile & Capital Advocacy Project (JCAP), an offshoot of Dow's Texas Innocence Network.

The idea behind the program is to provide mentorship to young people who might come from disadvantaged backgrounds and help steer them toward achievement and success and away from criminal behavior.

"The program is just to engage with youth," said Osborn, adding that before beginning the project she did a lot of research on best practices for juvenile justice and school discipline policies. "The big buzzword right now is the 'school-to-prison pipeline,'" she said.

Under Osborn's direction, JCAP partnered this school year with WALIPP, the William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity, named after the founding minister of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church and long-time Houston civil rights leader.

WALIPP, located in the Third Ward near UH and Texas Southern University, already had a mentoring program with Houston's First Unitarian Universalist Church in the Museum District which Osborn worked to expand. Osborn has been seeking mentors for all of the eighth-grade students at WALIPP. As a charter school, not all of the students live in the Third Ward, but a majority do come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, she said.

"Ideally, I'd like there to be one for everyone, because I think everyone can benefit," she said. Some students

are reluctant to be matched with a volunteer because of the fear of social stigma, she said. If everyone in the class had a mentor, that stigma might be lessened.

"I pair people with who I think they're going to get along with. I do ask teachers who they think needs it most," she said.

Previously, many volunteers came to the program through a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) course taught by Dow. Other volunteers have come from the ranks of UHLC students, UH undergraduates, and professional organizations, as well as First UU members.

Kelly Rizzo, a third-year student at UHLC, said she first thought about becoming a mentor after seeing a flyer that Osborn distributed in the early fall. But put it out of her mind because she knew she had a hectic semester ahead.

"But I couldn't shake it," she said, so she contacted Osborn and signed up. She took a training course devised by Osborn for volunteers to take at home, and was soon paired with an eighth-grade girl named Austin, with whom she meets at lunchtime about once a week.

"I think that when I was this age, I would have really valued having somebody who was a little bit older and maybe from a different walk of life than myself, just to talk to and open up my eyes to things that I maybe wouldn't have seen otherwise," said Rizzo, who grew up in the Memorial City area of Houston.

"And also it's a great opportunity for me to learn about a different group of people that I wouldn't normally associate with at the Law Center. I don't get to hang out with a lot of junior high kids at law school, so it was an opportunity for me as well," said Rizzo, who intends to practice family law upon graduation and already works at a family law firm.

Rizzo said she's fortunate to have been paired with "a really great kid" who is "smart and talented" and also "super-busy."

"I've gotten this really cool friend. We talk about stuff, we talk about our highs and lows for the week. It's something I have to look forward to every week, my 30 minutes I get to hang out with her and hear how her week went," she said. "It's a great way for me to take a break from the stress of law school and chill out and have a really fun conversation with her."

## UH LAW STUDENTS ASSIST KARNES IMMIGRANT DETAINEES

In early October, the director, faculty members, and several students of the Law Center's Immigration Clinic traveled to Karnes Family Detention Center in Karnes City, Texas, as part of a joint project with the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the law firms of Arnold and Porter and Akin Gump, and the social service agency Tahirih. They saw more than 40 families who were being detained at the facility and screened cases for the Karnes Pro Bono Project. Following the trip, the clinic accepted three cases related to persecution and setting of bonds. Students gained valuable experience preparing their cases, which resulted in two families being released from detention after a grant of bond. One asylum case was set for trial and students returned to the detention center to prepare the client for her testimony. Clinic students and professors also represented her before the San Antonio Immigration Court in late December. A decision is pending.

— *Geoffrey A. Hoffman, clinical associate professor and director of the UHLC Immigration Clinic*  
(Hoffman discusses his experience and examines the current state of family detention at the Karnes facility in a blog, [tinyurl.com/mxh3zfr](http://tinyurl.com/mxh3zfr))



## PLIGHT OF UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN DRAWS HUNDREDS OF LAWYERS WANTING TO HELP

A cross section of immigration experts, including University of Houston Law Center faculty, provided a crash course in the law on July 31 to an auditorium full of lawyers and urged them to volunteer their services to ease



*Professor Hoffman explains the complexities of immigration law.*

the ongoing crisis of migrant children crossing the border.

Geoffrey Hoffman, UHLC clinical associate professor and director of the school's Immigration Clinic, and Janet Beck, clinical assistant professor, were among nearly 30 speakers who detailed aspects of immigration law that are applicable to the ongoing "humanitarian crisis" and described services available through social service agencies.

The four-hour free CLE program was organized by Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan's office and co-sponsored by the Law Center, the city's two other law schools, and numerous law firms and non-profit organizations. Attendance was capped at 500, nearly filling the auditorium of the Houston Community College campus on the West Loop.

Hoffman explained the complicated process of obtaining asylum, one avenue of legal relief for the estimated 57,000 "Unaccompanied Alien Children" who have crossed the border since October. He described how applicants must prove persecution, or the fear of persecution, in their homeland by virtue of being a member of a PSG, or "Particular Social Group," or other statutory ground. Persecution, he said, might come from criminals -- pressure to join a gang or retaliation for witnessing a crime -- or due to race or ethnicity, religion, nationality, political beliefs, social standing, or any number of other factors.

He outlined a number of ethical and other issues attorneys might face in dealing with the young migrants, including language barriers, trauma resulting from their experiences, their capacity to understand and consent to various legal strategies, possible disabilities, and potential conflicts between

the child and parents.

Hoffman suggested techniques for dealing with these minors, including shorter meetings, non-judgmental conversations, open-ended questions designed to get the child talking about their experiences, a show of empathy for their situation, and constant contact as the process moves along.

"Don't cut corners," Hoffman advised the room full of lawyers. "Asylum law is very specific. You can't use canned briefs. This is a lot of work," he concluded, "but very satisfying."

In a later panel discussion, Beck described the dual mission of the UHLC Immigration Clinic as teaching future lawyers and helping needy members of the community. "We like to take the complicated cases, not the plain vanilla cases involving citizenship," she said in explaining how the program is gearing up to assist the young border migrants.

She urged members of the audience to serve as mentors to assist volunteers with the American Immigration Lawyer Association (AILA) Houston Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) Taskforce created in partnership with several pro bono groups. Attorneys are needed in all practice areas, but especially family law, she said.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY



Members of the University of Houston Law Center Class of '17, faculty, and staff showed up in force Aug. 18 for a day of community service at a food bank and an immigration clinic.

More than 180 first-year students volunteered for the inaugural "Community Service Day" project initiated by the school's new dean, Leonard M. Baynes, and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Sondra Tennessee.

Baynes said the outreach instills in the future attorneys the value of public service and paying back to the community.

"In these times of criticism and questions about the value of going to law school, it is important to inspire the students and remind them why they are here: to achieve justice for their clients," Baynes said. "Some of these 1Ls had the rare opportunity to work alongside attorneys to interview and help process immigration claims even before they had their first law school class. This gives them the opportunity to experience

the "Power of Legal Education" and further whet their appetite for the law."

UHLC volunteers, including Baynes and Tennessee, dressed in red "Community Service Day 2014" T-shirts, packaged 11,860 meals containing 14,232 pounds of food during their stint at the Houston Food Bank on the city's east side.

Sorting boxes of food "on the line" was another way of easing into the law school experience for Zeinab Kachmar who also attended a Law Preview course and Friday's orientation on campus. "I'm nervous excited," she said during a brief break. "It's a mix of both."

Law Center students and faculty also helped undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children apply for special legal status under the Obama Administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

About 30 UHLC students helped immigrants fill out forms for DACA renewals and applications.

Clinical Associate Professor Geoffrey A. Hoffman, director of the Law Center's Immigration Clinic, explained the law and its history to the students and answered questions from applicants. Clinical Assistant Professor Janet Beck and Susham Modi, adjunct professor of law and clinical supervising attorney, supervised the student volunteers and interviewed individual ap-

plicants. The four-hour clinic at the Leonel J. Castillo Community Center was co-sponsored by Own the Dream, Boat People SOS, and National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).

"The overwhelming message I got was that people wanted to be able to work lawfully and support their families," Hoffman said. Many of the applicants were high school students or young adults in their 20s, he said, including a 15-year-old girl who explained she needed a job to help her financially strapped family and a young man trying to support his elderly mother who accompanied him to the clinic.

"Overall the day of service not only gave students the opportunity to connect with the Houston community, but also with each other," said Tennessee. "These projects allowed each student to see his or her classmates, not as competitors, but as humanitarians. We all were able to give back and make a difference in the lives of others."

"I am incredibly proud and inspired by the 1L students' enthusiasm during the service day, and I have heard from several 2Ls that they also want opportunities for public service," Baynes said. "I have asked Associate Dean Tennessee to look into expanding the Community Service Day options for next year and to incorporate service opportunities for the 2Ls and 3Ls during the school year."





## ALUMNI EVENT PHOTOS



### HOLIDAY COFFEE

*Alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the Law Center gathered to renew acquaintances and celebrate the spirit of the season during the annual holiday party.*



### DEAN'S SOCIETY

*Members of the Dean's Society celebrated the holiday season with Dean Leonard M. Baynes at the home of Susan Bickley '84 and her husband, Bob Scott. Bickley, vice-president of the UH Law Alumni Association Board, and Scott are long-time supporters of the Law Center. The Dean's Society recognizes the most generous contributors to the school's Law Fund.*





## A GATSBY GALA

Alumni, faculty, and friends of the Law Center took a step back in time to the Roaring '20s for an evening of fun and fundraising at the 38th annual Law Gala @ Auction. Flapper wannabees and their tuxedoed escorts strolled – and later danced a Charleston or two – amid the elegant décor of the River Oaks Country Club for “An Evening with Gatsby.” Nearly \$525,000 was raised for scholarships and other academic programs during the March 28 affair. Gala chairs were Shawn and Bill Jackson '92 while Cynthia Mabry '10 chaired the auction. Judge Eric Andell '70 ran the Big Board.

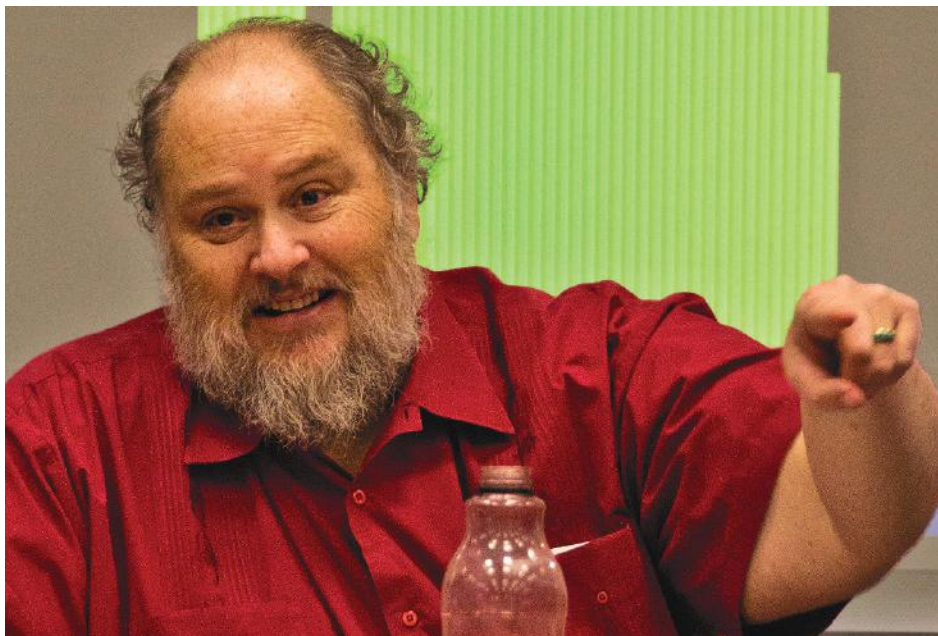
### OLIVAS' SECOND SEASON OF 'THE LAW OF ROCK AND ROLL'

Professor **Michael A. Olivas** blends the history of rock and roll with the rule of law in his three-minute radio program, "The Law of Rock and Roll," now in production for its second season on an NPR station.

The shows, which the professor calls "classes," open and close with "Legal Matters" by the Who with a lively description of case law dealing with specific artists or music-related issues sandwiched in between. Subjects range from copyright infringement, production, performance, and marketing contracts to the estates of dead artists, just to name a few. The legal information is interspersed with tidbits of rock legend and lore and backed by musical snippets.

"This program allows me to combine my two passions, the law that I have taught and practiced for many years, and rock and roll, which has been my hobby for most of my life," said Olivas.

"The Law of Rock and Roll" currently airs on KANW, 89.1 FM, in Albuquerque, NM, but Olivas hopes it will eventually be picked up by other NPR stations and college town outlets.



### DUNCAN NAMED A 'BEST LAW TEACHER'

George Butler Research Professor of Law **Meredith J. Duncan** participated in a conference follow-up to a book detailing the traits and techniques of the nation's best law teachers in which she is prominently featured.

The three-day conference at Northwestern University School of Law was an offshoot of the book, "What the Best Law Teachers Do," in which 26 educators were selected after an exhaustive screening process in a unique attempt to determine why they are so highly regarded in the classroom.

"I love teaching. It is one of the things that I enjoy the most about my job," said Duncan.

"However, what I really love is helping students foster a life-long love and respect of the law and develop into healthy, professional, competent lawyers, regardless of the area of practice that they choose or what they decide to do with their law degrees."

### TEXAS INNOCENCE NETWORK SPOTLIGHTED IN BBC CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BROADCAST

In April, an estimated one million television viewers in the United Kingdom tuned in to watch a documentary on capital punishment in which University of Houston Law Center Professor **David Dow**, the Texas Innocence Network, and a law student, **Kelly Hickman**, play prominent roles.

BBC Three spent nearly a year filming at the Law Center, interviewing Dow and Hickman, who graduated in 2013, and other members of Dow's legal team, as they worked to win a stay of execution for a convicted murderer, **Robert Pruett**. The three-part broadcast series is titled "Life and Death Row" and UH Law Center's death penalty clinic was profiled in the final episode. The episode was later broadcasted on the National Geographic Channel in the U.S.

Founded in 2000 by Dow, the Texas Innocence Network (TIN), based at the Law Center, is Texas' oldest innocence network, providing legal services to those convicted of capital crimes. Dow, who has been at the Law Center for more than 25 years, has represented more than 100 death row inmates in their state and federal appeals.





### UHLC STUDENT TAKES YOGA TO THE HOMELESS

**Jonathan Chatham** has taken his belief of a healthy mind and body from a middle school classroom to the halls of the University of Houston Law Center and to the streets of Houston where he is helping the homeless as an Albert Schweitzer Fellow.

A yoga devotee and instructor, Chatham is working with In-Powered, a non-profit organization that reaches out to schools, communities, and other groups to develop character, motivation, social skills, and goal-setting through the self-disciplined practice of yoga and meditation.

"My fellowship project will supplement and expand the efforts of In-Powered to reach a greater number of Houston's homeless population with mindfulness training, meditation, and therapeutic yoga," Chatham said. "The goal of this project is to have a direct impact on the health and wellness of Houston's homeless."



### CENTER FOR US-MEXICAN LAW UNCORKS TEQUILA PHOTO EXHIBIT

The Center for U.S. and Mexican Law co-hosted a photographic ode to tequila, the land from which it comes, and the people who harvest the crop to make Mexico's most renowned beverage, as a part of Houston's annual "Cinco de Mayo" festivities.

Professor **Stephen Zamora**, director of the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law, noted that tequila can only be produced in Mexico, and can only be made from the blue agave plants grown in the state of Jalisco, and in limited regions of adjoining Mexican states.

"Tequila is a sophisticated drink steeped in a rich cultural history, and Joel Salcido's photographs display in vivid color the traditions associated with it. We wanted to bring this artwork, and these traditions, to the attention of Houston's devotees of Mexican culture," said Zamora.

### RUBY KLESS SONDOCK LECTURE

The two most important facts to know about the current U.S. Supreme Court are the numbers five and four, legal analyst **Jeffrey Toobin** said at the annual Ruby Kless Sondock Lecture in Legal Ethics held in April.

Toobin's talk at the downtown Coronado Club traced the history of the court from the 1960s, in which case after case, including an end to laws banning interracial marriages, was decided by a liberal majority. The Republicans of the '70s were much more moderate than today's, with rulings on the Nixon tapes, busing, Pentagon Papers, (temporarily) ending the death penalty, and the most controversial, *Roe v. Wade*, in which three of four Nixon appointees voted in favor.

The annual lecture honors former Judge **Ruby Kless Sondock**, a 1962 graduate of the University of Houston law school, who was the first female state district judge in Harris County and the first woman on the Texas Supreme Court.



### MANTEL NAMED HEALTH LAW SCHOLAR

Assistant Professor **Jessica Mantel** has been named a health law scholar by members of the American Society of Law, Medicine, and Ethics, becoming the third UHLC faculty member selected for the honor in recent

years. Mantel, co-director of the Law Center's Health Law & Policy Institute, joins previous health law Professors Barbara Evans and Jessica Roberts. The peer-reviewed program chooses four emerging scholars each year to write a paper under mentorship of senior health law scholars.

### BRUHL ELECTED TO AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE

Associate Professor **Aaron Bruhl** is one of 50 new members of the prestigious American Law Institute. Bruhl joins 16 current members of the UHLC faculty and several other adjunct or emeritus professors. "It's an honor to join this organization of which many of my distinguished colleagues are already members. I look forward to contributing to the Institute's work in the years to come," Bruhl said. Bruhl teaches and writes on statutory interpretation, federal courts, and the legislative process. His scholarly publications have appeared in journals such as the *University of Chicago Law Review*, the *Cornell Law Review*, the *Michigan Law Review*, and the *NYU Law Review*.



# GET INVOLVED



## HIRE HOUSTON FIRST

The Career Development Office (CDO) assists employers in identifying and recruiting talented students and alumni to fulfill their employment needs. With in-depth knowledge of the student and alumni population, the CDO can guide employers to the right candidate. UH Law Center students encounter a rigorous curriculum and are practice ready when they graduate.

If your law firm, business, or organization is interested in hiring a University of Houston Law Center law student or graduate, please visit the CDO website at [www.law.uh.edu/career/](http://www.law.uh.edu/career/) where you can post your position free of charge. If you have any questions, please email Allison Hickey Regan, assistant dean for Career Development, at [ahregan@central.uh.edu](mailto:ahregan@central.uh.edu).

## LAW FUND

The Law Fund is the UH Law Center's annual giving program. Gifts are unrestricted and are allocated to the highest priorities of the Law Center. Excellence in higher education never happens by accident.

Your support is critical in helping educate the next generation of lawyers. Please give.

To give online, please visit [law.uh.edu/giving](http://law.uh.edu/giving). If you would like to make a recurring gift, please contact Russ Gibbs at 713.743.1454 or [ragibbs@central.uh.edu](mailto:ragibbs@central.uh.edu).

## MENTORING PROGRAM UPDATE

This past October UHLC hosted a kick-off event at the 14th Court of Appeals in the refurbished Harris County Courthouse for the new upper level mentoring program. We have nearly 50 lawyer volunteers in this program and 80 3L students participating as mentees. We are pleased with the support for this initiative and have heard very positive feedback from students and their mentors. Many thanks to all of you who have dedicated your time and support to make this program a success!

## UH LAW CENTER ADMISSIONS

Do you know someone who is interested in attending law school? The professional staff in the Office of Admissions is available to guide candidates through the application process. Tours and class visits are also available by appointment.

### J.D. Deadlines for Fall 2015:

\*February 15 for full-time

May 15 for part-time

Call 713.743.2280 or email [lawadmissions@uh.edu](mailto:lawadmissions@uh.edu) to schedule an appointment.

\* Applications received after the deadlines will be reviewed after the regular decision applications have been considered.

### LL.M. Deadlines:

March 1 – Fall 2015 Admission

October 1 – Spring 2015 Admission

Contact [llm@uh.edu](mailto:llm@uh.edu) for more information

## The Career Development Office invites you to our inaugural “MEET THE OCI EMPLOYERS” RECEPTION

This event is specifically geared toward the organizations that participate in the University of Houston Law Center's On Campus Interview (OCI) Program.

We invite you to campus to introduce and promote your organization to our talented and eager 1L candidates. Please register by Thursday, March 19 on our website: [law.uh.edu/career/employer/oncampus.asp](http://law.uh.edu/career/employer/oncampus.asp).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Monday, April 14*

### Registration Opens for the UHLC 2015 OCI Program

REMEMBER: There is no fee to participate in our OCI Program. Firms get to choose 100% of the candidates they would like to interview!

On-campus interviews will be held August 17 – 20.

Please contact Catherine Wright at [cmwright@central.uh.edu](mailto:cmwright@central.uh.edu) with any questions or comments.



# 2015 UPCOMING EVENTS

## University of Houston Law Center and Law Alumni Association

### March 2

IPIL Spring Lecture

For more information, contact: [ipil@uh.edu](mailto:ipil@uh.edu)

### March 6

UHLC Gala & Auction at River Oaks Country Club

For more information, contact: [lawgala@uh.edu](mailto:lawgala@uh.edu)

### March 6-8

A.A. White Dispute and Resolution Center 30 Hour Advanced Family Mediation Training

For more information, contact: [jclark@uh.edu](mailto:jclark@uh.edu)

### March 24

Bryan-College Station Alumni and Admitted Students Reception

For more information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### April 6

Dallas Alumni/Admitted Students Reception Locke Lorde Lord LLP

For more information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### April 10-12 & April 17-19

A.A. White Dispute and Resolution Center 40-Hour Basic Mediation Training

For more information, contact: [jclark@uh.edu](mailto:jclark@uh.edu)

### April 22

Dean's Award Ceremony

For more information, contact: [vcrain@central.uh.edu](mailto:vcrain@central.uh.edu)

### May 14

UHLAA Annual Meeting at Coronado Club

For more information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### May 16

Law Center Commencement, 2 p.m., Hofheinz Pavilion

### May 19

UHLAA Reception in Denver, location TBD

For more information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### May 28

UHLAA Reception in LA location TBD

For more information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### June 18

State Bar of Texas Meeting and UHLC Reception at the Grand Hyatt and Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio

For more information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### August 15

Community Service Day 2015.

For more information, contact: [stennessee@uh.edu](mailto:stennessee@uh.edu)

### August 19-22

A.A. White Dispute and Resolution Center Commercial Arbitration Training

For more information, contact: [jclark@uh.edu](mailto:jclark@uh.edu)

### September 11-13 & September 18-19

A.A. White Dispute and Resolution Center 40-Hour Basic Mediation Training

For more information, contact: [jclark@uh.edu](mailto:jclark@uh.edu)

## Global Law Alumni Network

The Global Law Alumni Network is designed to bring our U.S. and overseas graduates together and strengthen their connection to the Law Center. You are a Global Law Alumnus/ Alumna if you live outside the United States, or if you live in the U.S. (including Houston, that international energy capital) and either work or have an active interest in international law. The Network will maintain an up-to-date database of alumni contact information, feature mini-profiles on alumni abroad, and circulate alumni news and opportunities. The Network will also sponsor occasional Global Law Alumni gatherings. Join our global directory and become a regular reader. Visit [law.uh.edu/alumni/global](http://law.uh.edu/alumni/global).

## Stay connected to UHLC

UHLC has several online tools to help you keep up with the latest news and events and to engage in discussions with alums.

- Sign up for eBriefcase at [law.uh.edu/alumni/sign-up-ebriefcase.asp](http://law.uh.edu/alumni/sign-up-ebriefcase.asp).
- On Twitter, follow [@uhlaw](https://twitter.com/uhlaw).
- On Facebook, become a fan at [facebook.com/uhlawcenter](https://facebook.com/uhlawcenter) and [facebook.com/uhlaw-centralumni](https://facebook.com/uhlaw-centralumni).
- On LinkedIn, look for the UHLC group.
- On YouTube, watch our videos at [youtube.com/user/TheUHLawCenter](https://youtube.com/user/TheUHLawCenter).

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## **FREE CLE SERIES FOR UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER ALUMNI**

Are you looking for a convenient way to meet your CLE requirements?  
University of Houston Law Center alumni can take advantage of our  
Free CLE series. The four-hour programs, including one hour of ethics,  
take place on select Friday afternoons from 1-5 p.m. in Bates Law Building.

For more information on upcoming CLE programs, visit [law.uh.edu/cle/](http://law.uh.edu/cle/) or contact  
Robert B. Johnson, director of Continuing Legal Education at [rbjohnson@uh.edu](mailto:rbjohnson@uh.edu).

Please also make sure we have your current contact information.

Email: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)