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DEAN’S MESSAGE

There are many bright spots at the University of Houston Law Center highlighted in this summer edition of Briefcase magazine — successful and supportive alumni; outstanding faculty, past and present; award-winning programs and wide-ranging community outreach. But none is brighter than the progress being made toward the realization of a long-overdue Law Center building. With the support of the university administration and financial backing of alumni and friends of the school, we are more than half-way towards our goal of raising $10 million in seed money to show legislators in January 2019 that we are serious about building a world-class facility for the Law Center — and that the time is now.

We envision the new Law Center as an innovative, cross-disciplinary hub for academic excellence, legal scholarship and community engagement. The cover story will bring you up to date on plans for a five-story, state-of-the-art building to be constructed beginning in 2021 just south of the current facility. It will include a “wish list” of features compiled by focus groups of faculty, students, staff and alumni. Plans call for an outdoor plaza and impressive entrance, a lobby with an information desk, more areas for study and collaborating, flexible classrooms designed for greater student-faculty interaction, space adaptable for use as a courtroom, and a high-tech library on the top two floors with natural light and a downtown skyline view. After studying and working in the time-worn, bunker-like existing facility — 54 percent of which is underground and parts of which are prone to storm water intrusion — the new facility will seem like a dream come true. I need your help getting us over the finish line. Please consider making a donation to the cause.

Please take the time to sit back and read about what’s happening at your alma mater and in the lives of former classmates, professors and colleagues. Let me know what you think about where we are, and where we should be going. And, above all, get involved as together we take the Law Center to a higher level in the future.

Sincerely,

Leonard M. Baynes
Dean and Professor of Law
THE PEOPLE’S LAWYER

After nearly four decades of educating consumers about their basic legal rights on television, in newspaper columns, radio, books and a popular “law school” program, “The People’s Lawyer” is winding down his practice.

Richard M. Alderman, professor emeritus at the University of Houston Law Center, has written his final “Know Your Rights” column, which had been published weekly by more than 30 newspapers statewide since 1981.

“I have always been proud of how it was received,” he said in announcing his decision. “But as with any endeavor, there comes a time to end it. My retirement to Santa Fe has made it harder to solicit and receive questions, and my travel plans often interfere with sending the column out on a regular basis.”

Over the years, Alderman estimated he has responded to more than 7,000 questions from readers of his column. Many of those questions and answers are republished in his book, “Know Your Rights by The People’s Lawyer,” which he first published in 1981 and is now in its 9th edition, including one in Spanish.

A familiar figure to Houston-area TV watchers, Alderman ended his weekly broadcast, “The People’s Lawyer,” in 2014, after airing thousands of segments and responding to countless viewer questions in 33 years on the air. The stories ran during the newscasts on KPRC Channel 2 from 1981 until 1991 when he moved to KTRK Channel 13. At various times he also hosted a half hour show on Channel 2 and an hour-long “Know Your Rights” talk show on KUHT Channel 8. From 1990 until 2007, he produced a statewide syndicated TV spot entitled “It’s the Law.” Sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyers, his stories ran in 14 Texas cities.

Alderman has stepped away from print and broadcast formats, but he has plans to take his public outreach, “The People’s Law School,” online. The program, which he founded in 1991, has drawn more than 55,000 “students” to the Saturday morning sessions on the Law Center campus and around the state where they learn about their legal rights from volunteer professors, lawyers and judges. Instead of attending “classes” on a wide-array of subjects ranging from landlord-tenant disputes to wills, consumers will be able to learn at their convenience 24/7 on the Internet, he said.

Although still in the development stage, Alderman plans to start making videos this fall and completing the project by next summer. The online version of “The People’s Law School” will provide short sessions, instead of the 50-minute classes of the “live” version. People will be able to watch all of the sessions or select specific subjects in which they have a particular interest. For example, he said, a viewer could select “Scams and Rip-offs,” which would explain provisions of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act. Classes will be taught by Alderman and other legal experts, and will be updated as required by changes in the law.

Regardless of platform, Alderman has always stressed that he is arming people with information about their basic legal rights, not advice on how to resolve specific disputes. One of his favorite phrases in promoting The People’s Law School is, “When it comes to the law, knowledge really is power.”

“I remember when I started at Channel 2, the anchorman, Ron Stone, asked me, ‘What’s your goal?’ I said, ‘My goal is to teach people about the law, and I guess if I’m successful, I will put myself out of business.’ I guess I didn’t do it very well, because I did it for more than 30 years,” he joked.

Alderman conceded that after so many years of fielding legal questions, the issues and answers tend to be repetitive — landlord/tenant disputes, consumer rights, debt collection, wills and probate — while others are somewhat predictable, “depending on what is going on at the time” — for example, hurricane and flood damage questions.

“People usually don’t pay attention to the law until they have a problem,” he said of recurring complaints, and sometimes it happens even to those who are paying attention. “I had my identity stolen a while ago,” he said, “and even though I knew everything I should do to prevent it and how to remedy it, it is still really hard to protect yourself.”

Alderman’s efforts and expertise have been recognized by the State Bar of Texas and the American Bar Association, which have twice awarded him their highest honor — the Golden Gavel. Another highlight came when the Houston City Council and then-Mayor Lee P. Brown proclaimed April 15, 2000 as “Richard M. Alderman Day” in honor of his public service. He also has often been quoted in national publications and has appeared on numerous television programs, including “The Oprah Winfrey Show.”

After 41 years at the Law Center, teaching and serving as associate dean and interim dean as well as director of the Center for Consumer Law, Alderman is finding in retirement “There isn’t enough time in the day to do all the things you want to do,” including gardening, tennis, travel, his support of Big Brothers Big Sisters, and activities with his “little brother.”

“Retirement,” he concluded, “is the best job I’ve ever had.”
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Professor P. Maranier

"I'm trying to show people the law and what their individual rights are, and what I'll do for them!"

Richard Alderman

PEOPLE'S LAWYER

Your landlord won't refund your security deposit or your dog bites a neighbor's kid. If you have a legal problem or question, send it to me. I'll tell you your rights. Too many of us are affairs of the law, even though knowledge of the law can be a powerful weapon. Texas has the strongest consumer protection laws in the country, but if you don't know about them, that protection system isn't working. Why do I give you all this free advice? I'm a law professor, and being The People's Lawyer on The Score at 5pm gives me the largest classroom in the city.

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KPRC TV HOUSTON
University of Houston Law Center Clinical Assistant Professor Lauren Jansen Simpson, has proven herself an esteemed educator, having received the UH Teaching Excellence Award (Instructional/Clinical Category) in 2016 and the Student Bar Association Part-Time Program Professor of the Year in 2017 and 2018. But her dedication does not end there.

Simpson, a 1994 Law Center alumna, exudes passion for her community by creating homes for pollinators in her front yard. She’s created a wildscape in which she has documented 45 species of butterfly, around 30 species of bee and about 25 species of wasp, among other wildlife.

Pollination is critical for the reproduction of the majority of flowering plants, yet pollinators continue to decline as more land is developed.

“Pollinators are in serious trouble,” Simpson said. “We think primarily insects, but it can be birds, reptiles, and bats — and their habitats are being broken apart. Invasive, non-native plants are being brought in for landscaping, and few pollinators eat them. Once they grow, non-native plants can take over an area, displacing natives.”

Simpson walks the walk as much as she talks the talk. She’s dedicated her front yard to start St. Julian’s Crossing, a wildlife habitat that demonstrates how simple it can be to help pollinators.

“Even if you have just a little patio with a few potted plants, if you choose them right and don’t use pesticides, you can support pollinators,” Simpson said.

Simpson has been featured on a Briefcase Radio segment discussing pollinator conservation and local gardening ordinances. She is currently exploring how to combine her passion for pollinators with law; for example, educating the public on how local and state ordinances, as well as private deed restrictions, can affect wildscaping. Simpson is also interested in exploring how to advocate for state and local laws that are more supportive of wildscaping.

“The idea is to tie in service to the school — Dean Leonard M. Baynes and UH System Chancellor and President Renu Khator have really been focused on the community,” Simpson said. “UH and the Law Center serve our community because it’s the right thing to do. This pollinator-conservation education is my way of doing that.”

Simpson was recently interviewed by KPRC Channel 2 for a segment that showcased her gardening expertise. She has given wildscaping and pollinator presentations, including most recently at the Planting for Pollinators workshop, sponsored by the Katy Prairie Conservancy and the Houston Audubon Society, at which she discussed how to create wildscapes using native plants.

Simpson teaches Lawyering Skills and Strategies to first-year students in the part-time program. She is also Level 1 certified through the Native Landscape Certification Program of the Native Plant Society of Texas.
University of Houston Law Center Professors Renee Knake and Sapna Kumar have been awarded Fulbright grants to conduct research in their specialty areas in Australia and Europe respectively for the 2019 spring semester.

Knake, the Law Center’s Director of Outcomes and Assessments, Professor of Law and the Larry and Joanne Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics, was awarded the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Fulbright Distinguished Chair Awards are viewed as among the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright Scholar Program.

She will research Australian innovations in access to justice and legal ethics from January through July as part of a forthcoming book project, “Law Democratized: A Blueprint for Access to Justice.”

“I’m incredibly humbled and thankful to be selected for such an important international award, and I look forward to sharing the amazing work we do at the University of Houston with the global community of Fulbright scholars,” said Knake. Her Fulbright award not only supports the research and writing she will engage in during her time at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology but also public lecture opportunities throughout Australia.

The award is designed to foster collaboration between Australia and the United States to stimulate interest and increase innovation and entrepreneurship.

Kumar, Law Foundation Professor of Law and co-director of the Institute for Intellectual Property and Information Law, was selected as a Fulbright-Schuman Research Scholar and awarded an innovation grant. She will spend five months in Europe, including four at the Max Planck Institute
for Innovation and Competition in Munich, Germany, researching the formation of Europe’s Unified Patent Court.

“I am honored to have been selected by the Fulbright Commission and grateful for the Law Center for providing me with research leave to pursue this project,” Kumar said. “I have been learning German for the past four years and am looking forward to putting my skills to good use.”

The innovation grants support work that can create better transatlantic understanding of issues at the heart of the U.S.-EU relationship, particularly at the intersection of policy and technology.

At the Law Center, Knake teaches Constitutional Law and Professional Responsibility; Kumar teaches Patent Law, Federal Courts, Administrative Law and Property.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship foreign exchange scholarship program of the United States, aimed at increasing binational collaboration, cultural understanding, and the exchange of ideas.

Born in the aftermath of WWII, the program was established by Sen. J. William Fulbright in 1946 with the idea of turning “swords into ploughshares,” whereby credits from the sale of surplus U.S. war materials were used to fund academic exchanges between host countries and the U.S.

Since its establishment, the Fulbright Program has grown to become the largest educational exchange program in the world, operating in more than 160 countries. In its 70-year history, more than 370,000 students, academics and professionals have received Fulbright Scholarships to study, teach or conduct research, and promote bilateral collaboration and cultural empathy.
PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

PROFESSORS FAGUNDES AND ROBERTS FIND HOUSTON AND THE LAW CENTER A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Following stints as an adjunct professor at the City University of New York and as an associate-in-law at Columbia Law School, Professor Jessica Roberts capitalized on an opportunity to return to her hometown to teach at the University of Houston Law Center in 2010.

“I’m a native Houstonian, and the Law Center has consistently had one of the nation’s best health law programs, so UH was a perfect fit for me,” Roberts said.

Roberts, the Alumnae College Professor of Law, directs the Health Law & Policy Institute, which was ranked No. 2 in the most recent U.S. News & World Report specialty program rankings for health law. She teaches Contracts, Disabilities & the Law, Genetics & the Law, and Health Law.

“I love having the opportunity to run a dynamic, nationally-recognized program and to cultivate our relationship with the Texas Medical Center. Of course, the best part is the students,” Roberts said.

Her passion for health law was sparked by her own family experiences.

“My dad was a person with disabilities, so I’ve always been interested in the intersection of health law and disability,” Roberts said. “It was a natural extension of my passion for bioethics and the law.”

Dave Fagundes, the Baker & Botts Professor in Law, came to the Law Center in 2014 after nearly seven years as a professor at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. He teaches Property, Trusts & Estates, Statutory Interpretation & Regulation, and a course on the Subprime Mortgage Crisis.

Like Roberts, Fagundes’ parents drew him to his areas of interest.

“My dad built houses when I was a little kid, and my mom worked as a real estate agent, so property is in my blood,” Fagundes said. “My interest in copyright comes from my fascination with creative work and the challenge of crafting a body of law that determines what it means to own art.”

In October 2016, Fagundes was named Assistant Dean for Faculty Development, a role he said has given him a greater appreciation for his faculty colleagues.

“Being research dean gives me the opportunity to help develop the Law Center’s already outstanding scholarly profile,” he said. “It’s given me a real admiration for the outstanding academic work my fellow professors do, and reminded me how fortunate I am to be their colleague.”

Fagundes and Roberts met briefly at an event at the 2012 Association of American Law Schools annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The two got to know each other better when Fagundes came to Houston later that year to attend the Works in Progress - IP conference hosted by the Law Center.

After a long-distance relationship for a few years, Fagundes joined Roberts in Houston when he became part of the Law Center faculty, gaining a new professional home in the process. Fagundes and Roberts were married on Dec. 1, 2014 in New Orleans, shortly after Roberts’ Law Center colleagues voted to grant her tenure.

In October 2017, Fagundes and Roberts welcomed their daughter to the world.

“Our daughter Lucy is bright, curious and beautiful,” Roberts said. “She is our best collaboration to date!”

Fagundes added that Houston has been an ideal setting for his and Roberts’ personal and professional lives, and he has enjoyed being a part of a broader university community after teaching at a freestanding law school.

“Houston has all the amenities of a global city but is a great place to raise a family too,” he said. “We live in West U, a stone’s throw from the Texas Medical Center where Jessica does some of her health law work and where Lucy was born.”

While their teaching areas and responsibilities at the Law Center differ, Fagundes and Roberts had ambitions of becoming legal educators during their time as undergraduate students.

Roberts earned her B.A. in political science from the University of Southern California and her J.D. from Yale Law School. Fagundes earned an A.B. in history from Harvard and completed his legal education at Harvard Law School.

“I always wanted to be an academic,” Roberts said. “I took a constitutional law class in college, and I’ve never looked back. I love the opportunity to play a crucial role in the early career of young lawyers.”

“Same here,” Fagundes added. “I’ve wanted to be a law professor since I was in college. I love that being a law professor blends the intellectual challenge of academic work with the real-world relevance of a practical discipline.”
University of Houston Law Center Emeritus Professor Robert Palmer has brought an international flare to the Law Center’s O’Quinn Library by making it the primary global facilitator for research using English governmental documents, particularly in English legal history, dating from 1200 to 1880.

Under a license from the U.K. National Archives held by the O’Quinn Library, Palmer founded and developed in 2006 the Anglo-American Legal Tradition website, http://aalt.law.uh.edu/, which has transformed the environment for English historical research.

“English History has gone from one of the most expensive areas to pursue to one of the cheapest, so that graduate education is cheaper and more founded on documents; research is possible for people who cannot afford or are physically incapable of going to London, and the documents are available 24/7/52,” Palmer said.

“The documents are reproduced completely end to end and consecutively from year to year for four centuries and more. Instead of a pre-determined theme, researchers can ask their own questions. Researchers can also have ready access to documents cited elsewhere. Research is cheaper, more accurate and more open to diverse users.”

The archive’s popularity continues to grow. The site receives 350 users daily for an average of 3.5 hours and clocks more hours of research per week than is possible for in-person use in the U.K. National Archives.

The archive’s wiki provides a place for researchers to share their findings, among many other features. It also includes Palmer’s catalog of error cases from 1295-1603 and his catalog of Chancery final decrees from the 16th to the 19th centuries; both of them link each entry to the AALT pictures of the case.

After he retires this year, Palmer will continue his involvement with the project and will remain administrator of the AALT and its wiki. He projects that he will add another 800,000 pictures, bringing the AALT total to 10,500,000 pictures within several years. Questions concerning the AALT can be sent directly to rpalmer@uh.edu.
Are you looking for a convenient way to meet your CLE requirements? University of Houston Law Center alumni can take advantage of our CLE series.

For more information on upcoming programs, visit www.law.uh.edu/CLE

Contact Tanisha Green at tcgreen3@central.uh.edu.
Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor Janet Beck started her teaching career at the Law Center in 2009. She was an invaluable part of the Immigration Clinic, supervising students as they represented indigent clients in asylum, deportation, family and naturalization cases. She also taught Immigration Law and Business and Family Immigration Law.

“I loved teaching the students in the Immigration Clinic because of their energy, enthusiasm and commitment to clients,” Beck said. “I loved seeing their faces when they realized that they had made a difference in a client’s life.”

So far Beck has spent her retirement, which began in January 2018, traveling and relaxing with family.

“I studied French and went to France in the spring and am currently studying Italian in preparation for my trip to Italy in the fall,” Beck said.

Beck hopes to maintain an active presence in her community through volunteer work with children and the disabled.

“One of the things I discovered since I retired is that my whole life has been dedicated to helping people, as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Colombia, as a master’s level social worker and as a lawyer and UH clinical professor,” Beck said. “I miss the experience, so I will, definitely, be doing some type of volunteer work.”

Beck began her career practicing labor law at Nelson, Locke and Fowler in 1987. She shifted her practice to immigration at the Gulf Coast Legal Foundation before starting a private practice. She also had stints at Fong & Associates, Judith Cooper, P.C., and Tyndall & Foster, P.C.
Clinical Assistant Professor Merle Morris began working at the University of Houston Law Center in 1998. A 1992 alumnus of the Law Center, she was the founding director of the school’s Public Interest Law Program from 1999-2000.

“In Lawyering Skills and Strategies, the students received training in essential lawyering skills, such as oral communication, legal writing, research and analysis using fact pattern simulations involving typical litigation and transactional issues that students worked through to develop lawyering skills and problem-solving strategies,” Morris said.

Prior to her retirement in August 2017, Morris provided coaching and mentorship to students in a number of competitions. She said she enjoyed helping students gain knowledge that would assist them immediately in their careers as lawyers.

“The more practical experience a student has with the application of law to the facts of real-life situations, the more capable the student will be in effectively and accurately applying the correct law to reach a thorough evaluation of the issue,” Morris said.

While she may no longer officially hold an academic title, education will remain a priority for Morris on a volunteer basis. Morris said she would like to use skills drawing upon her legal background to prepare students for success in the real world.

“I want to get involved in an elementary school, junior high or high school program designed to assist students with developing written and oral communication skills,” Morris said.

Morris also plans to add travel to her agenda to enhance her knowledge and understanding of legal, educational and cultural developments in other countries.
Susan Rachlin joined the University of Houston Law Center faculty in 2000 as a clinical assistant professor. Rachlin previously worked as a health law associate with Norton Rose Fulbright for four years where she represented health care clients in a variety of transactional matters. While in law school, she won the award for Best Brief in the John Black Moot Court Competition.

Rachlin, a 1981 alumna of the Law Center, established the Legal Writing Center in 2001 and served as its program manager until her retirement in the summer of 2017. She taught objective and persuasive writing, drafting, research and citation.

Rachlin believes in the importance of practical training and played a role in preparing countless students for their future legal careers.

“It’s what the students need to know to get a job and keep a job,” Rachlin said. “When they get a clerkship, they’re judged on their research and writing skill. A firm’s primary expectation of its new associates is that they can think and write clearly.

“I have sincerely treasured all the times former students have contacted me to tell me how well prepared they felt for their jobs. When they get compliments on their writing and share them with me, it always warms my heart.”

Since her retirement in August 2017, Rachlin has been on eight trips.

“I’d always wanted to see the tulips in the Netherlands and had never been able to travel in the spring,” Rachlin said. “I checked it off my bucket list in April.”

Rachlin enjoys spending time with her granddaughter and looks forward to collecting new stamps on her passport.
Clinical Assistant Professor Tobi Tabor joined the University of Houston Law Center faculty in 2000 and served as co-director of Lawyering Skills and Strategies. Tabor, a 1979 Law Center alumna, taught courses on legal research, analysis, and written and oral communication.

“I taught skills in order to help the students be as concise, clear, to the point, and persuasive as they could be,” Tabor said. “It was a rewarding experience for me, and I believe that the school has continued to improve in terms of what is taught, how it’s taught, and how they put students out in the legal community.”

Tabor said she developed many relationships before her retirement from the Law Center in August 2017 and has many memories she will cherish for a lifetime.

“The most memorable thing at the Law Center was that there were several professors who were really helpful in terms of the kinds of concepts the students needed to learn,” Tabor said. “Irene Rosenberg, who helped with refining the concepts that I was trying to teach the students, was the primary one I could talk to. I also relied on Gus Schill, my former law partner, who was a UH adjunct professor.”

During retirement, Tabor plans on spending time with family and hopes to get in touch with the outdoors by visiting a number of national parks.

“I also want to do some volunteer work with an organization for the homeless where the kids need help with their educational needs,” Tabor said.
U.S. Reps. Gene Green and Ted Poe, both alumni of the University of Houston Law Center and mainstays of the Harris County congressional delegation, are retiring from politics after decades of public service.

Each plan to return home from Washington, D.C. at the end of the year to spend more time with family and perhaps explore other opportunities.

"I never wanted to make a career in Congress," said Poe, 69, who earned a J.D. in 1973. "It's time to go. As Davy Crockett said, 'You can go to hell, I'm going to Texas.'"

Green, 70, a member of the class of 1977, expressed similar sentiments: "You always have things that you don't get done and you think you will stay (in Congress) until you are carried out on a gurney, but years ago I told my wife I am not going to die in Washington, D.C. I am a Texan and I am going to die there."

Though seated on opposite sides of the political aisle, Green, a Democrat first elected to Congress in 1992, and Poe, a Republican elected in 2004, are good friends who have worked together over the years to resolve problems affecting both of their constituencies.

As one example, both pointed to their success in winning EPA Superfund status for a hazardous waste site that bordered their districts. "I had the river, and he had the land," Poe said.

Green considers constituent services as a major — and perhaps the most rewarding — part of his role in representing the people in his Hispanic majority district that sprawls across the north and eastern part of the greater Houston area. The district was carved out in 1992 to elect a Hispanic to Congress, but Green, an Anglo, was elected and has held the seat since.

He speaks with pride about the various local programs his office has initiated over the years, including job fairs, Sallie Mae college loan workshops, "Citizenship Day" to help immigrants with paperwork, and partnering with Harris Health System and Texas Children's Hospital to provide free immunizations to school children.

"We work a lot with veterans, and it is rewarding to see them get the help they deserve."

"We work a lot with veterans," he said, "and it is rewarding to see them get the help they deserve. One 91-year-old vet never received his benefits from World War II. He finally got a check for $300,000. I asked him what he would do with the money — he bought a big old pickup truck," Green said with a laugh. "Those individual cases you always remember, helping people."

As a member of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, overseeing health care, energy, telecommunication, Internet and environment issues, Green said one of the most important recent issues was the Affordable Care Act. "I was in the middle of that battle," he said, which was very important to people in his “family oriented” district. "Politics got in the way," he said, adding he felt further frustration when Texas opted not
to expand Medicaid.

Whether during his 20 years in the Texas House and Senate or his 26 years in Congress, Green said, “People just want to see what you can do to help them and their family, and I feel we did that.”

Poe came into the public spotlight well before his days in Congress as a state district criminal judge who meted out sentences of “creative justice,” or what became known as “Poetic Justice,” during his 22 years on the bench. Some of those convicted in his court could be seen standing on street corners or in front of stores with printed signs reading: “I am a thief” or “Don’t be a thief or this will be you.” He ordered sex offenders released from prison to place warning signs on their homes and convicted murderers to hang pictures of their victims on their cell walls. He once ordered a car thief to give the victim his car. “That old lady loved driving around in that ‘Trans-Am,’” he said with a laugh.

He said both his judicial and legislative careers brought satisfaction, and in some cases, frustration. As a judge he felt most proud of protecting victims’ rights and as a congressman his support for increased border security and bipartisan efforts to stop sex trafficking and advocate on behalf of crime victims, especially children. He played pivotal roles in the passage of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 and sponsored the Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization of 2013 and the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016. He also is the founder and co-chairman of the Congressional Victims’ Rights Caucus and Fourth Amendment Caucus. He currently serves on the House Judiciary and Foreign Affairs Committees.

The difference between serving on the bench and Capitol Hill, he said, is that “As a judge, you hear the evidence and you make a decision; you have the only vote. (In Congress) you don’t make the decision and you don’t have the only vote.

“The frustration is in getting things done. But our founders wanted it to be difficult to get laws passed. They didn’t want it to be easy.

“Being a member of Congress is humbling, and it is quite the privilege,” he continued. “I’m an advocate for the 756,000 people I represent. I’m their lawyer in Congress to advocate in their behalf, and I love being an advocate.”

Poe did not point to the current state of extreme partisanship in Congress or his health as determining factors in his decision not to seek reelection. But, he said the “toxic atmosphere” in Washington has become that way since he was elected 14 years ago, and serves no purpose. He was diagnosed in 2016 with leukemia, which he said is now under control.

In retrospect, both congressmen have fond memories of their law school days.

Green worked his way through school at a printing company, became involved in politics in the 60s, graduated from the University of Houston with a business major, and in 1973, one year out of college, ran for the Texas legislature. “After my first year in the legislature, I decided I needed to go to law school,” he said. Dean John B. Neibel urged him to enroll as a full-time student, but finances forced him to work during the day and attend classes at night. He passed the bar on the first try. “At the time, I thought it was tough, but I have fond memories of going to law school,” Green said.

“UH taught me how to be a trial lawyer,” Poe said. “I was a prosecutor; I was a judge; it taught me how to be an advocate, and I’m grateful for that. I took every constitutional law course Sydney Buchanan taught, and I still rely on the Constitution and quote it often.

“Professor Blakely would bring fear and trepidation into my soul whenever he called on me. He taught me evidence and the rules of evidence. He was enough to make some people drop out and go to medical school,” he said laughing.

What’s next for the two Texans who have literally spent a lifetime in public service?

Green plans to make up for lost time with his two children and four grandkids. During a recent interview, he planned to fly to Omaha to catch his granddaughter’s performance in a 7th grade school play. “It will be the first time I will be able to do that,” he said. He also is looking forward to not spending hours on a plane flying home to his district as he did every weekend during his years in Congress. “Travel is not the best part of the job,” he said.

Poe noted that when he went off to Washington, his four children were single. Now, he said, he has 12 grandkids with whom he wants to spend more time.

He also is looking toward the next generation of leaders: “I hope people get into public service across the board,” he said. “I was a judge at 32. Young people need to get into public service; our country needs it.”
As the son of a transactional attorney and an English teacher and journalist, Judge John Coselli and his siblings grew up believing that maintaining focus in the classroom would eventually lead to a rewarding career.

While his brothers went on to practice medicine, the 1977 alumnus of the University of Houston Law Center took mother and father's wishes to heart by pursuing the practice of law. “My parents had always impressed us with the value of having an education from the time we were very young,” Coselli said. “All of us knew that we were going to need an education and were going to have advanced degrees of some kind. We all knew we were going to do something more than just college.”

Since completing his legal education, Coselli has been a mainstay in Houston’s legal community for more than 40 years. From 1977-1999, he was in private practice at the firm Carl, Lee & Coselli.

During that time, Coselli enhanced his legal skills by gaining experience as an arbitrator and a mediator. While he enjoyed helping two parties reach an agreement as a neutral party, he felt he could make a bigger impact on the justice system. “I have always been concerned about the impact of fairness and equality in the justice system, especially for those who are underrepresented,” Coselli said. “I was hopeful that sometime in my life I would have the opportunity to make a greater and better difference than I could do in private practice as a lawyer and as a neutral party.”

Coselli would get the opportunity he had been hoping for. His career took a new path when he was appointed as a district court judge by then-Gov. George W. Bush. Coselli served as the presiding judge of the 125th Civil District Court until 2009. He continues to sit by assignment as a district court judge.

“I enjoy listening to people who have problems present their issues and their difficulties and then helping them sort that out,” Coselli said. “I have always been privileged to have that opportunity to help people work through their problems.

“Serving as a judge gave me a broader access to the administration of fairness, equality and justice than I had as a lawyer mediator or arbitrator, which drew my interest to that kind of public service.”

Coselli’s advice to attorneys or students interested in the judiciary is to exude honesty, courtesy, reliability and professionalism while building a rapport with attorneys they encounter professionally or personally.

“You need all of those to protect your reputation every day of your career,” he said. “One of the most valuable things that we have as lawyers and as judges is how we are perceived for our honesty and our professionalism. “You should become politically active, and it is also important to engage in Bar activities, to network, to do pro bono work and to give back to the community. It’s challenging to maintain your reputation for fairness in the legal process, and it’s something you have to work hard at.”

In addition to his roles as an arbitrator, mediator and special master of the court, Coselli serves his alma mater as a mediation instructor with the Law Center’s A.A. White Dispute Resolution Center.

“The A.A. White Dispute Resolution Center is a great place for me to give back to the law school,” he said. “It’s been a privilege to have the opportunity to exercise skills talents capabilities that began at the Law Center, and I’ve been able to give back as a judge.”

Coselli’s contribution to the legal profession can be illustrated through his broad civil litigation and transactional practice as an attorney, and state and federal court cases he has mediated.

“In the over 40 years since I received my law degree from the Law Center, I’ve spent over 20 of those years practicing law and about 20 of those years as a judge,” Coselli said. “Over the years, I’ve enjoyed everything that I’ve done in the practice of law and have learned to identify my strengths and weaknesses. “The University of Houston Law Center played a really significant role in giving me the opportunity to have an enjoyable and rewarding career. I’ve never forgotten that.”
As a labor and employment attorney, DeDe Davenport represents employers throughout the state and nation on a broad range of issues concerning their employees and other workplace issues.

After an appointment by Mayor Sylvester Turner, the 2015 alumna of the University of Houston Law Center will draw upon that same skillset in her role as commissioner of the City of Houston’s Municipal and Firefighter’s Civil Service Commission.

“I was incredibly honored to be named commissioner,” Davenport said. “I respect our city officials and hold Mayor Turner in high esteem. To be appointed by Mayor Turner and confirmed by the city council, that was a humbling experience, and it will forever be a point of pride for me personally. I look forward to serving my city and its employees.”

Davenport, an attorney at Littler Mendelson P.C., found out about the opening on the three-member commission through a Law Center alumni connection. She said her initial goals for the commission are to continue to be balanced and impartial, to show empathy and respect to employees and city personnel and to render fair and just decisions.

“I’m learning a lot about the city,” Davenport said. “The city has a comprehensive and detailed set of regulations that govern many aspects, including the treatment of employees. The civil service commission serves several functions within that.

“Most notably, the commission serves as a board of appeals for suspended or aggrieved employees where they can appeal their issue to the commission for a final ruling. It also serves as a review board for certain other actions the city may take related to employees, such as medical separations or granting a lengthy leave of absence.”

Davenport’s career began as an English teacher. She found that she thoroughly enjoyed the research and writing aspect while earning her master’s degree and felt that those skills could be applied in the legal field. While her day-to-day tasks have changed drastically over the years, Davenport said it is important for all citizens to give back to their community in some way, whether as an attorney, educator or Houston resident in general.

“When citizens volunteer and serve in the community, that’s how we take care of our community, grow our community, and help each other out,” Davenport said. “Attorneys have certain skillsets and certain specialized knowledge that can be helpful and important.

“In my first career as a public school teacher, it felt like I was serving the community every day. Now as an attorney, I’m a little further removed from that daily community service role. But, being a product of the Law Center and now using my legal understanding and skills to serve the city on the commission makes me feel like my hard work and sacrifices to change careers and venture into the law is coming to fruition. I have found a way to give back to the community, and I’m grateful and honored to be able, and to have been selected, to do so.”
Muhammad “Mo” Aziz ’03

As a personal injury lawyer and partner at Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz, Muhammad “Mo” Aziz represents clients involved in high-profile tragedies on a local and national scale.

Among many other cases, the 2003 alumnus of the University of Houston Law Center currently represents homeowners impacted by Hurricane Harvey, sexual assault survivors who were abused while competing for USA Gymnastics and victims of the mass shooting in Las Vegas.

“I develop a pretty close relationship with my clients,” Aziz said. “I really try to empathize with their situation. It gives me the energy and dedication to work the way I work.

“I love handling these type of cases. They take a toll on you because you keep on seeing people who have gone through probably the worst thing that’s going to happen to them in their lives, whether they have lost loved ones or not. It’s difficult, but it’s rewarding.”

Aziz is a member of several legal organizations, including the American Board of Trial Advocates, Houston Bar Association, and Texas Bar Foundation. Even with his heavy case load, maintaining an active presence in the legal community is a priority for Aziz. He encourages other attorneys to consider devoting their time to law beyond their everyday practice.

“You always want to give back to the community in some way that you can,” Aziz said. “It keeps you involved in other activities that involve the law and other attorneys. It’s important for people to be involved in these activities because it really helps the community and it helps your career.

“Lawyers get a lot of criticism, and there are a lot of negative sentiments out there. It’s good for the community, our city and there are a lot of other positives to being involved with the legal community, like promoting our profession.”

Attesting to his devotion to the legal profession, Aziz has received numerous awards and accolades during his career. He was selected to the Top 100: Texas Super Lawyers list in 2017 and has been selected to the Top 100: Houston Super Lawyers list since 2016 and the Texas Super Lawyers list since 2013. He was recently given the Distinguished Member Award from the South Asian Bar Association.

“It means a lot, and it validates all the hard work,” Aziz said. “There’s a lot that goes on behind the scenes with what I do. Ultimately you get a case to trial or mediation, but in some cases there are hundreds or thousands of hours spent in preparation and getting ready for depositions. It takes a lot of background work, so it means a lot that after years of experience, my colleagues recognize the hard work. It’s very rewarding.”

As an attorney from an underrepresented background, Aziz said diversity among practicing attorneys gives strength to the legal profession and society in general.

“Diversity is important in every aspect of our lives,” Aziz said. “A lack of diversity breeds closed-mindedness and stereotyping. The same principles apply to the law. Houston, to me, is the best city in the country and the world because when I go try a case, we bring a jury panel in and see all aspects of the community and all sorts of people.

“It’s important to have diversity in the legal community. Ultimately, it comes down to your qualifications and hard work. But I think it’s important that our city and our legal community keep on growing and flourishing, and diversity is part of that.”
The stated mission of the University of Houston Law Center is to provide students with a quality legal education and the skills necessary for a successful career, and to serve as a hub for innovative research and legal scholarship.

An important third role is to reach out and actively engage the community with the goal of strengthening ties and making the neighborhood — and city of Houston — a better place to live. While the Law Center’s academic credentials are well established, the school’s commitment to public service and educational offerings has grown dramatically in recent years to the benefit of both students and the general public. Thousands of people have learned about their legal rights or received free legal help through the school’s clinical programs; others have witnessed court sessions on campus or listened as speakers explained important issues of the day; school children have been mentored; food banks staffed; and even parks cleaned of debris.

These are just a few of the community service programs and activities sponsored by the Law Center and supported by students, faculty and staff. Read on for details about these and other efforts:
The Law Center received the **HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AWARD** by Insight Into Diversity Magazine (2016, 2017 & 2018)

**Community service projects** 1st year students volunteer for a variety of public service projects as a way of showing support for and connecting with the community

**THE PEOPLE’S LAW SCHOOL** has taught more than **55,000** people since its founding

**THE STREET LAW CLASS** has reached more than **550** local students in classes taught by law center students

**THE JUVENILE and CAPITAL ADVOCACY PROJECT** have represented more than **100** DEATH ROW INMATES & has sealed more than **300** RECORDS

**TEXAS INNOCENCE NETWORK** has contributed to the exoneration of nearly **A DOZEN CLIENTS**

Tune into **BRIEFCASE RADIO**

**KUHF - 88.7 FM**

for a weekly one-minute segment featuring experts discussing legal topics affecting the general public.

The Law Center provides a number of special events each year to **ENCourage High School and College Students to Continue Their Education & Pursue Their Career Dreams**

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**UH LAW CENTER CLINICS**

The CPC represents low income families in areas of law such as bankruptcy, guardianships, divorce, child custody, probate/wills and estate administration.

The ECDC provides students with the perspective of the business decision maker.

The CLC is one of the few of its kind in the country, giving law students hands on experience representing low income families in court.

The CDC handles a select number of misdemeanor cases with a high probability of going to trial, such as assaults, thefts, driving while intoxicated and drug possession.

The IC specializes in representing adult and juvenile immigrants from all parts of the world.

The MC provides trained student mediators to the civil justice courts in Harris County, the Better Business Bureau, the Harris County Dispute Resolution Center, and the EEOC.

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2018 BRIEFCASE 29
MORE THAN BRICKS
TOGETHER WE BUILD THE FUTURE OF LEGAL EDUCATION

Preliminary digital renderings of the Law Center provided by designLAB.
The site has been chosen, seed money is being raised, focus groups consulted, and wish lists compiled — long-awaited plans are on track for construction of a five-story, state-of-the-art facility to enhance the educational capabilities of the University of Houston Law Center and help launch it into the upper echelons of the nation’s law schools.

It has been a goal for years to replace the nearly 50-year-old Law Center building with a modern facility to better reflect the academic excellence behind its walls. The school’s reputation is strong in the legal community, but the outdated, time-worn facility is holding it back. U.S. News & World Report currently ranks the Law Center 56th among the nation’s 197 law schools accredited by the American Bar Association. Other law schools that have constructed new buildings have often experienced a notable improvement in their rankings. Rankings, though by no means definitive in evaluating the educational quality of an institution, are important in attracting and retaining the most diverse and best credentialed professors and students; the rankings affect the perceived value of a J.D. for both recent graduates and alumni.

“A world-class institution in a world class city requires a world-class building,” said Dean Leonard M. Baynes. “The Law Center is an excellent institution with very talented and well-regarded faculty, students, staff and alumni. The current building does not reflect that excellence found within and, in fact, diminishes the Law Center’s otherwise outstanding reputation. A world-class building will enhance the Law Center's national reputation for educational excellence.”

UH President Renu Khator has made a new law building a top priority in seeking funding when the legislature reconvenes in January.

“Since its establishment in 1947, the University of Houston Law Center has come to exemplify this University’s dedication to academic excellence and community engagement,” Khator said. “Today, as it continues to produce an outstanding array of business and civic leaders, legal scholars and practicing lawyers, it faces the growing challenge of doing so in outdated facilities. That is why I am so enthusiastically supporting the “More than Bricks” campaign for a new, state-of-the-art UHLC building, one that will allow our law school to achieve even greater success and bring even greater recognition to UH.”

The new building also will benefit the city, projecting a powerful, modern image of the top law school in the nation’s fourth largest city.

“UH Law is important to our work in building a more economically robust Houston,” said Bob Harvey, president and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership. “To support Fortune 500 companies and Houston’s reputation as a leading headquarters city, we have to have strong corporate talent, including a deep bench in the legal profession. The great news is that leading global firms have a strong presence in Houston, which is a key strength as we talk to major companies considering relocation. UH Law is a key part of that effort.”

The new building will project a dynamic image of the school and reinforce its name as a true “law center.” It is planned as a cross-disciplinary facility with the latest technology and flexible space to enhance the educational experience for students and faculty while also serving as a hub to engage and serve the public. It will include space to enhance the school’s clinical outreach to the community while improved facilities and modern technological capabilities will provide opportunities for greater interaction with local, national and international stakeholders. Modern spaces for judicial proceedings will serve local, state and regional courts, giving students and the public valuable insight into the judicial system.

“The Law Center is already active in reaching out to the community through its clinical and educational programs, but the new facility will allow a great commitment to this endeavor,” Baynes said. “It will allow clinic clients to more easily find the clinics and provide the clients with first-class service.”

The three-part building campaign is more than half-way through Phase 1, raising $5.4 million.
of the $10 million needed from alumni and friends of the school which demonstrates to lawmakers the alumni-backed support behind this campaign before the legislature convenes in January 2019. As part of strategic planning efforts in Phase 1, the Houston firm of Facility Programming and Consulting was retained to assess goals, resources, needs, image and other factors that will be used in the final design. Phase 2 will continue to seek support of alumni and friends while seeking legislative support. University leadership has designated construction of a new law facility as a top building capital priority, pending success in meeting the Phase 1 goal. The third phase calls for additional fundraising to ensure the building meets or exceeds expectations, with groundbreaking set for 2021.

“The Law Center has approximately 12,000 alumni in the Houston-area, representing a significant percentage of the lawyers practicing in a wide variety of fields in the Houston area,” said Bill Jackson ’92, president of the UH Law Center Foundation board and chairman of the building committee. “Like the city and our legal community, the Law Center already has nationally recognized programs in areas such as Energy & Environmental Law, Health Law, International Law, Intellectual Property and Tax. With the new law building, we have an opportunity to create a convening space for legal scholarship and thought leadership in these practice areas that are so critical for our alumni, our local businesses and our law firms.

“As University of Houston law alumni, it is imperative that we commit now to fund the construction of this building for the future of the Law Center, for Houston and for our legal community.”

As currently envisioned, the new 170,000-square-foot facility will be built south of the existing building on the site of the student parking lot between the Law Center and University Lofts. Visible to commuters from both I-45 and Spur 5, the new addition to the campus “skyline” will implicitly market the Law Center to those commuters. Its main entry will face west, adjacent to a plaza and pedestrian walkway that will connect the Law Center to the entire campus. A student and clinic parking lot directly to the west will complete the complex.

In focus groups, faculty, students, staff and alumni suggested a variety of improvements they would like to see in the new building, including:
• State-of-the-art technology
• Architecture and overall aesthetics befitting a top tier law school
• Natural light (54 percent of the existing, bunker-like facility is below ground.)
• Additional student space for study and social interaction; flexible classrooms for greater interaction between faculty and students
• Front desk to welcome and direct visitors; open foyer for special events and to serve as student gathering spot
• Improved layout and traffic flow
• Modern library with fewer stacks and more space to study

“Current plans surpass all those items outlined in the survey and will result in a truly world class facility,” Baynes concluded. “The power to make this happen is in each of our hands.”

To learn more about the law building campaign, please contact Magda Herrera, Senior Director of Advancement, at mmherrer@uh.edu or 713.743.3719.
Preliminary digital renderings of the Law Center provided by designLAB.
When reflecting on 40-plus years as an attorney, Michael Nugent believes his legacy will be his willingness to find solutions.

While the 1972 University of Houston Law Center graduate acknowledges the adversarial nature of practicing law, Nugent preferred to abide by the mantra, “A deal is not a good deal unless both parties are happy,” throughout his career.

“I didn’t like to argue,” Nugent said. “I guess that’s because I’m not very good at it. I always believed that I could get a lot done working with people rather than fighting. That works for me, but there are other people where that’s not their style, and they’re very successful in what they do.”

Nugent spent the majority of his career practicing oil and gas law. Early on, he worked for Hunt Oil Company in Dallas. He worked for Occidental Petroleum in its Houston office for three years, and then transferred to an Occidental subsidiary, Zoecon Corp., based in Dallas.


Nugent said that oil and gas is an area with ample opportunities, especially for attorneys who want to practice in Texas. But he cautioned that attorneys should always be prepared for the industry’s downturns.

“The oil and gas business is great,” Nugent said. “I enjoyed the people and the industry because you have a deal to do and you get it done. It’s a rollercoaster though, and you have to be prepared for that. It goes up and it goes down.

“But relying exclusively on oil and gas is risky. You have to be prepared to do something else, like probate, divorces, or contracts and litigation. I sense that these other fields of law have become more specialized and complicated, so it might be more difficult for lawyers these days. Working for corporations gave me the opportunity to work in various areas of the law all the while drawing a paycheck.”

Nugent said he values the legal education he received from the Law Center, and said his favorite professor was Dean A.A. White, with whom he took three courses.

“He was just low key and really good at what he did,” he said. “Dean White was just really calm when he taught you.”

He recalled one instance where he was the only 3L student enrolled in White’s class that was primarily for first-year students.

“The highlight of my law school career was in Dean White’s course,” Nugent said. “It was my last semester, and I was studying for the bar exam as well. There was a whole bunch of young kids in there. It was their first course. They were sitting and were scared to death.

“He would ask them a question and they would stand up, even though he never made his students stand up. Finally, he asks me a question one day, and I’m just in my chair with my legs crossed. You could hear a gasp. We just had a back-and-forth discussion, and from that point on no one in the class stood up.”

Nugent has been an active and generous alumnus. For more than 20 years, he has supported the Law Center’s efforts in numerous ways, including the Law Annual Fund, Dean’s Society, funding a three-year Leaders & Achievers scholarship and most recently contributing to the ongoing campaign for a new facility.

“I just don’t understand how you can’t have a relationship with your law school,” Nugent said. “I don’t know what I would have done if I hadn’t gone to law school there.

“What’s being done in legal education is very interesting and hadn’t even been dreamed of when I was in school. But I also understand the way tuition rates are going. I couldn’t have made it now. I love it there, and I’ve received some nice letters from some of the scholarship recipients. I know that every bit of support helps.”
Barbara Quackenbush moved to Houston in 1965 after graduating from Birmingham-Southern College with a B.A. cum laude in Latin. After initially planning to teach that subject, she instead decided to be a secretary, a career option common to young women of that era.

“It was kind of understood that women would either be a secretary, nurse or teacher until we got married, had children and lived happily ever after,” Quackenbush said. “I truly never thought of going to law school, business school, medical school or anything else.”

Quackenbush, whose maiden name was Payton-Wright, made the move to Houston with a Pi Beta Phi sorority sister and landed a job as personal secretary to legendary heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey. After four years, she moved on to become a secretary to the head of an accounting firm, but did not feel challenged by her work.

“I found that very boring,” Quackenbush said. “So, I decided to become a legal secretary and was hired by Dan Arnold, head of the real estate section of Vinson & Elkins, Houston’s largest law firm.”
“Relationships are so important when you’re practicing law.”

In retirement, Quackenbush recently relied on her resiliency and determination to overcome the odds once more when she was diagnosed with sepsis in May 2017. Sepsis is an illness caused by the body’s response to an infection that can lead to severe complications or death. Quackenbush has undergone 11 surgeries, eight hospitalizations and amputations of her hands and all toes on her feet — but that has not stopped her tenacity for life.

“I wasn’t expected to live,” she said. “I was in a coma for about 10 days and the ICU for almost a month. My husband had arranged for my funeral and told our family and friends to come say their goodbyes.”

On the morning she was scheduled to be taken off life support, David Quackenbush made a final attempt to see if his wife would respond to him.

“I had trouble opening my eyes, but I could hear him,” Quackenbush said. “He said: ‘Do you know who I am?’ I shook my head. Then he said: ‘Tell me how old you are, and shake your head when I get to your age.’”

He got to my age, and I shook my head.

“Needless to say, my husband told the doctors not to discontinue all life support. It was quite a miracle that I survived. It was that close.”

Quackenbush said she is thankful to the sepsis awareness program at Methodist Hospital. Dr. Deepa Gotur and the Quackenbushes shared her survival journey in a video that was produced by the hospital. (The video can be accessed online at: https://vimeo.com/231578576.)

The Quackenbush’s near-death experience made them stronger and even more dedicated to supporting causes they care about. They continue to cherish life and pay it forward with their generosity to the Houston Boychoir, St. Martin’s Episcopal Church, Birmingham-Southern College and the Law Center.

The Quackenbushs have supported the Law Center for more than two decades and thanks to their thoughtful inclusion of the school in their estate planning, will continue to do so. Their legacy will continue to make a difference in perpetuity from the Endowed David & Barbara Quackenbush Fellowship from a planned estate gift to benefit future generations of women and minorities.

“We would like to leave a mark,” Quackenbush said. “Each of those institutions stood out in my life and were important to me,” Quackenbush said. “My law school experience was so important in propelling me to a great career, particularly as a night student. It was just outstanding.”

“Similar to working for Dr. DeBakey, it was very fascinating work. I finally got the courage to take the LSAT and applied to the University of Houston Law Center.”

Quackenbush began law school in 1971, and her accolades included several American Jurisprudence awards and membership in Order of the Barons. Her law school experience as a member of the Class of ’75 helped her become a trailblazer among the local legal community as one of the earliest women attorneys to practice transactional law in the Houston area.

“I was a night student and worked 40 to 50 hours a week,” Quackenbush said. “There were just a few women in each of my classes, but by the time I graduated, 20 to 30 percent of the entry classes were female. A big change started to occur by the mid 70s in the number of female law students and lawyers.”

Upon graduation, Quackenbush had several job offers but decided to accept a position as the third woman attorney at Vinson & Elkins. She then switched to the banking section, which predominantly handled real estate finance. Quackenbush would remain there for nine years.

On Jan. 5, 1980, Quackenbush married David Quackenbush from Mobile, Ala., who was the son of her parents’ friends. On Nov. 14, 1980, the Quackenbushes had their first child, and a second son was born July 15, 1982. She was the first woman attorney to have children at Vinson & Elkins, and there were no maternity policies in place at the time.

From 1984–1993, Quackenbush was a partner at several boutique law firms in Houston. She went on to serve as vice president and assistant general counsel for Mellon Mortgage Co. and ultimately became the team lead for Global Real Estate and Facilities law at ExxonMobil before retiring in 2011.

Part of her career was chronicled in the 2008 book, “Rough Road to Justice: The Journey of Women Lawyers in Texas” by Betty Trapp Chapman.

“I loved both the in-house jobs as well as the law firm jobs,” Quackenbush said. “I had a great experience and made a lot of friends. In fact, I formed a lunch group of former Vinson & Elkins female attorneys and another group called ‘Women In Real Estate and Finance.’ This latter group provided a network for women in real estate and finance and included attorneys, bankers, realtors and more.

“I had wonderful clients. Relationships are so important when you’re practicing law. It was very satisfying to have repeat clients who would follow me throughout my career. It was just a wonderful experience overall.”
After completing his undergraduate education at Rice University in 2011, Gregory King, Jr., returned to San Antonio to work for a private equity firm.

About halfway through his tenure with Silver Ventures, King, Jr., began to consider long-term career plans. He thought about law school, and consulted with two people he was quite close to who have legal educations — his mother, Leigh Ann King, and father, Greg King, 1985 alumnus of the University of Houston Law Center.

He decided on a career in the law and was accepted into the Law Center Class of 2016. His parents still become emotional when recalling what it was like to watch their son follow in their footsteps.

“It brought back a lot of great memories I had from my law school days,” Leigh Ann said. “I was excited for him that he would have the opportunity to make great memories, learn from some of the same professors I enjoyed, and be in the carrels with his classmates. It made me more grateful to be a part of the Law Center.”

“I was really glad that he took a couple of years off after Rice and went to work and then chose to go to law school and ultimately chose UH,” Greg King added. “It just made me feel a closer connection than I already had to the school. It was a very proud moment when he was accepted.”

Family history gave King, Jr. perspective on the Law Center, but his choice to return to Houston was also because of the vision he had for the kind of attorney he wanted to be.

“I knew of the Law Center through my parents, which helped me become comfortable with the school, but the school’s record and credentials speak for themselves,” King, Jr. said, “I always knew that I wanted to do transactional work as opposed to litigation. Having gone to Rice in Houston and with the Law Center being the best law school in the city, it was a natural fit.”

King, Jr. currently works as an associate at KreagerMitchell in San Antonio, a firm that specializes in corporate and health care law.

“In terms of course work at the Law Center, I was always drawn to classes that were more transactional-based,” he said. “That helped confirm the suspicion I had going into law school.

“Law school teaches you how to think and gives you a unique way of looking at problems in life. It’s fun to now apply that in an everyday setting.”

Though King, Jr.’s tenure as a student added a special chapter in the family’s relationship with the school, the Kings have long been committed to the Law Center’s ability to produce capable and elite attorneys.

Greg and Leigh Ann made a recent generous donation to the Law Building Campaign and have been longtime supporters of the Annual Law Gala & Auction and members of the Leadership Council of the Dean’s Society. Greg King was the recipient of the Corporate Sector Achievement Award at the UH Law Alumni Association Awards in 2017 and sits on the board of directors of the University of Houston Law Foundation. They also previously sponsored the King Family Foundation Scholarship, given to first-year students based on academic excellence, academic activities and leadership.

“I still feel an allegiance to our school even though it’s been over 30 years,” Leigh Ann King said. “When you go to law school, you feel a strong sense of responsibility to make the next generation of lawyers be at least as good as your generation.”

“It’s a small thing to give back to our school and to help others to attend the Law Center and add to the legal community in Houston and around the country,” Greg King added. “We want the school to be better, and we feel connected that way.”

Leigh Ann uses her legal background through volunteer work and a number of philanthropic endeavors. She currently volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates in San Antonio, a group that assists children who have been separated from their parents by Child Protective Services.

Greg King’s career began at Bracewell in 1985, where he became a partner in 1993. He is currently managing partner at EnCap Flatrock Midstream. King previously spent 15 years at Valero Energy, beginning as an associate general counsel in 1993 and eventually serving as president from 2002–2007.

“I owe a great deal of credit for my career to the professors that taught me at the Law Center,” Greg King said. “I learned how to work hard and how to think about solving problems. All of the history of my career was set up with the combination of a finance degree from The University of Texas and my J.D. from the Law Center. I couldn’t ask for a better set of circumstances.”
Greg King ‘85, Leigh Ann King ‘85 and Gregory King, Jr. ‘16
The Honorable Alvin L. Zimmerman ’67
Zimmerman, Axelrad, Meyer, Stern & Wise, P.C.

In recognition of exceptional achievement and noteworthy contribution to the UH Law Center and the UH Law Alumni Association.

Alvin Zimmerman is included in The Best Lawyers in America and has been named one of H Magazine’s Best Lawyers in Houston. His broad-based legal experience includes presiding as a municipal court judge of the city of Houston, a state district judge of the 269 (Civil) and 309 (Family) District Courts, and serving as assistant attorney general for the state of Texas and briefing clerk for The Honorable Judge Ingraham, Federal District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. He has extensive experience in civil trials involving complex litigation as well as representation of parties in difficult family law cases.

He also received from the State Bar of Texas – ADR Section, the Frank Evans Award as the outstanding ADR Professional in 2016 for his dedicated service to the profession. Within his practice, he also serves as a Special Judge for hire, Special Master and Ad Litem.

Mr. Zimmerman was awarded the Frank G. Evans Mediator of the Year Award by the Center for Legal Responsibility at South Texas College of Law. Mr. Zimmerman was recognized as the outstanding adjunct professor by a local law school. He served on the board of a national bank and was counsel to and on the board of a New York Stock Exchange company.

Mr. Zimmerman has been active in many charitable organizations. In May 2000, Mr. Zimmerman received the Anti-Defamation League’s Karen Susman Jurisprudence Award, which is presented annually to the outstanding attorney whose legal career has exemplified outstanding service to the community and the profession. Mr. Zimmerman received the University of Houston Distinguished Alumni Award in April 2009. University of Houston Distinguished Alumni Awards are given to individuals who have distinguished themselves in their field of endeavor and whose accomplishments have brought credit to the university. Just over 100 alumni have received this honor.
Richard Craig Smith ’00
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

For outstanding loyalty and dedication to the University of Houston Law Center

Richard Smith is a partner at the global litigation law firm Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP. His practice focuses on, among other things, complex litigation, white collar criminal defense, and the creation, assessment and implementation of U.S.-centric and transnational anticorruption policies, procedures and corporate internal investigations. Smith is a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America; Thomas Reuters recognized him as a Super Lawyer in the white-collar criminal defense bar in Washington, D.C., from 2013–2017; and he was named one of the Top 100 Black Lawyers by the National Black Lawyers organization, from 2015–2017.

Smith was previously the principal deputy chief for litigation of the fraud section of the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, and has more than 25 years of trial experience. He has also handled more than 100 criminal and civil cases in state and federal courts throughout the U.S. since earning a J.D. from the University of Florida and his LL.M. from the University of Houston Law Center.

Smith has served on the board of numerous institutions, including Exactech, Inc., where he chairs the nominating and governance committee and sits on the audit committee; the board of trustees at the University of Florida Law Center Association, Inc.; and the advisory board at the University of Houston Law Center, Health Law & Policy Institute.

"By obtaining an LL.M. from the Law Center in Health Law, it opened unbelievable doors for my career," Smith said. "I can do things today that I otherwise wouldn’t be doing as a lawyer. You can take your LL.M. and do almost anything. If you want to see the world, get an LL.M."
PRESIDENT’S AWARD
Richard F. Whiteley ’99
Bracewell LLP
In recognition of outstanding commitment, service, and dedication to UH Law Center students and alumni.

LAW FUND VOLUNTEER
John T. Unger ’77
NEXT Financial Group, Inc.
In recognition of outstanding service in fundraising for the UH Law Center.

RISING STAR
Harve Truskett ’08
Hunton Andrews Kurth
In recognition of future promise and notable commitment to the UH Law Center.

CORPORATE SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT
Michele Pilibosian ’98
Direct Energy
In recognition of exceptional achievement in the corporate and business communities.

PRIVATE SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT
Tom F. A. Hetherington ’98
Edison, McDowell & Hetherington
In recognition of exceptional achievement in the private sector legal community.

LAW GALA
Susan L. Bickley ’84
BLANKROME
In recognition of exemplary support of the Law Gala & Auction with gratitude and respect by the UH Law Alumni Association.
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

**PUBLIC SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT**
The Honorable Ken Wise ’94
Fourteenth Court of Appeals
In recognition of exceptional achievement in public service.

**RISING STAR**
Staci Wilson ’09
Bracewell LLP
In recognition of future promise and notable commitment to the UH Law Center.

**PUBLIC SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT**
Meredith Attwell Baker ’94
CTIA
In recognition of exceptional achievement in public service.

**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**
Rehan Alimohammad ’01
Wong Fleming
In recognition of significant achievement toward developing a more diverse and inclusive legal community.

**HONORARY ALUMNUS**
Raymond T. Nimmer
1944–2018
In recognition of outstanding dedication to the UH Law Center.

**FACULTY DISTINCTION**
David R. Dow
University of Houston Law Center
In recognition of outstanding contribution and dedication to the UH Law Center.
Mexico City  Dean Leonard M. Baynes visits Mexico City for an Alumni and Friends reception, making this his second trip in two years.
Dean Leonard M. Baynes visits Mexico City for an Alumni and Friends reception, making this his second trip in two years.
Since taking to the airwaves in September 2016, Briefcase has been informing Houstonians on a variety of topical legal issues.

The weekly radio segment is done in partnership with Houston Public Media and can be heard on 88.7 FM. Hosted by University of Houston Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes, Briefcase episodes feature a Law Center faculty member discussing a topic in their area of expertise.

Topics have ranged from credit cards and college students, musical trademarks and copyright of the song “Happy Birthday to You,” net neutrality, and Hurricane Harvey, among many others.

“As a premier urban law school, it is imperative for our faculty, alumni, and students to share their expertise with the larger Houston community,” Baynes said. “Briefcase allows the Law Center to showcase its expertise and provide cogent information on legal issues to the public.

“It is even more important to do this now as legal issues dominate the discourse on thorny societal challenges like immigration, income inequality and the provision of health care, as well as many other issues.”

The Law Center earned a gold medal at the 2017 Collegiate Advertising Awards competition for its segment titled, “Spotting Fake News.” The featured guest, Amanda Watson, director of the O’Quinn Library and an assistant professor, provided tips on how to distinguish between truthful information and false news.

“The prevalence of social media results in a lot of unsubstantiated news stories entering the public domain,” Watson said. “We’re all at risk when lies are presented as valid news. Invented news items led to S.E.C. fraud charges against stock scammers, a D.C. restaurant owner barely escaping an armed vigilante attack, and false murder accusations aimed against an innocent man. False reports can affect our economy, our safety and our understanding of right and wrong.

“Check the source! Is it reliable? One you recognize and trust? Does the URL have an extra .co or a funny spelling? These are signs of an intentionally deceptive website,” Watson continued. “Look for identifying information that clearly defines the owner of the website. And remember, it is extremely unlikely that only one source is reporting a story. Check other trusted sources to confirm.”

Briefcase airs every Wednesday at 5:49 a.m., 7:49 a.m., 10 a.m. and 2:39 p.m. Segments are regularly shared on the Law Center’s social media channels, and weekly updates can be found under the Faculty Experts section at law.uh.edu. Every episode is also available on Houston Public Media’s website at https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/shows/briefcase/.
After completing law school in 1969, Jerry Snider made history as the first University of Houston Law Center graduate to clerk in the U.S. Supreme Court. From 1969-1970, Snider clerked under former Chief Justice Warren Burger and Associate Justice Tom Clark.

Snider went on to practice for more than four decades at the firm formerly known as Faegre and Benson LLP in Minneapolis. He died on June 9, 2018 at the age of 75, but his legacy will be felt for generations to come as Law Center students continue to follow his footsteps by establishing their careers with prestigious clerkship opportunities.

One of those alumni include Rebecca Cutri-Kohart, a 2016 alumna of the Law Center. Cutri-Kohart clerked with Judge Gray Miller of the Southern District of Texas and a 1978 Law Center alumnus, from August 2016 to August 2017. She followed that up with a clerkship opportunity from August 2017 to August 2018 with Judge David Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington D.C.

Cutri-Kohart determined that a clerkship would be an ideal opportunity to further enhance her legal writing, observe a wide variety of legal practice and benefit from the mentorship of an experienced jurist. She applied broadly to clerkships throughout the federal judiciary, and credited Professor Sapna Kumar for helping her understand the different types of experiences she could get working for a district court or appellate judge.

“Clerking is a really magical experience,” Cutri-Kohart said. “A judicial chamber is an intimate work environment that allows time and freedom to really think about the cases in front of the judge. You hone your writing and advocacy skills; you see varied examples of good and bad lawyering; and you develop a relationship with your Judge and your co-clerks that will leave you with a legal network for life. It is a wonderful way to transition from law school to the full-time practice of law.”

Cutri-Kohart noted the different rhythm of the work between an appellate court and a district court. While working at the district court, the subject matter was varied, and she worked on criminal cases, torts, constitutional issues, intellectual property, employment, civil rights, and contract disputes, among other issues. Though the subject matter can also be varied in an appeals court, the bulk of her work...
was related to federal government issues such as regulatory challenges.

“At the district court, there are continuous motions pending that must be worked on, interspersed with the excitement of the occasional trial,” Cutri-Kohart said. “The district court is filled with the unexpected, and more than once I came to work surprised at motions from litigants that needed to be addressed promptly, such as requests for temporary restraining orders.

“The pace of work at the appellate court is much more measured. There were few surprises, with each case handled in a steady and almost academic manner. It was extremely interesting to research matters that had clear national importance. I found the controversies at an appellate court seemed to me to have a lot more shades of gray in the law than the cases I observed at the district court. Trying to discern what the legally ‘right’ answer could be much more difficult.”

Like Cutri-Kohart, Bilma Canales, a 2018 Law Center alumna, will clerk with Miller from August 2018 to August 2019. She also has another clerkship opportunity lined up with Chief Judge Roger Gregory at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit from August 2019 to August 2020.

Canales hopes to pursue a career as a trial lawyer with a focus on commercial litigation. She trusts that clerking will give her the hands-on experience needed to succeed in the legal field.

“Clerking is a great way to see many different kinds of trials and lawyers,” she said. “You can see what makes them great and learn from that.”

Canales looks forward to absorbing all the information she can from a highly-experienced judge. She believes that clerking is an invaluable experience because of the opportunity to develop a rapport with a judge and learn a great deal in the process.

“I’ll be able to see a lot of different trials that deal with different issues and areas of law and see how different lawyers write and argue persuasively,” Canales said.

Canales achieved this opportunity with the help of Law Center professors who continually encourage students to look into clerkships.

“Professor Theodore Rave answered all of my questions about clerking and was a major source of knowledge and help throughout the process,” Canales said. “Anyone I asked about their clerkship experience absolutely raved about it. I distinctly remember a conversation with Professor Jessica Roberts who spoke with great pride and fond memories of her time clerking as well.”

Law Center student Henry Legg will finish his 3L year in May 2019. After completing his legal education, he will be clerking for a year in Austin with Jeffery V. Brown, a justice on the Texas Supreme Court and a 1995 graduate of the Law Center. Legg is most interested in appellate work and litigation and said he is optimistic the experience will be essential to his personal development.

“I’m most looking forward to helping write and research opinions,” he said. “I’m confident that my writing will improve drastically after a year of feedback from Justice Brown and the rest of his staff. I am also eager to better understand the process behind deciding what cases merit review by the Texas Supreme Court.”

He said Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s visit to the Law Center in January 2018 also played a role in his pursuit of a clerkship.

“When my professors discussed the impact their clerkships had on them, it seemed like not pursuing a clerkship would be a wasted opportunity,” Legg said. “Someone asked Justice Sotomayor when she spoke at the Law Center if she had any career regrets or advice. She commented that she wished she had pursued a clerkship and that a year-long clerkship was the equivalent of five or so years of practice. This sentiment was repeated by many of my professors, and so a clerkship seemed like an invaluable opportunity.”

“Clerking is a great way to see many different kinds of trials and lawyers.”
One of A.A. White’s first acts as dean of the fledgling University of Houston law school in 1947 was to scrape the mud off his shoes from the north campus lot where he had surveyed the converted World War II barracks he was tasked with turning into a bastion of legal scholarship.

Thirty-five years, thousands of students, and countless lectures later, he delivered a heartfelt message about life and career to students in his final class at the school that was then well on its way to becoming one of the nation’s best.

Ann Kickler Boss was a first–year student in that Torts class of April 19, 1982. Recently, the retired labor and employment attorney came across White’s handwritten notes from that talk which he had shared with her after class.

“Professor White was a dear man, and his message was well-received by a bunch of exhausted first-year law students,” she wrote in forwarding his 36-year-old comments to Briefcase. “Rereading his message, I was once again impressed by the wisdom of his words.”

The blueprint for a successful life and career in the law from the one-time Dallas lawyer, who twice served as dean and taught some 20 years in the classroom at the University of Houston law school, is as valid today as it was decades ago:
"I want to use these few remaining precious moments talking to you about living life. I have spent some 75 hours talking with you about Torts, but how successfully you live your personal life is more important to your happiness than how successfully you practice tort law. In fact, how successfully you live life may substantially affect how successfully you practice any law.

I would first say to you, live life so as never to live it on a psychological down side. There are few things more pathetic than seeing persons winding down their lives experiencing the dregs of their existence. So, plan and live your life from the long range point of view. Sure, you will come to be unable to do some of the things you once did: you will not be able to run as fast, swim as far or experience one of life's great joys with the same intensity. Some of you men, as I have, when you grow older will have your chauvinistic pride hurt when you are out walking at what you think is a pretty good clip, and a walking woman overtakes and passes you. But despite those little disappointments, let me assure you that each stage of life has its own unique values if you are prepared to live each stage for those values. So while you are young, do not experience a debilitating dread of growing old. Whatever nature does to you, it will substantially prepare you for it. Sufficient to each stage of life are the joys thereof.

"How can you best prepare to realize the joys of each stage? I do not purport to have all the answers, but the perspective gained from my considerable years suggests, first, that you keep in the best physical health you can naturally. To that end, take regular physical exercise. We are told that everywhere, and I shall not belabor that point. Further, do not abuse your body. If you abuse it at all, do it lightly. Please be assured that there is an inevitable downside to every artificially induced upside. It may sometimes be a little long in coming, and it may come somewhat disguised, but come it surely will.

"Next, develop and practice self-discipline. Your most enduring joys will be those harvested from your being masters of your own life. Then, be honest; yes, even on your income tax. That may seem to you to be a strange suggestion, but we have melancholy proof all about us every day that it is not an irrelevant admonition. So if you want to live life free from anxiety and approach its end at peace with the world, being honest is absolutely essential. Again, if I may be personal, I do not approach honesty as a religious issue — I approach it as a practical style of life issue. For example, I can say that I have never cheated one iota on an exam. I am not sure I did not because of an irresistible moral barricade, though I would like to think that such was a substantial factor, but I also refrained from cheating because I did not want the distraction, the divided attention, the apprehension it would cause. I was convinced that I would do better to prepare and take the exam with such mental powers as I had focused and concentrated 100 percent on the substance of the problems presented.

"Also, have elevating objectives to which your life, and even your death, will contribute. Enjoy some activity or activities while you live that will help to make of this a better world. That can be your life's work or some collateral activity. And plan, if you can, so that at death some of the fruits of your life can be made to reach into eternity with an uplifting purpose. I have no 'home in the sky' religion. If something like that is a bonus for me, well and good. But I do have a consuming love for mankind and a desire to contribute to its uplift. I think mankind has a noble, symphonic mission, and you people as a part of that mankind are very real to me. You are a substantial part of my eternity. If I can have lifted or otherwise made your life just a little better, I am very happy about it.

"Finally, love someone or someones for which happily you want to primarily live your life. If you do that, you will find that you are also living it for yourself. I would be unreal and dishonest if I led you to believe that observing my suggestions will produce a perpetually blissful existence.

"If you observed them fully, life would still produce its conditioning and soul-temporing hard knocks and its sorrowful heartbreaks. Mrs. White and I have had them. That is the grand order of things. But I am talking to you about how best to live life on balance. It is my deep conviction that living life within these suggestions will produce the most net fun while living it and will produce the brightest and warmest glow as you reach full maturity.

"If I could have one wish, I would live here on earth for a million years with the wife, son and daughter I have, and friends like you. But, since I cannot have that, I wish for each of you health, success and happiness."
IN MEMORIAM

The Law Center family remembers the lives and careers of faculty members lost in the past year.
The University of Houston Law Center lost a larger than life presence with the passing of Dean Emeritus and Professor Raymond T. Nimmer on Jan. 24, 2018.

Nimmer was remembered during a memorial service at the Geo. H. Lewis & Sons Funeral home in February and in the Hendricks Heritage Room at the Law Center in May. He was remembered for his scholarly excellence, his sense of style and humor, his love of baseball and the countless friendships he forged throughout his life.

Jeff Dodd ’79, a senior partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth, frequently collaborated with Nimmer on scholarly articles and books as a result of a friendship that began when Dodd took his courses.

“Ray loved his students and they loved him,” Dodd said. “One recent testament to that love of him occurred when his students learned of his passing. They spontaneously began placing flowers in the parking spot reserved for him at the Law Center.

“As I think about the legions of students, his webs of friendships and the outpouring of condolences and expressions of grief from colleagues and friends afar, I realize that we are the living and durable testament to the extraordinary life of Ray Nimmer.”

A recognized authority on commercial law, information law and intellectual property law, Nimmer was the Leonard H. Childs Professor of Law. In his time at the Law Center, he served as associate dean from 1978 to 1985, as interim dean from 1993 to 1995, and as dean from 2006-2013. He also served as co-director of the Law Center’s Intellectual Property and Information Law Institute. Nimmer, who earned a B.A. and J.D. from Valparaiso University in Indiana, joined the UH law faculty in 1975.

Dean Leonard M. Baynes reflected on his first encounter with Nimmer in the summer of 2014, before he formally started as dean.

“I knew Ray best from the perspective of him being a former dean,” Baynes said. “After our first lunch, it was clear to me that although we were two very different people, we shared the passion to move the institution forward. Ray was always available to me for private counsel and consultation. He was a great former dean.

“The Law Center is thankful for having had Ray Nimmer among its faculty and family for more than four decades, and as the current dean of the Law Center, I can say from all of us at UHLC that he will be deeply missed.”

Over the years, Nimmer taught Contracts, Internet Law, Electronic Commerce, Bankruptcy, Secured Financing Law, Copyright Law, Information Law, Sales, Contract Drafting, and Licensing Law. He was the co-reporter to the Drafting Committee on Revision of U.C.C. Article 2 and the reporter for the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA). He authored more than 25 books and numerous articles, including a three-volume treatise on Information Law, a pioneering multi-volume book on the Law of Computer Technology, a treatise on Modern Licensing Law and a multi-volume treatise on The Law of Electronic Commercial Transactions.

The Law Center has created the Raymond T. Nimmer Memorial Scholarship Fund to celebrate Nimmer’s life and legacy at the Law Center.
University of Houston Law Center Professor Raymond L. Britton died in May 2017 at the age of 92, leaving behind a legacy of 59 years as a legal educator where he taught generations of law students as one of the longest-tenured professors in the school’s history.

First arriving at the Law Center as an adjunct professor in 1958 and then joining the faculty as an assistant professor that same year, Britton was later promoted to associate professor in 1961 and then full professor in 1966.

Britton is survived by his two sons, Law Center alumnus Raymond “Lee” Britton, Jr. ’88 and Samuel Britton ’95. They agree their father’s devotion to law and legal education had a profound impact on their choice of careers.

Lee Britton has a private practice in Houston, primarily focusing on civil litigation, along with labor and securities arbitration. Samuel Britton works throughout Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar as the Indochina Legal Director at Carlsberg Group.

“Our dad being an attorney had more of an influence on us than I realized at the time,” Lee Britton said. “We grew up with it. You couldn’t help but learn growing up with him, and he couldn’t help but point things out to us. It was kind of a natural fit to go into law.”

Samuel Britton said his father was constantly thinking of ways to enhance his students’ classroom experience. If he approached his father with a law-related idea or thought, Britton would quickly seize the opportunity to consider how it could be applied to helping students learn better.

“Some of my strongest memories of my dad were his tenacity, commitment and passion for perfection,” Samuel Britton said. “I can recall times after entering the workforce I sought out his help to revise my CV or review some work-related legal writing, and he would always have time for me, patiently going through the subject matter — sentence by sentence — like a hardened magazine editor carefully weighing the prose and trying to improve it.

“He would try alternate words, phrasing and rearrange the sentences, and without a moment’s hesitation, he would be ready to reference a dictionary or legal thesaurus in search of a more perfect word choice that he might have missed.”

Samuel Britton said his father’s willingness and spontaneity would also be shown when he needed help in understanding various legal concepts that he had trouble fully grasping.

“Whether it be the various corporate law doctrines or the inner workings of securities law, he would always be around to discuss, inspire and bring clarity to a particular topic, and never lose patience to repeat it again and again until it sank in,” Samuel Britton said.

Lee Britton had the unique experience of being taught by his father while attending the Law Center.

“I had a little trepidation because I knew my fellow classmates had the mistaken belief that I had the inside track on what was going to be on the exam,” Lee Britton said. “One of the reasons I took his class was because I thought, when was I ever going to have that opportunity again? I was maybe a little more self-conscious than in the other classes knowing this was my father teaching, and most of my friends in the class knew that. I’m glad I did it. It was a good experience.”

Britton taught Admiralty, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Arbitration and Securities Regulation. Despite his decades as a legal educator, he valued feedback and interaction with his students and believed he could learn from their perspective just as much as they could from his.

“He got a lot of joy being able to work with law students,” Lee Britton said. “Overall, he enjoyed the law, and he loved teaching. He loved conversing with the students.”
Mark your calendars for Reunion Weekend 2018 at the University of Houston Law Center November 9-10, 2018.

Seeking class volunteers from the classes of 1968, 1993, 1998, and 2003! Interested in serving on your class host committee? Contact the Office of Law Alumni Relations at lawalumni@uh.edu or call 713.743.2201.

Save the Date

Fly Me to the Moon
43rd Annual Law Gala & Auction

Saturday, March 30, 2019
The Post Oak Hotel, Houston

Join us for a rocket ride to the swinging ’60s, when man walked on the moon and Frank Sinatra was in his heyday.

Gala Chairs
Robert Sergesketter ’95 & Denise Rhodes

For questions or more information on supporting the Annual Law Gala & Auction, please contact the Office of Law Alumni Relations at 713.743.2201 or lawalumni@uh.edu.

2018-2019 Events

Nov. 9-10: Reunion Weekend
Join alumni for reunion gatherings and celebrations honoring class years, ’68, ’93, ’98, ’03, and 50+ year luncheon. All alumni welcome to a UHLC football tailgate, traditional “arbitration” Happy Hour, and CLE programming. Class volunteers and nominations welcome.

Nov. 27: Giving Tuesday
Mark your calendars! Join the movement and pay it forward by supporting the New Building Campaign on this national day of giving.

Mar. 30: 43rd Annual Law Gala & Auction: Fly Me to The Moon
Hosted by Gala Chairs Robert Sergesketter ’95 and Denise Rhodes. Join us for a rocket ride to the swinging 60’s, when man walked on the moon and Frank Sinatra was in his heyday. Alumni volunteer, support and sponsorship opportunities available.

For more information or additional events, please visit law.uh.edu/alumni or contact the office of alumni relations at lawalumni@uh.edu or 713.743.2201.

New Building Campaign

Support of alumni and friends is vital as campaign efforts move forward to ensure the creation of a world-class facility for a world-class institution.

Together we have the power to make UHLC the law school of the future.

Join our Campaign today!
law.uh.edu/building
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