BRIEFCASE
UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON LAW CENTER

UH LAW AND THE POWER OF DIVERSITY
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The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university and an EOO/AAffirmative Institution.
Diversity is a hallmark of the University of Houston Law Center. Broadening the face of the legal profession has been an important part of my work both before and since coming to the Law Center in 2014. The effort is paying off as outlined in the cover story of this retrospective edition of Briefcase magazine. During the 2017-18 school year, the Law Center was honored for its initiatives reaching out to students historically underrepresented in the legal profession and recognized for its diverse student body, which includes a higher percentage of minority students than law schools overall nationally.

While diversification is a focus of the Law Center, it is not the only focus. The mission of the school, as always, is to develop future generations of successful lawyers, well-grounded in the law, skilled in its practice, and committed to justice and community service. In addition to outstanding instruction and rigorous class work, the articles included in this edition spotlight some of the ways that goal is accomplished through special events, guest speakers, outreach programs, competitions, internships, networking opportunities, and myriad other ways of broadening the educational experience.

Please take a few minutes to read about all that is happening at the school — including the ongoing campaign in support of a new facility — and then let me know what you think about how we are doing and where the school should be headed. I hope this “year in review” edition of Briefcase will prompt you to become more involved with your alma mater as it looks to the future.

Sincerely,

Leonard M. Baynes  
Dean and Professor of Law
Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, urged law schools to weave ethical training into early course curriculum and encouraged students to participate in pro-bono work during a discussion held at the University of Houston Law Center in January.

Sotomayor made her comments during a fireside chat in Krost Hall with Professor Michael A. Olivas, the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law and director of the Institute for Higher Education Law & Governance. The Justice also participated in a question and answer session with students at the event.

“What we are not doing is training young lawyers to understand their ethical, moral obligation,” Sotomayor said. “It is not clear to me that we spend enough time teaching these students — lawyers of the future — about the difference between rules that should be our floor of behavior, and ethical behavior born from professional integrity. I think that some of the derision that the public has about lawyers comes from that lack of training.”

Sotomayor also mentioned a lack of emphasis on core courses that teach students how to be well-rounded lawyers. She stressed the importance of lawyers being familiar with varied areas of practice.

“To me it doesn’t really matter if you have your heart set on specializing in a particular area of law or not,” she said. “Students should consider taking taxation because every client you have will be affected by taxes one way or another.

“Take classes like estates because everyone has family and friends die. You should be able to talk intelligently to your parents and colleagues about making sure that they protect their families when they die.”

She emphasized the importance of in-court neutrality on the part of judges, and said members of the bench must assess and overcome their own emotions so they can remain impartial.

“We do not put on our robe and lose emotion,” she said. “It is impossible. You are a person. If you hear a sad story or read a sad story, you cry. If something tugs at other people’s hearts, it tugs at our hearts.

“You have to, as a judge, take stock within yourself of your own prejudices, your own biases, your own feelings. You have to consciously correct for them. If you do not, you are unconsciously being unfair to the other side.”

While answering questions from Law Center students, Sotomayor walked through the aisles of the auditorium, pausing to shake hands with members of the audience and pose for pictures. At one point, she chatted briefly with a young girl, signed an autograph, posed for a picture, and gave her a hug.
Sotomayor also met with student leaders. When asked what she regretted most in her career, she told students it was not having served as a federal law clerk even though her mentors encouraged her to do so.

Following the discussion, Sotomayor was given the Dean’s Award from Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes at a luncheon sponsored by UH Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Paula Myrick Short. UH President and System Chancellor Dr. Renu Khator, UH administrators, elected officials, local attorneys, students, alumni, and friends of the Law Center were in attendance.

“As a university president you have many special moments,” Khator said. “But there are some where you just stand in awe and in humility in front of somebody who is bigger than life, someone who is such an amazing and inspiring story that you just get speechless. This is one of those moments.”

“Justice Sotomayor was very down to earth and brilliant,” Baynes added. “Her background is so fitting of many of our students. Being the third woman and the first Hispanic to sit on the Supreme Court is an amazing accomplishment. Her background is really the story of the American dream.”

One of only four women to serve on the Supreme Court, Sotomayor was nominated by President Barack Obama on May 26, 2009, and joined the court on Aug. 8, 2009. She previously served as assistant district attorney in the New York County District Attorney’s Office from 1979–1984. She then litigated international commercial matters in New York City at Pavia & Harcourt, where she served as an associate and then partner from 1984–1992. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated her to the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, where she served from 1992–1998. She served as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1998 until her appointment to the Supreme Court in 2009.

Sotomayor earned a B.A. in 1976 from Princeton University, graduating summa cum laude and receiving the university’s highest academic honor. In 1979, she earned a J.D. from Yale Law School where she served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal.

PROVOST TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

University of Houston Law Center Professors Meredith J. Duncan, who joined the faculty in 1998, and D. Theodore “Teddy” Rave, who joined the faculty in 2013, are this year’s recipients of Provost Teaching Excellence Awards.

“I love the law and enjoy helping my students achieve their goals of success in law school and their future legal practices,” Duncan, winner of the Distinguished Leadership in Teaching Excellence Award said. Duncan teaches Professional Responsibility, Torts, Criminal Law and oversees the award-winning Pre-Law Pipeline Program, a program designed to increase the diversity of the law school applicant pool.

“I enjoy teaching very much, and I work hard at it, I would like the dean and other faculty who nominated me for this award to know how grateful I am for their confidence in me and my teaching. I also would want them to know how wonderful it feels for my efforts to be valued by my peers. It means a lot.”

“It’s an incredible honor to have been selected for the Teaching Excellence Award,” said Rave, who teaches Civil Procedure, Complex Litigation, Constitutional Law, and Elections and the Law of Democracy.

“I couldn’t do it without so many amazing students, who are always teaching me as much as I teach them, and make the effort so rewarding. In fact, the recommendation letters that my students wrote in support of my nomination mean more to me than the award itself.”
ELITE U.S. NEWS RANKINGS

The University of Houston Law Center maintained its strong showing in this year’s U.S. News & World Report law school rankings with two of its specialty programs improving their long-standing positions among the nation’s top 10.

The Law Center’s Health Law program moved up to No. 2 from last year’s No. 3 ranking, while Intellectual Property and Information Law moved to 5th from the 8th spot. The school’s part-time program tied for 7th. Overall, the Law Center ranks 56 among the nation’s 197 law schools accredited by the American Bar Association.

Dean Leonard M. Baynes said, “We are a terrific law school. I am very proud of the Law Center’s recognition in these areas of expertise.”

The U.S. News rankings are based on a weighted average of 12 measures of quality including assessments by academic peers, judges and lawyers, LSAT scores, undergraduate GPA, acceptance rate, student/faculty ratio, bar passage, graduate employment rate, and other data was collected in fall 2016 and early 2017.

Specialty rankings are based on surveys of legal educators specializing in those disciplines at peer institutions.

IMMIGRATION CLINIC WIN IN FEDERAL COURT

After becoming involved with a federal court dispute, two student attorneys with the University of Houston Law Center’s Immigration Clinic helped a 10-year-old girl remain in the U.S.

Dalya Alabbassi, an LL.M. student and Saif Ali, at the time in his 2L year, worked on researching and preparing for trial.

In March 2016, the girl and her father were detained in the U.S. at the border after arriving from El Salvador. Her father was deported, and according to the child’s wishes, she was released to her aunt, who resides in the U.S.

The girl’s mother and father filed a lawsuit that contended her daughter’s aunt was wrongfully detaining her in the U.S.

For the Immigration Clinic, the case hinged on the judge’s decision to invoke or dismiss the authority of Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction in the Southern District of Texas.

Judge David Hittner ultimately granted the Clinic’s motion to dismiss the Hague Convention based on lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The decision cited her parents’ original intention to create a domicile in the U.S. prior to the father’s deportation.

Associate Professor of Clinical Practice Janet Heppard and Diane McManus, a clinical supervising attorney, served as subject matter experts on family law.

Clinical Associate Professor and director of the Immigration Clinic Geoffrey A. Hoffman served as lead counsel in federal court. The work on the case was a collaboration between the Civil Practice and Immigration clinics.

“I would like to congratulate our clinic students, Saif Ali and Dalya Alabbassi, as well as Clinical Supervising Attorneys Josephine Sorgwe and Rosemary Vega for their great work in federal court,” Hoffman said.

UHLC AMONG NATION’S BEST FOR HISPANICS

The University of Houston Law Center is ranked 19th among the best law schools for Hispanics, according to a diversity survey conducted by preLaw magazine.

The survey considered three factors: 1) percentage of Hispanic students 2) percentage of Hispanic faculty and 3) services available for minority students. At the Law Center, 20.6 percent of the student population and 15.3 percent of the faculty is Hispanic.

“We have several initiatives to enable our Hispanic students to enhance the benefits of their diversity,” said Dean Leonard M. Baynes. “They can participate in moot court competitions in Latin America that take place in Spanish and they can take courses to improve their ability to speak professional Spanish in the legal context.”

“The University of Houston Law Center actively seeks underrepresented minority students and encourages them to apply,” said Assistant Dean for Admissions Pilar Mensah. “Once attending the University of Houston Law Center, a student will discover a culture that not only celebrates diversity, but provides a support system to enable success,” she added.

Law Center programs and services include faculty, student and alumni mentoring, tutoring, diversity-focused recruitment events, individualized academic and employment counseling, and support for diverse student organizations such as the UHLC chapter of the Hispanic Law Student Association.
UHLC alum Tony Buzbee ‘97 told students that part of overcoming the odds means ignoring them in a speech during the Powerful Voices speaker series, hosted by The Honors College at the University of Houston in Cemo Hall in October.

Buzbee, a Marine veteran, is a leading personal injury litigator and one of the most successful trial lawyers in the nation. In the past decade, he and his firm, The Buzbee Law Firm, have won hundreds of millions of dollars in verdicts and settlements in dozens of cases involving pipeline and plant explosions, toxic torts, offshore litigation, commercial litigation, products liability and trade infringement.

He also worked pro bono as lead counsel for the Law Center in 2016, with a team of UH in-house and local attorneys, to protect the school’s name and brand in a federal trademark infringement suit.

After serving in the military, he said attending the Law Center altered the trajectory of his life.

“Something really great happened to me when I was accepted into the University of Houston Law Center,” he said. “It dramatically changed my circumstance.”

“What can you learn from my story? Don’t even think about the odds,” Buzbee said. “Work hard. Be honest and make yourself indispensable. Focus on your goals and write them down. I don’t care how outrageous or silly you think it might be -- write it down. You have to outwork your competition and prepare. The people that are willing to delay their gratification by working hard will be the most successful in whatever endeavor they choose. I’m a living example of this.”

When asked by a Law Center student if he had any advice for young attorneys who are considering starting their own firm, Buzbee referenced his experience clerking for a judge which gave him the practical legal knowledge he needed to start his career.

“You will learn so much in a clerkship with a federal or state judge, and I can say that really put me on my way. If you’re an entrepreneurial person, I don’t think there’s any reason why you shouldn’t dive in and be your own boss, as long as you have a good network of people and friends who are practicing that you can run ideas by and bounce ideas off of,” he said.

**ARBITRATION WRITING COMPETITION**

The Blakely Advocacy Institute at the University of Houston Law Center extended its global reach by launching an international commercial arbitration award writing competition in partnership with two nonprofit alternative dispute resolution organizations: the North American Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and the Alliance for Equality in Dispute Resolution.

It was announced in October that a law school team from India won the inaugural competition, which is open to students from around the world who have competed in the annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition.

“The ‘Write the Award’ competition gives students valuable insights into the reasoning and decision-making required to render an enforceable award,” said Jim Lawrence, Executive Director of the Blakely Advocacy Institute. “It is the capstone experience of the international arbitration process.”

The Blakely Advocacy Institute provides Law Center students the opportunity to integrate substantive knowledge with practical skill. In addition to sending student teams to competitions across the country and abroad, the Institute hosts the annual Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP Moot Court National Championship, which draws the nation’s 16 top teams based on a point system to determine the best of the best.
STAR JONES ’86 ENCOURAGES UH LAW CENTER CLASS OF ’18 TO BE LEADERS, WARRIORS FOR JUSTICE

Star Jones ’86 urged 237 University of Houston Law Center graduates to uphold the highest standards of the profession at a commencement ceremony held in May at NRG Arena. The graduating class included 193 J.D. candidates and 44 graduates of the Law Center’s LL.M. program.

Jones, a 1986 alumna of the Law Center, is the President of the Professional Diversity Network (PDN), an internet software and services company that develops and operates online networking opportunities for professionals and employers seeking to hire women, minorities, veterans, LGBT and disabled professionals.
“You may have shined during your classes, papers, exams, and mock trials, but now it’s time to get serious,” Jones said. “It’s the time to not just shine for you, but also influence the lives of others using the law as both a sword and shield. It’s time for you to transition from brilliant scholars to outstanding and remarkable lawyers, leaders and warriors for justice.”

Jones began her legal career as a prosecutor in the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office before becoming a senior district attorney for New York City. She gained recognition as a legal commentator for the cable network “Court TV” in the early 1990s. She then worked as a legal analyst and correspondent for NBC’s Today and NBC Nightly News. She later was a co-host of the ABC talk show “The View” from 1997-2006.

“I’ve enjoyed the blessings of success, but I’m very clear that it all started with a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Houston Law Center,” Jones said.

Dean Leonard M. Baynes offered his praise to the graduates, and noted it was the first class admitted during his deanship.

“On behalf of the entire Law Center community, I want to let you know how much we have enjoyed teaching you,” Baynes said. “You have now been empowered with a well-earned degree from one of the top law schools in the country. This fact will never be lost on employers, and it should never be lost on you.

Peter Taaffe ’97, vice chairman of the UH System Board of Regents and an attorney at The Buzbee Law Firm, said he considered it a privilege to be able to congratulate a new class of law degree candidates from his alma mater.

“The skills, the education, and the knowledge that I gained here were the foundation for my personal and professional success, just like they will be for yours,” Taaffe said. “Rest assured that this university and this college will continue to add value to your diploma during your lifetime.

“Many of you are headed for one of our great Houston law firms. Some of you will work in corporate legal departments or government. Some will start your own law firms. As you leave here, I believe – I expect – you will make a difference in the world.”

Christina Marie Beeler served as the J.D. class speaker and urged her classmates to use their legal education to make a positive impact.

“My fellow graduates, your legal education has given you power,” Beeler said. “The kind of power that can change lives. It’s up to us to choose how we use that power, but I have a hope and an ask for our class. The great civil rights leader Howard Thurman once said, ‘Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do that, because what the world needs is people who come alive.’

“Even if you haven’t heard your calling yet, I hope you will figure out what makes you come alive, and spend your life doing that. What I ask of us is that we commit to using the power of our legal education to make a difference.”

Lucianna de-Regini-Teixeira Bartley spoke on behalf of the LL.M. class.

“Getting an LL.M. means a renewal of vows in love and dedication to the profession we chose,” she said. “It’s a beautiful thing when a career and a passion come together. Our group could not be more different. We come from over 20 different countries, and we speak over 20 different languages. For as different as we are, there is so much we now share.”

Cynthia Mabry ’10, president of the UH Law Alumni Association, welcomed graduates to the Law Center’s network of alumni and suggested that they stay involved with the Law Center whether being an alumni mentor, volunteering for advocacy programs and other options.

“Remember how alumni affected you and your time at the Law Center and give back when you can,” Mabry said. “Stay connected. We have made wonderful friendships at the Law Center that will last a lifetime. The people sitting around you are not only your classmates, but are your future opposing counsels, judges and clients. Go on and be great stewards of the Law Center.”
First-year University of Houston Law Center students bonded with their new classmates by volunteering with faculty and administrators for a variety of projects before classes began this fall.

The initiative, started by Dean Leonard M. Baynes, and implemented by Associate Dean for Student Affairs Sondra Tennessee, is intended to set a good example for Law Center students entering the legal profession in terms of providing support to the community.

“It gives the students an opportunity to build lasting friendships before classes even begin. In addition, in seeing the long lines of individuals waiting patiently, sometimes several hours, before the legal workshops started, demonstrates that there a lot of individuals in our community without legal representation,” Baynes said.

With the assistance of Houston Volunteer Lawyers, some students assisted at a veterans’ legal advice clinic held at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center where they sat in on meetings with veterans seeking legal advice.

Others received a preview of immigration law at a naturalization workshop at the BakerRipley Leonel Castillo Community Center and of criminal law at a pro bono juvenile record sealing clinic at the University of Houston’s Student Center. At the Houston Food Bank, volunteers helped prepare meal packages for those in need.

Additional students took to the outdoors for their service projects. At Beauty’s Community Garden in Independence Heights, volunteers assisted with mulching and making beds for planting and weeding. At the Buffalo Bayou Water Works Building participants gardened, removed invasive species, picked up trash and cleaned trails.
NAFTA RENEGOTIATION, CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY TAKES CENTER STAGE AT UH LAW CENTER’S NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SYMPOSIUM

UHLC hosted the second annual North American Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Conference at Partnership Tower in downtown Houston. The two-day symposium in May, titled “North American Energy and Environmental Policy in Transition,” brought together experts from the fields of oil and gas, academia, business and politics to examine current and future energy issues and solutions. Blank Rome, LLP, and the University of Calgary Faculty of Law co-sponsored the event.

“From NAFTA to climate policy, pipelines to LNG, the electric grid to Mexican energy privatization, there has never been a more exciting and yet, precipitous time in the energy integration of North America, and the continuing need for a healthy and climate-stabilized environment,” said Professor Victor Flatt, faculty director of the Law Center’s Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Center.

Flatt and Professor Bret Wells, the George Butler Research Professor of Law, began the conference with a talk on cross-border energy and commerce in the face of differing climate policy.

Wells weighed the international trade implications of the U.S. placing a tax on carbon, which could be used as a means to raise revenue for the federal government.

“There’s a couple reasons why that may well be in the cards,” Wells said. “First is that the U.S. has a desperate need to solve its fiscal deficit problem. The tax law change that came in December of last year added about $1.5 trillion to the U.S. deficit over a 10-year period. There is a pressing need for tax revenue.”

The panel consisted of energy executives, all of whom are Law Center alumni:
- Alex Juden ’94, secretary and general counsel at Schlumberger
- Kay McCall ’84, president, CEO and general counsel of Noble Environmental Power
- Gerald Morton ’88, general counsel and vice president of business development for Carrizo Oil and Gas
- Tony Trevino ’86, general counsel of Lewis Energy group
- William Turcotte ’89, senior vice president and general counsel at Noble Corporation

Law Center professor Blake Hudson moderated “All over the Map – Vertically Integrated Systems and Market Reform,” which included Brian Tulloh, executive director of Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Jonas Monast, an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina Law School and Joseph McMonigle, Principal of Blank Rome Government Relations.

Associate Professor Gina Warren served as moderator for a discussion regarding the privatization of Mexican energy, which featured Felix Mormann of the Texas A&M University School of Law and Manan Parikh, an analyst on Latin America for GTM Research.

The conference’s final panel, “Pemex privatization, regulation and governance” moderated by Assistant Research Professor Julian Cardenas Garcia, Latin American Chair of the EENR Center, included Isidro Morales Moreno, who teaches at the School of Government at Tecnologico de Monterrey, Rebecca Golden Timsar of the University of Houston’s Global Energy Development Center, George Baker, editor of Mexico Energy Intelligence.

University of Houston Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes, right, moderates a panel during the 2nd Annual North American Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Conference.
ZEALOUS ADVOCACY
CONFERENCE

Juvenile advocates had a refresher course on the basics of legal representation of children at the 17th annual Zealous Advocacy Conference at the University of Houston Law Center.

The symposium is sponsored by the Center for Children, Law & Policy and the Southwest Juvenile Defender Center.

“Youth in court often do not feel as if they have a voice or that anyone is speaking on their behalf. This intensive two-day training helps lawyers defending young people in court be stronger advocates and produce better outcomes for our youth,” said Ellen Marrus, director of the Center for Children, Law & Policy and Royce Till Professor of Law.

Topics covered included adolescent development, the role of counsel, interviewing clients, ethics in juvenile defense, probable cause and detention, motion practice, disposition advocacy and ethics in juvenile defense. Participants also split into groups to discuss and share additional child advocacy techniques.

In addition to Marrus, speakers included local juvenile attorney Tracy Good, Travis County juvenile public defender Kameron Johnson, Andrew Meissen, an attorney at the Office of the Public Advocate, Maricopa County, Ariz., Chris Phillis, director of the Maricopa County Office of Public Defense Services, Amanda Powell of the National Juvenile Defender Center and Pam Vickrey, chair of the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice and director of Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys.

The Zealous Advocacy Conference is the premier professional development training for juvenile defense attorneys practicing in the southwestern United States.

Attendees received 14.75 hours of continuing legal education credit with 3.5 ethics hours.

UPDATE ON THE NEW BUILDING

During “Discussion with the Dean” sessions, Dean Leonard M. Baynes updated students on the progress of the “More than Bricks” campaign which has raised well over half of the 2018 goal of $10 million toward construction of a new Law Center building.

The campaign recently received a major boost from the UH Law Foundation which approved a $2 million challenge grant to match donations given before the end of the year. The $10 million goal is meant to serve as a “down payment” to show alumni support for the new building when legislators meet in January to consider state funding.

Baynes relayed to students during the informal discussion session that a new facility would enhance the Law Center’s strong reputation and would likely bolster its standing in national rankings.

“A great, new building will allow us to continue to attract even more talented and excellent students like we currently have.

“The proposed site would be in the space that is currently parking lot 19B directly south of the existing Law Center.”

PROFESSOR MICHAEL A. OLIVAS
RECIPIENT OF AALS TRIENNIAL AWARD

Professor Michael A. Olivas, the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law and director of the Institute for Higher Education Law & Governance at UHLC, is the 2018 recipient of the The Association of American Law Schools’ (AALS) Triennial Award for Lifetime Service to Legal Education and the Law.

“Being a law faculty member at UHLC all these years has been an honor, and has enabled me to serve this institution I love, and to which I have dedicated my career,” Olivas said. “We all live to serve our students, and to advance scholarship in our fields, and I have never looked back. There is so much work to do, and so many legal needs. This opportunity for service has always animated and inspired me, as corny as that sounds.”

Olivas has served on numerous committees during his 38-year career in legal education. He is a renowned scholar in the fields of higher education and immigration law, and has worked on legislation in the interest of social justice when the two intersect. A prolific writer, he has written, edited or contributed chapters to 37 books. He has served as a legal consultant and expert witness more than 20 times, provided legislative testimony on the state and federal level more than 10 times, and has submitted amicus briefs on 23 cases in state and federal courts.

Olivas joined the Law Center faculty in 1982 and teaches courses in Business Law & Immigration, Higher Education Law, and Immigration Law and Policy. From February 2016 until May 2017, Olivas also served as the President of the University of Houston-Downtown on an interim basis.
The University of Houston Law Center has received a community assistance grant to implement a two-pronged program designed to assist area residents still dealing with consumer issues related to Hurricane Harvey and to provide practical information to help people plan better for the next disaster.

The Hurricane Consumer Assistance Program began with a $205,000 grant from the Greater Houston Community Foundation. UH Law Center students and volunteer practitioners advise hotline callers about their legal rights, provide court representation, send demand letters in an attempt to resolve disputes, and provide other legal assistance. Student lawyers can earn clinical credits for their work.

“Our goal is to help 1,000 individuals, but one of the main targets is to get the information out there through workshops and community presentations,” said Ryan Marquez, a professor of practice who is heading the project. To date, the program has assisted over 400 individuals, hosted five community presentations and involved 10 law students in the mission. There are currently 50 active contractor disputes in the program.

“There are many people in need of help who don’t know their legal rights or the means to pursue them,” said Marquez, who also serves as staff attorney for the Center for Consumer Law, the Texas Consumer Complaint Center, and the Consumer Dispute Resolution Course at the Law Center.

The number of landlord/tenant disputes has tapered off somewhat as many storm victims have found permanent or temporary housing, reached settlements on damages, or filed insurance claims, according to Marquez. The bulk of complaints now, he said, concern unscrupulous contractors who are unlicensed, unregulated, and work without performance bonds.

Nelson, who joined the Law Center faculty in 2015 as an assistant professor of law, teaches Business Organizations and a seminar titled, “The Modern Corporation and Society.”

“His high caliber research and scholarship was something that the faculty and I recognized when he was hired. He is a great exemplar of the terrific scholarship taking place at the University of Houston Law Center,” said Dean Leonard M. Baynes.

“Professor Nelson’s article is a fascinating and original examination of religious freedom in the context of corporations,” said David Fagundes, Baker Botts LLP Professor of Law and Assistant Dean for Faculty Development. “His selection for this prestigious honor reflects the importance of Professor Nelson’s contributions to the academic dialogue about the role of corporations in contemporary America.”

Prospective applicants can now turn their interest in attending the Law Center into action with the launch of the UH Law Center mobile app, available for download in the App Store (iOS) and in the Google Play Store.

The app includes updates and information about admissions, academics, centers and institutes, clinics, career development, faculty, alumni, a feed of the Law Center’s social media posts and more. It also features a collection of Law Center-related videos. Aspiring students have the option to ‘apply now’ within the app.

“The app will modernize the Law Center’s admissions process,” Dean Leonard M. Baynes said. “We are excited that each individual student will have access to this sophisticated technology in a format that they are accustomed to using every day. It should make the application process less complicated and provide the prospective students with information about the Law Center readily available in the palm of their hands.”

UHLC graduates can also keep up with alumni stories and news via the new mobile app.

The Law Center made a strategic decision to develop the app to provide a more personalized experience tailored toward the needs and interests of users.

“Our goal is to improve overall communications with law students and alums,” added UHLC assistant dean of communications and marketing, Carrie Anna Criado.

“Those seeking admission can find all important data on UH Law Center in one place and refer back to it throughout the application process. Law students and graduates alike can also keep up-to-date with news, happenings, and events as well as read student and alumni spotlight stories.”
Efforts to increase diversity in the American legal profession have gained momentum, and this year the Law Center’s contributions to that mission were recognized with multiple national awards, proving that the school’s innovative efforts are paying off.

The Pre-Law Pipeline program is one of the much-celebrated diversity initiatives instituted by Dean Leonard M. Baynes when he became dean four years ago. The intensive, eight-week summer program is designed to introduce low-income, first generation and historically underrepresented groups of undergraduate students to the demands of law school and the opportunities of a law career. The program divides students into two tracks — LSAC’s PreLaw Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Program and Scholar II.
Since its inception, more than 120 students have gone through the Pre-Law Pipeline program and 31 of them have been accepted to law schools throughout the country, including seven currently attending the Law Center, one of whom made the Dean’s List after her first semester.

In its July/August cover story, “INSIGHT Into Diversity” magazine featured the Pre-Law Pipeline Program as a model of law school efforts to diversify the legal profession, citing the Law Center’s student body composition including 36.4 percent people of color, which exceeds the national minority law school enrollment of 31.4 percent.

In September, the magazine went on to honor the Law Center for the third consecutive year with its Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award. UHLC is the only American law school to be selected for the 2018 HEED Award, which is the only national, application-based award honoring institutions of higher education for their commitment to diversity and inclusion.

“Our standards are high,” Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of “INSIGHT Into Diversity”, said in announcing the award, “and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being accomplished every day across their campus.”

HEED Award recipients are selected on the basis of an extensive application, detailing demographics of the faculty and student body, recruitment practices, mentoring and resource programs, community outreach, and other efforts designed to increase diversity.

“Many thanks go to Professor Meredith J. Duncan and Program Director Kristen M. Guiseppi in running the UHLC Pre-Law Pipeline Program as well as so many of our faculty and staff who show their commitment to diversity and inclusion every single day. Without their collective efforts, this recognition would not be possible,” Baynes said.

“It is an absolute honor for us to be recognized by “INSIGHT Into Diversity” magazine,” said Guiseppi. “We are proud of our diversity-focused initiatives, like the Pipeline Program, Pathways to Law, Juvenile Capital Access Project, Street Law and many other efforts which serve to address the need for diversity and inclusion.”

In October, The Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO), selected the Law Center and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Sondra Tennessee as recipients of the CLEO EDGE award, which celebrates commitment to Education, Diversity, and Greater Equality in legal education and the profession. The Law Center was honored in the “Greater Equality” category and Tennessee in “Diversity.”
Founded in 1968, CLEO is the longest-serving national organization dedicated to expanding opportunities for minority and low-income students to attend law school. Since its inception, more than 10,000 students have participated in CLEO’s programs and joined the legal profession.

“I am truly honored and humbled to receive this award from CLEO, an organization that has been a pioneer in providing opportunities to a diverse student population,” said Tennessee. “This achievement does not belong to me alone, but to the entire Law Center community. It takes a village to go from barely 20 percent diversity in the mid 1990’s to over 40 percent in 2018. The work is not done, by any means. There will always be a need to support diversity in the legal profession.”

Later in October, nearly 300 high school and undergraduate college students received an inside look at the legal profession and learned about the Pre-Law Pipeline Program during Diversity Matters Day in Kroist Hall at the Law Center. The event was geared toward racially and ethnically diverse high school and college students in an effort to diversify the legal profession.

Assistant Dean for Admissions Pilar Mensah kicked off the program with a presentation on resources available to students at DiscoverLaw.org and an overview of the law school admissions process. Tiffany Tucker, Assistant Dean for Career Development, encouraged students to maintain a professional presence when using social media platforms.

Attendees got a glimpse into courtroom litigation as Law Center staff held a mock trial on the fictional case, Cinderella v. Estate of Padre Mia Tremaine.

In an alumni panel discussion, Fermeen Fazal ’00, Jolanda Jones ’95 and Raymond Randle ’97 shared their journeys to becoming successful lawyers. Jones told students not to be afraid to ask questions when they need clarification on a specific topic.

“We are designed to handle everything by ourselves all the time, and it is not a sign of weakness when you need to ask help from somebody,” Jones said. “Whatever law school you go to, you’re going to get out of it what you put into it and you can get a very good legal education.”

Houstonia magazine featured the Law Center and its diversity initiatives and accolades in its December issue available on newsstands this month.

Since joining the Law Center’s administration in 1996, Associate Dean for Student Affairs Sondra Tennessee has fostered educational outreach efforts to diverse populations at all levels, from grade school to pre-law undergraduates. She has established partnerships with various pre-law pipeline programs, including CLEO, the Law School Preparation Institute at The University of Texas campuses in El Paso, San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley as well as with advisers at historically black colleges and universities.

She also has mentored countless numbers of diverse pre-law students as they work their way through the admissions process and continues to advise J.D. and LL.M. students while in law school and beyond.

Tennessee welcomed students to Diversity Matters Day by sharing her four Ps to success – plan, prioritize, publicize, and persist.

“It’s been said that whatever you’re doing between age 15 and 25 is what you’ll be doing for the rest of your life,” Tennessee said. “That doesn’t mean that you have to know what you are going to do today, but you are establishing the foundation of how you are going to get there.

“So are you going to be a person that works on purpose? Are you a person who’s prepared? Do you make the connections and publicize what you’re interested in? And then do you project those things? Those are the things you can do now that are going to help you succeed in your goals.”
Established in 2014 as a mentoring program to reach youth before they are swept into the juvenile and criminal justice systems, the Juvenile & Capital Advocacy Project at the University of Houston has extended its reach over the years to include representation of delinquent youth in court, public school classroom presentations, and sealing of juvenile court records.

“Our record-sealing program has so far sealed more than 400 juvenile records, freeing these youth to continue their educations by obtaining financial aid, finding meaningful employment, or serving in the military,” said Katya Dow, ’92, a Professor of Practice and Legal Programs Director for JCAP. “With the addition of our dual status representation and school disciplinary programs, we are poised to provide crucial legal services to literally hundreds more youth in Harris and surrounding counties.”

JCAP’s Dual-Status Youth Representation Program will expand in January from one to all three Harris County juvenile courts as well as the CPS Project Court. Under the supervision of JCAP attorneys, Law Center students handle all legal aspects of delinquency cases (and some adult criminal cases, as the age for adult criminal responsibility in Texas begins at age 17), ranging from misdemeanors to felonies. Students also investigate and address factors in the foster care system that impact the ability of the youth they are representing to successfully complete their cases, not recidivate, and move on with their lives successfully.

“Adoption by all the incoming juvenile judges shows strong support by the courts and recognition of what we have accomplished since starting the program in the fall of 2017,” Dow said. She offered special thanks to Dena Fisher, newly appointed associate justice for the 315th Harris County Juvenile District Court, for helping launch and develop the program.

JCAP’s newest outreach, the School Discipline Program, has taught more than 500 public school students about their legal rights under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments when engaging with law enforcement.

Christina Beeler, a 2018 graduate of the Law Center who serves as a JCAP staff attorney and legal clinic supervisor, has conducted more than 20 know-your-rights presentations at schools and before community organizations since the program began this fall. She also represents youths in school disciplinary proceedings, juvenile court, and adult criminal court for disciplinary infractions on public school campuses.

A former public school teacher and Teach for America corps member, Beeler was selected to work with JCAP as an Equal Justice Works Fellow sponsored by Latham & Watkins LLP.

“My work aims to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, by which kids are pushed out of schools and into the juvenile justice or criminal justice systems for mostly minor behaviors,” Beeler explained. “Excluding kids from classrooms as punishment usually does not address the underlying issues causing most student misbehaviors, including trauma and mental illness.

“We want to keep kids in schools where they belong and to stop the school-to-prison pipeline here in Harris County,” she added.

A third component of the JCAP program that has cleared the path to a brighter future for hundreds of youths by sealing their juvenile court records also expanded in 2017 to help adults remove certain information from their criminal histories. In January, the program will begin a partnership with Beacon Law, an organization that provides social services to the homeless, including adult expunction assistance.

The Law Center’s Record-Sealing and Expunction program is the only program in Texas providing sealing of juvenile delinquency records at no cost. Law students learn to practice in three different court systems—juvenile, criminal, and civil—and receive training in three different procedures: juvenile records sealing, expunctions of adult criminal records, and nondisclosure orders for adult criminal records. Since 2015, JCAP has sealed more than 400 juvenile records, helping people get past youthful mistakes that can present major barriers.

Although records of juvenile delinquency are not accessible by the general public, they are accessible to several agencies and other entities and can impact employment and education opportunities, eligibility for military service, licensing and certifications, applications for housing, and public benefits. Similarly, instances of criminal arrests or charges, even if dismissed or no-billed by a grand jury, are included in a criminal “paper trail” and can dog the life of an adult if not expunged.

On Nov. 26, JCAP and the Houston Bar Association collaborated on a CLE training program that drew more than 80 attorneys interested in taking on record-sealing cases pro bono.
JUDGE VANESSA GILMORE ’81 SAYS THAT COURTS MUST CONTINUE TO CONFRONT IMPLICIT BIAS

Members of the judiciary should be held accountable for rulings that are implicitly biased, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore of the Southern District of Texas said in November during the Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Jurist-in-Residence and Lectureship in Legal Ethics program at the University of Houston Law Center.

Gilmore, a 1981 graduate of the Law Center, said while implicit bias is primarily a concern in criminal law cases, it is also present in other areas of law as well.

“As officers of the court we all have an obligation to look at what our own implicit biases are. We have to have some checks and balances in place for judges,” Gilmore said. “If you think a judge is practicing implicit or unconscious bias, or is flat out biased and not trying to hide it, the public needs to call them on it. You can’t just let it go. It won’t get better unless people speak up and make judges take responsibility.”

Implicit bias can be defined as stereotypes, attitudes or preferences that people might consciously reject, but may express without conscious awareness. Gilmore said that while it can be a natural human reaction to make assumptions about a case, judges must work hard to remain objective and to follow the precedent of the law.

“As judges we often have a spotlight on us,” Gilmore said. “Whenever we’re assigned a high-profile case, the first thing the public seems to be most interested in is who appointed us, as if it’s the definitive litmus test on how we’re going to rule on an issue. The assumption being that because of our background or who we were appointed by will determine that we’re going to pre-judge certain issues in cases. Even though I think as judges we push back against that characterization, the reality is that all of us pre-judge things based on our background and life experiences. The problem comes when we let our own implicit biases affect how we apply the law.”
Members of the 2018 Pre-Law Pipeline Program class were welcomed to campus in June. The program, now in its fourth year, was established by Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes and Program Director Kristen M. Guiseppi. Professor Meredith J. Duncan, director of Metropolitan Programs, oversees the program.

The eight-week summer course is designed to increase diversity among law school applicants and to provide students from low-income, first generation, and underrepresented backgrounds an opportunity to seriously consider a legal education. The program divides students into two tracks — LSAC’s PreLaw Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Program and Scholar II.

“This year’s class was made up of 24 PLUS Program Scholars and 19 Scholar IIs who were visiting from 25 colleges nationwide. We had three returning students who took advantage of the program’s extensive two-year curriculum, which includes the immersive introductory law school and legal experience of the first track, and the law school application preparation of the second track,” Guiseppi said.

“The University of Houston Law Center is committed to ensuring that the doors of legal education are open to all students whatever their backgrounds,” Baynes said. “The Pipeline Program provides a unique opportunity for college students to get a bird’s eye view of law school, legal internships, and LSAT review.”

Students also received an overview on classroom etiquette from Duncan.

“What you have is a very unique opportunity,” Duncan said. “It’s fair to say that most of you are here because you want to learn the law and learn about being a lawyer, and some of you are here to change your life and change the lives of your family. Don’t squander this opportunity. Be a serious student. This is the beginning of your training to be a professional. This is the first step and I know that each and every one of you can be successful.”
JUVENILE JUSTICE

Professor Ellen Marrus spent part of her summer speaking at and attending the 2018 World Congress on Justice for Children in Paris. The congress met to discuss violent extremism and concerns within the juvenile and family justice system.

Marrus, Director of the Center for Children, Law & Policy and Royce Till Professor of Law at UHLC, gave a presentation on holistic lawyering and the necessity of collaboration between relevant agencies titled, “The Role of the Lawyer for Children in Conflict with the Law.”

“Providing information on a model of representation that I believe in, and having it so well received by advocates from many different countries, was exhilarating,” Marrus said. “Quality, zealous representation for children can make a world of difference for each individual child it touches.”

More than 300 proposals were submitted for a small number of available spots to speak at this congress. The opportunity helped Marrus further her research and connect with juvenile justice advocates from around the world.

Prior to her time in Paris, Marrus served as a visiting professor at Swansea University’s law school during the Spring 2018 semester. The school was recently renamed the Hillary Rodham Clinton College of Law in honor of the former U.S. Secretary of State, presidential candidate, senator and first lady. Marrus had the opportunity to meet Clinton during the school’s renaming ceremony.

PROFESSORS NAMED FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

University of Houston Law Center Professors Renee Knake and Sapna Kumar were awarded Fulbright grants to conduct research in their specialty areas in Australia and Europe respectively beginning the 2019 winter semester.

Knake, the Law Center’s Joanne and Larry Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics and director of Outcomes and Assessments, was awarded the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

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.

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.”

At the Law Center, Knake teaches Constitutional Law and Professional Responsibility; Kumar teaches Patent Law, Federal Courts, Administrative Law and Property.
A three-judge panel of the Texas 14th Court of Appeals heard oral arguments on two connected civil cases and a criminal case in September at the University of Houston Law Center.

Justices Marc Brown, Brett Busby and Kevin Jewell heard arguments in Krost Hall before participating in a question-and-answer session with students. Brown ‘87 and Jewell ’93 are Law Center alumni. Busby has previously served as an adjunct professor at the Law Center.

“Being able to host these oral arguments made for a very exciting day at the Law Center,” Dean Leonard M. Baynes said. “I would like to thank the 14th Court of Appeals and Justices Brown, Busby and Jewell for being here and Chief Justice Kem Thompson Frost who helped us secure the court’s sitting on our campus. These sessions were terrific for our students who were able to see how law gets made.”

The oral arguments began with two civil cases: Harpst et al. v. Fleming et al. and Wilson et al. v. Fleming et al. The cases are related appeals of a jury verdict and a summary judgment. In both cases, the plaintiffs are former clients of a lawyer and his law firm. The firm represented the plaintiffs in settling a mass-tort lawsuit against a pharmaceutical company. The plaintiffs claimed that the firm improperly deducted certain expenses from the plaintiff’s settlement amounts.

The third case, Islas v. State of Texas, involved a motorist who was indicted on a felony charge of intoxication manslaughter. In 2014, the appellant ran a red light and struck another vehicle, killing a passenger. He was taken to a hospital where his blood was drawn three times: by the hospital for medical reasons, by the state without a search warrant, and again by the state with a search warrant. The appellant moved to suppress the evidence obtained from all three blood draws. A trial court granted his motion for the first two, but not the third. After waiving a jury trial and pleading guilty, he is now appealing the trial court’s denial of his motion to suppress evidence obtained in the third blood draw.

When responding to inquiries from students, Busby and Jewell highlighted the significance of clear and persuasive writing.

“A brief is where you want to make your clearest argument,” Busby said. “I’m a big fan of highly-organized briefs where it’s not a mystery until you get to the end and try to figure out what the point is. Tell us up front. Don’t wait until page 30 when you’ve developed all the arguments to develop the punchline. Give it to us up front so that we understand your conclusion.”

“I cannot emphasize enough how much you must practice your writing,” Jewell added. “Whenever I’m asked, ‘what’s the one thing I can be doing to maximize to get a job and keep a job?’ I always tell them to practice their writing. You can never practice enough.”

Brown highlighted the importance of members of the bench remaining impartial, especially when a ruling by the court does not reflect their personal beliefs.

“We are bound by precedent and I can certainly think of situations where a finding of the court didn’t make me happy,” Brown said. “But the law is what the law is. When you take that oath, that’s what you sign up for. Justice Scalia said, ‘If you agree with every opinion you write, you’re not doing your job.’”
Law Gala Raises $500,000

Over 500 guests attended University of Houston Law Center’s 42nd Annual Law Gala and Auction, “A Night in Napa” at the Hilton Americas in February.

The event raised nearly $500,000, which will fund scholarships, advocacy programs, faculty research, student organizations, library acquisitions, advanced technology, student recruitment, and other student activities at the Law Center.

Thomas F. A. Hetherington ’98, a partner at Edison, McDowell, & Hetherington LLP, chaired the event with his wife, Eyvette.

Auctioneers Stephen and Colette Mayers, performed a lively “Paddles Up” speed fundraiser, which, combined with live and silent auctions raised more than $125,000. The auction was co-chaired by Michelle Gray and DeDe Davenport.

Dean Leonard M. Baynes took the opportunity to highlight the successes of the Law Center and announce that $4 million had been raised in support of phase one of the Law Center’s new building campaign’s $10 million goal.

UH System Chancellor and UH President Renu Khator echoed the dean’s remarks about the need for a new Law Center building and pledged the UH System’s ongoing support in bringing the vision to reality.

PHOTO GALLERY

ANNUAL HOLIDAY COFFEE
**UH LAW DEAN’S SOCIETY INVITES YOU!**

The Dean’s Society is an integral force behind the Power of Legal Education. The generous support of its members allows the Law Center to innovate and respond to emerging opportunities that will help the Law Center continue rising and be the best. This society honors and engages the most exclusive group of alumni and friends devoted to providing significant unrestricted support to the Law Fund each year.

As members, Dean’s Society individuals enjoy benefits, including:

- Reserved invitations to annual special dinners, receptions, lectures and other events.
- Special Recognition in the Honor Roll of Donors, Law Center website and other publications.
- Access to Dean Baynes and input on the Law Center’s strategic direction.

Dean’s Society members are recognized based on their giving level within the society. Membership ranges from a minimum annual gift of $2,500 to up to $24,999. *Young Alumni, or graduates of the last 10 years, can join for $1,000.

Easily give online to “Dean’s Society” at [https://giving.uh.edu/law/](https://giving.uh.edu/law/) or contact Stephanie Johnson, Associate Director of Development, at [sejohns9@central.uh.edu](mailto:sejohns9@central.uh.edu) or 713.743.3839.
BRIEF MENTIONS

THE POWER OF THE LL.M. DEGREE
Advance your career in one of the 6 specialty programs

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The University of Houston Law Center is home to renowned specialty programs with two (Health Law and Intellectual Property) ranked in the TOP TEN according to U.S. News & World Report, two programs (Energy Law and Health Law) ranked in the TOP TEN on LLMGUIDE.com, and Corporate Counsel's "Best of 2018," #2 Tax LLM Program.

ALUMNI-STUDENT CONNECTIONS
Law Center students are always thrilled to connect with our illustrious alumni! The Career Development Office (CDO) offers numerous ways for alumni to engage with students to offer much needed advice and guidance. Get involved to positively impact current Law Center students and recent graduates through our Upper Level Mentoring Program, Mock Interview Programs, Lunch with a Lawyer series or our Part-Time Partners Initiative. To learn more about these volunteer opportunities, contact the CDO at lawcareer@uh.edu.

HIRE HOUSTON FIRST
The Law Center encourages all alumni to strongly consider Law Center students, recent graduates, and alumni first for your hiring needs. We are confident that once you witness first-hand the exceptional talent continuously generated by your alma mater, you will be proud to recruit Law Center candidates for your internship and post-graduate positions. The CDO assists employers in their recruitment efforts by providing a hassle-free experience to gain direct access to talented candidates, through initiatives such as the Recent Graduate Résumé Book, Job Bank (for year-round job postings), On-Campus Interviews, Small & Midsize Firm Open House, Alternative Legal Career Table Talk, Government and Public Interest Table Talk, Apprentice Program, and the upcoming In-House Internship & Graduate Program. The message is simple: Contact the CDO FIRST at lawcareer@uh.edu for all of your hiring needs to recruit the top talent that Houston has to offer!

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

J.D. Deadlines:
*February 15 for full-time
May 15 for part-time
Call 713.743.2280 or email lawadmissions@uh.edu to schedule an appointment.

LL.M. Deadlines:
April 15 — Fall Admission (Applicants with a Non-U.S. Law Degree)
June 1 — Fall Admission (U.S. Law Degree)
November 15 — Spring Admission (U.S. Law Degree only)
Contact llm@uh.edu for more information.

Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis.
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER AND UH LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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 Sergisketter ’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.

2019 EVENTS

Jan. 31: Dean’s Distinguished Speaker Series
Featuring Randall (Randy) Ebner, Vice President and General Counsel of ExxonMobil | Fireside Chat: The Role of General Counsel of a Multinational, Multicultural, Multidiscipline #2 Fortune 500 Company

Feb. 14: Black History Month Lecture
Featuring Annette Gordon-Reed, Charles Warren Professor of American Legal History, Professor of History, Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Harvard Law School | Confederate Iconography and Its Relationship to Implicit and Explicit Bias

Feb. 19: Sondock Jurist-In-Residence
Featuring Judge Jennifer Elrod, United States Court of Appeals For the Fifth Circuit

March 4: Yale L. Rosenberg Memorial Lecture
Featuring Tanya Kateri Hernandez, Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law | Multiracials and Civil Rights: Mixed-Race Stories of Discrimination

March 26: Dean’s Distinguished Speaker Series
Featuring Anita Hill, University Professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University | Fireside Chat with Professor Michael A. Olivas

For more information or to see additional events, please visit law.uh.edu/alumni or contact the Office of Law Alumni Relations at lawalumni@uh.edu or 713.743.2201.

LAW FUND

The Law Fund is the Law Center’s annual unrestricted giving program.

Gifts help increase student scholarships, recruit and retain distinguished faculty, provide nationally-recognized programs, offer career development services, and build relationships with our alumni.

To make a recurring gift, or if you have any questions about the Law Fund, please contact: Stephanie Johnson, Associate Director of Development, 713.743.3839 or sejohns9@central.uh.edu.

To give safely and securely online, visit law.uh.edu/giving.

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.

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Join our Campaign today! law.uh.edu/building
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We are committed to keeping alumni and friends engaged and informed. Update your contact information at ssl.uh.edu/giving/updateinfo

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Submit your nominations today for the 2018 Law Alumni Association Awards

All nominations are due no later than January 11, 2019.

The awards will be presented at the 43rd Annual Law Auction and Gala on March 30, 2019 at the Post Oak at Uptown Houston and will include the following:

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
RISING STAR AWARD
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD
CORPORATE SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
PRIVATE PRACTICE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
PUBLIC SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD
FACULTY DISTINCTION AWARD
LAW GALA & AUCTION AWARD
LAW FUND VOLUNTEER AWARD
COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP AWARD
PUBLIC SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For more information on each award and nomination form, visit http://www.law.uh.edu/alumni/awards/nominations.asp

Questions?
Please contact Hope M. Young in the Office of Law Alumni Relations at hyoung@central.uh.edu or call 713-743-5099.

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Are you looking for a convenient way to meet your CLE requirements?

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For more information on upcoming programs, visit www.law.uh.edu/CLE or Contact Tanisha Green at lawalumni@uh.edu.