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Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am happy to present this issue of The Quad. As you will see, it has been a busy year at the law school.

SMU Dedman School of Law has continued to admit and matriculate outstanding students despite the downturn in the legal market and in law school applications nationwide. In fact, the median LSAT for our current first year class is actually a point higher than it was last year. In addition, our graduates’ placement successes have resulted in impressive performance in some key rankings of overall job placement (see opposite page for details).

The pages that follow contain stories about some of the many exciting speakers who have visited us this year. You can read about Justice Antonin Scalia serving as Jurist in Residence and the lecture he gave with our own Bryan Garner (Distinguished Research Professor) and about the captivating talk by Jill Abramson, the first woman Executive Editor of The New York Times, whose original visit had to be postponed because she was handling the breaking news of the Boston Marathon bombing.

I hope you will also read about our alum Travis Tygart, named one of Time magazine’s 100 Most Influential People of 2013, who prosecuted Lance Armstrong. Travis shared the story of his role as CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency in enforcing the World Anti-Doping Code in the U.S.

Hitting close to home, the law school hosted a fascinating conference that reunited, for the first time, five members of the Warren Commission staff. Half a century later, the Kennedy assassination and the Warren Commission’s report remain much debated—across the world and here in Dallas, in particular.

Focusing on the other side of the world, I recently visited Asia where I recon-nected with our alums and interviewed extraordinary candidates for the Sohmen Scholars Program. The trip confirmed for me the stature of SMU Dedman School of Law on the global stage.

Finally, we want to thank John Attanasio for 15 years of dedicated service and welcome Jennifer Collins, who will serve as Judge James Noel Dean beginning July 1, 2014.

I am delighted to share with you all of the news about the latest successes of SMU Dedman School of Law.

Julie Forrester
Dean ad interim
and Professor of Law
All rankings based on statistics provided to the American Bar Association by the 201 ABA accredited law schools.

#1
by The Dallas Morning News in placement survey of Texas law schools.

#20
by The National Law Journal for graduates employed in long-term, full-time jobs requiring bar passage.

#22
by Above the Law, a leading law blog, based on criteria important to potential law students, including placement and tuition costs.

#27
by The National Law Journal among law schools who sent the highest percentage of their class of 2012 into long-term, full-time jobs at law firms of 100 or more lawyers.

Part-time Students
24% of students enrolled in evening classes have earned a graduate degree before entering law school.
For the second year in a row, SMU Dedman School of Law had a sitting U.S. Supreme Court justice serve as “Jurist in Residence.”

For nearly three full days in January, Justice Scalia, who is the longest-serving member of the Supreme Court, met with the students, faculty, and alumni of the law school. He attended receptions with distinguished alumni and local dignitaries. He taught three separate law school classes. He had lunch with faculty members. And he even spent a few hours with good friends from his old law firm, Jones Day.

The highlight of Justice Scalia’s visit was an extraordinary evening lecture – an old-fashioned book reading, actually – with his co-author, Bryan Garner, who holds the title of Distinguished Research Professor at SMU Dedman, is the author of more than 20 books, and is the editor-in-chief of Black’s Law Dictionary. Justice Scalia’s and Garner’s new book is called *Reading Law: The Interpretation of Legal Text*.

More than 1,800 people, including federal judges, corporate general counsels, lawyers, students, faculty, and fans of Justice Scalia, attended the program held at SMU’s McFarlin Auditorium.

“The program was excellent, as Justice Scalia and Bryan Garner were wonderful entertainers,” U.S. District Judge Barbara Lynn of the Northern District of Texas said as she was standing in line to have a copy of the book autographed by the authors.

“It is amazing anytime a law school is privileged to have a Supreme Court justice visit and speak,” said Judge Lynn, who is a 1976 graduate of the SMU Dedman Law School. “But to have Justice Scalia here for three days teaching students and meeting with faculty, that is a huge tribute to SMU Dedman and Dean [John] Attanasio.”

This was Justice Scalia’s second visit to SMU Dedman Law. The first time he came to the campus was in February 2001.

Justice Scalia arrived in Dallas Sunday afternoon and spent three nights in Dallas. The justice’s visit kicked off with a reception of about 100 SMU Dedman alumni and other special guests at Garner’s home.

“The reception was a terrific, intimate event that allowed us to meet and talk with Justice Scalia,” said Darrell Jordan, a partner in the Dallas office of Dykema and a 1964 graduate of the Dedman Law School. “Bryan has one of the best libraries I have ever seen, which shouldn’t be surprising given his love for words.”

“The fact that Justice Scalia was willing to come to SMU Dedman Law and spend so much time with us and especially with the students is a great honor,” said Jordan, “and a tribute to the school.”

Justice Scalia spoke to students in three different classes on Monday and Tuesday, January 28-29: Professor Lackland Bloom’s Constitutional Law course, which combined day and evening school
classes, Professor Nathan Cortez's Administrative Law class; and Michaela Cashen's Perspectives of the American Legal System class for International LL.M. candidates.

“I've been teaching Con Law for 34 years, and this is the first time I've ever had a Supreme Court justice guest lecture,” said Professor Bloom. “It was perfect timing because we were discussing constitutional interpretation in class. Justice Scalia got on a roll and talked about why textualism, a theory of statutory interpretation that holds that a statute's original meaning as evidenced in its text should govern how judges interpret the statute, is right.

“Agree or disagree with his views, Justice Scalia is not a boring guy,” said Professor Bloom. “He has strong opinions, and he is not shy about sharing them, which makes him a great speaker.”

Professor Cortez said that it was a “career highlight to have Justice Scalia lecture” to his Administrative Law class.

“Justice Scalia has been perhaps the most influential jurist on administrative law issues over the last 25 years,” said Professor Cortez. “I assign both his legal opinions and his law review articles in my classes, so it was fascinating to see him in action, with his characteristic wit and fire. I also talk quite a bit about Scalia’s and Garner’s new book on statutory interpretation in my Legislation course.”

Clearly, the Monday evening event was the highlight of the week. After eating dinner at Fernando’s on Northwest Highway at Midway Road (“I had to take Justice Scalia to my favorite Mexican restaurant,” said Garner. “And he loved it.”), Scalia and Garner took the stage in McFarlin Auditorium.

For almost two hours, Justice Scalia and Garner essentially did a book reading in which they intertwined commentary, insight, and a considerable amount of humor.

“Justice Scalia loves this kind of event and he especially loved the large audience and the beautiful venue,” said Garner. “We cannot quite decide who is the straight man and who is the funny guy. I always thought I was the straight man, but Justice Scalia insists he is. I think we switch back and forth.”

“You need to warm up the audience, Garner,” Justice Scalia started.

Garner told the audience that they had worked together on Reading Law: The Interpretation of Legal Text for more than three years. They worked side-by-side for more than 200 hours combing through hundreds and hundreds of court decisions. He pointed out that eight SMU Dedman Law students helped conduct research for the project.

“My political beliefs are greatly different from Justice Scalia’s,” Garner told the audience, receiving a smattering of applause. “I deplore the Second Amendment. I’m in favor of gun control. I favor gay marriage. We worked through 700 decisions and we have yet to find a single decision with which we disagree [with each other].”
Garner noted that law schools “don’t teach this stuff.”

“It’s one of my problems with legal education,” Justice Scalia cut in. “They teach common law, but they don’t teach textual interpretation.”

Justice Scalia pointed out that every law – indeed, every constitutional amendment – can be reversed or modified. Pausing, he said he thought one of the amendments states in its text that it cannot be reversed, but he couldn’t remember which one.

“Every state has two senators,” Dean Attanasio spoke up from the front row.

“That’s it,” Justice Scalia responded. “Of course, he knows. He’s the dean.”

The nation’s longest-serving Supreme Court justice said he also wanted to correct the false notion that words must be strictly construed.

“I’m not a strict constructionist,” he said. “You don’t want to interpret laws strictly. You want to read them reasonably.”

Another Scalia pet peeve: “The false notion that the spirit of a statute should prevail over its letters or plain language.”

Don’t even get him started on legislative intent. The Constitution, Justice Scalia said, is not there to “do good” or to reach favorable or specific results.

“The judge who always likes the result he is reaching is a bad judge,” Justice Scalia said. “It means he’s doing something wrong.”

Then two words were mentioned: “living Constitution.”

“I hate that term,” Justice Scalia told the crowd, noticeably coming off his stool for the first time all evening. “I have school children come to the court and they repeat what they’ve heard, that the Constitution is a living document.

“It’s not a living document,” he continued. “It is dead, dead, dead.”

Justice Scalia paused as the audience laughed and applauded.

“I can do better than that,” he added. “It is an enduring document. Once you buy into the ‘living Constitution,’ you have invested your life to nine Harvard and Yale lawyers. The notion of a living Constitution is so contrary to the notion of a democratic institution.”

Justice Scalia and Garner were interrupted by strong applause several times throughout the evening.

“They love you,” Garner said at one point.

“I love Texas and SMU,” Justice Scalia responded.
SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW and its students played a significant role in Reading Law and are recognized for their contributions in the acknowledgements.

“In 2008, Dean John B. Attanasio created the Garner Law Scholars program, which allows five to six students a year to work on projects with me,” Bryan Garner says. “I needed help locating cases that Justice Scalia and I could use as examples.”

The law students who worked on the book with Garner were Salman Bhojani, Gregory Brassfield, Levi Dillon, Andrew J.M. Johnson, Carrie Xuan Nie, Abel Ramirez Jr., Derric Smith, Ben West, and Kimberly Winnubst.

“The students are paid as research assistants, but we also give them credit in the book because it is important for our readers to know just how good the students at SMU are,” says Garner.

Bhojani’s assignment was to research and write one or two page briefs on cases “that underscored some of the canons of interpretation mentioned in the book.”

“This was a fantastic learning experience because it taught me how to write concisely and clearly,” Bhojani says. “Once the book was nearing completion, I conducted cite checks on several sections of the book.

“This was an equally rewarding experience as I was able to read the words of two esteemed scholars before anyone else, not to mention the fact that I developed excellent bluebooking and editing skills,” says Bhojani. “This exercise taught me several canons of construction that will help me when I practice law. I couldn’t have asked for a more rewarding experience.”

Brassfield says he enjoyed “seeing the painstaking process of producing what I believe is a magisterial work on interpreting legal texts.

“Professor Garner would recount stories of working with – and sometimes debating – Justice Scalia,” he says. “For those of us who will likely never conference with a justice of the Supreme Court, those stories provided a rare look at the human, and often humorous, characteristics of one of the great legal minds of our time.”

“My time working with Professor Garner on Reading Law has been the pinnacle of my legal education,” says Brassfield.
Jennifer M. Collins to Lead SMU Dedman School of Law

The new dean of SMU’s Dedman School of Law is Jennifer M. Collins, a legal scholar at the intersection of criminal and family law whose background includes extensive academic administration experience, as well as service as a federal prosecutor.

Collins joins SMU as the Judge James Noel Dean of Dedman School of Law July 1, 2014 from Wake Forest University, where she currently serves as vice provost. Collins has been on the law school faculty at Wake Forest since 2003 and was named associate provost in 2010 and vice provost in September 2013. She has continued to teach courses on gender and the law and legal professionalism while serving in the provost’s office.

“We are delighted to welcome Jennifer Collins to SMU and Dallas,” said Paul Ludden, SMU provost and vice president for academic affairs. “She is a brilliant legal scholar and an outstanding academic administrator. Her experience as associate provost at Wake Forest has provided her with a campus-wide perspective that will be invaluable in leading Dedman School of Law at SMU.”

“The Dedman School of Law can be proud of the reputation it has built for academic rigor, as well as its excellent record in preparing students to practice in prestigious law firms,” said SMU President R. Gerald Turner. “Because Jennifer Collins’ career spans a lengthy tenure as a federal prosecutor as well as serving in academia, she is uniquely positioned to continue the Dedman School of Law tradition of preparing men and women to enter a competitive legal market.”

Collins graduated magna cum laude with a J.D. from Harvard University in 1991, and received her B.A. in history, cum laude with Distinction in the Major, from Yale University in 1987.

“I am absolutely delighted to be joining the SMU community,” Collins said. “I loved having the opportunity to meet with terrific, dedicated faculty and staff, and truly outstanding students, during my visit to campus, and I am eager to work together to address the challenges currently facing legal education. I cannot imagine an institution better positioned to respond to those challenges than the Dedman School of Law, and it is a great privilege to become part of the SMU family.”

Collins clerked for the Hon. Dorothy W. Nelson in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit after graduating from Harvard Law School, and worked briefly in private practice in Washington, D.C., before joining the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel as an attorney-adviser in 1993. Collins served in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia from 1994 to 2002, working in the homicide section for the last six of those years and prosecuting more than 30 jury trials.

She returned briefly to private practice in 2002 and joined the faculty of Wake Forest University School of Law in 2003. While at Wake Forest, Collins taught criminal law, criminal procedure, family law, and gender and the law. She is the 2009 winner of the Jurist Excellence in Teaching Award, selected by the graduating class of the law school, and the 2010 recipient of the Joseph Branch Excellence in Teaching Award, selected by the dean of the law school.

Collins became associate provost for academic and strategic initiatives at Wake Forest in 2010, where she spearheaded the university’s entry into the online and distance education market and developed new initiatives to increase diversity and inclusion across campus. She promoted efforts to examine the relevance and value of a liberal arts education and coordinated a large-scale strategic planning effort to improve campus culture for Wake Forest students.

Collins’ legal research has focused on issues involving families and the criminal justice system, including the prosecution of parents who are responsible for their children’s deaths. She is the author, with Dan Markel and Ethan Lieb, of Privilege or Punish? Criminal Justice and The Challenge of Family Ties, published by Oxford University Press in 2009, and has written many other law review articles and essays.
Professor Lackland Bloom’s Constitutional Law II class in October began like any other. Students trickled in, setting up laptops, organizing notes, preparing for class.

Then Bloom announced he was going to try something different—an experiment in returning to the age before technology. He asked students to put away their computers and take handwritten notes instead.

And so class began and Bloom started to lecture on voting rights.

The Walsh classroom has an entrance at the front, to the side of the whiteboard. While Bloom was facing the class, the door behind him opened and two gentlemen appeared, followed by President George W. Bush.

The students tried to get their bearings on what was happening. A “buzz” started, and then a little laughter as they came to realize they hadn’t been asked to put away their computers for an “experiment.”

With Bloom still lecturing, President Bush stood behind him and put his arm on his shoulder. When Bloom stopped and shook hands with the former President, the students stood and broke into applause.

As the room quieted down, Bloom welcomed the President and explained that President Bush was willing to answer any questions. Ever the Con Law professor, Bloom started first, asking how the President decided matters involving the Constitution, given that he had taken an oath to uphold it.

President Bush spoke about leadership and took other questions that involved events during his presidency and his life after leaving office. The questions were not screened in advance, but he answered them all with candor and his trademark forthrightness. The students were given a rare glimpse of the Office of the Presidency beyond the daily media reports.
MEET the OTHER Hutchison
His name is Ray Hutchison, and he's the senator's husband. He's also a municipal bond lawyer who was intricately involved in the creation, development and construction of the most important economic drivers in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, DART, the Upper Trinity Regional Water District, the AT&T Performing Arts Center and every major professional sports facility built here during the last 45 years became a reality because of Ray Hutchison.

Hutchison, who turned 80 last month, led the negotiations to move the Washington Senators to Arlington to become the Texas Rangers and then handled the highly complex legal work required to build the team a stadium. He represents the Dallas, Highland Park, Irving and Richardson school districts in all their expansion efforts.

And he handled Parkland Memorial Hospital’s recent $700 million bond issuance.

“Ray has been involved in virtually every major government development project of the past five decades,” said Ben Brooks, Hutchison’s longtime friend and law partner at Bracewell & Giuliani. “Ray has easily been involved in more than $20 billion in bond issuances that have directly and positively impacted the North Texas economy.”

Former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk once joked that D/FW Airport should be renamed Ray Hutchison International Airport because without him, it wouldn’t exist.

“There’s no question that Ray has played an integral role in the economic development of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Certainly no lawyer has had a bigger impact,” said Kirk, now the U.S. trade representative.

And Judge Patrick Higginbotham of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, a good friend of the Hutchisons, calls Hutchison a truly great lawyer. “He’s an architect who takes the dreams of our local leaders and makes it come true,” he said.

AN UNFORESEEN CAREER

Hutchison didn’t grow up wanting to be a lawyer. “No one grows up dreaming of being a bond lawyer,” he said.

He graduated from Crozier Tech in downtown Dallas. His family wanted him to be an auto mechanic. Classmates included Fritz “The Claw” Von Erich, the professional wrestler.

“Fritz and I were two of the few in my class who didn’t end up in prison,” he said. “I don’t think either of us made particularly good grades.”

A year later, in 1951, he was working as a messenger for Magnolia Oil Co. when he received a letter from the U.S. Navy: “Congratulations, you’ve been activated. Report in two weeks.”

Hutchison trained and served on a B-24 Liberator over the Gulf of Mexico. “College was nowhere in my thoughts at the time,” he said. But that changed.

He graduated from Southern Methodist University with a business degree and then received his juris doctor from SMU Dedman Law School, graduating fourth in his class in 1959.

Hutchison worked as a litigator at the law firm that later became Jenkens & Gilchrist, where he helped represent the Murchison brothers in their battle to buy New York investment firm Alleghany Corp. At the time, it was the largest hostile takeover bid in the U.S.
After a little more than a year, he joined McCall, Parkhurst & Horton, an old, prestigious municipal finance practice. Hutchison was handling basic school bond issuances and had just helped create Tarrant County Junior College in 1965 when he was asked to meet with government leaders in Dallas — including Mayor J. Erik Jonsson and George Underwood — about building an international airport.

The obstacles were sizable and numerous.

“The airlines, led by Braniff, American and Delta, were absolutely opposed,” he said. “And the city attorneys of Dallas and Fort Worth wouldn’t even speak to each other.”

Hutchison recommended creating a multi-jurisdictional airport authority. He drafted a state constitutional amendment and enlisted the support of Gov. John Connally, who helped get it passed in the Texas Legislature. But the referendum was defeated by Dallas County voters.

The airport project was all but dead when Hutchison came up with an alternative. He unearthed an obscure Texas law passed in 1959 that allowed the creation of a temporary multi-jurisdictional agency needed by Odessa officials to build an airport. That law stipulated that none of the airport could be financed with taxpayer dollars.

Both the temporary nature of the board and the fact that no tax dollars would be used went a long way in swaying Dallas and Fort Worth officials to go along.

He prepared a $35 million bond offering to finance the purchase of land and construction of the airport.

The success of D/FW Airport is history. Since then, Hutchison has represented D/FW Airport in each of its expansions, which have used more than $4.6 billion in bond issuances.

**TEXAS STADIUM**

In 1967, Clint Murchison, Jr. wanted to build a new stadium for the Dallas Cowboys. Hutchison joined Murchison at a meeting with Dallas leaders, who clearly weren’t interested.

But Irving officials were. They hired Hutchison to negotiate the deal.

“ Irving had no money, so we needed to get creative,” he said.

Within weeks, Hutchison presented a proposal: Sell seat option bonds (now more commonly called seat licenses). At the time, only a couple of smaller facilities had tried it.

“Texas Stadium ended up costing $35 million, but not a single dime of taxpayer money was involved,” he recalls.

John Boyle, Irving’s city attorney at the time, said Hutchison is “the most innovative public finance lawyer to ever practice law.”

“Ray drafted a plan of financing from scratch, which is highly unusual because bond lawyers almost always rely on what’s been done in the past,” Boyle said.

“The city of Irving followed Ray’s plan, and it worked exactly as he predicted.”

There were other obstacles, of course. For one, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission had passed a rule that was widely believed to prohibit Irving from using the seat option bond plan.

Hutchison and Boyle flew to Washington, D.C., for a meeting with the SEC’s general counsel.

“For one hour, Ray laid out his position for the general counsel on why the rule didn’t apply to Texas Stadium,” Boyle said. “It was some of the best lawyering I’ve ever seen.”

When Hutchison finished, according to Boyle, the SEC’s general counsel leaned forward and said, “We’ve worked on this rule for 10 years, but in 10 days you’ve found a hole large enough to drive a truck through it.”

The SEC gave Irving its waiver and Texas Stadium became the first large sports complex to be built using the seat licenses.
MOVING THE SENATORS

In 1971, Arlington Mayor Tom Vandergriff hired Hutchison to negotiate with Major League Baseball about moving the Washington Senators to Arlington.

“I recommended that Arlington buy the broadcast rights for the Washington Senators for 10 years to help bail out the financially struggling team,” Hutchison said.

The negotiations were held at a hotel in Boston. MLB Commissioner Bowie Kuhn adamantly opposed the Senators’ move. Hutchison quickly learned that someone with even more power was also against Arlington.

“In the middle of negotiations, there was a knock on the conference room door,” he said. “A porter wearing white gloves walked in with an envelope on a silver plate.”

The letter was addressed to the owners of the American League clubs.

“I implore you. Repeat, I implore you. Do not move the national pastime from the nation’s capital.”

It was signed, “Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States.”

“Everyone was silent except Commissioner Kuhn, who was sitting next to me,” said Hutchison. “He turned and punched me in the ribs and said, ‘Gotcha now.’”

But somehow, Hutchison prevailed.

“An hour later, we closed the deal and the Washington Senators became the Texas Rangers,” he said.

In the years that followed, Hutchison played crucial roles in the creation and public financing of Reunion Arena and American Airlines Center, the Ballpark in Arlington, Cowboys Stadium, Texas Motor Speedway and Gerald Ford Stadium at Southern Methodist University.

“Ray knows more about how to do these kinds of projects than the rest of us put together,” said Dallas Cowboys general counsel Alec Scheiner. “Ray is a businessman and a lawyer for his client. As a result, we didn’t fight over small details when we negotiated the new Cowboys Stadium deal.

“I’m just sorry that the city of Arlington hired him before we were able to,” he said.

With the Cowboys’ lease at Texas Stadium set to expire in less than two days, Hutchison said, “I sat down over a weekend and I created a ‘take-it-or-leave-it’ list,” he said. “The Cowboys took it.”

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE

In the mid-1970s, Hutchison tried his hand at politics, running and winning two terms in the Texas Legislature.

During his four years in the state House, he met a fellow representative from Houston named Kay Bailey, who had introduced legislation in 1973 to create a regional transit authority in Houston that would be funded by a 1-cent sales tax.

Initially, the city of Dallas opposed the legislation. Hutchison rewrote it to Dallas’ satisfaction. A decade later, Hutchison used that exact legislation to help create the Dallas Area Rapid Transit system. He has been DART’s bond counsel ever since, handling more than $3.2 billion in bond issuances.

“Ray writes the legislation, works to get the legislation passed and then implements the legislation, which sometimes means creating the client,” Brooks said. “Then he represents the client in public financing matters.”

In 1978, Hutchison ran for the Republican nomination for governor but lost to Bill Clements. After that loss, he refocused on his bond practice and only appeared in political circles periodically.

Hutchison found his work under attack as recently as 2009 when Sen. Hutchison ran for governor against Rick Perry. The governor’s campaign accused him of using his wife’s position to attract clients – a claim that even many Perry supporters denounced as untrue and outrageous.

“Ray was a great bond lawyer well before Kay became a U.S. senator, and the accusations of conflicts of interests against him were just silly,” said Darrell Jordan, a longtime Dallas lawyer and prominent Republican. “The truth is that Ray got a lot of work despite his politics because he’s been the best bond lawyer in town for a long time.”

Hutchison still goes to the office every day. He loves the challenge of solving problems for his clients. He has no plans to retire.

“Ray is the legal architect of a fair piece of North Texas,” said John Attanasio, dean of SMU’s Dedman Law School. “He’s done so much great work for SMU, but his work creating and building DFW Airport into a world-class transportation hub may be the single biggest factor in the economic development of our region.”

Back at his office at Bracewell, Hutchison pauses, as if mentally reviewing all the deals he’s led.

“I was there for the groundbreaking at Texas Stadium and I was there for the demolition,” he said. “I’ve helped build stadiums for every sports team in Dallas twice. I’m not sure I will be around in 20 or 30 years when the Mavericks, Cowboys and Rangers go for the third round.”

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New York Times Executive Editor Jill Abramson admits her journey into the world of social media didn’t last long. In the summer of 2011, her predecessor, Bill Keller, had written a column stating that Twitter “was not very worthwhile.”

Keller, who was a long-time executive editor and a great journalist, was roundly denounced for being a closed-minded old fogey and went to Abramson for help.

“Would you open a Twitter account?” Keller asked her. “I want to show that we aren’t closed minded about social media.” Finally agreeing, Abramson convinced a reporter on The New York Times’ social media team to be her “personal Twitter tutor.”

“My kids – who are 27 and 30 – were so excited that mom’s on Twitter. But after two weeks, they gave me a D on Twitter. In my two weeks, I got up to about 250,000 followers. It was ridiculous because I had nothing interesting to say.”

“The Times goes to extraordinary lengths to protect the integrity of our journalism,” she said. “Quality journalism is our mission. It is also our business model.”

The Raggio Endowed Lecture Series

SMU Dedman School of Law is the proud host of the Louise Ballerstedt Raggio ’52 Endowed Lecture Series.

The Raggio Endowed Lecture Series, established by Ms. Raggio’s friends and family, honors and celebrates her tremendous accomplishments in advancing the legal rights of women in Texas and across the country.

• Louise B. Raggio, an inspiration for generations of women, is remembered for her unwavering support of women’s rights.

• Her outstanding legal career began in 1952 when she was the only woman in her SMU law school graduating class.

• She went on to become the first female assistant district attorney in Dallas County and the first woman to prosecute a criminal case in Dallas.

• She was a major influence in passing the Texas Marital Property Act of 1967, which gave married women legal rights to their own property.

Raggio received the SMU Distinguished Alumni Award in 1971 and the SMU Dedman School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award in 1992. Four years later, SMU conferred upon her the honorary Doctor of Laws, the university’s highest honor.
Abramson, widely recognized as one of the most powerful people in the world as she leads what is unquestionably the most powerful news media operation on the planet, told this story during her May 2nd visit to the SMU Dedman School of Law, where she was the Raggio Endowed Lecture Series speaker.

The lecture series is named after Louise B. Raggio, a 1952 graduate of the SMU School of Law. Raggio was the first woman prosecutor in Dallas County, and she was the driving force behind Texas’ Marital Property Act of 1967, which allowed women to manage their own property and borrow money from banks. Raggio, who passed away in 2011, is a legend in family law and women’s rights in Texas.

“I’m so sorry that I never got to meet Louise Raggio,” Abramson told a capacity crowd at the Belo Mansion ballroom, which included several members of Raggio’s family. “Evidently, she earned her nickname the ‘Texas Tornado’ in every way. It is such an honor to speak at a lecture in honor of her name.”

During Abramson’s two months on Twitter, she says she managed only “one good tweet.”

Abramson said it also was an honor for her to follow last year’s Raggio Lecturer, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She interviewed Justice Ginsburg more than two decades ago when Abramson was writing her book Where They Are Now: The Story of the Women of Harvard Law 1974.

In an hour-long program, Abramson said women now comprise about one-third of most newsrooms, but that 40 percent of the journalists working at The New York Times are women. Half of the eight most senior editors listed on the newspaper’s masthead are women. She pointed out that most major law firms continue to struggle with promoting women into leadership positions, which she said she hoped would change with time.

Abramson’s presentation, “Quality Journalism’s Role in the Hyper-Speed News Cycle,” took attendees inside The New York Times’ handling of the biggest and most important breaking news. The key, she said, was not to get caught up in the rush of the Internet and television media racing to be first, sometimes at the cost of being right.

The first example, Abramson said, was the Supreme Court’s decision in Bush v. Gore. TV journalists and commentators guessed and floundered live on the air as they tried to figure out the ruling.

“That day was an early indicator of the worst to come,” she said.

Abramson said that then-Supreme Court writer Linda Greenhouse read the five-to-four decision as she made her way from the Supreme Court back to the newspaper’s bureau in Washington, D.C.

“She noted that some of the NYT’s coverage leading up to the 2003 Iraq War was poorly reported and wrong.

“Authoritative reporting and quality journalism is associated with truth and integrity,” she said. “That day was an early indicator of the worst to come.”

Abramson pointed out that this is the 10th anniversary of the scandal involving Jason Blair, a former NYT reporter who fabricated stories.

She noted that some of the NYT’s coverage leading up to the 2003 Iraq War was poorly reported and wrong.

“We did some soul-searching and made changes,” she said.

“Authoritative reporting and quality journalism are associated with integrity. We hold ourselves out to be the gold standard. And we have let our readers down.”

Abramson said the newspaper appointed a public editor, or an ombudsman, who is responsive to reader’s comments. The publication also appointed a standards editor and tightened the rules regarding the use of confidential sources.

“The Times goes to extraordinary lengths to protect the integrity of our journalism,” she said. “Quality journalism is our mission. It is also our business model.”

“Linda burst in and simply said, ‘It is over,’” said Abramson, who was the bureau chief at the time. “Her thoughts were clear, informed by years of covering Supreme Court decisions. ‘Turn the TVs off,’ Linda told our executive editor. ‘They are off, Linda. We’re only listening to you.’”

Abramson said that the scene repeated itself last year when the Supreme Court issued its opinion on the Affordable Care Act.

“I made it clear to our reporters that I was not interested in just being first on the decision,” she said. “In the swirling 24-hour news cycle, anyone can tweet false information. The Times wasn’t first [to report the ACA decision], but we had an authoritative, fully reported, well-analyzed story up on the web pretty soon after Adam Liptak had read and analyzed the decision.

“I’m not here to tell you The Times is always perfect,” she said. “We’ve suffered some self-inflicted wounds, too.”

It was “a veritable orgy of flawed reporting,” she said.

“I’m as competitive as any journalist,” Abramson said. “We are awash in what comedian Stephen Colbert called ‘truthiness’ – a truth that someone claims to know intuitively without regard to real evidence or fact. Don’t tolerate truthiness. Demand quality journalism.”
Travis Tygart ’99 on Playing Fair and Winning

“The measure of a man who does his duty is not what others think of him but his own commitment to doing what is right.”

With that statement, *Time* magazine named Travis Tygart, a 1999 SMU Dedman alum and chief executive officer of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), as one of its 100 Most Influential People of 2013.

Tygart, a former litigation associate at Fulbright & Jaworski who led the investigation and prosecution against seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong, presented an hour-long lecture to more than 150 SMU Dedman Law students and faculty members on August 27.

Earlier this year, SMU unveiled a new branding campaign called “World Changers Shaped Here.”

“Travis Tygart is surely one of SMU Dedman’s world changers,” Dean Julie Forrester said in introducing Tygart. “My faculty colleagues and I feel great pride in playing at least some small part in shaping this world changer.”

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Tygart gave the audience an inside look at the case against Armstrong, which included death threats against him and his family, an unprecedented media attack by the cyclist’s supporters against the USADA, and a legal effort from Armstrong’s legal team to shut down the investigation.

“There is tremendous pressure today – be it on athletes and business leaders – to do whatever it takes to win, including cheating,” he told the group. “It seems like you have to cheat to win today.

“This is not limited to sports. It is a cultural phenomenon, especially in the U.S., to win at all costs,” Tygart said. “Don’t get me wrong – there’s nothing wrong with winning. We want our athletes and our businesses to be successful. But we have put so much pressure on everyone, from the youth sports level and going all the way up to professional, Olympic and elite levels. It is in banking and Wall Street.

“Whether you are an athlete or running a business or practicing law, if you do it by fraud, it is all going to come down at some point,” he said. “Only those who play by the rules are ultimately going to win.”

Prior to becoming USADA’s CEO in 2007, Tygart served as the organization’s chief legal counsel. He has been recognized by *Sports Illustrated* as one of the most powerful people in all of sports.

The USADA issued a 202-page report in October 2012 detailing its
decision to strip Armstrong of his seven titles and ban him from sports competition for the rest of his life.

Armstrong's team effectively used social media by describing the USADA's inquiry as an “unconstitutional witch hunt.” Tygart says the USADA also faced pressure and opposition from the U.S. business community, which developed a financial interest in having Armstrong and other Americans win the Tour de France through sponsorships and other commercial efforts.

In addition, there were efforts to have Congress defund or dismember the organization, he says.

“We knew we could win the legal battle, but we knew we had to win the PR battle because that was about people’s minds and public support,” he says.

Worst of all, Tygart received numerous death threats from Armstrong supporters, including one email sent to him from an Armstrong devotee that stated, “I hope you have bodyguards and a bulletproof vest.”

Two of the individuals who sent death threats to Tygart have been arrested by the FBI and are awaiting trial.

While Armstrong eventually admitted to doping in his now infamous interview with Oprah Winfrey, he has refused to meet with Tygart and USADA officials – though Tygart still holds out hope that the cyclist will have a “full and truthful discussion” about his case and identify others involved.

Tygart said the case against Armstrong is iron-tight.

“We obtained the evidence in April 2010, when former teammate Floyd Landis came forward. He was the whistleblower,” he said. “The team had created the cone of silence. Those participating agreed to take the cheating to their graves and they were sophisticated and financially backed enough to beat the testing in place.”

In the end, the USADA had 26 witnesses, including 11 former teammates of Armstrong, testifying against him.

“It was a tough time,” Tygart admitted. “It is not easy when you have a celebrity athlete, an icon, to hold him accountable and do your job. We swore an oath to pursue evidence no matter where it leads. It was the strongest case of doping that we have ever had.”

“Travis Tygart is surely one of SMU Dedman’s world changers,” Dean Julie Forrester said in introducing Tygart.

“My faculty colleagues and I feel great pride in playing at least some small part in shaping this world changer.”
Tygart contributed much of his success to his time at SMU Dedman Law, where he said he learned about legal ethics, analysis and how to prepare a complex case for public presentation.

“Law school taught me so many skills and tools that I used throughout this process, including critical thinking,” he said.

“I received a great foundation here at SMU and had a great experience in the criminal clinic,” Tygart told the students. “I took a sports law class and a civil rights class and both have helped me. It was all preparation for a career path that I like.

“More than anything, I recommend that you follow your passion,” he said. “I wanted something bigger than myself to commit to.”

In his presentation, Tygart specifically praised U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks of Austin who in July 2012 dismissed a federal lawsuit filed by Armstrong and his legal team that sought a restraining order against the USADA for violating his due process rights.

Judge Sparks said Armstrong’s lawsuit was “excessive” in its “rhetoric” and short on facts.

“The Court is not inclined to indulge Armstrong’s desire for publicity, self-aggrandizement,” Judge Sparks wrote.

USADA oversees anti-doping efforts in the U.S. for the Olympics, Pan American and Paralympic sports and does testing for amateur athletic events across the country.

Tygart says he has seen cases of parents who gave their eight-year-old swimmer energy drinks immediately before a race to make the child faster and parents who gave their 15-year-old high dosages of testosterone to help make their kid better at rollerblading.

The push by many athletes and others to allow “some modest usage” of performance enhancing drugs by professional or elite athletes is a bad idea that could have “potentially catastrophic results,” according to Tygart.

“It moves the line of where the cheating starts,” he said. “The more you take, the better of you are going to do.”

Tygart also dismissed claims that allowing some PED use levels the playing field. “It doesn’t because people’s bodies respond differently to PEDs,” he said. “The advantage goes to those whose bodies respond best. That’s not what sports competition is about. Sports is about competition between naturally talented athletes, not those who have been artificially and chemically enhanced human beings.”

And he said the use of PEDs at the professional level would seep down the ladder.

“If you have to take the drugs to make the elite professional or Olympic teams, then they will have to do it to make the college team,” he said. “And if you have to do it to make the college team, then you have to do it to make the high school team and junior high team. And pretty soon, we will have eight year olds out there taking these drugs.”

Tygart also rebuked Armstrong, who told Oprah that he didn’t feel he was cheating because he knew other cyclists were also using PEDs.

“You ask any kindergartener in this country what cheating is and they will tell you that cheating is breaking the rules of the game,” Tygart said. “Personally, I find his answers amazing.”

When it comes to Travis Tygart, Time magazine concludes, “Score one for the good guys.”
Brittany Byrd received the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award from the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Dallas Award from the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers for her professionalism, commitment to serving the community, and dedication to helping others through her pro bono work.

Brittany K. Byrd is a Texas native and an associate at Winstead PC in the Finance & Banking Practice Group. She earned a B.B.A. and M.S. in Accounting from the University of Texas at Arlington and worked as an Audit Associate for PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, earning her license as a Certified Public Accountant. She continued her education at SMU Dedman School of Law, graduating in 2011. During law school, Byrd held judicial internships with the Honorable Nancy F. Atlas in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas and the Honorable Renée H. Toliver in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, as well as leadership roles in the Black Law Students Association.

Byrd also founded a non-profit organization called Girls Embracing Mothers (GEM). GEM is aimed at empowering young girls ages 7-17 whose mothers are incarcerated and offers various programs such as enhanced visitation and communication between mothers and daughters, mentoring, and productive life goal setting. Byrd’s desire to start GEM stemmed from her own experience as a daughter of an incarcerated mother. The Dallas Foundation recognized Byrd’s tireless commitment to GEM by naming her as one of Dallas’s top five community volunteers under the age of 40 at a ceremony in November 2013.

Byrd is also a strong advocate for her clients through countless hours of pro bono work. She actively represents inmates who are first-time, non-violent drug offenders who have been sentenced to life in prison without parole. Her work has been recognized by the American Civil Liberties Union. She assisted the ACLU with identifying cases to research and profile in their new report, “A Living Death,” which highlights the cases of two of Byrd’s pro bono clients among others serving life in prison without parole for non-violent offenses.

Byrd is an active member of the DAYL, was elected to the DAYL 2013-2014 Leadership Class, and serves on the board of the Women’s Finance Exchange. Byrd embodies all three criteria for the Outstanding Young Lawyer award for her professionalism, service to the community, and service to the Bar. Above all, she serves as an inspiration to others and symbolizes a passionate and ambitious force within the legal profession.
S.M. Krishna, India’s Minister of External Affairs and a 1959 graduate of the SMU Dedman School of Law, returned to his alma mater last October to receive the law school’s Distinguished Global Alumni Award and to deliver what Indian news media described as a major foreign policy address concerning India’s position in the global market.

The highest-ranking Indian official to ever visit Dallas, Krishna praised university and law school leadership for his personal educational growth and for its contributions to the rule of law around the world.

“It is a happy homecoming for me after a gap of more than 40 years,” Krishna told the audience in SMU’s McFarlin Auditorium as part of the Carrington Endowed Lecture Series. “I cannot but reminisce about the full and wonderful time I spent here for part of my schooling life. I owe a great deal of my success to this great institution of learning.”

Less than a month after he gave his lecture, which he titled “India Now,” Krishna announced he was resigning his post to “make way for youngsters.” He is 80 years old.

Krishna’s career has been nearly unparalleled in Indian politics. He has served multiple terms as a member of parliament and then as a minister of state under Indira Gandhi in 1983. He served as Chief Minister of Karnataka from 1999 to 2004 after leading his political party to victory. He was instrumented in pushing political reforms, the creation of digitalized land records and many other efforts positive for citizens.

He served as Minister of External Affairs, which is similar to the U.S. position of secretary of state, from 2009 to 2012.

“Minister Krishna’s leadership and contributions have played a significant role in the development of India,” said John B. Attanasio, who was the dean of the SMU Dedman Law School from 1999 to 2013 and continues to serve as Professor of Law and Judge William Hawley Atwell Chair of Constitutional Law.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for the community, our alumni and our students to have him back at the law school and hear him speak,” Attanasio said.

In his presentation, Krishna noted that India has been among the fastest growing economies in the world, second only to China. India’s economy has grown by roughly eight percent during the past decade, he said.
During the past two years, businesses in Texas, including Fluor Corp, Pioneer Natural Resources, Atlas Energy and ConocoPhillips, have inked more than a dozen deals with companies in India.

In addition, Indian-based companies are hiring Texas-based law firms, including Thompson & Knight, Vinson & Elkins and Akin Gump, to handle their complex legal transactional work in Texas and globally.

“It is very significant that India has had the leadership of someone educated in the U.S., especially with a post graduate degree from a Harvard Business School or a SMU Law School,” said Chris Schaeper, a partner at Dallas-based Thompson & Knight.

“It’s very important and valuable.”

No company in India has more business involvement in Texas than Reliance Industries, India’s largest energy company.

In May 2012, Reliance signed a major contract with Fluor that requires the Irving-based company to perform management services for projects being executed at Reliance’s refining and petrochemical complex on the west coast of India.

In 2011, Reliance closed a $1.3 billion agreement with Pioneer (also Irving-based), for a 45 percent ownership stake in the company’s investment in the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas. A year earlier, Reliance signed a similar $1.7 billion joint venture agreement with then-Fort Worth-based Atlas Energy for a stake in the Marcellus Shale deposit in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Oil India, which is the state-run exploration and production operation, announced in 2012 that it has set aside more than $60 billion for global acquisitions. Oil India specifically cited oil and gas interests in Texas and Oklahoma as possible targets.

“There’s a tremendous need for investment capital in India infrastructure needs, energy needs, and just a wide variety of needs in Texas companies,” said Steve Davis, a partner at Akin Gump in Houston and past chair of the International Law Section of the State Bar of Texas.

Akin Gump, which has handled inbound and outbound legal transactional matters in India, currently represents Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), one of the country’s largest natural gas companies, in its efforts to find and help it acquire liquefied natural gas projects and other energy supplies abroad.

Davis believes the reason Texas is seeing more business with both India and other countries comes down to its location and international mindset. He said that the Port of Houston plays a crucial role in international business because it is one of the largest destinations for abroad businesses that are seeking access to U.S. partners.

“India has managed to reduce poverty levels at twice the rate as the 1990s,” he said. “Of course, a lot of work remains to be done. It is not merely growth we seek, but inclusive growth.”

Krishna said that economic growth is reaching down the financial ladder and helping grow the middle class. India is pushing clean and renewable energy fiercely because that will spur additional economic growth for all segments of Indian society, he said.

“India is suffering from unprecedentedly high oil prices,” he said. “The long-term solution for India is to reduce our dependence on hydrocarbons and move to renewable sources of energy. This is India’s biggest energy challenge today.”

Krishna said that he and India’s leadership know that the western world views their country “with even more interests as it is becoming clear that the developing economies led by India and China will become the engine of economic growth over the next few years.”

Krishna praised SMU for hosting the Bush Library. And he praised President Obama for continuing and actually expanding efforts that Presidents Bush and Clinton started.

“It has been a special privilege for me to visit Dallas,” he said. “Dallas is a thriving city and this state of Texas is one of the most heaviest economies that has emerged in the U.S. India and the state of Texas have been cooperating.”

He noted that about 11 percent of India’s trade with the U.S involves businesses in Texas.

Krishna’s visit to Dallas came at a time when Texas-based companies are doing more and more business with their counterparts in India.

During the past two years, businesses in India and the state of Texas have been cooperating.”

“Texas is seeing more business with both India and other countries comes down to its location and international mindset. He said that the Port of Houston plays a crucial role in international business because it is one of the largest destinations for abroad businesses that are seeking access to U.S. partners.”

“A great deal of trade that flows through the Port is going to continue to increase,” Davis said. “If you’re looking to tap into the energy market globally, then there is no better place to do that than right in Texas, and particularly in Houston.”

Gary Katara, a partner at Vinson & Elkins in Houston who represented Reliance in its $7.2 billion joint venture with BP in 23 oil and gas production-sharing contracts, says that Indian companies are increasingly turning to Texas-based law firms for their expertise in specific business sectors.

“While it is still legally impossible for a Texas law firm to open an office in India, Indian companies will hire Texas firms on Indian matters where they have particular expertise and to handle their legal work in North and South America or globally,” said Krishna.
On Feb. 7th, SMU Dedman School of Law and the American Bar Association’s Section of International Law co-hosted a day-long symposium called “The Arab Spring: Doing Business and the Rule of Law.”

More than 200 lawyers, business leaders, students, and faculty members attended the event, which was part of the ABA’s Mid-Year Meeting that was held in Dallas.

“It is a huge honor for the SMU Dedman School of Law to host this extraordinary event,” Dean John Attanasio said in his welcoming announcement. “What we’ve witnessed over the past couple of years has been amazing but also unsettling. It has impacted the rights of the people, the independence of the judiciary, and business investment in those countries.”

The opening speaker was the Honorable Adel Omar Sherif, the Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt. Justice Sherif spoke on the condition that his comments were “off-the-record” and no recordings of his presentation were made. Publicly available documents show that Justice Sherif planned to talk on “the challenges or threats to the development of the Rule of Law” as a result of the Arab Spring.

Former U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, who is now Of Counsel in the Dallas office of Bracewell & Giuliani, delivered the keynote address. She focused on the lack of progress toward civil rights and liberties for women in the Middle East and North Africa during the so-called Arab Spring.

“Vocal groups that oppose equality are gaining influence,” said Hutchison. “Voices of moderation are vital to assuring that equality will be there.”

The rule of law will fail if the basic rights of women and girls are not protected, she said. Citing numerous economic studies, Hutchison noted that those nations that are more responsive to women’s rights witness significantly more economic growth than the countries that are not.

Hutchison pointed out that the new Egyptian leadership has retained many of the oppressive policies and laws of their predecessors.

“It is an incredible injustice in Egypt that women have been essentially cut out of the political process after playing such a vital role in the overthrow of Mubarak,” she said.

“There is no such thing as a First World country that doesn’t have gender equality,” she said.

A program that garnered much attention focused on business interests in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA), which continue to be extraordinarily tempting to U.S. oil and gas companies despite the political volatility in the region.

Three of Texas’ leading oil and gas legal experts – Hunt Oil Chief Financial Officer and former General Counsel Dennis Grindinger, ConocoPhillips Senior Legal Counsel for International Operations Harry Sullivan, and SMU Dedman School of Law Energy Law Professor John Lowe – told the group of international lawyers gathered in...
Dallas that MENA is still one of the regions that offers huge potential for investments by major U.S. energy companies.

“Fifty percent of all proven oil reserves and 30 percent of all proven natural gas reserves are in the Middle East and North Africa,” said Lowe, who is widely recognized as one of the leading oil and gas legal educators in the U.S. “If you are interested in finding oil and gas, the Middle East and North Africa is still one of the first places you look.”

Grindinger and Sullivan agreed, but said that companies like theirs are taking a wait-and-see approach regarding the continued unrest following the Arab Spring.

“When you have political turmoil, it makes companies very nervous,” said Sullivan, a lawyer for ConocoPhillips who lives in Dallas but spends most of his time overseas. “We invest based on opportunities, but it is more complicated when regimes are unstable.”

“We study every country and do an analysis, and one key question is the stability of the rule of law,” said Sullivan.

Grindinger said that regimes in 38 countries have been declared unstable by international authorities and half of those are in MENA.

“We are looking for regimes that share our interests and values,” said Grindinger. “We negotiate with countries that abide by various human rights principles.”

The situation, he added, is further complicated by “a bunch of new players who just showed up.”

“It used to be Exxon and ConocoPhillips and Hunt Oil could meet for breakfast in a hotel for negotiations, but now there are sovereign wealth funds and state-owned companies that don’t necessarily care about the same principles or values,” Grindinger told the audience. “When we have to compete against Russian- or Chinese-owned oil companies, we cannot figure out their economics or numbers, and we run them a hundred times and cannot figure them out.”

He and Sullivan said that’s because these other entities, especially the state-owned energy companies, have different agendas than just making a profit.

Grindinger and Sullivan say that many countries initially scoffed at U.S.-based companies regarding the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, saying the FCPA is a U.S. law that they felt no obligation to follow. That attitude has changed as U.S. companies refused to invest in those countries.

“I have a book on my desk right now on Nigerian anti-corruption that prohibits gratification,” said Sullivan. “I’m not sure what gratification is yet.”

Grindinger said lawyers working for Hunt Oil know to include every possible contingency, including regime change and changes to law.

Sullivan said one thing people must know: Seldom are contracts written to be enforceable under English law. He says he is constantly surprised at the applicable law in different countries’ contracts.

“In the biggest oil contract ever signed in Azerbaijan, the controlling legal authority is, as you might expect, Azerbaijan law, except where it conflicts with the laws of England,” Sullivan said. “And then, the controlling law is that of Alberta, Canada.”

Dr. Adel Omar Sherif
Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt & Distinguished Global Visiting Professor of Law, SMU Dedman School of Law

Dr. Adel Omar Sherif has been the Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt since December 2002.


He often represents the Egyptian judicial community in international conferences and seminars. Justice Sherif is a member of the International Board of Judicial Advisors for the Judges Newsletter of The Hague Conference on Private International Law and a member of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights’ Judicial Reference Group. Justice Sherif has recently been appointed as a Vice-President of the International Judicial Academy in Washington, D.C.

Justice Sherif has been affiliated with many academic institutions during his career. He has been, for example, a Visiting Fellow at the International Human Rights Law Centre of the College of Law, DePaul University, in Chicago; the Human Rights Centre of the University of Essex, U.K.; and the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C.; and was a Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law, McGill University in Montreal.

Justice Sherif has made significant contributions to the development of international judicial cooperation and has written and published widely on various legal topics, including human rights, constitutional issues, Islamic law, and environmental law.

Justice Sherif has taught Comparative Law II: Islamic Law at SMU Dedman Law since 2008.
SMU Dedman School of Law Professor Lackland Bloom, Jr., told a standing room only audience at SMU’s Martha Proctor Mack Ballroom about the time he and a group of U.S. Supreme Court Justices took a group of Russian Supreme Court Justices to dinner at the Mayflower Hotel the night before a conference in Washington, D.C. They invited the Russian Justices to ask any question they wanted to about the United States, the Constitution, the legal system or anything else they were interested in.

Their response: “Who really killed Kennedy?”

Bloom joined SMU faculty and five lawyers from the Warren Commission on October 11th to look back at the Commission’s much debated findings—that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone when assassinating President Kennedy—and what day-to-day work looked like at the Commission. It was the first time in 50 years that members of the President’s Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy have been brought together.

The assistant counsel and staff members from the Commission who participated in the panel discussions included Judge Burt Griffin, Justice Richard Mosk, Justice Stuart Pollak, Professor David Slawson, Howard Willens, and Jay Vogelson.

Nearly five decades later, these five men remain committed to the conclusion of the Commission’s 888 pages of findings. Justice Pollak said there has never been a more intense or thorough investigation.

“Although we have learned of some imperfections and some things that we didn’t know, nothing in my judgment has come to light since that report that casts any credible doubt on the ultimate conclusion that the Commission made,” said Pollak, who now serves on the California First District Court of Appeal.

Chris Jenks, an assistant professor of law at SMU’s Dedman School of Law, participated in the second panel discussion with Bloom and asked the representatives of the Commission about what he calls the “government investigations paradox,” which suggests that the more thorough an investigation is, the more questions there are to raise. How did the members of the Warren Commission determine when enough was enough?

Willens, who served as assistant counsel on the Commission and published a book at the end of October on the investigation, compared it to being in private practice and having the feeling that you may not have exhausted everything.

“Our sense was that we had conducted the most extensive investigation in the history of the country, and we felt confidence in our major conclusions,” he said.

One of the most-asked questions by the audience was why is there so much controversy surrounding who killed President Kennedy. Bloom offered seven reasons why he thinks people continue to question the findings of the Warren Commission: they do not trust the government, they question whether all the evidence is in, many people have not looked at the issue in-depth, there
is a great deal of misinformation, people like mysteries, it was a truly weird series of events, and Oswald’s strange résumé.

“The Work of the Warren Commission, Half a Century On: Its Methods, Successes & Questions,” was presented by SMU’s Dedman School of Law, the John G. Tower Center for Political Studies, and The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. William Bridge, an associate professor of law at SMU who helped organize the program for the law school, and Sarah Saldaña, SMU Law alum and the first Hispanic woman to serve as a United States Attorney in Texas, were moderators.

SMU’s Dedman School of Law has a long history with the Warren Commission. The late Dean Robert Gerald Storey was appointed, together with Leon Jaworski, to the Court of Inquiry, which was established by then State Attorney General Waggoner Carr and reported to the Warren Commission.

(From left): Judge Burt Griffin; William Bridge, Associate Professor of Law, SMU Dedman School of Law; Howard Willens, author of History Will Prove Us Right: Inside the Warren Commission Report on the Assassination of John F. Kennedy; Sarah Saldaña ’84; Justice Stuart R. Pollak; Justice Richard M. Mosk; James F. Hollifield, Professor of Political Science and Director of Tower Center of Political Studies, SMU; Dean ad interim Julie P. Forrester, SMU Dedman School of Law; Professor David Slawson

“OUR SENSE WAS THAT WE HAD CONDUCTED THE MOST EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY AND WE FELT CONFIDENCE IN OUR MAJOR CONCLUSIONS.”

Panelists (from left): Christopher Jenks, Director of the Criminal Justice Clinic and Assistant Professor of Law, SMU Dedman School of Law; Lackland H. Bloom, Professor of Law, SMU Dedman School of Law
John B. Attanasio served as dean of SMU Dedman School of Law from 1998 to 2013, holding the title of Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law from 2008 to 2013. He remains the Judge William Hawley Atwell Chair of Constitutional Law, Professor of Law and former dean.

Throughout his career, John Attanasio has been a very active scholar in the field of constitutional principles and the rule of law.

Practice, and the judicial and corporate counsel externship programs, which have been very helpful for SMU law grads in their job searches. In several key new rankings of overall job placement, SMU Dedman School of Law ranks between 20th and 27th among law schools in securing jobs for its graduates.

“We thank John for his 15 years of dedicated service to the law school,” says Julie Forrester, Dean ad interim and Professor of Law. “He accomplished a great deal and left the law school in strong financial order, which put the school in shape to withstand the current challenges facing law schools across the country.”

“We want to also thank Kathy Attanasio for her tireless efforts on behalf of the law school,” continues Dean Forrester. “SMU Dedman School of Law had the benefit of both Attanasios throughout the years. John and Kathy are a great team.”

In 2002, Attanasio helped secure SMU Dedman School of Law as the headquarters for the Appellate Judges Education Institute, which is the premier provider of appellate judicial education in the United States. The AJEI was created by the professional development arm of the Appellate Judges Conference of the American Bar Association to conduct educational programming for appellate judges, appellate court personnel, and lawyers specializing in appellate practice.

Attanasio, building on the law schools long-standing international graduate program, also helped establish an outstanding scholarship program for LL.M. students from the People’s Republic of China. Securing several gifts totaling $4 million from Helmut Sohmen ’66 (with an additional $3 million match from the Dedman Foundation), Attanasio launched the Sohmen Scholars program, which provides full tuition, fees, and a monthly living stipend for four to six students from China each year.

Returning from a recent trip to Asia, Dean Forrester said, “I was struck by the exceptional quality of the candidates and the widespread name recognition that SMU Dedman Law has in China. We interviewed the very top students at the best law schools. The Sohmen Scholars program is an excellent program, and we are grateful to John Attanasio and Helmut Sohmen for establishing it.”

Throughout his career, John Attanasio has been a very active scholar in the field of constitutional principles and the rule of law. His work reaches back in time more than 20 years. In 1990, Attanasio was the first Fulbright Award recipient to teach courses on American constitutional law in the former Soviet Union. He is co-author of Constitutional Law and Understanding Constitutional Law and has written numerous articles for legal journals. He has spent his career as an academic lawyer, advising, teaching, researching, and writing in the field of constitutional law.

John B. Attanasio
Judge William Hawley Atwell Chair of Constitutional Law, Professor of Law and Former Dean

SMU Dedman Law students and the larger community benefited from the many important conferences and speakers Attanasio made possible. For example, during his deanship, SMU Dedman Law sponsored five Supreme Court Summits—multi-day, closed-door meetings between the U.S. Supreme Court and other highest courts. Ten different U.S. Supreme Court Justices participated in at least one of the Summits, and Justices Ginsburg and Breyer participated in all five.

In addition, during the last two years, Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg visited the law school, each spending two full days on campus, conducting lectures, teaching classes, and meeting with students and faculty.

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Throughout his career, John Attanasio has been a very active scholar in the field of constitutional principles and the rule of law. His work reaches back in time more than 20 years. In 1990, Attanasio was the first Fulbright Award recipient to teach courses on American constitutional law in the former Soviet Union. He is co-author of Constitutional Law and Understanding Constitutional Law and has written numerous articles for legal journals. He has spent his career as an academic lawyer, advising, teaching, research, and writing in the field of constitutional law.

John B. Attanasio
Judge William Hawley Atwell Chair of Constitutional Law, Professor of Law and Former Dean

SMU Dedman Law students and the larger community benefited from the many important conferences and speakers Attanasio made possible. For example, during his deanship, SMU Dedman Law sponsored five Supreme Court Summits—multi-day, closed-door meetings between the U.S. Supreme Court and other highest courts. Ten different U.S. Supreme Court Justices participated in at least one of the Summits, and Justices Ginsburg and Breyer participated in all five.

In addition, during the last two years, Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg visited the law school, each spending two full days on campus, conducting lectures, teaching classes, and meeting with students and faculty.

In 2002, Attanasio helped secure SMU Dedman School of Law as the headquarters for the Appellate Judges Education Institute, which is the premier provider of appellate judicial education in the United States. The AJEI was created by the professional development arm of the Appellate Judges Conference of the American Bar Association to conduct educational programming for appellate judges, appellate court personnel, and lawyers specializing in appellate practice.

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Beginning in 2004, Attanasio worked with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and the State Department to found the Rule of Law Forum at SMU. Funded by $3.2 million in grants from the U.S. Senate, the Forum is designed to enhance understanding with governments interested in promoting the rule of law. The Rule of Law Forums bring high-level government, judicial, and bar leaders to the United States for meetings with their American counterparts—including the Supreme Court, the Senate, the State Department, and the Federal Reserve Bank—and others from the judiciary and the business and academic communities. SMU Dedman Law hosted 12 Rule of Law Forums with countries such as China and Egypt.

Although he is taking a well-deserved sabbatical, Attanasio has been as busy and productive as ever. This fall, Attanasio returned to his alma mater, New York University Law School, where he is currently a Distinguished Visiting Fellow. Being at NYU has the added benefit of taking the Attanasios nearer to family, including two grandsons.

But before heading to New York, Attanasio had a major speaking engagement as facilitator for a roundtable on cyber-terrorism and lectured at two conferences in India, one concerning interfaith dialogue and the other addressing violence against women.

In addition, he was an invited workshop participant at Harvard University, speaking about the role of the highest Egyptian courts between 2000 and 2013. He was also a lecturer on “The Rule of Law, Rule of Law Forum and Democracy” at the the Magna Carta Discussion Forum at the Dallas Bar Association.

In November, Attanasio lectured in Havana on “Five Themes of American Law” at the International Congress on Law, Abogacia 2013, hosted by the Cuban National Organization of Collective Law Firms and co-sponsored by the National Union of Jurists and Havana University School of Law. He also served as moderator for two panels at the Appellate Judges Education Institute Annual Summit in San Diego, one on judicial selection and disqualification, and another previewing the Supreme Court’s 2013 term.

And all along, he has been working on the annual update to his casebook on constitutional law. Recently, Attanasio was honored by being elected to the American Law Institute. The ALI drafts, revises, and publishes Restatements of the Law, model statutes, and principles of law.

We are looking forward to having John Attanasio back in the classroom at SMU next fall.
Sarah Tran was determined to continue teaching property law in the fall of 2012, despite a 28-day hospital stay for the treatment of leukemia.

“I was diagnosed with acute leukemia on Oct. 13,” says Tran, an assistant law professor at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in Dallas. “Actually, it was my second time getting it,” she says.

She had undergone a bone marrow transplant from a brother four years earlier, but she learned during the fall semester that the disease had returned.

“First-year law student Evan Lange was a student in the class.

“We were still expected to be prepared for class and we got called on like normal,” Lange says. “It was not really that much different, except she just wasn’t physically present. We could see her and she could see us. Our generation, we’re always plugged into something.”

He recalls the day Tran was receiving a blood transfusion during a lecture and was making jokes about being a vampire.

“Myself and my classmates learned a lot about professionalism from professor Tran, which we will probably remember most of our lives,” he says.

By November Tran was out of the hospital and back in the classroom. She expects to teach property law again in the fall of 2013. She had a second bone marrow transplant from a sister in December and hopes to run a half marathon in June with her siblings in Anchorage, Alaska.

“I’m actually waiting on some results, but things seem to be progressing well,” she says. “With a transplant, it takes a while.”

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The hypothetical is seemingly based on facts taken straight from the news: top government and military officials confirm the existence of a known terrorist on foreign soil and order drones to attack.

Sixty-one percent of Americans approve of such an attack and think it is legal, according to a Pew Research poll in July.

SMU Dedman Law School Assistant Professor Christopher Jenks proposed such a scenario at a highly attended program called “Drone Strikes: Security, Human Rights and Morality.”

Most of those attending seemed to agree with public sentiment… until Jenks added one extra fact: the government and military officials were Mexican or Chinese and the foreign soil was the United States.

“Suddenly, that changed everything,” says Jenks, a retired lieutenant colonel who also serves as the director of the Criminal Justice Clinic at SMU Dedman. “People seem significantly less approving of the policy regarding the use of drones on foreign soil based on whether we are the goose or the gander.”

Since joining the SMU Dedman faculty in 2012, Jenks has become one of the leading voices in the country on the legality of drone strikes and how much, legally, the U.S. government must reveal about its drone policy. Newspapers, magazines and media outlets throughout the nation have interviewed the decorated military veteran on the subject.

A 1992 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Jenks has had a busy first year. In January 2013, he made a presentation called “Battlefield Status & Protected Persons” at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu for an Interactive Course on International Humanitarian Law.

The next month, he organized a one-day seminar at SMU Dedman called “Veterans’
Justice: Serving Those Who Served.” The program presented opportunities for licensed attorneys and law students to learn from experienced, local attorneys and judges about the basics of representing veterans.

In April, Georgetown University Law Center hosted a program sponsored by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the National Security Law Society that featured Jenks’ book, *The Law of Armed Conflict: An Operational Approach.* And Jenks has authored a chapter in an upcoming book being published by Cambridge University Press. The professor’s chapter is titled, “A Rose by any Other Name: How the United States Charges its Service Members for Violating the Laws of War.”

But Jenks says the program on drones, which involved a half-dozen student groups (American Constitutional Society, Amnesty International, Embrey Human Rights Program, Human Rights Law Association, International Law Society and the Muslim Law Students Association) from the law school and the university, certainly generated the most attention.

“Anytime you put ‘Drones’ in the headline, people are interested,” he says.

The April program, moderated by Jenks, included three nationally prominent experts on the legal issues surrounding drones: Naureen Shah, associate director of the Counterterrorism and Human Rights Project at Columbia Law School’s Human Rights Institute; Michael Lewis, an F-14 Navy jet pilot who teaches law at Ohio Northern University’s Pettit College of Law; and SMU Dedman Law Professor Jeffrey Kahn, who teaches and writes on American constitutional law and counterterrorism.

Nearly 200 people filled Karcher Auditorium for the event.

“The point [of the program] was not to resolve the disputes but to try to clarify what the disputes are,” says Jenks. “It’s not so much that people disagree, disagreement is fine. But with drones, people tend to not even be arguing the same issue, so that the disagreement on the end answer is like the part of the iceberg above water. There is so much more to it below the waterline.

“Stated otherwise, drone debates aren’t an apples/oranges debate but an apples/footballs debate,” he says.

Jenks says that people who claim to have a legal objection to the use of drones are actually opposed for moral or ethical reasons instead of a law-based objection.

“For those that object to, say, a U.S. Predator drone firing a hellfire missile in Pakistan that killed ’x’ number of suspected militants while killing ’y’ number of civilians, there is a pretty quick way to discern from where that objection really derives,” he says. “You simply ask what if instead of a drone firing the hellfire missile, an Apache helicopter fired the missile? Or the U.S. Navy fired a cruise missile from a ship off the coast?”

“Few people who opposed the drone strike are in favor of the other strikes, which is fine, but that means the objection is not based on the modality of force employed, the drone,” he says. “It’s an objection to the use of force writ large.”

Jenks says there are legitimate questions about the use of force, but they aren’t specific to a weapon system.

“So, ultimately, I tried to have the drone conference help people recognize the different levels and types of issues so as to be better able to coherently discuss and debate,” he says.
Dean ad interim Julie Forrester

Julie Forrester
Dean ad interim and Professor of Law

Dean ad interim Julie Patterson Forrester hit the ground running in June 2013. She is no stranger to the law school—Forrester has been on the faculty since 1990 and served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the 1995-1996 academic year. Forrester says she is enjoying the job of interim dean, but she misses her students. “I love being a professor and teaching talented and engaged students,” says Forrester. “I look forward to teaching again next year.”

Forrester has very clear priorities for her year as dean:

Admissions: Maintain the competitive excellence of the entering class.

Placement: Build on our recent outstanding placement rankings.

Experiential Learning: Develop new and expanded opportunities for our students.

Development: Raise needed funds for student scholarships, expanded clinics, and endowed faculty positions.

Scholarships: Scholarships are always a key priority, and Forrester and Associate Dean for Development and Alumni Affairs Lynn Bozalis created a new way to give through the new Dedman Law Scholars program. “A $10,000 gift each year for 3 years (or a single gift of $30,000) will create a scholarship for a Dedman Law Scholar,” explains Forrester. “These scholarships are important to reduce the debt-load of a student and provide mentorship.” Sixteen Dedman Law Scholarships have been raised, including two funded solely by members of the faculty and senior staff.

In addition to scholarships, Forrester wants to focus on named faculty positions. “Endowed faculty positions—whether Distinguished Chairs, Chairs, or Professorships—allow us to retain and attract top scholars and teachers,” says Forrester. “They enhance the reputation of the faculty member who holds the position, as well as the reputation of the Dedman School of Law and SMU. A named faculty position provides significant visibility for the donor as well: all articles, letters, and emails sent by the professor include the endowed position name, and every introduction of the professor identifies him or her with that name.”

The interim dean has recently appointed several faculty members to named positions. Jeff Gaba is the M.D. Anderson Foundation Endowed Professor in Health Law, Christopher Hanna is the Alan D. Feld Professor of Law, and Beth Thornburg is the Richard R. Lee Professor of Law. Forrester commented, “I am pleased to honor some of our outstanding scholars and teachers in this way.”

Clinical education is also important to Forrester. “The Dedman School of Law has a long and proud history in clinical education. The clinics provide practical experience for the students, provide a great public service to the clients they serve, and accustom our students to helping the underrepresented members of our community,” noted Forrester. She says there may be some exciting news coming soon about new clinics at the law school. Stay tuned.

Dean Forrester just returned from a trip to Asia with former dean Paul Rogers and Associate Dean Bozalis where she connected with alums in Taipei, Hong Kong and Beijing and interviewed candidates for the Sohmen Scholarships available to top international LL.M. students from China, funded by Helmut Sohmen ’66.

On the home front, Forrester has helped make technological advances at the law school. She encouraged implementation of a new website geared more toward prospective students, which more effectively highlights the activities of the faculty and the law school as a whole.

BACKGROUND

Julie Forrester earned her B.S.E.E. with highest honors in 1981 and her J.D. with high honors in 1985 from the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a member of the Texas Law Review, Chancellors, and Order of the Coif. After graduation she was a real estate attorney with Thompson & Knight.

Forrester teaches Property, Real Estate Transactions, and Land Use, and she writes and speaks on real estate finance, the residential mortgage market, predatory lending, and real property law. She was one of the first legal scholars to write about the problem of predatory lending in the subprime mortgage market, and was awarded the John Minor Wisdom Award for Academic Excellence in 1995 for her first predatory lending article. She is co-author of a casebook on property law.

Forrester served on the Texas State Bar Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section committee that drafted the Texas Assignment of Rents Act. She serves on the Executive Committee of the American Association of Law Schools Real Estate Transactions Section, and she is a member of the American Law Institute and the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.
For decades, corporate legal departments recruited new hires from the pools of experienced lawyers at law firms. They never hired straight out of law school.

But a handful of Texas law schools and businesses are working to change that.

Southern Methodist University’s Dedman School of Law, the University of Houston Law Center and South Texas College of Law have implemented programs designed to connect students with corporations. The goal: make students more marketable in the still-tough legal economy.

Law schools at Baylor University in Waco and Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth are aggressively inviting corporate general counsels to attend their job fairs.

Texas Tech University School of Law in Lubbock expects to unveil a similar outreach program later this year.

Meanwhile, dozens of Texas corporations have started visiting law school campuses for interns and full-time employees.

The programs are seeing early results. “We are seeing more grads go directly in-house, and that may be a trend,” said Steve Yeager, who is Dedman’s director of career services and the faculty supervisor of the law school’s new Corporate Counsel Externship Program being launched this fall.

“We want our students to have an in-depth and holistic understanding of the client and its expectations,” he said.

Yeager, former general counsel at Dallas financial services firm Charity Capital, said Dedman started the externship as the result of student feedback about in-house work and transactional work.

As part of the program, 30 law students primarily in their final year will meet weekly in a class led by securities law professor Marc I. Steinberg, chief legal officers and in-house senior managing attorneys who will discuss ethical, substantive and practical issues facing corporate law.

ON THE RÉSUMÉ

Steinberg, who serves as director of the program, said the externships will help students “have an additional experience to list on their résumés and help them become more attractive for prospective employers.”

Thirty corporations, including Interstate Batteries, Lennox International, AT&T Corp., Baylor Health Care System, Hewlett-Packard Co. and Denbury Resources Inc., have agreed to participate in the externship, allowing students to spend significant time working side-by-side with lawyers in their legal departments. They learn legal analysis and reasoning, contract drafting, problem-solving, communication, teamwork and negotiation.

Dedman administrators and corporate lawyers said the program will give the students an advantage when they are first-year associates at law firms because they’ll better understand what qualities and services corporations want when hiring outside counsel.

“This program is going to give the law students an opportunity to see the dynamics of that buy-sell relationship,” said Lennox general counsel John Torres. “The purchaser’s point of view is not just the seller’s point of view.”

Chris Willis, general counsel at Dallas-based Interstate Batteries, said the externship program is a way for students to get a taste of the in-house environment—often a mystery until a lawyer moves to a corporation after several years at a firm.

“The in-house world is pretty unknown to law students,” Willis said. “It’s very different from outside practice and very different from law school.”

Willis’ future extern, SMU rising third-year student Jeff Connor, said he was excited to learn more about the in-house corporate world, something he admitted he knows little about.

“When you’re working directly under a [general counsel], you get to experience everything firsthand,” Connor said. “You get to see while in school something you might want to do before spending a lot of time getting there and realizing you don’t want to do it.”

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by Natalie Posgate, The Dallas Morning News and The Texas Lawbook
FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Nathan Cortez
Associate Professor of Law

Appointed:
Associate Dean for Research

Gregory Crespi
Professor of Law

Awarded:
Don M. Smart Teaching Award
on May 18, 2013. This is the fifth time he
has received this award, which is selected by
our graduating class of law students.

Elizabeth G. Thornburg
Director of the Center for Teaching
Excellence and Professor of Law

Appointed:
Richard R. Lee Endowed
Professor of Law

Awarded:
2013 University Scholar/Teacher of the Year
Award given by the General Board of Higher
Education and the Ministry of the United
Methodist Church.

Christopher H. Hanna
Professor of Law

Appointed:
Alan D. Feld Endowed Professor of Law

Jeffrey Gaba
Professor of Law

Appointed:
M.D. Anderson Foundation Endowed
Professor in Health Law
David DePianto
Assistant Professor of Law

David DePianto joins the SMU Dedman Law faculty as an Assistant Professor, teaching torts and evidence. His work applies economic reasoning and insights from the field of psychology to the study of torts, remedies, and social norms. A number of his projects explore the implications of subjective well-being (or “happiness research”) to the area of tort damages. DePianto’s work has appeared, or is forthcoming in, The Utah Law Review, The Arizona State Law Journal, Law and Psychology Review, Social Science Research, and The Research Handbook on the Economics of Torts.

Before joining the SMU Dedman School of Law faculty, DePianto was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law (ASU). DePianto received his Ph.D. from the Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program at the University of California, Berkeley. At Berkeley, he was an Olin Fellow in Law and Economics and the recipient of an Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor award. He received his J.D., magna cum laude, from the Georgetown University Law Center, where he was an associate editor of the Georgetown Law Journal. DePianto practiced law at the Silicon Valley Law firm Cooley Godward (now Cooley LLP).

Orly Mazur
Assistant Professor of Law

Orly Mazur joins the SMU Dedman School of Law faculty as an Assistant Professor. Her scholarship and teaching focus on international and comparative taxation, the intersection of tax law and technology, and tax policy. Her most recent article, “Tax Abuse – Lessons from Abroad,” was included in Tax Notes magazine’s list of “Notable International Tax Articles of 2012,” and her current work-in-progress, “Taxing the Cloud,” was awarded the 2013 David F. Bradford Memorial Prize by NYU School of Law for the best paper in the field of taxation. Professor Mazur has also presented her work multiple times at the Taiwan Ministry of Finance Training Institute’s International Taxation Academy in Taiwan.

Before joining SMU Dedman Law, Mazur practiced law at Haynes and Boone, LLP, advising clients on various business planning and taxation issues. Prior to practicing law, she worked as a certified public accountant at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, concentrating in the area of international taxation.

Mazur received her B.B.A. and M.P.A., summa cum laude, from the University of Texas at Austin. She earned her J.D., summa cum laude, from SMU Dedman School of Law, where she graduated first in her class and was a member of the SMU Law Review. She also holds an LL.M in taxation from NYU School of Law.
Appellate Judges Education Institute Roundtable; “Appellate Judges on Briefing”; January 17, 2013  
Gerald Ford ’69 - Chairman of the Board of Hilltop Holdings; “Prospectives on the Current Economy – Problems and Opportunities”; October 9, 2012  
Rusty Hardin ’75 - Rusty Hardin & Associates, LLP; “In the Pits with High Profile Cases – Roger Clemens, et al.”; October 2, 2012  
Ed Rust ’75 - Chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Chairman/CEO of State Farm Insurance and Angela Braly ’85 - Chair, President and CEO of Wellpoint, Inc. (2007-2012); Carrington Lecture; “Business, Law, Regulation: A CEO Conversation”; April 10, 2013  
Professor Timothy S. Jost – Washington and Lee University School of Law; Roy Ray Lecture; “The American Healthcare System: Three Histories and Three Possible Futures”; September 13, 2012  
21st Corporate Counsel Symposium; Professor Marc Steinberg, Advisor; October 11, 2013  
Texas State Bar Annual Meeting; Keynote Speaker U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito with Professor Paul Rogers; June 20, 2013  
ABA 2013 Silver Gavel Awards; July 17, 2013  
Jack Ford – CBS Legal Analyst; Roy Ray Lecture; “Media Coverage of High Profile Trials”; October 23, 2013  
Mike Rawlings – Mayor of Dallas; “The Role of Government in the Future of the City of Dallas”; April 18, 2013  
14. Forum on Comprehensive Immigration Reform; Pia Orrenius - Assistant Vice President and Senior Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; and Ben Johnson - Executive Director of the American Immigration Council; Past American Immigration Lawyers Association President, Steve Ladik ’83 - moderator; September 5, 2013

15. AJEI – San Diego; Scott Bales - Vice Chief Justice, Arizona Supreme Court; and Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, Supreme Court of the United States, (ret.); November 14 – 17, 2013


17. Delegation from Vietnam Ministry of Justice; November 19, 2013

18. SMU Homecoming Parade; Julie Forrester - Dean ad interim; October 26, 2013


20. 47th Air Law Symposium; Judge Catharina Haynes - 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and Keynote Speaker; March 21 - 22, 2013


22. Fifth Circuit Judges (ret.) Visit Professor David Taylor’s Class; March 27, 2013


ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SINCE 1986

SMU Dedman Law Honors Distinguished Alumni
Distinguished Alumni Dinner
Saturday, February 23, 2013

Six impressive individuals were recognized on February 23rd for their outstanding achievements, leadership, and service. The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor the law school bestows upon its former alumni and friends.

This year’s honorees were W. Yandell “Tog” Rogers, Jr., Pablo J. Alliani, The Honorable Lamar S. Smith, William D. Powell, and Dennis J. Grindinger. Nancy E. Underwood was named as an honorary alumna of the law school. The alumni distinguished themselves in the areas of government service, private practice, corporate service, and international work.

Thank you!

to the following firms and individuals who sponsored the awards ceremony.

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Baker Botts L.L.P.
Lester V. Baum
John & Dorel Carter
Class of ’82
Godwin Lewis PC
Dennis and Catherine Grindinger
Rusty Hardin & Associates, LLP
Haynes and Boone, LLP
Holmes, Diggs & Eames
Nancy Ann and Ray L. Hunt
Jackson Walker L.L.P.
Jack Knox
Locke Lord LLP
Robert E. & Suzanne Bolton Mellor
William D. Noel
William D. Powell
Powell Coleman & Arnold LLP
Tog Rogers
Edward B. Rust Jr.
Thompson & Knight LLP
George M. Underwood, Jr.
Winstead PC
W. Yandell “Tog” Rogers, Jr.
The Charles O. Galvin Award for Service to SMU Dedman School of Law
Tog Rogers was born in Tyler, Texas, and grew up in Gainesville. He received a Bachelor’s degree in Government and Economics from North Texas University in 1956, and his LL.B. from SMU Dedman School of Law in 1961.
In 1961, Rogers started his law career as a briefing clerk for the Supreme Court of Texas, first working for Justice Joe Greenhill and later for Justice Clyde Smith. While in Austin, he was recalled to active duty with the Air Force. Upon his release from active duty, he joined the Dallas firm of Wynne, McKenzie, Jaffe and Tinsley as only the 13th lawyer of the firm, focusing on civil litigation.
In 1967, Rogers left the firm to become general counsel for L. L. Ridgway’s, Inc., a small public reprographics firm headquartered in Houston. In 1969, he became president of Ridgway’s and a member of the board of directors, and in 1980, Rogers took the company private. Over the next 20 years the company grew significantly with offices in 27 U.S. cities. During this time, Rogers served on the board and was president of the National Association of Blueprint and Diazo Coaters and the International Reprographics Association.
In 2000, Rogers sold Ridgway’s and retired to enjoy life with his wife Suzie and his nine grandchildren. He is dedicated to volunteer work, serving as a guardian ad litem for abused children and on the Endowment Board of Child Advocates of Houston and on the Executive Board of SMU Dedman School of Law.

Pablo J. Alliani
The Distinguished Global Alumni Award
Pablo J. Alliani was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Buenos Aires in 1989 and his LL.M. degree from SMU Dedman School of Law in 1992. Before returning to Argentina in 1992, he worked for Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP in Dallas, and was a foreign visiting attorney with the Houston office of Baker Botts L.L.P.
In 1993, Alliani became a partner with Alliani & Bruzzon – Abogados, leading the firm’s international energy practice. He has practiced extensively in matters related to advising oil and gas producers and service companies engaged in high-level transactions. Alliani has also been appointed an independent expert in international arbitrations.
He is currently on the board of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators, where he serves as Immediate Past President and Chair of the National Oil Companies Committee. In addition, Alliani is the Chair of the Section on Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law of the International Bar Association.
Alliani is considered a leading natural resources and energy practitioner in the Latin American region and worldwide. He has been recognized as one of the top oil and gas lawyers in Argentina by Chambers and Partners. In 2011, Who’s Who in Oil and Gas selected Alliani as one of the top 10 energy practitioners worldwide.

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith
The Distinguished Alumni Award for Government Service
Congressman Lamar Smith was born in San Antonio and is a sixth generation Texan. He majored in American Studies at Yale University and graduated from SMU Dedman School of Law in 1975. While at SMU, he edited The Advocate, which won an American Bar Association award for “Best Law School Newspaper.”
Congressman Smith has represented the 21st District since 1987. The district stretches from San Antonio to Austin and includes many Hill Country counties.
Congressman Smith became Chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee in January 2013 and continues to serve on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees. In the last Congress, he chaired the Judiciary Committee, which approved more bills that were enacted into law than any other Committee. These included the America Invents Act, the first significant change to our patent system in more than 60 years, the PATRIOT Act reauthorization, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Amendments, and the Child Protection Act, which reduces internet child pornography.
In 2011, Congressman Smith was named “Policymaker of the Year” by Politico for his work on the America Invents Act. He was one of two House members to receive this honor.
Congressman Smith is also a former Chairman of the Ethics Committee, making him the only current member who has chaired three permanent Committees.
Before his election to the United States House of Representatives, he practiced law, managed a family ranch, and began his public service as a Texas state representative and Bexar County commissioner.
William D. Powell
The Distinguished Alumni Award for Private Practice

William D. (Bill) Powell is a native of Fort Smith, Arkansas. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas, was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa, and graduated with High Honors in 1954. He earned his LL.B. summa cum laude from SMU Dedman School of Law in 1957, graduating first in his class and Order of the Woolsack. Powell served as Editor-in-Chief of the SMU Law Review (then known as Southwestern Law Journal) and was a Barrister and president of the law fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta.

Following graduation, Powell was the first SMU Dedman Law graduate to be selected as a law clerk for the United States Supreme Court, serving Justice Tom C. Clark during the 1957-1958 term of the Court.

Powell began private practice in Dallas with the firm Carrington, Gowan, Johnson, Bromberg & Leeds in 1958. After the firm reorganized into two separate firms, he continued for 35 years with the firm Johnson, Bromberg & Leeds.

As real estate law became a distinct specialization, Powell became one of a relatively small group of real estate attorneys in Dallas. His first real estate project involved representing Raymond Nasher in the development of NorthPark Center, and he later directed the legal work for the Nasher Sculpture Center project. Powell has represented many other leading Dallas real estate developers, investors, and service companies in their local and national activities.

In 1995, he was a founding partner of the firm now known as Powell Coleman & Arnold LLP. He is a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and a Senior Life Fellow of the Dallas Bar Foundation.

Dennis J. Grindinger
The Distinguished Alumni Award for Corporate Service

After graduating from Dallas Jesuit, Dennis J. Grindinger attended the University of Notre Dame, earning a B.B.A. in Finance in 1979. He earned his J.D. from SMU Dedman School of Law in 1982.

Following graduation, Grindinger began his law practice in Dallas at Thompson & Knight LLP, initially working in the real property practice area. In 1983, he moved to Washington, D.C. where he worked in the tax section of Steptoe & Johnson. Returning to Dallas in late 1984, Dennis rejoined Thompson & Knight, working in the tax department for the next 16 years.

Changing career paths in January 2001, Grindinger accepted the role as general counsel of Hunt Oil Company, working on a number of diverse legal issues associated with Hunt Oil’s worldwide Exploration & Production operations. In 2008, he became executive vice president and chief financial officer of Hunt Oil Company, assuming responsibility for oversight of all of Hunt Oil Company’s financial issues, including access to capital markets, short and long-term strategic planning, and acquisitions and divestitures. Grindinger also presents Hunt Oil’s quarterly and annual financial reports, supervises domestic and international land holdings, and oversees the company’s reservoir engineering.

Outside of his career at Hunt Oil, Grindinger serves as board chair for two Dallas shelters, Genesis Women’s Shelter and Austin Street Center. In addition, Grindinger is a member of the board of governors of Brook Hollow Golf Club.

Nancy E. Underwood
The Honorary Alumna Award

Nancy E. Underwood was born in Dallas, Texas. She received her Bachelor of Science degree summa cum laude from Emory University in 1974, and earned her J.D. in 1977 from Emory University School of Law.

Following graduation from law school, Underwood was a litigation attorney with Hurt, Richardson, Garner, Todd and Cadenhead in Atlanta, Georgia, and was only the second woman to be hired by an Atlanta law firm. Underwood holds the distinction of being the first woman to try a civil case in Fulton County (Atlanta).

From 1981-1986, Underwood served as general counsel of Riverhill Development Corporation. In 1986, she became owner and CEO of Underwood Financial, Ltd.

Underwood has received many awards and honors. She was nominated for the Linz Award and received the Savvy Award, the Salvation Army Texas Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Salvation Army’s Guardian Angel Award, to name a few.

Underwood also has been very active serving on the board of directors for Comstock Resources, the European Initiative Ministry, the Texas Health Resources Foundation, and the National Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, among others.

In 1971, the Underwood Law Library at SMU was named in honor of her parents, George M. and Nancy Chambers Underwood. Underwood is a member of the SMU Cox Women’s Initiative and the SMU Dedman School of Law Campaign Steering Committee and Executive Board.
MAKING MEMORIES

Law School Alumni Reunions
Law School Reunions
Saturday, April 27, 2013


To view photos from this event, visit:
https://www.law.smu.edu/Alumni---Development/Class-Reunions.aspx
Receptions

1. LLM Reception; May 14, 2013
2. Judicial Clerkship Reception; May 16, 2013
3. State Bar Reception; June 27, 2013
4. Classes of 1940-1972; Law School Alumni Happy Hour; November 5, 2013 (New alumni event! Happy hours were also held for Classes of 1973-1997 and Classes of 1998-2013)
5. Corporate Counsel Recognition Reception; November 18, 2013
1954

Charles Washington Hall was awarded the Texas Tax Legend Award at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Houston.

1957

William D. Powell was the recipient of the SMU Dedman School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award for Private Practice.

1959

Marshall J. Doke Jr. was appointed a third term as chair of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Audit, and received an ABA award for his accomplishments and contributions as a member of the Section of Public Contract Law.

James “Blackie” H. Holmes III was inducted by the Litigation Council of the State Bar of Texas as a Texas Legal Legend and was honored as a 2012 SMU Distinguished Alumni.

1961

W. Yandell “Tog” Rogers Jr. received the Charles O. Galvin Award for his service to SMU Dedman School of Law.

Walter N. Vernon III is semi-retired as a Securities Arbitrator with FINRA and occasionally assists his son, Attorney Eric Vernon, in his law practice.

1962

Reyburn U. Anderson, previously with Anderson Legal Group, P.C., has formed Reyburn Anderson Law Firm.

Houston E. Holmes Jr. was recognized by the Dallas Bar Association as one of the 2013 Sustaining Members for his contributions towards preserving the Belo Mansion in Dallas.

Mark E. Weand Jr. was honored by the Pennsylvania and Montgomery Bar Associations for his fifty-year membership with the organizations and service on the board of directors for the latter.

1963

George W. Coleman was selected for inclusion in the 2014 edition of the Best Lawyers in America.

Buck Files Jr. spoke on February 9th about the significance of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1963 decision in Gideon v. Wainwright at the 8th Annual Summit on Indigent Defense Improvement during the American Bar Association Mid-Year meeting.

Robert H. Mow Jr. was named to the Top 100 and the Dallas-Fort Worth Region Top 100 list by Texas Super Lawyers.

Edward V. Smith III received the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award from the Real Estate, Probate and Trust Section of the State Bar of Texas annual meeting.

1965

Erle A. Nye was named as an honorary co-chair for the Dallas Bar Foundation’s Evening with Bill Bradley, benefiting the Sarah T. Hughes Diversity Scholarships.

R. Winstead Turley was selected for the 11th year to the Texas Super Lawyers.

1966

George W. Bramblett Jr. was awarded the Luther H. Soules Award for Excellence in Litigation and was named to the Texas Super Lawyers Top 100 and Top 100 of the Dallas-Fort Worth Region.


1967

Michael M. Boone was named as an honorary co-chair for the Dallas Bar Foundation’s Evening with Bill Bradley, benefiting the Sarah T. Hughes Diversity Scholarships.

James “Jim” Harry Wallenstein joined Glast, Phillips, & Murray specializing in commercial real estate law.

1968

Jim Burnham was appointed to the SMU Sex Crimes Task Force.

Lawrence R. Jones Jr. was elected as a Fellow to the American College of Tax Counsel.

The Honorable Jay Patterson received the Judge Merrill Hartman Pro Bono Judge Award.

Paul C. Van Slyke became an Adjunct Professor at the University of Houston Law Center.

1969

Frank L. Branson III was listed as a Texas Top 100 and Top 100 in the Dallas-Fort Worth

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Alan D. Feld ’60 Honored by the Texas Bar Foundation

Alan D. Feld ’60 was awarded the Outstanding 50 Year Lawyer Award by the Texas Bar Foundation. He received the award at the Annual Dinner in Dallas on June 21, 2013, in recognition of his dedication to the legal profession for more than 50 years while representing the highest values and traditions to law and public service.
Region by Texas Super Lawyers and is among Texas’ Top Rated Lawyers.

Mark T. Davenport was named to the Dallas-Fort Worth Region Top 100 list by Texas Super Lawyers.

George S. McKearin was named to the Board of the Methodist Richardson Medical Center Foundation.

1970

Harriet E. Miers was appointed to the Texas Access to Justice Commission and named as an honorary co-chair for the Evening with Bill Bradley Dinner for the Dallas Bar Foundation. Ms. Miers was also a recipient of the Morris Harrell Professionalism Award from the Dallas Bar Association and Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism.

1971

Al W. Ellis was awarded the Dallas Minority Attorney Program Legacy Award for Outstanding Service to Lawyers of Color for 2012, inducted into the University Of Texas at Arlington Department Of Military Science Hall Of Honor and received the 2013 Martin Luther King Jr. Justice Award from the Dallas Bar Association.

Albon O. Head Jr. was selected for the Best Lawyers in America, Texas Super Lawyers and was also named to “Top Attorneys” by Fort Worth, Texas magazine.

Dr. Margaret A. McKenna is a Brandeis University visiting professor and was appointed to the Boston School Committee.

Richard D. Pullman was recognized by the Dallas Bar Association as one of the 2013 Sustaining Members for his contributions towards preserving the Belo Mansion in Dallas.

1972

Jerry C. Alexander was elected as second vice-president to the 2013 Dallas Bar Association Board.

William F. Carroll received the Tom Garner Award by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and was named one of the Best Lawyers in America since 2008. He has also been named a “Texas Super Lawyer” since 2003, is an adjunct professor at SMU Dedman School of Law and was elected as a director on the board of the Dallas Bar Association.

Mike McCurley was named to the Texas Top 100 and Top 100 for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region by Texas Super Lawyers.

Edward C. Osterberg Jr. joined Mayer Brown as a partner in the Houston office in business income taxation.

Daniel F. Susie was named a “Who’s Who in Energy” by the Dallas Business Journal.

Larry William Wall was honored by the Kansas Association for Justice with the Distinguished Service Award.

1973

Rhett G. Campbell was named a Top 100 overall and Top 100 Houston in Texas Super Lawyers and one of Houston’s “Top Lawyers” by H-Texas magazine.

Scott L. Campbell was named managing director at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC in Washington, D.C.

Donald E. Godwin was named a Top 100 and Top 100 for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region by Texas Super Lawyers, one of Texas’ Top-Rated Lawyers, and a “Who’s Who in Energy” of Dallas by the Dallas Business Journal.

Judge Joseph B. Morris joined Hankinson LLP in Dallas as Of Counsel.

Emily A. Parker was awarded the Outstanding Texas Tax Lawyer Award by the State Bar of Texas, elected as a managing partner at Thompson & Knight LLP, and was listed as one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Texas, Top 100 Dallas-Fort Worth and Top 100 Overall by Texas Super Lawyers.

1974

George E. Bowles was honored by the Dallas Bar Association as a “Texas Trial Legend” by the Dallas Bar Association for his more than 30 years of experience.

Allen D. Cummings has been named to the Central & West Texas Region Top 50 list by Texas Super Lawyers.


R. Thomas Groves Jr. was included in the Texas Super Lawyers.

Michael M. Boone ’67 Honored by the Methodist Health System Foundation

Michael M. Boone ’67 received the 2012 Methodist Health System Folsom Leadership Award for inspiring others through his leadership and continuous devotion to serving the Dallas community. The dinner honoring Boone took place at the Hilton Anatole Hotel on October 30, 2012.
The Honorable Nathan Hecht was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas by U. S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

Gary L. Ingram was selected to the “Top Attorneys” list by Fort Worth, Texas magazine and has been included in the Best Lawyers in America and Texas Super Lawyers.

Gary S. Kessler was included among Texas’ Legal Leaders as a Top Rated Attorney.

Honorable Terry R. Means was presented with the Texas Wesleyan University Excellence in Justice Award and participated in the SMU Dedman School of Law externship program.

Carlos A. Ryerson has been recognized as one of Texas’ Top Rated Lawyers.

1975

James B. Davis joined the adjunct faculty at The University of Miami School of Law and is a shareholder in the Fort Lauderdale office of Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, PA.

The Honorable Craig T. Enoch was named to the Central & West Texas Region Top 50 list by Texas Super Lawyers.

Russell Hardin Jr. was named to The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America by The National Law Journal.

David E. Keltner received the first Gregory S. Coleman Outstanding Appellate Lawyer Award, is listed among the Best Lawyers in America, and is a Texas Top 100 and Dallas-Fort Worth Region Top 100 by Texas Super Lawyers.

Jeffrey C. Londa was named a Top 100 in Houston by Texas Super Lawyers.

Michael P. Lynn was named a Dallas-Fort Worth Region Top 100 by Texas Super Lawyers.

Timothy R. McCormick was selected for inclusion in Texas Super Lawyers.

Andrew N. Meyercord was named a “Who’s Who in Health Care” by the Dallas Business Journal.

Bradford C. Peabody is an adjunct professor at the University of Baltimore Law School.

Brian Lockwood Webb was awarded the Presidential Citation by the State Bar of Texas and was included in the Top Rated Lawyers by Texas’ Legal Leaders.

1976

John C. Dacus was included in the Texas Super Lawyers.

The Honorable Nikki T. DeShazo received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Dallas Bar Association’s Probate, Trusts & Estates Section.

Edward C. Hertenstein was named a Columbus “Lawyer of the Year” for Tax Law by Best Lawyers.

J. Graham Hill joined Heard Robins Cloud & Black LLP as a partner in the Houston Office.

John B. Holden Jr. was included in the Best Lawyers in America, in D Magazine’s “Best Lawyers in Dallas,” and named a “Who’s Who in Energy” by Dallas Business Journal.

David L. Rosenberg was selected to serve in a leadership position for the State Bar of Texas Taxation Section.

N. L. Stevens III was named a “Who’s Who in Energy” by the Dallas Business Journal, is a corporate partner at Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP and was recognized in Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business.

1977

Richard O. Faulk was awarded the Burton Award for Distinguished Achievement in Legal Writing.

Barbara B. Ferguson was selected for inclusion in Texas Super Lawyers.

G. Roland Love received the Crystal Hope Award for his legal work for the AIDS Interfaith Network.

Patrick F. McManemin joined Thompson & Knight LLP Trial Practice Group as a partner.

Susan Mead was selected to the Best Lawyers in America.

Mike Patterson is seeking the Smith County Court-at-Law Judge’s seat.

Rob R. Roby was presented with the Presidential Citation by the Dallas Bar Association for his commitment to the preservation of the Belo Mansion in Dallas and has been named CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star.

Janice V. Sharry was an honoree at the Women in Business Trade Show and was recognized as one of the Dallas Business Journal’s Women in Business.

Diane L. Snyder was included in Texas’ Legal Leaders as a Top Rated Attorney.

1978

Honorable James Sears Bryant joined Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker in Dallas as Of Counsel.

Rep. Todd A. Hunter has received the Legislative Hero Award from the Texas Access to Justice Commission and Foundation.

James W. McKellar was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

Barry Sorrels earned the Texas Super Lawyers Honors Award and has been named a top attorney in Texas for the 11th consecutive year.

Mark S. Werbner was named a Top 100 and Top 100 in the Dallas-Fort Worth Region by
Texas Super Lawyers.

1979

D. Paul Dalton opened Dalton Law, PLLC.

Patricia Fuller Meadows was listed among the Best Lawyers in America.

Tim F. Gavin was named as a Texas Super Lawyer, and included in the Best Lawyers in America and Best Lawyers of Texas.

Richard B. Hemingway Jr. was named to Texas Super Lawyers and selected to lead the Oil and Gas Practice Group of Thompson & Knight LLP.

Mary Emma A. Karam was named a partner at Jackson Walker L.L.P. and selected to attend the KPMG Executive Leadership Institute for Women in Dallas.

Michael K. Pierce was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

1980

Alton E. Bayard III was named chair of the Tax Department of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC.

Charles G. Bell was named to the Dallas-Fort Worth Region Top 100 list by Texas Super Lawyers.

David G. Drumm was included in the Best Lawyers in America and Best Lawyers of Texas.

Louis G. Fuller was included in the Best Lawyers in America.

Rhonda F. Hunter was presented with a Presidential Citation by the Dallas Bar Association, the Hon. Sam A. Lindsay professionalism and Ethics Award from the J.L. Turner Legal Association and the American Bar Association Partnership Award.

John V. Jansonius joined Jackson Walker L.L.P. as a partner, was included in the Best Lawyers in America by Texas Super Lawyers, and D Magazine’s “Best Lawyers in Dallas.”

Peter A. Lodwick was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

Sawnie A. McEntire was recognized by the Dallas Bar Association as one of the 2013 Sustaining Members for his contributions towards preserving the Belo Mansion in Dallas.

Thomas W. O’Neal joined Howard & Howard in Peoria, Illinois, named to the “Illinois Super Lawyers” and “Illinois Rising Star.”

Gordon Marc Shapiro was included in the Best Lawyers in America, Texas Super Lawyers and D Magazine’s “Best Lawyers in Dallas.”

D. Wayne Watts was named a Distinguished Alumni Honoree by The University of Texas at Arlington, “Corporate Counsel of the Year” by the State Bar of Texas, and Honorary Chair of the 2013-2014 Equal Access to Justice Campaign benefitting the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program.

Craig W. Weinlein was elected chairman of the board of directors and executive committee of The Sedona Conference, inducted in the World Trademark Review 1000- The World’s Leading Trademark Professionals, and published a book titled The Art of Witness Preparation: How to Prepare Your Witnesses to Testify Effectively at Civil Trials, Hearings, and Depositions.

1981

The Honorable Jane J. Boyle was the keynote speaker at the 2013 Law Day Luncheon.

G. Michael Gruber was named a Dallas-Fort Worth Region Top 100 by Texas Super Lawyers.

The Honorable Jeff Kaplan (Ret.) has joined JAMS in Dallas.

Ray T. Khirallah was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

Sharon S. Millians was named to the board of the Texas Bar Foundation Fellows, to the Best Lawyers in America and as an “Outstanding Woman in the Workplace” by the Fort Worth Commission for Women.

Julie H. Quaid was named to the board of directors of Texas Loves Children.

Mark A. Shank was included in Texas Super Lawyers in the Top 100 and the Top 100 in the Dallas-Fort Worth Region.

1982

Dorothy H. Bjorck was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

R. Brent Clifton joined Winstead PC as a shareholder at the Dallas office.

Mark Tad Josephs was included as one of the Best Lawyers in America and is a “Super Lawyers” nominee.

Kathleen LaVelle was included as one of the Best Lawyers in America and Texas Super Lawyer.

G. Bruce Parkerson was admitted to the American College of Trial Lawyers.

William G. Whitehill was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to serve as Justice of the Tenth Court of Appeals in Waco, Texas.

1983

Sherri T. Alexander joined the Dallas office of Polsinelli LLP as a shareholder.

William L. Banowsky was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

The Honorable Dan H. Branch announced his candidacy for Texas Attorney General.

Lawrence E. Glasgow serves as co-chair at The University of Texas School of Law Mergers & Acquisitions Institute.

Brian M. Lidji ’78 Honored by the Anti-Defamation League

Brian M. Lidji ’78 was awarded the 2012 Larry Schoenbrun Jurisprudence Award in honor of his leadership and contributions to the community by the Anti-Defamation League on December 17, 2012, at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas. The Schoenbrun Award is presented annually to a legal professional who has shown a devotion to the ideals included in the U.S. Constitution, a commitment to the nation’s democratic values, and a dedication to ensuring fair and equal justice for all.
Shelley H. Glazer was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

The Honorable Deborah G. Hankinson was named in Texas Super Lawyers as a Top 100, Top 50 Women, and Dallas-Fort Worth Region Top 100.

Edward S. Hubbard received AV Preeminent® rating.

Michael W. Huddleston joined Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C. as a shareholder and was honored by Texas Lawyer as a “go-to lawyer.”

Jody Lynn Johnson was named to the Texas’ Top Rated Lawyers.

Thomas H. Keen was recognized among the Top Rated Attorneys in Texas by Texas’ Legal Leaders.

The Honorable Mary L. Murphy was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry as the presiding judge for the First Administrative Judicial Region.

Joseph Dow “Chip” Sheppard III was sworn in as the President of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association, included in the Best Lawyers in America and was named Vice-Chair of the Ozarks Technical College “OTC” Foundation Board of Directors.

Mark R. Steiner was included in the Texas Super Lawyers.

1984

Anne T. Beletic was included as a Top Rated Lawyer by Texas’ Legal Leaders.

Thomas M. Bullion III has been inducted into the Fellowship by The Texas Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Henry H. Gilmore was named to the Top Rated Lawyers in Austin by Texas’ Legal Leaders.

Jack T. Jamison has been recognized as a Texas’ Top-Rated Lawyer and received AV Preeminent rating.

Kurt C. Kern was elected as the managing partner for the Dallas office of Bowman and Brooke LLP.

Mary R. Korby joined K&L Gates LLP as a partner in the Dallas office, was included in the Best Lawyers in America and was named a Texas Super Lawyer.

Marc A. Myrin has joined Brown McCarroll, L.L.P. as a partner.

Ellen A. Presby joined Nemeroff Law Firm.

Jeff Prostok was included in the Tarrant County Power Attorneys.

1985

Charla Glass Aldous joined The National Trial Lawyers, was named in Texas’ Top 100 Lawyers, Texas’ Top 50 female attorneys, and listed in the Top 100 for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region by Texas Super Lawyers.

M. Christopher Bolen was named in the Chambers USA.

James C. Chadwick was named Executive Partner of Holland & Knight LLP’s new Dallas office.

Michele Wong Krause received the American Bar Association Partnership Award, was elected as a Director to the Dallas Bar Association and received the Louise B. Raggio Award from the Dallas Women Lawyers Association.

Christine K. Roberts announced the launch of a trademark watch service, GazetteWatch.

Gregory W. Sampson received the 2013 Nikki DeShazo Pro Bono Award from the Dallas Bar Association Probate, Trusts, & Estates Section.

James K. Viehman was elected co-managing partner of Bowman and Brooke LLP.

John B. Weimer was recognized in Chambers USA and has been included in the Best Lawyers in America list.

Linda A. Wilkins was elected to the national board of directors of Susan G. Komen for the Cure and practices law with Wilkins Finston Law Group LLP.


Stephen A. Youngman was included in the Top 50 Women, and Dallas-Fort Worth Region Texas Super Lawyers as a Top 100, was named in as the President of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association, included in the Top 100 for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region by Texas Super Lawyers.

1986

Sally L. Crawford was inaugurated as the 104th president of the Dallas Bar Association, received the 2013 Pro Bono Appreciation Award by the Dallas Bar Association and accepted the American Bar Association Partnership Award.

James “Jim” R. Griffin was included in the Best Lawyers in America, D Magazine’s “Best Lawyers in Dallas,” and Texas Super Lawyers.

John K. Horany was included in the Top Rated Attorneys by Texas’ Legal Leaders.

Paul Jeffrey Johnson was named a partner at Shannon, Gracey, Ratliff & Miller LLP and chairman of the Tarrant County Bar Association Real Estate Section.

Jakes Jordaan was named chairman of the board of directors for Santa Fe Gold.

Thomas A. Kokoska joined the Warner Law Firm in Pampa, TX as Of Counsel.

Mary Ann L. Wymore was included in the Best Lawyers in America.

Paula Fisette Sweeney ’81 Named DBA’s Trial Lawyer of the Year

Paula Fisette Sweeney ’81 was honored by the Dallas Bar Association as Trial Lawyer of the Year for her devotion to her clients and her passion for the legal profession. She was presented the award at the Bench Bar Conference held in September 2013. Sweeney is known for her meticulous attention to detail and trial preparation, making her audience instantly feel at ease.
1987

Angeline L. Bain has been listed in the Top 100, the Top 50 Women and the Top 100 for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region by Texas Super Lawyers.

Michael J. Bowers was included in the Best Lawyers in America and the Texas Super Lawyers

Stephen J. Carmody was included in the Best Lawyers in America.

Susan E. Coleman McNulty was selected as a Power Attorney by the Fort Worth Business Press and was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

Elisabeth “Lisa” Anne Evert spearheaded the preparation of the proposal prepared by the DBA IP Section for Dallas to be the home to one of four new regional offices of the USPTO.

Benjamin Andres Garcia completed an unaccompanied tour of the U.S. Embassy Baghdad, Iraq, as the Senior Management Officer for the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Office and is currently the Deputy Management Counselor at the U.S. Embassy Brasilia, Brazil.

Gregory T. Miller joined the City of Austin Law Department’s Municipal Operations Division as an assistant city attorney.

1988

Todd P. Kelly joined Jones Day as a partner in the health care and life sciences practice.

Mary A. McNulty was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

Marc Alan Hubbard founded Hubbard Law, PLLC. He was instrumental for rallying community support and a great contributor towards the preparation for the proposal prepared by the DBA IP Section for Dallas to be the home to one of four new regional offices of the USPTO.

Nancy L. Patterson was named to the Top 50 Women and Top 100 in the Houston Region by Texas Super Lawyers.

J. Scott Sexton was named to the Best Lawyers in Commercial Litigation and Oil & Gas Law, Super Lawyers Business Edition, and listed in Virginia Living Magazine amongst the “Legal Eagles.”

1989

Deanya T. Kueckelhan joined Cantey Hanger LLP as a partner.

Sylvan S. Lang Jr. was included in the Texas Super Lawyers for the past 10 years.

Kathryn J. Murphy received the Annette Steward Inn of Court, Serjeant of the Inn Award and has been named to the Top 50 and Top 100 in the Dallas-Fort Worth Region by Texas Super Lawyers.

Georganna L. Simpson was named to the Top 50 Women and Top 100 in the Dallas-Fort Worth Region by Texas Super Lawyers.

1990

Van H. Beck was named recruiting partner by Baker Botts.

Dr. Akio Otsuka became a dean at the University of Tsukuba Law School in Tokyo.

R. Hunter Ridgway II is serving as Chief of Staff to Congressman Matt Cartwright (PA-17).

Mark M. Sloan was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

1991

Vicki D. Blanton was presented with a Presidential Citation by the Dallas Bar Association.

Ladawn H. Conway was named to the Texas Top 50 Women by Texas Super Lawyers.

Robert M. Doby III joined Phelps Dunbar LLP in the Dallas-Fort Worth office as a partner.

Diana S. Friedman was named to the Dallas-Fort Worth Region Top 100 list by Texas Super Lawyers and received the “A Standing Ovation Award” from the staff of the Texas Bar CLE.

Elise A. Healy was named Best Lawyers’ Dallas Immigration Law Lawyer of the Year.

Janet A. Hendrick joined Fisher & Phillips LLP as Of Counsel.

Karen S. Preccella was named to the Top 50 Women and the Dallas-Fort Worth Region Top 100 by Texas Super Lawyers.

James D. Struble Jr. was included in the Texas Super Lawyers.

1992

Kerri D. Condie joined Cox Smith Matthews Incorporated as a shareholder.

Ann Marie Cowdrey was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

Kenda L. Culpepper received the Certificate of Merit Award from the State Bar of Texas for her outstanding contributions to the legal profession.

Jess H. Griffiths joined Jones Waldo Holbrook & McDonough, PC as the group leader.

William R. Jenkins was included in the Fort Worth “Top Attorneys” by Fort Worth, Texas magazine and elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation.

Daryl L. Lansdale Jr. was selected as the new partner-in-charge in the San Antonio office of Norton Rose Fulbright.

William L. Shaffer joined Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP in the San Diego

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Sally L. Crawford ’86 Named Dallas Bar Association President

Sally L. Crawford ’86 was inaugurated as the 104th Dallas Bar Association President on January 19, 2013, at the Annual Meeting in Dallas. Crawford is the eighth female President of the Dallas Bar Association and is known for her extensive pro bono work. She has served on the board of the DBA since 2004. Crawford practices in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, and general corporate law at Jones Day.
office.

Bruce W. Steckler opened The Steckler Law Firm in Dallas.

1993

Cynthia B. Asensio was named a Managing Director and Attorney Recruiter at Newhouse + Noblin LLC.

Christopher A. Ferazzi joined Winston & Strawn LLP as a partner in the firm’s corporate and transactional practice in Houston.

Collin J. Hite joined Hirschler Fleischer, leading the firm’s Insurance Recovery team.

Michael W. Huddleston joined Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C. as a shareholder for the business litigation practice group.

Wei Wei Jeang was instrumental for rallying community support and a great contributor towards the preparation for the proposal prepared by the DBA IP Section for Dallas to be the home to one of four new regional offices of the USPTO.

Bryan P. Neal was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

Robert J. Witte received a Presidential Citation in Dallas at the annual meeting of the State Bar of Texas.

Tammy S. Wood was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

1994

Jeffrey Owen Anderson was selected among the state’s top Family Law attorneys since the Texas Super Lawyers list was released in 2003 and listed among the Top 100 in the Dallas-Fort Worth Region by Texas Super Lawyers.

Jeffrey Joel Ansley joined Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP in Dallas as a partner and was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

Michael R. Cramer joined Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP as a partner.

Earl “Chip” M. Jones III of Littler Mendelson P.C. has been appointed Managing Shareholder.

Jon C. Kettles was featured in Texas Super Lawyers for his expertise in aviation law at The Kettles Law Firm.

Dr. Eddy Dale Martin received the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Service Award from the University of Texas at Arlington and has practiced pediatric dentistry in the Fort Worth area for more than 25 years.

A. Craig Mason Jr. was promoted to senior vice president, general counsel and secretary of the legal department at Kansas City Life Insurance Company.

Meloney J. Perry opened Perry Law P.C. in Dallas.

Jonathan G. Polak was included in the Best Lawyers in America.

Daniel Calvin Steppick joined Cowles & Thompson as a shareholder.

Robert Wiegand of Godwin Lewis PC was promoted to Managing Shareholder and was recognized as a Top Rated Lawyer by Texas’ Legal Leaders.

1995

Ron W. Chapman Jr. was named to Texas Super Lawyers for the tenth consecutive year.

Tisha L. Dodge had her opinion cited in the article “Bon App-etit: Expect a Windfall of New Legal Apps in the Coming Year,” by Joe Dysart, in the December 2012 issue of the ABA Journal.

John S. Gray received the 2012 Burton Award for Distinguished Achievement in Legal Writing.

Kelli M. Hinson was named a Texas Super Lawyer.

Chris W. Kennerly joined Paul Hastings LLP as a partner.

Timothy J. O’Hare was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners.

Todd Shadle joined Yarbrough Law Group as principal/head of the labor employment group.

Christopher D. Williams is on the board of directors for the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce.

1996

Brad M. La Morgese has been included in the state’s top Family Law attorneys by Texas Super Lawyers since 2003.

Jeffrey R. Erler joined Gruber Hurst Johansen Hail Shank LLP as a partner.

Monica S. Blacker was named a partner with Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Greg L. Miller is the Chief Executive Officer and President of Henry S. Miller Companies in Dallas.

Tim J. O’Hare founded the Law Offices of Tim O’Hare and is the President of the Christian Legal Society in Dallas.

Louis Meng ’94, from Shanghai, Visits George W. Bush Presidential Library

Justice Sandra Day O’Connor visited the campus and the newly dedicated George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum and greeted Professors Paul Rogers, Gregory Crespi and alumnus Louis Meng ‘94.
1997

Patrick Craine, previously a partner with Bracewell & Giuliani, joined Chesapeake Energy Corporation as a Chief Compliance Officer.

Bud Dookey Jr. was promoted to partner at Andrews Kurth LLP.

Jana L. Ferguson was elected as an officer of the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

Laura Benitez Geisler was elected as a director to the Dallas Bar Association.

Kelly D. Hine joined Perkins Coie as a partner.

Lisa Michaux Magids joined Sedgwick LLP in Austin as a partner.

Stephanie K. Osteen joined Jackson Walker L.L.P. as a partner.

Eric L. Scott founded Scott Viscuso, PLLC.

Lee H. Shidlofsky was included in The Top 100 and Central & West Texas Region Top 50 by Texas Super Lawyers.

Angela Wennihan Zambrano serves on the board of the Dallas Women Lawyers Association.

1998

Melinda Y. Balli joined JC Penney Corporation, Inc. as senior counsel.

A. Shonn Brown, a partner at Gruber Hurst Johansen Hail Shank LLP, has been named as a co-chair of the 2013-2014 Equal Access to Justice Campaign benefiting the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, served as the secretary treasurer and is currently holding a two year at-large director position of the Dallas Bar Association.

Michael J. J. Brueck obtained lifetime professorship status with German Graduate School of Management & Law and joined Sidley Austin LLP in Frankfurt.

Amy R. Curtis was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

M. Ross Cunningham was named as a “Leaders in Their Field” by the Chambers USA directory.

Gemma L. Descoteaux joined Polsinelli LLP as a partner in the Dallas office.

Jeff Horn Jr. was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

Scott Howard Kimpel joined Hunton & Williams LLP as a partner in the Washington, D.C. office.

Felicia V. Manno, formerly Criminal Health Care Fraud Coordinator in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Chicago, joined Greenberg Traurig, LLP as a shareholder.

Gabe Reed appeared on the A&E season finale of Gene Simmons Family Jewels with the South American concert tour of the Rock-N-Roll All Stars.

Kevin P. Robinowitz was named a Texas Rising Stars by Super Lawyers Magazine.

Derek H. Sparks became an associate of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C. in the Dallas office.

1999

Tricia R. DeLeon was named the Pro Bono Coordinator of the Year by the Dallas Bar Association.

Lawrence Earl Henke joined Brown Fox Kizzi & Johnson PLLC in Dallas as Of Counsel.

Jenny L. Martinez was named Secretary/Treasurer at Godwin Lewis.

Douglas McCullough joined McCullough Chan, P.L.L.C in Houston as an attorney.

James Savina became Vice President and Associate General Counsel for Kraft Foods Group.

Tara S. Weilbacher was elected as an officer of the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

Brian Wittneben appeared as a panelist for the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of The General Counsel Forum.

2000

Sandra Archer Dixon was elected Vice President of Tax and Accounting for Texland Petroleum, L.P.

Elizabeth I. Basden-Warren was awarded as the 2013 Business Woman of the Year by the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce Women’s Business Forum Committee.

Benjamin F. Herd was included in Texas Super Lawyers.

John R. Howie Jr was named in Texas Super Lawyers.

Susan Stafford Jeffus was promoted to Vice President, Associate General Counsel with Moneygram International, Inc.

Eric W. Kimball was promoted to partner with Holland & Knight LLP.

Eric Pfeifle was promoted to partner with Holland & Knight LLP.

Kimberly C. Priest-Johnson founded Priest Johnson, PLLC. in Dallas.

Suzanne C. Radcliff joined The American Paint Horse Association as the new counselor at law and is the office managing partner vice chair in Dallas for Cozen O’Connor.

J. Quitman Stephens II joined Gordon & Rees as a partner.
Aaron Z. Tobin was elected as Director to the Dallas Bar Association and has been named as a Co-Chair of the 2013-2014 Equal Access to Justice Campaign benefiting the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program.

Stephen J. Womack has become an enforcement attorney with the Arizona Corporation Commission Securities Division.

2001

Robert Collins joined Gauntt, Earl & Binney, LLP.

Christine Gaertner was voted into Partnership at Latham & Watkins LLP.

Randell J. Gartin joined Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP as Of Counsel.

John Harper III is Of Counsel at Haynes and Boone, LLP.

Michelle L. Hartmann was elected president of the Dallas Women Lawyers Association (DWLA).

Barrett Howell was named partner in the Dallas office of K&L Gates LLP.

Chad A. Key was named to the Best Lawyers in America for real estate law.

Kanon Bernard Lillemoen and Jileta Kubena, Ph.D. married in February.

William J. Moore opened the Law Offices of William J. Moore, PLLC in Dallas.

Wei Wang was appointed as Vice Dean of Fudan University Law School in Shanghai, China.

Luis G. Zambrano was named to the board of directors at Concilio.

2002

Melissa A. Ballou-Kates will head the new Fort Worth office of Underwood Law Firm, P.C. as a shareholder.

Jules S. Brenner was named a “Who’s Who in Energy” by the Dallas Business Journal.

Jonathan M. Bull returned to Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP as a senior attorney.

Neil R. Burger was named a Texas Super Lawyer “Rising Star.”

James J. Doyle III founded the Law Offices of Jay Doyle in Austin.

Brent T. Huddleston joined Haynes and Boone, LLP as Of Counsel.

Devin McNulty founded Chandler McNulty in Houston.

Julie M. Nichols was named partner at Haynes and Boone, LLP.

Andrew José Rosell joined Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP as a partner.

Alan J. Rosenberg joined Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP as a partner.

Katherine S. Roth was named a shareholder at Liskow & Lewis.

Mark A. Shoffner was promoted to partner at Andrews Kurth LLP and appointed to the Board of Directors for the organization, Living for Zachary.

Evan P. Singer was named a partner at Jones Day.

Joanna M. Tollenaere joined The Willis Law Group PLLC as partner.

2003

Timothy A. Alford was promoted to shareholder at Godwin Lewis PC.

Alan M. Bush was named a Texas Monthly 2013 Super Lawyers “Rising Star.”

Darin W. Deaver was promoted to partner at Dentons.

Bryan A. Erman was named a Texas Super Lawyer “Rising Star.”

Ryan Douglas Foster was named general counsel for Global Lending Services, LLC in Atlanta, GA and welcomed his first child in April 2013 with his wife, Lucy.

Habeeb “Hobbs” Gnaim was named to Super Lawyers, a “Texas Rising Stars up-and-coming attorney” and one of Houston’s top lawyers by H-Texas Magazine.

Kendall K. Hayden was awarded Pro Bono Coordinator of the Year by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP).

B. Adam McGough was named as Mayor of Dallas Mike Rawlings’ Chief of Staff.

P.J. Putnam was elected as an officer of the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

Kathryn Nicole Voyles, a partner with Jenkins & Kamin, LLP in Houston, was nominated as a 2013 Texas Rising Star in Family Law.

Dustin S. Whittenburg was named a Texas Rising Star by Super Lawyers Magazine.

P. Matt Zmigrosky joined Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP as a partner.

2004

Tracey S. Bailey became a shareholder at Winstead PC.

Christopher Thomas Blackford was named partner at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP, in Washington, D.C.

David Brack Bryant, of Haynes and Boone, LLP, was named a partner.

Samuel Wesley Butler was named as a partner in the firm Crouch & Ramey, L.L.P.

Katharine Battaia Clark became a partner at Thompson & Knight LLP.

Cecelia “CeCe” R. Cox received the LGBT Judge Norman W Black Award by the State Bar of Texas and was named one of the two Grand Marshals at the 2013 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

Russell J. Crain became a partner at Baker Botts L.L.P.

Lindsay M. Germano became an associate of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP in the Dallas office.

Jennifer Rudenick Ecklund became a partner at Thompson & Knight LLP and was named “Future Stars – Texas” by Benchmark Litigation.

Scott F. Ellis has joined Winstead PC as Of Counsel.

Christopher M. Farish was named a member of the Board of Directors of the Collin County Bar Association, the Family Law Section of the Dallas Bar Association, the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals and the Legacy Court Foundation.

Kari S. Grych became a partner in Patton Boggs LLP.

David S. Johnson joined the Central Arizona Project as a staff attorney and received the Distinguished Environmental Advocate award from the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources.

Jeanne M. Katz became a shareholder at the Dallas office of Winstead PC.

Roshanak Khosravighasemabadi joined Tollefson Bradley Ball & Mitchell, L.L.P. as an associate.

Matthew McLain became an equity partner in Cotten Schmidt & Abbott, L.L.P.
Sarah Rogers was elected a Director of the Dallas Bar Association and serves as President of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers.

Judith K. Shoup was awarded the Ken Fuller Pro Bono Award at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting Houston.

Patrick William Stark joined Greenberg Traurig, LLP as a litigation shareholder in Dallas.

Joshua Keith Trahan was selected by his peers as a “Rising Star” in Louisiana Super Lawyers magazine and was named a partner at Juneau David, APLC.

Brent R. Walker was named to The National Trial Lawyers: “Top 40 Under 40.”

Daniel A. Walls became a partner with Cherry Petersen Landry Albert, L.L.P. in Dallas.

Joshua M. Weaver joined Polsinelli Shughart PC as Of Counsel in Dallas and was board certified in health law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

2005

William Ira Bowman was promoted to a shareholder at Godwin Lewis PC and was named a Texas Rising Star.

Winifred E. Cannon was named an Outstanding Veterans Clinic Attorney for her Pro Bono work.

Carl Cecere was included in the Texas Rising Stars.

Laura W. Docker became a shareholder in Brackett & Ellis, PC.

John T. Duncan joined Polsinelli PC as a shareholder.

Ryan C. Kaiser has joined Gevurtz Menashe Larson & Howe as an associate attorney and was recognized by Super Lawyers Magazine as a “Rising Star.”

Deep K. Patel became an associate of The Law Offices of David T. Denney, PC.

Jeremy S. Reed joined Stewart Title Guaranty Company- North Texas Division as commercial escrow officer.

Michael R. Steinmark was named a shareholder at SettlePou in Dallas.

J. Brian Vanderwoude was named a shareholder in Winstead PC and to the “40 Under 40” by the Dallas Business Journal.

R. Craig Woods joined Greenberg Traurig, LLP as a litigation shareholder in Dallas.

Jeremy Wysocki joined Messner Reeves LLP as an associate.

2006

David E. Colmenero was elected Treasurer of the State Bar of Texas Taxation Section and was named a partner with Meadows, Collier, Reed, Cousin, Crouch & Ungerman, L.L.P.

Michael D. Feiler joined Quilling, Selander, Lownds, Winslett and Moser, P.C. as an associate.

Jeffrey Stuart Hamilton joined Jackson Walker L.L.P. in Dallas.

Russell W. Hubbard was awarded Outstanding Clinic Attorney Volunteer –West Dallas by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP) and is Of Counsel at American Airlines Inc.

William T. Morton joined Kane Russell Coleman & Logan PC as an associate.

Carl W. Pankratz III was named as one of the “40 Under 40” by the Dallas Business Journal.

Andrew S. Peveto, one of Collin and Dallas County’s well-known criminal attorneys, recently launched his website representing misdemeanor DUI and felony drug cases.

Lindsey Elizabeth Postula joined Looper Reed & McGraw, PC. in Houston.

Christine M. Powers joined Kane Russell Coleman & Logan PC as an associate in Dallas.

Stephen M. Ratliff joined Holland & Knight LLP as an associate in Dallas.

David C. Romness joined McGlinchey Stafford PLLC in Dallas as an associate.

Abby Newman Ruth was named the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program’s Finest by the Dallas Bar Association for her pro bono work.

Ramona M. Soto joined Beirne, Maynard & Parsons in Dallas as an associate attorney and was included in the Super Lawyers Texas Rising Stars list.

Michael Vernard Foster joined Parrott Sims & McInnis, PLLC.

Jennifer C. Wang was elected as a Director of the Dallas Bar Association and serves as president of the Dallas Asian American Bar Association.

Rebekah Steely Brooker ’04 Named President-Elect of the Texas Young Lawyers Association

Rebekah Steely Brooker ’04 was named President-Elect of the TYLA for 2013. Brooker is an attorney with Passman & Jones where her practice consists of estate planning and administration, probate matters, and trust and asset protection planning.
2007

Haley Lindsey DeVault joined Kane Russell Coleman & Logan PC in Dallas as an associate.

Jason A. Ellis is running for Smith County Court-at-Law Judge’s seat.

Jenny G. Givens became an associate of Looper Reed & McGraw, P.C.

Sarah P. Hicks joined Humphreys & Partners Architects, L.P. as general counsel.

Sean N. Hsu joined Hartline Dacus Barger Dreyer LLP as an associate partner.

Ashley E. Johnston became Board Certified in Health Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Jason S. Luter joined Looper Reed & McGraw, P.C. as an associate.

John Terry O’Connor received the Frank J. Scurlock Award at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting and was awarded the title of Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP).

Sarah K. Shaw was included in the Texas Rising Stars.

Alexandra F. Stravinsky was promoted to senior attorney at Godwin Lewis PC.

Rebecca A. Tillery won the Franklin Jones Best Continuing Legal Education Article Award from the State Bar College and became Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Jay Kevin Wieser was included in the Fort Worth “Top Attorneys” by Fort Worth, Texas magazine.

Elisabeth A. Wilson, an associate at Winstead PC, was elected president-elect of the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association.

2008

Alejandro G. Arellano joined Winstead PC as an associate.

Erin Michelle Bogdanowicz was promoted to partner at McCathern Mooty Grinke LLP.

Constance Michelle Broome founded Johnson Broome Cantu, P.C.

Natalie M. Butler received the Pegasus Scholarship from The American Inns of Court.

Eric C. Camp joined Decker, Jones, McMackin, McClane, Hall & Bates, P.C. in Fort Worth as Of Counsel.

Carolyn J. Dove founded The Dove Firm PLLC.

Lacy LaDonna Durham received the Texas Young Lawyers Association President’s Award of Merit, the Joseph M. Pritchard Inn Outstanding Director Award, and was honored by the Dallas Business Journal to the “40 Under 40.”

Courtney L. Gilbert served as a volunteer attorney with DVAP.

Leon B. Johnson was awarded Outstanding Clinic Attorney Volunteer- Garland by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program.

Richard C. Jordan was included in the Texas Rising Stars.

Jeffrey Leach was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in District 67.

Mark A. Melton received the 2012 Award of Excellence from the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers (DAYL) Foundation and DAYL Fellows.

Kathryn Martin Morris joined Strasburger & Price, LLP as an associate.

Tyler M. Simpson joined Loewinsohn Flegle Deary.

Olga L. Torres joined Holland & Knight LLP in the Washington, D.C. office as an associate.

Tyson A. Wanjura joined Holland & Knight LLP as an associate in the Dallas office.

Natalie L. Webb spoke at the Advanced Family Law Conference in Houston on the topic of “Screening the Case.”

Valeri Carter Williams joined Wilson Elser in Dallas as Of Counsel.

Patrick J. Wigle was named as a Rising Star in the Texas Super Lawyers.

2009

Joi-lee K. Beachler joined Polsinelli LLP as an associate in Dallas.

Aaron T. Capps was included to the “Texas Rising Stars” by Super Lawyers Magazine.

Corinna P. Chandler was lead attorney in her first federal case, which concluded in a winning verdict for her client, a former city of Dallas electronic technician, with the help of law students, Marie Rovira and Gregory Brassfield, under the supervision of Professor Elliot Shavin.

Cynthia A. Cook has joined Brown, PC. in Fort Worth as an associate.

Diana K. Cochrane joined Gardere Wynne Sewell as an associate.

Phillip T. Crone was named executive officer of the Dallas Builders Association by President Joe Chamberlain of Caprock Custom Homes.

Elizabeth A. Franko joined Winstead PC as an associate.

Lauren R. Godfrey has joined Quilling, Selander, Lownds, Winslett and Moser, P.C. as an associate.

Thomas Richard Hegi was named a partner at Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP.

Arif Panju has joined the Institute for

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John T. O’Connor ’07 Named DVAP Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year

John T. O’Connor ’07, a litigation associate with Weil, Gotshal & Manges, was named Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year on October 18, 2012, by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP). The award commends O’Connor for going above and beyond in his dedication to pro bono work, which entailed over 600 hours of work for DVAP clients. O’Connor was also honored by the State Bar of Texas with the 2012 Frank J. Scurlock Award for providing outstanding pro bono work.
Justice-Texas Chapter.

**Daniel R. Pearson** joined Caldwell Cassady & Curry as an associate.

**Fernando Rojero Salazar** moved from Mexico City to Villahermosa, Tabasco State and joined PEMEX, Petroleos Mexicanos, as an in house oil and gas lawyer.

**Natalie A. Smeltzer** received the 2012 Burton Award for Distinguished Achievement in Legal Writing.

**Derek J. Taylor** joined Winstead PC as an associate in the Dallas office.

**Maitreya Tomlinson** joined Smith Law Group, P.C. in Austin as an associate.

**Nam D. Tran** joined Winstead PC as an associate.

**Matthew S. Vanderpool** joined Quarles & Brady LLP at the Milwaukee office as an associate.

**Audra Mayberry** joined Scheuf & Stone, L.L.P. in the Frisco office.

**Colleen M. Deal** joined Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP as an associate.

**Natalie Marguerite Cooley** joined Thompson & Knight LLP as an associate.

**Samuel D. Hamann** joined Bourland, Wall & Wenzel, P.C. as an associate.

**Derek M. Junek** joined Duckett, Bouligny & Collins, L.L.P. as an associate in the El Campo office.

**Guillermo “Gary” Wiener**, currently practicing immigration law with Dunbar Harder, PLLC in Houston, is engaged to Leslie Ann Frankel.

**Brian James Zadorozny** was named Labor Relations Specialist for the US Department of Labor’s Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management (OASAM).

### 2011

**Laurie N. Arnoldy** joined Hiersche, Hayward, Drakeley & Urbach, P.C. as an associate.

**Brittany K. Byrd** received the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award at the annual meeting of the State Bar of Texas in Dallas, and the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Dallas Award from DAYL.

**Naveid P. Jansouz** joined Brown, PC in Fort Worth as an associate.

**Virginia Simms** joined Hermes Sargent Bates, LLP as an associate.

**Matthew H. Swerdlow** was appointed to the Dallas Rotary Club Foundation Board of Trustees.

**Christopher A. Villa** joined the Willis Law Group PLLC as an associate in the Dallas office.

**Chart H. Westcott** is a candidate for State Representative Dan Branch’s District 108 position.

### 2012

**Jessica Anderson** joined Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP as an associate.

**Laura E. Brandt** joined SettlePou in the Dallas office.

**Thomas S. Conner** joined Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal L.L.P. as an associate.

**Natalie Marguerite Cooley** joined Thompson & Knight LLP as an associate.

**Colleen M. Deal** joined Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP as an associate.

**Natasha S. Fedorov** joined Buford & Ryburn, L.L.P. as an associate.

**Samuel D. Hamann** joined Bourland, Wall & Wenzel, P.C. as an associate.

**Derek M. Junek** joined Duckett, Bouligny & Collins, L.L.P. as an associate in the El Campo office.

**Donald Eugene Kerns** was named Chief Executive Officer by the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography at the annual conference in Las Vegas.

**Kate M. Landrum** joined Winstead PC as a staff attorney.

**Brian E. Mason** joined Bowman and Brooke LLP as an associate in the Dallas office.

**Sarah Anne Ochsankel** joined Holland & Knight LLP as an associate in the Dallas office.

**Stephen P. O’Neal** has been named an associate with Harris, Finley & Bogle P.C.

**Nichole M. Plagens** joined Fanning Harper Martinson Brandt & Kutchin, P.C. as an associate.

**Audrey Marie Sullivan** joined Thompson & Knight LLP as an associate in the Dallas office.

**Brent Turman** joined SettlePou in the Dallas office.

**Rachel Renee Vulpitta** joined Gauntt Earl & Binney, LLP.

**J. Jody Walker** joined SettlePou in the Dallas office.

### 2013

**Jane Cherry** joined Thompson & Knight LLP as an associate.

**Jarratt F. Watkins** joined Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP.

**Lindsey E. Marsh** joined Wick Phillips as an associate.

**Colby McKenzie** joined Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP as an associate.
SMU Dedman School of Law expresses sympathy to the families and friends of the following law school alumni:

**IN MEMORIAM**

Mr. Robert D. Maddox '45  
8/22/12

Mr. Billy B. Joiner '48  
8/23/13

Mr. Bill G. Gaffney '49  
8/27/12

Mr. William L. Keller Sr. '50  
11/14/13

Dr. Ann Van Wynen Thomas '52  
3/27/13

Mr. Robert A. Gwinn '54  
1/17/13

Mr. Fred R. Disheroon '56  
9/19/12

Mr. B. H. Timmins Jr. '56  
4/2/13

Mr. Oscar P. Fields '57  
9/14/13

Mr. Paul R. Hambright '58  
1/22/13

Mr. Webber W. Beall Jr. '59  
8/10/12

Mr. Harvey L. Lerer '59  
4/24/13

Mr. Richard L. McSpedden '59  
10/8/13

Ms. Joellen T. Finn '61  
8/29/12

Mr. Robert C. Rice '62  
8/26/12

Mr. Carl E. Oates '62  
7/23/13

Ms. Virginia L. Winker '63  
4/4/13

Mrs. Gayle E. Oler '63  
7/25/12

Ms. Anne D. Snodgrass '64  
8/21/12

Mr. Frank L. Ehrle Jr. '65  
3/5/13

Mr. Hugh B. Higgins '67  
8/7/13

Mr. James N. Dearien '68  
9/15/12

Mr. Wallace R. Heitman '69  
8/24/12

Mr. Jack C. Pate '70  
6/27/13

Mr. Martin L. Kahn '70  
11/6/13

Mr. Kevin J. Clancy '70  
5/14/13

Mr. W. Lee Carter III '71  
12/16/12

Mr. J. Peter Jung '71  
6/9/13

Mr. Robert I. Knopf '71  
5/19/13

Mr. Jay C. Counts '72  
10/14/13

Mr. Walter B. Chandler III '73  
2/27/13

The Honorable Richard D. Greene '75  
10/7/12

Mr. Robert F. Gore '76  
7/29/12

Mr. Thomas L. Wheeler Jr. '76  
9/3/12

Mr. Gary F. Wiley '76  
5/2/13

Mr. John D. Evans '78  
7/28/12

Mr. Lee A. Joyner Jr. '78  
3/10/13

Mr. Edward J. Drake III '80  
9/30/12

Mr. Lawrence L. Jones '80  
7/31/12

Mr. Mark E. Hasse '81  
1/31/13

Ms. Jacquelyn K. Middlebrooks '90  
10/8/13

Ms. Monica L. Luebker '91  
9/22/13

Ms. Kristin Schroeder Simpson '02  
3/23/13

Mr. Keith L. Krueger '05  
7/14/12
Pius Langa
Former Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa

Pius Nkonzo Langa, former Chief Justice of South Africa, died in Johannesburg on July 24, 2013, at the age of 74. Chief Justice Langa visited SMU Dedman School of Law many times, first in 1998 when he and three other members of the Constitutional Court traveled to Dallas to discuss South Africa’s democratic transformation, and later as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the law school in 2000, 2001, and 2004. He was also the Hooding Ceremony speaker in 2011.

For his accomplishment in rising from court messenger to his country's highest judicial office under extraordinarily challenging circumstances, and in recognition of his more than forty years of championing human and constitutional rights in South Africa and elsewhere, SMU conferred upon Justice Langa the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, in May 2011.

Justice Langa’s life reflects his tireless efforts to support human rights and democracy and oppose the system of apartheid into which he was born.

Despite that system, Justice Langa completed his high school education via private study and then obtained the B. Juris and LL.B. degrees by long distance learning through the University of South Africa.

He then began a career in the Department of Justice where he rose from office messenger to magistrate. He was admitted as an advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa in 1977 and attained the rank of senior counsel in 1994.

During that time, as one of his countrymen said, he “fought for justice in the face of apartheid’s laws ... And was also deeply involved in negotiating the end of apartheid.”

Justice Langa served as a founding member of the “Release Mandela Committee,” helped found the South African Legal Defense Fund, and was a commissioner of the Human Rights Committee.

When the Constitutional Court of South Africa was established with the advent of a post-apartheid democratic era in 1994, Justice Langa was appointed by President Nelson Mandela as one of the first judges of the new court.

He became deputy president of the Court in 1997. In 2005, he became the country’s first black chief justice, retiring from that position in 2009.

His efforts were not for South Africa alone: he served as his country’s special envoy to assist the Fiji Islands’ return to democracy, and he participated in the work of constitutional review commissions in Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

Justice Langa also taught younger generations at the University of Natal, where he served as chancellor from 1998-2004, and at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, where he served as chancellor from 2005 to 2010.

Langa was married to Thandikile from 1966 until her death in 2009. The couple had six children and many grandchildren. Justice Langa was a wonderful, gentle person with a great sense of humor and a deep sense of justice, humanity, and humility.

Jean Jury
Former Registrar

Jean Jury passed away on November 19, 2013. Officially, she was the law school's registrar, retiring in 1988. But unofficially, she was also the dean of students, director of admissions, caretaker of the international LL.M. students, financial aid advisor, academic counselor, and “Mom” for all students. She was lovingly called “Dean Jean” and “Momma Jean.”

In 1982, Jean Jury received SMU’s “M” Award. The “M” Award is the most highly prized recognition bestowed upon students, faculty, staff, and administrators on the SMU campus. The “M” Award honorees are an inspiration to others, giving unselfishly of their time and talents in order to make the University, and indeed the world, a better place for all of us.

In 2004, the late Michael “Mike” C. Barrett J.D. ’77 (d. 2009), a Dallas attorney and member of the Dedman Law executive board, established the Jean Kyle Jury Award to honor Mrs. Jury. A reflection on Jean Jury will be published in the next issue of The Quad. She will be missed.
NEW ALUMNI RESOURCE!

Dedman Law Alumni Directory

In the mail

Be on the lookout for a pale yellow postcard or an email that will be sent to you after the first of the year. You will be asked to verify your contact information so you can be included in the directory. Don’t miss out on this great opportunity!

Distinguished Alumni Dinner
March 27, 2014

Law School Alumni Reunions
May 3, 2014
Since 1928, alumni of SMU Dedman School of Law have distinguished themselves as global leaders in law, business, and government and as prominent members of the judiciary.