Congratulations!
Class of 2020

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

The 2019-2020 school year began in typical fashion, with optimistic, excited law students eager to begin their classes and a rich array of programming to celebrate and engage our wonderful alumni. We were delighted to see many of you at our alumni activities such as our Reunions, CLEs, Family Weekend, Black History Month Luncheon, tailgates, and a joyous Black Law Alumni and Black Law Students Association (BLSA) Reception.

With a successful fall semester behind us, the spring semester turned challenging, to say the least, as we faced the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, we quickly moved all of our classes and activities into a virtual format for the remainder of the year. Our faculty and staff were extraordinary, and worked tirelessly to ensure that our students would continue to receive the outstanding academic and extracurricular experience that is the hallmark of an education at SMU. I am so proud of our students’ resilience, compassion and grace throughout a spring semester that none of us could have anticipated. Our alumni were also incredibly supportive. Led by Amy and Les Ware, many of you contributed to an emergency fund for our students, who were suddenly facing very real financial challenges as jobs evaporated and unexpected technology needs arose in order for students to be able to complete the semester successfully. Everyone at SMU is profoundly grateful to our alumni for your generosity and commitment to our students’ success.

As the pandemic wore on, the law school realized that many of our fellow citizens in North Texas were in desperate need of legal assistance on pandemic-related issues, ranging from evictions to CARES Act funding. Our students also began to lose promised summer positions as employers retrenched and moved to a remote working environment. In order to serve our community and provide our students with the opportunity to have a meaningful summer work experience, the law school quickly developed a COVID-19 summer helpline, under the auspices of our amazing Legal Clinic program. You can read more about this exciting initiative in the pages of this magazine. We are very proud of the fact that we were able to assist hundreds of North Texans this summer, and are honored to have the opportunity to uphold SMU’s longstanding commitment to public service.

The law school shares in the national outrage and grief surrounding the most recent examples of violence toward and discrimination against people of color in this country. As lawyers and law students, our special obligation to do justice means we must do more than simply offer words of support – we must take real and concrete action. Our Director of Diversity and Inclusion Erika Fadel writes in the magazine about how we are responding as a law school, including a wide array of programming for law students and alumni about how to grapple with issues related to racism and discrimination. We are particularly excited about an upcoming webinar that we are organizing in partnership with the University of Houston Law Center entitled Black Lawyers Matter: Strategies to Enhance Diversity and Inclusion. Stay tuned for registration details.

We have begun the new school year in an in-person format, with an option for students to attend entirely remotely, and are so grateful for the opportunity to be together in order to educate outstanding new lawyers and serve the residents of this great city we all love so dearly. I am incredibly proud of this law school community, and thank you for continuing to be such loyal alumni of SMU Dedman School of Law.

With deep appreciation,

Jennifer M. Collins

Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law
When the unthinkable happens, it's time to think fast.

The faculty, students, staff, and alumni of SMU Dedman School of Law learned that lesson – as have people across the country and around the world – when, on March 12, the coronavirus shut down in-person classes at SMU.

The Dedman Law community had to adapt, and adapt it did – not just to a devastating health crisis and a crippled economy, but also to online teaching, Zoom meetings, law school life without campus gatherings, the cancellation of summer clerkships and internships, and a virtual toast held on the original date for the hooding ceremony with plans for a full-fledged ceremony when the pandemic situation improves.

“I am incredibly proud of our faculty, staff, and students who have risen to this unexpected change in the way we deliver our instruction with grace, creativity, and patience,” Dean Jennifer Collins said less than three weeks after SMU President R. Gerald Turner suspended virtually all on-campus activity.

“Kindness and compassion are hallmarks of SMU Dedman School of Law, and I am so grateful to be part of this remarkable and caring community.”

The virus changed a lot of things, but it didn’t change the law school’s commitment to instruct, mentor, and guide its students through what would turn out to be some of the most difficult days, weeks, and months any of them could have imagined.

“We were struck by the breadth and depth of the challenges our students faced in this new landscape,” Collins said. “Some do not have printers at home, or reliable internet. Some are immunocompromised. Some have had unexpected caregiving or home-schooling responsibilities thrust upon them… Some have had to worry whether their families will have a secure food supply or safe housing.”
The Law School hosted a number of virtual events to connect with students and maintain a sense of community.

The Dallas skyline and SMU lit up blue in support of healthcare workers and first responders.
“COVID-19 presented unprecedented challenges as well as disappointment for the Law Class of 2020. Nevertheless, they worked incredibly hard, overcame the challenges, and dealt with the disappointments with grace.”

–Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Stephen Yeager ’93

The law school acted swiftly to meet this array of challenges.

“People, families, and schools adapt to a ‘new normal,’” said Christine P. Leatherberry ’06, SMU Law’s director of alumni relations. “Before the pandemic, it would have taken months of committee meetings to gain approval for virtual classes or virtual programming. We were able to put together meaningful, authentic programming that fostered a sense of connection in a matter of weeks.”

The school provided loaner laptops and helped arrange emergency financial assistance for those in need. It created a new legal clinic program, a COVID-19 Helpline, so students, working with participating attorneys, could offer North Texas residents free legal assistance with coronavirus-related issues. (See accompanying story.)

Funding was increased for professors to hire students – many of whom had lost summer jobs – as research assistants. Faculty and staff reached out to Dedman Law alumni in the legal and business community to enlist mentors and secure work, if only remotely, for students.

“Our alumni have been incredibly supportive,” said Anne Beard, SMU Dedman School of Law’s director of development. “They’re always extremely loyal and generous to the school, and being reminded of that generosity has been a gift that came out of this very difficult experience. It’s been rewarding to hear from so many people who just want to know, ‘What can I do to help the students? What can I do to help my school?’”

Like dozens of law schools, SMU Law adopted a pass-fail system rather than grades for the spring 2020 semester, giving stressed-out students one thing less to stress about.

Through virtual town halls and other e-forums, administrators shared regular updates and answered questions. They celebrated students’ accomplishments on social media, and sustained the school’s strong sense of community through an assortment of online social activities, from virtual yoga and mindfulness sessions to virtual happy hours and baking lessons – even a virtual get-together with loveable therapy dogs.

“The biggest challenge is separation – from our students, our colleagues and from our legal employer contacts,” said Karen Sargent ’79, assistant dean in the Office of Career Services. “We may be getting used to Zoom, but nothing takes the place of face-to-face interaction.”

In particular, she said, she missed the individual meetings normally held in March with those students about to graduate. “While we did meet with graduating 3Ls by Zoom,” she said, “we were not able to have those more personal meetings with the people we had been counseling for the past three years – and may not see again for a long time, if at all.”
Watch the video made in honor of our SMU Law Class of 2020!

The Law School hosted a Virtual Toast in honor of our 2020 Law Grads - a formal ceremony will be held at a future date.
Still, she said, “We are more resilient and adaptable than we think. We can learn to do things differently and be successful. Change makes you think differently, look at the world differently, consider people and situations differently.”

Zack Faircloth ’20, told Law.com he regretted the loss of a May Commencement, but understood that cancelling was the right call. “I’m sad about it,” he said, adding that it was “a little bizarre” not to be able “to shake a professor’s hand at graduation and thank them for everything they’ve done for me.”

Stephen Yeager ’93, assistant dean for student affairs, said, “COVID-19 presented unprecedented challenges as well as disappointment for the Class of 2020. Nevertheless, they worked incredibly hard, overcame the challenges, and dealt with the disappointments with grace. We wanted them to know we were here for them, believed in them, and were committed to helping them reach their dreams.”

Lolita Buckner Inniss, senior associate dean for academic affairs, a University Distinguished Professor, and a Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow, said the pandemic “has reminded me that vulnerability and uncertainty are always present, in everything we do. We don't typically face these concerns in quite so intense a manner, and in such a concentrated period, but there's always the potential for difficulties.

“The day it hit me the hardest was when one of my college classmates died of COVID-19,” she said. “I felt as if I had been slammed to the floor.” Still, she said, “I did not fully acknowledge what I was going through” until later that day, when she talked about it with some of her students during remote office hours. “We addressed class matters, but we also took some time to address the enormity of this crisis,” she said. “Our students are amazing.”

Leatherberry, the director of alumni relations, also teaches family law as an adjunct professor. Doing so from home while caring for two small children has had its moments – both challenging and charming. During a single class session, she said, “Our cat jumped across the screen, our dog barked, my 3-year-old banged on the door and barged into class in tears. I forgot to turn off the baby monitor in the room where I was teaching, so you could hear my children screaming and playing in the background. And my Zoom account froze twice. The class had to wait for me to log back in.

“But after a few classes, I realized the students were understanding,” she said. “Finally, I just introduced my children to them – my little noisemakers. It may have been the first time I saw all 18 students smile at one time.”
COVID-19 Legal Helpline
Responding to the Crisis

June 2020: Legal Helpline Established

The COVID-19 crisis has been devastating for our country, resulting in both a terrible loss of life and enormous economic disruption. This economic crisis also had many legal implications for the residents of North Texas, and SMU students were eager to help in whatever way they possibly could.

Through the law school’s Clinical Program – founded in 1947 as one of the country’s first community outreach initiatives by a law school – SMU Law set up a free COVID-19 Helpline (214-768-2683) in June. Students in the clinic, working under the supervision of experienced lawyers, have handled hundreds of inquiries from North Texas residents confronting pandemic-related legal challenges involving housing, immigration, employment, healthcare access, and consumer law.

“The Helpline has been an enormously important resource for people in our community who are struggling,” said Professor Mary Spector, Dedman Law’s associate dean for clinics. “At the same time, it’s given our students valuable legal experience – a chance to take on real-life issues and develop their professional skills while working with dedicated, outstanding lawyers in the Dallas area.”

In particular, she cited contributions of lawyers at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and of Mark Melton ’08, a partner at Holland & Knight, whose pro bono project DallasEvictions2020.com has enlisted more than 80 volunteer attorneys to work with clients facing possible eviction because they’d fallen behind on rent payments. In consultation with Professor Spector, she would devise action plans, depending on different callers’ circumstances, to help them keep a roof over their heads.

“To listen to the despair and uncertainty in the voices of these people who called us, and then to be able to work to help them, was unlike anything I’d done before,” she said. “Everyone has been affected by the virus in one way or another,” Florence added. “But to hear from people who knew they might be forced to leave their homes, and then to know at the end of the day that I’d been able to assist them, was just so rewarding.”

As an added benefit, the COVID-19 Helpline has provided employment opportunities for law students whose summer clerkships and internships were cancelled or scaled back when law firms, government agencies, and other potential employers curtailed activities, as the spread of the coronavirus sent the economy into hibernation.

One SMU Law student caught in this contraction was Kamden Florence, who’d lined up a summer internship with a title company upon completion of her first-year studies.

When that internship fell through, Florence signed up to staff the Helpline one evening a week – in addition to her full-time job as a retail sales associate and a second internship she’d secured with a national litigation firm. Working at the Helpline, she said, was “absolutely incredible.” Mostly, she dealt with tenants. In addition, the project received support from the Dallas Bar Foundation, United Way, Dallas Bar Association, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, UNT Dallas College of Law, and Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP).

“This project is a wonderful example of how deeply committed SMU Law is to helping our students and to serving the beautiful city in which we are so fortunate to be located,” said Dean Jennifer Collins. “We are very grateful to have such committed partners and to be able to provide support to our community as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times.”

As the pandemic continues, so does the need for legal assistance. Civil clinic students will staff the helpline at least through the fall semester and will continue to adapt as the needs of the community change.
There we were, on a pristine lawn at University College, Oxford. It was near the end of our term, and I could sense that the students in Comparative Health Law and Bioethics needed a change of scenery. The classrooms at Oxford are ancient and small and stuffy. But outside it was glorious. Walking through three different quads, careful not to touch the lawns declared off-limits, we made it to the Fellows Garden, sat in a semi-circle, and started talking pandemics.

This was July 2019, and the pandemics on our minds were Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Ebola. I was teaching from the new manuscript of our book, *Readings in Comparative Health Law and Bioethics*. Our new edition would dedicate an entire section to infectious diseases, using SARS and Ebola to compare how different countries around the world with different legal and public health systems responded to these two diseases. I joked that Americans were probably too stubborn for quarantines to be effective, then lamented our lack of public health preparedness. Six months later, our book would already be outdated.

In retrospect, the readings were really warnings. Governments deny then downplay. Communication lags. International cooperation disappoints. Public health systems struggle. Early detection requires resources and discipline. Treatments take time. Prevention and preparedness require real spending and planning for contingencies that may or may not occur. We sat on the sunny Oxford lawn contemplating these things, then shared our recent experiences with the “Oxford Plague” that had sickened several students and staff at the college that summer.

Pandemics aren’t new to faculty like me that teach and write about health law. For well over a decade, my Food & Drug Law course has spent an entire class on vaccine development, after spending weeks learning about the laws governing pharmaceutical R&D, clinical trials, manufacturing, and marketing.

Vaccines are different from other drugs, we learn. First, they are some of the most effective drugs ever made. Most drugs are not 100% effective. Most drugs do not completely eradicate the disease or condition they target. But vaccines come pretty close. Second, vaccines are mandatory. We have to take them to attend school, or serve in the military, or work in hospitals or other health care settings. Other drugs lack that kind of mandate. Third, we generally take vaccines when we’re healthy, which makes us less tolerant of risks and side effects. Finally, vaccines receive government subsidies and mandates and special legal immunities that other pharmaceuticals don’t.

My course talks about the *Reyes v. Wyeth* case, a 5th Circuit decision from 1974 involving a child that contracted poliomyelitis after being given the Sabin live polio vaccine by a county clinic in McAllen, Texas. We then discuss the Federal Tort Claims Act, the National Childhood Vaccination Compensation Act, and the hysteria drawing false links between vaccines and autism. This module has not changed much in the 13 years I’ve been teaching it.

But things are about to change dramatically with the emergence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. New FDA approval processes for COVID vaccines and diagnostics are on the horizon, to be sure. Our Health Law course will need to be updated to account for major changes in insurance coverage, liability doctrines, and other legal responses to the pandemic. My newly-published book, now in its 3rd edition, will soon need a 4th edition.

But don’t feel sorry for health law faculty. The pandemic is also quickly changing the landscapes of several other practice areas, including labor and employment law, consumer law, real estate law, family law, immigration, tax, criminal law, and even election law.

But that is what legal education is about. We evaluate how the law changed from Time X to Time Y, in hopes that our graduates can anticipate what the law might look like at some future Time Z. Teaching just the “black letter law” gives students a superficial glimpse at what the law is today, without the grounding to understand how it got here or where it might be going. COVID-19 will dramatically accelerate this process. Our graduates, luckily, are equipped to anticipate the many changes coming. – N.C.
Thomas Wm. Mayo
Altshuler University Distinguished Teaching Professor and Associate Professor of Law

The law school curriculum is a virtual incubator for responses to pandemics. In my corner of the world, it would be difficult to avoid considerations of the impact of COVID-19 on the law and the lives of affected citizens. A few examples should suffice.

Constitutional Rights Don’t End During a Pandemic. This rallying cry has appeared on banners all across the country. But as we learn in Public Health Law & Ethics, the U.S. Supreme Court decided in 1905 that individual freedoms otherwise protected by the 14th Amendment can be curtailed by public-health officials in order to fight off a deadly epidemic. Bottom line: Unless someone has a medical reason for objecting, everyone in a smallpox-infected community can be required to get vaccinated. The implications for the anti-vaxxer movement, which preceded the current pandemic and will continue once the pandemic has been brought under control, are challenging.

Access to Critical Care Resources Will Be Allocated Based upon Triage Principles. Triage – originally developed on the battlefield to guide medics in making decisions about who among the wounded should be treated first – spread to mass torts like building collapses and airline crashes, and now it is being incorporated into a “Crisis Standard of Care.” All first-year Torts students learn about the “reasonable person” standard of care, including the “reasonable physician” and “reasonable hospital administrator” standards of care. In normal times, first-come, first-served governs resource-allocation decisions in hospitals. It is virtually unheard of that a patient in need of an ICU ventilator, for example, would be “bumped” in order to make that ventilator available for a patient waiting in the Emergency Room. In the face of a critical shortage of ICU beds, ventilators, and nurses, should the community’s investment in critical-care resources be allocated with a community-wide focus? Will the courts be willing to instruct juries on a “crisis standard of care”?

How Should Critical Care Resources be Allocated? In Bioethics and Law, students learn about certain fundamental principles of medical ethics: respect for autonomy, avoid harm (nonmaleficence), promote health (beneficence), strive for justice. Every one of these principles is challenged to the limit during a pandemic such as the one we are now experiencing. The challenge posed by a pandemic arises out of a conflict between ethical principles that mostly focus upon individual patients and their relationship to their physician, on the one hand, and public-health laws that are intended to maximize health benefits for the entire community on the other.

Are There Limits to What Society Reasonably May Expect of First-Responders? In my Law, Literature & Medicine class, we take a deep dive into the concept of “professionalism.” For both lawyers and doctors, our relationship to clients and patients alike is that of a fiduciary. We are expected to put their interests ahead of our own. But are there limits to our fiduciary duty? When threatened by a deadly contagion for which there is no vaccine and no treatment, does a doctor’s fiduciary obligation give way to duty to family, to future patients, and to self-preservation?

The laws and regulations that we develop in response to COVID-19 will be shaped as much by societal norms as by traditional legal precepts. Similarly, medicine is ultimately a social enterprise. It is informed by science, but it is also a reflection of society’s attitudes toward sickness and health, as well as fairness and justice. Our students have multiple opportunities to see the back-and-forth of legal doctrine and social attitudes through the lens of the current pandemic, which will equip them to be better citizens and better lawyers when they enter the profession. – T.M.
THE DEASON CENTER PANDEMIC POLICY PROJECT

A national effort to collect, review, and analyze county-level legal responses to COVID-19

#SetThemFree
Amid the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. criminal legal system remains profoundly local. County and municipal jails — which drive national incarceration rates — are increasingly hotspots for COVID-19 infections. And local stakeholders in the criminal legal system determine who goes to jail and how long they stay there. Town police and elected sheriffs decide which laws to enforce and whether to use a summons or take a suspect to jail. Local judges open or close their courthouses and issue decisions about when and where court proceedings will resume. Meanwhile, prosecutors and defense attorneys navigate the challenging waters of video courts, as they argue about pretrial release, investigate cases, file motions, negotiate plea bargains, and wait to conduct criminal trials. But because the pandemic has sealed the courtrooms and isolated communities, these day-to-day criminal legal responses to COVID-19 remain in the shadows.

On behalf of communities, policymakers, advocates, and researchers, the Deason Center Pandemic Policy Project is leading a national effort to collect, review, and analyze county-level criminal legal responses to COVID-19. By tracking local responses, the Deason Center will build a pandemic policy data set for future research. The data will help experts develop best practice recommendations for any future system-disrupting crises. The data will serve as a resource for justice-involved individuals and their families. It will also help the media to document important criminal justice trends and hold our public officials accountable. The local policy data set is also the backdrop for the Deason Center’s #SetThemFree campaign, which draws attention to the plight of people who are incarcerated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are teaching our students important lessons about the speed of change in a national crisis. We post our research online in raw and largely unredacted formats. It’s the legal research equivalent of open source coding,” said Professor Pamela R. Metzger, Director of the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center at SMU Dedman School of Law. “We want to share this information in the public domain as quickly possible: researchers, community leaders, criminal practitioners, and justice-involved individuals shouldn’t have to wait to learn what’s happening in criminal legal systems around the nation.”

To accomplish this ambitious undertaking, the Deason Center, with more than 100 SMU Law students, is working with volunteers from around the nation, including faculty, staff, and students from such law schools such as LSU Paul M. Herbert Law Center, Lewis & Clark, University of Florida, William & Mary, Wayne State, UC Irvine, Roger Williams, Seton Hall, and Loyola-Chicago.

“Students working on this important project will witness, in real time, how COVID-19 is changing criminal justice,” said Professor Metzger.
As a result of the global coronavirus pandemic, many students faced extraordinary and unexpected hardships.

Some students and their family members became ill. Many lost their part-time jobs or summer clerkships, or experienced job losses within their immediate families. As schools and day cares abruptly closed, many Dedman Law students found themselves caring for children at home while still trying to attend their own classes. The SMU Law community has always been extremely supportive of our students, and we are profoundly grateful for its support during this pandemic.
Helping Our Vulnerable Mustangs: The Impact of Giving

SMU Law Ponies Up During the COVID-19 Crisis

A generous gift of $138,000 from Amy Abboud ('87, '90) and Leslie Ware ('89, '92), established an SMU Dedman School of Law COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund for students who are experiencing unexpected financial challenges related to the novel coronavirus. These funds can be used for necessities not associated with SMU tuition or fees. The Wares, both SMU Dedman School of Law alums, initially established an emergency loan fund at the law school in 1998 but they generously made this additional donation to meet the unique needs of students in light of the pandemic.

Any student can submit an application for financial assistance. Students can repay their loan when financially able to do so which ensures the fund can support generations of students to come. However, repayment is not a mandatory requirement to apply for emergency funding.

The Wares shared the following thoughts with beneficiaries of this fund:

“Amy and I hope this fund is helpful to you in a difficult or stressful period. Years from now, when you are a successful lawyer, we hope that you will remember it and use your skills and power to help some other person in need. We wish you all the best in your pursuit of the practice of law and in all your future endeavors.”

This fund has been an important resource for our law students, helping secure housing and food for our students who are struggling. We sincerely thank the Wares for their generous support of our students who have been impacted by the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.

Donald E. Godwin
$100,000 gift to the law school to be used for general scholarship funding

“I am so grateful to the law school for providing me with the education necessary to fulfill my dream of being a trial lawyer.”

Rachael and Bob Dedman
$50,000 gift to the general scholarship fund in response to the pandemic

SMU Dedman School of Law is grateful for the continued support of the Dedman family.

Five Alumnae Organize “Lunch with an Impact”

Cheryl Pollman ’79, Judge Barbara Lynn ’76, Storrow Gordon ’78, Paula Miller ’83, Debbie Eichner ’89

Thirteen women attorneys of the B&B Society have been meeting for a monthly lunch for 30+ years. Each month, the luncheon host chooses a charity for the members to support with a gift. This month, the members agreed to support the COVID-19 Helpline.

“I was familiar with the law school clinics’ COVID-19 Legal Helpline project through my pro bono work in immigration law,” said Cheryl Pollman ’79. “I was delighted to hear about the Helpline and felt this would be an initiative the group would support.”

The United Way
$10,000 gift to the COVID-19 Legal Helpline

The Dallas Bar Foundation
$14,000 gift to the COVID-19 Legal Helpline

AccessLex Institute
Law Student Emergency Relief Program
$25,000 gift to be available as emergency funds for SMU Law students who experience unexpected/unforeseen circumstances related to COVID-19 that lead to financial hardship.

Thank you!
FREEDOM.
EQUALITY.
JUSTICE.

These are central tenets of American society. However, as most people now recognize, when these foundational rights were written into the documents that frame American life, women, Black, and brown people were not included in the freedoms and protections that were intended for white men. Consequently, all others not originally included in the founding promises of America have had to struggle to push America to live up to the broad and inclusive language that it was built upon.

The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have forced Americans into a new reckoning with how racism, discrimination, and the resulting injustices remain deeply embedded into America and the psyche of American life. As time has passed, the Black Lives Matter movement, which began in 2013 after the shooting of Trayvon Martin, has become a focal point of the struggle and the phrase has become a rallying cry for activists across the country.

At every point in the ongoing march toward the realization of America’s ideals, the law has been present as either a bulwark thwarting the advancement of those ideals or it has provided crevices through which some measure of freedom, equality, and justice might eke. For almost a century, SMU Law has educated lawyers charged with upholding just laws and challenging those that are not. Yet law remains the least diverse profession in the country. When diverse people enter the profession, the path to inclusion is tenuous at best and non-existent at worst.

Against this backdrop, SMU Law has consistently endeavored to cultivate a pipeline for diverse students to enter law school and a pathway for all new attorneys to enter the profession as culturally intelligent practitioners. With programs for undergraduate students such as the Minority Pre-Law Symposium and its ongoing outreach to colleges and universities with large student populations from underserved and underrepresented communities, the Law School is engaged in efforts to widen the pipeline and offer law school as a plausible and attainable professional option. As a result of these efforts, the diversity of the entering class has risen from 18% in 2014 to approximately 32% in 2020. While we are encouraged by the outcome of our efforts, we are determined not to let up, particularly as it relates to Black Americans, a group that is gravely underrepresented in our profession.

The work to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the profession is not simply about pulling more diverse students to the Law School, it is also about creating an environment where students feel respected and are empowered to achieve. To create a climate of the understanding of difference and how difference operates among university faculty, in 2015 Dean Collins invited Professor (now Dean of Boston University School of Law) Angela Onwausi-Willig to speak to the faculty about the biases and challenges that women of color face in legal academia. In 2016, the Law School hosted a mandatory faculty and staff retreat to explore such issues as implicit bias and microaggressions and examine how they inform everyday interactions, generally and particularly in the Law School. And, for the past several years, the Law School has hosted CIQ@SMU training (SMU Cultural Intelligence seminars and workshops) for its employees.

“We who believe in freedom cannot rest.”

–Ella Baker (Civil Rights Pioneer, b. 1903 - d. 1986)
In 2017, we were fortunate to have our alum, Erika Fadel, join us as a counselor in our Office of Career Services and as our Director of Diversity and Inclusion, a role first created in 2015. To increase support to diverse students and further our efforts to engage faculty, staff, alumni and the larger community around the issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion, we are delighted that Erika now will serve full-time as Director of Diversity and Inclusion at the Law School. In addition to continuing her work with our diverse students and organizations, Erika will launch our new program to support our first generation students, particularly focused on increasing their academic and professional success.

Focused on producing culturally competent attorneys, last year Erika worked to bring Project Unity’s “Together We Dine” program to the first-year class. The program’s goal is to foster honest dialogue about race in an environment that encourages participants to listen to others’ perspectives without judgment or rancor. Law School faculty, administrators and students were trained to be facilitators. Unfortunately, the event, scheduled for March 30, had to be canceled because of COVID-19. The program has since moved to a virtual format and the Law School plans to bring it to the students during this academic year.

The Law School and its faculty, staff, and students do not exist in a vacuum. In response to the social upheaval instigated by the death of George Floyd, the Law School’s first response was to attend to its people. In addition to sending messages of support to its students and alumni, the SMU Dedman School of Law hosted a “Flash Class” for its community to offer participants the opportunity to express their feelings and concerns and to talk about how to move forward in precarious times. With the support of Christine P. Leatherberry ’06, the Director of Alumni Relations, the Law School collaborated with the Dallas Women Lawyers Association, J.L. Turner Legal Association, Dallas Bar Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, and Moms in Law to offer “The Women’s Guide to Healing the Racial Divide: How to Talk to Each Other and Our Children About Race.” The event had over 300 attendees and the panelists included our alumnae, Shonn Brown ’98, Christa Brown-Sanford ’04, and Angela Zambrano ’97. In conjunction with the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center, the Law School also launched the “Doing the Work” series to examine, and engage the larger community in a discussion about key issues around social justice. We have led, through our faculty experts, thoughtful conversations among our alumni and in the Dallas community around policing, the impact of systemic racism in Dallas, and the barriers to civic engagement. The Law School also will be offering a class examining the history of Dallas and some of its systemic challenges to all our students this fall.

The past few months have opened doors to important and necessary conversations about equity and access. SMU Dedman School of Law will not rest in its efforts to diversify the profession and its work to advance the cause of freedom, equality, and justice. We invite your participation in our work.

If you would like to partner with us or have ideas or insights that you would like to share, please contact Erika Fadel ’98, Director of Diversity & Inclusion at SMU Dedman School of Law, at efadel@smu.edu or 214-768-2850.

SMU Law’s Deason Center for Criminal Justice Reform Launched a Summer 2020 “Doing the Work” Series
We thank our alumni for the mentoring, volunteering, donations, and support during this unprecedented year. Our alumni know how to pay it forward. #SMULawGivesBack
Welcome!

New Director of Alumni Relations

Christine P. Leatherberry ’06

In January, Christine Powers Leatherberry joined SMU Dedman School of Law as its Director of Alumni Relations. She is Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and was a partner at Connatser Family Law before joining SMU. This summer, Leatherberry taught family law as an adjunct professor and is teaching family law again this fall.

In her role as Director of Alumni Relations, Leatherberry plans to grow the Mustang Bar Chapters, add more family-friendly groups and smaller group events, expand the law school’s presence on social media, plan top-notch speaking panels on current events and developing legal issues, partner with several bar associations on speaking panels and projects, work on women’s leadership initiatives, and work closely with the Diversity and Inclusion office. This summer she planned joint events with the Dallas Bar Association, Dallas Women Lawyers Association, J.L. Turner Legal Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, Moms in Law, Dallas LGBT Law Association, and Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, including the Women’s Guide to Healing the Racial Divide: How to Talk to Each Other and Our Children About Race, The Recent DACA and LGBTQ Supreme Court Decisions: What’s Next?, and Life After Law School – Perspectives of Newly Practicing Women Lawyers.

Before joining SMU, Leatherberry was named one of the Top 50 Up-and-Coming Women Attorneys in Texas from 2017 until 2020 and one of the Top 100 Up-and-Coming Attorneys in Texas from 2018 until 2020. From 2014 to 2020, she was honored on the exclusive list of Texas Rising Stars. She is also listed among the finest lawyers in the area by Best Lawyers in America. D Magazine named Leatherberry on the annual list of Best Lawyers Under 40 for 2020. She still keeps up her pro bono family law work through the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program.

Leatherberry is a member of the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists, a Fellow of the Dallas Bar Foundation, and a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, an honor reserved for the top 1% of Texas attorneys. She is also a Barrister in the William “Mac” Taylor Inn of Court and served on the Inn’s Leadership Committee. In 2016, she helped create and still chairs the “Moms in Law” organization which is a joint special interest group of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, Dallas Bar Association, and Dallas Women Lawyers Association.

Leatherberry earned her Bachelor of Journalism from The University of Texas at Austin with high honors in 2003 and her Juris Doctor from SMU, graduating cum laude in 2006. At SMU Dedman School of Law, Leatherberry earned a Trial Advocacy Scholarship, was on the Board of Advocates, was selected the Executive Board Member of the Year of the BOA, and interned for Judge Jay Patterson of the 101st District Court.

In fall 2001, she interned in the White House for First Lady Laura Bush in the Projects Office supporting reading and early childhood cognitive development initiatives and was in the White House on September 11, 2001. In conjunction with that internship, she was awarded a fellowship in The University of Texas System Bill Archer Fellowship Program and later helped form the Archer Fellow Alumni Association. As an undergrad, she was President of Beta Alpha Rho Pre-Law Fraternity.

Leatherberry is a past chair of the Dallas Junior Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters and was a Big Sister to the same Little Sister for over 11 years. She is a member of the Junior League of Dallas and serves on the Centennial Committee, after previously serving on the Education and Grants for Innovative Teaching Committees.

Leatherberry and her husband, Jon Leatherberry ’99 (also an SMU Law alum), live in Dallas with their two daughters, Scarlett and Anneliese, their dog Maverick, and cat Lincoln.
NETWORKING
FALL 2019

September 19, 2019
APIL-Palooza

October 5, 2019
Law Alumni Family Weekend
Tailgate, SMU vs. Tulsa

October 14, 2019
Hilltop-on-the-Hill, SMU and SMU Law
Washington D.C. Alumni Reception

November 8, 2019
Reunion Weekend, Bush Library
and Meadows Museum Tours

November 8, 2019
Reunions 4s and 9s

November 9, 2019
Law Alumni Reunion Tailgate - SMU
Homecoming/Reunion Weekend
SMU vs. East Carolina
February 18, 2020
World Changers in Houston
SMU and SMU Law
Networking Spotlight

June 2020
Mustang Exchange
Mentor Month
Big Trials, Important Verdicts
The Texas Lawbook CLE and Reception

Irving L. Goldberg Endowed Lecture Series:
Judge Don Willett, “People, Not Parchment – Civic Illiteracy & Our American Republic”

27th Annual Corporate Counsel Symposium

U.S. - Mexico Bar Association

Reunion Weekend, Law School Update presented by Dean Jennifer Collins

Book Talk with SMU Law Professor Lolita Buckner Inniss - “The Princeton Fugitive Slave: James Collins Johnson”

Professor Douglas NeJaime, Anne Urowsky Professor of Law, Yale Law School

Rule of Law Town Hall
Bush Presidential Center

The Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas, Texas Legal Legends Induction of James E. Coleman, Jr.

16th Annual IP Symposium

How to Talk to Each Other and Our Children about Race

date: June 18th | Time: 12:00 P.M.
April 13-15, 2020
Virtual Jackson Walker Moot Court

June 11, 2020
Virtual Conversation with Texas Legal All-Stars - Harriet Miers and Shonn Brown

June 18, 2020
Virtual Panel: Women’s Guide to Healing the Racial Divide – How to Talk to Each Other and Our Children About Race

June 24, 2020
Virtual Conversation with Texas Legal All-Stars - The Honorable Nathan Hecht and Amy Yeager

July 8, 2020
SMU Law and Deason Center Virtual Panel - Doing the Work Series: Defund the Police? Understanding the Call for [Radical] Social Change

July 15, 2020
SMU Law and Deason Center Virtual Panel - Doing the Work Series: Equity and Justice in Dallas: Past, Present, and Future

July 29, 2020
SMU Law and Deason Center Virtual Panel – Doing the Work Series: Voter Suppression and Other Barriers to Systemic Social Change and Civic Participation

July 30, 2020
Zoom Panel: The Recent DACA and LGBTQ Supreme Court Decisions - What's Next?

August 5, 2020
SMU Law and Deason Center Virtual Panel – Doing the Work Series: Next Steps: Be a Part of the Solution
ALUMNI + STUDENTS ENGAGE

August 14, 2019
Student Orientation Alumni Luncheon

September 10, 2019
Haynes and Boone LLP Reception for 1Ls

October 3, 2019
Black Law Alumni and BLSA Networking Reception

October 14, 2019
Professional Presence: Employers’ Perspectives, Advice from your Community Fellows

November 16-21, 2019
SMU and SMU Law Alumni and Friends Receptions in Asia

February 12, 2020
SMU v. UCONN Basketball Watching at Moody

February 17, 2020
Black History Month Luncheon celebrating the 2020 Trailblazer Award winner, the Honorable Joan Tarpley ’68

March 3, 2020
Inns of Court - What is Leadership? Insights from your Community Fellows

March 5 & 6, 2020
Hatton Sumners Lunch and Dinner

April 13-17, 2020
Annual APIL Auction (Online)
April 15, 2020
Cooking with Sarah Rogers via Zoom: Meals on a Budget

May 16, 2020
Class of 2020 Virtual Graduation Toast

July 1, 2020
Roundtable Virtual Talk with Dedman Law Alumnus Tom Luce

July 21, 2020
Mustang Bar Alumni Virtual Panel Sharing Experiences and Advice with Incoming 1Ls – Mike Boone, Judge Tonya Parker and Gabe Vazquez

July 28, 2020
DWLA and SMU Law Virtual Panel Life After Law School: Perspectives of Newly Practicing Women Lawyers
GIVING & IMPACT

New Clinic at SMU Dedman Law Focuses on First Amendment Issues

Legal Clinic is funded through $900k gift and led by foremost First Amendment expert, Tom Leatherbury

“We are privileged to have an outstanding director, Tom Leatherbury, one of the most highly regarded First Amendment experts in the country. Tom joined the faculty as an adjunct professor in order to direct the clinic. We are so pleased our students will have the opportunity to work with such a gifted and experienced litigator,” Collins said.

Tom Leatherbury is a partner at the law firm of Vinson & Elkins LLP. He serves as the practice group leader of the firm-wide Appellate practice and has 40 years of experience in state and federal appeals and trials. Mr. Leatherbury has regularly represented traditional and digital publishers, and broadcasters in all aspects of media litigation throughout his career, including libel, privacy and other torts, reporter’s privilege, newsgathering and access, misappropriation, and breach of contract actions. Among many other honors, he was recently named a fellow in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, was presented with the Dallas Bar Foundation Justinian Award, and was awarded a Presidential Citation from the State Bar of Texas for his commitment to helping its diversity and inclusion efforts. He is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School, and has previously worked on cases with First Amendment clinics at both Yale and Cornell.

“I thank the Stanton Foundation, SMU Dedman School of Law, and Dean Collins for giving the students and me this tremendous opportunity, and Vinson & Elkins for letting me take on this additional challenge,” said Tom Leatherbury. “This Clinic will make its mark across the state and the nation, using best practices of clinical legal education to strengthen First Amendment values and to improve access to justice.”

In addition to Mr. Leatherbury’s work as director, the Clinic will benefit from the guidance of Professors Lackland H. Bloom, Jr., Dale Carpenter, and Jeff Kahn, who will serve as an advisory committee. Michael Shapiro joined the Clinic as a full-time law fellow to handle day-to-day administration duties. Prior to SMU, Michael worked for NBCUniversal News Group in New York City, where he reviewed broadcast and podcast scripts for defamation risk, helped reporters obtain public records, and advised the network on drone law issues.

“The Stanton Foundation is very pleased that SMU has accepted this gift. We believe that freedom of expression and the First Amendment must be protected by enhancing law students’ understanding of the First Amendment and providing a resource for organizations, students, journalists, and citizens defending their First Amendment rights. Equally important, we are confident that as graduates, SMU lawyers will exercise leadership in the support of First Amendment values in their communities, the state of Texas, and throughout the country,” said David Johnson, spokesman for the Foundation.

SMU Dedman School of Law launched a First Amendment Clinic in the fall semester of 2020, thanks to a generous gift of $900,000 from the Stanton Foundation. The Clinic will focus on First Amendment issues including free speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly and petition. This funding will cover the core operating expenses of the Clinic for five years.

“SMU is incredibly honored to be the recipient of this extraordinary gift,” said Dean Jennifer Collins. “We are extremely grateful that the Foundation recognized the talents of our constitutional law faculty and our long tradition of excellence in our clinical program by entrusting us with this opportunity.”

The Stanton Foundation was created by Dr. Frank Stanton, the long-time president of CBS and one of the founding fathers of the television industry. Dr. Stanton was a fierce defender of freedom of speech and the First Amendment and received numerous awards in recognition of his efforts to ensure the freedom of the press.

“THIS CLINIC WILL MAKE ITS MARK ACROSS THE STATE AND NATION…”
A recent two-year $175,000 gift from The Rees-Jones Foundation expands the SMU Dedman School of Law Child Advocacy Clinic’s Aged Out Project - services provided to North Texas youth who have aged out of foster care. This gift is in addition to a 2018 grant from the Foundation also directed at the Aged Out Project that enabled the hiring of a law fellow who focuses on current services for aged out youth and know your rights sessions for youth about to age out. The law fellow also reaches out and engages the community to learn more about and assist in meeting the legal needs of these youth.

“The Rees-Jones Foundation has an interest in supporting programming benefiting children who are living in foster care. Too often these children live through multiple placements without finding permanency, only to reach the age of adulthood with little or no preparation for independent living. These young adults who age out of the system need guidance and often representation regarding their legal rights and access to services. We are very pleased to support SMU’s Child Advocacy Clinic as it works to provide this assistance,” said Terese Stevenson, Vice President for Grants for the Foundation.

The Child Advocacy Clinic, launched in 2001, educates law students in a hands-on clinical education setting to provide representation to children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. Over the life of the Clinic, student lawyers have represented more than 225 child clients from ages one day to 18 years old. “The work of the Clinic – and all of those with whom we have collaborated – is incredibly important to serving the needs of abused and neglected children, said Diane Sumoski, Director of the Child Advocacy Clinic. “However, youth rarely leave the system immediately ready to be productive, successful, and independent adults.”

Youth in foster care usually have a lack of consistent family guidance, disrupted placements, traumatic events during childhood, and a lack of financial resources. Therefore, it is not surprising that a youth emancipated from the system who is a mere 18-21 years old is not fully prepared to establish housing, pursue higher education and training, secure sustainable employment, obtain health insurance, and navigate legal disputes or problems. With the support of the 2018 Rees-Jones Foundation grant, the Clinic was able to confirm that youth who have aged out of the system are tremendously underserved with respect to their legal needs. The Clinic’s research survey of aged out youth revealed that, on average, the youth have three current issues with which a lawyer could assist them.

With this additional generous gift from The Rees-Jones Foundation, the Child Advocacy Clinic will be able to continue the work it has done for abused and neglected children while expanding upon that work to directly, and eventually through a pro bono attorney network, serve the legal needs of youth as they age out of the system.

Thank you!

**PONY POWER GIFT**

**4th Annual Law Firm Challenge**

Thank you to the 356 alumni and 18 North Texas law firms for participating - what a success! #PonyPride

= 100% participation

The money raised by the Law Firm Challenge had an immediate impact on the law school. Scholarships that reduce student debt, the Association of Public Interest Law (APIL), the eleven clinics and three centers are just a few examples of the areas that benefited from the generosity of law firm alumni. A special thank you to our amazing Law Firm Ambassadors who championed this effort inside each firm.
Dedman Law Alum Tim Reames Honors Professor C. Paul Rogers III with Scholarship

SMU Dedman School of Law is pleased to announce a new scholarship named in honor of Professor C. Paul Rogers III, Marilyn Jeanne Johnson Distinguished Faculty Fellow, Professor of Law and Former Dean. The $100,000 scholarship is a result of a generous gift made by Timothy Reames, SMU alum and former senior vice-president and general counsel for Mattel, Inc. The scholarship will provide funding for entering law students.

When asked about the gift, Professor Rogers responded, “I was very touched by Tim’s generosity in setting up the scholarship. During my time at SMU, one of the things we’ve always tried to do is to attract the best and brightest students, and to do that we need scholarship dollars. It’s a nice fit for me, because I worked hard when I was in administration to attract talented students, and having scholarship funds to do that is very nice from my perspective.”

Mr. Reames, twice a graduate of SMU – he received his B.B.A. from Cox in 1957 and a Juris Doctorate from Dedman Law in 1961 – wanted to honor his experience on the Hilltop. He said, “I can’t imagine any place better than SMU. They really care for their students and challenge them and want them to be good lawyers. The SMU faculty does their best to make sure that happens.”

In particular, Mr. Reames wanted to celebrate Professor Rogers’ commitment to his students and to the practice of law by naming the scholarship in his honor. Mr. Reames said, “Professor Rogers makes such an enormous contribution to the students and to the school, and it seemed right that he be remembered. For an educator, what’s better than a scholarship in your name?”

Professor Rogers has served on the SMU Dedman School of Law faculty since 1980 and was dean of the law school from 1988 to 1997. He also served as associate dean for academic affairs from 1982 to 1986. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute, the American Bar Foundation, the Texas Bar Foundation, and a charter member of the Dallas Bar Foundation. He has served as SMU’s faculty athletic representative since 1987. An avid baseball historian, Professor Rogers has authored four books and countless articles on baseball history. Since 1990, he has served as president of the Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan DFW Chapter of the Society of American Baseball Research.

Mr. Reames’ storied career includes his work as an attorney for Union Oil Corporation, Litton Industries, Inc. and City Investing Company. He also acted as vice president and general counsel for Home Insurance Company and Mattel Inc.

Contact Anne Beard if you would like to join Tim Reames in honoring Professor Rogers by making a gift to the scholarship: agbeard@smu.edu

Safe Harbor Marinas made a $10,000 gift and a commitment to an annual gift in memory of 2L Ami Patel, an intern at the marina and an SMU Law student who was tragically killed in a car accident in September 2019. Ami Patel was a remarkable person and member of our community with an engaging personality and positive energy that was contagious. With her determination and passion for learning, Ami loved SMU from the start. She was eager to explore new opportunities and had an interest in transactional work. When she interned at Safe Harbor Marinas, Ami’s colleagues admired her maturity, her strong work ethic, and simply for being the exceptional woman that she was. Ami was one of the founders of the South Asian Law Students Association (SALSA) and active in increasing the presence of those cultural groups at the Law School. Those who knew Ami Patel were surely blessed by her loving, dedicated spirit.

A Scholarship in Memory of Ami Patel
**Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center**

**$26,000 Grant From Texas Bar Foundation**

SMU Law’s Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center was awarded a $26,890 grant from the Texas Bar Foundation to fund research to improve access to counsel for impoverished defendants in rural Texas.

“We are grateful for the Texas Bar Foundation’s generous support of the Deason Center’s work,” said Dean Jennifer Collins. “This grant not only will encourage and promote legal assistance to poor and disadvantaged people, it also will strengthen the administration of justice and produce important legal research.”

Currently, only 37 of Texas’ 254 counties use a local or regional public defender office to provide the Sixth Amendment right to counsel. Three counties use “Managed Assigned Counsel” (MAC) programs, which oversee and manage the assigned counsel system. Texas’ remaining 214 counties rely exclusively on the appointment of individual attorneys. Research shows that rural counties in Texas often have few lawyers - 90% of Texas attorneys are located in the state’s ten largest metropolitan areas, while 45 counties have fewer than four lawyers and six rural counties have no registered attorneys at all.

“Rural counties in Texas are legal deserts,” said Dr. Andrew Davies, Director of Research at the Deason Center. “With so few lawyers, it can be challenging to locate appointed counsel to provide eligible criminal defendants with their constitutional right to counsel.” Preliminary research by Dr. Davies has demonstrated that in urban Texas counties, 39% of misdemeanor defendants were represented by appointed counsel. In contrast, just 25% of misdemeanor defendants in rural counties received the assistance of appointed counsel.

Through the funding of this project, the Deason Center will:

- look at changes in rates of appointment of counsel within counties over time, and assess whether use of a MAC or a defender office caused those rates to change;
- conduct a qualitative investigation of how rural areas provide counsel to indigent defendants; and
- interview justice-system officials in strategically-selected counties, asking them about challenges they face in supplying indigent defense services.

“Research indicates rural counties may be able to do something about this injustice,” said Professor Pamela R. Metzger, Director of the Deason Center. “The funding of this project will significantly expand upon Dr. Davies’ statistical work and the Deason Center’s commitment to access to justice for all.”
Alumni Spotlight

SMU Dedman Law to Honor Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni at Awards Ceremony

Five impressive individuals will be recognized for their outstanding achievements, leadership, and service. These awards are the highest honor the law school bestows upon its alumni and friends.
Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht was born in eastern New Mexico in a small farming community, Clovis, where his grandfather had homesteaded in the early 1900s. His two brothers and sister were raised on the farm by their parents and grandparents on both sides. He attended public schools in Clovis, graduating high school in 1967. He is the product of a family farm, a close-knit family, public schools, and the Christian Church.

Chief Justice Hecht attended Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, a long way from Clovis, New Mexico. He earned his B.A. in philosophy in 1971. When he graduated, he joined the U.S. Navy Reserve JAGC, which deferred active duty until after law school. He attended SMU Dedman School of Law because of the Hatton W. Sumners Scholarship, and graduated with honors in 1974. He then clerked for Roger Robb on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, in Washington. At the end of that year, he went on active duty as a Navy JAGC officer in Corpus Christi.

Chief Justice Hecht joined the Dallas law firm of Locke Purnell Boren Laney & Neely in 1976. Five years later, he made partner. From his judicial clerkship, he aspired to the bench, and on September 1, 1981, Governor William P. Clements appointed him to the 95th District Court in Dallas County. He was elected in 1982 and re-elected in 1984. In 1986, he was elected to the Court of Appeals for the Fifth District of Texas in Dallas.

Chief Justice Hecht was elected to the Supreme Court of Texas in 1988, and re-elected in 1994, 2000, 2006, and 2012. On October 1, 2013, Governor Rick Perry appointed him Chief Justice. He was officially sworn in on Veterans Day by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. He was elected to the office in 2014.

Chief Justice Hecht is now the longest serving member of the Texas Supreme Court in the state’s history, and the longest-tenured state judge in active service. He is also President of the National Conference of Chief Justices. He is a life member of the American Law Institute and a member of its Council and a member of the Texas Philosophical Society.

Since beginning his service on the Texas Supreme Court, he has been responsible for overseeing rules of practice and procedure in the state justice system. For six years, he also served on the Federal Civil Rules Advisory Committee, appointed by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. He has also been deeply involved in the Court’s efforts to improve access to justice by the very poor and those with limited means. He has vigorously advocated this cause in the Texas Legislature, the Congress, and throughout the country, obtaining significant funding and support.

At age 10, Chief Justice Hecht began taking piano lessons, and a few years later, organ lessons. He has played the piano and organ for his church ever since junior high school. Love of music is a big part of his life.

Chief Justice Hecht has a brother, retired from the ministry in Liberty, Kentucky; another brother, retired from computer work in Dallas; and a sister who is a lawyer and CPA in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Washington, DC.
DAVID S. HUNTLEY
Honorary Alumnus Award

David Huntley is responsible for developing policies to safeguard the privacy of customer and employee information, verifying compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements of the countries and jurisdictions where AT&T operates and ensuring adherence to internal compliance requirements. His responsibilities also include accessibility compliance oversight. David has held this role since December 2014.

David was appointed to this role after serving as Senior Vice President and Assistant General Counsel - AT&T Services. In this role, he oversaw a nationwide team responsible for providing legal support to the Home Solutions and Global Marketing organizations. He was also responsible for Legal administration.

Previously, David served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary for the Advertising Solutions and Interactive operations. He also has served as Senior Vice President - Mobility Customer Service Centers, where he led a team of more than 30,000 employees. In addition, David has served as Senior Vice President of E-commerce, Direct Mail and Customer Information Services, and has held significant positions in external affairs, wireless operations, M&A, and data operations.

David currently serves on the boards of Texas Capital Bancshares, Inc., AT LAST!, the Baylor Health Care System Foundation and the Dallas Citizens Council. In addition, he is a Trustee of the SMU Board, and member of the SMU Dedman School of Law Executive Board, Texas Business Hall of Fame, the Executive Leadership Council, and the Business Ethics Leadership Alliance (BELA) Executive Steering Committee. He also serves as a public trustee for Dallas Medical Resources.

A native Texan, David holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law in New York and a Bachelor of Arts degree from SMU. He and his wife, Tracy, have two sons, Calhoun and Porter.

TIMOTHY E. POWERS ’80
Distinguished Alumni Award for Private Practice

Tim Powers is the Managing Partner of Haynes and Boone, LLP, which he joined in 1982. As chief executive of the firm, Tim chairs its executive committee and board of directors and is responsible for developing and implementing the firm’s strategy and achieving its goals. He has led development of the firm’s international practice and its global geographic growth.

In his practice, Tim is widely credited with the legal development of the subscription secured credit facility market, which helped build Haynes and Boone into a global leader in the representation of commercial lenders and investment banks in subscription financings for private equity funds. Tim also has been involved in more than $1 billion in U.S. real estate investments by foreign investors.

Tim’s contributions to the profession have been widely recognized by his peers. He is ranked as an Eminent Practitioner in Chambers USA as one of America’s Leading Lawyers for Business and he has held senior leadership positions in state, national, and international bar associations.

Tim is a member of the Executive Board of SMU Dedman School of Law and chair of the SMU Tate Lecture Series Board of Directors. He has served on the board of directors of the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas, Dallas Regional Chamber, and Crossroads Community Services, among others. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Tim and his wife Joni, an ordained minister, have been married for 33 years. Their daughter Hannah and son-in-law, Ryland, live in the Austin area, and daughter Kate lives in Midland.

Tim was an honors graduate (in Political Science) from UCLA (1977) where he was a four-year varsity oarsman on the UCLA crew. He holds his law degree from SMU Dedman School of Law (1980).
KIT RICHARDSON SAWERS ’93
Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service

Kit Sawers is President of Klyde Warren Park, Dallas’ favorite green space which welcomes more than one million visitors per year. She also serves on the leadership team for the $120 million expansion of this internationally renowned deck park.

A native Dallasite, Sawers graduated from The Hockaday School and received a B.A. in English from the University of Virginia in 1989 and J.D. from SMU Dedman School of Law in 1993.

Sawers has spent her entire professional career working in the nonprofit sector, starting with the Willis M. Tate Distinguished Lecture Series, SMU Athletic Forum and Doak Walker National Running Back Award. After several years serving as Executive Director for Bickel & Brewer’s Foundation, Sawers took on the role as Vice President of Special Events for Super Bowl XLV, for which she produced more than 40 regional events.

Sawers also served as both Executive Director for Pat and Emmitt Smith Charities and Chief Development Officer for United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, while co-founding Fay + Sawers Productions which organized the 2014 NCAA Men’s Basketball Final Four and produced the Grand Opening of Klyde Warren Park, Emmitt Smith Celebrity Invitational, and events for organizations such as the College Football Hall of Fame.

Sawers currently serves on the boards of the Episcopal School of Dallas (ESD), Dallas Arts District, Dallas Historical Society, Jason Witten SCORE Foundation, and Park House PHoundation; on the advisory boards of the Dallas Influencers in Sports and Entertainment and Dallas Afterschool; and on the Executive Board for SMU Dedman School of Law. She was recently named by D CEO as a Dallas 500 honoree and the Dallas Business Journal as a 2020 Women in Business Award recipient. She and her husband Kemp, a fellow SMU law grad, are also the proud parents of Annie, a Duke University sophomore, and Elizabeth, an ESD sophomore.

YULISE REAVES WATERS ’02 ’08
Emerging Leader Award

Yulise Reaves Waters, Esq., is Deputy Director of the Lone Star Justice Alliance. She oversees the Transformative Justice Model operating in Dallas County, the Second Chance Community Improvement Program (SCCIP—pronounced “skip”). As an executive team member, Waters also helps lead LSJA’s strategy, operations, and development. Previously, Waters was a Dallas Assistant City Attorney where she co-founded SCCIP - the first-ever specialty court for young adults in the State of Texas - which was awarded the 2018 National Association of Drug Court Professionals’ Equity and Inclusion Award for “excellence and leadership in demonstrating and promoting cultural proficiency in treatment court services.”

Waters holds B.A. degrees in English and Spanish, and a B.B.A. in Organizational Behavior and Business Policy (each magna cum laude), and a Juris Doctorate, all from Southern Methodist University. She is currently pursuing an M.B.A. in the Executive M.B.A. Program at SMU Cox School of Business and is a member of the Inaugural Emerging Leader Board at Dedman School of Law, which recognizes graduates over the last twenty years who have “a strong record of leadership in the legal profession and a proven commitment to public service.” She holds memberships in the Juvenile Law, Criminal Justice, and Collaborative Law Sections of the State Bar of Texas and is a member of the Leadership Dallas Class of 2020. Waters serves on the board for Family Gateway, The Sheriff’s Community Partnership Board for Dallas, and is an appointee to the Dallas ISD Racial Equity Office Trustee Appointed Advisory Council.

Nationally, her commentaries on race and justice have been featured on syndicated radio and in major U.S. city newspapers. Waters is the recipient of numerous honors including Dallas Business Journal “40 Under 40,” Prairie View A&M University Ministers Conference Outstanding Leader Award, Texas Muslim Women’s Foundation Peace Champion Award, DFW Millennium-to-Watch, Texas State Fair Juanita J. Craft Catalyst Award Honorable Mention, and the SMU Black Alumni’s History Maker Award. Waters is married to Dr. Michael W. Waters. They have four children.
In January 2020, the Robert B. Rowling Center for Business Law & Leadership launched the new Business Law Leadership Program (BLLP). Under this program, Dedman Law students become members of BLLP and participate in exclusive programming and networking opportunities. Students accumulate points for each activity.

When the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic became evident and student summer work experiences were curtailed or cancelled, the Rowling Center was able to adapt BLLP to offer the SMU Dedman Law community two important and impactful summer opportunities. First, the online summer Certificate in Business Law & Leadership offered participants access to cutting-edge content from dynamic speakers. The summer program offered 16 modules, some in conjunction with the SMU Cox School of Business, on a variety of business law and leadership topics. Modules included communication skills, courageous leadership, diversity and inclusion, e-contracts, emotional intelligence, executive presence, law and leadership, law firm economics, M&A, personal brand, and team-building. Speakers included Dedman Law alums Wilson Chu ’84, Tom Luce ’66, Todd Nielsen ’91, Tim Powers ’80, and Tom Yoxall ’92, Dedman Law Professor Carla Reyes, Rowling Center Advisory Board Members Ellen Farrell and Rob Palleschi, and Cox Business School Professors Shane Goodwin and Jason Galui. Over the course of the summer, the Rowling Center hosted 120 students, with 55 completing at least 10 of the modules and obtaining the certificate.

The Rowling Center and BLLP also sponsored six student teams, coached by seasoned M&A practitioners, as they participated in the LawMeets® M&A Boot Camp. The Boot Camp consisted of eight weeks of exercises simulating the leveraged buyout of a U.S. software company by a Beijing-based private equity firm. A total of 124 teams, consisting of 248 students from 48 law schools across North America competed. From these, the 10 top-performing teams from eight law schools participated in the finals. The SMU Dedman School of Law team comprised of Dedman Law students Floy Gaidarski and Jeanne Casagrande competed in the finals, making SMU the only Texas law school to participate at that level.

For more information on the Rowling Center and the Business Law Leadership Program visit https://smu.edu/law/rowlingcenter or follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter.
In 2015, Robbie Hamilton turned to SMU’s Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women for help in cleaning up the criminal record she acquired over 25 years of working in Dallas strip clubs, battling drug addiction and experiencing repeated arrests for drug possession.

On January 11, 2020, on Human Trafficking Awareness Day, she was issued a full pardon by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott after a unanimous vote by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles. The pardon wiped away convictions for petty crimes that were the final trace of a dark era in her life.

“I’m humbled and thrilled with this. It seems like the beginning of something bigger,” says Hamilton, a youth mentor and survivor advocate at New Friends New Life, the Dallas-based nonprofit that offers a comprehensive program for formerly trafficked women and children.

The Hunter Legal Center was established in SMU’s Dedman School of Law in 2014 with a gift from alumni Ray L. ’65 and Nancy Ann Hunter Hunt ’65. It is named in honor of Mrs. Hunt’s father, a distinguished judicial leader and public servant who served as a judge in Western Missouri for 38 years. The legal clinic’s services include helping trafficking survivors determine whether their criminal record convictions can be cleared through legal channels, either by an order of nondisclosure or expungement. As public information, criminal records appear on housing, employment and other background checks and get in the way when victims try to rebuild their lives.

“Since its founding, the Hunter Center has worked to ensure that survivors of human trafficking do not carry the burden of criminal convictions resulting from their victimization,” says Natalie Nanasi, director of the Hunter Legal Center and assistant professor of law.

For about four years, Hamilton worked with Nanasi and student attorneys who filed legal petitions to seal or expunge five convictions from her record, including three of her four felonies. In 2017, student attorneys began using the web-based Texas Fresh Start Application, a legal app developed by Dedman School of Law students to streamline the process.

“We have successfully represented many clients like Robbie and celebrate this hard-earned victory,” Nanasi says. “We will continue representing survivors, removing hurdles that inhibit their ability to move past the trauma they endured.”

Student attorneys in the Hunter Legal Center also engage in advocacy efforts, educating Texas lawmakers about the need to expand eligibility for post-conviction relief. “We will keep speaking out about this important issue,” Nanasi says. “And joining with partners, advocates and lawmakers to ensure that criminal histories cease to be a barrier to survivors’ healing.”

For Hamilton, the pardon vindicates her own hard work and the persistence of her legal team and New Friends colleagues. “This feels like being part of a shift toward seeing that women are the victims in trafficking and exploitation, not the criminals,” she says.

Now free to live wherever she likes, Hamilton plans to find a new apartment. She also wants to join a Dallas-based ministry that assists the homeless – an opportunity previously barred by her criminal record.

“I’m holding my head up higher,” she says. “I can look the world in the eye and know I have every opportunity that others do.”
Carla L. Reyes  
Assistant Professor of Law

SMU Dedman School of Law is pleased to welcome Carla L. Reyes as an Assistant Professor of Law. She is an outstanding teacher and distinguished scholar, and is recognized for her leadership in the issues raised by the intersection of business law and technology. She was recently named one of the Women of Legal Tech 2020, an honor bestowed by the American Bar Association Legal Technology Resource Center.

Professor Reyes earned her J.D. magna cum laude and an LLM. in International and Comparative Law from Duke University School of Law, holds an M.P.P. from the Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy, and a B.A. summa cum laude from Whitworth University.

Professor Reyes comes to SMU Law from Michigan State University College of Law where she was an Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Law, Technology & Innovation. She taught Business Enterprises, Technology Transactions, Artificial Intelligence & the Law, and Blockchain Law & Policy. Professor Reyes also serves as the Research Director for the Uniform Law Commission’s Technology Committee, the co-chair (with University of Pennsylvania Professor Chuck Mooney) of the Digital Assets Other Than Virtual Currency sub-group of the Joint ALI/ ULC Study Committee on the Uniform Commercial Code and Emerging Technologies, and was a 2019-2020 Faculty Fellow at the Michigan State University Hub for Innovation in Teaching and Learning.

A former Fulbright Scholar, her current research focuses on the intersection of blockchain technology and the law, theorizing about the technology from a commercial and corporate law perspective.

This fall Professor Reyes is teaching Blockchain Technology, Law and Policy, and Secured Transactions.

Read full bio: smu.edu/law/carlareyes

David O. Taylor  
Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow, Co-Director of the Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation and Professor of Law

Congratulations!

To our retiring adjunct law professors for their service to the Clinical Program at SMU Dedman School of Law

Read more: smu.edu/law/adjunctretire

Larry Jones ’68
Adjunct Clinical Professor of Law
Federal Tax Clinic
Joined SMU Law in 2000

Brook Busbee
Adjunct Clinical Professor of Law
Criminal Clinic
Joined SMU Law in 2005

Sally Helppie
Adjunct Clinical Professor of Law
Small Business & Trademark Clinic
Joined SMU Law in 2016
Roy Ryden Anderson ’69
Professor of Law

Roy Ryden Anderson, Vinson & Elkins Distinguished Teaching Fellow and Professor of Law, has retired after 51 years as a member of the SMU Dedman Law faculty.

Anderson, who assumed the title of Professor Emeritus of Law in June 2020, taught and researched primarily in the areas of contracts, commercial law, and damages. Over his career, he served frequently as an expert witness on commercial law issues in state and federal cases across the country and as a speaker in continuing legal education symposia and before private bar and business groups.

Professor Anderson received his B.A. from Texas Christian University, his J.D. from SMU Dedman School of Law and his LL.M. from Yale University. In 1969, he joined Dedman Law as Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Program. He then served as Instructor of Law and Assistant Dean before becoming Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Assistant Professor of Law. He was promoted to Associate Professor of Law in 1977 and to Professor of Law in 1980. He has been the Vinson & Elkins Distinguished Teaching Fellow since 1993, and he served as Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 2003-2009.

He is the author of numerous law journal articles. His two-volume treatise on UCC remedies, Damages Under the Uniform Commercial Code, has been in continuous publication with annual updates since 1986. Roy is also co-author of Anderson, Bartlett & East Texas Uniform Commercial Code Annotated (with annual updates since 2002) as well as three volumes of the Texas Litigation Guide.

He served for many years as the adviser for the SMU Law Review and the moot court program. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the American Bar Association, a Life Member of the American Law Institute and a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. He was the recipient of two Dr. Don M. Smart Awards for Excellence in Classroom Instruction and a University Outstanding Professor Award.

Roy's excellence as a teacher is no surprise to his colleagues. Dean Jennifer Collins recounts, “Roy's students quite simply adore him. Recent comments on his teaching evaluations include: 'A legend,' 'Brilliant,' 'Hilarious,' and 'One of the best.' Roy is absolutely devoted to his students and committed to teaching at the highest possible level.”

When asked to recount a few memorable moments from his time in SMU Dedman Law, he said, “There have been too many of them. Our school has been a wonderful place to spend a career.”

He came to teaching by happenstance. As a young lawyer, he was asked by Dean Charles O. Galvin to take a leave of absence from an entertainment law firm in Beverly Hills, CA to assist with a national drug abuse task force to which Dean Galvin had been appointed by President Nixon. Professor Anderson recalls, “I'll never know what he saw in me, but at the end of that year Dean Galvin asked me to stay on as his assistant dean, which (long story, short) ultimately led me to filling a gap in the scheduled curriculum. One semester in the classroom and I was hooked. I'd found teaching as my career calling.”

Unquestionably, the professional honor of which he is most proud came in 1993 when he was selected as the Vinson & Elkins Distinguished Teaching Fellow. He says, “It's a title I carried with my name until my retirement this year. I would not have traded that title for any other.”

Of Professor Anderson, Dean Collins says, “I extend my profound thanks to him on behalf of the thousands of students he has taught, mentored and advised during his 51 years with SMU. His legacy, especially in the hearts of his students, will always endure.”
Awards & Recognition

Dale Carpenter
Judge William Hawley Atwell
Chair of Constitutional Law
Professor of Law

Awarded:
Dr. Don M. Smart Teaching Award

Anthony J. Colangelo
Robert G. Storey
Distinguished Faculty Fellow
Professor of Law

Awarded:
2020-2021 Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow

Invited:
Guest editor with Professor Marianna Muravyeva of the Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki for a special issue of the journal entitled Rule of Law Revisited: Applying Law in Russia and Beyond.

Nathan Cortez
Adelfa Botello Callejo
Endowed Professor of Law in Leadership and Latino Studies

Awarded:
Grant from the MacArthur Foundation for his idea on a “duty to educate” low level nuclear crewmembers on the facts and the law of a proposed strike.

Grant Hayden
Professor of Law

Awarded:
2020-2021 Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow

Lolita Buckner Inniss
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
University Distinguished Professor, Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow, and Professor of Law

Named:
University Distinguished Professor

Elected:
Membership in the American Law Institute

Honored:
The Princeton Fugitive Slave: The Trials of James Collins Johnson was nominated for inclusion on the Association of University Presses 2020 Equity, Justice, and Inclusion Community Read list (among other honors).

Chris Jenks
Director of the Criminal Clinic and Associate Professor of Law

Elected:
Member of the Council for the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL)

Jeffrey Kahn
Professor of Law

Awarded:
2020-2021 Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow;
Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor Award;
University Distinguished Professor

Invited:
Guest editor with Professor Marianna Muravyeva of the Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki for a special issue of the journal entitled Rule of Law Revisited: Applying Law in Russia and Beyond

Orly Mazur
Associate Professor of Law

Selected:
Researcher for Project SAFE (State Action in Fiscal Emergencies) - a consortium of academics interested in helping states mitigate the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis
Awards & Recognition

**Anna Offit**
Assistant Professor of Law

**Appointed:**
- Member of Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson’s Ethics Reform Task Force

Academic Advisor to the Civil Jury Project at NYU School of Law

**Carla L. Reyes**
Assistant Professor of Law

**Selected:**
- Women of Legal Tech 2020 by the American Bar Association Legal Technology Resource Center

**Julie Forrester Rogers**
Professor of Law

**Selected:**
- To prepare a report on and recommend amendments to the Prefatory Note and Official Comments to the Uniform Power of Attorney Act by the Joint Editorial Board for Uniform Real Property Acts

**Marc I. Steinberg**
Rupert and Lillian Radford Professor of Law

**Appointed:**
- Visiting Professor, Catholic University of Paris; Visiting Scholar, Osgoode Hall, York University (Toronto); Kerry Holdings Distinguished Visiting Fellow, The University of Hong Kong; Visiting Professor, UCLA School of Law, Securities Litigation and Enforcement; Visiting Professor, University of Miami School of Law; Visiting Scholar at the University of Auckland School of Law

**Elizabeth G. Thornburg**
Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor and Richard R. Lee Endowed Professor of Law

**Selected:**
- Member of the academic faculty for the Pound Civil Justice Institute’s 2019 Academic Symposium, “Class Actions, Mass Torts, and MDLs: The Next 50 Years”

**W. Keith Robinson**
Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, Co-Director of the Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation and Associate Professor of Law

**Selected:**
- Recipient of an Innovation, Business & Law Center Award from the University of Iowa College of Law

**Jenia Iontcheva Turner**
Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow and Amy Abboud Ware Centennial Professor of Criminal Law

**Awarded:**
- 2020-2021 Gerald J. Ford Research Fellowship

**Jessica Dixon Weaver**
Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow, Gerald J. Ford Research Fellow, and Associate Professor of Law

**Awarded:**
- 2020-2021 Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow

**Selected:**
- Member of the Stagen Leadership Academy’s inaugural Social Change Leadership Program, the Audre Lorde class
In Memoriam

Distinguished Colleagues Balch & Dolzer Remembered

Janet P. Balch

Janet P. Balch, 84, passed away on August 31, 2019, after a long fight with dementia. Janet joined the Southwestern Law Journal (now the SMU Law Review) in 1966, as an Editorial Assistant and then Editorial Advisor. In 1986, she began working as Administrative Editor and then Executive Editor for the American Bar Association’s The International Lawyer. In these roles, Janet helped many lawyers get their law review articles published and improved the quality of both publications. Janet also served as the overall Publications Coordinator for SMU School of Law (including editing The Brief, The Quad, and the School of Law Bulletin) from 1990 until she retired in 1996. She was remembered by faculty members as a person of the highest standards, knowledgeable at what she did, a true professional, and a warm, wonderful person. Janet was married to Frank Balch, a member of the SMU Political Science faculty, whom she was introduced to by Henry Kissinger when they were all at Harvard University.

Rudolf Dolzer

Professor Rudolf Dolzer, a pioneer of international investment law, arbitrator and professor emeritus at the University of Bonn in his native Germany, died April 3, 2020 at the age of 76. He was the Distinguished Visiting Global Professor of Law at SMU Law. He also served as Director General of the Office of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany and on three commissions of the German Parliament. Professor Dolzer taught international commercial law and international investment law in Fall 2006 and 2013 and Spring 2009-2013. Professor Dolzer had an outstanding career as an academician, adviser to government officials, and consultant in significant legal matters - the law school was privileged to host such an accomplished individual. Professor Dolzer had a positive influence on many of the students he taught. He had a quick smile and laugh, and a passion for the law and teaching the law. "As a visiting professor at SMU, he was an excellent teacher for our students and a wonderful colleague," said Professor Joe Norton. "He provided our students and faculty with the very best of international visitors."

2019-2020 Law Adjunct Faculty

Thank you to our Dedman Law Adjunct Professors

Reeni Ann Abraham
Val J. Albright ’86
Nnamdi Anozie
Blake Bailey
Jay Ballour
Shannon Bates
Daniel Bacum ’79
Matthew Beard 06
Susan B. Benton ’87
Misty Bursong ’02
The Honorable Brandon
Birmingham
Shelby Bobosky
Christa Brown-Sanford ’04
John Browning
Laura G. Burstian
Brook Busbee
Martin L. Camp ’79
David W. Carstens ’89
David Cho
Wilson Chu ’84
David B. Colfin
Robert Colwell ’94
John M. Cone ’83
John M. Cox
Susan C. Cox
Terry L. Cross
Tim Curren 07
Joseph Dancy
The Honorable Xiomara
Davis-Gumbs
William Dawkins
James A. Deeken
Steven P. Doyle
Dennis B. Drapkin
William Drexel
Andrew S. Ehmke
Yolanda Eisenstein ’04
Sander L. Eserman ’76
The Honorable Allen Joe Fish
C. W. “Peter” Flynn
Jason B. Freeman
David C. Gair
Timothy Gallina
Brent C. Gardner, Jr
Bryan A. Garner
Larry Glasgow ’83
Rebecca A. Gregory
The Honorable
H. DeWayne Hale
Susan M. Halpern
Sally C. Helppie
Eric Hinton
Charles M. Hosch
Clifton T. Hutchison ’80
Gregory Ivy
Tom Jackson
M. Brett Johnson ’94
The Honorable Kimberly
Priest Johnson ’00
Richard “Jay” Johnson
L. Rachael Jones ’01
Thomas Kimbrough
Justin L. Koplow
Eric G. Reis
Deborah “Debby”
Garcia Sanchez
Eliot Shavin
Shamoil Shipchandler
Bart Showalter ’93
Mike McCollum
David L. Combs
Patsy Y. Micalle
B. Tyler Milton
Dana Minissale ’90
Gregory Mitchell ’94
Christopher Nolland
The Honorable Christine A.
Nowak
Gerald N. Olson ’71
The Honorable Tonya
Parker ’98
David J. Parsons
Phillip B. Philbin
Michael V. Powell
Ellen A. Presby ’84
Shane Read
Katherine Lydia Reed ’09
Ronald F. Shuff
Max “Bud” Silverberg
Steven Smathers
Bruce S. Sostek
Clifton Squibb
Jennifer Rangel Stagen
Sid Stahl
Harry W. Sullivan, Jr. ’84
Daniel Syed
Don Titlie
Kay L. Van Wey
Kevin Vela
John Vernon
Brandie Wade ’07
Cassie Walker
Timothy Watson
Glenn D. West
Russell Wilson, Jr.
Tracy Graves Wolf
Donna Wolff
Stephen Yeager ’93
Christopher Young
Luis G. Zambra no’01
The Legal Writing Institute (LWI), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving legal communication, held a one-day workshop on December 6, 2019, at SMU Dedman School of Law. Every year, LWI sponsors workshops on selected topics at 10-12 law schools across the country. These workshops often give members an opportunity to attend a conference in a more intimate setting close to home and help build regional relationships among faculty.

SMU Law Professors and Writing Institute Committee Co-chairs Ruth Cross and Dr. Beverly C. Dureus organized this well-attended workshop entitled: “Ethics and Professionalism in Legal Research, Writing, and Advocacy: Helping Faculty and Students Navigate Through Murky Waters.”

Presenters from six law schools, LexisNexis and Thomson Reuters addressed the following topics at the workshop:

- Effective methods to teach students regarding the duty to communicate candidly with a court and with clients
- Utilizing proper citations and attribution to avoid plagiarism
- Truth in negotiations: when hiding the ball becomes bad advocacy
- Advocacy vs. dishonesty: slanting facts in an appellate record without compromising the truth
- Using metadata and other electronic tools to detect plagiarism
- Addressing ethics and professionalism in assignments and classroom discussions
- Ethical consideration regarding the use of blogs, Wikipedia, Google™ and Websites
- Professional interactions with students: handling student conferences and feedback
- Reviewing and editing resumes and student writing samples without becoming a co-author
- Identifying ethical landmines in legal writing and helping students to avoid stepping on them
- Familiarizing students with Rules of Professional Conduct

Loleta Buckner Inniss, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University Distinguished Professor, Inaugural Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow, and Professor of Law, published *The Princeton Fugitive Slave: The Trials of James Collins Johnson* (Fordham University Press, 2019). The Princeton Fugitive Slave is an account of the life of James Collins Johnson, who in 1839 escaped enslavement in Maryland, fled to Princeton, New Jersey, and there obtained work at what is now Princeton University. After working in obscurity for four years, he was recognized by a student, exposed as a fugitive, arrested, and placed on trial under the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793. Using archival materials, news accounts, courtroom narratives and other sources, the book traces Johnson’s early life in Maryland and intrepid escape, his nationally noted trial, and his over six decades in Princeton, where he came into contact with many of the 19th century’s most influential figures. By telling Johnson’s story and examining the relationship between antebellum Princeton’s black residents and the economic engine that supported their community, the book questions the distinction between employment and servitude that shrinks and threatens to disappear when an individual's freedom is circumscribed by immobility, lack of opportunity, and contingency on local interpretations of a hotly contested body of law.

Dr. Inniss’ book has been the subject of invited presentations and has received many honors.
Dale Carpenter
Judge William Hawley Atwell Chair of Constitutional Law and Professor of Law

September 18, 2019; “Why New York is repealing its ban on conversion therapy”

September 26, 2019; “Constitution vague on impeachment”

April 10, 2020; “What would a regional lockdown in America look like? Curious Texas investigates”

May 6, 2020; “AG Paxton calls for release of Dallas salon owner who reopened in defiance of countywide restrictions”

May 7, 2020; “Texas Supreme Court orders Dallas salon owner’s release after Gov. Abbott amends his executive orders”

June 15, 2020; “We’re seen as equal.’ What the Supreme Court’s landmark LGBT ruling means for Texas workers”


Nathan Cortez
Adelfa Botello Callejo Endowed Professor of Law in Leadership and Latino Studies

June 16, 2020; “Medical, legal experts weigh in on HIPAA, medical challenges Cowboys could face”

Anna Offit
Assistant Professor of Law

October 4, 2019; Op-ed: “Guyger trial demonstrates power of juries. Here’s how we can make them even stronger”

May 13, 2020; “Collin County District Court to Test Jury Trial by Zoom”


May 22, 2020; “In a test case, Collin County jury renders verdict on Zoom for the first time; too risky for a full trial?”

May 26, 2020; “Texas County Tests Remote Jury Trials, with Some Hesitations”

May 28, 2020; Op-ed: “Technology Can’t Replace In-Person Jury Trials, But It May Help During A Pandemic”

Lackland H. Bloom, Jr.
Larry and Jane Harlan Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Law

November 5, 2019; “Ann Arbor Agrees to Limit Scope of Anti-Discrimination Ordinance”

June 21, 2020; Op ed: “Gorsuch made a mockery of textualism in discrimination case”

Grant M. Hayden
Professor of Law

September 16, 2019; “What comes after shareholder primacy? Employee Empowerment”

October 8, 2019; “Conservative Justice Gorsuch’s Remark During Supreme Court Arguments May Give LGBTQ Activists and Allies Hope”

David O. Taylor
Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow, Co-Director of the Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation and Professor of Law


January 30, 2020; “Ball in Federal Circuit’s Court on Patent Eligibility Clarity”

Anthony J. Colangelo
Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow and Professor of Law

August 3, 2019; “The U.S. Supreme Court on International Double Jeopardy”

Jennifer Collins
Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law

June 19, 2020; “Opinion: Black lawyers matter. What the Texas legal community can do to eradicate racism”

*Highlights of selected faculty media interviews
James W. Coleman
Associate Professor of Law

August 27, 2019; “Climate and the Courts: Juliana Oral Arguments”
September 3, 2019; “Biden’s proposed ban would harm economy, environment”
September 5, 2019; Chris Salcedo Show: “Dems roll out their plans to fight climate change”
September 7, 2019; “Why didn’t Ottawa oppose challenges of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion in court?”
September 11, 2019; “3rd Circ. Gives States Extra Weapon To Fight Gas Pipelines”
September 24, 2019; “Don’t ban our oil bounty — manage it sustainably”
September 26, 2019; “Elizabeth Warren Is Wrong on Fracking”
November 19, 2019; “Green New Deal for Public Housing Also Promises Free High-Speed Internet and Bicycles”
January 5, 2020; Op-ed: “The Texas Railroad Commission must tap the brakes on oil and gas production”
January 9, 2020; “Trump Aims to Reel in Climate Reviews While Courts Say Otherwise”
January 22, 2020; “Coal export battle hinges on commerce clause”
March 12, 2020; “The Absurdity Of Trump’s Bid To Bail Out The Oil And Gas Industry”
April 2, 2020; “Restricting Energy Production & Flaring”
April 4, 2020; “A Lame-Duck Regulator Who Became the Face of Shale in Oil Wars”
April 14, 2020; Op-ed: “US ready to shape global energy markets with this game-changing power”
April 21, 2020; “U.S. Oil Costs Less Than Zero After a Sharp Monday Selloff”
April 21, 2020; Op-ed: “Opinion: Texas should slow production to stop oil and gas waste”
May 19, 2020; “Jason Kenney says Biden would have hard time explaining Keystone XL position to Americans”
May 19, 2020; “Alberta gears up for another legal battle over Keystone XL after Biden vows to pull permissions”
May 19, 2020; “Kenney defends province’s investment in Keystone XL pipeline after Biden pledges to kill project if elected”
May 19, 2020; “Will pipe in the ground trump Joe Biden’s vow to stop Keystone XL?”
June 5, 2020; “Virus Leads Canadian Provinces to Relax Array of Pollutant Rules”
July 9, 2020; “Activists Not Only Slow Oil Pipelines, But Also Power Lines Needed For Renewable Energy”

Lolita Buckner Inniss
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University Distinguished Professor, Inaugural (2018-2019) Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow, and Professor of Law

September 19, 2019; “Making Amends: How Funders Can Address Slavery’s Legacy”
June 23, 2020; “Global issues in gender violence amidst the COVID-19 pandemic”
July 12, 2020; Op-ed: “Princeton’s removal of President Wilson’s name should just be the beginning”
June 19, 2020; “Juneteenth shows that black freedom remains elusive”

Jessica Dixon Weaver
Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow, Gerald J. Ford Research Fellow, and Associate Professor of Law
FACULTY IN

Chris Jenks
Director of the Criminal Clinic and Associate Professor of Law

September 6, 2019; “In Guyger Case, Remember: Justice Is a Process, Not a Desired Outcome”
October 1, 2019; “Impact From Amber Guyger Murder Conviction Felt Across Dallas”
October 3, 2019; “SMU law professor reacts to Amber Guyger murder trial outcome”
October 19, 2019; “Dallas-Fort Worth have police shootings in common, but prosecutions may be worlds apart”
October 19, 2019; “Light years apart: Police shootings in Dallas-Fort Worth expose disparities”
October 31, 2019; “The Pentagon’s AI Ethics Draft Is Actually Pretty Good”
May 26, 2020; Op-ed: “The President’s Inversion of the Government’s Ethical Conduct Standards, Right Before Americans’ Eyes”

Orly Mazur
Associate Professor of Law

January 9, 2020; “The idea of a ‘robot tax’ is gaining steam as a way of dealing with automation that’s killing jobs”
August 17, 2020 & September 1, 2020; “A Conversation with Orly Mazur: Taking on Tax and Tech”

Jeffrey Kahn
University Distinguished Professor, Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow, Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, and Professor of Law

September 9, 2019; Op-ed: “Why a Judge’s Terrorism Watchlist Ruling is a Game Changer: What Happens Next”
February 10, 2020; “SMU offers discussion of rule of law in American democracy”

Pamela R. Metzger
Director of the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center and Professor of Law

September 3, 2019; Op-ed by Pam Metzger and Andrew Davies: “Thou Shalt Not Ration Justice”
November 24, 2019; Op-ed: “Why rural Americans struggle for equal justice”
December 13, 2019; “‘A Cesspool of a Dungeon’: The Surging Population in Rural Jails”
December 13, 2019; Op-ed: “Rural justice systems low on pretrial resources leave some to languish, die”
February 6, 2020; Op-ed: “What this law prof has learned about rural justice”
March 18, 2020; “COVID-19 emergency order ‘grave threat’ to inmates’ civil rights, ACLU warns”
March 18, 2020; “ACLU objects to suspension of deadlines”
March 21, 2020; “Pandemic power plays: Civil liberties in the time of COVID-19”
April 21, 2020; “Pretrial Detention and Access to Courts: How to Safeguard Liberty and Justice During COVID-19”

Mary Spector
Associate Dean for Clinics, Director of the Civil/Consumer Clinic, and Professor of Law

April 16, 2020; “Stimulus checks hit accounts this week, but your bank could withdraw it before you get the chance”
May 27, 2020; “Some Texas hospitals continued to sue patients for unpaid medical bills during the coronavirus pandemic”
July 25, 2020; “A federal rule protecting thousands of renters from eviction expired Friday. Here’s what you need to know.”

*Roglights of selected faculty media interviews*
THE MEDIA

Thomas Wm. Mayo
Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor and Professor of Law

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<tr>
<td>November 12, 2019; “Spotlight on Texas ‘10-day rule’ in life support cases”</td>
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<td>November 14, 2019; “When Is It Ethical For A Hospital To Stop A Patient’s Treatment?”</td>
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<td>January 4, 2020; “When Is It Ethical For A Hospital To Stop A Patient’s Treatment?”</td>
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Natalie Nanasi
Director of the Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women and Assistant Professor of Law

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<td>December 13, 2019; “Closing The ‘Boyfriend Loophole’ Could Prevent Domestic Violence Deaths. Congress Hasn’t Acted.”</td>
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<td>February 26, 2020; “Texas Debuts Special Clemency Application for Victims of Sex Trafficking and Domestic Abuse”</td>
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<td>March 1, 2020; “How important is clemency for trafficking victims? Let one tell you”</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 16, 2020; “New Trump immigration regulations would devastate refuge pathways”</td>
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Joanna L. Grossman
Ellen K. Solender Endowed Chair in Women and the Law and Professor of Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 3, 2019; “Constitutional Law Scholars Urge Supreme Court To Invalidate Louisiana Law Restricting Abortion Access”</td>
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Marc I. Steinberg
Rupert and Lillian Radford Professor of Law

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 1, 2020; “Despite Losses, Government Declines To Block Broadway Investors”</td>
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Eric Ruben
Assistant Professor of Law

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<tr>
<th>Articles</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 26, 2019; “Gun Violence Costs Americans Billions Every Year: A California Mayor Has a Plan to Make Gun Owners Pay for It.”</td>
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<td>November 20, 2019; “Symposium: Disrupting the consensus on Second Amendment doctrine would be a mistake”</td>
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<td>December 1, 2019; “Supreme Court may expand Second Amendment rights despite repeal of disputed gun restrictions”</td>
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<td>December 2, 2019; “After Long Gap, Supreme Court Poised to Break Silence on Gun Rights”</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2, 2019; “Supreme Court poised to hear first major gun case in a decade”</td>
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<td>January 13, 2020; “TX Church Shooter Had Assault History: How Did He Get a Gun?”</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 13, 2020; “White Settlement church shooter had long criminal history — so how did he get a gun?”</td>
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<td>February 17, 2020; “Virginia Assault Weapon Bill Shot Down by Senate Committee”</td>
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<td>March 2, 2020; “Supreme Court’s decision not to intervene in litigation regarding the federal ban on bump stocks”</td>
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<td>April 29, 2020; “What does SCOTUS’ Second Amendment case mean for New York?”</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1, 2020; Op-Ed: “What the Supreme Court’s Latest Second Amendment Ruling Means for Future Cases”</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1, 2020; “Gun Cases Could Prompt Supreme Court to Bolster Second Amendment”</td>
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C. Paul Rogers III
Marilyn Jeanne Johnson Distinguished Faculty Fellow and Professor of Law and Former Dean

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>September 11, 2019; “The 50 State Anti-Trust Investigation Into Big Tech Promises Accountability”</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20, 2020; “To Take Down Big Tech, They First Need to Reinvent the Law”</td>
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NEW HIREs

Joelyn Crisp
Coordinator, Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center
Joelyn Crisp is the administrative assistant to the Deason Center. She serves as the primary contact for the department, and provides organizational and logistical support for multiple projects, meetings, and conferences. Prior to joining the Deason Center, Crisp served in various administrative roles for a number of large law firms in Dallas where she coordinated professional development, legal recruiting, client relations, and event planning.

Bethel Kumsa ’20
Data Record Coordinator, Office of Admissions
Bethel Kumsa graduated from SMU with a Bachelor of Biochemistry and Sociology and is currently working on her Masters of Data Science. She comes to us from the Office of Residence Life and Student Housing where she worked both as a student and staff member throughout her time at SMU. Kumsa is thrilled to be a part of the Dedman Law Admissions Team.

Kristin Meeks ’20
Law Fellow, Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center
As a Law Fellow, Kristin Meeks will focus on public policy and communications, using the Deason Center’s academic research to create resources for practitioners and policymakers. She also contributes to the Center’s research in the areas of public defense, prosecution, and STAR criminal justice.

Meeks earned an M.B.A. from SMU’s Cox Business School and holds a B.A. in Plan II Honors and Government from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to graduate school, Meeks was a law clerk at a mid-size firm in Austin, TX.

Gregory Mitchell ’94
Adjunct Clinical Professor of Law, Federal Tax Payers Clinic
Gregory Mitchell is an alumnus of both SMU as well as SMU Dedman School of Law. Subsequently, he obtained an LL.M. in Taxation from New York University. He began his tenure as the director of the law school’s federal taxpayer clinic in the spring of 2020.

Outside of SMU, Mitchell is a principal with Freeman Law, where he focuses on bankruptcy and tax work. Prior to joining Freeman Law, Mr. Mitchell was the managing partner of The Mitchell Law Firm, L.P., a small firm he started in 2004, where he ran a diverse practice primarily focused on bankruptcy, tax and related litigation matters.

Prior to starting his own firm, Mitchell served as a partner and general counsel with Tax Automation, L.P, a national tax consulting firm. Mitchell was previously the National Director of Tax Technology at Ryan & Company, a national tax consulting practice, as well as a senior manager with KPMG, a “Big Four” accounting firm.

Mitchell is licensed to practice law in the State of Texas. He is an active member of the Texas Bar Association, currently serving as a member of the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar. Mitchell is admitted to practice in all federal courts in the State of Texas, as well as the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Kim Murphy ’88
Law Fellow and Staff Attorney, W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic
Kim Murphy received a B.A. from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1983 and her J.D. from the SMU Law in 1988.

As a law fellow and staff attorney, Murphy will be representing current and former foster youth in legal matters, conducting legal Know Your Rights sessions for foster youth during Preparation for Adult Living classes, providing training and mentorship for pro bono attorneys, and assisting in training and supervising student attorneys in cases involving older foster youth.
Prior to SMU, Murphy worked as a supervisor for Dallas CASA, spent 16 years as a Dallas County employee, first as an Assistant Public Defender, then as an Assistant District Attorney and finally as an Assistant Public Defender Supervisor with the entire focus on representing various parties in child welfare litigation. Prior to her county employment, she spent 13 years as a solo practitioner. Before opening her practice she was an associate at a small general firm and an Assistant Dallas County District Attorney in the Juvenile Division. Murphy is certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children and is certified to mediate general civil, family, and child welfare cases.

Debbie Sánchez
Adjunct Clinical Professor of Law, Criminal Clinic

Debbie Sánchez received her B.A. in Economics from The University of Texas at Austin and received her J.D. from Texas Southern University. She began her career as a prosecutor with the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office and is a partner with Sánchez & Sánchez. Throughout her 26 year career, she has tried numerous felony cases to jury trial. Outside of the practice of law, she has volunteered for the Parent’s Association in various capacities since 2004 at St. Mark’s School of Texas and speaks to youth groups and parents throughout the metroplex educating them about the criminal justice system.

Michael Shapiro
Law Fellow, First Amendment Clinic

Prior to coming to SMU Law, Michael Shapiro worked for the NBCUniversal News Group in New York City, where he reviewed broadcast and podcast scripts for defamation risk, helped reporters obtain public records, and advised the network on drone law issues. He also worked as a legal fellow at the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press in Washington, D.C., where he filed motions and amicus briefs in First Amendment and public records cases in trial and appellate courts. Shapiro is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law. Prior to law school was a journalist at newspapers in Virginia, South Carolina, and Texas.

Victoria Smiegocki
Research Project Manager, Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center

Victoria Smiegocki will help design and conduct criminal justice research for the Deason Center. Originally from the northeast, Smiegocki received her B.S. in Criminology with a concentration in Law & Society and minor in Chinese language from The College of New Jersey in 2015. After graduation, she moved to Washington, D.C. to pursue her Ph.D. in Justice, Law & Criminology at American University. While completing her degree, Smiegocki earned an M.S. in Justice, Law & Criminology (2018) and a Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics (2018). While pursuing her graduate education, Smiegocki worked in the Defender Services Office’s Program Operations Division as a budget analyst.

Kandace D. Walter
Adjunct Clinical Professor of Law, Small Business Clinic

Attorney Kandace D. Walter is a native Texan and a proud graduate of The University of Texas School of Law (J.D., 2004) and Florida A&M University (B.S. Chemistry, 2001). She is licensed to practice law in Texas and is also registered to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Walter has provided valuable legal guidance to her business and intellectual property clients via Walter Legal PLLC since 2016. In 2018, Walter was appointed as a part-time Criminal District Court Magistrate Judge for Dallas County. She also has worked as an Adjunct Professor at Collin County Community College, where she has taught Introduction to Intellectual Property since 2013. She has served on the boards of J.L. Turner Legal Association, J.L. Turner Legal Association Foundation, and The NEW Roundtable, Inc. She also participated in the Dallas Bar Association 2019 WE LEAD Program and the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers 2017 Leadership Class.
Congratulations!

The John E. Kennedy Memorial Scholarships are given in honor of Professor John Kennedy, who served on the faculty with distinction for 20 years until his untimely death in 1989. Professor Kennedy was a beloved teacher who had a strong commitment to the law as a service profession. It is most fitting that the awards given in his memory are presented to the J.D. graduates who are deemed by their classmates to exemplify the spirit of service by working tirelessly to benefit the law school community.

Jacqueline Tran ’20
Jacqueline graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. She worked tirelessly for the Student Bar Association as a 1L Representative, Treasurer, and in 2019-2020 as President. In addition, Jacqueline served as a 1L Mentor and Senior Notes Editor for the Science and Technology Law Review, in which she had an article published. She also worked as a Chief and student attorney in the Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women, a legal extern at Lennox International, and as intern at Mosaic Family Services. After graduation, Jacqueline would like to work at a non-profit or a firm where she would like to help survivors of human rights abuses, especially survivors of gender-based violence.

Roslyn Dubberstein ’20
Roslyn received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Theatre from Oklahoma State. After graduation from college, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue her interest in theatre, but knew she always had an interest in attending law school. At SMU Law, Roslyn served as President of the Association of Public Interest Law and as a student attorney in the Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women. She was a beloved SBA mentor and served in leadership with the SBA, on the board of the Board of Advocates, a member of the ABA Arbitration team and chair of the Jackson Walker 1L Moot Court oral argument competition. She plans to practice labor and employment law.

The Sarah Tran Award honors beloved faculty member Sarah Tran, whose selfless service and unyielding commitment to her students and her scholarship in the face of personal adversity represent the very best of our profession. The award is selected by the faculty and is presented to a student who exemplifies the highest standards of leadership, service, and dedication to the nobility of the legal profession.

Briana August ’20
Briana served as President of SMU Dedman Law’s Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and will be working with SMU Office of Legal Affairs as the Higher Education Fellow after graduation. She is a native Texan who had a career in marketing before coming to law school. She has used her networking and leadership skills to advance SMU BLSA’s mission and elevate BLSA’s programs. Under her leadership, SMU BLSA was recognized as the Small Chapter of the Year at the Southwest BLSA Regional Convention. She worked tirelessly to make the SMU Law community more diverse and inclusive.

Michael Créme ’20
Michael graduated from the 4-year J.D./M.B.A. program. He served as President of Cask and Barrel at SMU Cox, and as the Chair of the Board of Advocates. Michael was one of two oralists who competed on the Duberstein Moot Court team that won the national championship this year. This competition is one of the nation’s preeminent Moot Court competitions, and is the largest single site competition in the country. This win marked the second straight national championship for Michael. Starting in the Fall, Michael will be moving to New York City to clerk in the Southern District of New York.
Congratulations!

Judicial Clerkships Secured in 2019-2020 Academic Year

Brenda Balli ’20  
The Honorable Jessica Gallivan  
Judge, Superior Court of the Virgin Islands

Danielle P. Canfield ’20  
The Honorable Kimberly C. Priest Johnson  
Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

Michael J. Créme ’20  
The Honorable Robert Drain  
Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York

Dominic L. Cruciani ’19  
The Honorable Mark T. Pittman  
Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

Zachary Faircloth ’20  
The Honorable Reed O’Connor  
Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas
  
The Honorable Stuart Kyle Duncan  
Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Samantha Gaiss ’19  
The Honorable Jessica Gallivan  
Judge, Superior Court of the Virgin Islands

William Hamilton ’20  
The Honorable Sidney A. Fitzwater  
Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

Andrea C. Reed ’20  
The Honorable Christine Nowak  
Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

Kyle Ringle ’18  
The Honorable Karen Gren Scholer  
Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

Griffin S. Rubin ’20  
The Honorable Amos L. Mazzant, III  
Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

Cristina Squiers ’16  
The Honorable Don Willett  
Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Grayson Wade Williams ’20  
The Honorable Harlin D. Hale  
Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas
Diversity Week; September 23 - 27, 2019

Flash Class: Mistake, Self-defense and the Role of the Jury: Framing the Botham Jean/Amber Guyger Case; October 1, 2019

Wellness Week; October 7 - 11, 2019

Big Trials, Important Verdicts – The Texas Lawbook CLE; October 7, 2019

Goldberg Lecture Series: Judge Don Willett; October 17, 2019

Tsai Center: SCOTUS Moot of an Oral Argument; October 18, 2019

Faculty Forum: Jeffrey Bellin, Professor of Law, William & Mary Law School; October 21, 2019

Views from the Bench: The Honorable Nathan Hecht; October 22, 2019

U.S. - Mexico Bar Association Conference; October 24 - 25, 2019

Law, Ethics & Autonomy; Dr. Rain Livoja, University of Queensland; October 24, 2019

27th Annual Corporate Counsel Symposium; October 25 - 27, 2019

Dallas Bar & SMU Dedman Law Caruth Institute for Children’s Rights Education Symposium: Improving the Lives of Children through Advocacy and Presentation of The Jack Lowe, Sr. Award for Community Leadership; October 30, 2019
Flash Class: Impeachment: Past, Process and Prospects; November 13, 2019
Career Foundations & Professional Development: Professionalism Summit; January 8, 2020
1Ls Meet the Firms; January 9, 2020
Faculty Forum: Carliss Chatman, Assistant Professor of Law, Washington and Lee School of Law; January 15, 2020
Faculty Forum: Eric Jensen, Professor of Law, Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School; January 22, 2020
Public Advocate Day; January 29, 2020
Roy Ray Lecture: The Constitution of the Family; Douglas NeJaime, Anne Urowsky Professor of Law, Yale Law School; January 30, 2020

DEASON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM CENTER
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
Student Leaders Lunch: “Lunch-and-Learn” Series; August 20, 2019
1Ls, Opportunities in Criminal Law; September 5, 2019
“Fast Food with the Firms: Criminal Law;” October 3, 2019
Plea Bargaining: The Basics with Prof. Cynthia Alkon; November 7, 2019
Practicing at the Intersection of Criminal, Immigration, and Family Law with Mari Flores and Leah Harbour of Flores | Harbour Law; February 6, 2020
“Minding Your Business: A Look into Embezzlement by Employees,” Presented by Amber Hamilton-Gregg and Alexis Goldate, Assistant DAs with the Specialized Crime Division at the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office, Co-hosted with SMU Law Labor and Employment Association (LELA); March 11, 2020

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LECTURE SERIES
Barry Friedman, NYU Law Professor and Director of The Policing Project, “Policing in Dallas: Can Democratic Policing Work?”; September 18, 2019
Calvin Duncan, Advocate, “A Conversation with Calvin Duncan”; October 16, 2019
The Innocence Project of Texas (IPTX), “EXONERATED: Southwest of Salem: The Story of the San Antonio Four” featuring Anna Vasquez & Mike Ware; February 25, 2020
Rule of Law Town Hall; February 12, 2020
Faculty Forum: Nicholson Price, Assistant Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School; February 19, 2020
Legal Clinics Faculty & Alumni Reception, February 20, 2020
Dallas LGBTQ Global Symposium; February 21, 2020
Litigation Section of the SBOT Texas Legal Legends Induction of James Coleman, Carrington Coleman; February 25, 2020
2020 Certificate Program in Ethics and Compliance: Conversation with Daniel Trujillo, CECO of Walmart; February 26, 2020
Faculty Forum: Joshua D. Blank, Professor of Law, UC Irvine School of Law; February 26, 2020
16th Annual IP Symposium; February 28, 2020
Inns of Court – What is Leadership with Community Fellows; March 3, 2020
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<td>Faculty Forum: Avani Mehta Sood, Professor of Law, UC Berkeley School of Law; March 4, 2020</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Faculty Forum: Yonathan Arbel, Assistant Professor of Law, University of Alabama School of Law; March 11, 2020</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>APIL Auction – Online; April 13, 2020</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Jackson Walker Moot Court Competition via Zoom; April 13 - 16, 2020</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Virtual Flash Class: Policing and Protest in America via Zoom; June 4, 2020</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Black Lives Matter Virtual Vigil; June 5, 2020</td>
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**Events & Symposia**

**Tsai Talk:** Art Law and Copyright: How A Small Firm Takes on National Cases; Thomas Maddrey, Founder of Maddrey PLLC; September 19, 2019

**Leadership Lecture:** The Honorable Scott R. Boalick, Chief Judge for the Patent Trial and Appeal Board; September 25, 2019

**U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit Oral Arguments:** October 1, 2019

**Law, Ethics & Autonomy:** SMU Law Prof. Chris Jenks and Dr. Rain Livoja, University of Queensland; October 24, 2019

**SMU Science and Technology Law Review:** CRISPR and Me: How CRISPR Gene Editing Affects the Human Race; Naomi Cahn, GW Law and June Carbone, Minnesota School of Law; October 25, 2019

**Tsai Talk:** Tales from the Crypt(o): How Cryptocurrency is Resurrecting the Legal Market; October 30, 2019

**Tsai Talk:** IP in the Sky: Uber Elevate and Autonomous Driving Technology; Chris Storm, IP Legal Director for Uber’s Emerging Technology Programs; November 15, 2019

**Tsai Talk:** Leggo my Logo: Using Trademarks to Protect a Brand; Charles Phipps and Joe Unis of Locke Lord; January 23, 2020

**16th Annual Symposium on Emerging Intellectual Property Issues:** Opportunities and Challenges in Creative and Innovative Industries; February 28, 2020
Mike Boone ‘67, Haynes and Boone, LLP co-founder and civic leader, was honored with more than 300 nominations from the public as the namesake for the new Highland Park ISD elementary school which opened August 2020.

The Honorable Joan Tarpley ‘68, the first African American woman to practice law in Dallas County and, first African American woman appointed a Dallas District Court Judge (191st District Court), was presented the Trailblazer Award at the Black History Month Luncheon hosted by the SMU Dedman School of Law Black Law Students Association (BLSA).

Paul Ward ‘76, SMU’s Vice President, Legal Affairs and Governmental Relations, General Counsel and Secretary, was honored with The Texas General Counsel Forum’s 19th annual Robert H. Dedman Award for Ethics and Law.

Rusty Hardin ‘75, Houston trial lawyer, was inducted as a “Texas Legal Legend” by the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas – an honor he shares with highly regarded trial lawyers who have spent their professional careers serving others and taking on large legal challenges.

Jennifer Burr Altabef ‘81, civic and philanthropic leader in Dallas, was named to the SMU Board of Trustees to serve a four-year term.

Antonio Garza ‘83, former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico was inducted into the University of Texas McCombs School of Business Hall of Fame.

Robert Dedman ‘84 was presented the 2019 Historic Hotels of America Steward of History and Historic Preservation Award.

Van Beckwith ‘90 was named Halliburton’s new general counsel.

1960s

Gillian Triggs ‘72 L.L.M. of Australia was appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations.

William Hayward ‘74 joined Spencer Fane as an of counsel attorney.

Paul Ward ‘76

Rusty Hardin ‘75

1970s

Al Ellis ‘71 received the first Dallas Bar Association Community Involvement Award for his outstanding community service. The award also was named in his honor, the Al Ellis Community Involvement Award.

1980s

James Drakeley ‘80 joined the Dallas firm of Spencer Fane as a partner.

Charla Aldous ‘85 received the Louise B. Raggio Award by the Dallas Women Lawyers Association.

John Ratcliffe ‘89 was appointed Director of National Intelligence by President Trump.

Van Beckwith ‘90

1990s

George H. Barber ‘90 joined the Dallas office of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in the firm’s bankruptcy and creditors’ rights practice group.

Chief Bankruptcy Judge Barbara J. Houser ‘78 (United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas) was selected by the ABI Board of Directors to serve a one-year term as president of the American Bankruptcy Institute.

1990s

David Haley, J.D. ‘86, president of HBK Capital Management, was named to the SMU Board of Trustees and will serve a four-year term.

Robert Dedman ‘84

1980s

James Drakeley ‘80

1970s

The Honorable Joan Tarpley ‘68

1990s

William Hayward ‘74

1980s

Mike Boone ‘67

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CLASS NOTES

SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW | THE QUAD

Timothy Powers ‘80 was appointed by Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson to chair the City of Dallas Ethics Advisory Commission tasked with overhauling the City’s ethics code.

Jennifer Burr Altabef ‘81

1970s

Chief Bankruptcy Judge Barbara J. Houser ‘78

David Haley, J.D. ‘86

1980s

Gillian Triggs ‘72

William Hayward ‘74

1970s

Timothy Powers ‘80

1990s

1960s

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John Ratcliffe ‘89

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Gillian Triggs ‘72

1970s

1990s

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1990s

1980s
James S. Patterson ’91 joined the firm of Spencer Fane as a partner.

Kenda Culpepper ’92, District Attorney for Rockwall County, was elected president of the Texas District & County Attorneys Association.

Alan Dorantes ’93 joined Chicago-based Feeding America, the second largest charity in the U.S., as general counsel and chief of staff. He also received the 2019 Senior Counsel of the Year Award for a Large Legal Department in recognition of his previous work as assistant vice president and senior legal counsel for AT&T.

John Van Gorp ’94, Mayer Brown partner, was appointed chair of the Bottom Line Chicago Regional Advisory Board, whose mission is to help first-generation students from low-income backgrounds get into college, graduate, and go far in life.

Thomas Slover ’94 joined the firm of Spencer Fane as of counsel.

Kennon Brock Bailey ’96 was elected to serve a three-year term on Bracewell’s firm-wide management committee.

Christopher I. Clark ’96 received the inaugural Alumni Service Award for the Greenhill School in Dallas.

Clinton D. Howie ’96 advanced to partner in the Dallas office of Stacy Conder Allen.

Jamey Seely ’96 joined the advisory and coaching division of the boutique search firm of BarkerGilmore.

Christina (Mooney) Betanzos ’97 is a clinical assistant professor in the Jindal School of Management at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Judge Ryan Kellus Turner ’97 was promoted to executive director at the Texas Municipal Court Education Center.

Angela Zambrano ’97, partner at Sidley Austin, received the Outstanding Female Lawyer Award from the Dallas Women Lawyers Association.

Mark McCready ’98 was named a Pennsylvania Trailblazer by The Legal Intelligencer in recognition of his work as Fox Rothschild’s Chief Privacy Officer and Co-Chair of the Privacy and Data Security Practice.

Allen Dickey ’99, shareholder in Polsinelli’s Real Estate Finance practice, was named to the Real Estate Law Webinar Advisory Board of Strafford Publications.

2000s

Marc Cabrera ’00 joined the Dallas office of Polsinelli representing clients in complex business-related and financial services litigation.

Rob Pivnick ’00 opened the Pivnick Firm, PLLC.

Robert Flowers ’01 joined Stinson LLP as a partner in their Dallas office.

Cynthia Garza ’01, chief of the Conviction Integrity Unit & Special Fields Bureau Chief at the Dallas County DA’s Office, received the Community Award at SMU’s 55th Annual Women’s Symposium.

Philip Hassler ’01, owner/operator at Chic-fil-A CityLine, was appointed to the McKinney ISD Board of Trustees.

Eric Williams ’01 joined the Dallas office of Akin Gump as partner to continue his focus on mergers and acquisitions.

Richard Deutsch ’02 joined Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP to build out its international arbitration practice in the firm’s Houston location.

Jessica Magee ’02 rejoined Thompson & Knight’s Dallas trial group as a partner.

Eliot Burriss ’03 joined the Dallas office of Holland & Knight handling complex commercial disputes.

Katharine Clark ’04 joined the new Dallas office of Thompson Coburn to represent clients nationally in bankruptcy and insolvency litigation.

Ryan Cox ’05 joined Akin Gump’s Dallas office as a partner to continue his practice in capital markets and securities.

Mona Dahr Elchahal ’05 joined Northern Trust in Houston as an associate wealth advisor.

Kara Grimes ’05 joined the firm of Sumner Schick as a business litigator.

Yodi Hailemariam ’05, senior associate for Drinkers Biddle, was honored by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association.

Philip Dunlap ’06 is opening Balch & Bingham’s new office in Houston.

Christine Leatherberry ’06 joined SMU Dedman School of Law as Director of Alumni Relations.

Meghan McCaig ’06 obtained Board Certification by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in the area of Labor and Employment law.

Christian Weiler ’06 was nominated by President Trump to serve as a judge on the United States Tax Court.

Stephanie White ’06 was appointed by the Florida Board of Governors to serve on the University of West Florida Board of Trustees.

Liz Boydston ’07 joined the firm of Polsinelli as shareholder and will work in both the Dallas and Houston offices.
Chris Kang ’07 was promoted to partner in Haynes and Boone’s employee benefits and executive compensation practice group in Dallas. 

Jarrett Reed ’07 joined Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hamton’s real estate, land use and environmental practice group. 

Brian Bullard ’08 was named managing partner of Polsinelli’s Dallas office. 

Paul Cervenka ’08 was promoted to managing attorney/shareholder of Bonial & Associates, P.C. 

Ashley D. Drummond ’08 was promoted to partner in the Dallas office of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP. 

David Gail ’08 received the 2019 M&A Deal of the Year Award from The Texas Lawbook and the Association of Corporate Counsel’s Dallas-Fort Worth chapter. 

L. Bradley Johnson ’08 joined the Rockwall firm of Ashmore & Ashmore. 

Eric Seitz ’08 joined McDermott Will & Emery as a counsel to its restructuring and insolvency practice group in Dallas. 

Chris Simmons ’08 teamed up with Michael Lyons to form the Dallas firm of Lyons & Simmons LLP. 

Sunny Thompson ’08 married Chetin Durak on September 1, 2019 in Austin, Texas. They reside in Washington, D.C. where Sunny is the associate general counsel and vice president of Sunrise Senior Living. 

William (Bill) Dendy ’09 joined Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., as a registered principal. 

Natalie Fortenberry ’09 joined the Dallas office of Polsinelli as a shareholder in the firm’s national corporate and transactional practice. 

Li Li ’09 was promoted to partner at Slater Matsil. 

2010s 

Rebekah Bailey ’10 and her co-counsel received the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Assistant Attorney General’s Distinguished Award for the prosecution of the U.S. v. Toure forced labor trial. 

Arrissa Meyer ’10 was elevated to shareholder of Littler Mendelson, P.C.’s Dallas office. 

J. Pieratt ’10 was promoted to partner in the Austin office of DLA Piper. 

Heather Stovall ’14 and her family welcomed Adalee Grace. She made her appearance on January 30, 2020, weighing 6 lbs., 9 oz. 

Nathan Thompson ’14 advanced to vice president and principal in the Frisco office of Peloton Land Solutions, Inc. 

Lance Webster ’14 joined the Dallas Office of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings as an associate in the Litigation and Government Enforcement and Investigations practice group. 

Jasmine Tobias ’15 was selected chair of the Black Alumni of SMU Board. 

Bethanie Livernois ’16 joined Bradley’s Government Enforcement and Investigations practice group in Dallas. 

Abaigeal Musser ’16 moved to Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP as an attorney in its litigation group. 

Regan Donnenfield ’17 joined KoonsFuller as an associate. 


Kara Hargrove ’18 moved to the Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton Dallas office as an associate. 

Shelby Perry ’18 joined McDermott Will & Emery as an associate to its restructuring and insolvency practice group in Dallas. 

Kyle Ringle ’18 was sworn in as a Dallas County prosecutor. 

Connor Barbe ’19 joined The Sloan Law Firm in Longview as an associate attorney. 

Jaime-Lee Denton ’19 joined Fox Rothschild’s Dallas litigation department. 

Robin Featherston ’19 joined Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP as an associate in the Dallas office. 

Mackenzie Fitzgerald ’19 received Special Commendation from Texas Access to Justice Commission for her service to poor Texans and underserved communities. 

Maddie Giese ’19 joined Thompson Knight’s corporate and securities practice in Dallas. 

Nicole Miller ’19 joined Thompson Knight’s trial group in Dallas. 

Jackson Olesky ’19 joined Torres Law as an associate in international trade and compliance matters. 

Madeleine Rosuck ’19 joined the Dallas office of Polsinelli as an associate in the firm’s corporate and transactional practice. 

Claire Sager ’19 joined Thompson Knight’s corporate and securities practice in Dallas. 

Kathleen Thompson ’19 joined the Dallas office of Kane Russell Coleman Logan as an associate in the commercial litigation practice group. 

Tri Truong ’19 joined the Dallas firm of Munck Wilson Mandala as a litigation associate. 

Jake Winslett ’19 joined Thompson Knight’s trial group in Dallas. 

John Kappel ’14 joined the 354th Fighter Wing, stationed at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska, advanced to Chief of Operations and will advise commanders on operations law issues faced by the 354th Fighter Wing. 

Captain Kolton Warren ’17,
In 1988, despite its academic achievements, SMU School of Law never appeared in the SMU Intramural Soccer Championship. The team occasionally didn’t enroll in the official soccer season – so as not to be an embarrassment! But one day, everything changed when Professor Paul Rogers was invited by one of the International LL.M. students to coach a law school team that played Sundays on the Plaza, next to Daniel Avenue.

The group started sharing not only the “contracts” class but also the soccer player’s idiosyncrasies. This is how his coaching abilities flourished (leaving aside the Rule of Law). The soccer team’s confidence grew and this time, without a doubt, they signed up for the SMU Intramural Soccer Championship, usually won by SMU undergraduate students.

Thanks to Professor Paul Rogers, the SMU Law soccer team became the 1988 Champions, receiving not only valuable contracts’ lectures but also soccer tactics lessons from him.

This photo shows the winning team of 1988, hoping that it would someday win again! (pictured are some of the teammates).

**Mustang Award**

Felix Tsai ’78 Honored in Taiwan

SMU President R. Gerald Turner, Vice President for Development and External Affairs Brad Cheves & Dedman Law Dean Jennifer Collins visited with alumni in Taiwan and presented Felix Tsai ’78 with the Mustang Award.
International Alumni Spotlight

Professor Hide Ara ’57

What’s New With You?

Help us make the Class Notes section of The Quad Magazine a more vibrant and useful resource for our alumni! Send us news on babies, weddings, promotions, awards, moves, and anything newsworthy. We want to celebrate you and keep you up to date on all your classmates.

Deadline for the Fall 2021 issue is July 1, 2021.

EMAIL: mustangbar@smu.edu
WEBSITE: smu.edu/Law/Alumni/Class-Notes
SOCIAL MEDIA: Visit smu.edu/law for social media links.

Three Law Alumni Named Members of SMU Board of Trustees

The SMU Board of Trustees elected six new members, three of whom are SMU Law alumni, during the board’s spring meeting May 8, 2020. The newly elected SMU Law board members are Jennifer Burr Altabef ’81, David Haley ’86, and Christa Brown-Sanford ’04.

The new board members began serving their four-year terms effective upon the adjournment of the May 8, 2020 board meeting.

“We are pleased to welcome these new members, grateful for the service of our outgoing trustees and appreciative of the continued hard work of our current board,” said SMU President R. Gerald Turner. “SMU greatly benefits from the experience and collective wisdom of this important governing body charged with overseeing the mission of this University.”

The 42-member board sets policies governing the operation of SMU.

International Alumni Spotlight

Professor Hide Ara ’57

Professor of Law Hide Ara ’57 received a decoration entitled “The Order of the Sacred Treasure” at the Imperial Palace of Japan on May 11, 2018. It is bestowed upon individuals of merit, in recognition of their national or public service, and in honor of their distinguished accomplishments in various areas of society.

Jennifer Burr Altabef ’78, ’81
Civic and Philanthropic Leader

David Haley ’86
President of HBK Capital Management

Christa Brown-Sanford, ’04
Partner and Deputy Department Chair of Intellectual Property, Baker Botts LLP
Focus on Intellectual Property

By Bruce Tomas
go

Practicing law isn’t rocket science. But Bart Showalter (J.D., ’93) is living proof that a career in one can lead to great success in the other.

Showalter, a Partner and Executive Committee member with Baker Botts L.L.P., is the former chair of the firm’s Intellectual Property Department, where, for 12 years, he supervised the firm’s 175 IP attorneys and professionals.

He came to the job – and to a career in law – in a somewhat roundabout way.

Showalter, who grew up in University Park near SMU, graduated from Highland Park High School before heading east to college at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in aerospace engineering.

Upon graduation, he was hired in 1988 by LTV Aerospace and Defense Co.

“I got to work on some really cool projects,” he says. “That was the Reagan era, and we had a contract to do this super-advanced Star Wars defense work. I was working on a ‘kinetic energy interceptor’ missile program. Basically, it was a way to blow up incoming missile warheads before they could detonate on U.S. soil.”

From an aeronautical engineering standpoint, the work was highly complex and challenging – but from a human standpoint, it left something to be desired.

“I spent all day by myself in a cubicle,” he remembers. “I’d enter data into a computer terminal, which was hooked into a master computer somewhere else, then come in the next morning to see if my simulated missile took out the warhead. It was a pretty impersonal existence, really.”

“I decided to go to law school because I thought it would be a way to use the creative side of my brain, my communications skills, as well as my technical skills. MIT taught me to think like an engineer. But could I also learn to think like a lawyer?”

His enrollment in Dedman Law was a return, of sorts, to familial roots. Showalter’s father Larry, who died in 2017 at the age of 82, was a star on the 1956 SMU men’s basketball team, the only Mustangs team in history to advance to the NCAA’s Final Four. Larry met his wife Arden when both were freshmen at SMU, and Arden served as the school’s Career Center director for 20 years.

At MIT, Showalter cultivated an interest in writing. “They offered nine writing courses, and I took every one of them,” he says. “My engineering friends said, ‘Why in the world would you want to take classes where you have to write?’ But I found that writing was a way to express and develop my creative side, as well as my analytical, aeronautical engineering side.”

“And once I got to law school, I realized that if you have some specialized knowledge, a particular technical or legal expertise, and you can write, you’ll have a real advantage in the workplace. You’ll be able to communicate that specialized knowledge and put it to use in ways that others can’t.”

“To be able to translate between two worlds, the technical and the everyday, just gives you a huge advantage. It opens up for you a much broader range of possibilities.”

At SMU, he says, he discovered “this amazing new area of law called intellectual property,” where he could use what he’d learned about technology and apply it to what he was learning about law.

“IP had been a sort of a backwater practice,” he says. “There just weren’t a lot of legal practitioners out there who had the training to think like a lawyer and like an engineer and – at the same time – be able to communicate clearly about all the important issues emerging at the intersection of law and business and technology.”

SMU’s Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation, he says, is doing future lawyers and their clients a great service by training lawyers “to be able to function effectively at the intersection of law and technology, and the intersection of law and business.”

He adds: “It’s great to be training brilliant lawyers to know their way around a brief or a courtroom. But it’s even better if they also know their way around the client’s technology and balance sheet.”

Showalter, now 55, has a lifelong passion for teaching. A longtime adjunct professor at Dedman Law, he says he’s enjoyed sharing his experiences with students from kindergarten through graduate school.

An avid theatergoer, he’s a past board member of the Dallas Theater Center. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, a position he happened into not only because of his appreciation for Southwestern art, but also to help the O’Keeffe Museum patent and commercialize a technology for shipping valuable artworks in a way that minimizes potentially harmful vibrations.

When he’s not at his Baker Botts office in Dallas, he enjoys telecommuting – and bass fishing – from a family lake house in East Texas. He’s accomplished at cooking Italian cuisine, “including epic pizzas from my wood-burning pizza oven,” and he’s a diehard Texas Rangers fan who claims a possible distant relationship to Buck Showalter, the team’s former manager.

When he’s not in Texas, Showalter and his wife Elizabeth spend as much time as they can at their fly-fishing river retreat in Colorado.

Throughout a lengthy telephone interview, Showalter could not have been more patient and cordial. He did, however, subtly convey that just as soon as the interview was concluded, more rewarding pastimes awaited just outside his window.

“A big fish just jumped in my lake,” he said.
IN MEMORIAM

Robert A. Fanning ’60
Executive Board Member

Robert Allen Fanning, 87, passed away on November 2, 2019. He was the founding partner and long-time chairman of the board of the law firm of Fanning, Harper, Martinson, Brandt and Kutchin. Born in Dallas, he earned a B.B.A. in 1953 from Baylor University. While attending SMU Law night school and working days as an insurance claim adjustor, he joined the U.S. Air Force where he rose to the rank of first lieutenant while serving in Japan in the JAG corp. He was honorably discharged in 1957 when he picked back up on his legal education, graduating from SMU Law School with a J.D. degree in 1960.

Fanning was a long time member of Park Cities Baptist Church. He was involved in a number of philanthropic activities including his lifetime involvement with San Marcos Baptist Academy located in San Marcos, Texas where he served on its Board of Directors for more than 40 years and also served as the chairman of its Board. For his tenure of service he was awarded the Distinguished and Exemplary Service Medals from the Academy. He also served on the board of a number of other organizations. Fanning’s lifetime love of boating allowed him to entertain his family and friends to a number of fabulous trips throughout the United States and Canada, many of them up and down the East Coast of the U.S. He will be remembered most for his generosity in helping people accomplish their goals and become the best that they could be.

He was married to Carolyn Parker Fanning from 1960 until her death in 2006. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Sharpe Fanning, his two sons Barry and Marc, and his five grandchildren.

Robert Lewis Meyers III ’60
Executive Board Member and 1996 Distinguished Alumni Award

Robert Meyers III (Bob) passed away July 11, 2020 in Dallas. He earned a B.A. in French Literature from SMU in 1958, and a Bachelor of Laws degree from SMU Law, graduating with honors in 1960. He was a member of Order of the Woolsack, Delta Theta Phi legal fraternity (Scholarship Key), and the national moot court team, and also served as a coach for the undergraduate debate team.

Meyers began his legal career as a prosecutor with the United States Air Force JAG Corps at Carswell Air Force Base, where for two straight years he amassed the greatest number of successful prosecutions among all of the JAG officers nationwide. He left the service in 1963 with the rank of Captain, moved to Dallas and joined Akin Gump. He became general counsel for the George A. Fuller Co. and the OKC Corp. before joining Stalcup, Johnson, Lipsky & Williams. That firm evolved over the years into Meyers, Miller, Middleton, Weiner & Warren, which in turn became the Dallas office of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, where Bob managed the firm’s worldwide construction practice for 25 years. He remained as a partner at Jones Day until his retirement, after which he practiced with his daughter Lucy as of counsel at Ford, Nassen & Baldwin.

A nationally known legal expert in construction-related matters, Meyers was a contributing author to several books and legal periodicals, and wrote and lectured extensively.

He was president of the American College of Construction Lawyers; chair of the Texas Bar Foundation Fellows, Dallas Bar Foundation Fellows, to name a few, and member of several other boards. Meyers served in numerous charitable fundraising endeavors, most notably as chairman of the lawyers’ and professional divisions of the United Way Campaign.

Meyers had a love of life that was contagious. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, charm, solid ethics, wit, fairness, compassion, and problem-solving ability. His philosophy was that “it was a bad day when you didn’t learn something new.” He had a team spirit, and brought out the best in those people fortunate enough to know him. Meyer is survived by his wife of 59 years, Libby; his daughter Lucy Elizabeth and her husband, Kenneth Lambert; his daughter Amy, and granddaughter Madeline Riley Hendrick.

Robert Hyer Thomas ’53, ’57
Executive Board Member and 1996 Distinguished Alumni Award

Robert “Bob” Hyer Thomas, third-generation Dallas Lawyer, civic leader, past President of the Dallas Bar Association and beloved SMU alumnus, passed away February 9, 2020, at the age of 88.

He was the founding partner and long-time chairman of the board of the law firm of Fanning, Harper, Martinson, Brandt and Kutchin. Born in Dallas, he earned a B.B.A. in 1953 from Baylor University. While attending SMU Law night school and working days as an insurance claim adjustor, he joined the U.S. Air Force where he rose to the rank of first lieutenant while serving in Japan in the JAG corp. He was honorably discharged in 1957 when he picked back up on his legal education, graduating from SMU Law School with a J.D. degree in 1960.

Fanning was a long time member of Park Cities Baptist Church. He was involved in a number of philanthropic activities including his lifetime involvement with San Marcos Baptist Academy located in San Marcos, Texas where he served on its Board of Directors for more than 40 years and also served as the chairman of its Board. For his tenure of service he was awarded the Distinguished and Exemplary Service Medals from the Academy. He also served on the board of a number of other organizations. Fanning’s lifetime love of boating allowed him to entertain his family and friends to a number of fabulous trips throughout the United States and Canada, many of them up and down the East Coast of the U.S. He will be remembered most for his generosity in helping people accomplish their goals and become the best that they could be.

He was married to Carolyn Parker Fanning from 1960 until her death in 2006. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Sharpe Fanning, his two sons Barry and Marc, and his five grandchildren.
Thomas’ maternal grandfather, Robert Stewart Hyer, was SMU’s first president when it opened in 1915. His mother, Margaret Hyer Thomas ’23, was the University’s first librarian. Thomas earned a bachelor’s degree magna cum laude in social science from SMU, and a law degree in 1957 from SMU School of Law.

The family’s SMU legacy continued with Thomas’ service on the SMU Board of Trustees, and as Alumni Board president. He also served on the Executive Boards for Dedman School of Law, SMU Libraries and SMU-in-Taos.

Thomas and his wife, Dr. Gail Griffin Thomas ’58, met as students at SMU. In 1988, the two received SMU’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

During the Korean War, Thomas served in the U.S. Navy in the Far East as legal officer aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Wasp. After his active duty, Thomas spent more than 20 years in the Naval Reserve, retiring with the rank of Commander.

After practicing law with his father for two years, Thomas joined the law firm of Strasburger & Price, where he enjoyed a career spanning more than 55 years. For 23 years Thomas served as the trial attorney for the Dallas Independent School District in the Federal Court desegregation case. He took great pride in working with the court, the school board, business leaders, community stakeholders and parents to help create educational opportunities for all Dallas schoolchildren.

Throughout his career, Thomas held numerous leadership positions within the legal profession. He served as president of the Dallas Bar Association, the Dallas Junior Bar Association, and the Dallas Bar Foundation, to name a few.

He was awarded Dallas Bar Foundation Fellow of the Year (1999), the Justinian Award from the Dallas Lawyers Auxiliary (2002) and Dallas Bar Association Trial Lawyer of the Year (2007). In 2007, Thomas received the 50-Year Outstanding Lawyer Award from the Texas Bar Foundation and was also named Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Dallas Bar Association.

During the period of his leadership in the Dallas Bar Association, and largely due to his efforts, the Bar acquired the Belo Mansion on Ross Avenue, which became the Dallas Bar headquarters. His leadership of this effort earned him the nickname, ‘The Belo Hero.’

Among his many civic activities, Thomas served as chairman and president of the Dallas Historical Society, and chairman of the Board of The Parkland Foundation. He was an active member of Boy Scout Troop 82 and claimed that much of his success in life could be attributed to what he learned as an Eagle Scout.

Thomas is survived by his wife of 62 years, Gail Griffin Thomas, and their three children, Tori Thomas Mannes, Stewart Hyer Thomas, and Electra Thomas Harelson and their spouses. Additionally, he is survived by 10 grandchildren, one great-granddaughter and many loving family members.

University of Texas School of Law.

Formerly he was the senior vice president and secretary, Aviation Office of America, Inc., a subsidiary of the Xerox Corp. In addition, he was previously a trial attorney at Lord Bissell & Brook and an electrical engineer at General Electric.

Tarpley consulted with policyholders and insurance companies on aviation insurance matters including coverage disputes and bad faith contentions. In addition, he frequently was retained as an expert witness in these areas. He had been a speaker at numerous aviation and insurance conferences in the United States and Europe.

He began his aviation career in the United States Air Force and flew twenty-six combat missions in Southeast Asia. Tarpley’s commercial career began at Pan American World Airways Continued to Delta Air Lines in 1991. He was a Pan Am designated check airman and Delta pilot instructor and instructed extensively in Delta’s human factors and new-hire programs as well as the innovative Delta Pilot Instructor School.

Tarpley was the chair of the SMU Air Law Symposium and served on the Board of the Journal of Air Law & Commerce. The SMU Air Law Symposium was his labor of love. In 2016, the SMU Air Law Symposium honored him for his 35 years of distinguished service as chairman. In addition, he taught Aviation Law as an adjunct professor at SMU Dedman School of Law.

Tarpley is survived by his wife Mary Ellen, his sister, Mary Campfield and many other loving family members.

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**Charles A. Tarpley**

2017 Honorary Distinguished Alumnus Award

C harles Tarpley passed away on April 12, 2020. He was 80 years old. His legal emphasis was in aviation and insurance matters domestically and abroad. He was a proud alumnus of SMU School of Engineering, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Business and the...
Brian L. Webb ’75

Brian L. Webb, an adjunct professor and alumnus of SMU Dedman School of Law, passed away November 8, 2019. He was 70.

Webb helped hundreds of Texans seeking a divorce and in other family law matters during his 44-year career. He represented professional athletes, well-known entertainers and musicians, doctors, lawyers, business executives and politicians. Webb was joined in his law practice by his daughter Natalie ’08 and his son Brant. In addition to the high-profile clients, The Webb Family Law Firm also represented scores of low-income individuals on a pro bono basis.

As an adjunct, he learned the ropes from Professor Joe McKnight. Brian loved being called “Professor” Webb by his students who, in turn loved and admired him.

Brian became Board Certified in Family Law in 1980. During his career, he presided over virtually every family law organization that exists in the state. Brian also was well known and respected nationally. At the time of his passing, he was a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (serving on their Board of Governors) and a Fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; a charter Diplomate in the American College of Family Trial Lawyers (limited to 100 lawyers nationwide), to name a few.

Brian received many honors/recognition for his contributions to family law, including the Judge Sam Emison Award by the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists in 1997, the Dan R. Price Award by the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Texas in 2009, and was inducted into the State Bar of Texas Family Law Section Hall of Leaders in 2015. A popular lecturer and author, his published works covered a wide variety of family law topics that are too numerous to list.

Brian’s love for family law was unparalleled. He loved being with his fellow family lawyers. His circle of friends is enormous.

He is survived by his daughter, Natalie, his son Brant and their spouses, and his granddaughter Caroline.

Excerpted from the November 11, 2019 article written by Charlie Hodges in The Texas Lawbook. Read the complete article at https://texascornerbook.net/remembering-family-law-giant-brian-webb-one-of-a-kind/.
Competition for top students is intense, and Dedman Law relies on scholarships to recruit and retain the best and brightest students primed for successful careers in the law. The ability to offer scholarships not only gives SMU an edge, but it also means freedom for students to focus on studying the law and developing their own career path.

Graduates with a lighter debt burden leave law school emboldened by new knowledge, inspired to give back and energized to change the world.

“I am extremely grateful and appreciative for the kindness and generosity of the donors that make it possible for students like myself to have the opportunity to attend SMU Dedman School of Law. Without your support, I would not be able to attend SMU. I know that I am here because of the compassion of others.”

–Lakeenya Colvin ’21

Create limitless opportunities with your gift to the Law School today.

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Anne Beard | Director of Development
214-768-4527 | agbeard@smu.edu
MUSTANG BAR LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO GROW

Live outside of Dallas? Join our Facebook Chapters to network, make referrals, and welcome new alumni to your location:

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JOIN YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER’S HOST COMMITTEE

The Host Committee in each Chapter keeps its pulse on SMU Law news, welcomes new alumni to town, and organizes local Mustang Bar alumni events. If you would like to be a part of your local Chapter’s Host Committee or want to start one in a location not listed above, please email us at mustangbar@smu.edu.

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