February 2021 marked the 20th anniversary of the naming of the Law School in honor of Nancy and Robert H. Dedman, Sr., and the Dedman family. We are so profoundly grateful to the Dedman family!
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IN FEBRUARY 2001, SMU RENAMED ITS 75-YEAR-OLD SCHOOL OF LAW IN HONOR OF LAW ALUMNUS ROBERT H. DEDMAN, SR. LL.M. ’53, HIS WIFE, NANCY, AND THEIR FAMILY, WHO ENDOURED THE SCHOOL WITH A $20 MILLION GIFT.

A Day of Celebration

News of the naming had remained a secret until the day of the ceremony on February 14, 2001. Guests had received a letter from SMU President R. Gerald Turner several weeks earlier inviting them to attend a “momentous announcement that will help define the future of our University and the SMU School of Law.” The buzz of excitement grew as a large crowd of faculty, students, alumni, and prominent guests converged on the Law Quad. The announcement of the Dedman naming was a historic day for the School of Law, said President Turner, as he initiated the noon ceremony on the steps of Storey Hall. “Today marks the union of two very distinguished names: the School of Law and the Dedman family. We are honored to say the School of Law at SMU is to be named the Dedman School of Law in honor of the Dedman family.”

“It is important that SMU continue the tradition of producing some of the most effective business leaders and top-quality lawyers in Dallas, the nation, and the world,” said SMU Law alumnus Robert H. Dedman, Jr. ’84 at the naming ceremony.

The naming celebration day was filled with symbolism. The Valentine’s Day event, sandwiched in between the February 13th birthday of Nancy Dedman, and Robert Dedman, Sr.’s 75th birthday on February 15, coincided with the 75th birthday of the School of Law. At a luncheon following the ceremony, guests sang “Happy Birthday” to Robert and Nancy Dedman as they cut a cake shaped in the form of Storey Hall.

The Dedman name appears on buildings and programs in virtually every corner of the SMU campus. The extent of the Dedmans’ presence at SMU reflects the breadth of their interest and depth of their generosity. In 2001, the School of Law was the second of SMU’s six degree-granting schools to bear the Dedman name. Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences was named in honor of the Dedmans in 1981.

Robert H. Dedman, Sr. was not only a leader and a donor, but most of all, a friend. He gave unsparingly of his time and resources to play a major role in SMU’s progress. “I often talk about the thrill of giving while living,” Robert Dedman, Sr., said. “It is fun to be able to give back to an institution that helped us so much to be a success in law, business, and life.”

This year marks the 20th anniversary celebration of the naming of SMU Dedman School of Law. Thank you, Dedman family, for many wonderful years!
FROM THE DEAN

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As we reflect on this past academic year, we are so thankful for the support of our alumni during these unprecedented times. Our faculty and staff have worked incredibly hard to adapt to ever-changing conditions, and I am so proud of the way they have continued to provide our students with an outstanding legal education while supporting them in all aspects of their personal and professional journeys. Our students have demonstrated remarkable resilience and perseverance, and I know you will enjoy working with them as they move into their first jobs in our profession. Thank you for continuing to mentor, inspire, and hire our wonderful students – the warm and supportive alumni community is one of the features of SMU Dedman School of Law that I most cherish.

As you will read in this edition of the alumni magazine, the law community found innovative and impactful ways to connect with each other over the last year through terrific virtual programming and activities. Our faculty were very busy teaching online and in person, advancing their research, and sharing their expertise at virtual conferences and symposia around the world, and through the local and national media, with many becoming the go-to experts for hot topics around the country.

In May 2021, we celebrated the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021 with in-person ceremonies in Moody Coliseum. There are two other notable celebrations we highlight in this year's magazine: the 20th Anniversary of the naming of the law school and the 50th Anniversary of the Underwood Law Library. In the feature article about the Library, you will be able to travel in time from the generous gift by the Underwood family to the dedication ceremony in 1971 to the Underwood Law Library today. We are so thankful to the Dedman family and the Underwood family!

We are excited to tell you more about new programs such as the Rising Scholars Program and the Jennifer M. Collins Women's Leadership Initiative. The Rising Scholars Program is our new pipeline program, sponsored this year by AT&T, that welcomed 16 DISD students interested in law to a week-long educational program that included college and law school admissions presentations, professional development sessions, mock classes, a moot court competition, and attorney panels. The Women's Leadership Initiative, so graciously funded by our alumna Angela Braly '85 and The Braly Family Foundation, is a new initiative that aims to enhance the leadership and professional skills of female SMU Law students and practicing attorneys, and eliminate stubborn barriers to success in the legal profession. Look for more details about upcoming lectures and events related to this wonderful program.

In its first year, our First Amendment Clinic was hard at work with a Fifth Circuit argument, one successful summary judgment argument, five moot courts, one successful federal lawsuit, five amicus briefs, and many research memoranda and client consultations. Our COVID-19 Legal Helpline was incredibly honored to receive the 2021 State Bar of Texas’ W. Frank Newton Award for its exceptional dedication to legal services for low-income North Texans.

In September, two of our alumnae, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot ’92 and Chief District Judge Barbara M.G. Lynn ’76, were honored by SMU and received the SMU Distinguished Alumni Award for their extraordinary achievements, outstanding character, and good citizenship.

We will continue to monitor conditions for upcoming activities and events, and hope to see all of you soon either in person or virtually. Please remember to share your news with us for the next edition of The Quad and the law school website. Thank you again for your enduring support of the law school and our students.

With deep appreciation,

Jennifer M. Collins

Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law
Underwood Law Library Celebrates 50th Anniversary

For 50 years, SMU Law students and faculty, and members of the Bar, have relied on Underwood Law Library for research and related services critical to their careers.
In hindsight, they might have picked a different speaker.

When the Underwood Law Library at SMU’s Dedman School of Law was dedicated on April 30, 1971, it was a day of pomp and pageantry. The red Georgian colossus was the second-largest law school library building in the United States, after the Harvard Law School Library. Built along Hillcrest Avenue, it filled in the fourth and final side of the Law Quad.

The library was an extraordinary gift, and not just to SMU, but, as its namesake and chief benefactor, George M. Underwood Jr., said at the dedication, “to the judges and lawyers of Texas and all the legal profession as a place of research and learning.”

For Dean Charles O. Galvin of the SMU School of Law, building the library was a personal triumph, “a dream which came in full fruition,” as he said years later. A great law school, he knew, required a great law library.

Galvin had a hand in every detail of the dedication ceremony. And he wasn’t one to do things in a small way.

“Dean Galvin intended it to be the biggest single event in law school history,” said Roy R. Anderson who is currently Professor Emeritus of Law and was Associate Dean when the library was dedicated 50 years ago.

Galvin’s first choice as keynote speaker for the dedication? The President of the United States, Richard Nixon.

The President, SMU was informed, was unavailable. So were the University’s next two choices, the Vice President and the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.


One year later, “the nation’s chief law enforcement officer” would be unmasked as one of the kingpins of the Watergate scandals that brought down the Nixon presidency. In 1975, Mitchell was convicted of conspiracy, obstruction of justice, and perjury. He served 19 months in prison.

“Had we not had Mitchell,” Galvin said in a 2000 interview for the SMU Video Archive Series, “we would have gone to the solicitor general [Erwin Griswold, former dean of Harvard Law School]... which would have made maybe a better situation.”
The Underwood Law Library
is one of the pillars of a great Law School

SMU’s School of Law was founded in 1925. At the time, SMU only had three buildings: Dallas Hall, Clements Hall, and the School of Theology’s Kirby Hall (now Florence Hall). The Law School and its library remained in Dallas Hall until 1951.

Lawyers Inn (now Carr Collins Jr. Hall) was completed in 1950 and Storey Hall opened in 1951. Storey Hall housed the Law Library.

In 1967, the cost to construct and furnish the Law Library and to renovate Florence Hall was estimated to be $3,654,188, of which $3,244,889 was for the Library. Dean Charles O. Galvin submitted the materials shown here to the U.S. Department of Education seeking funding for the project. Dean Galvin’s request resulted in a grant for $1,218,062 and a loan for $1,522,579. George M. Underwood Jr.’s $1,000,000 gift supplied most of the balance. Alumni, members of the local bar, and others were also major benefactors.

This 1966 architectural rendering illustrates a very early design that varies significantly from the final design.
Fifty years later, the Underwood Law Library remains one of the pillars of a great law school as envisioned by Dean Galvin, who died in 2011.

The internet, of course, has revolutionized legal research, as it has almost all aspects of modern life.

“Libraries have probably changed more in the past 20 years than in millennia,” said Greg Ivy, director of the Underwood Library and Dedman’s Associate Dean for Library and Technology.

“But the core mission of the library has not changed,” Ivy added.

“Heard Student continues to help our patrons elevate themselves and enhance their lives,” he said. “Underwood remains an important place for research and learning for law students, professors, attorneys, and others.”

Three years ago, a reporter from The New York Times visited Underwood and described its antitrust collection, tucked along a back wall of the four-story library’s top floor, as a place of “dead books… shelf after shelf of volumes ignored for decades.”

“Dead books” is harsh, but the writer had a point: One could go days without seeing a student visit the antitrust stacks. But the focus of the article was on Lina Khan, now Chair of the Federal Trade Commission, who used those books to research the early history of antitrust for her groundbreaking article on applying antitrust laws to online retailer Amazon.

What the writer failed to note, however, is that for every book on its shelves – Underwood’s 660,000 volumes are the largest print collection of any private law school library west of the Mississippi River – the library provides students, faculty, and other researchers with access to many more titles electronically. The library, which used to spend lavishly on acquiring new books, focuses today on purchasing access to electronic materials (in addition to printed items that are not available electronically). SMU librarians select and coordinate access to 900 database subscriptions, almost all of which faculty and students can tap into from on or off campus.

“Alumni and others may wonder about the importance of libraries in the age of the web, Lexis, Westlaw, and other electronic research systems,” Ivy observed. But having moved smoothly into the digital age, he said, Underwood remains a place of learning and provides a far broader range of services than ever.

“Students heavily use our various study spaces for extensive reading and collaborating with their study partners,” Ivy said. Besides classrooms, he noted, the library remains the principal place that “unites students with the law school and each other. … Students continually interact with those around them, often forming lifetime relationships.”

Galvin, in his 2000 video interview, recalled sharing his vision for a world-class law library with SMU President Willis M. Tate.

“I went over to see Willis… and told him I thought we could build a library that would be a center of research for this whole area,” Galvin said. “It would not only serve the students but the whole legal profession. And his comment was, ‘Well, what are you waiting for?’”

Galvin knew federal funds were available for new buildings at colleges and universities under the Higher Education Facilities Act, a law passed by Congress in the 1960s as part of President Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society domestic agenda.

The Dean traveled to Washington, met with federal officials, and secured a $1.2 million grant and a $1.5 million low-interest loan for construction of a law library.

But SMU still needed to come up with matching funds.

“And that,” Galvin said, “led me to my dear friend, George Underwood.”

Underwood, a successful real estate developer, was an esteemed SMU graduate ‘41. He served on the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees for 18 years. In 1973, the University honored him with its Distinguished Alumnus Award.

But he wasn’t a lawyer and had never been a student in the School of Law.

His connection to Galvin was purely personal: He and the Dean were childhood neighbors in University Park and lifelong friends. Underwood died in 2016 at the age of 96.

As a young man in the years after World War II, one of Underwood’s real estate ventures was Richardson Heights, a neighborhood of cozy homes built north of Dallas for returning GIs. Older, more experienced developers thought the project a fool’s errand. There wasn’t much around Richardson Heights but cotton fields and cow pastures. In 1952, Dallas’s new freeway, the North Central Expressway, stopped at Mockingbird Lane.

Four years later, however, a northward extension of the expressway opened – along the eastern edge of Richardson Heights. Underwood’s holding would come to form a sizeable chunk of the city of Richardson.

When Galvin first approached Underwood about contributing to the library fund, the developer offered to write a check for $5,000.

“I told him I wanted a million bucks from him,” Galvin said. With help from Underwood’s wife Nancy, the Dean persuaded his friend to agree.

There were other generous donations to the project, Galvin noted, “but his was the clincher.” The Underwood family’s million dollar gift is equivalent to approximately $6 million today.
The Underwood Law Library’s 1971 dedication was one of the most substantial events ever held at the Law School.

This photo shows, from left to right, SMU President Willis Tate, Law School Dean Charles O. Galvin, and George M. Underwood Jr. with wife Nancy Chambers Underwood standing before an architectural rendering prior to the building’s completion.

New Law Library Named In Honor of Underwoods

Southern Methodist University’s new $3.5-million law library was named Monday in honor of Mr. and Mrs. George Underwood Jr. of Dallas who pledged $1 million for the building in 1967.

Dr. Charles O. Galvin, dean of the SMU law school, said: "The new library will be one of the finest in the country. Its study room will be the largest library attorneys and barristers can use in the area."

Announcement from The Dallas Morning News.

Faculty procession at dedication.

Food, flowers, and decorations were elaborate at dedication.
A distinguishing feature of Underwood Library is its collection of 13,000 antiquarian law books, one of the largest such collections in North America. The collection grew substantially in size and prestige when Professor Joseph W. McKnight, who taught at Dedman for nearly six decades, donated his library of roughly 7,000 antiquarian law books to the school after his retirement in 2014.

The earliest book in Underwood’s collection is a legal dictionary printed in Basel, Switzerland, in 1473.

Some of the antiquarian collection is in storage in the basement of Underwood. The best are shelved in a rare books room on the library’s fourth floor. The room is kept locked and is accessible to students and other library visitors with special permission.

“The collection wouldn’t be helpful to most people,” Ivy pointed out, “since a large majority of the books are in Latin due to their early dates.”

Dedman graduate Frank G. Merlino ’89, an attorney, author, and executive with The University of Texas Southwest Medical Center, said one of his fondest memories of Underwood was “seeing Professor McKnight’s donated antiquarian law books… and hearing him speak about them after his retirement.”

Underwood’s place as a beloved institution of the law school is evident in the vivid recollections Dedman alumni shared of the library.

“My favorite law library memory actually occurred before I was a law student,” said Scott Kimpel ’98, a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Hunton Andrews Kurth. He took his LSAT in the library.

“When the appointed autumn day, I dutifully showed up to the Underwood Law Library and took my seat in one of the large ground-floor lecture halls,” Kimpel said. “Just as the testing began, a marching band fired up outside the building and proceeded to play a series of marches for what seemed an eternity.”

“I don’t recall if it was homecoming weekend or what the reason for the performance was. But I do distinctly remember several exasperated test-takers putting their pencils down and leaving the room to perhaps reschedule at a later date. Little did I know at the time that less than a year later I would be sitting down for my first 1L courses in the very same lecture hall.”

Martin Ruegsegger ’75 said, “I remember my first semester in law school, watching out the second-floor window across Hillcrest to a building being built and thinking that if I didn’t study hard, I might be working as a laborer the second semester. That didn’t happen. I must have studied hard enough.”

Mike Lynn ’75, chairman and founding partner of Lynn Pinker Hurst & Schwegmann and recipient of Dedman’s 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award for Private Practice, fondly remembers Underwood as the place where he flirted with his wife, Barbara M.G. Lynn ’76, now chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

“I remember watching Barb study at the northeastern side of the library on the second floor,” he said. “There, I sat across from Barb and hopelessly tried to distract her from reading cases. I would throw missiles her way at various times during the day. We spent literally hours together.”

Chief Judge Lynn, who graduated summa cum laude, was always a conscientious student, Mike said. Eventually, in the Underwood Law Library, at least some of her good habits wore off on him.

“As time wore on, I learned to study,” he said, “and Barb learned to duck the missiles.”

The law school will hold a 50th anniversary celebration later this year. As of this writing, the principal speaker will not be the President, Vice President, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or U.S. Attorney General.
Thomas Jefferson and James Madison signed ship’s passport, 1804. This document provided American-owned vessels with a “Passport” that would be recognized by Algeria and later by other Barbary states, small Muslim strongholds on the coast of Africa including Tunis and Tripoli, through similar treaties. These passports were intended to serve as additional evidence of official nationality.

An original letter from Abraham Lincoln to Major General George Meade in 1863.

The earliest book in the Underwood Law Library, Jodocus Erforaensis’ *Vocabularius Utriusque iuris*, a legal dictionary printed in Basel, Switzerland, by Michael Wennsler in 1473. It is in excellent condition and retains its original binding.
A s it grows and adapts to the changing universe of legal discourse, the Underwood Law Library remains primarily a place of learning.

In addition to providing access to highly valuable information, Underwood is the place where many of our students read extensively and collaborate with their classmates. Students who lack quiet spaces at home find the library especially important.

Prior to the pandemic, the Underwood Law Library saw more in-person use than ever, according to staff who have worked at the library for decades.

Today, the Underwood Law Library provides far more services than we could have imagined even twenty years ago. (See the adjacent “word cloud” for examples.) Our librarians – five of whom have both graduate library degrees and law degrees – are contributing more higher-level services than ever. They regularly carry out in-depth research for faculty, assist students with research, and support the law school’s five student-edited journals. In addition, our lawyer-librarians teach for-credit, research-related courses and offer lectures on research for classes by other faculty.

Underwood staff digitize materials and make them readily accessible on the web. To promote faculty scholarship, librarians make faculty publications available on the law school’s web-based institutional repository (https://scholar.smu.edu/law). They have also added to the institutional repository all issues of the law school’s journals and much of the law school’s archives, such as yearbooks, graduation programs, and various newspapers and newsletters. Try searching your name at https://scholar.smu.edu/law_history/.

Libraries devoted to serious research are committed to preserving information. Moreover, unlike in the sciences, older materials remain an important resource in our precedent-based legal system. Because new books as well as a large proportion of older books are not available electronically, Underwood’s extensive collections help keep the expanding storehouse of law-related knowledge widely available.

Alumni have always been important consumers of Underwood’s services. We invite you to visit, call, or email us when you need assistance.

LIBRARY SERVICES
Providing outstanding resources...
Jennifer M. Collins

Women's Leadership Initiative

Launches 2021-2022

The initiative aims to enhance the leadership and professional skills of female SMU Law students and practicing attorneys.

Featured to the right are photos of some of our illustrious female graduates.
Although women continue to graduate from law school in ever increasing numbers, only 21 percent of equity partners in 2020 were women. Only 34 percent of the general counsels in the Fortune 500 were women. Why do these gender disparities continue to persist in the legal profession? This school year, thanks to a lead gift by The Braly Family Foundation in honor of Dean Collins, SMU Dedman School of Law will launch the Jennifer M. Collins Women’s Leadership Initiative to explore these questions and the unique challenges women still face in their education and in the legal profession.

The Initiative aims to enhance the leadership and professional skills of female SMU Law students and practicing attorneys. The Initiative will also explore how to retain women in the legal profession, cure inequities in the legal field, enhance rainmaking and networking skills, and provide solutions to gender barriers in the workplace to better equip our students and graduates to tackle these challenges, build successful lives in the law, and inspire change.

“We are extremely grateful to Angela and Doug Braly and The Braly Family Foundation for their generous support and commitment to our law school and women attorneys,” said Dean Collins. “I am truly honored and humbled to be the namesake of an initiative that supports our female law students, alumnae, and the broader legal community.”

SMU Dedman School of Law alumna, Angela F Braly ’85, co-trustee of The Braly Family Foundation and former chair of the board, president, and CEO of WellPoint Inc., a healthcare insurance company now known as Anthem, Inc., serves on the board of directors of The Procter & Gamble Company, Lowe’s Companies, Inc., Brookfield Asset Management, and ExxonMobil. Braly is also a co-founder of The Policy Circle, a grassroots network of women across the country gathering to discuss public policy.

“The Braly Family Foundation is committed to helping women attorneys with obstacles they face navigating their professional careers. As an alumna of the law school, I am thankful to Dean Collins for her work to support female law students and law alumnae,” said Braly. “Because Dean Collins is the first female law dean of SMU Dedman School of Law, we thought it only appropriate to name this initiative in her honor.”

Programming for the Women’s Leadership Initiative will be managed by Director of Alumni Relations, Christine P. Leatherberry ’06, also an alumna and a family law adjunct professor at SMU Dedman School of Law.

“We are thrilled about launching the Jennifer M. Collins Women’s Leadership Initiative,” said Leatherberry. “Plans for the initiative are already in the works based on valuable input from students and alumnae. We plan to collaborate with other programs and legal, business, and government leaders toward our universal goal of empowering women to thrive in their careers, help our communities in need, and move the needle on inequities still present in the legal profession.”

To learn how you, your company, or your firm can support and attend the Initiative’s upcoming events, visit smu.edu/law/wli.
Five panel discussions included vibrant dialogue on topics ranging from "Increasing Black Enrollment in Law Schools" to "The Role of Historically Black Law Schools." Deans from all six HBCU Law Schools in the United States participated.

Panelists below: “The Role of Historically Black Law Schools”

- Renée McDonald Hutchins, Dean and Professor of Law, University of District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law
- Deidré A. Keller, Dean and Professor of Law, Florida A&M University College of Law
- Browne C. Lewis, Dean and Professor of Law, North Carolina Central University School of Law
- Danielle Holley-Walker, Dean and Professor of Law, Howard University School of Law
- Joan R.M. Bullock, Dean and Professor of Law, Texas Southern, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
- John Pierre ’85, Chancellor and Vanue B. Lacour Endowed Professor of Law, Southern University Law Center
- A. Felecia Epps, Dean and Professor of Law, UNT Dallas College of Law

“Putting Black lawyers in positions of power at law firms is long overdue. Law firms need to get Black lawyers into leadership roles.”
Judges, law professors, and attorneys from across the country urged that the legal profession must take collective and immediate action to remedy a historic lack of representation in the profession during a day-long virtual conference co-hosted by SMU Dedman School of Law and the University of Houston Law Center. "Black Lawyers Matter: Strategies to Enhance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" was held on October 30, 2020. More than 1,000 people were in attendance.

Dean Leonard M. Baynes of UH Law Center began the symposium by saying that while some progress has been made, significant underrepresentation persists in the legal profession.

"I’m delighted that the UH Law Center and SMU Dedman School of Law co-convened this conference," Dean Leonard M. Baynes said in his welcoming remarks. “After the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others, SMU's Dean Collins and I observed that there are still too few Black lawyers. "Only five percent of lawyers in our nation are African-American." Only five percent of lawyers in our nation are African-American. Less than eight percent of first-year law students in 2019 were Black, whereas 13 percent of the U.S. population is Black. There is still a lot of work to be done, and our goal is that the audience left with best practices to increase the pipeline of Black law students, lawyers, judges, and other legal professionals.”

SMU Dedman School of Law Dean Jennifer Collins added that these issues have been discussed for decades, but with little meaningful progress to show for it.

"Law remains one of the least diverse professions in the nation. That is unacceptable, it is inexcusable, and it’s time to do something about it," Dean Collins said. “I hope the conference left participants with some concrete ideas and strategies for how to create real, meaningful and sustained change in your workplace – whether that is a law school, a law firm, a corporation or a public interest organization. Black lawyers matter and Black law students matter. Now and always. SMU Law and the University of Houston Law Center are absolutely determined to do everything we can to demonstrate our commitment to that enduring principle.”

The event’s opening speaker was U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee of the 18th Congressional District of Texas. “Knowledge is power,” Jackson Lee said. “If you want to see a sizably recognized increase of African-Americans in law firms across the country and state, there has to be an appreciation for the history from which they came from. It is a high calling to be a lawyer and the defenders of the Constitution. This conference can be a great opportunity for expanding the horizons of young Black lawyers and young Black law students.”

The Bracewell LLP Distinguished Lecture in Racial and Social Justice Keynote Speaker was David B. Wilkins, Lester Kissel Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, Vice Dean for Global Initiatives on the Legal Profession, and Faculty Director of the Center on the Legal Profession and the Center for Lawyers and the Professional Services Industry.

Join us for the 2nd Annual Black Lawyers Matter Conference to be held virtually on October 15, 2021. More details at smu.edu/law.

Learn more about the 2020 conference.

SMU Dedman School of Law and the University of Houston Law Center address law’s diversity struggles at first-ever Black Lawyers Matter Conference
SMU Law is honored to have hosted the inaugural class of its Rising Scholars Program.

The legal profession unfortunately remains one of the least diverse professions in the nation. Because of its core commitment to changing those statistics and increasing access to the profession, SMU Dedman School of Law developed the Rising Scholars Program to engage, inspire, and empower high school students who are interested in careers in law.

Sixteen rising high school seniors participated in a week-long educational program that included college and law school admissions presentations, professional development sessions, mock classes, a moot court competition, and attorney panels and lunches.

“SMU Law is committed to investing in the next generation of legal professionals. We were so excited to launch the Rising Scholars Program and host this exceptional group of high school students,” said Jennifer Collins, Dean of SMU Dedman School of Law. “We hope this experience has inspired the students to consider a career in law and equipped them with some key tools that will help them be successful in college and wherever their professional dreams may lead them.”

The pilot program, which ran from June 28 through July 2, 2021, was sponsored by AT&T. Most of the participants were selected through the law school’s partnership with the Dallas Bar Association’s Summer Law Intern Program, which provides internships for high school students in the Dallas Independent School District.

“The students’ level of engagement in the program and enthusiasm about the legal profession has set the bar high for future classes of the Rising Scholars Program,” says Erika Fadel, Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. “It is refreshing to work with a group of young people who have a deep thirst for learning and who have been intentional about putting themselves in a position to be challenged and to grow. We look forward to continuing to work with them as they continue their academic endeavors.”

Sponsored by:

AT&T
A VISION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

SMU LAW'S DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE SHARES A VISION OF WHAT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY EXPANDING SMU LAW'S PUBLIC INTEREST PROGRAM INTO A PUBLIC INTEREST CENTER

Laura Burstein
Director of Public Service and Faculty Supervisor, Government & Public Interest Externship Program, Public Service Program
SMU Law has a decades-long tradition of Public Service

1947
Dean Storey established the Community Legal Clinic, ahead of most law schools in the country

1996
SMU is first law school in Texas to establish a mandatory public service grad requirement

2014
SMU wins Law School Commitment to Service Award by Texas Access to Justice Commission

2015
• Pro Bono Honor Roll established with 15 students earning over 200 hours
• Instituted a community service project at orientation

2016
Created Flash Classes discussing emerging issues in the news and social justice matters

2017
Established the Government & Public Interest Externship Program serving over 60 students each year

2018
• Incorporated a Poverty Simulation into orientation
• Established the Public Interest Dinner Series
• SMU wins Law School Commitment to Service Award by Texas Access to Justice Commission for second time

2019
Student wins EJW fellowship at Human Rights Initiative

2020
Class of 2020 Public Service Hours brings 24 year total to over 320,000 hours of service to the community

Q: WHEN WAS THE PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM AT SMU LAW ESTABLISHED?

Burstein: Beginning in 1947, almost 20 years before legal clinics became a national movement, SMU Dedman School of Law demonstrated its unwavering commitment to public service by establishing the Community Legal Clinic. We were proud in 1996 to become the first law school in Texas to establish a mandatory public service graduation requirement. SMU’s legacy of public service stems from the understanding that participating in public service plays a valuable role in the development of competent and responsible lawyers and also benefits the community by helping to meet the critical need for pro bono legal assistance.

Looking at the development of our Public Service Program, we have been actively increasing public service efforts and offerings in recent years. Growth in public service offerings can, and will, improve our school’s national standing as well as energize SMU’s Law’s efforts to recruit highly competitive public interest focused students.

Q: HOW DOES EXPANDING OUR PUBLIC INTEREST PROGRAM BENEFIT THE SCHOOL?

Burstein: To understand this, it is important to look at why undergraduates choose to go to law school in the first place. A recent Gallup Poll surveyed 22,000 undergraduates and nearly 3,000 1Ls asking why they chose to go to law school and found that public interest aspirations were the primary motivations.

44% were looking for careers in politics, government or public service

42% were passionate about a public service career

35% were seeking opportunities to help others

32% were hoping to advocate for social change

To continue providing student applicants with programs they need and want, we must provide them with the training and support they seek for the careers they envision for themselves when they apply to law school.
Q: WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM?

Burstein: Currently, our Public Service Program is composed of one staff member (myself) and four areas of focus:

4 AREAS OF FOCUS
• Pro bono graduation requirement
• Experiential learning opportunities
• Career planning assistance
• APIL (Association for Public Interest Law), SMU Law’s public interest organization

The pro bono graduation requirement requires that every J.D. student volunteer a minimum of 30 hours of pro bono legal work in a nonprofit legal services organization or government agency over the course of their education at Dedman Law. The goal of the public service graduation requirement is to enhance both the legal profession and the law school curriculum by exposing lawyers-to-be to the importance of a life-long commitment to public service.

In the last 24 years, SMU Dedman Law students have volunteered more than 320,000 hours in law-related efforts to assist the underserved.

Q: WHY ARE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLIC SERVICE SO IMPORTANT?

Burstein: Interning or volunteering with nonprofit legal services organizations and government agencies, or in one of our 11 law school clinics, builds practical lawyering skills in significant ways — but for students seeking public interest careers, these experiences are more than just helpful — they are absolutely critical to their future success.

Post-graduate public interest jobs are exceptionally competitive — too few organizations hiring for far fewer public interest positions compared to private practice positions. Therefore, to be competitive for public interest jobs, students must demonstrate both their dedication to the work and the relevant skills and experience they bring to the table. Simply stated, they need practical experience. To expand opportunities for students to build skills, we established the Government & Public Interest Externship Program in the fall of 2017. Modeled after our very successful Corporate Counsel Externship Program, this program has enabled more than 180 students to extern in Government and Public Interest agencies, positioning them to be ideal candidates for public interest jobs.

Following the introduction of the program, we have seen an uptick in students indicating an interest in pursuing public interest careers and more than 10% of alumni of the Government & Public Interest Externship Program are lawyers currently working in public service careers.

Q: HOW IS CAREER PLANNING FOR STUDENTS SEEKING PUBLIC INTEREST CAREERS UNIQUE?

Burstein: Because career opportunities in the public sector are more limited than opportunities in the private sector, career planning for these students focuses upon building relevant and practical legal experiences in the areas in which they seek to work. This starts by providing informational programming — such as our Government & Public Interest Practice Series — featuring attorneys who work in the public sector throughout the community sharing their experiences and career advice with students. Once our students have a sense of the opportunities available, we strongly encourage students to experiment with practice settings and substantive areas of law through internships and externships, pro bono hours, and law school clinics to help shape their goals and build tangible skills to better position them to pursue a career in the public sector.

Throughout the year, there are a number of important career fairs focused on public interest summer internships and postgraduate employment that we encourage our public interest career-seeking students to attend, including:

• Equal Justice Works Conference in Washington, D.C., which features over 200 different public interest employers across the country.
• SMU Law Public Advocate Day, where more than 50 different local public interest and government agencies meet with our students to discuss their careers and opportunities for summer and school year internships and externships.

In 2018, we created our extremely popular “Public Interest Dinner Series” program where faculty members host students in their homes for dinner and an informal discussion with a small group of public interest lawyers working in our community.

The most prestigious way for a student to kick off a public interest career is through a post-graduate public interest fellowship. These are

CLASS OF 2021 HAD 26 GRADUATES ON THE PRO BONO HONOR ROLL
• 8 graduates, each with more than 300 hours of public service
• 16,000 hours of public service
• Averaged 73 hours per student
term-limited, sponsored special partnership projects with nonprofit legal programs (a little like a judicial clerkship), through organizations such as Equal Justice Works or the Skadden Foundation. These fellowships are highly competitive and are awarded to only about 100 law graduates across the country each year. We assist our students in every way we can to make them competitive for these kinds of fellowships.

A final important area of our public interest program is APIL, our public interest student group. APIL organizes meetings with lawyers from the public interest sector, holds small fundraisers throughout the year, and hosts the annual APIL Auction to raise funds for public interest stipends to support students working in unpaid public interest internships.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR VISON FOR THE FUTURE?

Burstein: While we have made great headway in providing resources and assistance for students seeking public interest careers, we could do much more to ensure our students are as competitive in the field as possible.

Our vision for the future is to transform our existing public interest program into a Public Interest Center. A Center would draw on our trailblazing legacy of prioritizing public service and training committed and responsible leaders engaged in the needs of our community. Establishing a Public Interest Center will enhance our ability to recruit outstanding students seeking public interest careers and empower these students with the skills and experiences to be competitive candidates for public interest careers. A Center, simply put, will invigorate SMU Dedman School of Law and take an excellent program to the next level.

Interested in helping Dedman Law reach the next level?
Support the Public Interest Program or the Public Interest Center by visiting the SMU Dedman School of Law giving page (smu.edu/law/giving) or contact Anne Beard, Director of Development, agbeard@smu.edu.

Q: WHAT WOULD A PUBLIC INTEREST CENTER AT SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW LOOK LIKE?

Burstein: To ensure our students’ future success, a Public Interest Center would add programs dedicated to recruitment and outreach and would also add crucial public interest and poverty law courses to our experiential offerings.

AS WE LOOK TOWARD FUNDING A CENTER, WE WOULD EXPAND AS FOLLOWS:

1. We would enhance our Experiential Learning offerings by developing substantive public interest curricular offerings, expand the Government & Public Internship Externship Program, and create a Public Interest Certificate Program.

2. In our Career Planning efforts, we would provide alumni advising, create a Public Interest Loan Repayment Assistance Program, establish funds to support travel for students to interview for public interest positions, and add an Assistant Director of Public Service who can help us provide personalized assistance to more students.

3. We would establish a new focus on recruitment and outreach by creating a Public Interest Scholars Program, developing a Public Interest newsletter or podcast, instituting a Public Interest Speaker Series & Symposia, providing students with guaranteed summer public interest stipends, and creating public interest projects with SMU partners outside the law school.

4. While we have a robust and active public interest student group (APIL), we would develop avenues to encourage collaborative projects with other student organizations and create public interest programming/projects related to the interests of the other organizations.

5. Finally, we would enrich our pro bono graduation requirement, by creating school-wide, in-house public service projects and establishing an annual public interest awards event to help our outstanding public interest students distinguish themselves.

Establishing a Public Interest Center at SMU will elevate Dedman Law’s national reputation by broadening our impact on the community. The majority of the top 50 law schools have dedicated public interest centers, and SMU has the faculty, connections, and research capabilities to join that group. Student applicants are savvy and recognize that a law school with a public interest center will have greater resources at their disposal to support their students achieving public interest goals. Consequently, a Center will help recruit highly competitive public interest seeking law school applicants and provide those students with curated opportunities, mentorship, support, and resources to optimize their success and go out and make a difference in the world.
We thank our alumni for the continued mentoring, volunteering, donations, and flexibility during these times. We look forward to seeing you all very soon.
CHRISTINE P. LEATHERBERRY '06

Reflections from SMU Law Alumni Director

Last January, just on the cusp of the pandemic, I returned to my alma mater as its new Director of Alumni Relations. As the pandemic marched on and my job morphed, I was able to spend some time reflecting about how the law school has changed in the 15 years since I graduated. It is still the gorgeous quad that is awe-inspiring to prospective students. It still has award-winning, nationally-renowned professors. It still has Florence Hall with its uneven temperature and spooky sounds.

Reflecting on my time at the law school from 2003 to 2006, I remember fondly hearing and relishing Professor Eads’ war stories and also soaking in her take on Lawrence v. Texas, shortly after the SCOTUS decision came out. I remember taking Professor Bridges’ edited writing Death Penalty Project class when we worked on a real-life local case involving a schizophrenic man who had killed his great-grandparents. I remember the law school welcoming law students from New Orleans with open arms after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. Alongside another law student, I taught the McDonald’s hot coffee case to DISD 5th graders and helped them put on a mock trial. I made lifelong friends and years later even married an SMU Law alum from a different graduating class.

The law school has changed in so many palpable ways – there are new activities, programs, initiatives, clinics, and student organizations. The law school is more inclusive, more welcoming, more diverse, and more responsive. As the pandemic changed the way we do things, there was a palpable push to respond with more inclusivity and diversity. The Dean, faculty, administrators, and staff are even more focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues, on the success of women graduates and first-generation students, and even more supportive of students interested in public interest law, government work, and criminal justice reform.

For example, the diversity of the entering class has gone up from 18% to 33% in just the last five years. The law school created the position of Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and promoted Erika Fadel to this position. This summer, the law school welcomed DISD high school students to campus for its highly successful inaugural Rising Scholars Program as a pipeline program to inspire students to attend higher education and consider our profession.

The Jennifer M. Collins Women’s Leadership Initiative is set to launch this school year, which will explore elevating women lawyers in leadership positions, retaining women in the legal field, acknowledging and moving the needle on inequities in the legal profession, and enhancing business skills.

There are dozens more student organizations – everything from OUTlaw (a group of law students, faculty, staff, and their significant others and friends who all support LGBT persons and initiatives), to the Veterans Law Association, to the Second Amendment Foundation, to the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators.

The law students thoroughly enjoy volunteering and giving back. During January and February 2021, when the pandemic was at its peak, SMU Law students (alongside our amazing alumni) volunteered at the North Texas Food Bank to help North Texas residents facing a record hunger crisis (and public service credit was not given to the students – this was just out of the goodness of their hearts). The students I have met through teaching and student events are extremely caring, open-minded, welcoming, and philanthropic.

Another way the law school has expanded is there are now 3 centers and 11 clinics, including the new First Amendment Clinic, which opened its doors last year under the guidance of Tom Leatherbury.

Under the direction of Dean Collins, the law school hosts optional “flash classes” on important societal issues and current events, i.e., the Botham Jean/Amber Guyger case, the death of Justice Scalia, the death of Justice Ginsburg, the death of George Floyd, the insurrection at the Capitol, and the Texas winter storm and energy crisis. These classes are taught in a casual, interactive, and non-political way. Moreover, the law school pays attention to students’ mental health and holds sessions to check in on students, particularly during the tumultuous last year.

Many (perhaps all) of these changes are due to the incredible leadership of Dean Collins. She has shown a natural ability to transform the law school into a more welcoming, diverse, vibrant, and nationally-renowned law school – a school that is not afraid to explore all sides of societal and legal issues.

If you have not been involved with the law school recently, I suggest you connect with us by mentoring a law student through the Mustang Exchange program, hiring a law student, or attending one of our social or educational events. This way you will see firsthand all the wonderful developments since you graduated. You will be proud.
Connect with Your Local Chapter

Live outside of Dallas? The Host Committee in each local Chapter keeps their pulse on SMU Law news, welcomes new alumni to town, and organizes local Mustang Bar alumni events. Would you like to be a part of your Chapter’s Host Committee? Join your Host Committee. If you want to start a Mustang Bar local Chapter and Host Committee in a location not listed below, please email us at mustangbar@smu.edu.

Also, please join the Facebook pages to network, refer to each other, and socialize:

- Austin
- DC
- Fort Worth
- Houston
- International
- Little Rock
- Los Angeles
- North Texas
- NYC
- Oklahoma City
- Rio Grande Valley
- San Antonio

For more information: smu.edu/law/chapters

Thank you to our Community Fellows!

L to R: Bill Wilshusen ’79, Partner, Haynes and Boone, LLP
Tim Powers ’80, Partner, Haynes and Boone, LLP
Magistrate Judge Rebecca Rutherford ’98, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas

*Note: Not all Community Fellows are pictured. For a complete list, visit: smu.edu/law/CF

John Torres, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary, Lennox International, Inc.
Kathleen LaValle ’82, President and CEO, Dallas CASA
Michael M. Boone ’87, Co-Founder and Partner, Haynes and Boone, LLP
Gabe Vazquez ’02, Vice President, Associate General Counsel of Operations, Vistra Energy
Angela Zambrano ’97, Partner, Sidley Austin LLP
Albert Tan ’93, Partner, Haynes and Boone, LLP
Jan Sharry ’77, Partner, Haynes and Boone, LLP
Mark Sloan ’90, Managing Partner, Thompson & Knight LLP
Doug Wabner ’85, Partner, Norton Rose Fullbright
David Haley ’86, President, HBK Capital Management

Update Your Records

We look forward to seeing you at our alumni events! Be on the lookout for events, tailgates, reunions, the alumni magazine entitled The Quad, monthly e-newsletters entitled Mustang Minute, etc. Don’t miss the opportunity to receive email updates and mailings from your alma mater!

Update your records: smu.edu/law/update

Join a Diversity Affinity Group

The Mustang Bar is forming diversity alumni groups for additional connecting and networking opportunities within our alumni association. We are starting with Black Alumni, Hispanic Alumni, Asian Alumni, Muslim Alumni, and LGBT Alumni groups, and we are considering adding more! If you are interested in joining one of these groups or if you would like to propose another diverse alumni group, please contact us.

Contact: mustangbar@smu.edu

Get Involved!
Note: We look forward to seeing you at our alumni gatherings and are closely monitoring the state of the pandemic. We will send an update in the event any gathering is postponed, canceled, or changed to a virtual format. All events are in person unless otherwise noted.

September 11, 2021
Family Weekend Tailgate

September 17, 2021
SMU Campaign Launch Day

September 30, 2021
SMU Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony
Featuring Claire Babineaux-Fontenot LL.M. ’92, CEO, Feeding America and Chief District Judge Barbara M.G. Lynn ’76, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas

October 1, 2021
0s & 5s and 1s & 6s Reunion

October 2, 2021
Homecoming Weekend Tailgate

October 14, 2021
Louise B. Raggio Endowed Lecture – Senators Kelly Ayotte and Claire McCaskill, moderated by Dean Jennifer Collins

October 15, 2021
Second Annual Black Lawyers Matter Conference (Virtual)

October 19, 2021
Judge Bob Bacharach: Q & A and Book Signing

October 21 and 22, 2021
Golden Mustang Event in conjunction with SMU - classes before 1971

March 31, 2022
SMU Law Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony and Dinner

Stay tuned for more events and be sure to check your email for the monthly Mustang Minute!
FALL 2020

October 15-16, 2020
28th Annual Corporate Counsel Symposium.

October 16, 2020
SMU Law Alumni wine tasting with Winemaker Rollin Soles, co-sponsored by Veritas Wine Bar.

October 23, 2020
State of the Law School Update and Toast with Dean Jennifer Collins.

October 30, 2020
Black Lawyers Matter: Strategies to Enhance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Note: All events were virtual unless noted otherwise.

SPRING 2021

2021
DAYL and DBA Transition to Law Practice Program STEER 2021 mentorship program for young lawyers.

January 30 and February 6, 2021
North Texas Food Bank Alumni and Student Volunteer Opportunity helping those during the pandemic.

March 2, 2021

April 5-11, 2021
14th Annual APIL Auction and Wine Pull.

April 14, 2021
A Return to Globalism: What U.S. Companies Can Expect from the Biden Administration, a Rowling Center Event.

May 15, 2021
Brittany Barnett ’11 is a lawyer, entrepreneur, best-selling author and speaker, who has accomplished more in the name of criminal justice reform in just a few years than many do in a lifetime. As the daughter of a formerly incarcerated mother, Brittany learned firsthand the devastating impact of mass incarceration on families and communities. In order to support her mission to transform the criminal justice system, Brittany founded two nonprofits. The Buried Alive Project works to dismantle life without parole sentences handed down under federal drug laws. Girls Embracing Mothers is dedicated to empowering girls with mothers in prison, which was featured this summer on PBS News Hour. While working in corporate law after graduating from SMU Law, Barnett took on a pro bono case that shined a light on the magnitude of mass incarceration in the United States.

**A LAWYER, ENTREPRENEUR, BEST-SELLING AUTHOR AND SPEAKER, WHO HAS ACCOMPLISHED MORE IN THE NAME OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM IN JUST A FEW YEARS THAN MANY DO IN A LIFETIME**

In January 2021, Brittany secured two presidential commutations for her clients who were serving life sentences for single drug offenses under mandatory sentencing guidelines. Before that, she worked to free many people, even some sentenced to death, as well as seven recipients of executive clemency from President Obama.

Her memoir, *A Knock at Midnight: A Story of Hope, Justice, and Freedom*, was named Best Book of 2020 by Amazon.

She has earned many additional awards, including being named one of America’s most Outstanding Young Lawyers by the American Bar Association, a Christopher Award for her book, and a New Friends New Life ProtectHER Award for her commitment to pro bono work.
GIVING & IMPACT

5TH ANNUAL LAW FIRM CHALLENGE

Many Gifts. One Impact.

Since 2016, SMU Dedman School of Law alumni have come together during the Law Firm Challenge to engage in a little healthy and fun competition. The Challenge invites alumni to participate in an annual fundraising competition in which Texas-based law firms vie for the highest percentage of alumni giving to SMU Dedman School of Law.

Each December, firms rally their teams to aim for 100% of alumni participation at their organization, raising money for critical student scholarships, the SMU Fund for Dedman Law, Dedman Law’s eleven legal clinics, and three centers. This past year, the program expanded from solely North Texas organizations to firms in Houston as well. In addition to the joys of giving back and being featured in law school communications, the most sought-after prize is, of course, coveted bragging rights.

The 2020 Law Firm Challenge was a notable success, particularly given that it occurred during the unprecedented time of the global pandemic. Competing in the spirit of fun and service to SMU, 24 law firms and their 469 alumni gave to the Challenge in 2020, answering the call from Dedman Law professors who filmed messages encouraging alumni to contribute.

“I’m consistently impressed with the generosity and Mustang pride exhibited by our SMU Law Firm Challenge participants,” said Jennifer M. Collins, the Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law. “I am so grateful to our alumni and enjoy watching them compete in the spirit of giving back.”

Donors who went above and beyond the Law Firm Challenge, giving both to the Challenge and to Dedman Law at a previous date in 2020, earned Golden Pony status, with special recognition on the Law Firm Challenge website.

The Dedman School of Law celebrates our Challenge participants and is deeply grateful to our alums and law firms for their continued support of SMU. Gifts made via the Law Firm Challenge go directly to the people and programs who need them the most, supporting our students and faculty in their classroom studies and ground-breaking research. If you would like to get involved in future SMU Law Firm Challenges and vie for bragging rights while also giving back to your alma mater, please contact Anne Beard, Director of Development, SMU Dedman School of Law, at 214-768-4527 or abeard@smu.edu.

We look forward to seeing your firm’s name on the leaderboard in 2022.

DEDMAN LAW IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THIS YEAR’S CHAMPIONS!

Group Red Champions included organizations with more than 25 alumni per firm. Winning firms received priority scheduling for on-campus interviews and were eligible to win SMU Men’s Basketball tickets.

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld • Hunton Andrews Kurth Thompson & Knight • Haynes and Boone Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr

Group Blue Champions included less than 25 alumni per firm.

Baker Botts • Bracewell • Holland & Knight • Kelly Hart Vinson & Elkins • Cooper & Scully

 Bailey Pham ’08 Partner, Vinson & Elkins LLP

“It did not take much to rally the troops at Vinson & Elkins as I quickly learned that my fellow SMU alums were equally excited about giving back to SMU to ensure that current and future students would have an experience as great as ours.”

John A. Scully ’82 Founding Shareholder, Cooper & Scully, P.C.

“When I brought the Challenge to the attention of my fellow alums in our firm, the response was immediate: Let’s get it done!” he recalls. “We have fifteen SMU Law alumni in our firm. We are proud of our school and very grateful for the opportunities our SMU Dedman Law educations have provided us. We all wanted to do everything we could to support our school and help the students.”

Douglas A. Yeager ’93 Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP

“SMU Law School has a lot of great alumni in Houston, and we wanted to help promote the school and all that it does, especially in the Houston area,” he said. “I reached out to the alumni that I knew (especially those in my firm) and encouraged them to contribute. I would like to help support the school and all of its programs. The Law Firm Challenge is a terrific idea and hopefully it will help focus alumni on giving back to the school on an annual basis.”
Thank you to this year’s participating Law Firms!

Thank you to our Law Firm Ambassadors
Thank you to the 469 alumni and 24 Texas Law Firms for participating – what a success!

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.

Penelope W. Shumway '18
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
Jessica Mannon '17
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
Jeff Becker '09
Baker Botts
Emily Lehmbreg '14
Bell Nunnally
Brock Bailey '96
Bracewell
Jon Leatherberry '99
Bracewell
Brooks Caston '14
Clark Hill | Strasburger
Elizabeth "Liz" Griffin '14
Clark Hill | Strasburger
Anna K. Olin '17
Clark Hill | Strasburger
Jeremy R. Wallace '19
Clark Hill | Strasburger
John A. Scully '82
Cooper & Scully
David Cabrales '93
Foley
Chelsea Hilliard '10
Foley
Marcus Fettinger '11
Foley
Isreal Miller '04
Gray Reed
Cole Robinson '13
Gray Reed
Grant Smith '14
Greenberg Traurig
Sarah-Michelle Stearns '16
Greenberg Traurig
Cory Feldman '09
Haynes and Boone
David C. Schulte '02
Holland & Knight
Fawaz A. Bham '13
Hunton Andrews Kurth
Lamar H. Dowling '13
Jackson Walker
Albon O. Head, Jr. '71
Jackson Walker
Jennifer K. Rosell '02
Kelly Hart
Sally Cooper '18
Locke Lord
Julia Gasc Beckman '16
Munsch Hardt
Jordan Campbell '13
Norton Rose Fullbright
Lara H. Kakish '19
Norton Rose Fullbright
James Griffin '86
Scheef & Stone
Robin Look
Sidley Austin
Jessica L. Kirk '16
Thompson & Knight
David C. Lawrence '10
Thompson & Knight
Stephen E. Stein '78
Thompson & Knight
Mark Early '90
Vinson & Elkins
Bailey B. Pham '08
Vinson & Elkins
Courtney Luster '18
Weil
Jeanne Katz '04
Winston & Strawn
Andrew Rosell '02
Winston & Strawn
Patrick J. Luthen '17
Winston & Strawn
Two new grants to the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center will help transform lives and fuel change in the criminal legal system. Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) has awarded the Center a $150,000 grant, including $100,000 from CFT’s W.W. Caruth, Jr. Fund. The Center also received a $100,000 grant from the Chrest Foundation.

Founded in 2016, with a gift from the Charles Koch Foundation and the Deason Foundation, and led by Director and Professor of Law, Pamela R. Metzger, the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center at SMU Dedman School of Law brings a Stats and Stories approach to criminal legal reform. The Center collects, analyzes, and evaluates complex data about the criminal legal system to diagnose reform needs and prescribe concrete solutions. By amplifying the stories behind the data, the Center brings the data to life, creating Stats and Stories that make a compelling case for change.

The Chrest Foundation’s commitment of $100,000 in general operating funds supports prosecution reform research in Dallas County. Established by Jeff Jensen and Lou Anne King Jensen in 1999, the Chrest Foundation supports the development and adoption of evidence-based policies driven by robust data and amplified by advocacy efforts. As a foundation focused on creating and disseminating data-driven best practices, Chrest’s partnership is a natural fit for the Deason Center. Working with the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office, the Deason Center is exploring how prosecutors can promptly and fairly screen and charge criminal cases. The Center’s research in this area will help prosecutors across the nation advance sane, safe, and sustainable criminal legal reform.

The Communities Foundation of Texas grant, including the funds from CFT’s W.W. Caruth, Jr. Fund, supports Phase One of the Center’s Country Justice project. As a thought-leader in STAR (small, tribal, and rural) criminal legal systems, the Center has documented the challenges facing rural justice communities across the nation. Operating in isolation, often across large geographic areas, Texas’ rural legal systems struggle to recruit, train, and retain expert criminal lawyers. (Ninety percent of Texas attorneys are in the state’s ten largest metropolitan areas, while 45 counties have fewer than four lawyers.) The Center’s Country Justice project will map Texas’ rural legal systems and evaluate their provision of the Sixth Amendment right to counsel. In Phase One, the Center will use innovative GIS spatial analyses to assess how distance, scale, and scarcity impact the quality of criminal justice for rural Texans. With its support of Phase One of Country Justice, the Communities Foundation of Texas is catalyzing the Center’s leadership and advocacy about the rural right to counsel.

“We are deeply grateful for these important contributions,” said Pamela R. Metzger, Director of the Deason Center. “This funding enhances the Deason Center’s research and advocacy, empowering us to accomplish criminal legal reform in Texas and across the nation.”

Country Justice Project
In Phase Two of Country Justice, the Center will study Texas’ rural legal innovations and offer actionable strategies for guaranteeing the Sixth Amendment right to counsel for all Texans.

Public Defense in Rural America
By applying a synthetic control analysis to 15 years of Texas data, Center researchers will answer the important question: Do rural public defender offices advance the Sixth Amendment right to counsel?

Greening the Desert Initiative
Small, tribal, and rural (STAR) communities struggle to recruit, train, and retain criminal law practitioners. With its new Rural Summer Externship Program and its Greening the Desert educational programs, the Deason Center promotes innovative strategies to guarantee that STAR residents have access to criminal legal services.

Policing Racial Disparity
This Deason Center series investigates racial disparities in how police in Dallas County responded to reforms implemented by District Attorney John Creuzot. The ABCs of Racial Disparity and Budding Change are the first and second of five reports that explore this vital issue. The series will conclude with recommendations for new reforms that promote racial equity and conserve public resources.
STATS. STORIES. CHANGE.
Five Years – The Deason Center for Criminal Justice Reform by the numbers:

21 publications
including scholarly articles, book chapters, op-eds, and Center-published reports about criminal justice reform

60 events
featuring interdisciplinary expert conversations on criminal justice

128 hours
of Center programming with 3,834 real-time audience members

185 students
researching, exploring, and advocating for innovative solutions to complex problems and legal reforms

3,834 real-time audience members

Endowed Scholarships
New Gifts for Dedman Law Scholarships Honor Family and Friends

Scholarships are vital to SMU’s ability to attract the most talented students to the Law School and ensure they have the broadest possible opportunity to pursue their education and their professional goals. The Dedman School of Law is proud to announce several new scholarships created to celebrate loved ones and empower young scholars.

The Carol and Gene Francis Endowed Scholarship Fund

Gene Francis ’66 and Carol Francis have generously committed $176,000 to create The Carol and Gene Francis Endowed Scholarship Fund at SMU Dedman School of Law to help future lawyers complete their studies despite their financial status. “My wife and I decided we wanted to leave an endowment to Dedman Law to pay forward the scholarship that I got when I went to law school,” recounts Gene Francis. “I chose a scholarship because it benefited both my other graduate school, Kansas State University, and SMU Law School at the same time. We set it up to give preference to a Kansas State graduate, and if there wasn’t anyone available from Kansas State then to someone from Kansas. Attending SMU on a scholarship had a major impact on my life and provided me with a lot of opportunities I wouldn’t have otherwise had. I’m excited to provide young people with that same opportunity.” Francis now splits his time between Austin and Santa Fe, where he lives with his wife, Carol.
THE BILL O’BRIEN AND DOUG HAMMOND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Mark O’Brien ’86, and his wife Jessie, have established The Bill O’Brien and Doug Hammond Memorial Scholarship with a donation of $125,000 in memory of both his father and his “SMU Dad”: William F. O’Brien, Sr. and B. Douglas Hammond, Sr. He recounts, “My father Bill died when I was ten years old. I met Mr. Hammond at the beginning of my 2nd year at SMU Law. His son Barney Hammond ’87 became my law school roommate, and Doug became one of my father figures. Doug and I were very close from 1984 until his passing in 2011, and he always was so kind and generous to me.”

O’Brien wished to honor these two men who were seminal in his life, and assisting young lawyers at the beginning of their careers seemed the perfect way to do so. He continues, “Bill O’Brien and Doug Hammond were admirable men whom I was privileged to have had in my life, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to honor their memories in this special way.”

THE CLASS OF 1986 TERESA JENKINS CARSON MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

In 2006, on the anniversary of their 20th year reunion, the Dedman Law class of 1986 found a unique way to remember a classmate. When Teresa Jenkins passed away, her classmates decided to honor her by establishing a scholarship in her name. Ten years later, the class came together again to donate an additional $100,000.

President of HBK Capital Management and SMU Trustee David Haley ’86 led the charge, making calls to classmates and friends in order to keep the momentum for fundraising going. He said, “Our Class of 1986 chose to fund a scholarship because we thought it would be a great way to honor one of our classmates, Teresa Jenkins Carson, who died from cancer. Teresa had lost a leg to cancer before she even entered law school, but she was a remarkable person who inspired many in our class. He recruited a small group for a night of ‘pizza and phone outreach,’ and our classmates generously responded to the idea. Finally, at the reunion, we were able to include Teresa’s husband, child, and parents in a reception, where we announced the results of our efforts and spoke about how Teresa had inspired all of us. That was really special.”

“David’s leadership on this project has been remarkable,” said Dean Jennifer Collins. “Without his tireless work and the work of his classmates, we could not have honored Teresa in such a special and wonderful way.”

Over the years, classmates have continued to contribute, and this special scholarship has grown into a way to support their alma mater as well as remember Teresa. Just this year, Tammy Walston ’86 contributed $25,000 to the fund. “SMU changed my life. It opened many doors of opportunity for me and, having recently retired, I felt called to give back to the University,” said Walston. “This was but one example of how the members of the Class of 1986 took care of one another.”

Haley added, “Scholarship funds open the door to SMU Dedman School of Law for many students. A class scholarship can be a fun way to unite your class in a single project, to honor a special person, and to impact the law school in a special way. I encourage others to consider it—just express your interest in such a project to the Development Office, and they can assist you!”

THANK YOU for changing lives that change the world

ONE DAY. ONE SMU.

2021 SMU Giving Day

4 Funds Generously Supported by SMU Law Alumni & Friends

SMU Fund for Dedman Law
Association for Public Interest Law Pro Bono Internships*
Board of Advocates
Scholarships

126 GIFTS. 1 DAY. 1 GENEROUS MATCH. $56,782 RAISED.

*An additional $12,000 was raised at APIL Auction to support Public Interest Law stipends
HAYNES BOONE

HAYNES BOONE COMMITS $120,000 IN SUPPORT OF INNS OF COURT AND NEW DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES AT SMU LAW

Haynes and Boone LLP, one of the largest law firms in Dallas and a stalwart supporter of SMU’s Dedman Law, recently committed $120,000 to renew the firm’s support of the Inns of Court Program for another three years and to empower diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives at SMU Law.

Now in its sixth year of sponsorship by Haynes Boone, the Inns of Court serve as an interdisciplinary approach to the first-year experience at SMU Dedman School of Law. With over 200 first-year students in each entering class at the law school, the Inns of Court address a need for smaller, more personalized groups to provide students with a source of relationships and support. Through the Inns, students connect with fellow classmates, faculty, student leaders, career advisors, and alumni for a community experience that extends throughout their time at the law school, and beyond graduation. This year, the Inns Program will prove especially vital to helping rebuild community, given that many Dedman Law students attended SMU remotely in 2020.

Haynes Boone’s support will also build student community through the funding of DEI initiatives at Dedman Law. This gift aligns with a law school priority to increase the diversity of the student body and ensure the law school is a welcoming and inclusive environment for all law students. Initiatives such as Diversity Week, our First Generation Alumni Mentoring Program, and Diversity Orientation are just a few of the programs that are planned for this year. The Haynes Boone gift will enable the Law School to build on this important work.

“Haynes Boone is delighted to renew its support for the Inns of Court Program and to sponsor diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives,” said Haynes Boone Managing Partner Taylor Wilson. “We applaud Dedman Law’s efforts to support students in their law school journey and are pleased to expand our partnership with these important initiatives, which so closely align with our own commitment to recruit, retain and promote minority attorneys, and to foster professional growth for all of our young lawyers.”

“We are deeply grateful to Haynes Boone for helping Dedman Law ensure that it is a welcoming community for all Mustangs,” said Dean Jennifer Collins. “The firm’s support empowers our students to gain experience and form the relationships they need to be successful now and in their future legal careers.”

LYNN PINKER HURST & SCHWEGMANN

A GENEROUS GIFT OF $45,000 WILL FUND ONE OF SMU LAW’S MOST PRESTIGIOUS MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS

A gift from Lynn Pinker Hurst & Schwegmann will provide Dedman Law Students with valuable opportunities to hone their advocacy skills. The Lynn Pinker Hurst & Schwegmann Moot Court Competition is organized by SMU’s Board of Advocates (BOA), an organization led by an Executive Board composed of students and a faculty sponsor. The BOA’s primary purpose is to promote practical experience in written and oral advocacy through a variety of competitions throughout the school year and a Mock Trial Academy during the summer. The Lynn Pinker Hurst & Schwegmann Moot Court Competition has been empowering Dedman Law students since 2017 with an outstanding opportunity in “real world” advocacy exposure and experience.

Thank you!

TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION

A NEW GRANT TO SMU DEDMAN LAW’S CHILD ADVOCACY CLINIC FUNDS ONGOING WORK OF PROGRAMS SUPPORTING AGING/AGED OUT FOSTER YOUTH

A $12,500 grant from the Texas Bar Foundation to Dedman Law’s Child Advocacy Clinic will fund the ongoing work of our Aged Out Program, which provides legal services to North Texas youth who have aged out of foster care. The program empowers these inspiring young people to successfully enter adulthood while also providing SMU student lawyers with hands-on opportunities to give back to the community.

Launched in 2001, the Child Advocacy Clinic utilizes hands-on training to help law students represent children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. Youth in foster care usually have a lack of consistent family guidance, disrupted placements, traumatic events during childhood, and a lack of financial resources, which often limits their ability to establish housing, pursue higher education and training, secure sustainable employment, obtain health insurance, and navigate legal disputes or problems once they age out of the system.

“Small legal issues can snowball quickly into large problems,” said Professor Diane M. Sumoski, Director of the W. W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic, Director of the W W. Caruth, Jr. Institute for Children’s Rights, and Clinical Professor at Dedman Law. “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. We are grateful to the Texas Bar Foundation for their support.”

CAMPAIGN & GIVING | SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW | THE QUAD 35

Law School Programs Receive Local Support

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New Faculty

Leo Yu LL.M. ’13, J.D. ’15
Clinical Professor of Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy

Professor Yu obtained his J.D. and LL.M. from SMU Dedman School of Law. After law school, he joined the Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America, where he litigated a series of federal cases involving complex civil rights and constitutional issues. He then joined the City of Dallas as a Senior Assistant City Attorney, and handled cases relating to land use, environmental violations, and public nuisance.

Professor Yu holds multiple leadership positions at the Bar. He currently serves as a director of the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA), representing young attorneys in the Dallas area. He is the Chair of the Connections Committee of the Dallas Asian American Bar Association (DAABA). He was a member of the leadership class of the State Bar of Texas in 2019, and became a member of the leadership class of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers in 2020. He was also the Chair of the American Constitution Society (ACS) - Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter from 2017 to 2020.

Professor Yu is a frequent speaker and moderator on civil rights, equality, and diversity issues. He is the creator of the Podcast “Plead the Fifth (Cir.),” a platform for attorneys to discuss the Fifth Circuit’s jurisprudence on constitutional issues and criminal justice reform.

For more information:
smu.edu/Law/Faculty/Profiles/Yu-Leo

Seema Mohapatra
Murray Visiting Professor of Law

Professor Mohapatra is an expert in the areas of health care law, public health law, bioethics, torts, and family law. Her research interests include the intersection of biosciences and the law, assisted reproduction and surrogacy, international family and health law, health care equity, and informed consent. She has authored articles and book chapters on topics related to health justice during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, health insurance coverage of infertility and assisted reproduction, genetics and health privacy, international surrogacy laws, reproductive justice, and equity in health care coverage. Prior to visiting at SMU Dedman School of Law, Professor Mohapatra was a tenured professor at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, where she twice earned the Dean's Fellow title and award for outstanding scholarship.

Prior to teaching, Professor Mohapatra practiced health law in Chicago at Sidley Austin and Foley & Lardner. She earned a B.A. in natural sciences, with a minor in women's studies, from Johns Hopkins University, and a M.P.H. with a concentration in chronic disease epidemiology from Yale University. She holds a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law.

For more information:
smu.edu/Law/Faculty/Profiles/Mohapatra-Seema
After 46 years of service to Dedman School of Law, Chief Justice John and Lena Hickman Distinguished Faculty Fellowship in 1997 to honor his service to the University.

Professor Dorsaneo is the author of many publications. He is best known as the principal author of the 26 volume Texas Litigation Guide, which has become synonymous with his name. He is also the co-author of the five-volume Texas Civil Trial Guide, as well as three casebooks entitled Cases and Materials on Civil Procedure, Texas Pre-Trial Litigation, and Texas Trial and Appellate Litigation. Among his other significant publications are numerous law review articles, largely focused on the history and evolution of Texas procedure and litigation practice and the importance of preserving the right to trial by jury.

Since he was first appointed to the State Bar of Texas Administration of Justice Committee in the late 1970s, Professor Dorsaneo has personally contributed to the evolution of the Texas rules of procedure. He has been a member of the Advisory Committee to the Texas Supreme Court since 1982 and has served on numerous committees tasked with drafting and revising the rules of civil and appellate procedure over the last five decades. As a member of one such committee, he drafted the original Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure, which were promulgated in 1984.

In 2015, the Texas Lawbook named Professor Dorsaneo as one of the “Lions of the Texas Bar,” noting that "Dorsaneo has had more impact on the Texas civil justice system than any other lawyer who has not served on the Texas Supreme Court."

As a highly regarded faculty member, Professor Dorsaneo inspired many of his students with his vast knowledge of Texas litigation practice and his witty sense of humor. His students have admired both his presence in the classroom and his unparalleled influence on Texas procedure and civil practice. Dean Jennifer Collins reflects, "He is truly a Texas legend in the fields of litigation and procedure, having taught and written the dispositive texts for generations of Texas litigators. He will be dearly missed."
Jeffrey M. Gaba
M.D. Anderson Foundation Endowed Professor in Health Law

Professor Jeff Gaba is retiring after 40 years of teaching at SMU. A passionate educator and authority in the fields of environmental, administrative, and property law, Professor Gaba inspired his students with his boundless enthusiasm and legal expertise. Reflecting on his time on the hilltop, Professor Gaba said, “I can’t imagine a more satisfying life than being a teacher. It helps to have been surrounded by the wonderful colleagues and students I found at SMU.”

Professor Gaba started his academic career in California where he earned his B.A. from UC Santa Barbara in 1972. Double majoring in Anthropology and African Studies, Professor Gaba graduated with high honors. He received an NDEA Fellowship to study Swahili at UCLA in 1970 and spent his junior year abroad studying at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. He went on to pursue his J.D. from Columbia where he earned his B.A. from UC Santa Barbara in 1972. Double majoring in Anthropology and African Studies, Professor Gaba graduated with high honors. He received an NDEA Fellowship to study Swahili at UCLA in 1970 and spent his junior year abroad studying at the University of Nairobi in Kenya.

While at SMU, Professor Gaba met his wife at Bubbas, a restaurant frequented by the Mustang community. “I was preparing for class, and she was having dinner,” he recalls. “She smiled at me, and I hopped tables.”

In 2013, he was awarded the M.D. Anderson Foundation Endowed Professorship in Health Law, and from 2017-2019, he served as Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. At SMU, Professor Gaba taught classes in Property and Environmental Law, including an Advanced Environmental Law Seminar. In addition to learning the ins and outs of the legal process, his students also received lessons in the Bard. Professor Gaba remarks, “I’ve developed the irritating habit of quoting Shakespeare in class. Two memorable student comments include ‘More Shakespeare’ and ‘Shakespeare has no relevance in the 21st Century.’”

In addition to his role as an educator, he has served as counsel for Foley & Gardere LLP in Dallas since 1989. He is the author of six books and numerous articles on various environmental law topics that have been published in major law reviews.

Looking back at his time on SMU, Professor Gaba commented that the most memorable part of the experience has been “the students who have gone on to practice environmental law.” SMU will miss him as well. Dean Jennifer Collins said, “Jeff is an expert in the field of environmental law and has introduced thousands of law students to the wonders and vagaries of property law. He has been a devoted teacher and mentor, and will be truly missed by his colleagues and students.”

After retirement, he and his wife, Brenda, are headed to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Professor Gaba says he will certainly enjoy the beautiful vistas, but “I’ll also enjoy tequila!”

Michaela C. Cashen
Clinical Professor of Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy

Professor Michaela “Micki” Cashen is retiring after 21 years of service to Dedman School of Law. Professor Cashen earned her B.A. from Augustana College in 1981 where she double-majored in political science and psychology, was third in her class, and graduated with highest honors. She graduated with a J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign-Urbana in 1984, where she was Order of the Coif, a Harno Scholar, and recipient of Scholastic Merit Honors from 1981-1983. She also earned the Rickert Scholarship for Academic Excellence and five American Jurisprudence Awards (highest grade in the class) while at the University of Illinois.

Before coming to SMU, Professor Cashen served as a litigation attorney with the Dallas firm of Johnson, Bromberg & Leeds and handled commercial litigation matters for a number of major corporations in the Dallas area. She later served as in-house counsel for Texas Instruments, after which she began teaching legal software and online legal research.

Professor Cashen joined the SMU Dedman School of Law faculty in 2000 and taught courses in Bar Exam Preparation, Perspectives of the American Legal System, Legal Research & Writing for International LL.Ms, and Negotiable Instruments, thus equipping her students for future success. Her focus in the areas of legal research and writing inspired her students to work hard and aim for excellence in their careers. In her classes, she highlighted the importance of diligent research and outstanding written communication. She remarked, “Excellent legal writing first requires excellent legal analysis, which requires meticulous attention to detail, which takes much time and practice. In other words, new law students should expect that the development of excellent legal writing skills will take much time and practice.”

A tireless advocate on behalf of Dedman Law’s international LL.M. program, Professor Cashen ensured SMU’s international students were introduced to the complexities and challenges of the American legal system. Her students found her to be a diligent and passionate teacher whose enthusiasm for the law was infectious. Dean Jennifer Collins said, “I want to express my deepest thanks to Micki, whose boundless energy and deep devotion to our students has meant so much to so many. We are so incredibly grateful for all she has done for SMU and wish her all the best.”
Awards & Recognition

Chante Brantley
Director of the VanSickle Family Law Clinic and Associate Clinical Professor

Appointed:
State Bar of Texas Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters Committee

Three-year term as a member of the President’s Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)

Joanna Grossman
Ellen K. Solender Endowed Chair in Women and the Law and Professor of Law

Elected:
President of the board of Jane’s Due Process, a non-profit whose mission is to provide legal representation to pregnant minors and to enhance the autonomy of Texas teens

Selected:
To serve on the editorial board of the Family Court Review, the leading peer-reviewed journal for family law professionals

Martin Camp
Professor of Practice and Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs

Elected:
2021 Board of Directors for the Dallas Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

Invited:
To become a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation

Grant Hayden
Professor of Law

Honored:
His book, Reconstructing the Corporation, (Cambridge University Press, February 2021), co-authored with Matthew T. Bodie, Saint Louis University School of Law, was ranked #1 New Release in Law on Amazon.

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

Honored:
Her book, The Princeton Fugitive Slave: The Trials of James Collins (Fordham University Press, 2020), was commended as an Outstanding Academic Title of 2020 by the American Library Association Choice Awards

James Coleman
Professor of Law

Awarded:
2021-2022 Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow

Named:
Visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute

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

Joined:
An NIH grant-funded project with the McLean Institute for Technology in Psychiatry and the NIH BRAIN Neuroethics Program at Harvard Medical School titled “The Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications of Return of Results in Deep Phenotyping Research.”

Named:
To the advisory board of DIME (Disruptive Innovation in Medical Ethics), which was awarded a major grant by the European Research Council.
Awards & Recognition

Chris Jenks
Director of the Criminal Clinic and Professor of Law
Honored: Appeared as an amicus at the International Criminal Court in the Ntaganda Case on the meaning of “attack” as part of war crimes against cultural property under the Rome Statute
Received a funded resident research fellowship with the Law and the Future of War Research Group at the University of Queensland in Australia

Jeffrey Kahn
University Distinguished Professor, Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow, Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, and Professor of Law
Awarded: Dr. Don M. Smart Teaching Award

Tom Leatherbury
Director of the First Amendment Clinic
Appointed: Three-year term on the Texas Access to Justice Commission by the Texas Supreme Court
Awarded: 2021 Patrick Wiseman Award for Civil Rights

Thomas Wm. Mayo
Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor and Professor of Law
Named: Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Natalie Nanasi
Director of the Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women and Associate Professor of Law
Awarded: New Friends New Life, ProtectHer Award for her dedicated time, talent, and resources in the fight to end sex trafficking
SMU Golden Mustang Teaching Award

Anna Offit
Assistant Professor of Law
Invited: By the Arizona Supreme Court’s Task Force on Jury Data Collection, Practices, and Procedures to present research on the relationship between juror compensation and jury representativeness

Carla Reyes
Assistant Professor of Law
Appointed: To a UNIDROIT Exploratory Working-Group on Digital Assets
Elected: Chair-Elect of the AALS Section on Agency, Partnership, and Unincorporated Associations
Invited: To become an American Bar Foundation Fellow
Awards & Recognition

Julie Forrester Rogers
Professor of Law

Appointed: Reporter for the Uniform Law Commission Study Committee on Mortgage Modifications

Marc I. Steinberg
Rupert and Lillian Radford Chair in Law and Professor of Law

Honored: His book, Understanding Securities Law (Carolina Academic Press), was ranked #2 of all Business Law books on Amazon on December 9, 2020

His book, Rethinking Securities Law (Oxford University Press, June 2021), was ranked for preorders #1 of all Securities Law books on Amazon in May, 2020

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

Appointed: By SMU Provost Elizabeth Loboa to lead a new University-wide interdisciplinary task force to explore and inform SMU’s approach to greater social justice and equity

Awarded: SMU Tom Tunks Distinguished University Citizen Award for demonstrating outstanding citizenship dedicated to the University and its governance

Honored: Graduated from the year-long Stagen Academy Social Impact Leadership Program

New 2021 Babies at SMU Dedman School of Law!

Professor Orly Mazur ’08, Len, Eli (7), Sophia (5), and Mila (2) welcomed Eve Lielle Mazur. She made her appearance on Friday, April 9, 2021, weighing 6 lbs., 6 oz. and 19 inches long. Big brother Eli and his two sisters are so excited to have another girl in the family!

Professor Anna Offit and SMU Professor Kelly McKowen welcomed Oscar McKowen-Offit on January 18, 2021, weighing 7 lbs., 1 oz. Big Brother Edmund is excited to have a new buddy!

Professor Eric Ruben and Kelly are the proud parents to Jonah Oliver Ruben, born May 30, 2021, weighing 8 lbs, 11 oz and stretching 20 inches. Asa and Romi couldn’t wait to meet their new little brother!

Professor Cassie Walker, Assistant Director for Scholarly Initiatives, and Luke Walker welcomed Nora Mae Walker on October 15, 2020, weighing 2 pounds, 12 ounces and 16.25 inches long. She was born small but mighty, impressing the doctors and mom and dad everyday!
**W. Keith Robinson**

Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, Co-Director of the Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation, and Associate Professor of Law

After a decade of teaching law at SMU, Keith Robinson accepted an invitation to join the faculty at Wake Forest Law School, which places him closer to his family on the East Coast. Professor Robinson served as an Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, Co-Director of the Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation, and Associate Professor of Law at the Dedman School of Law. Professor Robinson said of his time at SMU, “The Dedman School of Law will always be an important place to me. This is where I learned how to research and how to teach. While I am excited for my new opportunity, I will miss my colleagues and the students.”

Professor Robinson earned his B.S.E. from Duke University School of Engineering in 1999 and was awarded his J.D. with honors from Duke University School of Law in 2004. While at Duke, Professor Robinson served as a technology consultant for Ernst & Young LLP and Cap Gemini Ernst & Young LLC. He counseled clients on software development processes, developed customized software solutions, and designed and implemented web application architectures. He also volunteered at the Duke Law Community Enterprise Clinic, where he provided counseling on copyright and trademark protection and advised entrepreneurial clients on business formation.

Upon graduation from Duke, Professor Robinson practiced law at Foley & Lardner LLP as a member of the electronics practice group in Washington, D.C. He came to SMU by way of George Washington University Law School, where he was an adjunct professor.

At SMU, Professor Robinson taught courses in Property, Intellectual Property, Patent Law, and Technology Law and served as co-director of the Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation. Among his happy memories on the Hilltop, many involve establishing the Tsai Center with David O. Taylor, his co-director and fellow Professor of Law.

He also fondly remembers hosting the first Designing Legal Apps Showcase at the law school and attending his first-ever SMU Law School graduation. He is widely admired by his students and colleagues alike for his passion for teaching and the law. He cited watching former students earn prestigious clerkships with district court judges and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit as one of the most rewarding parts of his time at SMU. He will miss working with SMU’s tremendous faculty and staff. The feeling is mutual. Dean Jennifer Collins said, “We are profoundly grateful for the innovation and leadership he has displayed in every possible way since coming to SMU, especially in terms of bringing the Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation to our community and of all the impactful work it has undertaken. We will miss him and wish him well in his next adventure.”

At Wake Forest, Professor Robinson will teach courses similar to those he taught at SMU. He will also serve as the Faculty Director for IP Technology, Business, and Innovation. This program will link the law school to the recently established Innovation Quarter located in Winston-Salem.

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**Lolita Buckner Inniss**

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

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law Lolita Buckner Inniss has been appointed as the next dean of the University of Colorado School of Law. “I am honored and privileged to be tasked with helping CU Boulder to maintain its position of excellence in the legal academy,” said Dr. Inniss. “Leaving SMU was one of the most difficult professional decisions that I have had to make. Over these four years I have come to know many wonderful students, staff members, and faculty here at Dedman Law and across the campus. I will always value the experience.”

Dr. Inniss received her A.B. from Princeton University, where she majored in Romance Languages and Literature with certifications (minors) in African-American and Latin American Studies. She earned her J.D. from UCLA where she was an editor of the National Black Law Journal and a Moot Court Honors Participant. She holds an LL.M. with Distinction and a Ph.D. in law from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, in Canada, where she won the Mary Jane Mossman Award for Work in Feminist Legal Theory and the Harley D. Hallett Award, and was a Peter Hogg Scholar and a Graduate Associate of the Institute of Feminist Legal Studies. Prior to joining SMU, Dr. Inniss was tenured and achieved the rank of full professor at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.
Cleveland State University, where she held the Joseph C. Hostetler-Baker and Hostetler Chair in Law. She also previously held the Hamilton College Elihu Root Peace Fund Visiting Professorship in Women’s Studies, a distinguished visiting chair, and was also a fellow of the New York University-Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique Memory Project in Paris, France. A highly regarded scholar with a prominent national and international voice in her fields, she was elected to membership in the prestigious American Law Institute. The Center for Compassionate Leadership named her book *The Princeton Fugitive Slave: The Trials of James Collins Johnson* as one of five books white leaders should read on systemic racism. She is also the co-author of a book in progress, *Talking About Black Lives Matter and #MeToo* (with Bridget Crawford). She has, in addition, published scores of journal articles, essays, book chapters and blog articles in publications in the United States and beyond.

At SMU, Dr. Inniss taught a broad range of courses, including Property Law, Comparative Racism and the Law, Critical Race Theory, and Real Estate Transactions. In addition to serving as Dedman Law’s Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, she was a Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow. In 2020, Dr. Inniss was named University Distinguished Professor, an honor reserved for SMU faculty members who demonstrate the highest levels of academic achievement. She expanded her research influence at SMU through connections with faculty in other schools and departments, most notably through co-organizing the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute Research Cluster: “New Feminist Discourses and Social Change” and through membership in the Institute’s “Preparing for the Second Century of Historical Inquiry about the Hilltop” Research Cluster.

Highly esteemed and sought after by students, Dr. Inniss’s presence will be truly missed at Dedman Law. She brought so much to the law school. She is an extraordinary scholar, a fabulous teacher, a devoted mentor, a committed and compassionate community member, and a very wise counselor and senior associate dean.

Looking back at her time at Dedman, Dr. Inniss fondly remembers going to dinner in January 2016 with members of the faculty recruitment committee and others and finding out how interesting and engaging they were. She recalls, “I thought – These are people I definitely want to know, whether I ever work here or not.” She also counts meeting members of her Fall 2017 Critical Race Theory seminar during a round of classroom introductions among her highlights. She recalls “seeing close-up for the first time how accomplished and engaged our students are.”

Of Dr. Inniss’s new role in Colorado, Dean Jennifer Collins said, “This is a truly incredible and well-deserved honor for this remarkable professor and leader. Although we will miss her terribly, we are thrilled that she will bring her wisdom and vision to the larger legal academy – Colorado is incredibly fortunate to have Dean Inniss in this important role.”
**Professor Chris Jenks**

Appearance Before International Criminal Court

In the summer of 2020, SMU Dedman School of Law Professor Chris Jenks, a former U.S. Army Judge Advocate (JAG), began working with a group of other former Army JAGs to respond to an International Criminal Court (ICC) request for amicus briefs on the meaning of the word “attack” as used in the Rome Statute which created the ICC. The question arose as part of the appellate proceedings in the case of Bosco Ntaganda, the former head of a Congolese militia who the ICC had found guilty in 2019 of war crimes and sentenced to 30 years confinement. The ICC accepted the offer of Professor Jenks’ group to submit a brief, which Professor Jenks co-authored. Based on their brief, the ICC then selected the group to virtually participate in oral argument at a hearing in The Hague in the Netherlands. In the fall of 2020, Professor Jenks was one of two members of his group internally selected to appear before the ICC. Professor Jenks delivered remarks and participated in more than an hour of questioning from the Court. In the spring of 2021, the ICC issued its judgment. Two of the five judges issued a concurring opinion which cited, twice, Professor Jenks’ co-authored amicus brief. Professor Jenks’ work on the Ntaganda case marks the first time in several decades an SMU Law professor has appeared before an international court or tribunal.

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**Professor Jenks and Judge (and President of the ICC) Chile Eboe-Osuji**

Faculty Scholarship

Two Groundbreaking New Books by SMU Law Profs

**Grant M. Hayden**
Professor of Law, and Matthew T. Bodie, Callis Family Professor of Law, Saint Louis University School of Law

*Reconstructing the Corporation – From Shareholder Primacy to Shared Governance*
Cambridge University Press, January 31, 2021

*Restructuring the Corporation* critically examines the current state of corporate governance law and provides decisive rebuttals to longstanding arguments for the exclusive shareholder franchise. The book presents a new model of corporate governance – one that builds on the theory of the firm as well as a novel theory of democratic participation – to support the extension of the corporate franchise to employees.

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

*Rethinking Securities Law*
Oxford University Press
June 30, 2021

*Rethinking Securities Law* provides an original and valuable resource for effectuating necessary law reform that should prove beneficial to the integrity of the U.S. capital markets, effective and fair government and private enforcement, and the enhancement of investor protection.
SMU Dedman School of Law’s COVID-19 Legal Helpline was selected as the recipient of the 2021 State Bar of Texas’ W. Frank Newton Award for its exceptional dedication to legal services for low-income North Texans. The award, which recognizes individuals and groups whose work exemplifies a deep commitment to pro bono service, was presented during the State Bar’s virtual Annual Meeting on Friday, June 18, 2021.

In June 2020, SMU Dedman School of Law launched the Helpline to offer North Texas residents the opportunity to secure free legal assistance with matters related to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as housing, immigration and consumer protection. Working under the supervision of SMU Law Clinic faculty, 57 students staffed the phone lines which received approximately 2,400 calls over the course of the last year.

The work of the Helpline is ongoing and SMU Law students continued to staff the Helpline phones five days a week during summer 2021.

“We are honored and humbled to receive this award for the SMU Law Legal Helpline,” said Mary Spector, Associate Dean for Clinics at SMU Dedman Law. “Since its inception in June 2020, the Helpline has not only become an important resource for the DFW community, but also has provided SMU Law students with the chance to gain valuable legal experience and professional skills, and continues to do so. I’m proud of our students’ eagerness to step up to the legal challenges the pandemic presents.”

The program was assisted by many dedicated community partners working on behalf of the Helpline, including the law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and SMU Law alumnus Mark Melton, whose pro bono project, DallasEvictions2020.com, includes more than 80 volunteer attorneys. In addition, SMU received important funding provided by the Dallas Bar Foundation and the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas. Other partners in the project have included the Dallas Bar Association, Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), Legal Aid of Northwest Texas and UNT Dallas College of Law.

“This project is a wonderful example of how deeply committed SMU is to helping our students and to serving this city,” said Dean Jennifer Collins. “We are truly honored to receive this recognition from the State Bar of Texas, and we are very thankful to our committed partners that continue to help SMU Law provide this support to our community.”
First Amendment Clinic Gets to Work

Thomas S. Leatherbury
Director of the First Amendment Clinic and Adjunct Clinical Professor of Law

Nearly a year ago we set out to create a much needed First Amendment Clinic at SMU Dedman School of Law. Our mission: to vindicate and advance the First Amendment rights of speech, press, petition, and assembly and give our students practical litigation and client-counseling experience that would transform them from observers to advocates for these First Amendment values.

Thanks to the Stanton Foundation’s generous gift, the hard work of the students and Clinic Fellow Michael Shapiro, we had a busy, productive and rewarding year. This was facilitated by the welcoming, “can-do” attitude of Dean Collins and the SMU Law School faculty and staff, the steady stream of work that came from old and new clients, old and new colleagues in the national and Texas media bars, and other clinic directors from across the country.

Even before we had students, we fielded Open Meetings Act and Texas Public Information Act inquiries that came through the Law School Clinics’ award-winning COVID-19 Helpline and collaborated on a Texas Supreme Court amicus brief in a defamation case.

In the fall, we represented Texas Public Radio in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture for documents about a COVID-19 relief program alleged to have been mishandled. The students conferred with the client and with opposing counsel, drafted the complaint, and got to experience the satisfying feeling of getting the information your client needs so it can continue reporting on issues of public importance. We began collaborating with The Marshall Project and filed a Texas Public Information Act lawsuit for media reports generated by the Harris County District Attorney’s Office. In the spring, one of our students argued the summary judgment motion that she and her classmates had drafted, and, on our last day of class, we got the Judge’s order granting our motion. Our client got the documents it had requested about a month later.

Ellen Yost
Class of 2021
“Immediately, within the first two weeks in the Clinic, I had the opportunity to research and draft a key section of an amicus brief submitted to the Texas Supreme Court, and to refine my work product with help from some of the most experienced First Amendment lawyers in the state.”

West Bakke
Class of 2021
“The Clinic exposed me to a wide variety of work – I worked on everything from research memos to motions for summary judgment to appellate briefs. I even received the opportunity to present oral argument in federal appellate court. The advocacy skills I developed at the Clinic will serve me well in my future career as a litigator.”

Heather Sims
Class of 2021
“The First Amendment Clinic was the most educational and rewarding experience I had at SMU Law. The Clinic gave me not only the practical skills and the confidence necessary to being an effective advocate, but also the opportunity to use this training to win a case for a client.”
When the Hunter Center students learned that Texas law limits the ability of survivors of human trafficking and intimate partner abuse to introduce evidence of their victimization in criminal court, they knew they had to fight to make a change. A fierce team of 2L students – Madison Huerta, Danika Lopez, Blanca Palomo, and Jessica Visser – advocated in support of a bill in the Texas Legislature that would amend the definition of duress to allow courts to consider the past trauma faced by survivors-turned-defendants who were coerced into committing a crime.

The Hunter Center’s research includes a 50-state survey of how other jurisdictions apply the affirmative defense of duress, which reveals that Texas is in the minority of states that utilize an objective duress standard. Hunter Center students also testified about their research, and support of the bill, before the Texas House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee in April 2021.

Reflection from Danika Lopez

My semester in the Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women gave me the incredible opportunity to testify at the Texas State Capitol. My team and I researched extensively the affirmative defense of duress and drafted a white paper explaining why the language should be revised to help victims of human trafficking and domestic abuse. I was honored to be chosen by my team to speak in front of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. The opportunity to be the spokesperson heightened as my father, who is a local politician in his community and periodically testifies at the Capitol, could watch me testify for the first time. As I stood at the podium in front of the Committee, I felt confident and empowered testifying for a fairer definition of duress. And as I finished my speech, I looked up to see Madam Chairwoman smiling at me. She thanked me and said she was thrilled to see law students coming to the Capitol to speak on important matters. Our trip to the Capitol allowed us to see all our hard work in action, and it put into perspective the impact we can make as law students.
Since 2015, our faculty has seen an over 150% increase in citations by national media alone. Below is a partial list of selected faculty media interviews.

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

- September 19, 2020, “‘Earth shattering.’ Texans react to Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s death”, February 12, 2021, “Donald Trump has raised Constitutional questions that could be difficult to resolve”
- November 2, 2020, “Is It Time To Reshape The U.S. Supreme Court?”
- December 8, 2020, “A new movement’: Trump’s false claims take hold in states”
- January 17, 2021, Made by History, Op-ed: “No, the Constitution does not allow President Trump to pardon himself”
- May 22, 2021, “Life-without-parole sentences are exploding. But America's legal defense system hasn't kept pace”

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

- October 30, 2020, “Hims Built a $1.6 Billion Online Empire by Pushing Prescriptions”
- November 9, 2020, “A Biden win sows hope in health care sector”; November 10, 2020, “Texas officials make their case today to abolish the Affordable Care Act”
- Reuters, May 5, 2021, “Lilly hit by staff accusations, FDA scrutiny at COVID drug factories”

**Joanna Grossman**
Ellen K. Solender Endowed Chair in Women and the Law and Professor of Law

- February 17, 2021, “Amend' brings Will Smith's starry touch to the 14th Amendment's tumultuous history”
- March 24, 2021, “Equal Pay Lawsuits Persist as Bills, Policy Plans Target Gaps”
- May 18, 2021, “How Mississippi's Supreme Court Challenge Could Effectively Ban Abortion In Texas”

**Eric Ruben**
Assistant Professor of Law

- April 9, 2021, This week with Joshua Johnson: “Gun regulation and Biden's recent executive orders”
- June 22, 2021, “California Gun Laws Revisited by NRA Face Pivotal Test at Hearing”
- July 7, 2021, “Air Force Found Largely Responsible for Texas Church Shooting”

**Natalie Nanasi**
Director of the Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women and Associate Professor of Law

- March 27, 2021, Op-ed: “Dallas ‘decompression center’ can't become another prison for migrant youth”

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


**Jennifer Collins**
Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law

- October, 15, 2020, co-authored with Dean Leonard Baynes of the University of Houston Law Center, “Opinion: Black attorneys matter. We must diversify Texas law firms.”

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

- January 28, 2021, “discussing the bar complaints against Senator Ted Cruz and standards of professional responsibility”
THE MEDIA

James W. Coleman
Professor of Law
February 25, 2021, “Why Texas Broke: The Crisis That Sank the State Has No Easy Fix”
April 6, 2021, “Gas Utilities test legal waters with Texas storm gas price lawsuits”
October 30, 2020, “Opinion: Texas Railroad Commission should reinstate production limits”
November 2, 2020, “How a Biden victory would shake up Alberta’s oil and gas sector”; January 17, 2021, “Biden indicates plans to cancel Keystone XL pipeline permit on 1st day in office, sources confirm”
November 10, 2020, “Canada’s oilpatch finds fresh hope for Keystone XL despite Biden victory”

Chris Jenks
Director of the Criminal Clinic and Professor of Law

Pamela R. Metzger
Director of the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center and Professor of Law
December 18, 2020, All Things Considered, “Inmates are among the most vulnerable in the pandemic. When will they get vaccinated?”
May 22, 2021, “Life-without-parole sentences are exploding. But America’s legal defense system hasn’t kept pace.”

Marc I. Steinberg
Rupert and Lillian Radford Chair in Law and Professor of Law
July 22, 2021, “Q&A: Marc Steinberg on overhauling U.S. securities law”
September 1, 2021, Dealbook/Business & Policy: “Robinhood defends a contentious practice”
September 1, 2021, “SEC Is Investigating Electric Delivery-Truck Maker Workhorse”

Jenia Iontcheva Turner
Amy Abboud Ware Centennial Professor in Criminal Law and Gerald J. Ford Research Fellow
March 12, 2021, “NJ Courts Test On Limits Of Power 1 Year Into Pandemic”

Anna Offit
Assistant Professor of Law
February 1, 2021, “Judges differ on when it’s safe to hold in-person jury trials”

Mary Spector
Associate Dean for Clinics, Director of the Civil/Consumer Clinic, and Professor of Law
December 14 and 15, 2020, “SMU Dedman School of Law offers a free helpline for COVID-related legal issues”

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

Sarah Gammell
Rural Research Associate, Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center

Dr. Sarah Gammell joined the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center in July 2021 to design and conduct research on Country Justice, a unique project that focuses on the challenges of the criminal justice system in a rural context. Prior to joining the Deason Center, Sarah taught a variety of criminal justice and criminology courses at the University of Texas at Dallas. Sarah received her B.A. in Speech Communications from Texas A&M University. She earned an M.S. in Criminology and Criminal Justice Reform from Texas Christian University and holds a Doctoral degree in Criminology from the University of Texas at Dallas. Her previous works and publications have focused generally on juvenile delinquency and violent crime, specifically on school violence and shootings, the theoretical application of situational crime prevention, gang violence, and juvenile substance use and abuse.

Smitha Mathews ’04
Director, Mid-Size, Small, and Boutique Firms, Office of Career Services

Smitha Mathews is responsible for developing clerkships and job opportunities with mid-size, boutique, and small law firms, as well as providing career development training and counseling to full-time J.D. students. Smitha joined SMU Dedman School of Law as Director of the Office of Career Services in July 2021. Having practiced at both multinational and boutique law firms, Smitha brings extensive legal industry experience to this position. Smitha graduated with honors from SMU in 2000, earning a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering with a Biomedical Specialization. She received her Juris Doctor degree from SMU Dedman School of Law in 2004. Smitha began her legal career as an intellectual property associate at Sidley Austin LLP, where she focused on patent and IP litigation. She later transitioned her practice to assist clients with patent and trademark procurement and strategic portfolio development, working at the law firms of Harper Bates & Champion LLP and Baker Botts LLP. Smitha has also volunteered countless pro bono hours to represent and serve those in need. Smitha is registered to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and is a member of the Dallas Bar Association and the DFW Women in IP Group.

Brandi Sharp
Data Records Coordinator, Office of Admissions

In this role, Brandi Sharp serves as the communications liaison between the Admissions Office and Incoming and Prospective Students. Her favorite part of working in Admissions is helping students succeed in their academic goals. Prior to joining the Admissions team, she worked in Admissions Processing and Communications in the Office of Admissions at the University of Texas at Arlington.
Promotions

Congratulations!

Marcie Davis ’96
Assistant Dean of Career Services

Marcie Davis joined SMU Dedman School of Law as Director of Career Services in October 2020. In June, Marcie was appointed Assistant Dean of Career Services. She has 23 years of legal industry experience both as a practicing attorney and an Administrative Partner at Thompson & Knight, LLP. Prior to SMU Law, Marcie served nine years as the firm’s Chief Development Officer in charge of attorney professional development and talent management across the firm’s nine offices. She brings to her new role a passion for professional development, new and innovative ideas related to career services, and an abiding commitment to SMU Law students.

Erika Fadel ’98
Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Erika Fadel joined SMU Dedman School of Law in 2015 as a Director in the Office of Career Services and Director of Diversity and Inclusion. In the fall of 2020, Erika was promoted to full time Director of Diversity. Prior to SMU, she worked for several law firms in Texas as a corporate attorney. She served at the University of Missouri School of Law as a Visiting Professor of Legal Research and Writing, as the Director of Public Service/Public Interest Law, and as the Director of Diversity. In Erika’s new role, she is responsible for promoting diversity, inclusion, and belonging by coordinating such programs as Diversity Orientation and Diversity Week. She also supports the law school’s affinity groups and offers professional development programs and counseling to diverse students.

Retirements

Karen Sargent & Linda Hale Retire

Karen Sargent ’79

After 17 years as Assistant Dean of the Office of Career Services, Karen Sargent ’79 retired from the law school on May 31, 2021. Prior to being named Assistant Dean in 2004, Karen was Assistant Director of Admissions in 2003 and a part-time faculty member from 1985-2000. She received her B.B.A. with high honors and J.D. from SMU, where she served on the Board of Editors of the Southwestern Law Journal. Karen made a tremendous impact at the law school – she was instrumental in growing the Office of Career Services, creating programs to assist graduates with successfully launching their professional careers, and developing employment opportunities for students and recent graduates.

As Assistant Dean, Karen creatively and positively adapted to every possible challenge, including a global recession and a global pandemic, and launched innovative and important initiatives like Test Drive and new professionalism programs.

“Karen has always been a collaborative and supportive colleague to all the law school faculty and staff, and a valuable mentor to our students,” said Dean Jennifer Collins. “I am profoundly grateful for her passion and vision in positioning our students for success. We thank Karen for her extraordinary service. She will truly be missed.”

Linda Hale

Linda Hale joined SMU Dedman School of Law as a Director in the Office of Career Services in December 2010. She served SMU Law most recently as the adviser for students seeking opportunities in the judicial system, both during and after law school, and as the law school’s liaison to the judiciary, responsible for developing internships, externships, and post-graduate judicial clerkships with federal and state courts. Linda also served as the Career Services Adviser for students in the International LL.M. Program.

As a result of Linda’s commitment to and support of our students, 2021 was an outstanding year for those wanting judicial clerkships. 17 of our 2021 graduates obtained a total of 21 clerkships. Three graduates from earlier classes also obtained clerkships this year, which began in 2021.

“Linda has worked tirelessly on behalf of our students to launch them in their professional careers,” said Dean Jennifer Collins. “I am profoundly grateful for her passion and vision in positioning our students for success. We thank Linda for her commitment to the law school and wish her all the best in this next phase of her journey.”
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.

Christina Ta
Christina served as an SBA mentor, was an inductee to the Order of Barristers, won the Lynn Pinker Hurst & Schwegmann Competition this spring, and was named Regional Champion in the Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition. She served as Off-Campus Advocacy Director of the Board of Advocates. She joined Hartline Barger LLP.

Crystal Guevara
Crystal served as President of the Hispanic Law Student Association, President of Women in Law, and was a member of the International Law Review Association. She joined Deanda and Sarabia Law Firm in Midland.

Trent Koen
Trent was a Rowling Scholar with the SMU Rowling Center for Business Law & Leadership. He was involved in the Board of Advocates, and served as a mentor to the International LL.M. students. He is a co-founder of his own start-up, Penhole, Inc., and was very involved in bringing Venture Capital University Live Program to SMU.

Lakeenya Colvin
Lakeenya served as an SBA mentor and was a member of the Black Law Students Association, OUTLAW, and the Veterans Law Association. Before law school, Lakeenya was an officer in the U.S. Air Force and a recipient of the Bronze Star for Meritorious Leadership in connection with Operation Enduring Freedom. She will be serving as a Judge Advocate for the United States Air Force.

Leah Anderson
Leah served as Vice President for the Association of Public Interest Law, a member of the SBA Wellness Committee, and Chili Cook-off Chair. She served as a research assistant to Professor Offit and as a student attorney for the Innocence Clinic. Leah plans to pursue a career in criminal justice after taking the bar.

Evan Rios
Evan served as President of the SMU Law Review Association, President of the Hispanic Law Student Association, a member of the Barristers service organization and an SBA mentor to transfer students. He was a student attorney and Chief Justice with the First Amendment Clinic and argued an appeal before the 5th Circuit. This fall, he is serving as a law clerk to Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht with the Supreme Court of Texas followed by a clerkship with the Honorable Cory T. Wilson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

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.

Lakeenya served as an SBA mentor and was a member of the Black Law Students Association, OUTLAW, and the Veterans Law Association. Before law school, Lakeenya was an officer in the U.S. Air Force and a recipient of the Bronze Star for Meritorious Leadership in connection with Operation Enduring Freedom. She will be serving as a Judge Advocate for the United States Air Force.

Leah Anderson
Leah served as Vice President for the Association of Public Interest Law, a member of the SBA Wellness Committee, and Chili Cook-off Chair. She served as a research assistant to Professor Offit and as a student attorney for the Innocence Clinic. Leah plans to pursue a career in criminal justice after taking the bar.

Evan Rios
Evan served as President of the SMU Law Review Association, President of the Hispanic Law Student Association, a member of the Barristers service organization and an SBA mentor to transfer students. He was a student attorney and Chief Justice with the First Amendment Clinic and argued an appeal before the 5th Circuit. This fall, he is serving as a law clerk to Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht with the Supreme Court of Texas followed by a clerkship with the Honorable Cory T. Wilson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.
CONGRATULATIONS!

Judicial Clerkship Class of 2021

Alexa Acquista
JUDGE BRANTLEY STARR
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division

Chief Justice Nathan Hecht*
Supreme Court of Texas

Judge Don Willett
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit

Braden Allman ’17
Judge Lawrence VanDyke
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit

West Bakke
Judge Andrew Hanen
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division

Judge Karen LeCRAFT Henderson
U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

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

Magistrate Judge Irma C. Ramirez*
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division

John Behan
Judge Joshua Searcy
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Tyler Division

Austin Chavez
Judge Laurie Selber Silverstein
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware

Parker Embry
Judge Michelle Larson
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division

Madison George
Judge Scott Walker
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Blake Glatstein
Magistrate Judge Rebecca Rutherford*
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division

Jacob Mathew
Judge Michael Truncale*
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Beaumont Division

Lili McEntire
11th Court of Appeals of Texas, Eastland

Nolan McQueen
Judge Alan Albright
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Waco Division

Evan Rios
Chief Justice Nathan Hecht*
Supreme Court of Texas

Judge Cory Wilson
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit

Michael Romberger
Judge Jessica Gallivan*
Superior Court of the U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Croix Division

Sara Scully
Judge Nelva Gonzalez Ramos
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Corpus Christi Division

Laura Sundin
Chief Judge Barbara M.G. Lynn*
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division

Chris Thomson
Judge Jane Boyle*
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division

Ellen Yost
Judge Jane Boyle*
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division

*SMU Dedman Law Alumni
Congratulations!

CLASSES OF 2020 & 2021

Graduation Ceremonies: Saturday, May 15, 2021

The Mustang Bar
Law Alumni Association
CLASS OF 2020

201 J.D. candidates
9 J.D./M.B.A. candidates
1 J.D./M.A. candidate
3 S.J.D. candidates
39 LL.M. candidates

Performed a total of 18,236 hours of public service for an average of 85 hours per student

CLASS OF 2021

214 J.D. candidates
10 J.D./M.B.A. candidates
1 S.J.D. candidate
36 LL.M. candidates

Performed a total of 16,206 hours of public service for an average of 73 hours per student
1 Flash Class: The Legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Next Steps of the Supreme Court, September 22, 2020 (4 additional Flash Classes hosted throughout the semester)  
2 Faculty Forum: Professor Ruqaijah Yearby, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Institute for Healing Justice and Equity, St Louis University School of Law, “Health Justice Strategies to Combat the Pandemic: Eliminating Discrimination, Poverty, and Health Disparities During and After COVID-19”; September 23, 2020  
3 Diversity Week; October 19-23, 2020  
4 Mental Health Awareness Week - Recommit to Your Personal Well-Being; October 8-13  
5 The Implications of Artificial Intelligence for a Just Society, Co-hosted by Professors Carla Reyes (SMU Law) and Kristin Johnson (Tulane University School of Law, McGlinchey Stafford Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Faculty Research); October 23, 2020  
6 SMU Tax Policy Colloquium Series: “The Tax Legislative Process”, Drew Crouch, Senior Tax Counsel and ERISA Counsel Committee on Finance, United States Senate; October 28, 2020  
7 Black Lawyers Matter: Strategies to Enhance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference; October 30, 2020
8 Faculty Forum: Sharon Jacobs, Associate Professor of Law and John. H. Schultz Energy and Natural Resources Law Fellow, University of Colorado Boulder, “Agency Genesis and the Energy Transition.”; November 11, 2020
10 Faculty Forum: Valerie Hans, Charles F. Rechlin Professor of Law, Cornell Law School, “Guiding Jurors on Damage Award Decisions: Experimental Investigations of Approaches Based on Theory and Practice.”; February 10, 2021
11 Literature, Law and Leadership: A Conversation with John Grisham; March 2, 2021
12 Roger Fairfax, Patricia Roberts Harris Research Professor of Law and Founding Director, Criminal Law and Policy Initiative, George Washington School of Law, “Interrogating the Non-incorporation of the Grand Jury Clause”; March 10, 2021
13 Cambridge University Press Research Handbook on Artificial Intelligence & The Law Symposium, Co-hosted by Professors Carla Reyes and Kirsten Johnson; April 30, 2021
Events & Symposia

The Rowling Center for Business Law & Leadership

1 Business Law Leadership Program: Focus on Leadership - Ambassador Antonio Garza; September 9, 2020

2 Lessons from a Hollywood Entertainment Attorney, Mark Litwak, co-hosted with Dedman Law Sports and Entertainment Law Association; September 28, 2020

3 Bankruptcy & Restructuring Law 2020, co-hosted with SMU Corporate Law Association; September 30, 2020

4 Focus on Leadership event: Greg Creed, the former CEO of Yum! Brands; October 27, 2020

5 VC University LIVE Conference, held in partnership with NVCA, Venture Forward, and the Caruth Institute for Entrepreneurship at SMU; November 12 - November 14, 2020

6 From Dedman Law to Dodger Stadium: A Conversation with Los Angeles Dodgers Co-owners Sherri ’88 and Bobby Patton ’89, co-hosted with SMU Dedman School of Law Sports & Entertainment Law Association; February 2, 2021

7 Literature, Law and Leadership: A Conversation with John Grisham, Attorney and Novelist; March 2, 2021

8 Focus on Leadership/In the Alternative Politics: Congressman Lamar Smith; April 12, 2021

9 A Return to Globalism: What U.S. Companies Can Expect from the Biden Administration; April 14, 2021
EVENTS & SYMPOSIA

Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation

1. Innovation Lecture: Josh Malone, Inventor of Bunch O Balloons, a Novel Solution to the Filling and Sealing Water Balloons; September 15, 2020

2. Tsai Webinar Series, COVID-19 and the Law: Observing Online Courts, Lessons from the Pandemic with Professor Beth Thornburg; September 24, 2020

3. Tsai Webinar Series, COVID-19 and the Law: Voting in the Pandemic with Professor Grant Hayden; October 8, 2020


6. Tsai Webinar Series, COVID-19 and the Law: Technology & The Health Surveillance State, with Professor Chris Jenks; January 28, 2021

7. 17th Annual Symposium on Emerging Intellectual Property Issues: The America Invents Act @ 10 years; February 26, 2021

8. Tsai Talk: Regulating an Evolving AI Landscape with Yoon Chae, Senior Associate, Baker McKenzie; March 16, 2021

9. Tsai Talk: Innovation and Resilience in a Time of Energy Transformation, Professor James Coleman, and Monika U. Ehrman ’05, Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Oil & Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Center (ONE C), The University of Oklahoma College of Law; April 1, 2021

10. Tsai Talk: To Win Friends and Influence People - Influencer Marketing and Social Media with Craig Carpenter, Thompson & Knight; April 8, 2021
Mary McNulty ’88, partner at the Dallas office of Thompson & Knight LLP, was selected by the Texas Tax Section as the 2021 Outstanding Texas Tax Lawyer.

Claire L. Babineaux-Fontenot, LL.M. ’92, chief executive officer of Feeding America, was named to the board of directors of New York Life where she will serve on the audit and investment committees. She was also named one of The 100 Most Influential People of 2020 by TIME.

Carolyn Raines ’93 joined Munck Wilson Mandala as a litigation partner in Dallas.

Grace Weatherly ’93 was named president of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Jon Van Gorp ’94, a partner in the New York and Chicago offices of Mayer Brown LLP, was elected as chair.

Jamil Alibhai ’95 joined Munsch Hardt’s Dallas office.

Honorable Joseph D. Brown ’95, a former U.S. attorney and district attorney, joined Oberheiden P.C. in the independent capacity of local counsel.

Becca Polak ’95 was named the inaugural chief commercial officer and general counsel of CarLotz Inc., a consignment dealer of used cars.

Jamey S. Seely ’96 was appointed general counsel and corporate secretary of Portland, Maine-based Covetrus Inc.

Ross H. Parker ’98 was promoted to equity shareholder at Munsch Hardt.

Dallas Judge Tonya Parker ’98 received the Dallas Bar Association’s 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Justice Award. The Martin Luther King Jr. Justice Award is presented to local leaders whose lives and practices exemplify the principles embodied by King’s leadership.
Michael Kotwal ’00, a former assistant district attorney for Dallas, was appointed to serve as a JAG officer in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Bart Biggers ’01 joined Sidley Austin as partner to co-lead the firm’s aviation practice group in Dallas. He will also be a member of the firm’s mergers and acquisitions practice group in Austin as partner to co-lead the firm’s aviation practice group in Austin.

Michael Crocker ’01 joined Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP in Dallas as a bankruptcy partner.

Jennifer Suzanne Kukla ’01 joined Greenberg Traurig, LLP as of counsel to its real estate practice in the Dallas office.

Linda Molina ’01 was appointed to the Board of Pardons and Paroles by Governor Greg Abbott. She is an attorney in private practice at Duarte & Molina, P.C., and serves as a Municipal Judge for the City of Sandy Oaks, Texas.

Stacy Christopher Zaghoul ’01 released a new book, Lady Colombia, in November 2020.

Omar J. Alaniz ’03 joined Reed Smith in its Dallas office as a partner in the firm’s financial industry group.

Eliot Burriss ’03 joined Holland & Knight’s healthcare and life sciences practice in the Dallas Office.

Darin Deaver ’03 joined Plunk Smith PLLC as a patent lawyer.

Jay Jackson ’03 was promoted to chief legal officer of Thrivent Funds at Thrivent Financial.

Kenneth Sheets ’04 was reappointed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott to the Texas Military Preparedness Commission.

P. Lindley Bain ’07 was elected managing partner of Goranson Bain Ausley’s Austin office.

Carlisle A. Braun ’08 joined Ferguson Braswell Fraser Kubasta PC as a shareholder.

State Representative Jeff Leach ’08 was re-appointed chairman of the Texas House Committee on judiciary and civil jurisprudence, and was appointed to the House Committee on juvenile justice and family issues.

Rick Jordan ’08, shareholder with Polsinelli, received one of the first-ever Texas Lawyer’s Legal Innovators Award through the Texas Legal Awards program.

Rachel L. Smiley ’08 joined Ferguson Braswell Fraser Kubasta PC as a shareholder in the firm’s banking and business reorganization practice.

John Lynch ’09 joined Clouse Brown PLLC.

Sam Udovich ’09 was promoted to of counsel at Winstead PC.

2010s

Patrick Knapp ’10 joined the Dallas office of Jackson Walker in the energy practice area.

Tracy L. Matlock ’10 was promoted to counsel in Davis Polk’s Tax Department in New York.

Michael D. “Mickey” Ricketts ’10 joined Forshey Prostok L.L.P. as of counsel in the firm’s Fort Worth headquarters.

Lindsey Obenhaus ’11, a board-certified family law specialist with Goranson Bain Ausley, was promoted to partner.

Vera Suarez ’11 was named a partner of the patent prosecution group in Haynes and Boone’s Dallas office.

Donnie Apodaca ’12 was promoted to member at the Philadelphia-based Cozen O’Connor.

Craig Carpenter ’12 joined the Dallas office of BakerHostetler’s digital assets and data management practice group on the firm’s privacy and technology transactions team.

Susan Fisher ’12 joined Thompson Coburn as a partner in the firm’s Dallas office.

Andrew S. Gillman ’12 was elected partner in the firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati.

Claire E. James ’12 was elevated to shareholder at Cowles & Thompson in the corporate litigation and family law practices.

John D. Koetter ’12 was promoted to partner at Slater Matsil in Dallas.

Brad Monk ’12 was promoted to of counsel at Winstead PC.

2000s

Joshua Weaver ’04 was named director of The Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator. The State Bar of Texas program expands access to justice opportunities by helping Texas lawyers build sustainable law practices that serve low and modest income Texans.

Reg Hargrove ’05, managing partner of Rocky Point Ventures, joined the board of directors of Lantha Sensors, an Austin-based portable chemical analysis solutions provider.

Paul Nizov ’05 has joined digital intelligence company ABBYY as chief information security officer.

Clark Caruth ’06 was promoted to of counsel at Winstead PC.

Stephanie White ’06 was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to the Escambia Children’s Trust Board of Directors. The organization provides early childhood education, safety, developmental, preventative, health, and well-being services, including after school and summer enrichment programs.

Fawaz A. Bham ’13 was recognized as the Most Inspiring Leader of 2020 by the Dallas Business Journal, awarded the Pro Bono Coordinator of the Year by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, and featured by the State Bar of Texas, Dallas Bar Association, and the Texas Bar Journal as an Access to Justice Pro Bono Champ.
On Saturday January 30, 2021, SMU Dedman School of Law alumni and students volunteered at the North Texas Food Bank. SMU Law had been looking for a way to have an in-person event where alumni and students could safely connect while giving back to the community during the pandemic. SMU Law alum, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot LL.M. ’92, is the CEO of Feeding America, which oversees 200 food banks across the country, including the North Texas Food Bank. After seeing her on the national news multiple times in 2020 talking about the hunger crisis in our country, she inspired the idea for members of the law school community to volunteer at a food bank.

There was unprecedented hunger and food insecurity related to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. Because of this, our goal was to help those in need in North Texas and raise public consciousness around food insecurity during a time when 40 percent of the people who have relied on food banks the past year have never done so before. As an added benefit, our students and alumni had an opportunity to safely volunteer and connect in person.

The SMU Law group was divided into two volunteer groups. One group packed 6,720 pounds of food for the Food 4 Kids program, which provided 5,600 meals to children in need in North Texas. The second volunteer group worked in the “cold sort line” to sort fresh produce, dairy and meat.

Another group of alumni and students from SMU Law volunteered on February 6, 2021.

Olga M. Gurtovaya ’13 was promoted to shareholder at Munsch Hardt.

Lucas Lechler ’13 was promoted to shareholder at Munsch Hardt.

Conrad Steele ’13 joined the Dallas Office of Winstead PC as of counsel in the real estate development & investments practice group.

Jordan Strauss ’13 was named a partner at Munck Wilson Mandala.

Heather McKinney ’15 was selected for the Elder Justice Program, a two-year Equal Justice Works Fellowship program aimed at improving the national response to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Angel Torres ’15 has joined the international law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP as a Dallas-based associate in the firm’s banking & finance practice.

Dorlin Armiho ’16 joined Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, LLP as an associate in the litigation practice group.

Alyssa Ortiz Johnston ’16 was accepted to the Hispanic National Bar Association’s 2021 Latina Leadership Academy.

Michael Philipp Gross ’17 joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Dallas as an associate in the litigation department.

Conor McCall ’17 joined Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP in the opening of its Dallas office.

Michael Novotny ’17, with Big Fire Law & Policy Group LLP, was awarded the Squire Patton Boggs Distinguished Fellow Award. Recipients are recognized for their commitment to justice and addressing the needs of the underrepresented.

Michael Rane Riley ’18 joined the Park Law Firm in Huntsville, Texas.

Kacie Byrd ’19 joined the Dallas office of Winstead PC as an associate in the public finance practice group.

Price B. Peddicord ’19 was promoted to chief compliance officer and in-house counsel of United Advisors America.

A. Raylee Starnes ’19 joined Crowe & Dunlevy as an attorney in the firm’s Dallas office.

Abbie West ’19 joined Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, LLP as an associate in family law.

Danielle P. Canfield ’20 joined Bell Nunnally as an associate in the firm’s Dallas office.

John Healey ’20 joined Hartford, Connecticut civil litigation defense firm Conway Stoughton as an associate.

SMU Law Ponies Up!

Law Alumni and Students Support Families in Crisis

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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 2022 issue is July 1, 2022.
SMU Law Alumni to be Honored at the 2021 SMU Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony

Each year, SMU honors four outstanding leaders in philanthropy, business, and civic life with the highest honor the University can bestow upon its graduates. This year, two of the honorees are law alumni, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot ’92 and Chief Judge Barbara M.G. Lynn ’76. The SMU Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony recognizes extraordinary achievement, outstanding character, and good citizenship in an event that will be hosted by President R. Gerald Turner and the SMU Alumni Board on Thursday, September 30, 2021.

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot ’92
An innovative leader untangling the complexities and impact of hunger

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot ’92 leads the charge to keep food on the table for millions in need. As the chief executive officer of Feeding America, Babineaux-Fontenot oversees a national nonprofit network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and programs that served more than 6 billion meals during the pandemic. Her inspiring work earned recognition on the 2020 TIME 100 and NBC's Inspiring America 2021 lists.

While growing up in Louisiana, she witnessed the devastating effects of poverty and the power of compassion. She has 107 brothers and sisters through birth, adoption, and foster care. Her parents valued education and nurtured her big dreams. Babineaux-Fontenot received a Master of Laws in Taxation from SMU's Dedman School of Law in addition to a bachelor's degree from the University of Louisiana and a Juris Doctor from Southern University Law Center.

For nearly three decades, Babineaux-Fontenot has directed corporate, legal, and philanthropic teams. Prior to joining Feeding America in 2018, she spent 13 years with Walmart, serving most recently as executive vice president and global treasurer. Before Walmart, she was partner-in-charge of the Baton Rouge office and tax practice leader for Adams and Reese LLP. Earlier in her career, she was dispute resolution practice group leader at PwC and an assistant secretary for the office of legal affairs for the state of Louisiana.

SMU Law created two volunteer events for alumni and students through Feeding America, under Babineaux-Fontenot's leadership, that allowed Mustangs to give back to their community.

With a deep personal commitment to strengthening communities, Babineaux-Fontenot has volunteered in the fight against hunger and other causes since her youth. She has served on numerous nonprofit boards, including the Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and the National Urban League. She also served on the global board of directors and executive committee of the Walmart Foundation.

The Honorable Barbara M. G. Lynn ’76
A legal trailblazer shattering gender barriers and improving lives

Chief Judge Barbara M. G. Lynn ’76 shattered gender barriers early in her career and continues to open doors for women in the legal profession. Shortly after earning her Juris Doctor from SMU’s Dedman School of Law, Lynn joined Carrington Coleman in Dallas as the firm’s first female associate, and, later, its first female partner, before assuming the bench as a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Texas in 2000. Lynn made history in 2016 as the first woman to attain the position of chief judge.

As an SMU Law student, Chief Judge Lynn earned membership in the Order of Barristers and Delta Theta Phi honor societies before graduating summa cum laude, Order of the Coif. She fondly recalls graduating first in her class and serving as the standard-bearer in the presence of her parents and grandfather, and being hooded by her husband, Mike Lynn, who received his SMU law degree in 1975. He is founder and chairman of Lynn Pinker Hurst & Schwegmann, a leading commercial litigation firm in Dallas.

Despite a full docket, Chief Judge Lynn finds time to give back to her alma mater through service on the Dedman Law Executive Board and as an Alumni Community Fellow. She also serves on the Tate Lecture Series board of directors.

As a leader in her profession, Chief Judge Lynn has held numerous positions with the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, the Dallas Bar Association and other professional organizations.

In recognition of her impact on intellectual property and patent law, The Honorable Barbara M. G. Lynn American Inn of Court was chartered in 2011 and meets at SMU.

Lynn’s accomplishments have been celebrated with many awards, including Dedman Law’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Private Practice in 1999 and the inaugural Louise B. Raggio Award from the Dallas Women Lawyers Association. The National Law Journal named her one of the most influential women attorneys in the country, and the International Women’s Forum presented her with the Women Who Make a Difference Award.
William Forrest Smith
J.D. ’57, LL.M. ’63
2017 Distinguished Alumni Award for Private Practice

William Forrest Smith passed away on November 3, 2020. Forrest served SMU Dedman School of Law as an adjunct professor. He received Dedman Law’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Private Practice in 2017.

Forrest grew up in Beaumont, TX. He received his B.A. degree at Southwestern before entering law school at SMU. He met his wife Martha on a blind date while they both attended SMU and married on December 22, 1952, at Perkins Chapel.

Forrest worked at the Magnolia Petroleum Company (now Exxon) while he finished law school at SMU. He later joined Mobil Oil and was an attorney there for 35 years. Early in his career he knew that public service would be a major part of his life. Forrest was always looking for a way to make life better for others and worked throughout his life doing so. He never met a stranger, and his smile, humor, and energy were like no other.

He retired from Mobil Oil in 1984 and became the President of the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce. His primary focus at the Chamber was to bring the city of Dallas together and make it a better place to live. Two priorities included growing the economy and joining the Hispanic and Black Chambers into partnership. Forrest retired from the Chamber in 1988 to help start a new law firm in Dallas called Arter & Hadden. While at the firm, he created the first statewide program to enhance the work of Hispanic and Black lawyers in the business community. He retired from the firm in 1990 and, after working in private practice, joined Bell Nunnally and Martin. In 2007, he retired from Bell Nunnally and Martin and co-founded Ryan Law LLP. At his death, at almost 92 years old, Forrest was still practicing law at Friedman and Feiger.

Forrest received many appointments, and served on many boards. He was appointed by the King of Thailand as Honorary Counsel General and was appointed by Governor Preston Smith as a member of the Texas Youth Council. He served as a member of the DFW Airport Board, chairman of the Dallas Better Business Bureau, Chairman of the Save the Children Advisory Council, and Chairman of the Dallas Park Board, to name a few. He loved politics and even ran for Mayor of Dallas in 1991.

He co-founded the Texas General Counsel Forum and founded the Committee for a Qualified Judiciary. He received numerous honors including the Justinian Award from the Dallas Bar Association and the Magna Stella award from the Texas General Counsel Forum. He was extremely honored when the Forum created the Forrest Smith Scholarship at SMU Dedman School of Law.

His most treasured award was the Father of the Year Award given by the Dallas Morning News. All those who knew Forrest knew that he loved his family more than anything in the world.

He loved playing golf and tennis and meeting his friends early in the morning for coffee and breakfast. He was a member of the Potter’s House Dallas.

He is survived by his wife Martha Ann McCarley and their five daughters, Sherry, Jill, Lori, Chris, and Candy, and eight grandchildren.


Mary Ann Puckett

Mary Ann Puckett passed away on July 21, 2021. Mrs. Puckett served SMU as Administrative Assistant in the SMU Journal of Air Law and Commerce at SMU Dedman School of Law from October 1981 until retiring in May 1996. She enjoyed organizing the annual SMU Air Law Symposium, which today is in its 55th year, and hosts more than 500 aviation lawyers and industry representatives annually.
Remembering our Alumni

With Deepest Sympathy

John C. Peruirfoy ’48
September 8, 2020

Clyde L. Davis, Jr. ’49
October 6, 2020

Edgar Julian Garrett, Sr. ’49
January 8, 2021

Lee Strong Bane ’50
November 11, 2020

John Edward Gay ’51
January 26, 2021

Ray Lusk Pollock ’51
February 13, 2021

Paul Selman Adams Jr. ’52
June 3, 2021

Representative
James E. Fisher ’52
November 22, 2020

Benjamin Edward Pickering ’52
December 11, 2020

Thomas Marshall Cain, Jr. ’53
January 11, 2021

Robert J. Cowan ’53
November 19, 2020

William Gordon Hobgood, Jr. ’53
January 8, 2021

Benjamin E. Pickering ’54
December 11, 2020

Logan Henry Stollenwerck, Jr. ’54
March 2, 2021

Robert William Calloway ’55
May 4, 2021

Gerald Kendall Fugit ’55
October 24, 2020

Perry R. McPherson ’55
September 16, 2020

Dr. John William Stevenson, Sr. ’55
December 3, 2020

Dr. Richard Tze-Chung Li ’57
April 22, 2020

Bernard C. McGuire ’57
December 23, 2020

Allan T. Nance ’57
September 9, 2020

Clay Christopher Scott, Jr. ’57
November 7, 2020

Edward Reaugh Smith ’57
August 12, 2020

William Forrest Smith ’57
November 3, 2020

Earl Dudley Weed, Jr. ’57
August 19, 2020

Lee Mac Barron ’58
June 25, 2020

Harry Reed Shawver, Jr. ’58
December 1, 2020

Norman Arnold Zable ’58
September 25, 2020

James Thomas Rudd ’59
May 19, 2021

Ray G. Besing ’60
April 16, 2021

Donald Ray Gray ’60
January 24, 2021

The Honorable Orland Harold Harris ’60
July 7, 2021

Donald Keith Young ’60
January 16, 2021

Lewis Henry Gissel, Jr. ’61
September 15, 2020

The Honorable
John Paul McCall ’61
May 11, 2021

James T. Rudd ’61
May 19, 2021

Dr. Joseph
Hastings Schley, Jr. ’61
February 10, 2021

Rice Matthews Tilley, Jr. ’61
October 28, 2020

Edwin Bruce Ebert ’62
August 3, 2020

Charles A. Ferguson ’62
October 10, 2020

Alexander Roman
Fitzenhagen, Sr. ’62
March 13, 2021

Captain Howard
R. Warwick, USN ’62
March 6, 2021

Arch Burton Gilbert ’63
January 18, 2021

Dr. Joseph H. Schley, Jr. ’63
February 10, 2021

The Honorable
Don Edwin Stokes ’63
January 20, 2021

Kenneth Marvin Taylor ’63
March 4, 2021

Charles B. Tennison ’63
January 18, 2021

Robert Glover McCain, III ’64
January 21, 2021

Farris Mitchell, Sr. ’64
October 6, 2020

Don C. Nix ’64
June 1, 2020

Vincent Henry
Vermooten ’64
January 3, 2021

Scottie Hays Ashley, Jr. ’65
October 5, 2020

Charles A. Ferguson ’65
October 10, 2020

John Delano Hill ’65
December 27, 2020

Pierre Marcel
Schlumberger ’66
October 1, 2020

William Robert
Springfield ’66
July 7, 2020

The Honorable
Annette Stewart ’66
August 28, 2020

Charles Buchanan
Tennison, Sr. ’66
January 18, 2021

Manuel Jerome
Behne, Jr. ’67
March 9, 2021

Mary Julia Hook ’67
April 27, 2021

Michael M. Wade ’67
June 13, 2020

Eldon Lee Youngblood ’67
October 31, 2020

George Washington
Hager, Jr. ’68
May 21, 2021

Dr. Osborne Mackie
Reynolds, Jr. ’68
September 6, 2020

A. Jackson Hill ’69
September 10, 2019

The Honorable
Robert Lee Ramsey ’69
November 4, 2020

Bruce Powell Sadler ’69
December 4, 2020

Robert Stephen
Swanson ’69
November 16, 2020

Richard Bruce Goodmer ’70
October 3, 2020

The Honorable
Joe Edmund Kyle ’70
June 2, 2021

Mark C. Mueller ’71
August 18, 2020

Robert Norman Price ’71
August 12, 2020

Stuart Crow Shelton ’71
August 26, 2020

James W. Swank, Jr. ’71
June 20, 2020

Richard William Wood ’71
May 13, 2021

Rae Ann Fichtner ’72
July 15, 2020

The Honorable Robert
Jackson Grant ’72
February 16, 2021

Jacob Alexander
Friedman ’73
November 12, 2020

Dale M. Goss ’73
September 26, 2019

Peter G. Pierce, III ’74
May 2, 2021

Clayton P. Farrar, Jr. ’75
February 27, 2021

Theodore Robert Kent ’75
August 11, 2020

Ann M. Lake ’75
August 11, 2020

Marigny Amort Lanier ’75
February 16, 2021

Clayton P. Farrar, Jr. ’75
March 9, 2021

The Honorable
Gary Lee Hach ’90
August 23, 2020

Patricia Ann Houseman ’90
June 12, 2020

Brigid Marie Davis ’91
May 12, 2020

Mark Schwartz ’91
November 7, 2020

Roger Dee Button ’92
April 16, 2021

Stefani Silverberg
Eisenstat ’93
December 9, 2020

Bradley Daniel Berryman ’95
June 29, 2021

Michael Christopher
Miller ’00
December 27, 2020

Dr. Patricia
Howery Davis ’02
January 11, 2021

Macy Jaggers ’02
December 2, 2020

Linda Lea Hopper ’81
August 20, 2020

Maryann Brousseau
Mihalopoulous ’81
October 24, 2020

Dwight Ardan Shupe ’81
December 30, 2020

Raeford Leon Trotter, Jr. ’82
April 24, 2021

Marjorie C. Crawford ’84
September 18, 2020

Edward M. McElroy ’85
April 6, 2021

Paul Richard Shunatona ’86
September 6, 2020

James Lampin Dunn, Jr. ’87
March 21, 2021

Webb Francis Joiner, Jr. ’87
July 6, 2020

Pekka Aarne Oskar
Inkeroinen ’88
June 2, 2020

The Honorable Gary Lee
Hach ’90
August 23, 2020

Patricia Ann Houseman ’90
June 12, 2020

Brigid Marie Davis ’91
May 12, 2020

Mark Schwartz ’91
November 7, 2020

Roger Dee Button ’92
April 16, 2021

Stefani Silverberg
Eisenstat ’93
December 9, 2020

Bradley Daniel Berryman ’95
June 29, 2021

Michael Christopher
Miller ’00
December 27, 2020

Dr. Patricia
Howery Davis ’02
January 11, 2021

Macy Jaggers ’02
December 2, 2020
ALL 0s & 5s + 1s & 6s

LAW REUNION WEEKEND

We look forward to celebrating with you this fall! We will be closely monitoring the state of the pandemic and will let you know ASAP if we have to cancel indoor events due to conditions at the time.

Friday, October 1, 2021

7:00 – 11:00 p.m.
The Hall on Dragon
1500 Dragon Street, Dallas, TX 75207
$100 | Cocktail attire | Heavy appetizers

MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION
Website: smu.edu/lawreunion | Email: mustangbar@smu.edu | Phone: 214-768-4LAW(4529)

THE MUSTANG BAR
Law Alumni Association

BIG WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

October 1

LAW SCHOOL UPDATE
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.  Karcher Auditorium (Storey Hall)

GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY OR MEADOWS MUSEUM TOURS, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

CLASS REUNION PARTY
7:00 - 11:00 p.m., The Hall on Dragon

October 2

HOMECOMING PARADE
Three hours before kick off, Bishop Boulevard

LAW TAILGATE PARTY
2.5 hours before kick off, SMU Boulevard, Near the flagpole

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME
SMU vs. South Florida, Game time TBA
Gerald J. Ford Stadium

0s AND 5s REUNION CLASS HOST COMMITTEE
Haleigh H. Jones ’15 • Heather C. McKinney ’15 • Ian Phillips ’15 • Janet M. Smith ’15 • Heath Stovall ’15 • Jasmine M. Tobias ’15 • Robert Bobo ’10
Molly Carson ’10 • Chelsea Hilliard ’10 • Kristina Kiik ’10 • Jennifer Ryback ’10 • Clayton Falls ’05 • John Greco ’05 • Natalie Greco ’05
Josh Music ’05 • T Nguyen ’05 • Becky Niederstadt Palm ’05 • Peter Schulte ’05 • Tisha Ghormley ’00 • Virginia Keehan ’00
Jason Little ’00 • Heather Morschauer ’00 • Josh Northam ’00 • Amy Osteen ’00 • Aaron Tobin ’00 • Peter Wahby ’00 • James Zosy ’00
Steve Gonzales ’95 • Clement Osimetha ’95 • Margaret Kelihler ’90 • Jeff Rasansky ’90 • Judge Rhonda Hunter ’80
Lisa Greenwood Duffee ’85 • Judge Michael Truncalle ’85 • David Keilner ’75 • Mike Lynn ’75 • John Marshall ’75 • Clay Small ’75
Kenny Stephens ’75 • Steve Wakefield ’75 • W.F. Countiss ’70 • John D. Jackson ’70 • David Sudbury ’70 • Judge J.W. Kerr ’65
Windle Turley ’65 • Larry Steinberg ’60

1s AND 6s REUNION CLASS HOST COMMITTEE
Travis D. Jones ’16 • Jessica Kirk ’16 • Sarah-Michelle Stearns ’16 • Meagan Dyer Self ’16 • Joe Unis ’11 • Veronica Valdez ’11 • Travis Boghetich ’06
Kelly Boyington ’06 • Christine P. Leatherberry ’06 • Kristin Kruse Lotz ’06 • Jim Mueller ’06 • Meyling Ly Ortiz ’06 • Nick Peters ’06 • Jonathan Solomon ’06
Krissey Turner ’06 • Nancy Kennedy ’01 • Patricia Stein ’01 • Jennifer Tobin ’01 • Cindy McGeoch ’96 • Vicki Blanton ’91 • Colin Cahoon ’91
Lee Michaels ’91 • Jennifer Stoddard Hajdu ’91 • Nancy Lerman ’91 • David Vassar ’91 • Judge Cyndi Wheless ’91 • Brigitte Kimichik ’86 • Shannon Lynch ’86
Philip Wise ’81 • Paul Ward ’76 • John Michael Jackson ’71 • Tom Raggio ’71 • Clark Wittingham ’71 • David McLane ’66 • Tim Reames ’61

SMU.EDU/LAWREUNION
A talented and diverse student body is a defining feature of a great law school. Increasing the ability to award scholarships is crucial to helping SMU Dedman School of Law attract top students. Create life-changing opportunities for our world-changing students by supporting our newest scholarship that also includes the benefit of a one-on-one mentoring program.

You can make a difference
Gifts to the Impact Scholarship Fund will change the lives of students for years to come. Consider making a multi-year commitment or gift of any size to this important initiative.

Give today and help us bring this vision to life.

SMU.EDU/LAW/IMPACT

Anne Beard | Director of Development
214-768-4527 | agbeard@smu.edu