Celebrating Experiential Education:
75th Anniversary of
SMU Dedman Law
Clinical Program

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Louise B. Raggio Endowed Lecture Series -
A Conversation with Amal Clooney

PLUS:
• SMU Dedman Law Tax Program
• Distinguished Alumni Awards
• Class Notes & Much More!
SMU Dedman Law by the Numbers

**Fall 2023 Entering Class**

164 LSAT
3.83 GPA
34 first generation college students
30% ethnically and racially diverse

27 to 37 age range
55% female
74 different colleges and universities represented
24 U.S. States represented

#15 in the nation with the highest percentage of 2022 graduates placed in long-term, full-time, bar-passage required jobs -Reuters, May 2023

#29 “2023 Top 50 Go-To Law Schools” for the highest percentage of 2022 graduates in associate jobs at the nation’s 100 largest law firms - Above the Law, June 2023

30 post graduate judicial clerkships secured by Clerkship Class of 2022, 27 of which were with federal judges

#38 “2023 ATL Top 50 Law Schools” based on real law jobs, quality full-time positions, cost and debt - Above the Law, June 2023

100% of job-seeking Class of 2022 graduates secured employment opportunities as of March 15, 2023

96.7% of Class of 2022 placed in full-time, long-term, bar-passage required or J.D. advantage jobs

120+ DFW corporations participating – Corporate Counsel Externship Program

18,564 hours of public service, average of 84 hours per student - Class of 2023

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It has been such a privilege to serve as dean of SMU Dedman School of Law this past academic year. And what an incredible year it has been! We cannot adequately convey the quality and excitement surrounding the dynamic speakers, alumni events, and academic symposia we have sponsored and supported this past year. Nor can we adequately describe the quality and accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff. Nevertheless, we hope this issue of The Quad will provide a glimpse into the wonderful things taking place at Dedman Law.

In these pages, we introduce you to six extraordinary new members of our faculty - people who are nationally acclaimed for their scholarship, expertise, and instructional abilities. We highlight the amazing accomplishments of our existing faculty as well, including two faculty members who recently offered testimony before U.S. congressional committees. We also feature our impressive tax program led by renowned professors Christopher Hanna and Orly Mazur, as well as important events sponsored by our reputable centers.

This year we continued to shine a light on critical issues facing the international legal community and promote initiatives that further our mission and ideals. For example, last March we welcomed barrister and human rights activist Amal Clooney to campus as a featured speaker in the Louise B. Raggio Endowed Lecture Series. Ms. Clooney spoke to an audience of over 1,000 people and shared an inspiring message of hope, resilience, and the importance of confronting apathy in the fight for human rights causes around the world.

Our Rising Scholars Program provided 20 talented high school seniors interested in pursuing a legal career the opportunity to attend classes taught by law professors, attend mentoring sessions with alumni, and develop legal writing and oral advocacy skills. The Jennifer M. Collins Women’s Leadership Initiative presented an impactful and inspiring program for our students, “The Sky is Not the Limit: A Conversation with the Women in the C-Suite at American Airlines.” This event, co-hosted with SMU Cox School of Business and the Robert B. Rowling Center for Business Law & Leadership, addressed advancement, leadership, and retention issues for women in law and business.

In perhaps our most notable celebration this year, we were delighted to commemorate the 75th anniversary of our pro bono clinics. Our ten legal clinics are a key component of Dedman Law’s emphasis on experiential learning and illustrate the important partnership we have with the DFW community to increase access to legal representation for impoverished individuals.

We understand very well that our alumni are our greatest assets. We presented a Distinguished Alumni Award to five incredibly deserving alumni last March. We also joined 12 alums on the experience of a lifetime as they were sworn into the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition to our traditional class reunions and tailgates, we welcomed numerous alumni to receptions in DFW and in other cities around the country.

Consider this message an open invitation from your alma mater to join us to reconnect, support, and celebrate with you. SMU Dedman School of Law’s future is very bright, and I am grateful to have this opportunity to work with you to help Dedman Law reach even greater heights in the coming years.

With my deepest gratitude,

Jason P. Nance
Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law
Legal Clinics: Celebrating the Past while Looking to the Future.

Seventy-five years ago, in the basement of Dallas Hall, the beloved dean of a fledgling Southern Methodist University School of Law conceived of a legal clinic that could aid the city’s poor by offering free or low-cost legal services, while giving a small cadre of SMU law students unprecedented legal experience before they ever crossed the stage in a robe and tassel.

Two birds, one stone. What Dean Robert Storey did not know when he started the program in 1948, however, was that the small community clinic would one day grow into 10 clinics and go on to serve tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of low-income residents over seven and a half decades of operational excellence.

When it first opened, the clinic was one of only two in Texas and predated, by several decades, the national movement to establish legal clinics at university law schools to serve people in need. Dean Storey’s career was distinguished by public service, first as an assistant attorney general of Texas and notably as executive counsel under Justice Jackson at the historic Nuremberg Trials, following World War II. He started the clinic at SMU to provide legal services to families in need while also providing a hands-on learning opportunity for law students.

The first clinic was a joint project with the City-County Welfare Office, the Dallas Junior Bar Association, and the Southwestern Legal Foundation. In 1948, Dallas County had a population of about 600,000 residents. Dallas County’s 2023 population is 2.7 million.

Under the supervision of Professor Wilmer D. Masterson, Jr., five students selected based on their academic achievement met each Friday afternoon at 1313 Pacific Avenue downtown to take cases from the welfare department.

Many of the cases involved family law matters and presented complex challenges for the law students and would have demanded significant compensation by any private law firm. But students were determined to get their clients the best outcome no matter what it took, even though their clients could not pay. One early student director of the clinic said proudly, “We work as hard on these $10 lawsuits as we would if millions of dollars were involved.”

Within the first five years of operation, the clinic handled an astonishing 1,200 cases involving everything from divorce and child support disputes to drawing up wills for the elderly. Although students were unable to speak in the courtroom since they had not yet passed the bar, they conducted all of the legwork and behind-the-scenes preparation and advised the trial lawyer who would argue their case on behalf of their client.

Dedicated in 1951, the broader organization known as the Legal Center, which housed the growing SMU School of Law and the Southwestern Legal Foundation, of which Dean Storey was president at the time, maintained the legal aid clinic as a rare and highly sought after community resource. The Legal Center also made strides in advancing the legal profession that drew professionals from around the nation to hear what was going on at SMU.
Realizing his vision for law studies at SMU via the Legal Center, Dean Storey said, "Just as medical centers have extended the span of life and eased human pains, so should a legal center be concerned with vitalizing and modernizing our laws to this atomic age."

Seventy-five years on from the establishment of that vision, the students and faculty at the Dedman School of Law have taken the legal aid clinic framework to impressive heights that no one in 1948 would have imagined. More than 80 students now participate in 10 clinics each semester at SMU Dedman Law with help from 12 faculty, six fellows, and three staff. Cases now come in from across Texas that go well beyond the original scope of the program. Unlike early clinic students, today’s students regularly appear in court on behalf of their clients and engage in other lawyer tasks under rules promulgated by the State Bar of Texas.

The various clinics at SMU serve low-income individuals with civil and consumer needs, federal taxpayer problems, and First Amendment cases, as well as small businesses in need of legal assistance and children without advocates who are receiving critical help through the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic. From 2014 to 2016, SMU Dedman Law greatly expanded its clinical offerings once again to include the Innocence Clinic, the VanSickle Family Law Clinic, the Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women, and the patent and trademark clinics.

SMU Dedman Law requires law students to complete 30 hours of public service, a program launched in 1996. Students who choose to participate in law clinics or externships log separate hours for these two programs outside the required public service hours.

In 2015, the graduating class had clocked over 13,000 hours of pro bono public service work, averaging 55 hours per student, well above the required threshold. The class of 2023 has achieved an average of 85 hours of public service per student for an astonishing 18,564 hours of total service; 31 graduates gave 200 hours, and six graduates volunteered more than 420 hours.

Clinic hours have seen astonishing growth as well. Students have logged about 30,000 hours of free legal services per year—the equivalent of 10 to 15 full-time lawyers.

Pro bono work accomplished through the 10 clinics has informed and shaped the careers of SMU Dedman Law alumni who go on to help steer the course of the nation. A number of alumni have gone on to occupy important public service positions, from Irma Carrillo Ramirez ’91, the newest judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit to Sarah Saldana ‘84 as the director of ICE under Barack Obama to John Ratcliffe ‘89 as Director of National Intelligence under Donald Trump.

Clinical work did not stop during the COVID pandemic and even provided novel experience to students who suddenly found themselves navigating virtual hearings and video conferences — something that was foreign to many practicing attorneys. Through these experiences, students at SMU Dedman School of Law received a head start in a new era of legal practice and provided crucial remote legal assistance to individuals, especially children being helped by the Child Advocacy Clinic experiencing abuse, who otherwise would have lost most legal access due to pandemic constraints on in-person counsel.

Mary Spector, Associate Dean for Experiential Learning, Director of the Civil/Consumer Legal Clinic, and Professor of Law, stresses the importance of instilling an ethic of preparation in students who run the clinic. “One of the things that we tell the students is what they lack in experience we make up for in preparation. That’s why we’re here till 11:30 at night going over the opening, going over the motion.”

Clients served by the law clinics have always been from diverse backgrounds. What’s changed in recent decades is the growing diversity of the SMU Dedman Law student body. About 55% of Dedman Law’s incoming class is composed of women, and 30% of the class come from historically underrepresented groups. “I have some of those students right now, first generation college students who speak another language at home, students who are immigrants that are coming here because their families are seeking religious freedom or political freedom in their own country. Our students often have more in common with our clients than you may think.”

One of the newest clinics, launched in 2016, the Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women, provides representation to survivors of gender-based harms, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, in a broad range of legal areas. The Hunter Center has partnered with established local community organizations to
serve women who are most critically in need of legal assistance in matters including, but not limited to, obtaining orders of protection, family law, humanitarian immigration claims, and post-conviction relief. The Hunter Center also engages in systemic advocacy and policy work to both prevent and seek long-term solutions to the problem of violence against women.

Natalie Nanasi, Director of the Hunter Center and Associate Professor of Law, said the free legal services provided by the clinic expose law students to a desperately needed form of legal practice to serve some of society’s most vulnerable populations. For many students, let alone for the clients they assist, the experience is life-changing.

“When they [law students] leave the clinic, we hope they are empathetic, culturally competent, and zealous advocates,” said Professor Nanasi. “We want to train them to be lawyers; we want to help them be better at researching, be better at writing, be better at oral advocacy, at negotiation — those really core legal skills. But we also want them to employ that knowledge in a way that understands their client’s lived experiences and is responsive to their trauma and the needs that they have in moving through the legal system.”

Jacob B. Fishman and Allayna Ford, both third-year law students who will graduate in May, have found their time working in the legal clinics an important source of confidence and experience that will propel them into their legal careers. Both have already secured posts with major Dallas firms, which they will assume this summer after passing the Texas Bar.

“I’ve been able to really grow and flourish in the law clinics,” said Ford. “I had a semester of mock trial under my belt. And so, I thought that I knew everything. But then whenever I started the civil clinic, I realized just how little I knew. On the first day that I was in the civil clinic, I was immediately thrown into an ongoing case, and I immediately started having to write motions and make phone calls. It was so hands on, and I really was able to grow in my confidence as an advocate.”

The clinic experience, she said, helped her land a position with a Dallas litigation firm. “In the job interview, they [the employer] honed in on the fact that I have the civil clinic experience on my resume. They said that one of their most recent associates whom they had hired just did his first deposition, and they had to really coach him through that. I mentioned that I’ve already done two depositions in my third year, and they were so impressed by that. And then I listed out the many different motions that I’ve drafted, and their eyes just widened.”

If it weren’t for his clinic experience, Jacob Fishman, who recently helped win a $100,000 settlement for a client, said he would not have had the opportunity to assist clients from low-income backgrounds who simply could not afford access to justice, which everyone deserves, he said.

“The clinic is client-centered,” Fishman said. “It’s so important to us to be focused on their goals and their wants and their needs. We work through one of the most challenging issues of their lives, and we help them solve it. The experience is personally and professionally transformative. You get a real exposure to what the practice of law is like. In your head, you might have, you know, some romanticized notions of what it’s like to practice law, but it’s very different from boots on the ground, especially working with the indigent.”

“It is special to feel a part of this big machine that’s doing good in Dallas. I keep coming back to volunteer.”

For alums Robert Doggett ’90 and John Creuzot ’82, their clinic experiences were career game-changers, and they believe all law students should participate in them.

“The clinic planted that seed for me to reconsider a traditional track of working for a law firm that had paying clients, you know, banks and insurance companies and things like that, who can afford to retain paid counsel,” said Doggett, Executive Director of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, the nation’s second largest legal aid provider and the largest in Texas.

TRLA provides free civil legal services to residents in 68 Southwest Texas counties and represents migrant and seasonal farm workers throughout the state and in six other southern states. TRLA also operates public defender programs that serve at least 10 Texas counties, representing low-income and indigent people accused of felonies, misdemeanors, and juvenile crimes. TRLA serves about 23,000 clients each year in more than 45 practice areas at branch offices across the state.

“I certainly looked at the private firm model and was considering it and applied for some of those positions. And my heart just wasn’t in it; my heart was in
something else. And that seed, that decision, has made my life the most meaningful and valuable. I can’t imagine doing anything differently.”

Dallas County District Attorney John Creuzot had a similar experience after his trials-by-fire in the civil and criminal justice clinics. A retired Dallas County Judge, Creuzot is now serving his second term as Dallas County Criminal District Attorney after being first elected in 2018. His background includes more than 21 years as a Felony District Court Judge, seven years of service as a Dallas County Assistant District Attorney and Chief Felony Prosecutor, as well as a criminal defense lawyer while in private practice.

“[The clinic experiences] allowed me to understand what I wanted to do as a lawyer, which was to be a criminal trial lawyer,” Creuzot said. “And so, it gave me that push. I was fortunate enough to be hired into the district attorney’s office, and it was kind of the steppingstone for my entire career that I ended up here today.

“Even if you’re not going to practice criminal law or civil law, I’ve seen that clinic work is valuable to people because people do change,” he said. “I mean, they start off doing banking law, and they may wind up doing something else that requires them to go to the courthouse, have hearings, maybe try cases. You get that experience with the clinics while you’re still in law school.”

Professor Nanasi, who came to SMU in 2015, marvels at the Dedman Law Clinics program. “Where we have come in 75 years with so many clinics, staffed or run, I should say, and directed by my absolutely incredible colleagues, working in just this incredible range of subject matters, training so many students – it just really is remarkable to look back and see how far we’ve come,” she said.

“We are delighted to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our legal clinics,” said Jason P. Nance, dean of SMU Dedman School of Law. “We view our clinical education program as an important partnership with the DFW community and an opportunity to teach students to become competent lawyers who also have a compassionate public-service mindset.”

Said Professor Spector: “I love being able to see these students come in, shy and unsure, and then after time in the clinics have them walk out standing up straight with confidence in their legal abilities and the knowledge that they’ve been able to make a difference in the lives of their clients.”
FORGING A NEW PATH

SMU Dedman School of Law Poised to Excel

SMU Dedman School of Law has embarked on a new journey to continue to elevate its profile on the world stage through new funding, exciting new leadership, and an expanding horizon of opportunities available for our students as they prepare for a career in the legal profession.
Last year, SMU Dedman School of Law raised and secured $5.5M dollars benefitting our students and faculty. Dozens of generous donors partnered with us in the fulfillment of our mission by supporting the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center, the Robert B. Rowling Center for Business Law & Leadership, and the Thomas W. Luce III Centennial Dedman Scholarship Fund, the W. W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Legal Clinic. Several new scholarships were also created to impact generations of students.

**Improving our Facilities:** SMU Dedman Law is ushering in a new era of instruction with a world-class facility that will recruit outstanding students and retain our prestigious faculty. The logistics and instructional requirements for a law school have changed since our current facilities were completed. A feasibility study on the law quad will begin in 2023, which will better inform us on how to prioritize and execute a robust renovation to all of our existing facilities and make SMU Dedman School of Law a leading destination.

“Dedman Law continues to excel, but there is so much more that we can accomplish. We are well positioned to become a world-class law school in the coming years” – DEAN JASON P. NANCE

Under the new leadership of Dean Jason P. Nance, SMU Dedman School of Law is forging a new path to address the needs of a modern law school and provide a state-of-the-art education in our robust city, Dallas, Texas. As we prepare for our centennial celebration in early 2025, the Dean has crafted a three-part narrative to fulfill the mission of SMU Dedman Law for the next centennial.

**Attracting the Best and Brightest Students and Faculty:** Providing competitive scholarships is essential to attract the best and brightest students from across the nation. Likewise, prestigious endowed chair positions enable us to attract and retain talented, influential scholars and instructors who contribute to important legal debates across the globe. Top-notch students and faculty are foundational to becoming a world-class law school.

**Investing in Experiential Learning:** The Dedman School of Law has a steadfast commitment to experiential learning by investing in our clinics, externships, and simulation programs. The skills gained in each of these areas will become our students’ first, hands-on experiences in the legal profession. Investment in this area will enable us to have more instructors, upgrade our technology and infrastructure, and provide incentives for students to produce top-tier results.

To learn more about how you can be a part of this exciting opportunity, please contact:

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https://www.smu.edu/ignited/ways-to-give/dedman-law
Professor Carla Reyes Provides Insight on Blockchain Technology

Professor Carla L. Reyes is taking her legal expertise and her interest in decentralized technology and fusing them together in trailblazing ways, giving her the ability to anticipate innovations and propose policies that are years ahead of their time.

An associate professor at SMU Dedman School of Law, Reyes has been working in the blockchain space as both a practicing lawyer and as an educator consulting on technologies that few understand as deeply as she does, while operating in an area of law that is still being charted.

“I think that there’s a strong need for education around what blockchain technology is and how it works, the vocabulary, what the technical nuances are in the technology, and the different types of protocols in a way that is digestible and usable by lawmakers and policy makers,” said Professor Reyes.

Before entering academia, she practiced as an associate in the Blockchain Technology and Digital Currency industry group at Perkins Coie LLP. She went on to teach at Michigan State College of Law as the Director of the Center for Law, Technology, & Innovation. Today, universities around the world are jockeying for Reyes’ expertise to inform their tech programs, including Stanford’s CodeX, MIT’s Cryptoeconomic Systems program, and University College London’s Blockchain Research Centre.

When organizations ask for her insight, she brings both her enthusiasm and a clear-eyed, academic perspective to the table that institutions value. “There’s a lot of hype around blockchain,” she said. “There’s a lot of hype around AI. It’s really important to understand how the technology works, so that you are capable yourself of distinguishing the difference between the hype and the reality.”

So, what is blockchain technology? Professor Reyes explains: “A blockchain protocol is just computer software. That is, it’s protocol software. It sets the rules for computers to talk to each other about something specific – in this case, the recording of data about transactions. The software allows people who are pretty dispersed geographically and who don’t know each other and don’t necessarily trust each other, to come to an agreement about the existence and evolution of shared facts between them without relying on a third party intermediary.”

Her emphasis on the technical side of blockchain undergirds her teaching methodology at SMU, where this summer she was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor at Dedman Law. She teaches courses on secured transactions, business enterprises, artificial intelligence & the law, and blockchain law & policy, and encourages her students to dig deep on day one.

“I do hope that students get from any of my classes a better sense of what practicing in that area would look like in the real world, outside of law school, so I tend to incorporate an experiential emphasis in all of my classes. When my students go out to practice with clients in a high technology space [where] they have products and services that incorporate AI or blockchain technology, they’re going to have to understand the technical details in order to impart good legal advice. The more capable they are of conversing at a very technical level about these topics, the better the advice they’ll be able to deliver.”

Professor Reyes’ methodology has paid off in her own professional career. Her deep technical knowledge and legal background are in high demand among organizations and committees across the nation and internationally. She is the Research Director of the Uniform Law Commission’s Technology Committee, Associate Research Director of the...
Professor Eric Ruben Offers his Expertise on Gun Control and the Second Amendment

Few issues in American discourse spark as much controversy or division as the Second Amendment, which is why national news media – everyone from NPR to CNN to The Wall Street Journal – have looked to Professor Eric Ruben, a level-headed expert in Second Amendment and gun violence issues at the SMU Dedman School of Law, to inform their audiences.

Professor Ruben is an Associate Professor of Law at the Dedman School of Law who specializes in a range of topics related to guns and constitutional law, including criminal law, criminal procedure, legal ethics, and weapons law. His scholarship focuses on the intersection of gun regulations and Second Amendment rights.

“This is a hugely polarizing issue,” said Professor Ruben. “One of the things that I try to do when I teach and write about it is to treat it seriously as a matter of law, not just as a matter of rhetoric or politics. If you’re able to legalize an issue, it’s possible to teach it, talk about it, and discuss it without all the heat.”

Professor Ruben’s been involved in Second Amendment conversations since 2014, but he started his career pursuing a different legal path.

“I graduated from law school before District of Columbia v. Heller came down, so the Second Amendment was not taught at NYU when I was there for law school,” he said. “This entire field is younger than the first iPhone. It’s in the nascent stages of development. Being able to influence that development makes it really exciting for me.”
Fresh out of law school and a clerkship for Judge Julio Fuentes of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, Professor Ruben worked as a criminal defense attorney for six years where he defended dozens of clients in a range of matters. His experience as a criminal defense attorney was life-changing. He has spent much of his academic career researching legal issues that arose in his practice.

“My interest in the law surrounding violence, weapons, and the Second Amendment hasn’t always been there. It sort of bubbled up during my criminal law practice. Some of my clients had been charged with crimes of violence. It was through the course of such representations, and one representation in particular, that I became focused on the Second Amendment.”

He was involved in the initial intake and arraignment process for indigent defendants one day when his firm was assigned to represent an individual who had sold firearms in South Carolina out of his home to make some extra cash. Some of those firearms ended up in New York where they were used to commit crimes.

“I was struck by the ease with which firearms that are sold in a state with lax gun laws can end up on the streets of a faraway city and used in crime. It opened my eyes to a fascinating area of law and policy at the intersection of rights and regulation. These were the years right after the shooting at Sandy Hook, which really galvanized people to focus more on this issue in a way that they hadn’t, even more than after the Heller decision came out in 2008.”

When he heard that the Brennan Center for Justice was looking to hire a Fellow to research gun violence and Second Amendment issues, he applied for the role and was hired. For the next half-decade, Professor Ruben became an expert on the matter, researching and writing through his fellowship, which also gave him the opportunity to teach a Second Amendment class at the NYU School of Law as an adjunct with one of the nation’s only Second Amendment scholars at the time, Jim Jacobs. One of the Brennan Center’s priorities is to make legal research available to the public at large even when the issue is complex. Thus, as part of his fellowship, Professor Ruben learned to communicate with the media to make his work as accessible as possible.

His public profile took on a new dimension with last year’s SCOTUS ruling in New York State Rifle & Pistol v. Bruen, which struck down a New York restriction on gun carrying. Professor Ruben had written extensively on the issue, and his articles were referenced in over a dozen briefs in the case. Ultimately, his work was cited in both the majority and dissenting opinions. News media scrambled to get Professor Ruben’s opinion on the ruling. Over the past two years, he has made more than 100 media appearances.

In March of 2023, he was invited to serve as one of five expert witnesses to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee for the Judiciary in a full committee hearing on protecting public safety after Bruen. He advised the committee on the nature of the decision and how firearm regulations had not been fully ruled out.

He also described how the decision had introduced a new historical-analogical test for evaluating the constitutionality of modern laws addressing modern gun issues. This new test, said Professor Ruben, has caused a substantial amount of uncertainty for Second Amendment doctrine because courts are struggling to compare modern laws to historical ones, as they are required to do under Bruen. In SCOTUS’s 2023-2024 term, the high court will be considering whether it is constitutional to disarm people subject to domestic violence restraining orders. Keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers is of top importance to Professor Ruben, but confusion caused by Bruen has thrown that objective into doubt. Ruben is submitting a brief in the case and will likely remain in high demand with media outlets.

“One of the things that judges do when they hear constitutional rights cases is they create the doctrine implementing that constitutional right,” he explained. “They come up with rules and the standards for how to adjudicate Second Amendment claims. We’re still pretty close to the ground in terms of the creation of that doctrine, and the Supreme Court has pivoted in certain ways in terms of how it views Second Amendment methodology.

“That’s really where I insert myself and my research—in that methodological question. I expect that it’s going to take decades for the Second Amendment to mature into an area of law with well-established rules and standards. It’s just going to take time.”

In his professorial role at Dedman Law, Professor Ruben hopes his students leave his classes with not only an appreciation for the letter and history of the law, but also a sense of agency in the way we structure our legal system.

“I want my students to come away with an appreciation that they can have a role in shaping the rules and standards we develop to implement legal norms. The law itself is organic, it evolves, and lawyers are doing the work of pushing the law so that we as a society can achieve optimal outcomes.

“I try to keep the material grounded so that it is relevant. The J.D. isn’t a pie in the sky degree. We are training lawyers who will go on and practice in the real world.”

One thing he has learned from his practice as a criminal defense attorney and as a scholar who is a leader of the public discussion on one of the most heated debates in modern America, is the importance of respectful dialogue.

“It’s especially important to be civil and to learn how to listen respectfully and engage skillfully. That’s an important lesson in criminal law and weapons law, but I also think it’s an important lesson for lawyers in our society more generally. Having the ability to listen to people who don’t view the world the same way as you do, and to understand other perspectives and respond civilly even if you disagree, is a skill that hopefully SMU Dedman Law students develop during their years on the Hilltop.”

“I want my students to come away with an appreciation that they can have a role in shaping the rules and standards we develop to implement legal norms.” – PROF. ERIC RUBEN
SMU Dedman School of Law and SMU Cox School of Business students, faculty, and staff attended the Jennifer M. Collins Women’s Leadership Initiative luncheon held on April 4 on the SMU Campus. This event featured Priya Aiyar and Cole Brown of American Airlines where they discussed leadership advancement and retention issues for women in law and business.

Priya Aiyar
Chief Legal Officer, American Airlines

Cole Brown ’94, J.D. ’97
Chief People Officer, American Airlines

Moderator: Noelle LeVeaux
Group Publisher, D Magazine Partners

Introduction by Briana M. Blackman, J.D., M.B.A. ’19
Counsel & Manager of Operations, Avery Capital
International lawyer and human rights activist Amal Clooney has confronted ISIS, represented victims of genocide in Armenia and Darfur, and been an advocate for political prisoners around the world.

Even in the face of unspeakable evil, the 2023 Louise B. Raggio Endowed Lecture Series featured speaker remains true to her name. Amal in Arabic means hope. Born in Beirut in the early years of the Lebanese Civil War, Clooney’s life has been animated by an ambition for what could be.

“In the darkest places of the world, I see extraordinary acts of courage,” Clooney told the 1,000-plus in attendance at McFarlin Auditorium on March 9.

In an hourlong conversation moderated by SMU Dedman School of Law Professor Natalie Nanasi, Director of the Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women, Clooney shared how her family and upbringing inspired her work, detailed the arc of her career, and reflected on a few of the high-profile cases she has handled.
“A lot of times you can’t confront evil, but you can confront apathy.”

Clooney’s family left Lebanon as refugees when she was two years old and settled in the United Kingdom. Her “mum” was a political journalist who “made me and my sister feel like anything is possible. She had a career but didn’t give up the importance of family.”

A self-described “geeky teen,” Clooney developed an interest in the law by watching courtroom dramas, especially “L.A. Law.” She was attracted to the idea of being an advocate and using the law as a way to advance peace internationally, but admittedly didn’t know how she could pull it all together.

Clooney’s legal career started as a white-collar defense lawyer at Sullivan & Cromwell, where the Enron scandal kept her busy. It wasn’t until she started taking on pro bono cases that she found the kinds of cases that kept her up at night.

An opportunity to clerk for the presiding judge of one of the war crimes trials in the Hague launched her on the trajectory that has resulted in the Clooney Foundation for Justice, which she co-founded with her husband George Clooney in 2016 to take on human rights cases around the world.

Clooney started representing survivors of ISIS and advised on the first ever genocide charges, and eventual conviction, against the terrorist organization.

“In that reversal of power, the slave and the captor, I saw the power of the law and the power of justice. It is a wonderful illustration of what is possible,” she said.

When asked how she chooses which matters to take on, Clooney said she looks for cases with a “ripple effect,” where the underlying law can be challenged.

Here Clooney made a plea to lawyers, law firms, and law clinics to help her foundation in pursuing its work and again later encouraged Big Law in particular to invest in pro bono.

Clooney, who is also an adjunct professor at Columbia Law School, said she loves spending time with young lawyers and law students. For someone who has taken on violent actors and corrupt governments, Clooney revealed an unexpected vulnerability.

“It is terrifying to read student evaluations,” she laughed.

Though her family is in their “halcyon days,” Clooney identified a few challenges that are keeping her up at night: the equality of women in Iran, First Amendment concerns in the United States, and the record number of journalists in prison around the world.

With the future of justice requiring constant vigilance, Clooney left the audience with a charge to not fall into despondency.

“A lot of times you can’t confront evil, but you can confront apathy.”
GET INVOLVED!

- Connect with your local Mustang Bar Law Alumni Chapter smu.edu/law/chapters
- Update your alumni information smu.edu/lawupdate
- Learn more about alumni events, activities, and news smu.edu/law/alumni

The phrase “the more things change, the more they stay the same” resonated with me as I returned to campus in the fall of 2022. After 27 years in private practice of law, I was excited to return to my alma mater SMU Dedman School of Law to accept the position as Director of Alumni Relations. I agree with the premise that even though things may seem to be constantly changing, basic underlying truths remain consistent. Change can usher in new opportunities and experiences.

SMU Dedman School of Law will celebrate its centennial anniversary in 2025. For nearly 100 years, this storied institution has consistently produced top-notch graduates who become skilled lawyers, community leaders, and catalysts for positive change. However, as one example, with the advent of ChatGPT and other forms of generative artificial intelligence, no one would suggest that today’s law student has the same experience that I had as a student in the early 1990s. No, we did not have email. Today’s law students’ educational experiences are enhanced not only by countless technological advances over the last quarter century, but also from a renewed focus on inclusivity, a dramatic expansion in student organizations, and a significant emphasis on experiential learning in our three centers and ten clinics. These modern experiences are proof that how students learn at SMU Dedman Law is anything but stagnant. Here, change precedes growth.

But despite these monumental changes, the foundations of the SMU Dedman Law education have not changed. Students continue to learn, discover, and thrive here. They may use new technology and equipment, but the quality of their legal training remains the same. Even as the tools with which they will practice law transform at lightning speed, the lessons learned here by these lawyers and leaders of tomorrow remain firmly rooted in the traditions and legacy of SMU Dedman Law.

I invite you to come back to campus. Stand on the steps of the library, take a seat in the tempietto, and marvel in the shadows of the stately oak trees. See for yourself all the things that have not changed. Then mentor a student. Hear how they use mind blowing new AI in their classes yet still grapple with the Rule Against Perpetuities. Appreciate the beautiful union of the old with the new, because the more things change, the more they remain the same.
MUSTANG BAR Connect.

Reunions
AUGUST 24, 2022
Dallas Alumni Reception and Meet Dean Jason Nance

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022
Family Weekend Law Alumni Tailgate

OCTOBER 21, 2022
Reunion for classes ending in 2s & 7s

OCTOBER 22, 2022
Homecoming/Reunion Law Alumni Tailgate

OCTOBER 27, 2022
North Texas Law Alumni Happy Hour

OCTOBER 28, 2022
30th Annual Corporate Counsel Symposium

NOVEMBER 7, 2022
Supreme Court of The United States Swearing In Ceremony and Washington, D.C. Law Alumni Happy Hour

NOVEMBER 8, 2022
New York City Law Alumni Happy Hour
ALUMNI EVENTS SPRING 2023

JANUARY 20, 2023
Women in Law Happy Hour and Legally Blonde Musical sponsored by the Jennifer M. Collins Women’s Leadership Initiative

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

MARCH 7, 2023
57th Annual Air Law Symposium

MARCH 9, 2023
Louise B. Raggio Endowed Lecture featuring Amal Clooney

MARCH 23, 2023
Diverse Alumni Cocktail Reception in Dallas

MARCH 30, 2023
Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner and Ceremony

APRIL 4, 2023
Jennifer M. Collins Women’s Leadership Initiative: The Sky is Not the Limit: A Conversation with Women in the C-Suite at American Airlines

APRIL 12, 2023
Affirmative Action in Higher Education Webinar

MAY 12, 2023
SMU Dedman Law Class of 2023 Hooding Ceremony
SMU Dedman Law
Tax Program
A Prestigious Program with Impressive Influence

The list of high-profile graduates from Dedman Law’s Tax LL.M. program grows every year and includes national names such as Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America, the largest U.S. charity; Bobby Patton, co-owner of the L.A. Dodgers; Christian Weiler, a judge on the United States Tax Court; Charles W. Hall, former chair of the American Bar Association Section of Taxation; and the late Robert H. Dedman, Sr., founder of ClubCorp, the largest owner and operator of private golf and country clubs in the country.

The program has a long history of preparing students to become proficient attorneys with specializations in tax practice, whether they go on to work for big prestigious firms in Texas and beyond, or go into public service to do important work on behalf of taxpayers. But a program is only as good as the people who lead it, and Dedman Law’s Tax faculty are some of the best and brightest.

Professor Christopher H. Hanna is the Alan D. Feld Endowed Professor of Law and Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor at the Dedman School of Law, and his passion for the Tax LL.M. program at Dedman Law is palpable. He teaches income taxation, international tax, advanced corporate tax, and partnership tax, and he has received nine Dr. Don M. Smart Teaching Awards (awarded each year by the graduating law students) while at Dedman Law. Professor Hanna has garnered a reputation for teaching often abstruse material with a rare zest for the subject matter. At least one of Hanna’s former students has described him as “the greatest tax lecturer ever,” and they may be onto something.

His unique skills in international tax law have made him a prized commodity for consulting firms, universities, and government entities all around the world, but above all, he is an exceptional ambassador for SMU’s Tax LL.M. program – one of the oldest and most influential programs in the country.

“As far as we know, it’s the second oldest tax program in the country,” said Professor Hanna. “Our tax program has had an incredible oversized influence on tax and business in the United States with our very limited number of graduates. Our law school is named after Robert Dedman, Sr. He was in the very first class of our tax program at SMU Law School in 1959. So, here’s a graduate who revolutionized country clubs around the United States with ClubCorp, and our law school is named after him.”

Professor Hanna glows about the quality of graduates who have come through the Dedman Law Tax LL.M. program, but he has an impressive résumé of his own. He earned a specialized degree from the renowned tax program at the NYU School of Law that kickstarted his early success with firms across the South and as a tax attorney with D.C. law firm Steptoe & Johnson.

Early, ground-level experience gave him deep insights into corporate tax law, tax accounting, and global tax philosophy and policy that would eventually lead him back to his home state of Florida to become a visiting professor at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, as well as law schools at the University of Texas and the University of Tokyo.

He took on global notoriety as a preeminent tax expert beginning in 1998 when the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, or OECD, convened in Paris and invited Hanna to become a consultant in residence. After that, major opportunities began rolling in.

In 2000, he assisted the U.S. Joint Committee on Taxation in its complexity study of the U.S. tax system. A few years later he returned to assist the joint committee in its study of Enron. For seven years, beginning in 2011, he served as the Senior Policy Advisor for Tax Reform to the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance and became a principal drafter of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 – the first major tax reform in 30 years.

“It’s incredibly satisfying to go and work on tax legislation,” said Professor Hanna. “It’s very daunting at first. You realize how important this is, the impact that it’s going to have on over 300 million Americans. It’s going to impact businesses and even foreign individuals and foreign businesses.

“Fairness is a huge part of this as you think about drafting this legislation. What impact will it have on individuals, on lower income or middle-income individuals, as opposed to upper income individuals? You’re constantly looking at things like that.”
TaxProf Blog’s Professor Mazur has also been a guest blogger for Taxation since 2019 and currently serves as its chair. The American Association of Law Schools’ Section on served as a member of the executive committee of the Tax Section of the State Bar of Texas. She is also a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and has reviewed journals.

In 2022, Professor Mazur was appointed to serve university-wide Golden Mustang Teaching Award. Professor Mazur is actively involved in the academic and legal community. In 2016, she received the university-wide Golden Mustang Teaching Award. In 2022, Professor Mazur was appointed to serve as Vice-Chair to the International Tax Committee of the Tax Section of the State Bar of Texas. She is also a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and has served as a member of the executive committee of the American Association of Law Schools’ Section on Taxation since 2019 and currently serves as its chair. Professor Mazur has also been a guest blogger for TaxProf Blog’s Weekly SSRN Tax Article Review and Roundup and was featured in Forbes in 2020. Professor Mazur received her B.B.A. and M.P.A., summa cum laude, from the University of Texas at Austin and her J.D., summa cum laude, from SMU Dedman School of Law, where she graduated first in her class and was a member of the SMU Law Review. She holds an LL.M. in taxation from NYU School of Law.

Dedman Law’s commitment to tax specialization extends beyond the classroom. Since 1977, the Tax Clinic, located in Storey Hall, has offered representation to low-income taxpayers who have federal income tax disputes with the Internal Revenue Service. These taxpayers cannot afford representation and rely on the clinic to effectively argue their case before the United States Tax Court. The clinic is operated by law students who are trained in tax law to offer services like protest letters, settlement negotiations, and installment agreements, all while keeping costs as low as possible for the client. Gregory Mitchell ’94, an alumnus of SMU Dedman Law and a full-time practicing tax attorney, is director of the clinic.

In fact, many of the tax faculty at Dedman Law are practicing tax specialists at law firms and corporate law departments throughout North Texas. Hanna herself served as counsel at an international law firm and currently serves as counsel at an international accounting firm.

When he isn’t focused on educating students about the tax system, you might catch Hanna learning a new magic trick or sleight of hand technique. He occupies very senior government positions, said Hanna. "Magic is a big hobby of mine," he confided. "I published an article in the spring of 2005 in the Virginia Tax Review, and it dealt with the intersection of magic and tax law. Much to my surprise, a writer named Adam Gopnik writes an article in The New Yorker magazine on magic, and sure enough, he quotes me in the article. He has read my article from three years earlier.

"I’m like, are you kidding? I had no idea, and all of a sudden, friends around the country, and then law professors and tax law professors were contacting me, saying, ‘Chris, how in the world did you get cited in The New Yorker? I want to get cited in The New Yorker, too!’’" Hanna’s scholarship has become a standard reference for students all over the world who are looking to become specialized tax attorneys. His second book, which he co-authored, is now in its 15th edition: Corporate Income Tax Accounting.

But the connections he makes with students at SMU Dedman School of Law mean the most.

"I think the greatest satisfaction as a professor is when a student tells you after they’ve taken your class, ‘Professor, this class scared me,’ or ‘I really didn’t have any interest in tax; the only reason I took this is friends of mine told me to take it,’ or ‘I just thought I should take it while I was in law school.’ And then afterwards, they’re like, ‘Well, this is my favorite class.’"

"It gratifies even more if they go into tax law as a profession, and they say, ‘The reason I went into tax law is I took Professor Hanna’s tax course when I was in law school. That’s why I’m a tax lawyer today.’ There’s a tremendous sense of satisfaction when you hear something like that."

Professor Hanna is a big believer in government service and is proud of the graduates who have gone on to serve in government roles in the tax field, whether at the Internal Revenue Service, Treasury, or on Capitol Hill. A number of graduates currently occupy very senior government positions, said Hanna. The two-semester Tax LL.M. program offers 28 specialized courses, everything from wills and trusts to criminal tax fraud to mergers and acquisitions. A popular variation of the Tax LL.M. program is the fast track option – the Accelerated Tax LL.M. – which allows students to earn both a J.D. and an LL.M. in Taxation in just seven semesters.

Professor Hanna is joined in SMU Dedman Law, who teaches and writes in the area of tax law and policy. Her scholarship focuses on the intersection of tax law and technology, international and comparative taxation, and taxation in the digital economy. Her work has been published in numerous journals, including the California Law Review, Boston College Law Review, Pepperdine Law Review, Columbia Journal of Tax Law, among other law review and peer-reviewed journals.

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About halfway into the first session of the Food & Drug Law Scholars Retreat, Professor Nathan Cortez, co-director of the Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation, knew the idea he’d kicked around for a decade would deliver on his vision. “The level of the discussion was off the charts,” Cortez, the inaugural Adelfa Botello Callejo Endowed Professor of Law in Leadership and Latino Studies at SMU Dedman Law, said. “Everyone in the room could feel it, and I could see people getting antsy to get in the queue to add a comment or question.”

To get in the queue, Professor Cortez asked participants to stand their name cards vertically, and soon after the first paper was presented, he could see the workshop would be a success. “Note cards started flying up around the table, and it was clear there was going to be no dead space — we would have discussion the entire time,” he said.

Professor Cortez spent eight months planning for that moment and thinking about every aspect of the experience. That process began with deciding on which scholars to invite. “It’s a nice position to be in, but it’s also a bit daunting,” Professor Cortez said. “First and foremost, my priority was to get true FDA scholars, people who do most of their work in the field, people who have deep knowledge of the area.” Participants came from universities across the country — American University, Elon University, the University of Florida, Harvard University, Penn State University, St. Louis University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Utah. Professor Cortez was intentional about the size and format of the event, ensuring that each had not only time to workshop their research, but also get to know each other beyond their work.

To do that, he selected 10 scholars and devoted an hour to each one’s research, with 10 minutes of introduction by the researcher, another 10 minutes of reactions by an assigned commentator, and the remaining 40 minutes for open discussion. “I really enjoyed getting to connect with other FDA nerds over a few intensive days that let us dive deeply into our own scholarship and each other’s,” said Holly Fernandez Lynch, an assistant professor of medical ethics at the University of Pennsylvania. “The
retreat gave me an opportunity and motivation to come back to a piece of scholarship that had really fall[en] by the wayside during the pandemic, with some great feedback to push it across the finish line.”

Daniel Aaron, an associate professor of law at the University of Utah, presented his research on the second day and said that other participants were engaged, offering suggestions for deepening his research on cancer prevention. “The level of expertise and the small-group environment made the retreat distinct and especially conducive to participation and discussion,” he said.

Professor Cortez was also intentional about inviting a mix of both established scholars and young academics. “I thought the young people could benefit from being with some of the luminaries in the field, and I thought exposing the senior scholars to new ideas might shake up their way of thinking because young scholars tend to be pretty bold and ambitious with their work.” One of those luminaries was Peter Barton Hutt, former Chief Counsel for the FDA, a senior counsel in the Washington, D.C. law firm Covington & Burling LLP, a lecturer at Harvard Law School, and “the godfather of food and drug law,” according to Professor Cortez. Hutt’s presence added to the retreat’s luster. “Professor Hutt created programs and ideas and procedures that federal agencies have been using for half a century, and I’ve been teaching these things my whole career,” Professor Cortez said.

Hutt also delivered one of Professor Cortez’s favorite moments from the retreat. During Hutt’s presentation he asked: “Should I write an article detailing my four years as head attorney for the FDA, and can I do it in a way that is not self-indulgent but useful to scholars and practitioners?” Professor Cortez found it touching because “he was genuinely asking young scholars who had just entered the field if he should pursue this.” Of course, everyone said yes. And for Professor Cortez it demonstrated the effectiveness of what he had created. “There were no hierarchies,” he said. “You have some giants in the field, but everyone’s comments had equal weight in the room.”

Community-building played a key role in Professor Cortez’s vision for the event, as did his desire to create something very different from other conferences. “As academics, we get used to the typical venues and formats, and I wanted to shake it up a bit and provide a memorable introduction to the series and an introduction to the Tsai Center,” he says. So, in addition to picking a stunning destination in Vail, Colorado, he also built in time for participants to share meals and enjoy downtime for conversations.

Participants praised those efforts and provided further proof he delivered on his goals. Lewis Grossman, a professor of law at American University, tweeted his gratitude, writing, “Kudos for putting together the Food and Drug Law Scholars retreat, one of the greatest academic gatherings I’ve ever attended. An amazing intellectual experience and community-building event.”

For Glenn Cohen, one of the world’s leading experts on bioethics and law at Harvard, the conversations over dinner counted as his favorite part of the retreat. “This was not just an opportunity to discuss food and drug law in a law-nerd sort of way, but an opportunity to really catch up and welcome some newer folks into the field,” he said. “Everybody was extremely present. The fact that it was a small group meant that we could really focus on each paper presented in-depth, and just about everyone spoke at almost every session.”

Beyond praise for the scholarship, the thoughtful conversations, and the chance to build community, participants also shared another collective insight: “We hope this becomes a regular event.” So does Professor Cortez, who is working on building partnerships with other institutions to ensure the program returns. “This is the very first one, and there has been pent-up demand,” he said. “Hopefully this is the germination of a longstanding series and people will look back and say, ‘I was there at the first one in Vail.’”

“"The retreat gave me an opportunity and motivation to come back to a piece of scholarship that had really fallen by the wayside during the pandemic”

-Holly Fernandez Lynch, Assistant Professor of Medical Ethics, University of Pennsylvania
Ushering in a new era.

In preparation for our centennial anniversary in 2025, we invite you to invest in areas that make a difference in our students and faculty.

• Scholarships  
• Curricular Programs and Clinics  
• Renovating our facilities

To learn more please contact:
Clayton Ellis
Director of Development
crellis@smu.edu
or 214-768-4527

SMU.edu/ignited/give
SMU Dedman School of Law Honors Five Distinguished Alumni in 2023

Five accomplished alumni were recognized on March 30, 2023 at the Arts District Mansion for their outstanding achievements, leadership, and service. These awards are the highest honor SMU Dedman Law bestows upon its alumni and friends.

Jerry C. Alexander ’72
President
Passman & Jones

David C. Haley ’86
President Emeritus
HBK Capital Management

Cynthia Hoff Trochu ’88
Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary
Texas Instruments Incorporated

Robert W. Doggett ’90
Executive Director
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA)

Cynthia R. Garza ’04
Assistant District Attorney, Conviction Integrity Unit – Chief Prosecutor
Dallas County District Attorney’s Office

Congratulations!
SMU Dedman Law’s annual Rising Scholars Program inspires students interested in pursuing a career in Law

Twenty high school students learn and gain hands-on experience from practicing attorneys and SMU Dedman Law faculty

SMU Dedman School of Law’s 3rd annual Rising Scholars Program was held Monday, June 4 through Friday, June 9 on SMU’s Campus. The law school developed the Program for rising high school seniors who are interested in pursuing a career in law. This year, 20 students attended law school each day to take classes from law professors, meet with practicing attorneys, develop writing and oral advocacy skills, and develop and present oral arguments in a moot court competition.


SMU Dedman School of Law held its first Rising Scholars Program in the summer of 2021. Due to the generous financial support of AT&T, Apple, and Lynn Pinker Hurst & Schwegmann, Dedman Law was able to offer a free residential program to these students from high schools in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

On Friday, June 9, the students’ families were invited to campus to enjoy the closing luncheon in Karcher Auditorium at SMU Dedman Law with guest speaker Cole Brown, Chief People Officer at American Airlines, and SMU Dedman Law Alumna. At the awards ceremony, she surprised the Rising Scholars’ students with a gift of American Airlines miles good for two-round trip tickets.
Monika U. Ehrman
Professor of Law

Professor Ehrman’s areas of expertise include natural resources, energy, property, and environmental law & policy. Her scholarship has been published or is forthcoming in *Georgia Law Review, UC Irvine Law Review, Georgetown Environmental Law Review*, and *UCLA Environmental Law Review*. Prior to joining SMU, Professor Ehrman taught at the University of North Texas at Dallas and at the University of Oklahoma, where she led the energy and natural resources program and served as the faculty director of the Oil & Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Center at the College of Law.

Christina M. Sautter
Professor of Law

Professor Sautter specializes in corporate law, with an emphasis on corporate governance and mergers & acquisitions. Her most current research explores the relationship between securities markets and corporations. She has extensively written on M&A, the sale process of publicly traded companies, and the intersection of fiduciary duties and deal terms. Professor Sautter has authored an M&A law treatise as well as articles appearing in a number of prestigious law journals, including most recently in *Boston University Law Review* and *Washington University Law Review*. Prior to joining the SMU Dedman Law faculty, Professor Sautter held the Cynthia Felder Fayard Professorship, the Byron R. Kantrow Professorship, and the Vinson & Elkins Professorship at the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

Carliss Chatman
Associate Professor of Law

Professor Chatman’s interests are in the fields of corporate law, ethics, and civil procedure. Her scholarship is largely influenced by 11 years of legal practice in complex commercial litigation, mass tort litigation, and the representation of small and start-up businesses in the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Professor Chatman’s work is also influenced by over two decades of service on non-profit boards and involvement with community organizations. Through leadership positions, she has developed expertise in corporate governance and non-profit regulation. Professor Chatman comes to SMU from Washington and Lee University Law School, where she was an associate professor specializing in corporate and commercial law.

Sari Mazzurco
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Mazzurco’s teaching and scholarship focus on law, technology, and intellectual property. She writes on the role and limits of law in addressing social, political, and cultural issues associated with digital technologies, information markets, and creative expression. Professor Mazzurco’s work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Indiana Law Journal, Boston University Law Review, Fordham Intellectual Property, Media, and Entertainment Law Journal, Columbia Journal of Law and the Arts, European Intellectual Property Review*, and *Federal Circuit Bar Journal*. Professor Mazzurco joins SMU Dedman Law from Yale University, where she earned a Ph.D. in Law and was a resident fellow at the Yale Information Society Project.
Kandace D. Walter
Associate Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Small Business and Trademark Clinic

Professor Walter’s experience focuses on intellectual property law and business transactions. As the director of the Small Business and Trademark Clinic, she provides law students with experiential learning and, together, they will provide legal services to entrepreneurs, small business owners, and nonprofits. Professor Walter will continue to engage the community to develop a pipeline of clients for law students to assist. Professor Walter also serves as the Secretary/Treasurer for the Dallas Bar Association and the Vice President of the Barbara M.G. Lynn American Inn of Court. Prior to joining SMU Dedman Law, Professor Walter assisted clients with intellectual property matters, business formations, and contracts.

Elizabeth Lee Thompson
Assistant Clinical Professor of Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy

Professor Thompson’s scholarship centers on the intersection of the rule of law, civil rights, civil procedure, and appellate law. In addition to a J.D., Professor Thompson holds a Ph.D. in legal history and is board certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Her training as a legal historian, years of private legal practice as an appellate attorney in state and federal courts, and service as a staff attorney for a Texas appellate judge inform her scholarship and teaching. Her published work includes a book and numerous articles, the most recent of which is forthcoming in *UC Irvine Law Review*. Prior to joining SMU Dedman Law, Professor Thompson was a partner in the Appellate Practice Group at Thompson, Coe, Cousins, and Irons, LLP in Dallas, Texas.
John S. Lowe, George W. Hutchison Chair of Energy Law, retires after 36 years on the Hilltop

After a storied career in oil and gas law, Professor John S. Lowe, the George W. Hutchison Chair of Energy Law at SMU Dedman School of Law, retired on January 31, 2023. “Being a member of the SMU law faculty was the best job I could have had,” remarked Professor Lowe. “SMU and the Hutchison Chair have given me the opportunity to try to make my area of law—natural resources—work better.” Since Professor Lowe began his career, he’s done exactly that by helping countries improve their energy policies and inspiring Dedman Law students with his impressive breadth of knowledge and contagious passion.

Professor Lowe earned his B.A. from Denison University and his LL.B. from Harvard. Prior to his position at Dedman School of Law, he served as a Maxwell Fellow in Malawi and later practiced privately in Columbus, Ohio. Professor Lowe got his first taste of teaching as a faculty member first at the University of Toledo, then at the University of Tulsa, where he served as associate director of the National Energy Law and Policy Institute. He found a home at SMU Dedman School of Law in 1987, where he taught in the areas of Oil & Gas and Energy Law and acted as Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 2009-2014.

Professor Lowe’s position as the Hutchison Chair of Energy Law allowed him to expand on his work as a scholar, for which he is grateful. “The Hutchison Chair carried a lighter-than-usual teaching load and a bigger-than-usual travel budget, which gave me the ability to be more than just a teacher, law journal writer, and legal commentator,” he said. “I was able to be active in Bar matters, serving as Chair of the ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Law and President of the Foundation for Energy and Natural Resources Law [formerly the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation], as well as participating in the Dallas Bar and Texas Bar Energy Sections.”

Professor Lowe’s participation in Bar matters led to positions as a visiting professor at universities around the world: Texas, Denver, and New Mexico in the U.S.A., Alberta in Canada, Dundee in the U.K., Melbourne, Sydney, and University College London in Adelaide in Australia, Universidad de ESAN in Peru, Universidade Agostinho Neto in Angola, and Chulalongkorn University in Thailand among others. His global teaching positions enabled him to partner with the U.S. government’s Commercial Law Development Program to help Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries in the Middle East and Africa develop coherent oil and gas development regimes.

“I will be forever grateful to Bill Hutchison for his generosity to SMU in funding the George W. Hutchison Chair of Energy Law as well as law scholarships,” said Professor Lowe. “Being a member of the SMU Dedman Law faculty and having the Hutchison Chair gave me the credibility to speak and write in authoritative places that might not have been available otherwise. I was excited to have twice won the Texas Bar Association’s Best Law Journal Article Award, made even sweeter because both articles were published in the SMU Law Review and both have been frequently cited by courts.”

In addition to publishing award-winning articles, helping countries improve their energy policies, and teaching across the globe, Professor Lowe is a member of the commercial arbitration panels of the American Arbitration Association and the International Center for Dispute Resolution, as well as a frequent expert witness in oil and gas disputes. Professor Lowe has authored or co-authored nine books and many articles.

Despite these accomplishments, Professor Lowe found teaching among his most rewarding endeavors. “Mostly, I have not thought of what I have done as a faculty member as ‘work,’” he says. “I have had smart and affable students, who once honored me with the Don M. Smart Teaching Award, and with whom I rarely had a class in which I did not learn something new or question something I had thought I understood. I have taught alongside congenial and hardworking faculty and have worked with effective and pleasant administrators. I could not have hoped to have had a better job than I have had as a member of this law faculty.”

Though he’s retiring, Professor Lowe is not “quitting” law. He has a small office in Underwood Law Library, and he has kept his email address, jlowe@smu.edu. He plans on continuing to arbitrate and do appellate and expert witness work as well as write. That said, he’s looking forward to traveling with his wife, Jackie, spending more time at their summer home in Maine, and doting on their beautiful granddaughters.
JoAnn Hubbard, Clinical Professor of Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy, retires after 23 years at Dedman School of Law

After 23 years of inspiring students to become diligent researchers and articulate writers, Clinical Professor of Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy, JoAnn Hubbard, retired from the Dedman School of Law on July 31, 2023. Professor Hubbard served as one of four professors who were the inaugural staff of the Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy Department, which began in the fall of 2000. "I was fortunate to teach in a department with wonderful and supportive colleagues that I consider some of my best friends," said Professor Hubbard. "However, the best part was teaching young, intelligent, and inquisitive minds that wanted to study the law."

Professor Hubbard earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Oklahoma, where she graduated cum laude. She was awarded her J.D., with highest honors, at the University of Oklahoma. While a law student, Professor Hubbard was Article Editor for the Oklahoma Law Review as well as a member of the Order of the Coif and Phi Delta Phi, and on the Dean’s Honor Roll.

Prior to coming to SMU, she served as an associate in the Dallas office of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue (now known as Jones Day), which provides counsel to a large portion of the Fortune 500 companies. She subsequently became Vice President and General Counsel for Provident Bank of Dallas. She has also worked with RNGS International and Affiliated Entities as a legal consultant in Houston, London, and Moscow. "While I enjoyed those positions," noted Hubbard, "Being a professor at SMU was by far the best job that I ever had."

Hubbard arrived on the Hilltop in August 2000 as a Lecturer in Law. She went on to also serve as the Assistant Director of the SMU Dedman School of Law Corporate Directors’ Institute. "To be honest the [teaching] position was more challenging than I had originally thought it would be," said Professor Hubbard, "but it was also more rewarding. Some of my best memories are talking with students after class and discussions with former students that became my Teaching Assistants.”

Known for her “form file”—a file of handouts and samples given to the students over the semester, Hubbard always focused on how best to prepare her students. She hoped her “form file” would help them during their first summer jobs. "In the early years, I would print the handouts on colored paper so that they would know it was important and should go in their ‘form file,’” Professor Hubbard recalls. "I even heard that some students had laminated their file to preserve it. Of course, recently the students create digital ‘form files.’”

Professor Hubbard’s students also remember her for a conversation with Supreme Court Justice Scalia she would recount during her course. Justice Antonin Scalia visited the Hilltop shortly after the Bush-Gore election litigation. "For some reason Justice Scalia engaged me in conversation and asked what I taught,” recalls Professor Hubbard. “For a split second, I wished I could say something that I thought would impress him such as teaching Constitutional Law. I was surprised when he told me that, at one time, he also taught Legal Research and Writing. Then he said, ‘That is the most important class that students take! Promise me that you will tell your students each year that I said this is the most important class that they take!’ Justice Scalia’s words rang true over 20 years ago, but they are also applicable today, because unless a student can correctly articulate their legal analysis in an oral or written form—they will not be successful!”

Professor Hubbard is grateful for the generosity and well wishes she has received upon announcing her retirement. “I definitely picked the best time to retire!” she said. “You should retire when you have had a good year and you would like to stay, but you know in your heart that it is time to leave!” Though she has not yet decided what she will do during her retirement, she knows that traveling will be a large part of it. She’s already taken a celebratory trip to Hawaii with her three grandsons and daughter and is excited to experience more adventures in the future.
CONGRATULATIONS
Faculty Accomplishments

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

Appointed: Chair of the Dallas Bar Association International Law Section and a Board member of the Dallas Bar Association ADR Section
Serving: Board Member for the U.S./Mexico Bar Association

Beverly C. Duréus
Clinical Professor of Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy

Awarded: Women in Law’s 2023 Distinguished Faculty Member Award

Monika U. Ehrman
Professor of Law

Awarded: University of North Texas at Dallas Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Research for her grant research & scholarship in the 2021–2022 academic year.
SMU’s Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute (DCII) Research Cluster award for 2022–2023 focused on “Subsurface Resources”
Honored: Invited to serve on the SMU American Council on Education Internationalization Laboratory steering committee.

John Lowe
Professor Emeritus of Law

Awarded: SMU’s Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute (DCII) Research Cluster award for 2022–2023 focused on “Subsurface Resources.”

Orly Mazur
Associate Professor of Law

Appointed: Vice-Chair to the International Tax Committee of the Tax Section of the State Bar of Texas
Serving: Chair-Elect (and Executive Committee member) of the AALS Section of Taxation

Tom Leatherbury
Director of the First Amendment Clinic and Adjunct Clinical Professor of Law

Invited to serve as guest editor for the Progress in Energy journal for issue on “Energy Justice in the Energy Transition.”
Invited to serve on a task force with the Institute for Energy Law (previously the Southwestern Legal Foundation) to revise its awards programs for academics and practitioners.

James W. Coleman
Professor of Law

Honored: His article “State Energy Cartels” was selected for inclusion in the list of top 20 articles selected for the Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review (ELPAR).

Awarded: SMU’s Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute (DCII) Research Cluster award for 2022–2023 focused on “Subsurface Resources”

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

Testified: Invited to give expert testimony to the Texas House of Representatives Committee on Criminal Justice Reform.

Invited to serve on the SMU American Council on Education Internationalization Laboratory steering committee.

Beverly C. Duréus
Clinical Professor of Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy

Awarded: SMU’s Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute (DCII) Research Cluster award for 2022–2023 focused on “Subsurface Resources.”

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

Testified: Invited to give expert testimony to the Texas House of Representatives Committee on Criminal Justice Reform.
Natalie Nanasi
Director of the Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women and Associate Professor of Law

Appointed: Co-Chair Elect of the AALS Section on Clinical Legal Studies’ Executive Committee

Anna Offit
Assistant Professor of Law

Awarded: Dr. Don M. Smart Teaching Award by the Class of 2023

Carla L. Reyes
Associate Professor of Law

Appointed: Fellow in the SMU Hunt Institute for Engineering & Humanity

Elected: Chair-Elect of the AALS Section on Consumer and Commercial Law Section

Executive Committees of the AALS Section on Internet and Computer Law and the AALS Section on Scholarship

Testified: House Energy and Commerce Committee Innovation, Data, and Commerce Subcommittee at a hearing titled Building Blockchains: Exploring Web3 and Other Applications for Distributed Ledger Technologies

Honored: Inducted into the National Order of Barristers by SMU Dedman Law Board of Advocates.

Invited to join The Initiative for CryptoCurrencies and Contracts (IC3) as Affiliated Faculty. IC3 is an initiative of faculty members at Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, Cornell Tech, EPFL, ETH Zurich, UC Berkeley, University College London, UIUC and the Technion.

Eric Ruben
Associate Professor of Law

Testified: Invited to testify as an expert witness in front of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee during a full committee hearing titled “Protecting Public Safety After New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen.”

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

Honored: His Oxford University Press book “Rethinking Securities Law” was chosen for the “Exemplary Legal Writing 2021” Award by the Green Bag Almanac & Reader (2022).

Appointed: Distinguished Guest Professor for the Centre of Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary, University of London

Invited: To serve on the Members’ Consultative Group for the American Law Institute’s Restatement of the Law of Corporate Governance.

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

Appointed: To serve on the Children’s Commission “Standards of Representation” Committee tasked with developing Standards of Representation for attorneys practicing in the child welfare field.
SMU Dedman Law faculty are considered experts on many current topics and headlines.

This is only a partial list of selected media interviews.

- **Lackland H. Bloom, Jr.**
  Larry and Jane Harlan Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Law
  Fox 4 News D/FW
  June 26, 2023, “Supreme Court’s affirmative action ruling”

- **Dale Carpenter**
  Judge William Hawley Atwell Chair of Constitutional Law, Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, and Professor of Law
  July 17, 2023, “Texas judge who doesn’t want to perform gay marriage ceremonies hopes web designer’s Supreme Court case helps her fight”
  July 12, 2023, “Texas judge who doesn’t want to perform gay marriage ceremonies hopes web designer’s Supreme Court case helps her fight”
  June 29, 2023, “Constitutional law expert weighs in on Supreme Court’s affirmative action ruling”
  June 26, 2023, “Twenty years after a breakthrough Texas case launched a new era of gay rights, trans people are still in the fight”

- **James W. Coleman**
  Professor of Law
  October 6, 2022, “An Animal Cruelty Case Could Create Chaos For Clean Energy”
  September 30, 2022, Op-Ed: “Here’s how to improve Manchin’s permitting proposal — to help more energy projects”
  September 29, 2022, “With Manchin bill stalled, will FERC ever site power lines?”
  August 26, 2022, “Trouble on pipeline’s path hits home for Manchin”
  August 25, 2022, “Texas accuses 10 financial companies, including BlackRock, of ‘boycotting’ energy companies and orders state pension funds to divest from holdings”

- **Nathan Cortez**
  Co-Director of the Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation and Adelfa Botello Callejo Endowed Professor of Law in Leadership and Latino Studies
  April 19, 2023, “A Weight-Loss Drug Marketing Bonanza is Upon Us”

- **Joanna L. Grossman**
  Ellen K. Solender Endowed Chair in Women and the Law and Professor of Law
  April 11, 2023, “Legal expert breaks down conflicting medication abortion rulings”
  March 18, 2023, “Are Texas’s abortion laws being used for state-sponsored spousal harassment?”
  March 14, 2023, “Texas man files suit against 3 women he claims aided ex-wife’s abortion”
  March 13, 2023, “Wrongful death suit accuses 3 women of helping man’s then-wife obtain abortion pills”
  March 12, 2023, “Three Texas Women Sued for Wrongful Death After Allegedly Helping Friend Obtain Abortion Medication”
  March 11, 2023, “Texas man sues 3 women he claims helped ex-wife get abortion for $1M each”
  March 10, 2023, “Three Texas women are sued for wrongful death after allegedly helping friend obtain abortion medication”

- **Chris Jenks**
  Professor of Law

- **Jeff Kahn**
  University Distinguished Professor, Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, and Professor of Law
  April 27, 2023, “Before Trial in Russia, Defendants Can Spend Months Behind Bars”
  November 12, 2022, “Trump as a Factor in the Midterm Elections”
  October 16, 2022, “Muslims suing over watch-list status say U.S. tactics block scrutiny”
New Staff Hires

**Courtney Cowan ’16**
Associate Director, Office of Admissions

Courtney is a proud alumna of SMU Dedman School of Law and received her J.D. in 2016. She received her B.B.A. in Marketing and Management from Baylor University in 2013.

Courtney has a diverse range of experience as a practicing attorney, having worked in various practice areas throughout her career. Most recently, Courtney worked in the corporate and transactions section of the General Counsel department at Southwest Airlines. Prior to her time at Southwest, Courtney primarily focused her private practice on business and healthcare transactions. She also practiced family law for a brief period upon graduating from SMU DedmanLaw.

**Nicole (Nikki) Daoust**
Marketing and Communications Specialist

Nikki comes to SMU Dedman Law from the University of Mississippi where she was the communications specialist for the School of Education and managed all the digital and print marketing and communications. She also received her B.S. and M.S. from University of Mississippi. She is responsible for the digital and print graphic design and communication strategy for all of the law school and alumni relations programs, events, and brand messaging efforts.

**C. Ashley Ellis ’92 ’95**
Director of Alumni Relations

Ashley is a ’92 graduate of SMU with a B.A. in political science cum laude, and a ’95 graduate of SMU Dedman School of Law cum laude. Prior to returning to her alma mater, Ashley enjoyed a distinguished career representing corporate entities in complex Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization proceedings. When she was in private practice, Ashley was selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America®, Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law from 2021-2023, and in D Magazine “Best Lawyers in Dallas, Bankruptcy & Workout” multiple times.

**Clayton Ellis**
Director of Development

For the past three years, Clayton has served as director of development for Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences. Clayton came to SMU after working at Baylor University for seven years representing the College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Music.

Clayton was raised in Arlington and earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Baylor University. While at Baylor, his focus was on major gifts, where he successfully closed endowed scholarships and professorships, naming gifts for academic programs and departments, and lead gifts for capital projects in Baylor’s first comprehensive campaign.

**Carla De Leon Stafford ’10**
Director of Student Affairs

Carla graduated from SMU Dedman Law in 2010 and rejoins the law school after having practiced in a national firm as a trial lawyer and litigation attorney. As the Director of Student Affairs, she works with Steve Yeager, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, and works directly with the Student Bar Association and 60+ student organizations. In addition, Carla spearheads student wellness and accommodations.

Carla, born in Monterrey, Mexico, earned her first law degree from the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, in Monterrey, México, and worked at one of the oldest and largest Mexican law firms where she represented U.S. corporations doing business in the northern states of Mexico. Carla was also involved in immigration law and has assisted clients in obtaining work permits, visas, legal permanent residency (green cards) and citizenship.

Carla continued her legal education and licensures to practice law in Texas and attended the SMU Dedman Law Evening Program while working a full-time job as a public school teacher.

**Robert B. (Bob) Weathersby**
Director, Large Firms and Local Government, Office of Career Services

Bob is a graduate of Louisiana State University with a B.S. in International Trade and Finance. He also obtained his J.D. from L.S.U.’s Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Bob spent most of his career in private practice in the Dallas offices of Jackson Walker LLP and Andrews Kurth LLP (now, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP). Bob most recently served as the director in the Office of Career Services at Texas A&M University School of Law.
Claudia Beltran
Administrative Coordinator
Office of Career Services

Courtney Gulley-Givens
Victim Intake Fellow
Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center

Shelby Sirivore
Research Project Coordinator
Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center

Brianna “Bri” Brown
Victim Intake Fellow
Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center

Caroline Hausman
Data Records Coordinator
Office of Admissions

Natasha Walker
Faculty Assistant

Melissa Cason
Law Fellow
W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic

Melissa Lara
Financial Business Manager

Beth Williams
Chief Operating Officer/Administrative Director
Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center

Dr. Caitlin Charles
Research Specialist
Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center

Arta Sela
Advancement Associate

SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW | THE QUAD | FALL 2023
CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES

• 223 J.D.
• 9 J.D./M.B.A.
• 1 J.D./M.A. in Economics
• 4 S.J.D.
• 38 LL.M.

PRO BONO HONOR ROLL

• 18,564 hours of public service for an average of 84 hours per student
• 31 graduating students volunteered 200+ hours

BOARD OF ADVOCATES HIGHLIGHTS

Class of 2023 Graduates were:

• Regional Champions in the ABA Negotiations Competition
• Regional Champions and National Semi-finalists in the Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition
• National Quarter-finalists in the Duberstein Moot Court Competition
• Semi-finalists in the Jaffe Transactional Competition
• Quarter-finalists and best brief winners in the Mack Kidd Moot Competition
• Regional Runners-up in the prestigious National Trial Competition and the ABA Client Counseling Competition
Graduation Awards

VALEDICTORIAN
Ryan J. Demarest
Ryan was born and raised in Studio City, California before he moved to Waco, Texas to pursue a degree in Political Science at Baylor University. Prior to law school, Ryan worked as a ride operator at Universal Studios Hollywood. During his time at SMU Dedman Law, Ryan was a research assistant for Professors Anthony Colangelo and Hillel Bavi and served as an associate managing editor for SMU Law Review. He also participated in SMU Dedman Law’s Federal Judicial Externship Program, working for Judge Amos Mazzant. In addition, Ryan served as a judicial intern for Justice Leslie Osborne of the Fifth District Court of Appeals of Texas. After the bar exam, Ryan will clerk for the Honorable Jane J. Boyle, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Following his clerkship, he will join Jones Day in Dallas.

JOHN E. KENNEDY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Anna Maria Justice
Anna served as the president of the Student Bar Association. She served as a student attorney in SMU Dedman Law’s Judge Elmo B. Hunter Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women, where she helped conduct a survey regarding the intersectionality of firearms and domestic violence. In the fall of her 3L year, she participated in the Corporate Counsel Internship Program where she worked with Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages. She also worked for the past two years as a teaching assistant for Professor Beverly Dureus’ Legal Writing, Research, and Advocacy Course.

Throughout her law school career, Anna was active in SMU’s Women in Law organization, the Corporate Law Association, the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, and the National Association of Women Lawyers. She is interested in working in transactional practice after taking the bar exam.

Sammy W. Calkins
Sammy was president of the International Law Review. He was very involved in Law Review throughout his time at SMU, serving as staff editor and then president. He competed in the Mack Kidd Administrative Law Moot Court Competition where he and his partner earned runner-up brief. During the summer of 2021, He worked as a legal intern with Dedman Law’s COVID-19 Legal Helpline, which offered 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. Sammy worked as a student attorney in the First Amendment Clinic and served as clinic deputy this spring. He also served as a first-year student mentor through the Student Bar Association.

SARAH MCQUILLEN TRAN AWARD
Michael Nguyen Vuong
Michael served as the president of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, managing editor for The International Law Review Association, chief of clinic for the SMU Dedman Law First Amendment Clinic, and as a teaching assistant for Legal Research & Writing for LL.M. students.

He was instrumental in the creation of the Jamie Shim Memorial Fund and the SMU Asian Pacific Islander Alumni Board. He also served on the University Honors Program Advisory Council and the SMU Asian American Pacific Islander Working Group. Over the past 3 years, Michael served as a mentor to the international LL.M. students and received the “M” Award from SMU. Following graduation, he will clerk with The Honorable F. Michael Cruse, Chief Justice for the High Court of American Samoa.

Kevin S. Lee
Kevin served as the student liaison for the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers. In that role, he served ex officio on the DAYL Board of Directors, was instrumental in sharing law student concerns with the board, and organized events for young lawyers and law students.

He was also a member of the Corporate Law Association and Asian Pacific American Law Student Association. During law school, Kevin interned with The Honorable Barbara Lynn, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. After graduation, he will work as an associate at Haynes and Boone, in the business litigation department.
CONGRATULATIONS
JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP
CLASS OF 2023

ADNAN BAJRAMOVIC ’23
The Honorable Brendan L. Shannon
Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware

CHRISTA LEE BUNCE ’23
The Honorable Ada Brown
District Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

SAMUEL W. CALKINS ’23
The Honorable Michelle V. Larson
Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas

JACQUELINE CREME ’20
The Honorable Sean H. Lane
Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York

RYAN J. DEMAREST ’23
The Honorable Jane J. Boyle
District Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

ARIANA ERFANI ’23
The Honorable Alan S. Trust
Chief Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York

KELSEY FLORES ’19
The Honorable Brantley Starr
District Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

The Honorable Don R. Willett
Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

MEGAN FLORES ’22
The Honorable Jessica Gallivan
Judge, Superior Court of the Virgin Islands

SHANNON GLASSCOCK ’21
The Honorable Reed O’Connor
District Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

WILL HAMILTON ’20
The Honorable Catharina Haynes
Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

STACEY CHO HERNANDEZ ’09
The Honorable Karen Gren Scholer
District Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

BOBBY HILL ’21
The Honorable Patrick E. Higginbotham
Senior Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

The Honorable Barbara M.G. Lynn
District Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

N. ANDREW KILLIAN ’22
The Honorable David Counts
District Judge, United States District Court for the Western District of Texas

ABIGAIL LAHVIS ’23
The Honorable Sidney A. Fitzwater
Senior District Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

JACOB MATHEW ’21
The Honorable Nathan L. Hecht
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas

KIRSTEN PILLMAN ’22
The Honorable Jessica Gallivan
Judge, Superior Court of the Virgin Islands

ANDREA REED ’20
The Honorable Christine A. Nowak
Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

ABIGAIL SCHULTZ ’23
The Honorable Brantley Starr
District Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

The Honorable Evan A. Young
Justice, Supreme Court of Texas

SKYANNE LEIGH SIMONSON ’23
The Honorable John R. Lopez IV
Justice, Supreme Court of Arizona

JACOB C. SWANSON ’23
The Honorable Hal R. Ray, Jr.
Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

MICHAEL VUONG ’23
The Honorable F. Michael Cruse
Chief Justice, High Court of American Samoa

NIKKI WOOD ’22
The Honorable Mark X. Mullin
Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas

The Honorable Joshua P. Searcy
Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Texas

JACOB W. YOUNG ’22
The Honorable Jeremy D. Kernodle
District Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
William Stephen Boyd passed away on February 9, 2023 in Dallas, Texas. He was born in Texarkana, graduated from high school in Paris, Texas, attended Austin College, and received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1974. He earned his J.D. from SMU Dedman School of Law in 1981, where he later served as a member of the Executive Board and was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2014.

Boyd had a renowned legal career beginning at the Dallas law firm, Worsham Forsythe & Wooldridge, which merged with Hunton & Williams. He served as managing partner of the Dallas office of Hunton & Williams before leaving the firm to serve as executive vice president and chief legal officer for Baylor Health Care System. He oversaw the merger with Scott & White, which formed Baylor Scott & White Health (BSWH). After retiring from BSWH, he maintained his law practice with the firm, Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton.

Boyd fervently served his community. He was a member of the Salesmanship Club of Dallas, for which he chaired the Club’s Youth & Family Center Board and Charitable Properties Board. He also served on the boards of Canine Companions for Independence, Dallas Heritage Village, and Lone Star Language Academy. He was a member of Royal Oaks Country Club, where he served as club president in 2004 in addition to serving two terms on the Board of Governors and chairing multiple committees.

Beyond Boyd’s notable work ethic and service to his community, he was a man full of kindness, grace, and willingness to go out of his way to help anyone in need. He will be remembered for his character, love for his family and friends, and his devout faith.

Boyd is survived by his wife, Renita; his daughter and family, Amy and Patrick Layton and their daughter Ava; his son and family Bill and Emily Boyd and their daughter Elizabeth; and many beloved family members and friends.
IN MEMORIAM

With Deepest Sympathy

REMEMBERING OUR ALUMNI

James Reed Lovell ........................................ 1951 .................. 7/4/2023
Jerry Niles Jordan ........................................ 1952 .................. 11/20/2022
James Knox Smith ........................................ 1952 .................. 8/8/2022
Frederick Haggaman Benners Sr. ....................... 1954 .................. 1/6/2023
Leah Seye Guerry ........................................ 1954 .................. 2/25/2023
Jane Akin Brash .......................................... 1955 .................. 7/4/2022
Lee Daniel Yendi .......................................... 1955 .................. 10/16/2022
Emory Eugene Mason ................................... 1956 .................. 12/12/2022
Jean Maier Sheppard .................................... 1956 .................. 7/27/2022
William Norton Baker ................................... 1957 .................. 7/10/2023
Robert Eugene Hilton .................................... 1957 .................. 1/6/2023
John Loch Cook ........................................... 1958 .................. 2/12/2023
Arthur John Groff ........................................ 1959 .................. 2/6/2023
Donald Wilson Jackson .................................. 1959 .................. 4/13/2023
John Arnold Flypate .................................... 1960 .................. 12/13/2022
Malcolm Lee Shaw ....................................... 1960 J.D. ’60, LL.M. ’70 ........... 11/2/2022
Richard N. Counts ....................................... 1961 .................. 10/20/2022
Billy Edd Gowan .......................................... 1961 .................. 7/16/2023
Ralph Lynn McDowell ................................... 1961 .................. 7/20/2022
Allen Boyd Waggoner .................................. 1962 .................. 2/22/2023
Raymond Bruce Youngblood ............................ 1962 .................. 10/24/2022
Richard Morris Berry ................................... 1963 .................. 9/19/2022
Louis Dorfman, Sr. ....................................... 1963 .................. 2/26/2023
William Lee Laubach ................................... 1963 .................. 11/10/2022
Ronald LaMar Meeks .................................... 1963 .................. 9/24/2022
Charles Spencer Bohnan ................................ 1964 .................. 10/21/2022
James Peyton Wagner ................................... 1964 .................. 3/17/2022
Neil Davidson ............................................. 1965 .................. 6/21/2023
Jerry F. McCarry .......................................... 1965 .................. 2/12/2023
Arch Elton Pardue, Jr. .................................. 1965 .................. 6/9/2023
Lauralee Fae Dambrink Jackson ......................... 1966 .................. 10/14/2022
Michael Mills Tabor ..................................... 1966 .................. 8/12/2022
Andrew Underclog ....................................... 1966 .................. 8/12/2022
Ben Hiner Tompkins .................................... 1966 .................. 4/25/2023
David Bruce Winston .................................... 1966 .................. 2/6/2023
Mark Houston Ford ...................................... 1967 .................. 12/18/2022
Donald Linous Jarvis .................................... 1967 .................. 4/20/2023
Allen Whayne McClure ................................ 1967 .................. 10/31/2022
James Harry Wachstein ................................ 1967 .................. 2/18/2023
John Hood Highsmith .................................... 1970 .................. 2/19/2023
Benjamin Bryan Leitch, III .............................. 1971 .................. 3/31/2023
Richard Bevin Seward ................................... 1971 .................. 2/11/2022
John Douglas Hand ...................................... 1972 .................. 5/14/2023
Harry Louis Najem ...................................... 1972 .................. 3/5/2023
Edwin Clark English, Jr. ............................... 1973 .................. 3/30/2023
Clement James Kennington ............................. 1973 .................. 5/21/2023
Benjamin Prater Monning, III .......................... 1973 .................. 10/26/2022
William David Burdett ................................ 1974 .................. 5/24/2023
Onrie Lee Harrison, III ................................. 1974 .................. 10/12/2022
Richard Lee Ray .......................................... 1974 .................. 3/10/2022
John Carter Daniel ....................................... 1975 .................. 12/11/2022
Joseph Vincent Gibbon, III ............................. 1975 .................. 3/24/2023
Timothy Robert McCormick ............................. 1975 .................. 4/16/2023
Robert Allen Sparks ..................................... 1975 .................. 1/19/2023
William Coleman Sylvan ................................ 1975 .................. 7/31/2022
Larry Bailey Lipe ........................................ 1976 .................. 2/7/2023
Arthur Elmo Spooner, Jr. ............................... 1976 .................. 7/21/2022
Jonita B. Borcherdt ....................................... 1977 .................. 12/5/2023
Jeffrey Lee Greenblum .................................. 1977 .................. 1/2/2023
Don Wade Ledbetter .................................... 1977 .................. 6/21/2023
Robert Richard Roby ................................... 1977 .................. 5/7/2023
Bobby Lee Sanders ...................................... 1977 .................. 2/26/2023
Dorothy E. Shead ........................................ 1977 .................. 7/31/2022
Richard Frederick Aguirre ................................ 1978 .................. 3/15/2023
Allen Wayne Kimbrough ................................ 1978 .................. 10/17/2022
Kent William Robinson .................................. 1978 .................. 7/9/2022
Sheppard Forrest Miers, Jr. ............................. 1979 .................. 6/4/2023
Arnold Nolan Williams .................................. 1980 .................. 7/31/2022
Frank James Brown ..................................... 1982 .................. 4/13/2023
William Clifford Couch .................................. 1982 .................. 6/22/2023
Mark Heyward Roper .................................... 1983 .................. 9/2/2023
Alan Owens Goodrich .................................... 1984 .................. 8/22/2022
Katherine Anne Kinser .................................. 1984 .................. 11/12/2022
Reginald Lynn Martin .................................... 1984 .................. 2/16/2023
Boyce Laban Graham .................................... 1991 .................. 7/1/2022
Jacqueline Jean Garner ................................ 1992 .................. 3/10/2023
David Odell Kemp ....................................... 1992 .................. 5/1/2023
Andrew McCord Gilchrist ................................ 1993 .................. 4/21/2023
Deana Kae Tunnell ...................................... 1997 .................. 1/11/2022
Constance Lee Melton .................................... 1999 .................. 4/19/2023
Mary E. Kent ............................................. 2000 .................. 12/10/2022
Heather Ree Slay .......................................... 2000 .................. 8/27/2022
Evan Ross Bookstaff ...................................... 2017 .................. 5/9/2023
CLASS OF 1965
Linda Hart appointed to Catalyze Dallas Board of Advisors.

CLASS OF 1965
Linda Hart

CLASS OF 1976
Geary Reamy’s book, “How Not to Be a Terrible Teacher (And Maybe Be a Good One),” was published by Carolina Academic Press.

CLASS OF 1982
Sonia Jablonsky Blain was appointed city attorney in Tempe, AZ.

CLASS OF 1982
Hugh Tucker joined Haynes Boone as a partner in its Houston office.

CLASS OF 1983
Victor Thomas joined Sorrels Law as head of its Appellate Section in Houston.

CLASS OF 1984
Lisa A. Peterson joined Jackson Walker LLP as a partner in its Fort Worth Corporate & Securities Group.

CLASS OF 1985
Bryan McCrory was promoted to vice president and general counsel at Dave & Buster’s Inc.

CLASS OF 1985
Sara Beth Watson joined Wiley Rein LLP as of counsel in the Environment & Product Regulation Group.

CLASS OF 1991
Lee Michaels was appointed chair of the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum Board of Directors.

CLASS OF 1991
Lee Michaels

CLASS OF 1996
Jacqueline Gabbidon joined Commerce Trust Company as senior vice president and Texas market executive.

CLASS OF 1996
Jacqueline Gabbidon

CLASS OF 1997
Stephanie D. Clouston joined Winston & Strawn as a partner in its Dallas office.

CLASS OF 1997
Stephanie D. Clouston

CLASS OF 1999
Alfonso Chan joined McKool Smith as a principal in its Dallas office.

CLASS OF 1999
Alfonso Chan

CLASS OF 2000
Paul Kirkpatrick was appointed chief legal officer and corporate secretary at Copart.

CLASS OF 2000
Paul Kirkpatrick

CLASS OF 2001
Former Texas Assistant Attorney General Jason B. Binford joined Ross & Smith, PC as a named shareholder.

CLASS OF 2001
Jason B. Binford

CLASS OF 2002
Andrew J. Rosell was named a co-chair of Winstead PC’s Business and Transactions Group.

CLASS OF 2002
Andrew J. Rosell
Congratulations!

CLASS OF 2006
Sarah Decker was promoted to senior vice president, chief legal officer and chief compliance officer at McAfee.
Andrew Lombardi was promoted to chief financial officer at Crescent Real Estate LLC.
Benjamin Schatz was named partner at Foster LLP in its Houston office.

CLASS OF 2007
Jenny Givens joined BakerHostetler’s Dallas office as a partner in its Business Practice Group and on the firmwide Healthcare Industry team.
Jason S. Luter joined Blank Rome LLP as the Dallas office co-chair and as a partner in its Corporate, M&A, and Securities Group.
Michael McMahan was appointed chief executive officer of the Southwestern Medical Foundation.
Joshua Sandler joined Winstead PC as a shareholder in its Dallas office.

CLASS OF 2008
Erin England joined Reed Smith LLP as a partner in its Dallas office.
Christopher Evans joined Cole Schotz as a member in its Dallas office.

CLASS OF 2009
D.J. Beaty was promoted to partner at Haynes Boone in its Houston office.
Stacie L. Cargill was elected partner at Alston & Bird in its Dallas office.
Matthew Davis joined Brewer, Attorneys & Counselors as a partner in its Dallas office.
Peter Sefzik was named senior executive vice president and chief banking officer at Comerica Incorporated.
Emily Stroope joined Baker Donelson as a shareholder in its Financial Services Litigation and Compliance Group.
Rob Wills was named managing partner of Wick Phillips Gould & Martin LLP.

CLASS OF 2010
Chelsea Hilliard joined McGuireWoods as a partner in its Dallas office.
Justin Sauls joined McGlinchey Stafford as an associate in its Dallas office.
Dan Smith joined Jackson Walker LLP as a partner in its Dallas office.

CLASS OF 2011
Bucky Brannen joined Bracewell LLP as a partner in its Dallas office.
James Stafford joined Clark Hill as a member in its Dallas office.
Barclay Taylor joined Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP as of counsel in its Atlanta, GA office.
Meredith VanderWilt was elected shareholder at Polsinelli in its Dallas office.

CLASS OF 2012
Megan Dixon joined Clouse Brown PLLC as an employment attorney.
Natalie Dubose was promoted to partner at Haynes Boone in its Dallas office.

CLASS OF 2013
Grant Boston was promoted to partner at Hamilton Wingo.
Amanda E. Brown was promoted to partner at Reed Smith LLP in its Dallas office.
Zach Burnett was promoted to partner at Haynes Boone in its Dallas office.
Tiffany Cooke was promoted to partner at Haynes Boone in its Dallas office.
Allyn E. Hurley was named partner at Jackson Walker LLP in its Austin office.
Luke Lechler was promoted to equity shareholder at Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C. in its Dallas office.
Taryn McDonald was promoted to partner at Haynes Boone in its Dallas office.
Mason Parham was elected partner at Sidley Austin LLP in its Dallas office.
Bailey Ross was promoted to counsel at Haynes Boone in its Dallas office.

CLASS OF 2014
Chris Anaya was elected partner in McGuire, Craddock & Strother’s Commercial Litigation and Construction practice groups.
Miles McDougal was promoted to partner at Winston & Strawn in its Dallas office.
Cade Satterfield was named partner at Jackson Walker LLP in its Austin office.
Chad Stoker was elected shareholder at Polsinelli in its Dallas office.

Gabe Vazquez was appointed an independent director to First Foundation Inc.’s Board of Directors. He was concurrently appointed to the Board of Directors of First Foundation Bank.

CLASS OF 2003
Michael Mortensen joined Morgan Lewis as a partner in its Dallas office.
Shayna Sonnier joined Veron Bice Law Firm as an attorney in Lake Charles, LA.

CLASS OF 2004
Tracey Bailey was appointed to serve on Winstead PC’s Board of Directors.
Marcelle Mouledoux joined McGlinchey Stafford as a member in its New Orleans, LA office.

CLASS OF 2005
Governor Greg Abbott appointed Justin J. “J.J.” Koch to the Criminal District Court No. 2 in Dallas County for a term set to expire on December 31, 2024.
Hope Shimabuku received the 2022 Women’s Leadership Award from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.
CLASS OF 2015

Grayson Cassada joined Christian & Barton as a litigation associate in Richmond, VA.

Andria Rae Crisler was promoted to principal at Fish & Richardson in its Dallas office.

Jaime M. DeWees was elected a director of the firm at Kane Russell Coleman Logan PC in its Dallas office.

Drew Palmer was promoted to shareholder at Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C. in its Dallas office.

Eric Peng was promoted to principal at Fish & Richardson in its Shenzhen, China office.

Robert Rowe joined Carrington Coleman as an associate in its Dallas office.

CLASS OF 2017

Travis Denton Steele Cox joined Copeland & Rice as an associate in Houston.

Ashley Jones joined Calabrese Budner as an associate attorney.

CLASS OF 2018

Chas Carter joined Griffith Barbee as an associate in its Dallas office.

Alexander Cochran joined McCl钦ey Stafford as an associate in its Houston office.

Hannah Motsenbocker was promoted to senior counsel at Wood, Smith, Henning and Berman LLP in its Dallas office.

CLASS OF 2019

Richard Cochran joined Caldwell Cassady & Curry as an associate.

Rhian Jones joined Hallet & Perrin PC as an associate.

CLASS OF 2020

Governor Greg Abbott appointed Rheaela Ahsan to the Appraisal Management Companies Advisory Committee for a term set to expire on January 31, 2025.

Morgan Crider joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate in its Dallas office.

Clayton Lynn joined Freeborn & Peters LLP as an associate in its Chicago, IL office.

Danielle Canfield Vorbrodt joined Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP as an associate in its Dallas office.

CLASS OF 2021

Regina Sada joined Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP as an associate in its Dallas office.

CLASS OF 2022

Hyewon Hannah Choi joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate in its Dallas office.

Luke Collins joined Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP as an associate in its Dallas office.

Brooke Hallisey joined Schaffer Family Law Group as an associate in San Diego, CA.

Katherine Jones joined Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr P.C. as an associate in its Dallas office.

Noah McCatherm joined McCatherm as an associate in its Dallas office.

Jeremy Nickell joined Modrall Sperling as an associate in its Albuquerque, NM office.

Trey Proffitt joined Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C. as an associate in its Dallas office.

Preston Tyson joined McCatherm as an associate in its Dallas office.
Law Alumni Association

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024
AT THE ARTS DISTRICT MANSION

Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest and most prestigious award SMU Dedman Law can bestow upon its alumni. Please join us as we honor our Distinguished Alumni!

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