UT Law proudly announces the creation of
The Center for Women in Law

Who Speaks for the Children?
Professor Jack Sampson and the Children's Rights Clinic
When Judge Barbara Walther in San Angelo, Texas, signed an order to remove more than 450 children from the Yearning for Zion Ranch last April, she initiated the largest child custody case in U.S. history. Amid the media frenzy, Walther faced another task: securing an attorney for each of those children and making sure each of the attorneys had the appropriate training. To do this, she turned to the Children’s Rights Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law. For nearly thirty years, the Children’s Rights Clinic has been helping lawyers “speak for the child.” Full story on page 12.
PHOTO BY CHRISTINA MURREY

In Camera
Professor at the Helm

Professor Michael Sturley is an expert in admiralty law and Supreme Court practice. Next year he will receive a major award from American Maritime Cases, and the Supreme Court Clinic, which he helped found, boasts a remarkable record of litigating at the highest level.

The Center for Women in Law

A recently launched initiative, the Center for Women in Law will identify and address persistent issues facing women in the legal profession by advocating for significant and lasting change. The Center’s ambition is to become a nationally acclaimed institution dedicated to improving the status of all women in law.

Who Speaks for the Child? The Children’s Rights Clinic

For almost thirty years, the Children’s Rights Clinic has trained generations of lawyers to represent the most vulnerable members of society: children.

Faculty News

Stefanie Lindquist
Lori Duke
Mira Ganor
Elana Einhorn
Angela Littwin
Eliza Platts-Mills
Sean Williams
Ernest Smith

Seize the Day: the Campaign for UT Law

UT Law has set an ambitious goal of raising $200 million over the next five years. The money raised during the campaign will be used for support in three broad categories—faculty recruitment and retention, student recruitment and support, and support for new and expanded programs at the Law School.
The 2008 Contributors Report

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FOR SIXTEEN YEARS, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LAW professor Michael Sturley has spent countless hours quietly working on an ambitious project: negotiating and drafting a new convention to govern international shipping. Although he has generally worked behind the scenes, Professor Sturley’s strong leadership and influence in the development of maritime law have not gone unnoticed.
Contributions to Maritime Law

In September, American Maritime Cases (AMC), a leading maritime-law publication, dedicated its seventeenth, five-year digest to Sturley for his outstanding contributions to the field. Every five years, since its founding in 1923, AMC has honored prominent industry leaders, primarily federal judges and attorneys. Sturley, in his twenty-fifth year at the School of Law, is only the second full-time academic to receive this distinction.

New York maritime attorney Chester D. Hooper said the dedication was timely because the U.N. Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) just completed its Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea. Sturley began working on a predecessor domestic project in 1992 and has been centrally involved ever since.

The new convention not only updates international regimes written decades ago but also unifies aspects of transport law that international agreements never addressed. While the United States adheres to its aging Carriage of Goods by Sea Act (COGSA), other countries follow a variety of different maritime codes. In recent years, this breakdown in uniformity has caused commercial problems.

“Michael is no doubt one of a handful of people in the world who knows every detail of this important international instrument.”

Sturley generally served as the U.S. spokesperson on substantive maritime law issues, providing invaluable advice and leadership to the delegation. “Everyone I asked said that Michael Sturley was the leading U.S. (and perhaps the world) expert in this area, and that he would be a key member of the delegation. They were right,” said Mary Helen Carlson, a State Department attorney who assembled and led the U.S. delegation.

“This is a highly complex, technical subject with a long history. Many countries’ delegates did not have much background in this area. Everyone came to rely on Michael,” Carlson said. “Of course, he represented the United States, and therefore was always advocating the U.S. position on an issue. But everyone trusted him, and looked to him to give a fair, balanced, and accurate explanation of any issue.”

Sturley has written several law review articles (including for the Texas International Law Journal) about UNCITRAL’s transport law project. In the coming year, he will coauthor (with delegates from Japan and the Netherlands) a treatise that will serve as a guide to the new convention. He is also scheduled to teach a seminar on the subject in Spring 2009.

In the past sixteen years, Sturley has served as the reporter on the U.S. Maritime Law Association’s committee that drafted a proposal to amend COGSA, as the rapporteur for the Comité Maritime International committee that prepared a preliminary draft of the new convention for UNCITRAL, as the senior advisor on the U.S. delegation to the UNCITRAL Working Group that negotiated and drafted the final convention, and as a member of the UNCITRAL Secretariat’s expert group that assisted and advised the Secretariat during the process.

“With Professor Sturley’s tremendous work on this convention, he’s helping to unify the world’s maritime law,” said Hooper, past president of the U.S. Maritime Law Association.

Sturley, who will formally receive the AMC award in New York next May, said he’s honored to be included among the luminaries who have received this distinction. He noted the honor was unexpected. “The people I work with appreciate my contributions, but much of what I do is quiet, behind-the-scenes work. I’m never sure if anyone in the larger community has any idea what I do, let alone appreciates it.”

With Sturley playing a key role, the U.S. delegation was at the center of the UNCITRAL negotiations. The completed convention—which addresses major changes in the industry such as the development of electronic commerce and the shipping of goods in containers—was approved by the U.N. General Assembly in November. The convention’s formal signing, which Sturley plans to attend, is set for September 2009 in Rotterdam.

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“This is a highly complex, technical subject with a long history. Many countries’ delegates did not have much background in this area. Everyone came to rely on Michael,” Carlson said. “Of course, he represented the United States, and therefore was always advocating the U.S. position on an issue. But everyone trusted him, and looked to him to give a fair, balanced, and accurate explanation of any issue.”

Carlson added that she often called Sturley the “intellectual spark plug” of the convention.

Tomotaka Fujita, the head of the Japanese delegation, said UNCITRAL colleagues often exclaimed with admiration that the American professor could explain other delegates’ confusing statements. “Michael is one of the rare experts who can explain complicated issues in transport law so clearly that even a layman with little knowledge can understand,” said Fujita. “Michael is no doubt one of a handful of people in the world who knows every detail of this important international instrument.”

Not surprisingly, Sturley has written several law review articles (including for the Texas International Law Journal) about UNCITRAL’s transport law project. In the coming year, he will coauthor (with delegates from Japan and the Netherlands) a treatise that will serve as a guide to the new convention. He is also scheduled to teach a seminar on the subject in Spring 2009. He said students will read the UNCITRAL public records, but they will also hear about the behind-the-scenes negotiations. “I can tell them where these compromises really came from and the motivations behind them.”
Supreme Court Clinic

Before joining the law faculty in 1984, Sturley clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell and practiced with Sullivan & Cromwell in New York City. As a professor, he has written many articles on admiralty law and was instrumental, along with UT Law professor and admiralty expert David Robertson, in establishing the annual Judge John R. Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition fifteen years ago. But as his colleagues point out, Sturley’s expertise and contributions to the Law School go well beyond admiralty and maritime law.

Sturley also teaches and writes in the areas of property, commercial law, and Supreme Court practice. Three years ago, he founded the Law School’s Supreme Court Clinic with attorney David Frederick, a 1989 graduate of the Law School who regularly argues cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

“The UT Supreme Court Clinic has been wildly successful, both pedagogically and with respect to the outcome of its cases,” said UT Law professor Lynn Blais, also a codirector of the Clinic. She noted that Clinic students have the opportunity to work directly, under faculty supervision, on cert petitions, amicus briefs, and merits briefs for submission to the Supreme Court, which is an opportunity that many practicing attorneys never have.

“Beginning with one case, in which cert was granted, the Clinic has grown under Michael’s direction to the point where it has many active cases at varying stages of litigation, offering students unparalleled experience in high-stakes practice. Michael’s vision in creating the Clinic, and his commitment to its development, have made a tremendous impact on the students who enroll, as well as the clients they serve,” Blais said.

Scott Keller, a 2007 UT Law graduate, is familiar with the lasting impression that Sturley and the Clinic can make in one’s legal experience. Keller, who worked on the Clinic’s successful first case, said Sturley imparted his knowledge “through a patient style of teaching that encourages students every step of the way.” Keller will clerk for Justice Anthony Kennedy in 2009–2010.

Sturley also had a profound influence in the life and career of his Clinic codirector Frederick, who as a law student worked as Sturley’s research assistant. “He’s been a loyal and supportive friend to me for more than two decades, as his role has changed from mentor to collaborator,” Frederick said. “As a teacher, Michael could be maddeningly thorough, walking carefully through each proposition until reaching the conclusion. As a Supreme Court practitioner, he approaches problem solving with a keen understanding of how the Court works and a strategic sense of where the Court will go.”

Clinic students every year have had the opportunity to attend an oral argument in Washington, D.C., at the Supreme Court. This December, students will hear Frederick argue an age discrimination case that the Clinic is handling.

Sturley is also frequently consulted in Supreme Court cases outside of the clinic context, often for his rare combination of Supreme Court and maritime expertise. His clients have ranged from impecunious seamen to some of the world’s largest and most profitable corporations.

Friends and colleagues describe Sturley as a very accomplished man who is devoted to his wife, Michele Deitch, a criminal justice policy expert and attorney who teaches at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, and his daughters, Jennifer and Elizabeth. His effective leadership style is often tied to his other personal attributes, such as extreme intelligence, self-discipline, hard work, enthusiasm, generosity, and patience. For all of his successes, however, Sturley remains modestly unaffected. “He’s the premier scholar worldwide in the field of maritime commerce,” Frederick said. “I had the rare opportunity once to dine with admiralty scholars from around the world and, to a person, they spoke of Michael’s giant contributions. From his modesty, one would never sense his stature as an international legal superstar.”

Robertson agreed. “Picture John Wayne with a law book,” he said. “Shipping lawyers worldwide understand that Michael knows more about cargo law than anyone else. Specialists in U.S. Supreme Court practice are aware that Michael understands how and when to seek or oppose certiorari. But Michael does not publicize these attributes to his maximum advantage. If he were a self-proclaiming man, he’d be immensely rich by now.”

Sturley is driven not by the limelight but by a passion for international issues, which he said was nurtured growing up in a household that hosted foreign graduate students every year. He gained his interest in maritime law while attending Oxford University, where the brightest law students were encouraged to study international trade. Another turning point in his career path was clerking for Justice Powell. “If it hadn’t been for that Supreme Court clerkship, it’s much less likely that I’d have an interest in Supreme Court litigation, and the experience to enable me to do it.”

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Michael Sturley’s clients have ranged from impecunious seamen to some of the world’s largest and most profitable corporations.
As career advancement and work-life balance continue to be elusive for women in the profession of law, a group of attorneys have undertaken a new venture. The Center for Women in Law at the University of Texas School of Law will identify and address persistent issues facing women in the legal profession by advocating for significant and lasting change. The Center’s ambition is to become a nationally acclaimed institution dedicated to improving the status of all women in law.

The Center for Women in Law

by DIANA SMITH

Since women attorneys first cracked the “glass ceiling” decades ago, they have made great strides, some ascending to the highest levels in the profession. Along the way, however, many still find that they face pervasive limitations of opportunity or encounter obstacles in their chosen profession. Some leave the practice of law altogether, or seek other career avenues. This reality has been the subject of casual conversations among women in the profession for many years. A group of pioneering women who graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in an era when it wasn’t common for women to pursue law as a career began talking about this dilemma in a much different, more purposeful way, fueled by a real determination to fully understand and effectively address the underlying causes of the issues faced by women lawyers. These early conversations ultimately led to the creation of the Center for Women in Law at the University of Texas School of Law.

Today, the women who founded the Center are giving back to the Law School and leaving a legacy for women with law degrees and for generations of women who are just beginning their path in law—by creating an initiative devoted to success across the entire spectrum of women in law.

“Most of us—the women who came out of the Law School in the seventies—

Front row (left to right): Cathy Lamboley, ’79, Nina Cortell, ’76, Linda Addison, ’76, Claudia Frost, Vicki Land, ’76, middle row (left to right): Diana Marshall, ’73, Linda Broocks, ’78, Martha Smiley, ’72; back row (left to right): Gail Watkins, ’76, Jane Macon, ’70, and Executive Director Hannah Brenner, gather at their annual retreat to discuss plans for the Center for Women in Law.
found ourselves being the first at almost anything we did,” said Nina Cortell, ’76, a partner with Haynes and Boone, LLP, in Dallas. Cortell has been widely recognized for her expertise in handling complex appeals during her thirty-year career, and she is a founding member of the Center for Women in Law. “Often we were the first women in our firms. We were the first to seek certain policies such as maternity leave and to deal with the issue of balancing our legal practices with raising our children. We also led the way in working with a judiciary that wasn’t always used to women in the courtroom and corporations that weren’t used to women in the boardroom.” Cortell and the Center’s founders are trailblazers who truly paved the way for the generations that followed.

The Center’s ambition is to become a nationally acclaimed institution dedicated to improving the status of all women in law.

Cathy Lamboley, ’79, spent three decades in the legal department at Shell Oil headquarters in Houston, eventually advancing to vice president and general counsel—the first woman to achieve this distinction at Shell. Now retired, Lamboley is also a founding member of the Center. For a woman in a predominantly male industry, the path was not easy. She played an integral role in changing the culture at Shell, contributing to the company’s diversity and inclusiveness initiatives in the 1990s. Lamboley emphasizes that there are still gains to be made: “The numbers for women in the profession as a whole have remained pretty static, if not gotten worse. And there is a real shortage of women advancing to leadership positions.”

Attorney Hannah Brenner, the Center’s first executive director, confirms that the path for women in the legal profession remains challenging. “We know that women now enter the legal profession in equal proportion to men, and some have ascended to the highest positions in the field: Supreme Court justice, law school dean, attorney general, managing partner, general counsel, senator, governor, and presidential candidate,” Brenner said. “More and more are leaving practice—or exiting the workforce entirely—as career advancement opportunities and work-life balance continue to be elusive. Those who stay are finding fewer opportunities for advancement. The percentage of women in leadership positions has plateaued far below the point of gender parity.”

“This is an issue that has been important to me for a really long time,” said Sylvia de Leon, ’76, the first woman attorney to be designated a partner at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP, in the Washington, D.C., office, and a founding member of the Center. “We need to recognize the costs to institutions, firms, and companies in terms of lost productivity when women drop out of the workforce. I think this is a cost that society simply can’t continue to afford. There are enormous numbers of women coming out of law school. We’ve reached the fifty percent mark in the top twenty law schools in the country. But the percentage of those women who remain in the career of law is significantly lower. The easy answer has always been that women leave because they want to pursue having a family, or a different area of interest, but if you really talk to the women who have left the profession, many of them describe the hurdles they faced or the lack of opportunity.”

Addressing these Dilemmas

“We envision the Center serving women in several ways,” Cortell explained. “It will be a resource for women who are law students or who have graduated and are in the profession. We will also work with law firms, businesses, and academia to help assess and encourage the advancement of women in whatever paths they choose after they graduate from law school.”

With its doors now open at the Law School and its first executive director in place, the Center has recently unveiled plans for its inaugural Women’s Power Summit on Law and Leadership, a gathering of the country’s top lawyers, scheduled for the spring of 2009. The Summit will be a historic gathering of leading women in the law, anchored by the Honorable Sandra Day O’Connor and convened by a distinguished Advisory Board comprising the top lawyers in America, from eminent scholars whose research focuses on issues like gender equity and work-life balance to managing partners at large law firms to high-ranking women in politics and the judiciary. The Summit will be chaired by Diane Yu, former Chair of the ABA Commission on Women.

“The Summit will bring together women lawyers at the highest levels within the various sectors of the profession, to gain access to the most cutting-edge research, share strategies, and develop solutions, culminating in the drafting of a platform—the Austin Manifesto—that calls for specific, concrete steps to tackle the stubborn obstacles facing women in the legal profession today,” Yu said.
Brenner added that Summit participants will be encouraged to continue their association with the Center, returning as leaders-in-residence and serving as faculty for an ongoing leadership academy.

In conjunction with this historic event, the Center has taken on a major research project, gathering data, articles, and other scholarly work on the issues facing women in the profession for what will be the most comprehensive collection of its kind. The Center will work with law students and practicing lawyers, with the goal of addressing inequalities and securing meaningful opportunities for women in law.

The Role of Philanthropy—Leaving a Legacy
A senior partner in the litigation department of Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP, in Houston, Linda Addison, ’76, has enjoyed a longtime relationship with UT Law and is a trustee emeritus of the University of Texas Law School Foundation. She has been a true catalyst in conceiving and implementing the Center and in recruiting other founders. “It became clear to me after speaking with women early on who supported the Law School and had a relationship with it that rather than simply write a check, they really wanted to leave a legacy for those who followed,” she said. “The Center’s concept really resonated with the women I talked to.”

In an evolution of traditional philanthropy, the idea for the Center started with only a few women, among them Addison, Cortell, de Leon, and Laura Hagen, ‘76, but that initial group has today grown to include more than thirty founders from across the country, all of whom have contributed personally and financially to make the Center a reality. “Our first core group of about five or six founders were all from the Law School Class of 1976,” de Leon said.

In one of his last acts as dean, Bill Powers gave the green light to the Center, and the Center gathered momentum under the leadership of Dean Larry Sager. “When I was first introduced to twenty-five or so of the founders of the Center at lunch one afternoon, I realized that they constituted an extraordinarily talented, successful, and generous women,” Sager said. “They are a remarkable resource for a community of ideas and constructive projects like UT Law, and their Center is going to be a remarkable resource for the diverse enterprise we call the legal profession. I am a great fan and supporter of the Center.”

Addison added that once word got out about the Center, the phone started ringing. “People heard what we were doing and called and said, ‘I really want to be a part of this, and more than that, I want to help. This included women lawyers who were not even UT Law graduates.”

“The Center’s founders have each made a significant financial contribution to turn the concept into a reality,” said de Leon. “I think that’s very important—when we announced the Center, we could say that it was built on the financial contributions of women.”

Supporting the Center isn’t just about giving money to the Law School. It is also about giving time and expertise to the project. “One of the remarkable things about this undertaking is the level of donor involvement,” said Carla Cooper, the Law School’s assistant dean for alumni relations and development.

“We have worked to build consensus around how to move forward with planning the Center from the first day. This new model of philanthropy is not, perhaps, the most conventional,” Cooper said. “It’s unique and it is the one we’re committed to.”

Changing the World
“You reach a point in your life when it’s time to share the lessons you’ve learned in meaningful ways that can, hopefully, impact a broader group—perhaps even a whole generation,” Addison said. “I not only hope but expect that the Center will level the playing field for women who choose to use their law degrees both inside the profession and in other ways. I—we—expect it to change the world.”

Founders
The Center for Women in Law represents the vision and commitment of its founders, a dedicated group of alumnae and friends from across the United States who conceived of the Center and provided initial funding for its endowment.

Linda Addison ’76
Marcia Backus ’83
Melanie Barnes ’81
Laura Beckworth ’83
Linda Broocks ’78
Dori Budd ’83
Katy Civins ’75
Nina Cortell ’76
Franci Crane ’78
Sylvia de Leon ’76
Claudia Frost
Michelle Goolsby ’83
Laura Hagen ’76
Peggy Heege
Karen Hirschman ’83
Norma Fink Huffaker ’58
(in memoriam)
Tracey Kennedy ’90
Chris LaFollette
Cathy Lamboley ’79
Vicki Land ’76
Ann Lents ’74
Janiece Longoria ’79
Jane Macon ’70
Diana Marshall ’73
Carrin Patman ’82
Lauren Eaton Prescott ’75
Martha Smiley ’72
Jan Summer ’76
Tammy Tran ’86
Gail Watkins ’76
Anonymous
ON APRIL 7, 2008, JUDGE BARBARA Walther in San Angelo, Texas, signed an order to remove more than 450 children from the nearby Yearning for Zion Ranch, kicking off what promised to be the largest child custody case in U.S. history. Amid the media frenzy that descended on West Texas, Walther faced another task: securing an attorney for each of those children and making sure each of the attorneys had the appropriate training.

For help, she turned where judges and child welfare professionals have been turning for almost thirty years: to the Children’s Rights Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law.

By the wee hours of the morning of April 11, Children’s Rights Clinic faculty members Charles Childress and Lori Duke were headed to San Angelo, where they would train volunteer attorneys from across the state in the intricacies of representing children. Texas law requires that any child removed from the home for abuse or neglect be appointed an attorney—called an “ad litem,” meaning “for the case”—to represent him or her. Ad litem training is required of any attorney representing a child.

“They were under the gun to get something in place with the timeline they had in place,” Childress said. “You have fourteen days after the department is given temporary custody of a child until the first hearing. I gathered and updated materials I had presented many other times, and we headed to San Angelo.”

Childress and Duke provided training to more than fifty attorneys on April 11, and their presentation was videotaped and made available to additional attorneys. Subsequently, Childress, Duke, and Children’s Rights Clinic faculty member Leslie Strauch recorded a training video that the Texas State Bar is still using.

The training goes over the specifics of child protection litigation in Texas, but it also covers the complexities of the ad litem attorney’s primary role: speaking for a child. An ad litem attorney is appointed to represent the child in court, communicating to the best of his or her ability the desire of the child in the case. Many attorneys are surprised by this role.

“All of these attorneys from all over the state came to San Angelo and said, ‘We want to help,’” Duke said. “But about half the people in the room were shocked to discover that you have to follow the direction of a child. If the child can form an attorney-client relationship, communicate their desires, and no exceptions apply, the child directs the attorney.”
A Complicated Case
The attorneys who flocked to San Angelo faced challenges more daunting than simply grasping the role of an ad litem. The children removed from the Yearning for Zion Ranch are members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS), a sect of the Mormon Church known to live communally and practice polygamy. Attorneys had to understand the culture of this isolated group in order to represent its children.

The children were removed after an anonymous report by a caller identifying herself as sixteen-year-old “Sarah” who said that she had been raped and abused by her much older husband. CPS investigated, and though “Sarah” was never found, the department determined that children at the ranch had been abused or were at immediate risk of future abuse because of the church’s practice of marrying young girls to older men, usually in “spiritual marriages” not recognized by the law.

The state removed all of the children at the ranch because the communal living arrangements there made determining family units, or even a more broadly defined “household,” nearly impossible.

“There’s a section of the code that says the trial court may consider sexual abuse of one child in determining whether there is an immediate danger to all of the children in the household,” Chil- dress explained. “The department was trying to follow the rules as it understood them. They may not have understood that they were biting off more than they could chew.”

Suddenly the state had hundreds of children to shelter and provide representation for. And the muddled nature of the family units further complicated the situation. Instead of being able to appoint one attorney ad litem for each sibling group, as is common, the trial court felt compelled to provide an ad litem for each and every child, because it often couldn’t determine who parented an individual child or where sibling relationships existed.

“There was a tremendous amount of confusion not only in terms of who each of these children was related to, but even in terms of the children’s names,” Childress said. “They decided to take a digital photograph of each child, put it in a folder and give it to the ad litem, to help the attorney identify the child to be represented.”

Finally, there was the cultural divide that attorneys had to cross even to communicate with the children they represented. The media made much of FLDS culture by focusing on the pastel prairie dresses and swooping hairstyles of the women and girls, but FLDS members’ separation from mainstream culture extends far beyond their garb. The children at the ranch likely had never had access to television, radio, or the media, so concepts like a judge, a courtroom, and a legal process would have been foreign to them.

To help attorneys understand that, the San Angelo training took advantage of the expertise of Lenore Knudtson, an Arizona attorney with extensive experience working on FLDS cases in Colorado City. Knudtson traveled to Texas to help attorneys understand the specific challenges of working with FLDS clients.

“It’s going to be very important to communicate in language they can understand,” she told attorneys in the training. “They’ve never seen Judge Judy. They’ve never seen any news programs. You’ve got work to do just building a common vocabulary to dialogue about the case.”

In November, seven months after the removal of children at the Yearning for Zion Ranch, the FLDS case was still active. Some cases have been dismissed, others have been combined. DNA testing was ordered to enable the state to determine the parents of children in the case. As of late August, Childress estimated that 275 ad litem attorneys were still working on the case. And for all the controversy and hubbub surrounding the case, those attorneys were still focused on the key task of most effectively speaking for the child.

Speaking for the Child
Before 1979 no one spoke specifically for the child. The courts and Child Protective Services were focused on the best interest of the child, but the child was not represented. That changed when the Texas Legislature, responding to a court case that had reached the U.S. Supreme Court, passed a bill providing for the appointment of an attorney ad litem in all cases where the state sought custody—either temporary or permanent—or termination of parental rights.

At the time, no attorneys in the state had experience doing this work. The Children’s Rights Clinic was born the following fall.

Founded by professors Jack Samp- son and Cynthia Bryant, both of whom are still members of the School of Law
faculty, the Children’s Rights Clinic set about providing representation for children in Travis County who were removed from their home and training law students to provide that representation.

From the beginning it was clear that the work of speaking for a child in a custody case was complicated, and there were no precedents to which Sampson and Bryant could turn.

“There really wasn’t any place we could go to find out what you’re supposed to do to be a lawyer who represents somebody who, for instance, crawls on the floor and can’t talk to you,” Bryant said. “What were our responsibilities to the client? Jack [Sampson] and the students and I were involved in making decisions about that.”

To do so, they examined the ethical requirements of lawyers. They sought similar areas where a client might be diminished in his or her capacity to communicate with the attorney. They met with child development experts to understand how children form relationships at different ages.

Over time, they developed some guidelines about how ad litem attorneys work with their clients. For example, there are very few instances in which an attorney can substitute his or her judgment for that of the child.

“If you are appointed as an attorney for a child and the child is under age, it doesn’t mean the client isn’t in control of the case,” Sampson said. “If you have a fourteen-year-old who wants to go home, it’s the obligation of the attorney to seek that goal.

“The test is not whether what the child wants will be in the best interest of the child. The test is whether what the child wants will be ‘seriously injurious’ to the child. Only then can an attorney veto the child’s request.”

**Shaping Texas Law**

As the attorneys and students at the Children’s Rights Clinic were making decisions about how to represent children, they were also helping to shape the law. Sampson is one of the foremost experts on children’s law in the state and has helped write the bulk of the code related to that law. School of Law dean Larry Sager recently presented Sampson with a distinguished service award for his extraordinary commitment to improving the laws that affect Texas families and to educating students through the clinic.

Bryant has been appointed by the Texas Supreme Court to several task forces, notably one that studied the foster care system. Recognizing that child custody cases often drag on for years, leaving the lives of the children in limbo, the task force proposed that any time a child is removed from a home for abuse or neglect the case needs to be resolved
within that year. In 1997 the legislature enacted the recommendation, and the governor signed it into law, resulting in the strongest law in the country to protect children in the system.

Bryant sees her role on such committees as one of representing the Children’s Rights Clinic and its extensive experience with children.

“You cannot overestimate the impact this Clinic has had on the law,” Bryant said. “The Children’s Rights Clinic has been involved in every piece of legislation that affects abused and neglected children in this state for almost thirty years.”

The Clinic’s attorneys also expect that the FLDS case will lead to changes in the family code, if not in the upcoming legislative session then in a subsequent one.

**Back in Travis County**
The Children’s Rights Clinic has never lost its focus on the day-to-day work of representing children and giving law students the opportunity to get experience in court. In the fall and the spring, the students and faculty of the clinic take on a large percentage of the cases initiated by Child Protective Services in Travis County.

Strauch and Duke work as supervising attorneys at the clinic, overseeing about a dozen law students. Each student is assigned three ongoing cases and receives three new cases over the course of the semester. Students are the primary attorneys on the case and are responsible for meeting with their clients and representing them in court.

The task can be a large one. The first hearing happens within fourteen days, and student attorneys are charged with meeting with the children they represent and entering a legal world that includes children, parents, extended family, Child Protective Services, social workers, court-appointed special advocates for the children, and often mental health and medical personnel.

“We have a wide range of clients, from one week old to seventeen, almost eighteen, years old,” Strauch said. “We teach students how to get information from and talk to their clients, and how to see themselves as a player in the process. The clinic allows students to put to work all the things they’re learning in the classroom. In the end, they are better prepared and have better tools than many practicing attorneys.”

The experience the clinic offers students is invaluable for all students, but for some, it actually opens up career possibilities. That was the case for Duke, who was a student in the clinic in the 1990s and then pursued a career representing children.

“It was a great experience,” Duke said. “After taking the clinic, I knew that was what I wanted to do. I got to work with people, I felt like they were important issues, and it was interesting work.”

She went on to establish her own practice representing children as well as to work as staff attorney for a judge who presided over such cases in court. Now back at the School of Law as a faculty member and supervising attorney at the clinic, she’s excited about giving students the opportunity to work with children in court.

“I think there is a real need for good ad litems for kids,” she said. “It’s an area of the law that is very specific and not very well known. The clinic is a good opportunity to make sure people are aware of the issues and what an attorney’s obligation is to a child.”

Although the media shine the light on cases like the FLDS case or more extreme cases closer to home, clinic faculty say that most cases are more straightforward, and most children end up being returned to their families, whether that means a return to their parent(s) or to a member of the extended family. But one thing that faculty, past and present, won’t tell you is which cases have stood out or been most important. They and their students know that every time they are speaking for a child in court, the work is critical.

“These are really important cases, and when they go to trial, arguably some of the most important cases at the courthouse. You’re not talking about money. You’re not talking about property. You’re talking about a kid and what’s going to happen to that child until they are eighteen. What we do and teach here is really important.”
JUDGES HAVE OPINIONS, AND NOT JUST THE LEGAL VARIETY—their opinions also extend to public policy issues. But do those opinions influence judicial decision making? That’s a question that intrigues Stefanie Lindquist, a legal scholar and social scientist who wants to understand how an individual justice’s ideological and policy preferences might influence appellate courts at both the state and the federal levels. Lindquist recently joined the law faculty; previously, she taught at Vanderbilt University.

“I study the courts as political institutions,” said Lindquist, who holds the Thomas W. Gregory Professorship in Law. “As the third branch of government, they obviously make policy judgments just like the other two branches. So I’m interested in how judicial decisions reflect those policy judgments and how they also reflect a judge’s policy preferences.”

Examining the political dynamics associated with decision making in appellate courts was a natural progression for Lindquist.

“I had studied political science in undergraduate school, and I was still interested in political science even after practicing law for a number of years,” she said. “After I got my Ph.D. in political science at the University of South Carolina, it just made sense to look at the combination of law and politics.”

In Measuring Judicial Activism, scheduled for publication in April 2009, Lindquist and coauthor Frank Cross, a frequent collaborator and the Herbert D. Kelleher Centennial Professor of Business Law at UT’s McCombs School of Business, apply social science methods in an attempt to better quantify the meaning of the term “judicial activism.”

“Judicial activism’ is such an ambiguous, politicized term that nobody really knows what it means,” Lindquist said. “We are trying to come up with an index of activism that uses multiple empirical dimensions so that we can actually rank judges to determine the real activists and those who show restraint.”

In the book, Lindquist posits that judicial activism is best understood as increasing the judiciary’s influence at the expense of the elected branches of government. Using her skills as a social scientist, she develops empirical measures to examine activism as it relates to the judiciary’s willingness to further the policy or ideological objectives of justices. This provides a more objective definition of activism by studying how justices exert their policy preferences by using judicial review to invalidate legislative or executive actions, by granting litigants increased access, and by overruling precedent.

“I’m also interested in the federal courts as an administrative body and how the U.S. Supreme Court monitors...
and ensures uniformity of outcomes across the lower tiers of the federal court system,” Lindquist said. “The Supreme Court is tasked with having the final say of what the law should be, but there are not enough resources and capacity to monitor every single decision that’s rendered by the lower courts. So I’m interested in studying the federal courts from that organizational perspective.”

Her interest in organizational and administrative structure also extends to state courts. She is currently working on another project with Cross, funded by a National Science Foundation grant, to study stare decisis in state supreme courts.

“The rule of law requires that the law be stable, predictable, and relatively uniform across courts so the same law applies to all people who bring claims,” she said. “One dimension of that is how the structure of judicial institutions shapes the predictability of law. There are substantial variations across the states in how judges are selected, the size of the courts, their jurisdictions, and the length of their terms. These factors can shape their willingness to respect existing precedent and their willingness to reverse it.”

Lindquist’s research for the project, “Predictability and the Rule of Law: Overruling Decisions in State Supreme Courts,” has revealed that courts with shorter terms seem more willing to overturn precedent to conform to their policy preferences.

“They have less to lose and their time horizon is shorter,” she said. “There seems to be a pretty strong relationship between institutional structure and a willingness to reverse precedent.”

Lindquist, who taught political science at the University of Georgia and both political science and law at Vanderbilt University, is looking forward to teaching law full time at the University of Texas at Austin.

“My career has followed what has been a trend in law schools generally, and that is undertaking a more empirical examination of courts, judges, and institutional behaviors,” Lindquist said. “I get to bring to the table the tools of social science, which not all law professors have. It’s always nice to have something new to add to the discussion.” —Tom Gerrow

### The Rhetoric of Restraint and the Ideology of Activism

**by Stefanie A. Lindquist, Joseph L. Smith, and Frank B. Cross**

**Criticism of Judicial Activism Has Become Commonplace in Political Debate.** In recent years it has been political conservatives who have most often sounded the alarm that unelected, activist judges are intruding on the prerogatives of the elected branches. This criticism traces to the Warren Court era, when conservatives called for “judicial restraint” or “strict constructionism” in place of liberal judicial activism, contending that “when liberal Courts overturn democratically enacted laws in favor of liberal, activist constitutionalism, they destroy citizens’ rights to democratic participation and self-government.” According to these critics, “liberal, activist judges” substitute their personal preferences for the will of the people.

The controversy over judicial activism has become an important issue in recent election campaigns, as well as a central concern in debates over Supreme Court nominations. In 2004, for example, former Attorney General John Ashcroft claimed that “intrusive judicial oversight and second-guessing of presidential determinations . . . can put at risk the very security of our nation in a time of war.” While much of the attack on judicial activism is populist in nature, academics and judges—such as Robert Bork, Charles Fried, Antonin Scalia, and Michael McConnell—make similar arguments. Professor McConnell, for example, has objected that “rule by judges” is “inconsistent with the principles of self-government.” At the time of his appointment, Justice Scalia expressed concern about an “imperial judiciary.”

Yet the claim that conservative judges are more restrained than their liberal counterparts has also been challenged, especially in connection with decisions rendered by the Rehnquist Court. The National Director of the ACLU declared that the Rehnquist Court had become “one of the most activist courts in American history.” Critics of the Rehnquist Court have claimed that conservative justices were quite activist when the substantive outcome satisfied their ideological preferences.

Justices may find restraint more palatable when they agree with the policy consequences of the government action being evaluated. Indeed, the potential for conflict between the justices’ substantive ideological orientations and their professed belief in judicial restraint may manifest itself along several institutional dimensions. Conservative justices’ substantive preferences for conservative policies may conflict with legislative, gubernatorial, or judicial policy choices made at the state level (see Bush v. Gore, for example), all of which may be produced by elected bodies in the states. In this situation, not only are conservative justices faced with a conflict that implicates their commitment to judicial restraint, but to federalism as well. Or the justices’ preferences may conflict with outcomes produced by the coordinate branches in the federal government. Thus, the justices may be faced with constitutional challenges to federal legislation, or to constitutional or statutory challenges to federal administrative actions,
that require them to evaluate the propriety of decisions rendered by the elected Congress and the President. In these situations, the justices must decide whether to defer to the elected branches or substitute their own judgments for those of elected officials. Yet in doing so, they may find they face a tension between their preference about the substantive law or policy at issue and their commitment to judicial restraint.

In the expanded version of this paper, we explored these various dimensions by focusing on the degree to which conservative rhetoric advocating judicial deference to the policy actions of the elected branches (at the federal and state levels) actually comports with reality. In particular, we focused on (1) the extent to which the rhetoric of judicial restraint characterizes the voting behavior of conservative justices faced with constitutional challenges to federal and state statutory law, and (2) the extent to which such rhetoric is consistent with conservative justices’ voting behavior in cases raising challenges to the administrative actions of the executive branch at the federal level. In our analysis, we equated judicial restraint with a tendency to uphold the decisions of legislators and federal administrative agencies.

We found that, although in both instances conservative justices were somewhat more “restrainist” toward legislative and executive action, that restraint was contingent on the source of the law at issue. Thus, after controlling for ideological preferences regarding the substantive policies challenged in the cases, conservative justices were more deferential to state (as opposed to federal) legislation, and to action by executive branch (as opposed to independent regulatory) agencies. These findings suggest that countervailing considerations may actually explain the conservatives’ “restrainist orientation”: (1) their ideological commitment to state power and principles of federalism, and (2) their ideological commitment to a powerful executive branch. Indeed, when read in tandem, our results reflect a conservatism that is particularly critical of congressional power.

The full version of this article can be found in the Spring 2007 issue of Constitutional Commentary.

New Faculty Profiles

IT WAS IN HER FINAL YEAR AS A STUDENT AT UT LAW THAT Lori Duke, ’95, somewhat accidentally discovered the animating passion that has now led her back to the Law School. She signed up for the Children’s Rights Clinic for the reason that many do—“mainly for the practical experience,” as she puts it—but the cases she worked on soon took hold of her heart as well as her head.

Jack Sampson, her current boss, was and is the director of the Clinic. Cynthia Bryant, her supervising attorney, gave her the freedom—and the awesome responsibility—to represent these children under Bryant’s knowledgeable supervision. “The Children’s Rights Clinic gave me the first real opportunity to use my legal knowledge and skills to give my clients—abused and neglected children—a voice in the courtroom,” Duke said.

Now, after more than a decade of child-welfare legal work, she’s back at the Children’s Rights Clinic as a supervising attorney. Under her guidance clinic students provide representation for abused and neglected children in lawsuits filed by Child Protective Services.

After Duke graduated in 1995, she lived a dual legal life for a while, practicing insurance insolvency law at an Austin firm in the morning and representing children and parents on the dependency docket in the afternoon. “In the mornings I paid my bills,” she said. “And in the afternoons I did work I truly enjoyed.”

From 1998 to 2000 she served Travis County district court judge Scott McCown as a staff attorney. Judge McCown had already composed the petition titled “On Behalf of the Forsaken Children of Texas,” which played a major role in persuading the legislature and then-governor George Bush to increase funding to Child Protective Services. “I learned many things in Judge McCown’s courtroom,” she said. “One of them was the importance of high-quality representation for children. I saw the impact a good attorney could make in giving relevant information to the judge so that he could decide issues that would impact the child’s future. I also saw attorneys who had obviously never met their clients, could not articulate their clients’ independent positions, and who routinely accepted CPS’s version of events and plans. I felt that those children deserved to be heard.”

Six more years of private practice followed her district court service, and then last year she took advantage of an opportunity to engage more closely with some of the other major interests in her life. She accepted an appointment in Armenia.
with the American Bar Association’s Rule of Law Initiative, serving as liaison to the country’s legal education programs. She helped law schools set up new clinical programs and monitor existing ones, and she also helped the country’s premier law school, Yerevan State University, to incorporate more critical thinking and legal reasoning into its curriculum. “Under Soviet rule and even afterwards, legal training consisted almost entirely of rote learning and memorized recitation,” she explained. “It was really exhilarating for the students to begin applying their critical capabilities in classrooms and clinics.”

She took her three children, ages ten, six, and four, with her to Armenia, while her husband remained in Austin. “A great experience for them and a wonderful opportunity for me,” she said.

Living in Armenia was not the first international experience in Duke’s life. She learned some Arabic from her Lebanese grandmother growing up in Arlington, Texas, and she double-majored in government and Near Eastern studies at her undergraduate alma mater, Cornell. She spent a semester at the American University in Cairo improving her spoken Arabic and learning about Egyptian culture. After she graduated she returned to the American University in Cairo to work in its continuing adult education programs and to help organize regional conferences on economic and social issues.

She has realistic goals for her work at the Children’s Rights Clinic, tempered with idealistic optimism: “Representing abused and neglected children is not lucrative work, but it is incredibly rewarding. The clinic’s aim is to help the Law School turn out lawyers with strong practical skills. The students handle the cases and are responsible for representing children, talking with others in the dependency system, and advocating for their clients. The practical skills that the clinic offers will translate well into whatever area of practice a graduate follows. Of course, if some of them have an experience like I had at the clinic and decide to represent abused or neglected children and give them a voice in the courtroom, I would be very pleased.”

— Jerry de Jaager

IN A HIGH-TECH ECONOMY, SUSTAINED INNOVATION REQUIRES the efficient allocation of capital, as well as protections for both entrepreneurs and investors. Of course, none of that is possible without laws and regulations to create a level playing field on which companies can compete. But sometimes that field can get a little bumpy, and when it does, Mira Ganor wants to find out why.

“The main focus of my research is private equity and venture capital, and the corporate governance of public companies,” said Ganor, an assistant professor in the School of Law.

It’s an area that Ganor knows well from her time practicing law in Tel Aviv, where she focused on financial transactions involving venture capitalists, investment banks, and local technology entrepreneurs.
These days, Ganor looks at the funding environment with some trepidation. She expects the current economic turbulence to affect investment in new technology companies but hopes the market will find a way to continue funding start-ups.

“The financial crisis is, unfortunately, going to affect pretty much everything,” Ganor said. “There will be less investment in technology and innovation, and that is part of the problem. Right now the focus is on solving problems in the housing market, which will help with the credit crunch. But I think we need a more direct focus on making sure entrepreneurs get the money they need.”

She added, “I think they will be okay in the long run. There is always a need for technology, but it will be tough if they don’t get the funding they need.”

With the massive declines in the stock markets, funding new companies might make sense for investors who don’t have many better options at the moment.

“Hedge funds that are suffering have less money, but they also have fewer places to put it right now,” she said. “If they divert some of their funds to venture capitalists, that will help, at least for a while.”

Ganor has a particular interest in the competitive landscape of the corporate world and the factors that shape management decisions. Currently, she is examining how publicly traded companies employ various anti-takeover mechanisms. Her work has explored some surprising trends, such as why managers would agree to dismantle a staggered board of directors.

“Staggered boards can be a good anti-takeover mechanism, because it entrenches management, securing the jobs of the managers,” Ganor said. “But they’re not good for shareholders because they increase agency costs. So I wanted to investigate situations where managers voluntarily de-staggered boards, which is surprising because it seems to be against their own interests. I wanted to find out what motivates managers in their decision process.”

She discovered that shareholder pressure, in the form of non-binding resolutions, and the amount of the CEO’s unvested options correlate with a willingness to dismantle staggered boards—useful information when trying to align management’s interests with those of shareholders.

Another recent paper, “Investing in the Competition,” describes a subtle and rather unusual anti-takeover strategy that, surprisingly, doesn’t involve the company targeted for acquisition, but rather its competitors in the marketplace.

A company employing this strategy, which Ganor calls the “barrier to team formation” scheme, invests just enough in a rival to make acquisition by a third company prohibitively costly. This approach works by effectively discounting a competing bid from the company that made the initial investment, which can discourage the third company from entering a bidding war in which it is at a disadvantage.

The problem, as Ganor sees it, is that shareholders of the company targeted for acquisition are negatively affected by a non-agent and they have no legal remedy with which to block the anti-takeover mechanism. Ganor proposes a split-bidding solution, which would allow a potential buyer to eliminate the discount by offering two different prices for target company shares in general and those specifically held by the biding rival.

Even when she’s working on policy issues or legal theory, Ganor relishes digging into the data during her research.

“Empirical research into the law is relatively new, and I’m glad there seems to be a lot of interest in it here,” she said. “I’m all for theory, but if you can check it statistically and actually prove it, then that is a great result. I’m always happy when I can come up with a data set that can help me learn more about the subject.”

With convenient access to Austin’s well-developed network of investors and entrepreneurs, Ganor is hoping to do some empirical research into venture capital in the near future.

“Practicing law is very rewarding because you are in the middle of the action,” Ganor said. “But I prefer academia because you can reach many more people and you have more freedom to focus on what you believe is important. You can also think about the big picture, the society as a whole, and not just a particular client.”—Tom Gerrow

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**New Faculty Profiles**

**Elana Einhorn**

**Trading the Courtroom for the Classroom**

**ELANA EINHORN, ’89, JOINED THE University of Texas School of Law this year as a legal writing instructor. As a faculty member, she is now able to combine two of her passions—the law and teaching.**

After a number of years in a warp-speed practice environment, Einhorn is glad to be back in a collegial setting. It’s a perfect fit for the Texas civil appellate specialist, who has more than a decade of experience in working with judges in state and federal court.

“As a staff attorney at the Texas Supreme Court, I spent a lot of time working with the new law clerks as they would come in, and I always enjoyed that aspect of my job very much,” Einhorn said. “We would get a new group of law graduates every year, and it was educational for me because they had all kinds of energy and enthusiasm and new ideas about things. However, then they would have to learn about forms or writing an opinion and what was expected of them. I always liked imparting the institutional knowledge.”

A native of Miami, Florida, Einhorn was a judicial clerk for the Honorable Nathan L. Hecht of the Texas Supreme Court, as well as the Honorable Edward C. Prado, federal district judge for the Western District of Texas. She later served as a staff attorney to the Honorable John Cornyn and the Honorable Deborah G. Hankinson, both former justices on the Texas Supreme Court.

That experience makes her exceptionally qualified to teach Brief Writing and Oral Advocacy. “Writing is the single most important thing that lawyers do,” she said. “I’ve had judges tell me you can lose a case on oral argument, but you win it on the brief. That’s how important writing is.”

In the spring Einhorn will expand her role even more when she directs the Thad T. Hutcheson Moot Court Competition.
She also will serve as one of the faculty clerkship advisors. “I am really excited about that position because I spent two-thirds of my professional career working for courts as a law clerk or a staff attorney,” she explained. “It’s such a wonderful opportunity, and I am looking forward to helping students get clerkships all over the country.”

Einhorn graduated with high honors from Florida International University in Miami before coming to UT Law. Except for two years spent clerking in San Antonio, she has lived in Austin since she started law school in 1986.

“The biggest difference now from when I was a student is the technology,” she said. “When I was a student in law school, maybe one person in a section of 100 had a laptop in class. Now, of course, every single student has a laptop open all the time—unless their professors say they can’t.”

Yet there are things that have remained the same. “Many of my professors are still here,” she said. “Plus, what has not changed is that you have to learn the basics one step at a time—what are the elements of a claim or a defense, how do you connect the law up to the facts, and how do you weave them together in a way that is going to persuade a judge to rule in your favor?”

Einhorn particularly enjoys the interaction with students. “The upper-division classes are smaller, so you can really see students blossom and improve.”

When not at the Law School, Einhorn practices Iyengar yoga, a discipline that places a great deal of emphasis on form and attention to detail. “Just like the law,” she said with a laugh. “The form and structures of the poses are important, and you must hold the posture for a particular amount of time in the correct way. That leads to physiological and mental benefits, and it’s also very relaxing.” She is also the mother of an eight-year-old daughter.

What is the one piece of advice Einhorn gives to students who want to succeed in her class? “Make a good faith effort and appreciate the fact that the work will yield results; it will help you in your careers. You have to be able to communicate orally, but writing is the foundation for presenting your ideas to the world, and that’s what lawyers do.”—Diana Smith
New Assistant Professor Angela Littwin is teaching bankruptcy this semester as she also continues her important research and writing in that area. She is one of the principal investigators for the Consumer Bankruptcy Project, which has been the leading study of consumer bankruptcy for the past twenty-five years. She founded the Bankruptcy Internet Data Project, a database of consumers who seek pre-bankruptcy credit counseling; through this project she will have access to extensive, continually refreshed information about more than 80,000 people who are dealing with bankruptcy-related issues. In 2006 she was selected as an American Bankruptcy Law Journal Fellow by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

Littwin’s interests in bankruptcy, consumer issues, and commercial law inform three articles she recently completed. In one, published earlier this year in the Texas Law Review, she reports her empirical findings that many lower-income consumers would prefer credit cards that allow them to proactively restrict their purchases in targeted ways, for example with low credit limits or by blocking the ability to purchase from certain specific merchants. “Enabling credit card users to set limits on themselves in advance is likely to prevent problems down the road,” she said. The Federal Reserve has endorsed a recommendation similar to hers in its recent proposed amendments to the Truth in Lending Act disclosures, and MasterCard has now introduced a card with similar features, the “inControl” card.

In an article published this year in the Illinois Law Review, Littwin uses original research among low-income women to test the “substitution hypothesis,” which states that if restrictions are placed on one form of credit (credit cards, in this instance), borrowers will respond by using other, less desirable forms of credit (such as pawnshops or rent-to-own businesses). Her findings suggest that many borrowers in fact find relatively sound sources of credit, such as catalog buying. “Catalog borrowing creates installment payments, with interest payments built in to fixed monthly charges,” she said. “So borrowers know what they are getting themselves into.”

She draws a parallel between these forms of borrowing and mortgage payments: “In a fixed mortgage structure, the homeowner knows exactly what each payment will be, as compared to the more exotic variable mortgage instruments that can confuse and even mislead a home buyer. Many credit card offerings have become similarly complex and potentially fraught with dangers for the consumer; installment-type plans are clearer.”

She is also a coauthor of a forthcoming...
WHEN SHE GRADUATED FROM HARVARD FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, Eliza Platts-Mills knew she wanted to advance the causes of affordable housing and community development, but she wasn’t sure in what capacity. After a year in the Washington, D.C., office of Congressman Norman Sisisky, she committed another year to AmeriCorps VISTA, where she laid the groundwork for a federal Self-Help Housing grant in rural Virginia that enabled thirty-six low-income, first-time homeowner families to pool their labor to build new homes, financed by subsidized federal loans.

American Bankruptcy Law Journal article that evaluates the impacts of the major bankruptcy law amendments adopted in 2005. “While bankruptcy filings have declined substantially,” she said, “the amendments do not seem to have achieved one of their principal goals, namely a reduction in the percentages of debtors who could repay their obligations but use bankruptcy to avoid doing so.”

Littwin graduated from Harvard Law School in 2002 and then clerked for Judge Rosemary Barkett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. In 2003 she cofounded ROAD—Reaching Out About Depression—a client-driven organization serving low-income women. ROAD employs workshops taught by the low-income women themselves to help others resolve their own legal and other issues. “We started ROAD to address the problem that many of the low-income women in community organizations were reluctant to take on leadership roles despite their evident capabilities,” Litwin explained. “The women themselves were the other cofounders of the program, and they were the ones who suggested depression as a lens through which to approach this leadership issue. Often their depression, and that of other women served by ROAD, stems from childhood sexual abuse or other severe trauma. Thanks in large part to their determination and dedication, ROAD is now approaching its five-year anniversary.”

In 2005 she stepped down from her leadership role at ROAD and returned to Harvard Law School as a Climenko Fellow, teaching for three years in the legal research and writing program there.

She’s happy to be at the University of Texas now. “Many of the most profound investigations of consumer credit issues, including the Consumer Bankruptcy Project, began and developed here at UT Law, so there’s a tradition of looking at things in ways that combine statistical substance with individualized particularity. It’s an ideal environment for the work that I love to do. Add to that the fact that the students are so bright and engaged and the faculty is so insightful and supportive, and I can’t really think of a better place to be.” —Jerry de Jaager
Persuaded by those experiences that the law would help her help others, Platts-Mills enrolled at the University of Virginia School of Law. After receiving her J.D., she clerked for U.S. District Court judge Jerry Buchmeyer, ’57, in Dallas. Judge Buchmeyer is renowned for his humor—his “et cetera” columns in the Texas Bar Journal have been collected into a book, Texas Courtroom Humor—and for his wise jurisprudence. “Judge Buchmeyer was a great representation of the best of Texas and the best of UT Law,” Platts-Mills said. “I remembering thinking that if I were to come back to Texas one day, I hoped it would be to Austin.”

Before her return this year—to an adjunct professorship in the Community Development Clinic—Platts-Mills held three posts in Washington, D.C. The first was with the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. The case that occupied most of her time there involved the prosecution of a manufacturer of false teeth for impermissible exclusive dealing agreements. “The experience was great,” she recalled, “and the nature of the case led to some more opportunities for humor, though not at Judge Buchmeyer’s level. People were telling me this was a good case to cut my teeth on, and to be careful not to bite off more than I could chew.”

Her work at Justice was a bridge to her next job, with the Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, where she litigated cases involving civil rights, housing, police misconduct, and public accommodations. One of her primary cases was a fair housing lawsuit brought against the District of Columbia government on behalf of low-income tenants of multifamily apartment buildings, alleging that the city’s housing code enforcement policy discriminated against Latino and Vietnamese tenants on the basis of their national origin. One of the central issues in the case was why the D.C. government chose to condemn and close the apartment buildings where those tenants lived, rather than using various less harmful tools, such as prosecuting the malfeasant landlords or spending available, dedicated city funds to fix housing code violations and place liens on the properties.

She continued and expanded that housing-related work as a graduate teaching fellow in Georgetown University Law Center’s Affordable Housing and Community Development clinic, where she provided legal representation to tenant associations that, under a distinctive D.C. law, have a right of first refusal to purchase their apartment buildings when those buildings are put up for sale. Working with students in the clinic, Platts-Mills represented tenant associations across D.C., some from buildings with as many as 100 units, at various stages of the ownership process, providing them with legal advice and transactional services related to purchasing, financing, rehabilitating, and managing the buildings, and formally converting them under D.C. law from rental properties to homeownership communities.

At the UT Community Development Clinic—which is a partnership between the Law School and Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources (Texas C-BAR), a project of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid—she is doing similar work, though generally in different arenas. The clinic’s students provide nonprofits and small for-profit organizations in low-income communities with business law services that they need in order to achieve sustainable economic development; among other things, the students assist with negotiating and drafting contracts, making choice-of-entity decisions, and obtaining tax-exempt status from the IRS.

“Helping people start and succeed at a small business, which is most of what we do here at the clinic, has the same core elements as helping them purchase and manage their own residential buildings,” Platts-Mills explains. “Many of the legal and practical issues are the same, and in both cases you have people who are learning how to do something that is very important to them, and your job is to help them negotiate the legal process to do it right in a way that also strengthens them to meet future issues and challenges with increasing awareness and wisdom.”

Earlier this year, Platts-Mills married Tom Chmielewski, an Austin-based businessman and world traveler whom she met in Durban, South Africa, two years ago as he was undertaking a seven-month backpacking journey from Johannesburg to Jerusalem. —Jerry de Jaager

When he graduated from college thirteen years ago, Sean Williams knew just where he wanted his career to go: he would earn a Ph.D. in sociology and teach at a university. “I’ve wanted to teach for almost as long as I can remember,” he recalled. “Sociology fascinated me because it helps understand how people behave and what is going on below the surface of that behavior.”

It was after graduation, when he was working at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., to gain some practical experience before applying to graduate schools, that his career path shifted. He was asked to help with a study to test the hypothesis, widely espoused by state and federal lawmakers, that vigorous enforcement of statutory rape laws would substantially reduce teen pregnancies. The study demonstrated that only a small percentage of all teenagers’ pregnancies would fall within the scope of statutory rape laws. “I realized then that law professors got to do the kinds of investigations that interested me and that solid research could do more than show important patterns; it could have a direct impact on policy,” he said. Williams went on to earn a law degree from the University of Chicago, serve as an appeals court clerk, and teach and conduct research at Harvard Law School.

In his first year at UT he’s teaching family law and a seminar on behavioral law and economics, subjects that enable him to combine his legal scholarship with his interest in human behavior. Two recent law journal articles demonstrate the nature of his explorations. In one, he examines postnuptial agreements—contracts signed during a marriage that control the division of assets if the couple divorces—from the perspective of bargaining theory. “Courts have often assumed that the bargaining dynamics within an intact marriage are materially different from those in the premarital context, and that those differences justify
over-optimism may lead, among other things, to considerable underinsurance in relation to major life events.”

Research that Williams conducted at Harvard about how corporate general counsels hire, fire, and manage outside counsel will be included in a study to be published next year. He helped design the survey instrument used to query hundreds of GCs about their practices, and he conducted scores of interviews. “Although there’s a lot of nuance in the findings, the one thing that didn’t really surprise me is how much the GCs’ decisions revolve around personal relationships. What doesn’t?”

He’s liking the way his relationships at the University of Texas are shaping up. “The students are great here,” he said. “The law faculty has been exceptionally welcoming, and faculty from other parts of the University have shown a genuine interest in collaborative projects.” He reports, for example, that when he recently went to the business school to introduce himself to a professor whose work intersects with his, that professor soon called in four colleagues and they all discussed ideas for collaborative research. “A lot of schools talk about cross-disciplinary research and transcending institutional barriers, but I’ve already seen that it’s part of the culture here at the University of Texas,” he said, adding that some of the interdisciplinary research that has interested him most, such as the 2000 book The Fragile Middle Class, came from UT faculty working across academic disciplines. (Law professor Jay Westbrook cowrote The Fragile Middle Class with colleagues from the sociology department and the Law School.)

An avid outdoorsman who has backpacked throughout the United States and in South America (and who now swims virtually every day at Barton Springs in addition to his other activities), Williams likes the warmth of Austin’s weather as much as he enjoys the warmth of its people. “After growing up in New York State, going to college just outside Philadelphia, working in D.C., and then spending three years in Chicago and three in Boston, it has completely sunk in that I’m just not a cold-weather person,” he said. “I love the way it feels here: real seasons without real winter. Perfect.”—Jerry de Jaager

greater judicial oversight of postnuptial agreements,” he said. “I suggest that the courts have it backwards, and that for many reasons postnuptial agreements are in fact more likely to be equitable than their prenuptial counterparts.”

In the second article, he shows how factual information changes—or most often doesn’t change—people’s expectations about how certain key life decisions will work out and how legal protections will serve them if those decisions don’t turn out well. “In marriage and divorce, in employment, and in other situations, people often have expectations that are much rosier than the data suggest they should be, and they tend to hang on to those expectations no matter how clearly or forcefully those data are presented to them. In the article I say that this ‘sticky’
Dean Larry Sager of the University of Texas School of Law recently announced that Ernest E. Smith, the Rex G. Baker Centennial Chair in Natural Resources Law, is the recipient of the 2008–2010 Massey Teaching Excellence Award. Professor Smith, an internationally recognized energy law scholar and a former dean of the Law School, has taught at UT Law for forty-five years, and last spring he taught the first-ever wind power law course to be offered at an American law school. Smith was honored with the award at a reception at the Law School on October 15, 2008.

“Teaching law has been my life for over four decades,” Smith said. “I cannot imagine a job that could have been more personally rewarding than teaching and getting to know the hundreds—or more probably thousands—of students who have been in my classes. I have, I hope, contributed in some way to their success as attorneys and as fine, honorable men and women. There is no honor that could ever mean more to me than the Massey Award for Teaching Excellence. I am deeply grateful for receiving it and to John and Elizabeth Massey for establishing the award.”

Smith earned his undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University.
University and his law degree from Harvard Law School. He joined the UT Law faculty in 1963 and quickly established his reputation as an expert in the field of oil and gas law and as an excellent and popular classroom teacher. Smith served as dean of UT Law School from 1974 to 1979.


“It is a very, very happy moment at UT Law—one in which we can acknowledge three remarkable members of our community of ideas and constructive projects at once,” Dean Sager said. “Ernest Smith has been a favorite teacher of generations of our students, and by changing them for the better has changed the world as well. And John and Libba Massey have been wonderful members of our community; they have been tremendously generous and actively involved in making UT Law an even better environment in which to teach and learn. We are marvelously lucky to be graced by teachers like Ernest and supporters and counselors like John and Libba.”

In the fall of 2004, the Law School announced the endowment of the Massey Teaching Excellence Award by John H. Massey, J.D. ’66, and his wife, Elizabeth S. Massey, B.S. ’61. The Law School is charged with presenting the award to a faculty member who “epitomizes the School’s priority of providing the highest quality of teaching to its students.”

The Masseys live in Dallas, where Mr. Massey has had a successful career as an investor and executive in radio, television, and the insurance business. Elizabeth Massey has long been active as a community volunteer.

“Libba and I both received excellent educations at the University of Texas from which we have benefited throughout the entirety of our adult lives,” John Massey said. “These Excellence in Teaching awards which we have established at various places throughout the UT system are our way of expressing appreciation for the traditions of great teaching at UT and, more specifically, to recognize and honor the great teachers of today.”

The University of Texas School of Law has long had one of the outstanding faculties in the nation in terms of both scholarly distinction and success in the classroom.

The Massey Teaching Excellence Award Endowment is one of the most generous of its kind in the nation. The first recipient of the award was UT Law professor David Rabban, a leading scholar in free speech in American history and labor law, and a member of the University’s elite Academy of Distinguished Teachers. Stanley Johnson, the nation’s foremost scholar on wills and estates, who is also a University Distinguished Teacher, and one of John Massey’s former professors, was the second recipient of the award.

—Laura Castro
The George McMillan Fleming Center for Law and Innovation in Biomedicine and Healthcare

ON THE STRENGTH OF AN INITIAL COMMITMENT of $2.5 million from George M. Fleming, ’71, the University of Texas School of Law will create the George McMillan Fleming Center for Law and Innovation in Biomedicine and Healthcare.

The Fleming Center will address the broad sweep of human concerns implicated at the junction of law, medicine, ethics, public policy, and the management of healthcare delivery. Faculty will conduct research on the many ways in which law impacts biomedical and healthcare innovation, including patent law and the development of new drugs and therapies; ethical and regulatory constraints on the research process; and ways to remove barriers to access to new therapies. It will also sponsor a fellowship devoted to access to health benefits and service; research and public lectures on the global emergence of constitutional rights to healthcare, and on human rights and health more broadly; and the development of programs addressing childhood obesity and health-related interventions on behalf of impoverished children and their families. The Fleming Center will propel the University of Texas School of Law into the forefront of research in the areas of law and health.

The Law, Innovation, and Stem Cell Conference
To begin these multifaceted initiatives, the Fleming Center will host a conference in the Spring of 2009 on the legal issues surrounding stem cell research. This conference will launch the George McMillan Fleming Center for Law and Innovation in Biomedicine and Healthcare. It will be held at the School of Law next Spring. The conference, chaired by John Robertson, the Vinson & Elkins Chair at UT Law and an expert in law and bioethics, will examine the idea that innovation in biomedicine is a complex process involving science, law, ethics, and policy; and that lawyers and policymakers can learn much about the law’s role in biomedicine and healthcare innovation from a careful examination of a major, ongoing area of scientific research and controversy. The societal debate over the use of embryonic stem cells has enmeshed law, politics, and science in controversy since the ability to culture human stem cells was announced in 1998. This topic presents an extraordinary opportunity to explore how law, ethics, and policy affect the process of innovation and development in science, and thus the speed at which it yields healthcare benefits.

The Fleming Center’s fellowship in health, law, and advocacy will be awarded to a graduating Law School student for two years of postgraduate public service legal work [see related story on page 32]; a visiting faculty appointment for a distinguished scholar working in this area; and enhanced faculty research opportunities for current UT Law faculty engaged in significant healthcare-related scholarship.

Early next year, Sandy Levinson, who holds the W. St. John Garwood and W. St. John Garwood, Jr. Centennial Chair, will host an international conference on constitutional design. As a key part of that event, the Fleming Center will sponsor a panel, led by Willy Forbath, the Lloyd M. Bentsen Chair in Law, on the constitutional right to healthcare and the possibilities and dilemmas of judicial enforcement of that right. Thanks to the Fleming Center’s generosity, this panel will bring together two leading jurists, the Honorable Dennis Davis of the High Court of South Africa and Justice Antonio Benjamin of the Supreme
Fleming’s gift creates an endowed chair at the School of Law, the George McMillan Fleming Chair in Health Law and Policy, in honor of his late father, a pioneer and respected leader in healthcare management.

Court of Brazil, who will share their own and their nation’s experiences in this domain of “constitutional design.” In addition, a leading student of judicial enforcement of the right to healthcare around the globe, Professor Florian Hoffman of the London School of Economics, will be participating.

Fleming’s gift creates an endowed chair at the School of Law, the George McMillan Fleming Chair in Health Law and Policy, in honor of his late father, a pioneer and respected leader in healthcare management in Houston for the better part of four decades. George McMillan Fleming held a doctorate in education, which he used in the field of hospital administration. He was the administrator of a number of hospitals in Texas, notably Methodist Hospital in Houston and Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio. He was elected president of the Texas Hospital Association and was awarded the Earl Collier Award—the Texas Hospital Association’s highest award for a distinguished hospital administrator.

The gift that creates the Fleming Center is a further demonstration of the Fleming family’s long-standing commitment to healthcare and the myriad issues surrounding it. Earlier this year, Fleming and his brother, Scott, established the George McMillan Fleming Center for Healthcare Management at the University of Texas School of Public Health. UT Law will have a presence at this center as well, by providing faculty to teach courses in law and healthcare.

“The interface between bedside medicine and the business of medicine often pits care against profit,” George Fleming said. He said that his father approached this potential paradox with the belief that work done along this fine edge is best done as a collaborative effort.

This is not Fleming’s first gift to the Law School. In 2005, Fleming donated $1.25 million for a major renovation of the student dining commons—renamed George’s Café by the Law School in his honor—and to broaden programs and services available to law students through the Career Services Office, as well as to establish the George M. Fleming Faculty Excellence Fund to recruit and retain outstanding faculty.

Fleming graduated from the School of Law after having earned his undergraduate degree from UT-Austin (BBA ’68). He practiced with the U.S. Department of Justice for five years, where he gained invaluable trial experience, particularly in personal injury cases. He returned to Austin to private practice for a time, and then founded the law firm of Fleming & Associates in Houston in 1981. The twelve-attorney firm has earned a national reputation representing plaintiffs in mass tort, consumer, personal injury, and property damage litigation cases.

In discussing his most recent gift to UT Law, Fleming noted that Dean Larry Sager approaches his work with the question “how can we improve tomorrow what we’re doing today?” That has been Fleming’s approach to life throughout his impressive career as a litigator—an approach he also learned from his father.

“I have said before that ‘we are all in this together,’ and no one understands that more keenly than George Fleming,” said Sager. “George’s life and career are animated by the belief that we are a community and that we bear responsibility one to the other. I am profoundly grateful to George for the confidence he has in the Law School to carry forward this ideal—a confidence that underlies his generosity and that we will work very hard to honor.”

George Fleming
The Glickman Fellowship in Public Interest Law was established in 2008 through a generous gift from Julius Glickman, '66. Its purpose is to increase access to justice in the United States.

The Glickman Fellowship will support an outstanding graduating student or judicial clerk to work with a public-interest legal organization to provide legal services to underrepresented individuals or groups. Sponsoring organizations must be nonprofit organizations. Preference will be given to projects with the potential to make a significant contribution to the effort to provide civil legal services to the needy, but other projects will also be considered.

“For those students who choose to begin their career helping those who need help, it will be an experience that will forever shape their lives,” Julius Glickman said. “For our law school, it will add a choice and a new dimension for our graduates. For those whom they help, it will afford access to a justice system that too often has left them out.”

The first Glickman Fellowship will be awarded in January 2009. More information about the Fellowship and its recipient will be published in the next issue of UT Law.

Julius Glickman is managing partner of Glickman, Carter & Bachynsky in Houston. He received his B.A. (cum laude) from the University of Texas at Austin Plan II Honors Program in 1962 and his LLB from the School of Law in 1966.

**UT Law Launches the Justice Corps**

In November 2008, the Law School launched the Justice Corps, a visionary new program to increase access to legal assistance and to support graduates interested in serving the public interest. The Justice Corps offers two-year fellowships to recent Law School graduates to work for public interest legal organizations. Funding has been secured for three fellowships: the UT Law Faculty Fellowship, the Julius Glickman Fellowship, and the George M. Fleming Fellowship. The first was created and funded four years ago by fifty-one faculty members and by the Law School; the second is a new fellowship supported by Julius Glickman, ’66; the third is a new fellowship supported by George M. Fleming, ’71 [see related story on page 30].

When fully funded, the Justice Corps will send a group of eight or more outstanding new alumni each year to work on two-year assignments with nonprofit legal organizations serving underrepresented people and communities across the world, so there will always be at least sixteen Justice Corps Fellows working for equal justice for all.

The Justice Corps will help to fulfill a critical need for legal services. Despite legal aid providers and pro bono groups, the legal profession can handle only 20 percent of the legal issues of those in our society who cannot afford them. The most direct way to solve this problem is to increase the number of available attorneys. Unfortunately, nonprofit organizations serving this population are chronically underfunded and can rarely afford to hire a recent law school graduate unless that person’s salary is covered by a fellowship. Every year, Law School graduates seek such jobs, but many are unable to secure such work unless they obtain a highly competitive fellowship from one of the few existing national programs.

The fellowships will encourage more Law School alumni to begin their careers with a period of public service. According to James Sales, ’60, chair of the Texas Access to Justice Commission, partner at Fulbright & Jaworski, and former president of the State Bar of Texas, “Putting more ‘boots on the ground’ to serve those who desperately need legal help is the most important contribution the UT School of Law can make to the effort to promote equal justice.”

While a few other law schools sponsor postgraduate fellowships, none has a program of this ambition. Each Justice Corps fellowship will be distinct, focusing on different areas of public-interest law, forming a cohesive program with a powerful impact. There will be conferences at the Law School each year for the Fellows, interested faculty, and special guests in related fields. The program will also bring current and former Fellows to campus regularly to share their experiences with the Law School and the University community.

The Law School will benefit greatly from the synergy of Fellows engaging regularly with each other, with former Fellows, and with the Law School community. The Justice Corps will also enhance the Law School’s growing reputation as an institution committed to bettering society, supporting its graduates, and improving the image of the legal profession. The Justice Corps will have an enormous positive impact on how the Law School is perceived by current and prospective students, faculty, alumni, and the national legal community.
The 2008 Contributors Report

The Law School’s alumni and friends are essential to our continued success. Thank you for your continued investment in the University of Texas School of Law.

The Stanley Johanson Fund for Teaching and Scholarship

The Stanley Johanson Fund for Teaching and Scholarship has been established by members of the first three classes at UT Law to benefit from the intellectual power and formidable teaching skill of Professor Johanson. The Fund honors Johanson for his forty-five years of teaching and scholarship at the Law School. The fundraising effort is led by Marc Grossberg, ’65, David Epstein, ’66, Lin Barbee, ’66, and Pat Oxford, ’67. The Stanley Johanson Fund for Teaching and Scholarship will be used to recognize excellence in classroom teaching at UT Law.

Johanson, who joined the faculty in 1963, was in the inaugural group of professors who were elected, in 1995, to the University of Texas Academy of Distinguished Teachers, whose purpose is to give public recognition to outstanding classroom teachers at the University of Texas at Austin. Johanson teaches courses on Wills and Estates and Estate Planning. He is the coauthor of Wills, Trusts, and Estates (Aspen, 7th ed., 2005), which is used in more than 120 American law schools, and is the author of Johanson’s Texas Probate Code Annotated (West, 2005) and “Wills,” in the Gilbert Law Series (Bar/Bri Group, 2003). In 1997 Johanson received the Treat Award for Excellence, the highest honor bestowed by the National College of Probate Judges, and in 2005 he was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Real Estate, Probate & Trust Law Section, State Bar of Texas, for his contributions to the improvement of Texas wills and trust law.

He has been a visiting professor at the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, the University of North Carolina, the University of Washington, and UCLA. Johanson is a member of the American Law Institute, an Academic Fellow of the American College of Trusts & Estates Council, and an Academic Fellow of the American College of Tax Council. The former editor in chief of the Washington Law Review and a teaching fellow at Harvard Law School in 1961–1963, Johanson is of counsel to the international law firm of Vinson & Elkins.

Anyone interested in contributing to the Stanley Johanson Fund for Teaching and Scholarship may contact Angela Krause at the Law School: (512) 471-7188 or akrause@law.utexas.edu.

“Love truth, but pardon error.” —Voltaire

Please send any questions or corrections to: Linda Lewis, Director of Development Operations, llewis@law.utexas.edu, (512) 232-9384
## Estates and Trusts

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<th>Fund/Program</th>
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<td>Center for Women in Law</td>
<td>Norma Fink Huffaker Charitable Unitrust</td>
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<td>A. M. Frazier Memorial Scholarship Fund</td>
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## Major Gifts—Gifts of $50,000 or Greater

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<td>Baker Botts L.L.P. Law Partners Fund</td>
<td>Baker Botts L.L.P.</td>
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<td>James A. Baker III Chair in the Rule of Law and World Affairs</td>
<td>Robert A. Day, Robert Day Foundation, WKD Foundation</td>
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<td>Bracwell &amp; Giuliani Excellence Fund</td>
<td>Bracwell &amp; Giuliani LLP</td>
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<td>Center for Transnational Studies</td>
<td>M.D. Anderson Foundation</td>
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<td>Laura J. Hagen, 1976, Norma Fink Huffaker Charitable Unitrust</td>
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<td>George M. Fleming Faculty Excellence Fund</td>
<td>Fleming Endowment, George M. Fleming, 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>George McMillan Fleming Chair in Health Law &amp; Policy</td>
<td>Fleming Endowment, George M. Fleming, 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. M. Frazier Memorial Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>Fulbright &amp; Jaworski L.L.P.</td>
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<td>Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice</td>
<td>Audre Jean Rapoport, Bernard Rapoport, The Bernard &amp; Audre Rapoport Foundation</td>
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<td>Reaud Public Interest Scholarship Program</td>
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<td>Roberta Wright Reeves Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law</td>
<td>Roberta Wright Reeves Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dean John F. Sutton, Jr. Chair in Lawyering and the Legal Process</td>
<td>Melanie Gray, Mark Wawro, 1979</td>
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<td>Texas Law Fellowships</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Rollie White Public Service Scholar-in-Residence Program</td>
<td>G. Rollie White Trust</td>
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**Charles Alan Wright Society**

**Gold Level**
- Michelle and Bryan Goolsby

**Silver Level**
- Dianne S. Brode
- Mary and Adam Criaco
- Stephen L. Tatum

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**Major Gifts**

- Estates and Trusts
- Center for Women in Law
- A. M. Frazier Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Ross H. and Annie Seymour Hemphill Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law
- Keeton Fellow Program
- The Law School Annual Fund
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- Major Gifts
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- James A. Baker III Chair in the Rule of Law and World Affairs
- Bracwell & Giuliani Excellence Fund
- Center for Transnational Studies
- Center for Women in Law
- Dean’s Discretionary Fund—Unrestricted Gifts
- The George M. Fleming Career Services Fund
- George M. Fleming Faculty Excellence Fund
- George McMillan Fleming Chair in Health Law & Policy
- A. M. Frazier Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Hagans Family Endowed Scholarship
- Hobby Family Foundation Law Partners Fund
- Jon P. Newton Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law
- The Massey Fund for the Study of Law, Innovation, and Capital Markets
- Office of Student Life
- Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice
- Reaud Public Interest Scholarship Program
- Roberta Wright Reeves Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law
- Dean John F. Sutton, Jr. Chair in Lawyering and the Legal Process
- Texas Law Fellowships
- University Co-operative Society Public Interest Law Grants
- G. Rollie White Public Service Scholar-in-Residence Program
- Charles Alan Wright Program—Gold
Endowed Student Scholarships

IN A TIME OF RISING COSTS AND DIMINISHING STATE support, the Law School’s privately funded scholarships provide a competitive edge in recruiting top students to the University of Texas School of Law. Just as importantly, these scholarships help reduce the burden of debt faced by UT Law students as they graduate and begin their professional careers. We are grateful to the following two alumni and their families for their generous gifts and their interest in supporting UT Law students for generations to come.

The Hagans Family Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law
Established by Fred Hagans, ’72, the Hagans Family Endowed Presidential Scholarship will provide financial support to UT Law students, based on both need and merit. Hagans is a founding partner in the Houston law firm of Hagans Burdine Montgomery Rustay & Winchester. After graduating from UT Law, Hagans began his legal career with the law firm of Bracewell & Patterson (now Bracewell & Giuliani) in Houston. He is board certified in personal injury trial law and in civil trial law and is a member of several organizations of trial attorneys, notably the American Board of Trial Advocates and the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He has served on several committees for the State Bar of Texas and the Houston Bar Association, including the Supreme Court on Professionalism Committee, the Texas Lawyers Creed Committee, the Judiciary Relations Committee, and he has served as a special assistant in the State Bar of Texas Disciplinary Counsel program. Hagans has also served on the Texas Supreme Court Task Force Committee for the revision of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. In addition to serving in these Bar-related activities, Hagans has served as president of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The Joel W. and Elaine S. Westbrook Scholarship in Law
Jay L. Westbrook, ’68, a professor on the UT Law faculty, and his wife, Polly, have established an endowed scholarship in honor of his parents. Joel Westbroook, a member of the UT Law School Class of 1940, was a decorated World War II veteran and a prominent Texas lawyer, first as a prosecutor and later in private practice in both San Antonio and Waco. In making the gift, Professor Westbrook noted that UT has provided an education to four generations of the Westbrook family, including three generations at the Law School. One of the nation’s most distinguished scholars in the field of bankruptcy, Jay Westbrook has been a pioneer in this area in two respects: empirical research and international/comparative studies. Westbrook also teaches and writes in commercial law and international business litigation. He practiced in all these areas for more than a decade with Surrey & Morse (now part of Jones, Day) in Washington, D.C., where he was a partner, before joining the faculty in 1980. He is coauthor of The Law of Debtors and Creditors (Aspen, 4th ed., 2001), As We Forgive Our Debtors: Bankruptcy and Consumer Credit in America (Oxford, 1989), and The Fragile Middle Class (Yale, 2000). He has been a visiting professor at Harvard Law School and at the University of London, and is a member of the American Law Institute, the National Bankruptcy Conference, and the American College of Bankruptcy. He has served as a consultant to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. He was the United States Reporter for the ALI’s Transnational Insolvency Project and co-head of the United States delegation to the U.N. conference on cross-border insolvency (UNCITRAL). He is a director of the International Insolvency Institute and President-elect of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law. He has twice been named the Outstanding Teacher at the Law School.

100% Giving Club

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Haynes and Boone, LLP, Dallas
Haynes and Boone, LLP, Fort Worth
Haynes and Boone, LLP, Houston
Haynes and Boone, LLP, Richardson
Haynes and Boone, LLP, San Antonio
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Jackson Walker, L.L.P., San Antonio
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Susman Godfrey LLP, Houston
Susman Godfrey LLP, Seattle
Vinson & Elkins LLP, Houston
Vinson & Elkins LLP, Austin
Vinson & Elkins LLP, Dallas
Vinson & Elkins LLP, London
Vinson & Elkins LLP, New York
Vinson & Elkins LLP, Washington
Winstead PC, Austin
Keeton Fellows

Marilyn Aboussie, 1974
Barry Abrams, 1978
Derek A. Adame, 1994
John Robert Adamson, 1959
Ruth Kelleher Agather, 1988
William V. Aleshire, 2001
David A. Anderson, 1972
Bolivar C. Andrews, 1961
Ken Andrews, 1964
J. Gaylord Armstrong, 1968
W. Jewel Arrington, 1981
Morris Atlas, 1950
Scott J. Atlas, 1975
Thomas L. Ausley, 1968
Marcia E. Backus, 1983
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Benjamin Bai, 1997
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John T. Baldwin, 1981
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Larry Barbour, 1977
Darrell Barger, 1974
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Nicolas G. Barzoukas, 1992
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Laura H. Beckworth, 1983
Jerry A. Bell Jr., 1977
Stephen A. Best, 1969
Jim Bickham, 1990
Laurie D. Biddle, 1997
Kelly Cox Bilek, 1992
Michael L. Birnbaum, 1967
R. Doak Bishop, 1976
Frederick E. Black, 1986
John S. Black, 1998
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Warlick Thomas, 1957
Clark G. Thompson Jr., 1980
Greg M. Thompson, 1982
J. David Thompson III, 1976
James Thompson, 2001
Terry M. Thomas, 1980
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<td>Phillip T. Way</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<td>Robert S. Weatherall</td>
<td>1957</td>
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* In Memoriam
Professor David Anderson, '71, and Bob Armstrong, '58, at UT Law’s 2008 Reunion celebration.
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2006
Andrew M. Abrameit
Kathleen Evingston Baird

2007
Brian C. Banner
Mary Wommack Barton
Matthew Blackstock

2008
Brooke E. Lierman
1951  
**Judge Tom B. Ramey Jr.** is one of four recipients of this year’s Outstanding Fifty Year Lawyer Award from the Texas Bar Foundation. He was elected Chief Justice of the Twelfth Court of Appeals in 1989, where he served until 2000. Ramey, Jr. is now with Ramey & Flock, where he has a mediation practice. Ramey, Jr. is also a past president of the State Bar of Texas and is a former delegate to the American Bar Association. He is a charter member and Sustaining Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

1954  
**Harold F. Kleinman** received the Outstanding Fifty Year Lawyer Award from the Texas Bar Foundation. Kleinman has spent his entire career at Thompson & Knight LLP, and has been a managing partner for twelve years. He has served as chairman of the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation, the Metropolitan Dallas United Way, and the Methodist Hospital Board. Kleinman has also served as president of the Temple Emanu-El Board and is a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

1955  
**Robert C. Bledsoe** was the recipient of the Outstanding Fifty Year Lawyer Award from the Texas Bar Foundation. A Partner at Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe & Dawson PC, he practices mainly in oil and gas. Bledsoe is president of both the Midland Salvation Army and Casa de Amigos. He is also a member of the Midland United Way Board and is a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

1958  
**Carol S. Vance,** retired senior partner of Bracewell & Giuliani, has received the Outstanding Fifty Year Lawyer Award from the Texas Bar Foundation. During his career, Vance was president of the National District Attorneys Association, chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, and was a member of the State Bar of Texas Penal Code Committee. Vance is also a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

1959  
**Jack M. Little** was named one of *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2009 in the field of corporate law.

1960  
**Richard B. Moore,** a partner at Jackson Walker, has been named one of San Antonio’s “Best Lawyers” by *Scene in SA Monthly* magazine in the August 2008 issue. Moore has been practicing law for more than forty years, concentrating on commercial and residential construction projects, as well as many other aspects of the development of real property.

1956  
**Frank Finn** was named one of *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2009 in the field of personal injury litigation.

1958  
**Seagal V. Wheatley** has been selected as a 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by *Texas Monthly* magazine. Wheatley is a partner in the litigation section of Jackson Walker’s San Antonio office. He has represented major national, regional, and local corporate clients in public and private corporations, and is experienced in corporate litigation.
1961
Ben B. West was named one of *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2009 in the fields of banking law and real estate law.

1962
James L. Branton received the Joe Frazier Brown Award in Excellence, San Antonio Bar Association’s highest award. Branton is a partner at Branton & Hall, PC, and was president of the State Bar of Texas from 1994 to 1995.

George C. Chapman was named one of *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2009 in the fields of bet-the-company litigation and commercial litigation.

1963
P. Mike McCullough was named one of *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2009 in the fields of tax law and trusts and estates.

Buford P. Perry was named one of *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2009 in the field of tax law.

1964
Irwin H. Steinhorn, a senior partner of Conner & Winters, LLP, has begun his twenty-eighth year as an adjunct professor of law at Oklahoma City University School of Law. Steinhorn teaches courses in corporate, securities, agency/partnership, and environmental law and is teaching “Corporations” in the upcoming fall semester. He practices principally in the areas of corporate, securities, and environmental law and currently serves as a member of the executive board of OCU School of Law and is listed in Best Lawyers in America (Corporate Law).

Larry F. York has joined the law firm McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore LLP, in Austin, assuming the title of counsel. York has been a trial lawyer for forty-four years, and joins the firm’s commercial litigation practice.

1965
Marc E. Grossberg was named one of *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2009 in the field of tax law.

Larry Schoenbrun, from Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, has been named a Texas Super Lawyer in the area of mergers and acquisitions by *Texas Monthly* and Law & Politics Media, Inc.

1966
Terry Gardner was awarded the Blackstone Award by the Tarrant County Bar Association. It is given annually to an attorney who, throughout their career, has demonstrated “consistent ability, integrity and courage as a lawyer.”

David R. Noteware was named one of *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2009 in the field of commercial litigation.

1967
Donald W. Griffis, a partner at Jackson Walker in the Dallas office, was named “Civic Leader of the Year” by the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce. He is certified by the State Bar of Texas Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in the fields of personal injury law and civil law, and is also certified as a mediator. Griffis was also selected as a 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by *Texas Monthly* magazine.

Ben H. Welmaker Jr. was named to the *Who’s Who Legal: Texas 2008* list published by Law Business Research Limited in the field of oil and gas litigation.

1968
Byron F. Egan, a partner with Jackson Walker in Dallas, received the 2008 Burton Award for Legal Achievement on June 16 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Egan’s article is entitled “Responsibilities of Officers and Directors under Texas and Delaware Law.” He is principally engaged in a corporate, partnership, securities, mergers and acquisitions and financing practice. Egan has over thirty-five years’ experience in business entity formation and governance matters, mergers and acquisitions, and financing transactions. The entities included corporations, limited liability companies and partnerships, and many had publicly traded securities. Egan was also selected as 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by *Texas Monthly* magazine.

1969
Bennett W. Cervin, of Thompson and Knight LLP in Dallas, has been elected as a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. Cervin is of counsel in his firm’s labor and employment law practice group. He counsels and advises management on avoiding unlawful employment discrimination; handling employment terminations, layoffs, and plant closings; separation-payment programs; affirmative action plans and compliance reviews; employment aspects of mergers and acquisitions; key-executive employment agreements; and labor relations and collective bargaining matters.

J. Mike Holt, a partner in the Dallas office of Thompson & Knight LLP, has been named one of the “Best Lawyers in Dallas” by *D Magazine*.

John A. Mackintosh was named one of *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2009 in the field of commercial litigation.
Rodney Satterwhite was reappointed to the Commission on Uniform State Laws, which studies and recommends which areas of law should be consistent across all fifty states. Satterwhite is an attorney with Stubbeman, McRae, Sealy, Laughlin, and Browder and is a member of the State Bar of Texas, director of the Texas Young Lawyers Association, and is president of the Midland County Young Lawyers Association. He is campaign chairman for the American Cancer Society and director of the United Way, and previously served in the U.S. Army.

1970
Timothy R. Brown was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the fields of banking law and real estate law.

M. Lawrence (Larry) Hicks Jr. was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the fields of banking law and real estate law. He was also named to the Who’s Who Legal: Texas 2008 list published by Law Business Research Limited in the field of real estate.

1971
Stephen M. Block was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of real estate law.

Arthur J. Wright was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the fields of natural resources law and oil and gas law.

1972
Chesley N. Blevins is a new partner in the regulatory and legislative section of the Austin office of Jackson Walker LLP. Blevins’ practice focuses primarily on environmental, regulatory, compliance, and legislative issues for the surface and in-situ mining, energy, and residuals management industries. He practices before the Railroad Commission of Texas and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, as well as other state and federal agencies, including the EPA, COE, MSHA, NRC, and DOE. Blevins is a member of the American Bar Association (Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources); State Bar of Texas (Sections on Oil, Gas and Minerals Law; Environmental and Natural Resources Law; and Administrative and Public Law); and College of the State Bar of Texas. He is a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and is a member of the Air and Waste Management Association, Texas Mining and Reclamation Association, Texas Aggregates and Concrete Association, and Center for Energy and Economic Development. Blevins is counsel to the Board of the Texas Mining and Reclamation Association.

Dallas Parker, a partner of Thompson & Knight’s Corporate and Securities Practice Group and the managing partner of the Houston office, has been elected as an advisory board member of the National Association for Corporate Directors (NACD) in Houston. Parker has also been elected to serve on the board of directors of Odyssey House Texas, Inc. Parker represents clients in corporate and securities law matters and has extensive experience in the areas of mergers, acquisitions, takeovers, proxy contests, public and private offerings of equity and debt securities, corporate governance, independent committees, and related matters. He represents U.S.-based clients wishing to do business around the globe, as well as international clients wishing to conduct business in the U.S.

1973
J. Michael Bell was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of personal injury litigation.

1974
G. Luke Ashley was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the fields of appellate law and personal injury litigation.

Tom Hutcheson, a Houston shareholder and chair of Winstead PC’s Energy and Environmental practice, was elected to serve on the advisory board of the Sam Houston Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Hutcheson has more than thirty-three years of trial and appellate experience representing clients in major cases, with a heavy emphasis on oil, gas, and energy litigation.

1971
Dallas Parker, a partner of Thompson & Knight’s Corporate and Securities Practice Group and the managing partner of the Houston office, has been elected as an advisory board member of the National Association for Corporate Directors (NACD) in Houston. Parker has also been elected to serve on the board of directors of Odyssey House Texas, Inc. Parker represents clients in corporate and securities law matters and has extensive experience in the areas of mergers, acquisitions, takeovers, proxy contests, public and private offerings of equity and debt securities, corporate governance, independent committees, and related matters. He represents U.S.-based clients wishing to do business around the globe, as well as international clients wishing to conduct business in the U.S.

David G. Dunlap has been selected as a 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by Texas Monthly magazine. Dunlap is a partner in the Houston office of Jackson Walker and has been involved in the representation of individuals and business entities and Texas-based, out-of-state, and international financial institutions since 1984. Dunlap has experience in corporate finance transactions including representation of issuers/borrowers and investors/lenders in energy, real estate and general commercial lending transactions, letter of credit facilities, bond financings, commercial paper back-up facilities, equipment and project financings, and private placements of both debt and equity securities.

Stephen F. Fink was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of labor and employment law.

John H. Martin, partner in the trial practice group of Thompson & Knight's Dallas office, was inducted as a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. Martin is widely recognized for his legal work and public speaking on the subjects of catastrophic injury, mass tort, and aviation litigation. He serves as president of DRI-The Voice of the Defense Bar and is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the Center for
American and International Law, Texas Bar Foundation, and Dallas Bar Foundation. He is also a member of the College of the State Bar of Texas and International Association of Defense Counsel and serves on the Board of Directors for Lawyers for Civil Justice and the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence. He has also been named one of the “Best Lawyers in Dallas” by D Magazine.

1975

Scott J. Atlas, a partner in the litigation/regulatory department of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, will receive the 2008 Lola Wright Foundation Award from the Texas Bar Foundation in recognition of outstanding public service in advancing and enhancing legal ethics in Texas. The award was accompanied by a $5000 donation to a charity of Atlas’ choice, which he donated to the Corporate Pro Bono Summit in Houston. Atlas is an ex-officio member of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Advisory Council, long-time pro bono general counsel for the Alley Theatre, executive committee member of the University of Texas Chancellor’s Council and is regional chair-elect of the Anti-Defamation League. He also served on the executive committee of the Cultural Arts Council of Houston and was the founding president of the Houston Shakespeare Festival Board.

1976

Diana Hudson was recently appointed community and alumni relations partner in the Houston Office of Andrews Kurth LLP. Hudson will focus on expanding the firm’s outreach in the community on the local, state, and national levels. While this new position will be her main focus, she will continue her law practice in corporate, securities, and general corporate matters.

Richard “Dick” Law has joined the Houston offices of McLincheys Stafford PLLC in the firm’s healthcare practice group. Law primarily handles multidefendant cases with significant damages, as well as all other types of matters involving allegations of medical negligence.

Price Manford is one of the partners moving to New York as part of the law firm’s plan to emphasize and grow its national and international presence and better serve its clients. Manford has been named by Best Lawyers in America in energy tax law from 2005 to 2008.

James C. Morriss III, a partner in Thompson & Knight’s Austin office and the practice leader of the environmental law practice group, co-published the article “Incentives for Voluntary Cleanup Are Back!” in the May 2008 issue of the Texas Bar Journal. Morriss focuses his practice on environmental permitting, compliance counseling, legislative lobbying, and administrative and judicial litigation before local, state, and federal environmental agencies and state and federal courts. He has extensive experience in counseling clients in environmental risk management, including the design and implementation of environmental auditing programs and environmental management systems, and in the investigation and disclosure of environmental liabilities and contingencies.

Richard Peña was elected president of the American Bar Foundation, and will serve a two-year term. He is past president of the State Bar of Texas and of the Travis County Bar Association, and served as chair of the Texas Bar Foundation. Peña also serves on the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association and has led the Texas delegation to the ABA House of Delegates. He is on the Advisory Board of People to People Ambassador Programs and has led delegations of Texas and U.S. lawyers to China, Tibet, South Africa, Cuba, Vietnam, Cambodia, India, and Russia.

1977

David M. Davis, founding shareholder of Davis & Wilkerson, PC in Austin, has become a member of the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel.

1978

Roger D. Aksamit has joined Thompson & Knight LLP as a partner in the tax practice group. He focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, financing and joint venture transactions, all aspects of transactional tax matters, and planning. Aksamit has been listed in both Chambers USA and The Best Lawyers in America for the past three years, and has been on the Texas Super Lawyer list for the past five.

Talmage Boston, a Dallas shareholder for the law firm of Winstead PC, has agreed to serve on the advisory board of the Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility at Southern Methodist University. Boston has also been elected to the Texas State Bar Board of Directors. He has twenty-nine years of Business litigation experience in Dallas, and his practice involves all aspects of dispute resolution in commercial transactions. During the past ten years, Boston has been a much sought-after speaker at State Bar and Dallas Bar Association litigation seminars, addressing the subjects of electronic evidence, summary judgment practice, “Dos and Don’ts in the Courtroom,” arbitration, and alternative dispute resolution. He has been named a “Texas Super Lawyer” in Texas Monthly magazine every year since that recognition program was started in 2003 based on his twenty-nine years of business litigation experience. Boston has tried jury cases and argued appeals all over Texas in both state and federal courts, and has appeared as counsel of record in twenty published opinions. He’s one of only 100 lawyers in Texas board-certified in both Civil Trial Law and Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Boston also devotes a portion of his practice to serving as a mediator. He was recently named a recipient of a State Bar of Texas Presidential Citation for his exemplary service to the State Bar.

James B. Harris was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of environmental law.

Robert B. Jackson was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of banking law.
Michael P. Pearson has been selected as a 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by Texas Monthly magazine. Pearson is a partner in the Houston office of Jackson Walker and has practiced in the area of energy law since 1978, representing numerous Texas-based, national, and international energy companies and financial institutions.

John W. Rain was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the fields of banking law and energy law.


1979

The Honorable Randy Bullis was promoted to chair of the business department at Career Point Institute.

Debra L. Bruce has been given the “Standing Ovation Award” by the State Bar of Texas, in recognition of her contributions to the Bar’s continuing legal education efforts.

James B. Harris was named to the Who’s Who Legal: Texas 2008 list published by Law Business Research Limited in the field of environmental law.

David M. Robins was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of real estate law.

E. Michael Sheehan was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of commercial litigation.

1980

Jeff O. Bramlett has been elected as the president of the State Bar of Georgia for the term 2008-2009.

Michael L. Kaufman has been selected as a 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by Texas Monthly magazine. Kaufman is a partner in the Dallas office of Jackson Walker and is a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He practices in the areas of estate planning and administrations, and charitable organizations.

1981

C. Wade Cooper has been selected as a 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by Texas Monthly magazine. Cooper is the managing partner of the Austin office of Jackson Walker. He has handled substantial commercial litigation, arbitration and bankruptcy matters in Texas, and in federal and bankruptcy courts in a number of other states.

Patrick Maher has been elected chair of the State Bar of Texas Labor & Employment Law Section for 2008-2009. Maher is a partner with Shannon, Gracey, Ratliff & Miller LLP, in its Fort Worth office specializing in labor and employment law. Maher has been recognized in Best Lawyers in America and as a “Texas Super Lawyer” by the publishers of Texas Monthly.

Paul C. Watler has been selected as a 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by Texas Monthly magazine. Watler is a partner in Jackson Walker’s Dallas office and has been a trial lawyer for over twenty-five years. He focuses his practice on complex commercial and media litigation and was recently named by Texas Lawyer magazine as the “go to” lawyer for media litigation in the state of Texas.

1982

Joseph S. Pevsner was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of product liability litigation.

Jeanne Price became the director of the Law Library and an associate professor of Law at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

1983

Marcia Backus, the co-chair of Vinson & Elkins’ global energy industry practice group, is one of the partners moving to New York as part of the law firm’s plan to emphasize and grow its national and international presence and better serve its clients. Backus has been named by Best Lawyers in America and Chambers USA as one of the leading business lawyers in energy, oil and gas, mergers and acquisitions, and private equity.

David Cohen is one of the Vinson & Elkins partners moving to New York as part of the law firm’s plan to emphasize and grow its national and international presence and better serve its clients. Cohen focuses his practice on private equity, mergers and acquisitions, and joint ventures. Chambers USA named him one of America’s leading energy business lawyers 2005-2007.

1984

Walter A. Herring accepted a position with Powell Goldstein’s Dallas office as a partner in the firm’s litigation services group. Herring’s practice primarily focuses on business litigation, particularly real estate and commercial mortgage-backed securities litigation and related issues. In addition, he regularly represents health-care clients in litigation involving general professional liability defense and peer-review matters.

Ken Klein is joining his wife Lisa Black, ’85, as a professor at California Western School of Law, where he will teach Civil Procedure and Evidence. Klein was also presented the President’s Award for Pro Bono Legal Services by the State Bar of California for his work on behalf of Californians impacted by the 2007 wildfires.

Steven R. Martens has been selected as a 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by Texas Monthly magazine. Martens is a partner in Jackson Walker’s Austin office and regularly represents financial institutions involved in commercial real estate, construction, and land development financing transactions.
Alfred M. Meyerson was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of real estate law.

David T. Moran has been selected as a 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by Texas Monthly magazine. Moran is a partner in the Dallas office of Jackson Walker and has more than twenty-two years of experience representing clients in commercial, business, and tort litigation and has represented clients in business, tort, aviation, class action, defamation, insurance, intellectual property, and other litigation matters.

1985

Craig A. Haynes was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the fields of commercial litigation and oil and gas law.

Timothy C. Taylor has been selected as a 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by Texas Monthly magazine. Taylor is a partner in Jackson Walker in the Austin office, and focuses his practice primarily on real estate and lending transactions, as well as representing buyers and sellers in all types of real estate transactions.

Jeffrey A. Zlotky, a partner in the Dallas office of Thompson & Knight LLP, was named one of the “Best Lawyers in Dallas” by D Magazine.

1986

David M. Bennett was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the fields of bankruptcy and creditor-debtor rights law.

Fred Burns has opened the law office of Fred Burns, PC, in Dallas, Texas, for the practice of criminal defense.

David S. Curcio has joined the Houston office of Jackson Walker as a senior counsel. He has over twenty years experience in commercial litigation and is currently the secretary-treasurer of the Justinian Society of Houston Lawyers, Inc., a local non-profit for lawyers interested in Italian-American culture.

William S. Dahlstrom, a partner at Jackson Walker in the Dallas office, was named one of the “Best Lawyers in Dallas” by D Magazine, and was selected as a 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by Texas Monthly magazine. Dahlstrom focuses his practice on all areas of land use. He is on the board of directors for the Connemara Conservation Foundation.

Timothy L. La Frey has been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation.

William H. Hornberger, a partner at Jackson Walker in the Dallas office, was selected as one of the “Best Lawyers in Dallas 2008” by D Magazine. Hornberger practices in the tax and international sections of Jackson Walker. He is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Stephen C. Rasch was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of commercial litigation.

Rob Snyder, of Stream Energy, has been named Entrepreneur of the Year for the Southwest Region in the Services category and was recognized at an awards banquet on June 28th, 2008 in Dallas. The Entrepreneur of the Year program was created by Ernst & Young to recognize pioneers and innovators who excel at growing and sustaining market-leading businesses.

1987

Michael R. Berry was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the fields of personal injury litigation and product liability litigation.

Michael J. Byrd has been elected to the board of directors of Odyssey House Texas, Inc. Byrd is a partner in Thompson & Knight's oil and gas practice group in Houston. He represents clients in all phases and sizes of acquisitions and divestitures of producing properties and oil and gas companies.

Greg Holloway, a partner in Thompson & Knight's corporate and securities practice group in Austin, has been elected as an advisory board member of the National Association for Corporate Directors in Austin. Holloway focuses his practice on structuring and negotiating mergers and other securities and asset-based transactions in the energy, technology, food and restaurant, retail, and manufacturing industries.

Travis J. Sales, a litigation partner in the Houston office of Baker Botts LLP, is the new president of the Houston Bar Association. Sales has served on the HBA board of directors since 2002, holding the offices of president-elect, second vice president, secretary, treasurer, and director. He served as chair of the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program and as president of the Houston Lawyer Referral Service, also is a past chair of the HBA Campaign for the Homeless Committee, the Continuing Legal Education Committee, the Interprofessional Drug Education Alliance and the Spring Family Event Committee, and he was co-chair of the Administration of Justice Committee. He is also a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel and the Defense Research Institute. Sales also served on the editorial board of the Texas Bar Journal and has been named a “Texas Super Lawyer” by Texas Monthly, and Law and Politics. His practice concentrates on products liability, pharmaceutical defense, commercial law, and insurance litigation.

1988

John R. Cohn was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of tax law.
Clyde A. Pine Jr., a shareholder with the Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan law firm, received the 2007-2008 Outstanding Lawyer Award at the Law Day Awards Banquet held by the El Paso Bar Association and the El Paso Young Lawyers Association. He has also been recognized in Texas Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America.

Kathy L. Poppitt was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of health care law.

Jay K. Rutherford has been selected as a 2008 “Texas Super Lawyer” by Texas Monthly magazine. Rutherford is a partner in the Fort Worth office of Jackson Walker and is board certified in labor and employment law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. His practice consists primarily of representing management in labor, employment discrimination, wrongful termination, sexual harassment, and civil rights litigation.

1989
Shane Read’s book Winning at Trial, published by The National Institute for Trial Advocacy, received the Award for Professional Excellence given by The International Association for Continuing Legal Education. The book covers every aspect of trying a case with a great amount of detail for each specific topic, and it includes two DVDs of actual trial footage, as well as footage of a focus group deliberating a civil trial. Read has been with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Dallas since 1998, as well as serving as an adjunct professor at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.

1990
Hunter E. Webb has been named a member of the firm Hoffman Warnick LLC in Albany, New York. Webb’s practice primarily focuses on patent prosecution and protection and intellectual property counseling to small and midsize companies. His particular emphasis is with complex electrical, computer, and software inventions.

1991
Katy Bacal was recently appointed as a Judge of the San Diego Superior Court by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Thomas S. Biemer, partner and executive committee member of Dilworth Paxson in Philadelphia, recently served as a moderator at the “Patent Law Symposium For Financial Institutions.” Biemer has also been selected by his peers as one of the “Super Lawyers” in the 2008 Corporate Counsel Edition.

William T. Heller IV was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2009 in the field of corporate law.

Geoffrey Petrov has joined the firm of Nossaman Guthner Knox & Elliott LLP as an associate in their Austin office. Petrov has spent the majority of his career in public service and has nearly twenty years of experience in environmental law and infrastructure development.

1992
Jennifer A. Powell joined the firm of Schwartz & Eichelbaum Wardell Mehl and Hansen as counsel at their Austin Office. Powell plans to continue to counsel and defend school districts, other governmental entities, and private businesses in matters involving labor and employment, constitutional, and civil rights issues.

1993
Christine Hurt and husband Paul Stancil welcomed William Lincoln Stancil on September 20, 2007. Will joins big sister Carter and big brother Luke. In Spring 2008, Ms. Hurt was awarded indefinite tenure and promoted to Professor of Law at the University of Illinois College of Law, where she teaches corporate law and torts.

1994
Stewart Hoffer has merged his commercial litigation and labor and employment law practice with the Houston office of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr PC.

1996
David Bearden has become the vice president and general counsel for Poet, an ethanol producer. Bearden previously worked for the United States Department of Defense in Washington, D.C. where he served in the Bush Administration as principal deputy general counsel of the Navy. As Poet’s Chief Legal Officer, Bearden oversees the Poet legal team of in-house and outside counsel in the provision of legal services to the company.

Anthony J. Campiti, a labor and employment law attorney with Thompson & Knight, co-wrote the article “Government Reforms Seek to Discourage Unauthorized Employment” that was published in the April 1, 2008, issue of Dallas Bar Association Headnotes.

Angela Hights is now the chief attorney for the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Southern Division, Dallas office.

Gayle Rosenstein Klein is joining McKool Smith, PC, as part of its expansion to New York offices. Klein represents clients with cutting-edge legal issues such as class actions, trade secrets in high-tech and commercial business settings, and false advertising relating to consumer products. She has also represented major healthcare providers and other large businesses in breach of contract proceedings, and ERISA and breach of fiduciary duty litigation.

Marcus Lopez, a partner in the business transactions section of Jackson Walker LLP in San Antonio, was named a Texas Monthly Rising Star for 2008.
1997

**Alexander B. Berger** has become the assistant general counsel at the Octagon.

**Stephen Coats** has joined Riverstone Holdings LLC as general counsel.

**John B. Connally** is one of the Vinson & Elkins partners moving to New York as part of the law firm’s plan to emphasize and grow its national and international presence and better serve its clients. Connally was named by *Best Lawyers in America* for his work in energy law and mergers and transactions in 2008.

**Sandra J. Creta** was selected to receive the Guardianship Attorney of the Year Award from the Volunteer Lawyers Program recognizing her pro bono service.

**Jay Ray** has joined the Dallas office of Glast, Phillips & Murray, PC.

1998

**Paul Gaytan** has formed the firm Pena & Gaytan in Edinburg, which specializes in medical malpractice and personal injury.

**Andrea Hyatt**, a labor and employment law attorney with Thompson & Knight, co-wrote the article “Government Reforms Seek to Discourage Unauthorized Employment” that was published in the April 1, 2008 issue of *Dallas Bar Association Headnotes*.

**Mark A. Murphy** has joined Merchant & Gould’s Atlanta office, where he is doing primarily pharmaceutical patent law, including opinions, patent prosecution, and some litigation.

1999

**Alison Gardner** has joined Stahl, Bernal & Davies, LLP, in Austin as an associate. Gardner practices in the firm’s commercial real estate transaction, land development, and entitlement areas. Her experience includes acquisition and sales transactions, lending transactions, leasing, condominium and homeowner’s association formation, permitting, zoning, subdivision, and site plan development. Gardner is also involved with the Firm’s wind development activities.

**Brad Knippa**, a partner in the business transactions (corporate and securities), real estate, and tax sections of Jackson Walker LLP in Austin, was named one of *Texas Monthly’s* Rising Stars for 2008.

**Stephanie Perin Slobin** has taken a counsel position in the Exxon Mobil Corporation labor & employment law department.

2000

**Erin Dickinson** has been elected partner at the law firm of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP. As a member of the firm’s litigation practice group, she has handled cases on matters such as healthcare litigation and medical malpractice defense, products liability, pharmaceutical and medical device litigation, general commercial, intellectual property, and toxic tort litigation.

**Karen Monsen**, a partner in the litigation section of Jackson Walker LLP in San Antonio, was named a *Texas Monthly* Rising Star for 2008.

**Scott Wheatley**, a partner in the litigation section of Jackson Walker LLP in Dallas, was named a *Texas Monthly* Rising Star for 2008.

**Tyler Rudd** has joined Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker in London as an associate in global projects department. Rudd’s practice focuses on energy projects and infrastructure projects, mainly PPP-based projects, and he continues to practice asset finance with a focus on aircraft and ship finance.

**Marcello Tamez**, a partner in the business transactions section of Jackson Walker LLP in San Antonio, was named a *Texas Monthly* Rising Star for 2008.

2001

**Christine Cushman** has joined Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP in its Philadelphia office. She will practice as a member of the firm’s tax and wealth management department, tax and business planning group, and the trusts and estates practice group.

**Jay D. Ellwanger** was recently involved in achieving the largest settlement in the history of the Dallas office of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Ellwanger, along with others, recovered $1.885 million on behalf of a group of fuel service employees at DFW Airport who were the targets of pervasive racial harassment. Additionally, the defendant company will be required to pay for racial sensitivity training for all of its 3,000+ employees nationally for the next three years. The settlement garnered global media coverage, including feature articles in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Dallas Morning News*.


**Victoria L. Wicken** has recently joined the Austin firm of McKool Smith, PC, as an associate. Wicken has experience handling complex commercial litigation for a variety of companies, including work in the pharmaceutical and banking industries. She previously worked as a judge advocate for the United States Army, where she handled...
cases under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, advised officials on legal matters and issued legal opinions on a diverse range of legal topics.

2002

Luke Ellis, an associate in the litigation section of Jackson Walker LLP in Austin, was named a Texas Monthly Rising Star for 2008.

Brian Harris, an associate in the business transactions section of Jackson Walker LLP in Houston, was named a Texas Monthly Rising Star for 2008.

Rick Kear became a partner at Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock & Kennedy, Chtd. in Andover, Kansas.

Desiree Killen, an associate in the litigation and appellate sections of Jackson Walker LLP in Houston, was named a Texas Monthly Rising Star for 2008.

Kerry O’Brien recently formed O’Brien Law, PC, in Austin, a firm which specializes in workers’ compensation, employment, and labor law.

Toni L. Ross has joined the firm of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP in Atlanta as an associate.

2005

Ramzi R. Khazen has recently joined the Austin firm of McKool Smith, PC, as an associate. Khazen’s practice focuses on intellectual property litigation and counseling, particularly in patent matters involving electrical, computer, and medical device technologies. He has represented major clients in patent cases in the International Trade Commission as well as various United States District Courts and is licensed to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Seth H. Kretzer has been elected a Fellow of the Texas Bar Association.

Jay L. Krystinik has accepted a position with Powell Goldstein’s Dallas office as an associate in the firm’s litigation services group. Krystinik’s litigation practice focuses on general litigation matters, including real estate, environmental, and employment litigation as well as bankruptcy matters.

Adam J. Peters transferred from the San Francisco, California, office of Littler Mendelson, PC, to the offices in Dallas, Texas. Peters specializes in the firm’s exclusive practice areas of employer-side employment and traditional labor law.

Ashley T. K. Phillips has joined the Austin office of Thompson & Knight LLP in its environmental practice group.

Jennifer L. Herbert has joined the law firm of Boyar & Miller as an associate in the firm’s litigation group.

Luke Nelson has joined the firm of McGlnchey Stafford as an associate in the firm’s Baton Rouge office, where he practices in the commercial litigation section.

2006

Meghan Barron has been recognized by BisNow as one of the top thirty lawyers under thirty in Washington, D.C.

Audra Gonzalez Welter has joined the Jackson Walker LLP law firm in Houston as an associate in the litigation section.

2007

William P. Lepak recently joined Thompson & Knight’s tax practice group in the Dallas office as an associate. Lepak focuses his practice on taxation matters.

2008

Chris Murphy is joining Winstead PC as an associate attorney in the firm’s corporate, securities/mergers, and acquisitions practice group.
Beatrice Blackman Hightower, ’40, died on April 19, 2008, at the age of ninety-one.

Baine P. Kerr, ’42, died on May 20, 2008, at the age of eighty-eight.

The Honorable Herbert Lingo Platter Jr. ’42, died on July 2, 2008, at the age of eighty-eight. He suspended his education in order to serve in the Pacific theater during World War II. After graduation, he joined Schlumberger’s legal department where he remained for twenty years, rising to become the company’s corporate secretary. Platter then left Schlumberger to enter private law practice with the firm of Pritchard, Platter and Allen until his selection as one of the nation’s first United States Magistrate Judges. He served in that capacity in the Southern District of Texas for twenty years.

George Fullen Rudy, ’47, died on April 25, 2008, at the age of eighty-eight. After graduating from the Law School and passing the Texas State Bar Exam, Rudy returned to Tyler, where he was employed as assistant prosecuting attorney with Smith County. In 1951 he was hired by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas as assistant legal counsel, and was appointed to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System as special counsel for one year in 1955. Rudy chaired or served on ten or more Federal Reserve Committees seeking solutions for banks conducting business for the Reserve Banks.


Edwin Pierce Lea, ’48, died on March 30, 2008, at the age of eighty-five. Lea practiced law in Houston for fifty years, with an emphasis on wills and probate law.

Lawrence E. Scott, ’48, died on May 3, 2008, at the age of eighty-seven. After serving his country, Scott was admitted to the bar in 1948 and later licensed to practice before the Supreme Court. He was a life member of the Texas Exes Association and a member of the Texas and American Bar Associations, the Austin Club, and the Pepperdine Associates.

Charles P. Storey, ’48, died on July 14, 2008.


Robert S. Crawford Jr. ’49, died on February 15, 2008, at the age of eighty-seven. Crawford practiced law in the state of Texas for fifty-three years. He served as District Attorney of the 38th Judicial District of Texas that included Uvalde, Medina, Real, and Zavala counties from 1957–1971. Crawford then returned to private practice in Uvalde with the law firm of Crawford, Crawford, & Hughes. He served as legal counsel for the Medina Electric Cooperative for over thirty years. Crawford was an active member of the Uvalde Bar Association, Border Bar Association, and the Texas State Bar Association throughout his legal career.


James P. Lee, ’50, died on May 13, 2008, at the age of eighty-two. Lee practiced law with Baker & Botts LLP for his entire career beginning in 1950 and was named a partner in 1963. Originally in the oil and gas section of the firm, he later specialized in real estate law. Lee always took particular interest in advancing the careers of young interns and associate lawyers with the firm.
Marvin Sherk Sloman, ’50, died on July 20, 2008, at the age of eighty-three. An original founding partner of his law firm, Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, LLP, he represented clients both big and small in business transactions as well as numerous courtroom battles. During his fifty-eight year career he argued many cases, but was particularly proud of his two appearances before the United States Supreme Court, both of which he won. He served as the first president of the Fifth Circuit Bar Association, and was also chairman of the corporation, banking, and business law section, and, later, the appellate practice and advocacy section of the State Bar of Texas. He was also a long-time member of the American Law Institute.

Stayton M. Bonner, ’51, died on May 29, 2008, at the age of eighty.

Sam H. Burris, ’51, died on June 3, 2008, at the age of eighty-three. Over the course of his law career Burris served as county attorney for Jim Wells County, assistant attorney general for the State of Texas, and district attorney for the 79th Judicial District of Texas. His work in these offices encompassed some of the state’s most remarkable cases. Burris was an able attorney and a vital member of the South Texas legal community.

Eldon L. Catt, ’51, died on June 30, 2008, at the age of eighty-four.

The Honorable Joe B. Cunningham, ’51, died on January 30, 2008, at the age of seventy-nine. After graduation from the Law School, Judge Cunningham joined the Air Force and, as a lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General’s division (JAG), was sent to Korea for a year and discharged as a captain. In 1953, he returned home to accept a position as a briefing attorney for three judges on the Texas Supreme Court in Austin. In 1954, Cunningham joined the law firm that later became Hudson, Keltner, Smith and Cunningham in Fort Worth, where he practiced civil trial law for thirty years. In 1983, he was appointed to the newly-created 342nd District Court and served there until 1992. Judge Cunningham helped streamline the jury system at the courthouse. From 1993 until his retirement, he focused his talents on dispute resolution. Judge Cunningham was president of the Tarrant County Young Lawyers’ Association and the Tarrant County Bar Association and chairman of the board of Texas Young Lawyers’ Association. He was a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and an advocate with the American Board of Trial Advocates. Judge Cunningham also served on the Supreme Court of Texas Advisory Committee on Rules. He was elected to the Fort Worth City Council in 1973, serving two terms until 1977.

James C. House, ’51, died on June 23, 2008, at the age of eighty-one. After serving his country, House practiced law in Carrizo Springs for a few years, and then worked for the Social Security Administration in San Antonio, Lufkin, and El Paso. He then worked for the Veteran’s Administration Regional Office in Lubbock and Waco before retiring in 1983 after thirty years of government service.

Mert H. Starnes, ’51, died on July 9, 2008.

Robert L. Woodward, ’52, died on June 16, 2008, at the age of eighty-three. Woodward specialized in oil and gas law and worked in this area of practice until the late 1960s, when he accepted a position at a law firm in Fairbanks.

John R. Foster, ’55, died on May 9, 2008, at the age of seventy-seven. After serving his country, Foster entered private law practice in 1958 in Del Rio and had a long and rewarding career with Lowery, Foster, and Hodge. In addition to his private practice, he served as the City Attorney, County Attorney, and a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, where he received the Judge Sam Williamson Award for services rendered to state and local bar associations. Foster served as past president of the Val Verde County Bar Association, past president of the Border District Bar Association, and a board member of the State Bar of Texas from 1989 to 1992.

H. G. Bennett Jr. ’57, died on March 14, 2008, at the age of seventy-nine. Bennett retired as senior trust officer from the Bank of Virginia and then served for fifteen years as Chapter 7 Bankruptcy trustee for the Western District Bankruptcy Court. He was a member of the Virginia State Bar.

James F. Gruben, ’57, died on July 9, 2008.


James E. White, ’57, died on March 31, 2008, at the age of seventy-five. White was admitted to the Texas State Bar in 1957 and achieved the second highest score on the bar exam that year. After working for a brief time as an assistant district attorney for Dallas County, he spent forty years as a lawyer for the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor. From 1978 until his retirement in 1998, White was the regional solicitor for Federal Region 6—Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, and Arkansas. During those twenty years, he was the principal lawyer for the Department of Labor in this region.

Odell L. McBrayer, ’58, died on March 18, 2008, at the age of seventy-seven.

Theodore P. Busch, ’59, died on June 25, 2008, at the age of seventy-five.

Noel James Kuester, ’60, died on June 6, 2008, at the age of seventy-four. Kuester practiced law in Houston for many years.

Philip A. Nelson Jr. ’61, died on April 25, 2008, at the age of seventy-four. Nelson worked as an assistant attorney general, and then went into private law practice in Austin. He retired after many years of service as the first assistant district attorney for Travis County.

Terrence G. Kendall, ’62, died on July 12, 2008.

S. Ancial Middlebrook, ’62, died on May 23, 2008, at the age of sixty-nine. Middlebrook was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1962 and was a practicing attorney in San Angelo and the surrounding area. He was also a founding member of the Concho Valley Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.
In Memoriam

Louis Francis Mathis, ’64, died on January 22, 2008, at the age of seventy-two.

Richard Handorf, ’66, died on March 27, 2008, at the age of seventy-six. Handorf served as Anderson County attorney from 1967–1973, and then as district attorney from 1973–1990. He then became an assistant district attorney in Henderson County until his retirement in 1995.

Paul E. Stallings, ’66, died on June 19, 2008, at the age of sixty-nine. In 1966, after graduating from the Law School, Stallings joined the Houston firm of Vinson, Elkins, Sears, Connally & Smith. He was later to become a partner at Vinson & Elkins in 1972, and served in the firm for the next forty years. During this time Stallings became an accomplished trial lawyer. He was named to lead the Vinson & Elkins tort litigation section early in his career. Stallings was honored by membership in the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates. He served as Vinson & Elkins’ legal advisor, the role of a “lawyer’s lawyer,” and served on the firm’s Management Committee for two decades, helping to guide the firm’s growth and stature. In 1996, Stallings received the Anti-Defamation League’s Jurisprudence Award, recognizing his dedication to professional ethics and his community.


The Honorable David T. Stitt, ’69, died on May 10, 2008, at the age of sixty-five. After graduating from the Law School, Judge Stitt moved to Washington, where he worked first in the corporation counsel’s office, then as an assistant U.S. attorney. He became an assistant county attorney in Fairfax, Virginia, in 1975, was appointed county attorney in 1980 and left that job for private practice in 1991. Judge Stitt, a well-known figure in legal circles, served as president of the Fairfax Bar Association for a year in the 1980s and as a Circuit Court judge for almost thirteen years. He was a regular at state and local bar association functions, and also spoke regularly to law school classes about the need for civility and professionalism in the courtroom.

Phoebe L. Corry, ’70, died on June 14, 2008, at the age of sixty-three. Corry was an assistant district attorney in Travis County, and later practiced criminal and family law in Houston. In 1988, she began her own firm in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, specializing in elder law, managing the affairs of thousands of elderly, infirm, or disadvantaged individuals.

Michael Eugene Gammon, ’70, died on April 21, 2008, at the age of sixty-three.

David Anthony Wills, ’71, died on July 20, 2008.

Christopher A. Colvert, ’73, died on June 21, 2008, at the age of sixty. Colvert was a prominent Houston attorney. He began his career in law with the Houston firm of Liddell, Sapp, Zivley & Brown (now Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell). After discovering his entrepreneurial spirit, Colvert founded his own firm. While practicing law, he instructed many interns and students in the University of Houston law school paralegal certification program. Colvert was also invited to make presentations at various community law school days throughout Greater Houston.

Roy J. Henderson, ’73, died on March 15, 2008, at the age of sixty-three.

Gray B. Jolink, ’74, died on June 23, 2008, at the age of sixty-one. Jolink spent the last thirty years practicing bankruptcy law in Austin. His passion for the law lay in his desire to help others, and Jolink saw his bankruptcy practice as a means to help those who struggled financially to get back on their feet.


Patrecia Imajean Gray, ’80, died on July 22, 2008, at the age of seventy-one. After graduation, she joined the firm of Louis Dayne Miller, P.C., in Graham Texas, where she was the first female attorney in the history of Young County. After forming her solo practice in Graham, she became county attorney, again the first female to hold this position. From 1992–1994 she again operated a solo practice, after which she was hired by the Texas Department of Public Safety to assist in the development and implementation of the Administrative License Revocation Program. After the program went into effect in January 1995, she was assigned to the Midland regional office of DPS where she supervised five attorneys in the west seventy counties of the state. She retired in 2003 in order to spend more time with her children.

David S. Yastishock, ’83, died on May 5, 2008, at the age of fifty-five. Yastishock served in the United States Air Force as an intelligence officer and attorney until his retirement in the grade of lieutenant colonel. He was working as a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigations at the time of his death.

Keith P. Jones, ’85, died on June 28, 2008.

James Michael O’Donnell, ’91, died on March 23, 2008, at the age of forty-two. Prior to entering private practice, O’Donnell was an associate city attorney for the City of Houston and an assistant district attorney for Harris County.

Virginia “Ginna” J. Bekassy, ’92, died on July 4, 2008, at the age of sixty-seven. After graduation, she attended and graduated as a salutatorian from the Culinary School in Austin, becoming a chef for private parties.

Robert Barnstone, ’93, died on June 22, 2008, at the age of sixty-one. Barnstone served on the Austin City Council from 1988–1991. He spent his career improving Austin living and seeking out projects that would bring people back to the inner core of Austin and help stop the sprawl on the city’s fringes.
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Research Scholar, and Faculty Fellow, Center for
the Study of Law, Science & Technology at the
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January 29–31, 2009
Constitutional Design Symposium
cosponsored by the School of Law, the Texas Law Review, and the LBJ Library

January 22–23, 2009
The Rise of Appellate Litigators and State Solicitors General
sponsored by The Review of Litigation

January 22–23, 2009
2009 Oil Gas & Energy Law Symposium
sponsored by the Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law

February 6, 2009
10th Annual Intellectual Property Symposium
sponsored by the Texas Intellectual Property Law Journal

February 27, 2009
China's Emergence: Effects on Trade, Investment, and Regulation
sponsored by the Texas International Law Journal