AROUND THE LAW SCHOOL

Welcome, Class of 2019!

This fall, Texas Law welcomed the 295 members of the Class of 2019. With their median LSAT score of 167 and a median GPA of 3.7, this new group of 1Ls is one of the best-credentialed classes we’ve ever had. Among their number are novelists, world-class musicians and athletes, business owners, and even a climbing enthusiast who has summited Kilimanjaro. A class of Texas Law students is typically an eclectic and accomplished bunch, and the Class of 2019 is no exception.

Meet Our New Faculty

A faculty that has boasted legal legends such as W. Page Keeton and Charles Alan Wright, as well as current heavyweights Sanford Levinson, Ernest Smith, and Mechele Dickerson, welcomes Steve Vladeck and Melissa Wasserman—two rising stars who promise to rival the heights of their most distinguished colleagues—and Owen Anderson, already the most admired expert in oil and gas law not named Ernest Smith! Prof. Vladeck is an expert in national security matters, and Prof. Wasserman is an intellectual property specialist.

In 2015-16, You Did It Again!

In 2015, you came together and raised our alumni giving percentage to 18 percent, setting a new Texas Law record for alumni participation. In 2016, you did it again, participating in huge numbers. Leading the way was the Class of 2016, who participated at a rate of more than 50 percent, with half of those making five-year pledges. Every gift, no matter the size, is important, providing much-needed support and sending the message to potential students and donors that alumni value their Texas Law degrees. Please join us in continuing to grow our participation rate!

GIVE TO TEXAS LAW

ALUMNI NOTES

Cisselon Nichols Hurd ’91 Named Corporate Counsel of the Year

Cisselon Nichols Hurd ’91 was honored last month with the 2016 Corporate Counsel of the Year Award by the Texas Minority Counsel Program of the State Bar of Texas. The Award recognizes “a corporate counsel who has done the most to open doors for Texas minority, women, and LGBT attorneys by promoting diversity within its department and/or company and by consistently hiring minority, women, and/or LGBT attorneys in private practice to perform legal work on behalf of its company.”

Magnificent Seven Honored at Alumni Awards

The Alumni Association bestowed its annual awards at a gala dinner at the Four Seasons in September. Seven exceptional alumni were honored for their contributions to Texas Law and the legal profession.

The Hon. Kay Bailey Hutchison ’67 received the Lifetime Achievement Award; Patton Lochridge ’76 was named Outstanding Alumnus; the Hon. David Briones ’71 was recognized as the Distinguished Alumnus for Community Service; and, Scott Keller ’07 was named Outstanding Young Alumnus. In addition to these honors, Dean Ward Farnsworth presented Beverly Reeves ’88 with the Honorary Order of the Coif, and Del Williams ’85 with a Dean’s Distinguished Service Award. Finally, the first-ever Mentor of the Year was named, with the honor going to Lisa Anderson ’88.
Jordan Steiker Publishes Major New Work

Professor Jordan Steiker and his sister, Harvard Law Professor Carol Steiker, have a new book, Courting Death: The Supreme Court and Capital Punishment. Much praise has rightly been lavished on the just-published work. New Yorker essayist Lincoln Caplan, in profiling the Steikers for Harvard Magazine, calls it, “the most important book about the death penalty in the United States—not only within the past generation but, arguably, ever—because of its potential to change how the country thinks about capital punishment.”

New Susman Godfrey Atrium Unveiled

Thanks to an extraordinarily generous gift from the law school’s friends at Susman Godfrey, the Susman Godfrey Atrium was the beneficiary of major makeover this past summer. Once affectionately described by students as “capturing perfectly the essence of the 1970s,” the Atrium now features a glorious terrazzo floor, newly exposed original exterior walls from Townes Hall, and new seating and study areas for students. And that’s just Phase I. Phase II will see the installation of a new ceiling, new lighting, and new furniture and art.

ALUMNI NOTES (CONT’D)

Jack Balagia ’76, Linda Addison ’76 Step Down

Two Texas Law legends are stepping aside from their high-profile roles this year. Jack Balagia is retiring as general counsel for Exxon Mobil, after 18 years of service, the last six in that role. The recipient of the Alumni Association’s 2014 Outstanding Alumnus Award will be kept plenty busy as vice chair of the Law School Foundation. Linda Addison, meanwhile, is stepping aside from her role as US Managing Partner for Norton Rose Fulbright. Also a trustee of the Law School Foundation, Addison was the 2008 Outstanding Alumnus Award honoree, and a recipient of the Texas Exes’ 2013 Distinguished Alumna Award.

David Beck ’65 Recognized as a Good Apple

Texas Appleseed presented its annual “Good Apple” award to David Beck ’65, recognizing the Beck Redden founder as “not only as one of the best trial lawyers in the country, but as someone who does just as much outside of the courtroom—his efforts make our community better, advance educational opportunities for young people, and strengthen Texas’ legal profession.” A former Law School Foundation president and a current Regent of the University of Texas system, Beck joins other Texas Law giants as a Good Apple winner, including Joe Jamail, Bill Powers, and Richard Mithoff, among others.

SAVE THE DATE

TEXAS LAW ALUMNI REUNION 2017
WITH RECKLESS KELLY
FRI-SAT, MAY 5-6