AROUND THE LAW SCHOOL

Steve Goode Wins Civitatis Award

“Prof. Steve Goode was honored with the University’s 2016 Civitatis Award, the highest distinction made by the university to recognize outstanding citizenship,” said Dean Ward Farnsworth. “And he is one of the finest citizens in our community—a colleague of impeccable judgment. There can never be a more deserving recipient of this award.” Prof. Goode’s reaction to the announcement was modest but heartfelt: “The University has been my home for nearly forty years, and I am deeply touched to be recognized in this way. I thank President Fenves and the Faculty Council Executive Committee.”

National Security Community’s Eyes on Texas Law

The eyes of the national and international cybersecurity communities were on Texas Law on February 7. On that day, we hosted a conference marking the publication of the “Tallinn Manual 2.0 on the International Law Applicable to Cyber Operations.” The event was a partnership between UT’s Robert Strauss Center for International Security and Law, directed by the law school’s own Prof. Bobby Chesney, and West Point’s Lieber Institute for Law & Land Warfare, where the faculty lead is Professor Michael Schmitt ’84, as well as the Texas Law Review. With international hacking and surveillance dominating the headlines, the event could not have been more timely.

More national attention came when The New York Times Magazine ran an in-depth profile of the Lawfare blog, co-founded by Prof. Chesney. Profs. Steve Vladeck and Philip Bobbitt are also contributors, and Vladeck is an Editor-in-Chief at a rival blog, Just Security, that is also discussed in the article. In addition, Chesney and Vladeck have begun the National Security Law podcast. Check it out here.

Texas Law Tops New Rankings

Texas Law has been the beneficiary of flattering stories and new rankings in the past several months. In the annual U.S. News & World Report law school rankings, Texas Law moved up one spot, to #14. Of course, our goal is to be #1 in everything that matters, and we have that covered, too. For starters, U.S. News issued another ranking, for return on investment. According to that report, Texas Law graduates have the best salary-to-debt ratio in the country. Yet more recognition of the great value offered by a Texas Law degree came from The New York Times: “(Texas Law is) grouped with Harvard, Yale and Stanford among the top schools that offered their graduates good value for the substantial debt they incurred while law students.” Finally, the outlet LawdragonCampus visited every law school in America in 2016 and concluded that “Texas Law is tops for us. It’s at the forefront of the student-centric flip in legal education, and it’s #1 in a state that mightily matters, and which it dominates.”

Debra Lehrmann ’82 Will Address Sunflower Ceremony

Debra Lehrmann ’82 will give the commencement address at the 2017 Sunflower Ceremony on Saturday, May 20. Justice Lehrmann has served on the Supreme Court of Texas since 2010; before that, she served as a family law trial judge for 23 years. Prior to her judicial service, Justice Lehrmann practiced law in Fort Worth. She has been married to Greg Lehrmann ’82 for thirty-two years. They have two sons, Gregory Alan, a law student at Pepperdine University, and Jonathan William, who will be graduating from Texas Law this May. Announcing Justice Lehrmann’s selection as commencement speaker, Dean Ward Farnsworth noted, “Justice Debra Lehrmann has been an outstanding jurist for nearly 30 years, and is one of the great Justices of her generation on the Texas Supreme Court. She is also one of the leading lawyers in the state in the field of family law. We are deeply proud to be able to call her one of our own, and very excited to welcome her back for the 2017 Sunflower Ceremony.”

Please support Texas Law and help us increase our Participation Rate!

Thanks to your help, Texas Law was able to reach its goal of 18% participation in Annual Giving! Any gift, no matter the size, counts towards Texas Law’s participation percentage. While Texas Law’s participation rate has improved substantially in recent years, we are still behind our peer schools, which average around 30%. Our goal this next fiscal year is to reach 20% by August 31, 2017. We have less than five months to get there, so we still need your help. You have been very generous, and we hope that you will continue to annually support the Law School.

Give to Texas Law
ALUMNI NOTES

Myra McDaniel ’75
Honored With Virgil C. Lott Medal
In 2011, the University of Texas School of Law established the Virgil C. Lott Medal to honor our first African American graduate. This year, the award was bestowed upon Myra McDaniel, who served as Texas’ first African American Secretary of State. Mrs. McDaniel, who passed away in 2010 after serving as managing partner of the law firm then known as Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Keever and McDaniel, was represented at the ceremony by her family, who accepted the posthumous award in her honor.

Diane Brayton ’96
Named General Counsel for The New York Times
Diane Brayton was appointed general counsel of The New York Times Company, taking over the role on January 1. Ms. Brayton joined the Times Company in 2004 and most recently served as deputy general counsel since May 2016 and corporate secretary since 2011. “Diane’s keen understanding of the legal environment in which The New York Times operates and her broad range of legal and corporate governance expertise make her ideally suited to lead our legal department,” said President and CEO Mark Thompson.

Lyrissa Lidsky ’93
Named Dean of Mizzou Law
Lyrissa Barnett Lidsky ’93, who currently serves as the associate dean for graduate programs at the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law, has been appointed as the 17th dean of the University of Missouri School of Law. She will join the law school officially on July 1. She will be the law school’s first female dean. Among many other accomplishments in her award-winning career, Dean Lidsky is the co-author of Media Law: Cases and Materials with longtime Texas Law Prof. David A. Anderson.

Janiece Longoria ’79
Named to Board of Regents
Janiece Longoria was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott, and confirmed by the Texas State Senate, to serve on the UT System Board of Regents. This is her second term as a regent. Ms. Longoria is also Chairman of the Port of Houston Authority and currently serves on the Board of Directors of CenterPoint Energy, Superior Energy Services, the M.D. Anderson Board of Visitors, and the Texas Medical Center Board. Ms. Longoria is a founder of the Center for Women in Law and a recipient of the Distinguished Alumna Award from the Texas Exes.

Rob Crain ’94
Inaugurated as Dallas Bar President
Rob Crain, a partner at Crain Lewis Brogdon LLP, was recently inaugurated as the 108th President of the Dallas Bar Association. Mr. Crain was elected Chair of the Board of Directors in 2013. He has served as Chair of numerous DBA Committees, including the Public Forum Committee and Bench Bar Conference Committee. In addition, he was Co-Chair of the 2011-2012 Campaign for Equal Access to Justice, which funds the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program to provide free legal assistance to over 4,000 low-income families with civil legal needs each year.

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ADL Austin Recognizes Terry Tottenham ’70, Martha Smiley ’72; ADL Houston Honors Diana Marshall ’73
This year’s ADL Jurisprudence Award went to Terry Tottenham for being an “outstanding member of the legal community exhibiting a commitment to equality, justice, fairness and community service,” and the Trailblazer Award went to Martha Smiley, whose “pioneering contributions to the legal and civic activism arena have had an extraordinary and unique impact.” A former Marine Captain, Tottenham has dedicated time and passion to provide legal services to veterans in need. Smiley’s dedication to the community is reflected in her service as Chair of the Austin Area Research Organization and Chair of the SafePlace Foundation Board.

In addition to the honors bestowed upon Tottenham and Smiley in Austin, the ADL Houston chapter recognized Diana Marshall ’73 with The Karen H. Susman Jurisprudence Award. That award is presented annually to “an outstanding member of the legal community who exhibits an exceptional commitment to equality, justice, fairness and community service.” Ms. Marshall’s advocacy skills and activism—such as creating the Minority LSAT Prep Sessions and National Women’s Law Day—have made her a legendary figure in Texas and beyond.

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