



TEXAS Law
Alumni News & Notes

OCTOBER 13, 2020

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR TEXAS LAW ALUMNI

ALUMNI STORIES

Interiano '06 Named Outstanding Young Alumnus by Texas Exes



Gerard Interiano '06 has been named an Outstanding Young Alumnus award winner by the Texas Exes, for "significant achievements in their careers and service to the university." [Read more >](#)

From Classmate to Client: Garcia '99 Wins High-stakes Defense for Browne '99



Yolanda Cornejo Garcia '99 of Sidley Austin wins a \$100M defense for former section-mate Lori Browne '99, now the General Counsel of Forterra, Inc., and a Sidley Austin client. [Read more >](#)

Martinez Jones '07 and Schoenbaum '09 Honored in Austin's "40 Under 40" Awards



Texas Law shines (once again) at Austin's "40 Under 40" Awards with two alumni—Lauren Schoenbaum '09 and Aurora Martinez Jones '07—and an adjunct professor making the list of honorees. [Read more >](#)



**Third Monday:
A LOOK AHEAD AT THE
SUPREME COURT'S
NEW TERM—AND ITS
NEXT JUSTICE**
MONDAY, OCT. 19
12:30-1:45 PM (1.25 hrs CLE)
*LIVE WEBCAST featuring Texas Law alumnus
David Frederick '89 and Professor Steve Vladeck.*

REGISTER NOW

Featured CLE Live Webcast

Monday, Oct. 19, 12:30–1:45 p.m.

Third Monday: A Look Ahead at the Supreme Court's New Term—and Its Next Justice

Join Supreme Court veteran David Frederick '89 and Professor Steve Vladeck in a live webcast for a free-flowing conversation about the Court's new Term—and its deeply contentious future. (1.25 hrs CLE)

Live Webcast Registration: \$75 / Free to Texas Law Alumni with code [txlawalumni100](#).

[Register Now](#)

LAW SCHOOL NEWS

History Made 70 Years Ago: Heman Sweatt Enrolls



Texas Law marks the 70th anniversary of the culmination of Heman Sweatt's arduous, painstaking battle for equality after his Supreme Court victory in *Sweatt v. Painter* when he officially registered for his law classes. [Read more >](#)

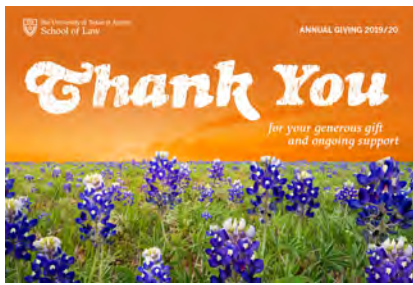
Welcome Our New Faculty: Profs. Collis and Kovarsky



Professor Steve Collis researches and teaches on religion and law and other First Amendment topics. He is the founding faculty director of the Bech-Loughlin First Amendment Center and of Texas's Law & Religion Clinic.

Professor Lee Kovarsky joins the Texas Law faculty as the Bryant Smith Chair in Law.

Read more [Texas Law News](#)



Recognition Report FY20

Please join us in thanking all those who participated in our 2019-20 annual giving campaign. [View the Law School's FY20 Recognition Report.](#)

EVENTS

Oct. 15 – [The Man Who Ran Washington: The Life and Times of James A. Baker III](#) | Strauss Center for International Security and Law

Oct. 19 – [Third Monday: A Look Ahead at the Supreme Court's New Term—and Its Next Justice](#), Live Webcast (CLE) | UT CLE and Texas Law Alumni Association

Oct. 19–Nov. 16 – [Fall 2020 Colloquium, "Inequality, Labor, and Human Rights: The Future of Work in the Age of Pandemic"](#) | Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice

Oct. 22 – [Susan Blount Power Lunch Series Lecture, "A Conversation with Mary Jo White: Counselor to Boards of Directors, Chair of the SEC and US Attorney for the S. Dist. of New York"](#) (CLE pending) | Center for Women in Law

Oct. 29-30 – [Energy 2020: Black Swans and Elephants in the Room](#) (CLE) | KBH Energy Center 5th Annual Symposium

[View upcoming Texas Law Events](#)

CLASS NOTES

Listed alphabetically by last name.

Congratulations to all our Texas Law alumni who were recognized in [Best Lawyers in America](#)[®] and [Benchmark Litigation 2021](#).

Devon Asphall '20 received the 2020 Wittliff Cutter Fellowship, as the firm's first Fellow. The Fellowship demonstrates a commitment to the local legal community and to diversity as it provides training, development and work experience in a law firm environment to an outstanding Texas law school graduate.

John Browning '89 was appointed to the Fifth District Court of Appeals by Governor Greg Abbott on Aug. 24. Before joining the Court, he was a trial and appellate lawyer for 31 years as a partner with large national law firms and his own small law firm.

Thomas P. Goresen '20 has joined McAfee & Taft, Oklahoma's largest law firm, as an associate in its Oklahoma City office. Goresen is an environmental lawyer with a broad practice involving environmental litigation and regulatory compliance with state and federal environmental health and safety regulations.

Kirby D. Hopkins '01, managing member of Drucker Hopkins, has founded a new law firm, Hopkins, Centrich, Winkelman & Drucker, with fellow Longhorns Joe Centrich (UT '02, Texas Law '06) and Lee Winkelman (UT '99). Located in The Woodlands, the new firm serves as business counsel in the Greater Houston Area and litigates across Texas.

Stuart F. Miller '98, was hired by Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C. to broaden the capabilities of its health care practice and further strengthen the firm's commercial litigation experience. Miller helps health care providers and other health care entities manage their legal and business needs in an efficient and compliant manner. He previously worked at the Houston-based law firm Baker Donelson.

Gregory Sapire '94 has co-founded Soltero Sapire Murrell PLLC after roughly 20 years with K&L Gates LLP as a partner in the trial practice section. He continues to practice complex commercial litigation, with a focus on commercial and construction issues.

Gerald Shur '57, a trailblazing attorney and architect of the Witness Security Program (WITSEC), has passed away at the age of 86. Shur served 34 years in the Justice Department and was instrumental in the creation and administration of the Witness Protection Program which has, "led to the conviction and incarceration of 10,000 very serious criminals."

Jeffrey Simon '93, founding partner of Simon Greenstone Panatier, P.C., has been named a 2020 Texas Trailblazer by Texas Lawyer magazine in recognition of his leadership role in the state's ongoing opioid multidistrict litigation (MDL). Simon serves as chairman of the Texas Opioid MDL Plaintiffs Steering Committee, which seeks to hold drug manufacturers and supply chain corporations responsible for their roles in creating and prolonging the opioid epidemic in Texas.

Daniel Z. Sternthal '01 was hired by Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C. to broaden the capabilities of its health care practice and further strengthen the firm's commercial litigation experience. Sternthal is a recognized authority in advising on regulatory, business, and policy issues related to health care. He previously worked at the Houston-based law firm Baker Donelson.

Michael A. Swartzendruber '90 was named Partner-in-Charge of global law firm Norton Rose Fulbright's Dallas office. Swartzendruber, who joined the firm in 1996, currently leads its litigation practice in Dallas. His litigation practice involves complex, high-stakes business disputes with a significant emphasis on securities, antitrust, and class action matters.

[Submit a Class Note](#)

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IN MEMORIAM

Listed alphabetically by last name.

Robert Leonard Andrews '63

James A. Blanton '69

Jake C. Cook '55

John M. Deaver '67

Harold R. DeMoss, Jr. '55

Paul H. Dionne '59

Richard A. Freling '56

William Gibbs Harris '82

Timothy W. Johnson '77

Lewis A. Jones '69

John R. Locke '49

Craig Porter '51

Gerald Shur '57

Make a gift to the Law School in memory or honor of someone.

Alumni News and Class Notes are published based on the information we receive and edited for space. If you have professional news to share, please [submit a class note online](#).



The University of Texas School of Law
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As a graduate of The University of Texas School of Law, you are part of our 25,000-member Texas Law Alumni Association.

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