



# TEXAS Law

## Alumni News & Notes

NOV. 30, 2023

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR TEXAS LAW ALUMNI

### ALUMNI NEWS

*Click on headlines to read more.*



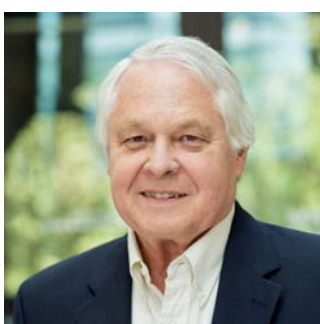
#### From South Texas to the Supreme Court

Alejandra Ávila '14 on her journey to clerking for Justice Sonia Sotomayor.



#### 'I Fell in Love with Texas'

Alumni and current students tell us why Texas Law is the best place in the world for veterans to go to law school.



#### An Inspiring Force

David Anderson '71 is being honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of American Law Schools.

[Read More Alumni News](#)

### BEST. TAILGATE. EVER!

Eduardo '68 and Michael '94 Rodriguez pulled out all the stops for their 25th Annual Tailgate Extravaganza. [Check out the photos.](#)



*Pictured (from left): Hon. Chari Kelly '02 holding her daughter Chari Adora Schramek, Hon. Jessica Mangrum '02, Rudy Metayer '06, and Kennon Wooten '04.*

# 2023

Spread cheer this calendar year and make your donation count for 2023!  
[Explore Texas Law's year-end giving deadlines and details.](#)

[Give to the Fund Today](#)

### CALLING ALL TMLS ALUMNI!



The Thurgood Marshall Legal Society wants to connect with alumni and spread the word about two big Spring 2024 events: the annual TMLS Symposium and annual TMLS Banquet.

[Connect with TMLS Today](#)

### LAW SCHOOL NEWS

*Click on headlines to read more.*



#### Melissa Wasserman Awarded NIH Grant

Her new research will explore ways to improve drug patent approvals to lower consumer prices.



#### Faculty Profile: Maria Ponomarenko

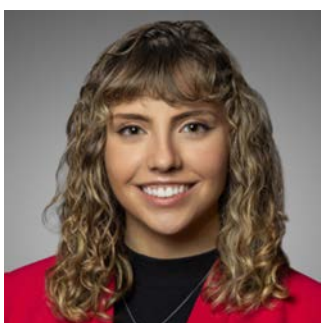
The Texas Law professor is working to make a major impact on policing in America.





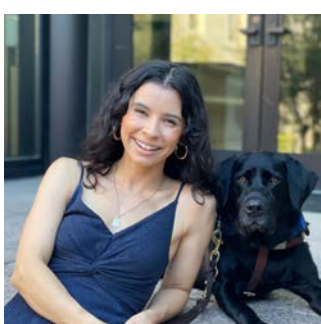
## Pro Bono Month Honors

Texas Law community members, including faculty, students, and staff, were honored last month for their contributions to public service.



## Weil Legal Innovator Makes Impact

Tori Bianco '27 is changing lives through her fellowship with the Clooney Foundation for Justice.



## Student Spotlights

Meet 3L Emily Eagle (pictured), 2L Gabriel Loya, and 2L Jordan Shuck and learn how they are making a difference at Texas Law.

[Read More Texas Law News](#)

## FACULTY IN THE NEWS



Texas Law faculty experts were quoted in leading national and state news outlets this month. Click below to see what these thought leaders had to say: **David Adelman, Dean Bobby Chesney, Steven Collis, Mechele Dickerson, Ariel Dulitzky, Denise Gilman, Tara Leigh Grove, Adam Klein, Jennifer Laurin, Theodore Rave, David Spence, Elissa Steglich, Stephen Vladeck, Wendy Wagner, and Heather Way.**

[Read Faculty in the News](#)

## ALUMNI EVENTS



**Jan. 4, 2024** – Texas Law Party at AALS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

**Jan. 17, 2024** – [Mentoring Program Kick-Off Reception](#) in Austin

**Jan. 19-20, 2024** – [Texas Law Review Symposium](#) at the Law School

**Apr. 12-13, 2024** – **Save the date!** [Texas Law Alumni Reunion](#) in Austin for class years ending in 4s and 9s from 1959 to 2019.

[View More Texas Law Events](#)

### Alumni Association Fort Worth Pregame Party

[Check out photos](#) from the recent the Alumni Association event in Fort Worth where alumni gathered on November 9 to cheer on the Texas Longhorns against the TCU Horned Frogs.



[Get Involved with Your Texas Law Alumni Community](#)



# CLASS NOTES

Ordered by class year, then by last name.



Pictured (top, from left): Rebekah Prince '02, Brandi Howard '12, Dick DeGuerin '65, Amanda Tyler '04; (bottom, from left): Bryan P. Hoeller '08, Tammy Cooper '96, Travis Maples '19, and Sakina Rasheed Foster '03.

- Dick DeGuerin '65** named one of the Best Criminal Defense Lawyers in Houston 2023.
- George Parnham '70** named one of the Best Criminal Defense Lawyers in Houston 2023.
- John D. White '72** awarded the 2023 Outstanding Alumni Award from the Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M University.
- Brian A. Carpenter '91** joined Cole Schotz PC's Dallas office.
- Tammy Cooper '96** started a new position as deputy general manager of Regulatory, Communications, Compliance and Legal Services at Austin Energy.
- Karen Robinson '97** named to the board of directors of ChIPs Network Inc., a global membership community focused on advancing women and promoting diversity in IP, tech law, and policy.
- Neal A. Davis '98** named one of the Best Criminal Defense Lawyers in Houston 2023.
- Rebekah Prince '02** joined Duane Morris LLP's Los Angeles office.
- Sakina Rasheed Foster '03** received the Texas State Bar's annual Trailblazer of the Year Award.
- Amanda Tyler '04** testified before the U.S. House Oversight Committee's Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs.
- David Nachtigall '06** named one of the Best Criminal Defense Lawyers in Houston 2023.
- Allison Becker '08** named co-chair at Healthcare Practice Group at Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP.
- Bryan P. Hoeller '08** named 2023 Best Criminal Defense Lawyer in Fort Worth by Forbes.
- Jamie E. France '11** promoted to partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP.
- Brandi Howard '12** joined Brown Rudnick LLP as partner in the firm's Washington D.C. office.
- Rachel E. Ratcliffe Payne '14** elected to partnership at Latham & Watkins LLP.
- Daniel Williams '15** elected to partnership at Latham & Watkins LLP.
- Travis Maples '19** joined Botkin Chiarello Calaf as an associate on the commercial litigation team.

[Read Full Class Notes Entries](#)

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# IN MEMORIAM

Ordered by class year, then by last name.

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Cloy Monzingo '51     | William Connolly '70 |
| David Thomas '52      | Philip Vitek '72     |
| Jacqueline Rizik '53  | Jack H. Emmott '74   |
| Robert Bledsoe '55    | John Mericle '74     |
| Carter Howard '55     | Carla Bishop '75     |
| Finis Cowan Jr. '56   | Jeff Love '76        |
| John "Ken" Vinson '59 | John MacKinnon '77   |
| Horace C. Wilson '59  | Lidia Serrata '77    |
| Victor Hlavinka '60   | David Mullican '83   |
| William Lynch '64     | Thomas Sheehan '89   |
| Stephen J. Smith '64  | Doug Sigel '89       |
| Clayton Hutchins '66  | Matthew Bassford '03 |
| Larry R. Jones '66    | Mary Hall '04        |
| Jack Placke '66       | Justin T. Sigman '05 |

[Read In Memoriam Notes](#)

[Make a Memorial Gift](#)

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

**Feedback?** Email us at [alumni@law.utexas.edu](mailto:alumni@law.utexas.edu).