

# TEXAS Law

## Alumni News & Notes

JANUARY 23, 2025

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR TEXAS LAW ALUMNI

### ALUMNI NEWS

*Click on headlines to read more.*



#### Alumni Mentors Kick Off New Year

We welcomed 300 alums and 1Ls at a reception held at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum to celebrate the start of the Mentoring Program's 10th year. *See photos!*



#### Trial Ad Has Golden Touch

"If you want to study courtroom advocacy with some of the smartest students in the whole country, this is the place to do it," says the Advocacy Program director Mike Golden '01.



#### Alumni Voices: Eric Harrington '07

He negotiates collective bargaining agreements for Major League Soccer to "make sure all players are treated fairly—on and off the field."

[Read More Alumni News](#)

### Attention lovebirds!

#### Did you find a love connection at Texas Law?

Share your story and pictures with us for our annual "Lawyers in Love" feature. We will spotlight alumni from this year's Reunion honored classes ending in "0" and "5". To be featured, please click the button below.

[Share Your Love Story](#)

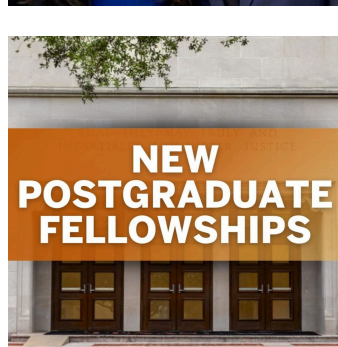
### LAW SCHOOL NEWS

*Click on headlines to read more.*



#### Students Argue at 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

As part of the Immigration Clinic last spring, Lisette Chan '24 and Annie Fogel '24 argued *L.N. v. Garland*.



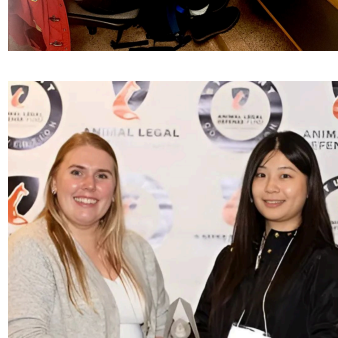
#### New Postgraduate Fellowships Created

To help launch public interest careers, four new fellowships—for a total of 11—are now available to graduating Texas Law students.



#### Bootcamp Enhances Legal Education

The new Texas Law and Business Program welcomed 30 law students eager to build a strong foundation in business law.



#### Animal Legal Defense Fund Chapter Wins Award

Texas Law's chapter president, Charlene Luo '26 (left) accepts honor as the national Co-Student Chapter of the Year.

[Read More Texas Law News](#)

### NEW YEAR, NEW IMPACT!

Start 2025 by supporting the people and programs that make Texas Law exceptional. Your gift to the Fund for Texas Law helps where it's needed most.



[Give to the Fund Today](#)

### FACULTY IN THE MEDIA



Texas Law faculty experts were recently quoted in leading national and state news outlets. Click below to see what these thought leaders had to say: **Jens Dammann, Ward Farnsworth, John Golden, Kelly Harrigan, Lee Kovarsky, Sanford Levinson, Linda Mullenix, Elizabeth Sepper, Melinda Taylor, Wendy Wagner, and Heather Way.**

[Read Faculty in the Media](#)



### 2025 ALUMNI AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Honoring the outstanding achievements of our graduates has been a cherished tradition of the Texas Law Alumni Association since 1958. Alumni Award categories include Lifetime Achievement, Outstanding Alum, Distinguished Alum for Community Service, and Outstanding Young Alum.

[Submit a Nomination by Friday, January 31.](#)



### ALUMNI EVENTS

**Feb. 10** — Texas Law Showcase in Dallas featuring Prof. Steven T. Collis | **RSVP Required**

**Feb. 19** — Virgil C. Lott Medal Presentation and Dinner honoring The Hon. Sam Lindsay '77

**Mar. 12** — Washington, D.C. Regional Committee Meeting

**Mar. 13** — New York Regional Committee Meeting

**Mar. 24** — Dallas Regional Committee Meeting

**Mar. 26** — Houston Regional Committee Meeting

**Apr. 4** — Alumni Association Executive Committee Spring Meeting

**Apr. 4** — Center for Women in Law Award Luncheon

**Apr. 10–11** — The William Wayne Justice Center at 20 Years

**Apr. 24** — Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice 20th Anniversary Gala

**Apr. 25–26** — Texas Law Alumni Reunion welcomes all alumni and honors class years ending in "0" and "5" from 1960 to 2020 | **Register Today!**

[View More Texas Law Events](#)



## CLASS NOTES

Ordered by class year, then by last name.



Pictured (top, from left): Garry Merritt '93, Katy Zendeher '17, Andrew W. Monk '16, Betty Balli Torres '85; (bottom, from left): Eleanor D'Ambrosio '15, Craig Moore '04, Ben Mesches '01, and Elizabeth Romefelt '14.

**David J. Beck '65**, founding partner of Beck Redden, has been named the recipient of the prestigious 2025 Leon Jaworski Award for Community Service by the Houston Bar Association Auxiliary.

**Michael Pearson '78**, partner at Jackson Walker, has been inducted into the 2025 Lawdragon Hall of Fame.

**Randy Erben '81**, adjunct professor at Texas Law and of counsel with Erben & Yarbrough, has been reappointed to the Texas Ethics Commission.

**Rob Walters '83** has been appointed as an independent director at Vistra, a leading Fortune 500 integrated retail electricity and power generation company in Irving, Texas.

**Betty Balli Torres '85**, executive director of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, has received the inaugural Impacto Award by the American Bar Association Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities.

**Carlos J. Contreras III '86**, president and CEO for Goodwill San Antonio, has been named to Austin Business Journal's Texas 100, which is an annual list of impactful Texans.

**Caroline Dozier '93** has been appointed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to the 228th Judicial District Court in Harris County.

**Shannon Edmonds '93** was named the executive director of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association in Austin.

**Hilda Galvan '93** has retired from Jones Day after 28 years of service to seek new opportunities.

**Garry Merritt '93**, CEO of Great Springs Project, has been named to Austin Business Journal's Texas 100, which is an annual list of impactful Texans.

**Edwin Flores '96**, managing partner at Chalker Flores LLP, has been appointed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to the Texas School Safety Center Board, which supports counties in developing defense systems.

**Robert "Bryan" Gantt '98** has been reappointed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to the 471st Judicial District Court in Collin County.

**Will Cain '00**, current co-host of "Fox & Friends Weekend," will host "The Will Cain Show" weekdays on the Fox News Channel.

**Ben Mesches '01** is now general counsel at Haynes Boone's Dallas office.

**Feras Mousilli '03**, a founding partner of Lloyd & Mousilli, has been named among the Top 50 U.S. Trademark Attorneys for 2024 by analytics firm Huski.ai's AI-driven rankings.

**Craig Moore '04** has been appointed as a criminal magistrate judge for Travis County, Texas.

**José "Chito" Vela '04** was reelected to the Austin City Council as the District 4 representative.

**Miguel Garza '12**, co-founder and CEO of Siete Family Foods, has been named to Austin Business Journal's Texas 100, which is an annual list of impactful Texans.

**Melissa J. Ackie '13** has been promoted to shareholder in the Austin office of Littler Mendelson P.C.

**Parth S. Gejji '13** has been promoted to partner at Beck Redden in Houston.

**Jillian Trezza '13** has been named counsel at Debevoise & Plimpton in Washington, D.C.

**Frances Blake '14** is now general counsel and vice president of regulatory affairs for the Texas Association of Builders.

**Elizabeth Romefelt '14** has been promoted to partner at Gibson Dunn in New York.

**Nicholas Bruno '15** has been promoted to partner at Beck Redden in Houston.

**Eleanor D'Ambrosio '15** has been promoted to partner at Spencer Fane in Austin.

**Kelli C. Fuqua '15** has been promoted to shareholder in Littler Mendelson in Austin.

**Stephen Moulton '15** has joined a new six-person governmental practice team at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP in Dallas.

**Barrett Robin '15**, partner at Hamilton Wingo in Dallas, has earned his fourth consecutive selection on the Best Lawyers Under 40 list published by D Magazine.

**Ewaen Woghiren '15** has been elected partner at Jones Walker in Houston.

**W. Jared Berg '16** has been promoted to partner at Bracewell in Houston.

**Andrew W. Monk '16** has been promoted to partner at Bracewell in Houston.

**John L. Stavinoha III '16** has been promoted to partner at Bracewell in Houston.

**Aaron Reitz '17**, who serves as the chief of staff for Senator Ted Cruz, has been nominated by President Donald Trump to serve as the head of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Policy.

**Katy Zendeher '17** was promoted to of counsel in the bankruptcy and litigation practice groups at Caplin & Drysdale in Washington, D.C.

**Courtlyn Ward '21** has joined a new six-person governmental practice team at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP in Dallas.

**Jonathan Adams '24** has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings' Houston office as an associate in the litigation practice group.

**Tim Almohamad '24** has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings' Houston office as an associate in the construction practice group.

**John "Carter" Byrum '24** has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings' Houston office as an associate in the litigation practice group.

[Read Full Class Notes Entries](#)

[Submit a Class Note](#)

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## IN MEMORIAM

Ordered by class year, then by last name.

Jack Johnson '51

Campbell Griffin '57

Lawrence Beason '59

Robert Thornton '59

William Durham '60

Clinton McCall '61

Thomas McDade '62

C. Wesley Clements '64

Venable Proctor '64

David Gulley '65

Anne Johnston '66

William Lawhon '67

Chuck Strehli '67

George Rockwell '68

J. Bart Budetti '71

Steve Carlton '72

Larry Mealer '74

Thomas Felger '77

Elizabeth Warner '78

Terry Lynn Harris Motl '81

Tim Cook '86

David Wilson '89

Jon Dyck '96

Sarah Barr '08

Michael Schattle '19

[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).

