



TEXAS Law

Alumni News & Notes

APRIL 8, 2026

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR TEXAS LAW ALUMNI

A PLACE TO CALL HOME



The law school breaks ground this month on a 340-bed Residence Hall opening in 2028, putting students steps from class and ahead on affordability. [Follow the progress via our livestream!](#)

ALUMNI NEWS

Click on headlines to read more.



Always on His Mind

John Spong '93 went from Texas Law to *Texas Monthly* to hosting "One by Willie," a podcast exploring Willie Nelson's music with his biggest fans.



Before There Was Facebook

Dorothy C. Most, Class of 1925, was the only woman in her law school class, and she captured it all in scrapbooks that bring Texas Law in the Roaring Twenties to life.



Full Court Press

Marwan Elrakabawy '06 spent years litigating cases before finding his true calling on another court—leading Trinity University's Tigers to the NCAA Tournament.

[Read More Alumni News](#)

SPRING POP-UP SHOP

The Texas Law Pop-Up Shop is back! Get one-of-a-kind tees, baby gear, shirts, and caps—all made to order and shipped to your door. The shop closes Sunday, April 19, at 11:59 p.m.

[Shop for Texas Law Merch by April 19](#)



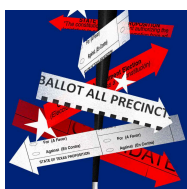
LAW SCHOOL NEWS

Click on headlines to read more.



Championing the Next Generation

UT football legend and coach, Mack Brown, will be the featured speaker at this year's Sunflower Ceremony on May 9.



Voting on Our Future

For Prof. Joshua Sellers, election law isn't just an academic pursuit—it's a front-row seat to the future of American democracy.

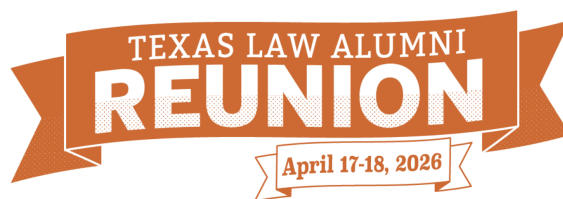


Game, Set, Hodges

At the annual Society Games last month, all eight Texas Law societies brought their best for some friendly and fierce competition with Hodges claiming victory.

[Read More Texas Law News](#)

ALUMNI EVENTS



April 17–18 — [Alumni Reunion](#) – Honoring classes whose years end in “1” and “6” from 1961 to 2021. **Registration deadline is April 10!**

May 9 — [Sunflower Ceremony](#) with Mack Brown giving the commencement address

May 14 — [Texas Law on Tour: San Francisco](#)

June 2 — [Austin Summer Social](#)

June 3 — [Texas Law on Tour: Washington, D.C.](#)

June 11 — [Texas Law Reception](#) at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Houston

[View More Texas Law Events](#)

BE PART OF WHAT'S NEXT

If Texas Law helped shape where you are today, your gift to the Fund for Texas Law can do the same for a new generation paving their own paths.

[Give Today](#)



CLASS NOTES

Ordered by class year, then by last name.



Pictured (top, from left): Kelli Bills '10, Andres Contreras '15, Phyllis Y. Young '01, Fred Hagans '72; (bottom, from left): Randy Johnston '74, Stephanie Franco '14, Ryan Newman '07, and Corrinne Sullins Davis '16.

Fred Hagans '72 will receive the 2026 Ronald D. Secrest Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award from the Texas Bar Foundation.

Richard Orsinger '72 was honored with the John F. Sheehy Jr. Distinguished Attorney Award at the Texas Board of Legal Specialization's 51st annual induction ceremony.

David Kitner '73 has received the 2025 Luther "Luke" H. Soules III Award for Excellence in Litigation from the State Bar of Texas.

Randy Johnston '74 has been named to the 2026 Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers list as well as the Texas Super Lawyers list.

Pete Geren '78 has been appointed president of the Fort Worth Independent School District's board of managers.

Robert Tobey '80 has been named to the 2026 Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers list as well as the Texas Super Lawyers list.

Luis A. Galindo '85 has been appointed to the Fort Worth Independent School District's board of managers.

Mark Taylor '87 has been named to the 2026 Lawdragon 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy and Restructuring list.

Alistair Dawson '89 will be posthumously inducted as a Legal Legend by the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas.

Jane Webre '89 will receive the 2026 Gregory S. Coleman Outstanding Appellate Lawyer Award from the Texas Bar Foundation.

Mark Laughlin '91 has been elected to the National Tax Lien Association Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Sam Waldon '92 has been appointed as acting director of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Enforcement.

Brendan Henry '98 has joined the Beckage Firm as senior counsel, focusing on cybersecurity, privacy, and incident response services.

Phyllis Y. Young '01 has joined Eversheds Sutherland as a partner and head of Texas Finance in the firm's Houston office.

Kerrie Ann Nanni '04 is now a management officer at the Office of the U.S. Ambassador at the U.S. Embassy in Croatia.

Jeffrey Neill '04 is now the executive director of the Office of Acquisition and Logistics and senior procurement executive at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Ryan Newman '07 is now the chief deputy attorney general with the Florida Office of the Attorney General.

Becky Diffen '09 has been named to Tamarindo's Legal Power List 2026, which recognizes the 100 most influential lawyers in the clean energy and infrastructure sectors.

Kalyani Adusumilli '10 has written her debut novel, "The Invisible Canvas,"

which explores themes of resilience, identity, and mental health.

Kelli Bills '10 has joined Norton Rose Fulbright as senior counsel in the firm's Dallas office.

Stephanie Franco '14 is the judge-elect of the 187th District Court in Bexar County and will be sworn in Jan. 1, 2027.

Andres Contreras '15 has been promoted to shareholder at Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr P.C. in the firm's Houston office.

Corinne Sullins Davis '16 has been promoted to partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth in the firm's Houston office.

Kayvon Rashidi '16 has been named a 2026 finalist in the legal category of the Austin Under 40 Awards.

Dustin Fillmore '17 has been named a shareholder and director at McDonald Sanders in Fort Worth.

Michael Cotton '19 has been promoted to chair of the Opinion Committee for the Texas Attorney General's Office after previously serving as the committee's deputy chief.

Kassi Gonzalez '19 has been named as a 2026 finalist in the legal category of the Austin Under 40 Awards.

Stephani Michel '19 has joined Norton Rose Fulbright as a senior associate in the firm's Houston office.

[Read Full Class Notes Entries](#)

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IN MEMORIAM

Ordered by class year, then by last name.

Milton Sturman '57
Michael Pickering '61
Gary Norton '63
James Barksdale '64
Theo Pinson '68
Leslie Acker '70

William Dorsaneo '70
Joseph Deming '73
Theresa A. Horton '84
Molly Cowan '99
Page Kanetzky '05
Aaron Smith '08

[Read In Memoriam Notes](#)

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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](#).

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