



TEXAS Law

Alumni News & Notes

MAY 13, 2026

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR TEXAS LAW ALUMNI

REUNION 2026: TOGETHER AGAIN



Reunion 2026 was celebrated by more than 800 attendees who came back to celebrate friendships, reconnect, and relive their three years at Texas Law. [Read what reunion-goers had to say](#) about being back in Townes Hall during the fun-filled weekend.



[See More Reunion Photos on Flickr!](#)

ALUMNI NEWS

Click on headlines to read more.



Alumni Voices: Jennifer Banda '98

For over 20 years, she shaped Texas healthcare policy from the inside. Now, she's championing the next generation of women lawyers to lead with confidence and purpose.



Fighting for Answers

In the latest issue of *Texas Law Magazine*, learn how Mindy Montford '95 solved the Yogurt Shop murders, one of Austin's most notorious unsolved cases, and helped the victims' families.



Three Paths, One Degree

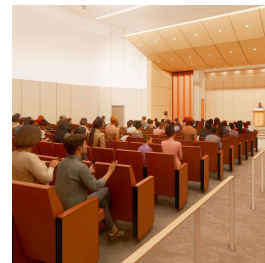
The career ambitions of Cooper Tyler, Chandler Lawn, and Joe Holden from the Class of 2026 show that a Texas Law degree is just the beginning of their stories.

[Read More Alumni News](#)

A LEGACY IN EVERY SEAT

This fall, Texas Law will unveil the newly renovated Mithoff Theatre within the Francis Auditorium and you can be part of it.

Commemorate your connection to the law school by naming a seat with a tax-deductible gift. Make it yours today!



[Take Your Seat!](#)

LAW SCHOOL NEWS

Click on headlines to read more.



Teaching Is His Life

Distinguished Senior Lecturer David Sokolow has spent 44 years helping students become the best lawyers they can be and receiving the Massey Teaching Excellence Award confirms what they already knew.



TEXAS BEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

An Ideal Environment

For Texas Law students, environmental law isn't just a course of study—it's a chance to shape the future of our planet.

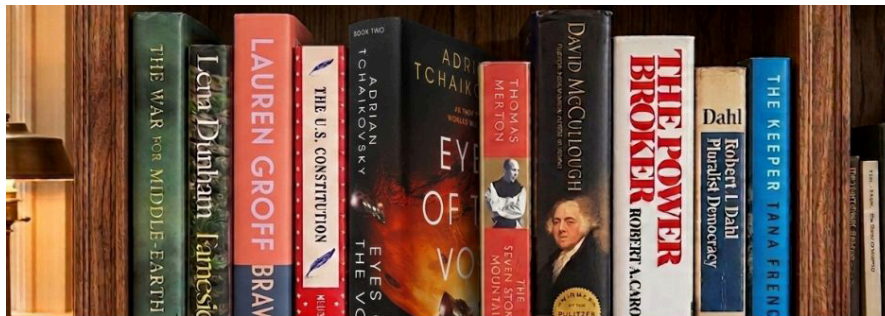


UT's Sports Mom

Prof. Mechele Dickerson is the hyphen in student-athlete, bridging UT's academic mission with athletics as the university's faculty athletics representative.

[Read More Texas Law News](#)

FROM BENCH READS TO BEACH READS



We asked six Texas Law faculty members to share two books on their summer reading lists: one tied to their scholarship or legal interests, and one they're reading purely for enjoyment. The result is a wide-ranging mix of ideas, genres, and recommendations you won't want to miss!

[Check Out Our Professors' Summer Reading Lists](#)

SUNFLOWER CEREMONY 2026



Commencement was a jubilant send-off for the Class of 2026, complete with family and friends, confetti, and plenty of sunflowers! UT football legend and coach, Mack Brown, delivered the convocation speech with Dean Bobby Chesney and Class President Holly Gray also taking the stage.

[See More Sunflower Ceremony Photos on Flickr!](#)

ALUMNI EVENTS



May 14 — Texas Law on Tour: San Francisco

June 2 — Austin Summer Social | **RSVP by May 26**

June 3 — Texas Law on Tour: Washington, D.C. | **RSVP by May 27**

June 11 — Texas Law Reception at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Houston | **RSVP by June 4**

July 29 — Texas Law Breakfast at the National Bar Association Convention in Nashville | **RSVP by July 22**

[View More Texas Law Events](#)

CLASS NOTES

Ordered by class year, then by last name.



Pictured (top, from left): Amy Sutton '92, David Woodcock '00, Hon. Rebeca Huddle '99, Kyle Ryman '20; (bottom, from left): Hiawatha Northington II '96, Marissa Marquez '07, Alexander Clark '19, and Katie O'Brien '16.

Art Bayern '65 retired from the San Antonio Spurs' stats crew after a 50-year run and was presented with a framed No. 50 jersey in April.

Charles C. Foster '67, chairman of Foster LLP in Houston, was honored with the 2026 Stephen L. Kleinberg Award by the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University and the inaugural 2026 Roy Huffington Lifetime Achievement Award by the Asia Society Texas Center.

Richard Orsinger '75, co-founder and name partner at Orsinger, Nelson, Downing & Anderson, has earned the 2026 Patrick A. Nester Outstanding Achievement in CLE Award.

R. Doak Bishop '76 has joined the panel at FedArp. He previously served as chairman of the Institute of Transnational Arbitration.

Gary Farmer '84, president of Heritage Title Company of Austin, was featured on Texas Exes' podcast and video series, "Hello Longhorn."

John Bonnet III '89 has joined Norton Rose Fulbright's Dallas office as a partner.

Amy Sutton '92 has been appointed as regional president of Southside Bank's Wealth Management & Trust division in Tyler, Texas.

Stewart E. Hoffer '94, partner at Hicks Thomas LLP, has been named to the 2026 Texas Legal Elite list in Super Lawyers.

Hiawatha Northington II '96 has been named co-chair of Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP's Diversity Committee.

Jim Noles '97, professor of environmental law at Auburn University, was awarded the Student Government Association's 2026 Outstanding Faculty Award within the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment.

The Hon. Rebeca Huddle '99, a justice on the Supreme Court of Texas, will be the commencement speaker at the 2026 University of Houston Law Center's graduation ceremony on May 16.

David Woodcock '00 has been named the director of the Division of Enforcement by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Jay Ellwanger '01 has joined the Austin panel of JAMS, which provides mediation and arbitration services.

Amber Russell '06 and her Austin-based firm, LOAR PLLC, have received the 2026 Travis County Women Lawyers' Association Firm of the Year Award.

Ryan Gorsche '07 has joined O'Melveny as a partner in the mergers & acquisitions practice and private equity group in the firm's Dallas office.

Marissa Marquez '07, labor and employment legal counsel at Houston Methodist Hospital, has been named the 2026 Houston Corporate Counsel Senior Counsel of the Year for a Nonprofit/Governmental Agency by the Texas Lawbook and the Association of Corporate Counsel's Houston chapter.

Brooke E. Lierman '08 has been selected as the keynote speaker for Howard Community College's 55th commencement exercises on May 22. She serves as the 34th Comptroller of Maryland.

Adrienne Wall '09 has been appointed managing shareholder of the Munsch Hardt's Fort Worth office.

Jerry Negrete '12 has been promoted to named partner at Chapman Negrete PLLC in Austin.

Katie O'Brien '16 has joined O'Melveny as a partner in the mergers & acquisitions practice and private equity group in the firm's Dallas office.

Alexander Clark '19, along with fellow Texas Law alumnus Kyle Ryman '20, has formed the trial firm Ryman Clark in Round Rock, where both will serve as co-managing partners.

Martin Gatens '20 has joined Ryman Clark, a new trial firm in Round Rock, founded by Texas Law alumni Alexander Clark '19 and Kyle Ryman '20.

Kyle Ryman '20, along with fellow Texas Law alumnus Alexander Clark '19, has formed the trial firm Ryman Clark in Round Rock, where both will be co-managing partners.

Josh Davis '21 has joined Ryman Clark, a new trial firm in Round Rock, founded by Texas Law alumni Alexander Clark '19 and Kyle Ryman '20.

Richard Hood '22 has joined Ryman Clark, a new trial firm in Round Rock, founded by Texas Law alumni Alexander Clark '19 and Kyle Ryman '20.

Alex McClintic '22 has joined Ryman Clark, a new trial firm in Round Rock, founded by Texas Law alumni Alexander Clark '19 and Kyle Ryman '20.

[Read Full Class Notes Entries](#)

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IN MEMORIAM

Ordered by class year, then by last name.



Julius Glickman

As one of Texas's most respected litigators and mentors, the 1966 alumnus received UT's Distinguished Alumni Award and the Texas Law Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. He passed away in February at the age of 86.

Dudley McCalla '59
Arthur Schechter '64
Vincent De Young '68
Steve Morris '68
Ron Houdyshell '73

William Palmer '75
Robert Vasquez '82
Pamela Beachley '86
Jason Marshall '95
Meredith Moore '23

[Read In Memoriam Notes](#)

[Make a Memorial Gift](#)

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