



TEXAS Law

Alumni News & Notes

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR TEXAS LAW ALUMNI

ALUMNI NEWS

Click on headlines to read more.



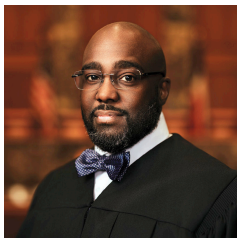
Mentor of the Year: Nathan Vassar '11

"He showed a clear commitment to guiding my development," says Micah McGill '28 of his mentor.



Appetite for Success

Miguel Garza '12 kept one foot in law school and the other in the business world—and co-founded Siete Foods.



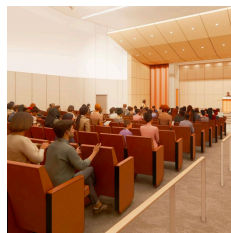
Don't Take Freedom for Granted

Q&A with Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Jesse F. McClure III '99.

[Read More Alumni News](#)

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Texas Law is on a roll—record graduate employment outcomes, 10 new faculty members, and exciting new spaces with the Mithoff Theatre and Residence Hall on the way. Join your fellow alumni in making a gift to The Fund for Texas Law, so today's students can follow in your footsteps and become tomorrow's success stories.



[Give to The Fund for Texas Law](#)

LAW SCHOOL NEWS

Click on headlines to read more.

WELCOME OUR NEW FACULTY

Ten incredible new faculty members have joined Texas Law's classrooms and clinics this fall, bringing with them a widely varying range of experience in practice, legal theory, and writing and advocacy.



*Pictured (top, from left): Cindy Dyar, Andrew Granato, Nicole Leonard Córdoba '17 (**Part I**); Lauren Libby, Maro Robbins, and Meagan Belovsky (**Part II**). Pictured (bottom, from left): Alma Diamond, Travis Wussow '08, Jean Mangan, and Amit Singh (**Part III**).*



Meet the Class of 2029

In the most competitive admissions cycle in the school's history, we've welcomed 320 extraordinary new students to the law school, and they're a truly accomplished bunch!



Public Interest Scholars

For three members of the Class of 2029, carving their paths to a career serving clients in need starts now.

[Read More Texas Law News](#)

ALUMNI EVENTS



Sept. 11 — 12th Annual Energy Symposium in Austin

Sept. 18 — AAEC Fall 2026 Meeting and 2026 Alumni Awards

Sept. 23 — Mentoring Program: The Closing Reception

Oct. 2 — Scholarship Celebration 2026

Oct. 5 — First Monday with Faculty: A Preview of the Upcoming U.S. Supreme Court Term | More information coming soon about virtual event

Oct. 14 — Texas Law on Tour in Denver

Oct. 24 — Washington, D.C. Alumni Watch Party: Ole Miss vs. Texas

Nov. 21 — Alumni Tailgate 2026: Arkansas vs. Texas

[View More Texas Law Events](#)



Hook 'em and pass the queso! Celebrate the season with **classic Cook 'Em Horns recipes** from the Texas Exes that every true Longhorn will love.

CLASS NOTES

Ordered by class year, then by last name.



Pictured (top, from left): Hon. Steve Smith '77, Madeline Mitchell '24, Nicholas Lowrey '16, Katherine Himaya Lewis '24. Pictured (bottom, from left): Lynda Tealer '95, Hon. Michael Landrum '76, Patricia Rigney '04, and Gustavo Torres '06.

The Hon. Michael Landrum '76 has been appointed as judge of the 514th Judicial District Court in Harris County.

Ronald B. King '77 received the 2026 American Inns of Court Bankruptcy Distinguished Service Award.

The Hon. Steve Smith '77 is retiring from the Texas Tenth Court of Appeals and will receive a lifetime achievement award from the judicial section of the State Bar of Texas and the “Chair’s Award” from the Texas Center for the Judiciary.

Jim Ammerman II '78 has been appointed municipal court judge of Marshall, Texas.

Mark Eisenbraun '82 has joined Jones Walker in Houston as a partner in the firm’s corporate practice group.

Abbey Garber '85 has been elected chair of the Taxation Section of the State Bar of Texas for 2026-27.

Sam Waldon '92 resigned his position as principal deputy director of the SEC’s Division of Enforcement on July 31.

Martin Noven '93 has been appointed by Governor Kim Reynolds to oversee the Iowa Public Employees’ Retirement System.

Lynda Tealer '95 will join the University of Texas Athletic Department as deputy athletics director for strategic initiatives and administration.

John Zachary '96 has been appointed as an immigration judge on the Oakdale Immigration Court in Louisiana.

Shane Kimzey '97 has joined BNSF Railway as vice president and general counsel.

Jon Hyland '04 has joined Kane Russell Coleman Logan’s Dallas office as a director.

Patricia Rigney '04 of the Rigney Law Firm has been elected a member of the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation.

William Hagans '06 has been elected a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Ian Roberts '06 has joined Hunton Andrews Kurth's Dallas office as a restructuring and bankruptcy partner.

Gustavo Torres '06 will receive the Attorney of the Year Award at the Hispanic National Bar Association's 2026 National Awards.

Leslie Kay Ritchie Robnett '08 has been reappointed to the Specialty Courts Advisory Council of Texas.

Jared Vitemb '08 has joined Ruiz Foods as senior vice president and general counsel.

Travis Wussow '08, who recently joined the Texas Law faculty, has founded Bell Rock Strategies to build AI-powered workflows.

Kelly Wise '11, a shareholder at Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr in Dallas, has been named in the 2027 *Best Lawyers* "Ones to Watch" directory.

Charles Fowler '12 has been named to the *Law360* Rising Stars list.

Andres Contreras '15, a shareholder at Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr in Houston has been named in the 2027 *Best Lawyers* "Ones to Watch" directory.

Kelsi Stayart White '15 has been named to the *Law360* Rising Stars list.

Nicholas Lowrey '16 has been named in the 2027 *Best Lawyers* "Ones to Watch" directory.

Nicole Leonard Córdoba '17 recently joined the law school's David J. Beck Center for Legal Research, Writing and Appellate Advocacy as a lecturer.

Lourdes 'Lulu' Ortiz '22 has been named in the 2026 *Lawdragon 500 X – The Next Generation* guide.

Katherine Himaya Lewis '24 has joined GableGotwals' Tulsa office as a litigation associate.

Madeline Mitchell '24 has been named in the 2027 *Best Lawyers* "Ones to Watch" directory.

David Vollmer '24 has joined Snell & Wilmer's Reno-Tahoe office as an associate in the real estate practice group.

Marisol Sobek '25 has been named in the 2027 *Best Lawyers* "Ones to Watch" directory.

[Read Full Class Notes Entries](#)

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Let's Hear It!

Big news deserves to be shared. From honors and awards to life events, new publications, and career moves—your class note keeps the Texas Law community connected. Tell us yours today!

[Submit a Class Note](#)

IN MEMORIAM

Ordered by class year, then by last name.

William Herndon '50

Lloyd Longmire '55

Harold Metts '58

Rufus Adcock '59

Homer Deakins '60

Buddy Low '60

Joe Ramirez '62

Tom Smith '63

Bill La Font '64

Dennis Schmidt '64

Donald Boudreaux '67

Brock Jones '67

Doug Behrendt '69

Dick Morgan '69

Jim Buchanan '71

Ronald Reneker '71

David Eldridge '72

Martha Sullivan '73

Doug Corbett '74

Dan Hartnett '75

Jennifer Nosler '78

Ray Aleman '81

Tim Smith '81

Sabrina Arellano '82

James Bass '85

Timothy Kirk '91

Sheree Rabe '92

Joe Bailey, Jr. '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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