



Texas Law Magazine · SPRING 2024 · INAUGURAL ISSUE

# Texas Law Magazine

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW

SPRING 2024

THE SOCIETY PROGRAM TURNS 20

LISA BLATT '89, AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE IN LAW

**America Votes**

Will the judiciary get a say, too?

DISCOVERY \ **PROOF**

Once in the shadow of its Nordic neighbors, Iceland is having a moment. With otherworldly beauty (and prime views of the Northern Lights), vast geothermal energy, and prized strategic access to the Arctic Ocean, the world's oldest parliamentary democracy is of vital importance to global superpowers China, Russia, and the United States. **Carrin F. Patman '82** leads our country's diplomatic mission to the "land of fire and ice" as the U.S. Ambassador.

VAZOSK (UNSPLASH)

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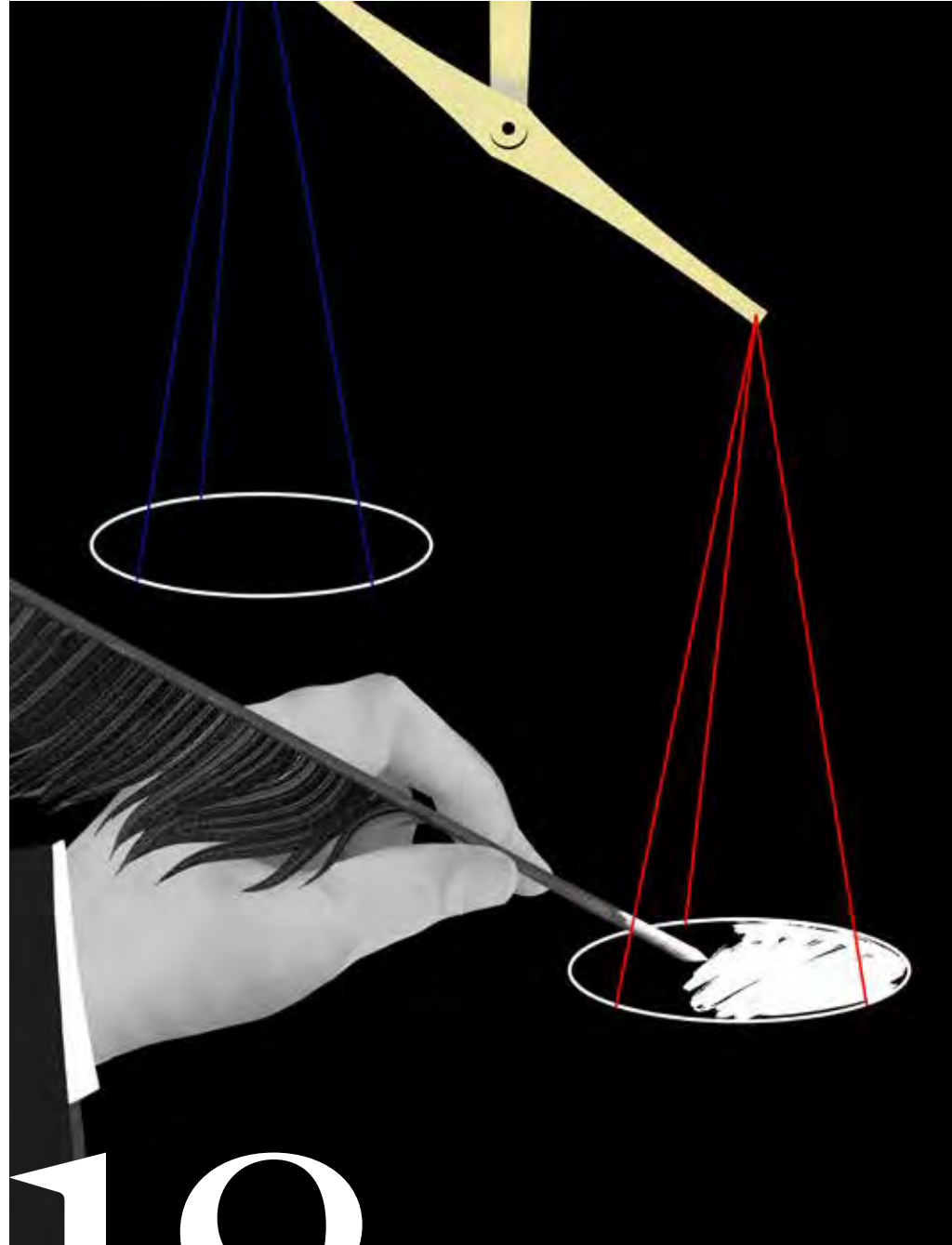
The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors.

Spring 2024, Volume 1, Issue 1



**ON THE COVER**  
Illustration by Brian Stauffer

# Docket



# 18 America Votes

Legal issues increasingly shape election outcomes. Here's a primer on the 2024 election.  
*by Professor Joshua Sellers*

## FEATURES

### 24 All Fun and Games

The Society Program marks 20 years of innovation and remarkable success.  
*by Christopher Roberts*

### 32 The Future is Built Here

Texas Law Dean Bobby Chesney gets real about the future of Texas Law.  
*interview by Christopher Roberts*

## OPENING STATEMENTS

**6 The Indomitable Lisa Blatt '89**  
An unstoppable force in law.

**8 Exhibit: Rastell's Dictionary**  
Tarlton's one-millionth volume goes on exhibit in New York.

**9 Still Crazy After All These Years**  
Assault and Flattery turns 70.

**10 TMLS Honored**  
Student organization named NLSA Chapter of the Year.

JING JING TSONG (THE ISPOT)

**10 Dave's Travel Diary**  
Follow Dave Farnum's 50,000-mile annual recruiting journey.

**12 New Faces**  
Six new faculty join Texas Law.

**14 Fifty Years of First-Chair Education**  
Texas Law's Criminal Defense Clinic continues to transform legal education.

**15 In Print: *The Shadow Docket***  
Stephen Vladeck's SCOTUS research lands him on *The New York Times* bestseller list.

**16 Why Are Drugs So Expensive?**  
Professor Melissa Wasserman uncovers a surprising fix.

## CLOSING ARGUMENTS

**36 Diane Brayton '96**  
Q&A with *The New York Times* Vice President and Chief Legal Officer.

**38 Honor Lies Here**  
The Texas-sized impact of Judge Harriet M. Murphy '69.

**40 Mojo Hands**  
Two alumni secure legendary blues archive.

**42 Class Notes**

**51 In Memoriam**



## Uniting Legal Minds

**W**elcome to *Texas Law Magazine*! After a 10-year hiatus in publishing, we are bringing it back for one reason: connection. In an increasingly fractured world, we want to strengthen the ties that help our graduates connect to one another and to all of us back home on campus.

The Texas Law family includes nearly 30,000 alumni, faculty, students, staff, donors, and members of the wider legal community, and we aspire to bring intelligent, sophisticated, and topical content to all of them. Our magazine will speak to the complex world in which we live through a Texas Law lens. In doing so, we hope to convey the vitality of a Texas Law degree across generations, geographies, and experiences.

Since becoming dean in July 2022, I've met with thousands of you, heard stories of your law school years, celebrated your triumphs, and have been humbled by your generosity of spirit. You certainly embody the incredible breadth of opportunity and accomplishment made possible by this law school.

As you'll see in the pages of this magazine, Texas Law holds a unique place of leadership and impact in our country. By our 150th anniversary in 2033, and with your help, I fully expect Texas Law to be widely acknowledged as the Best Public Law School in America.

Texas Law is a special place. Our magazine is dedicated to showing why. Turn the page and see for yourself!

Hook 'em,

**BOBBY CHESNEY**  
*Dean, The University of Texas School of Law*

1



2



5



3



4



1

**Nick CABRERA**

**“Rastell’s Dictionary,” p. 8**

In his cozy Austin studio amid garages, sheds with car audio parts, and a gas station, Cabrera brings inanimate objects to life through technical lighting and set building wizardry. “Capturing a 500-year-old book was amazing,” reflects Cabrera. “The only thing close, especially as a Texan, was photographing the keys to The Alamo. Both were a thrill!”

2

**Joe Nick PATOSKI**

**“Mojo Hands,” p. 40**

Familiar to readers of *Texas Monthly* and *Texas Highways*, Patoski has authored biographies of Willie Nelson, Selena, and Stevie Ray Vaughan, and hosts The Texas Music Hour of Power for public radio. Of Mack McCormick’s life work, Patoski says, “It’s a portal to music and cultures in Greater Texas that would have remained unknown.”

3

**Brian STAUFFER**

**“America Votes,” p. 18**

Stauffer is an accomplished illustrator known for his captivating and thought provoking imagery. With a unique style blending traditional and digital techniques, he has contributed to numerous publications worldwide, including *The New York Times*, *TIME*, and *The Atlantic*. Stauffer’s work resonates for its depth, social commentary, and emotion.

4

**Stephen VOSS**

**“The Indomitable Lisa Blatt,” p. 6**

The D.C.-based Voss often finds himself called on to photograph politicians, artists, and other newsmakers in the nation’s capitol, with subjects as varied as Michele Obama, Richard Branson, and Questlove. Voss says, “I love working with passionate people who are doing work they’re genuinely excited about.”

5

**Callie RICHMOND**

**“A Conversation with Bobby Chesney,” p. 32**

“Working with Bobby is great,” enthuses Richmond about capturing the dean’s infectious energy. A photojournalist expert in storytelling through photography, she covers politics, projects, and breaking news for *The New York Times*, *Texas Monthly*, and others. She also loves travel and snorkeling with her camera.



**Openings**  
statements

Brian Gaffney '07  
The Natural

art by RYAN MELGAR

**T**

he boys of summer are back! It’s the sixth season in the bigs for Colorado Rockies vice president and general counsel Brian Gaffney ’07. Though a Pac-10 Championship linebacker for Stanford, Gaffney is in his element in the world of professional baseball. With his wife, Abby Gaffney ’07, and brother, Colin Gaffney ’12 — also top collegiate athletes — the families carry on a legacy of excellence handed down from Don Gaffney ’78. “Over-prepare your cases,” dad Gaffney counseled junior attorneys. Win or lose, “you might actually learn something” new.



# The Indomitable Lisa Blatt '89

An unstoppable  
force in law.

**F**

Fierce. Capable. Funny. Direct. These are just a few words that describe Lisa Blatt '89. With her April 23, 2024 argument on behalf of Starbucks, we can add history-making, as Blatt joins an elite group of lawyers — the first woman among them — with fifty career arguments before the highest court. Blatt is the most active female member, and among the all-time winningest advocates, of the SCOTUS bar in United States history.

Over her career, the Williams & Connolly Chair of the firm's Supreme Court and Appellate practice has argued forty-six cases and won forty-one, an eighty-nine percent win rate.

While it's easy enough to rattle off her accomplishments, Blatt defies pat description and standard categories. She's not afraid to say what she thinks and she's thriving professionally. This fact alone makes her a stand-out in any profession, much less one as traditional as Big Law or as refined and exclusive as the SCOTUS bar.

She is a self-described liberal feminist who publicly supported Justice Brett Kavanaugh when he was named to the high court. She's a legal genius who bonded over fashion with Justice

Ruth Bader Ginsburg during her clerkship with the judge. Blatt prepares for oral advocacy as all-out war and with a sense that someone is going to die. "I don't want it to be me," she says. And behind her fierce determination she embraces her identity as a "Lady Lawyer." A working mother of two now-grown children, Blatt has been able to control her calendar choosing roles and part-time schedules without the typical kiss-of-death consequences to her career.

"She's a force in court, a completely no-nonsense kind of lawyer who will be direct and sometimes even blunt in her arguments," says Kellogg Hansen's David Frederick '89, a fellow SCOTUS bar superstar who also happens to be Blatt's IL section-mate and friend. In an Original Jurisdiction podcast with host David Lat, she quipped, "My style, if it's unique, it's that I have this very strong view that truth is the best form of advocacy." Add to this stark candor verbal jousting that at times draws delighted laughter from the high court, and you'll realize the tightrope that Blatt walks.

But describe her style as inimitable, and she balks. She's not curating a style. Blatt is simply being who she is. Forthright to the point of blunt. Direct to the point of being funny. It's these very aspects of her unique style that make her an unusual trailblazer. For Blatt, even in the win-lose world of SCOTUS arguments, a good bit of success is knowing who you are, apart from what others think, and just going for it. It's this aspect of her style — truth, authenticity, and indomitability — that she very much hopes to pass on to younger lawyers.

Having benefited from formidable mentors like RBG and her former boss at the Solicitor General's office, Paul Clement, Blatt leans into her own mentorship of others. "I spend literally the majority of my time trying to get argument opportunities for people younger than me," she explains. "That means bringing in pro bono clients with advocacy opportunities,

communicating why high-profile oral arguments should be shared, and encouraging the younger attorneys."

Like many of the young people she mentors, Blatt did not always enjoy the self-assurance that might naturally foretell of a legal legend. Despite her strong academic career at UT and having earned a coveted clerkship with RBG, the young Jewish woman from San Angelo felt less accomplished and less capable than her fellow clerks from Ivy League schools.

By her own account, she did not thrive in her first stint as a trial law-

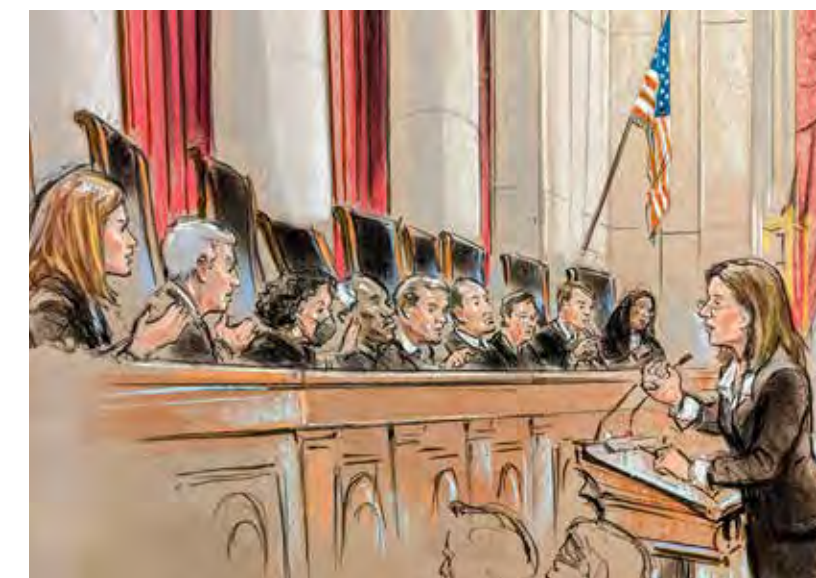
yer. She left Williams & Connolly after just three years. At the Solicitor General's office, she found a home for her strengths along with a sense that she could be more herself.

For Blatt, who prefers burnt orange and cowboy boots to staid suits and heels, her Texas roots are still near the surface. In a deft move on rebuttal in *Romag Fasteners, Inc. vs. Fos-sil, Inc.* (2020), Blatt tossed in a comment that while she "did not go to a fancy law school," she knew the cases she cited were, in fact, on her side. The offhand remark prompted Justice Ginsberg to attest that "Texas is a fine school," which in turn garnered light-hearted laughter among the justices.

Did she just burn her opposing counsel? Was it a glimpse of that latent insecurity? Was it a mistake to toss her credentials up against her opponent's Ivy League pedigree? The court ruled 9-0 in favor of Blatt's client.

"She is an incredible advocate who works tirelessly to find the winning angle," says Clement. "That was obvious in the Solicitor General's office where, across administrations and substantive issues, she just kept winning." And now, she's making history, too. ↗

**"My style, if it's unique, it's that I have this very strong view that truth is the best form of advocacy."**



LEFT  
Lisa Blatt outside of the Supreme Court on Jan. 26, 2024.

RIGHT  
Lisa Blatt argues for Halkbank on Jan. 17, 2023.

# Rastell's Dictionary

BY KATE RODEN

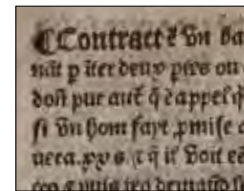
TARLTON LAW LIBRARY HOLDS A RARE FIRST EDITION OF JOHN RASTELL'S 1523 ENGLISH LAW DICTIONARY — A PIONEERING LEGAL REFERENCE WORK.

This thin, rather nondescript paper-wrapped pamphlet, described by the late Bill Powers as looking like nothing more than “an upside-down postage stamp,” is John Rastell's *Exposicions of [th]e Termys of [th]e Law of England*. It is the first English law dictionary, and, indeed, the first dictionary of any kind published in the English language. ¶ The book was Tarlton's one-millionth volume when purchased in 1999 by then-head librarian Roy Mersky, with support from the efforts of Bryan Garner '84 and Joe Jamail '53. It's been described by scholars as having “exercised as nearly permanent and decisive an influence as any lawbook in English history.” Tarlton's copy constitutes a unique edition, with a first-edition title page dated 1523 and full text from 1530, essentially a medieval version of an update. ¶ The edition is so rare that it is trav-

elling this spring to New York's Grolier Club Library as part of their exhibition, “Hardly Harmless Drudgery: Landmarks in English Lexicography,” opening this May. Tarlton's unique edition is slated to be displayed alongside Robert Cawdrey's *Table Alphabeticall* of 1604, loaned from Oxford's Bodleian Library, and a 1525 copy of Rastell's Dictionary from Harvard Law School.

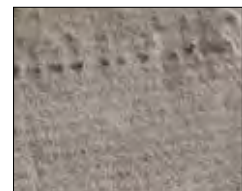
### THE PRINTER'S MARK

The printer's plate, Rastell's trademark, depicts a mermaid and merman holding a shield emblazoned with his monogram. Common in medieval manuscripts, merfolk figures often were depicted preparing for battle, club or sword in hand. Rastell's pair are calmly poised, suggesting security behind knowledge.



### BILINGUAL

168 entries appear with the Anglo-Norman term on the left, the English equivalent on the right.



### DRYING RACKS

16th Century papers were dried on ribbed frames, whose imprints remain visible centuries later.



“THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE LAW BUSINESS. AND NOBODY DOES IT BETTER THAN A&F.”

That first year, Dean Keeton and five other faculty were named Best in Show for their act, “A Dozen Wicked Legs,” dancing the cancan in matching dresses, wigs, and gartered socks. After waning interest and even skipping a year in 1968, the show roared back to life in the 1970s. The 1974 production included an 18-piece orchestra and original score. Soon after, film took center stage with the 1978 production of *Bar Wars*.

## Still Crazy After All These Years Assault and Flattery turns 70.

In the decades since, the student-led production has continued to morph with the times, usually selecting a popular film or Broadway musical as the backdrop for its often blistering but inevitably funny takes on law school life: grades, jobs, faculty foibles, and the perennial crowd favorite: impersonating the dean. By the mid-2000s, A&F became a stand-alone event with up to four nightly and well-attended shows.

These days Assault and Flattery has honed a stage presence on campus as the musical theater group of Texas Law, along with its in-house band, *\$ex Parte*, and the always lyrically dynamic *a cappella* group, The Supreme Chorus. When this year's cast and crew staged the 70th Annual Assault and Flattery, *IHell!*, they joined a long and talented list of *Blues Barristers*, *My Fair Lawyers*, *Juris Lines*, *Heirs*, *Damn Attorneys*, and all those who've gone before here at Texas Law.

After all, there's no business like law business. And nobody does it better than A&F. ↗

**T**

he *Rocky Lawyer Picture Show*. *Grief is the Word*. *The Wizard of Laws*. *Top Gunner*.

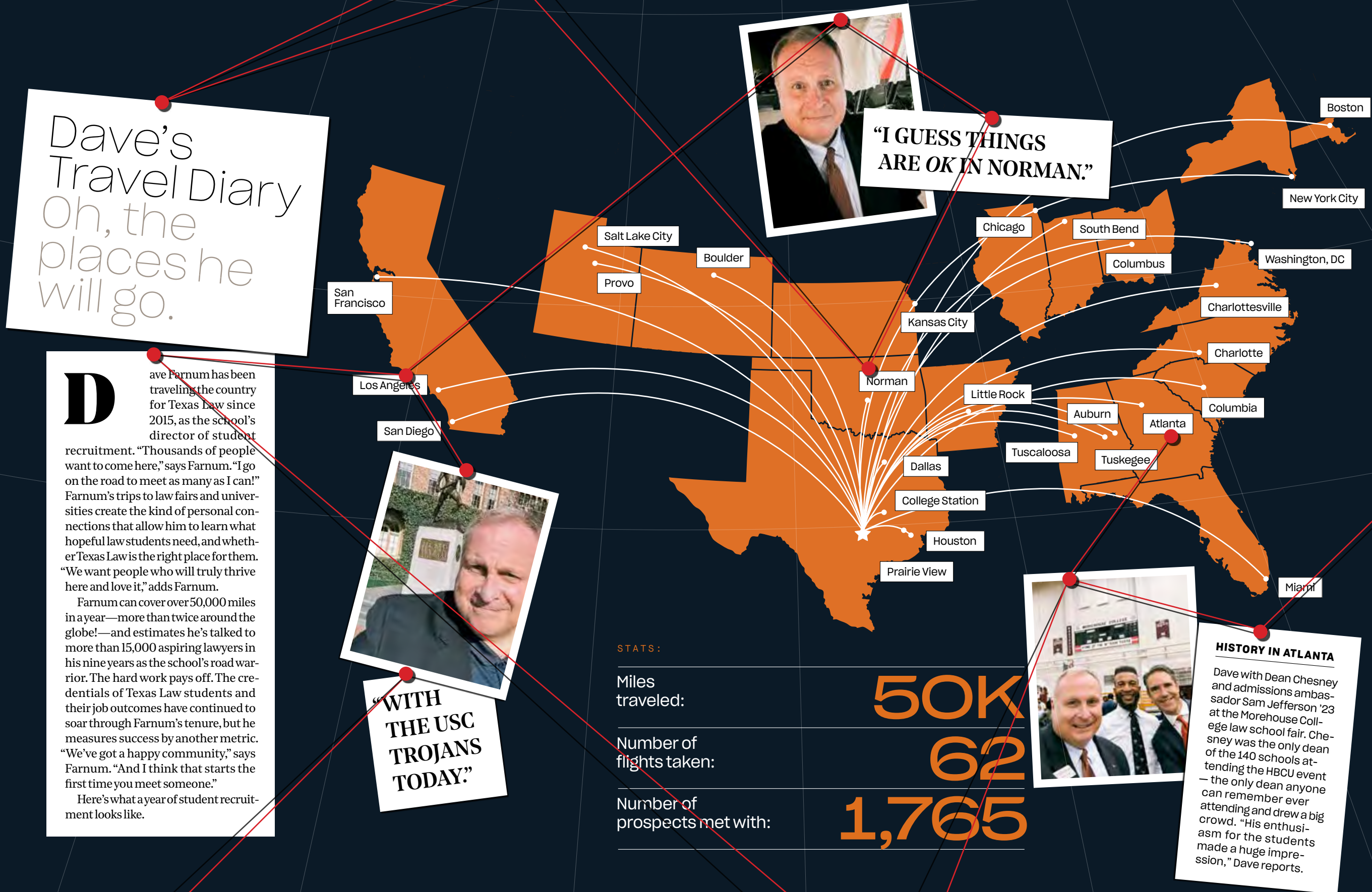
Assault and Flattery has long been punning its way into our hearts as one of the most beloved of Texas Law traditions. With ample roasts, toasts, singing, dancing, and often questionable judgment, the casts and crews of A&F have set aside the tedium of classes and lifted the collective spirits of students and (most) faculty going on 70 years.

In 1953, W. Page Keeton, then in his fourth year as dean, initiated the A&F tradition as a part of Law Week, a law-school-wide event typically in April that also included lectures, a student picnic, and eventually a 3-mile competitive run called *Race Judicata*. Various groups within the law school participated, each independently writing and producing their own material.

TARLTON LIBRARY ARCHIVES

**THURGOOD MARSHALL LEGAL SOCIETY NAMED CHAPTER OF THE YEAR BY NATIONAL BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**

"I want people to share in the optimism because, right now, there are so many questions and so much negativity." That's Natalya Baptiste '25 speaking with a reporter about Afrofuturism and the Law, a symposium hosted in February by Texas Law's Thurgood Marshall Legal Society. "There are so many brilliant legal scholars who are doing the work ... and we wanted to create a space for that," said Baptiste. ¶ The group's annual symposium is just one of the reasons TMLS was named National Black Law Students Association "Chapter of the Year." The award celebrates TMLS's commitment "to positively impact the community." ¶ The symposium prompted prominent practitioners and scholars, including keynote speaker Bennett Capers, a former Texas Law visiting professor currently at Fordham Law School, to envision the legal foundations of a more equitable and vibrant future for all Americans. ¶ The 55-member TMLS is one of the school's oldest student organizations. But as Baptiste eagerly points out, "TMLS is more than just a student organization—it's a tightknit community." ¶ "Student organizations are the heart and soul of our community," says Elizabeth Bangs, the dean of students. "TMLS takes that on and brings so much joy to the school. Bravo to them!"



**Dave's Travel Diary**  
Oh, the places he will go.

**D**ave Farnum has been traveling the country for Texas Law since 2015, as the school's director of student recruitment. "Thousands of people want to come here," says Farnum. "I go on the road to meet as many as I can!" Farnum's trips to law fairs and universities create the kind of personal connections that allow him to learn what hopeful law students need, and whether Texas Law is the right place for them. "We want people who will truly thrive here and love it," adds Farnum.

Farnum can cover over 50,000 miles in a year—more than twice around the globe!—and estimates he's talked to more than 15,000 aspiring lawyers in his nine years as the school's road warrior. The hard work pays off. The credentials of Texas Law students and their job outcomes have continued to soar through Farnum's tenure, but he measures success by another metric. "We've got a happy community," says Farnum. "And I think that starts the first time you meet someone."

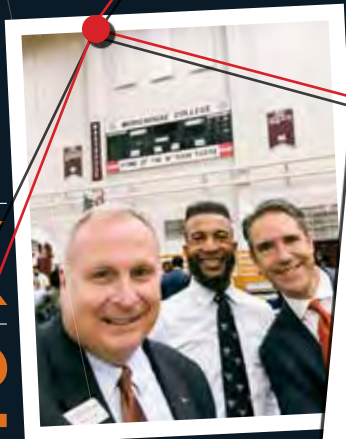
Here's what a year of student recruitment looks like.



**"WITH THE USC TROJANS TODAY!"**



**"I GUESS THINGS ARE OK IN NORMAN."**



**HISTORY IN ATLANTA**

Dave with Dean Chesney and admissions ambassador Sam Jefferson '23 at the Morehouse College law school fair. Chesney was the only dean of the 140 schools attending the HBCU event—the only dean anyone can remember ever attending and drew a big crowd. "His enthusiasm for the students made a huge impression," Dave reports.

**STATS:**

- Miles traveled:
- Number of flights taken:
- Number of prospects met with:

**50K**  
**62**  
**1,765**

# New Faces

## Six new faculty join Texas Law.

As anyone who has been to law school knows, the essence of a legal education is learning to think like a lawyer, and learning it from great minds. Texas Law's deep bench of world-class instructors grew by six members this year.

These new faculty members come from a range of backgrounds, with expertise in a variety of timely areas of the law and legal practice, including subjects such as advocacy and legal writing, election law, constitutional law, law and economics, and public interest law.

Their expertise will support today's students as they launch their careers into an ever-changing world. Some, like election law, are relatively new and bring new course offerings altogether. Others, like appellate advocacy and legal writing, are timeless but strongly influenced by new technologies, such as generative AI, that demand innovation in teaching practices.

Meet these new scholars and award-winning instructors, all of whom are providing students the best that legal education has to offer.



SRINIVAS "VASU" BEHARA '05

CLINICAL PROFESSOR

Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge Vasu Behara '05 was tapped to lead the law school's Judicial Internship program. "My own law school judicial internship was a formational learning experience in my career," says Behara. "I'm hopeful I can make an impact on the brightest future legal professionals in the country."

Judge Behara has extensive presiding and practical experience in civil trial and appeals, mediation, and arbitration. After law school he clerked for Judge Ricardo H. Hinojosa on the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, then later as staff attorney to the Hon. Karin Crump, Presiding Judge of the 250th Judicial District Court in Travis County. His work as a public servant also includes a term as the assistant general counsel at the Texas Medical Association, where he worked in health law and legislative affairs. A former member of the board of directors for the Austin Bar Association and staff attorney with the State Bar of Texas, Legal Access Division, Behara worked to promote pro bono representation across Texas.

As a native of McAllen in the Rio Grande Valley, Behara received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Trinity University in San Antonio and his JD from The University of Texas School of Law.

**"I'M HOPEFUL I CAN MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE BRIGHTEST FUTURE LEGAL PROFESSIONALS IN THE COUNTRY."**



STEPHANIE CAGNIART

LECTURER

The law school's best-in-class legal writing program gets even stronger with the addition of appellate specialist Stephanie Cagniart. Cagniart teaches both Legal Analysis and Communication and Persuasive Writing and Advocacy as the newest lecturer in the David J. Beck Center for Legal Research, Writing, and Appellate Advocacy.

An elected member of the American Law Institute, Cagniart has her bachelor's degree from The Universi-

ty of Texas at Austin and her master's in history, as well as her JD, from the University of Virginia. After law school, she served as a law clerk to Judge Patrick E. Higginbotham on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Before joining Texas Law's full-time faculty, Cagniart was a lecturer at her alma mater, UVA, and a partner at Baker Botts, where she remains Of Counsel.

Cagniart's many pursuits include her four national championships in public speaking while a UT undergraduate, her current service as a Foundation Fellow of the Austin Bar Association as well as a board member of its Civil Litigation Section, and as a member of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society.



JAMEIN P. CUNNINGHAM

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Jamein P. Cunningham, a recipient of the Rackham Merit Fellowship and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute in Child Health and Development Fellowship, joins the faculty from Cornell University's Population Center. As an economist whose re-

search focuses on law and economics, urban economics, economics of crime, and microeconometrics, he holds a joint appointment with the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

"I'm excited to join UT, and I'm most looking forward to meeting and working with faculty and students both to start new projects to examine the efficacy of oversight in the broader U.S. criminal legal system." Cunningham currently is teaching two courses: Statistics for Lawyers and a seminar on Crime, Law, and Policy.

He holds professional memberships in the American Economic Association, the Southern Economic Association, the American Law and Economics Association, the Racial Democracy, Crime, and Justice Network, and the National Economic Association. His research has been published in journals including the *American Economic Association Paper and Proceedings*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, and the *Review of Black Political Economy*.

Before receiving his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, Cunningham completed his undergraduate degree at Michigan State University and a master's in economics at the University of North Texas.

**"I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO ... STARTING NEW PROJECTS TO EXAMINE THE EFFICACY OF OVERSIGHT OF THE BROADER U.S. CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM."**



JOHN GREIL

CLINICAL PROFESSOR

"The Law and Religion Clinic is unique among American law schools for performing soup to nuts legal representation for individuals and organizations exercising their rights to religious freedom," says John Greil, the clinic's new professor.

The Law and Religion Clinic is part of the Bech-Loughlin First Amendment Center, which is dedicated to advancing knowledge of the First Amendment and to fostering appreciation of its place in our legal system.

Before joining the faculty, Griel was an associate at Vinson & Elkins in Houston. He clerked for two federal district judges, Nathaniel Gorton of the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts and Paul Barbadoro of the U.S. District Court of New Hampshire, as well as for The Hon. Jennifer Walker Elrod of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. His scholarship has appeared in the *Villanova Law Review* and the *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*.

Greil graduated, *cum laude*, from both the University of Notre Dame and Harvard Law School.



**JOSHUA SELLERS**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Joshua Sellers teaches and writes in the areas of election law, constitutional law, race and the law, and American politics. (See his essay on legal issues in the 2024 election on page 18.)

“As a scholar of election law, I’m excited to be in Texas, given its enormous influence on American democracy,” says Sellers, whose work has appeared in many leading journals, including the *Stanford Law Review*, *Vanderbilt Law Review*, *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, and *New York University Law Review*.

Sellers won the Distinguished Scholarship Award in 2021 from the Association of American Law Schools Section on Election Law, and in 2022 he was awarded the Berlin Prize by the American Academy in Berlin for representing the highest standards of excellence in his field. Before entering the academy, Sellers was a law clerk to Judge Rosemary Barkett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and a litigation associate at Jenner & Block LLP in Washington, D.C.

Sellers holds a JD and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago, where he served as an articles editor of the *University of Chicago Law Review*, and a BA from the University of Michigan.

**“I’M EXCITED TO BE IN TEXAS GIVEN ITS ENORMOUS INFLUENCE ON AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.”**

**BRIEF**

**THE TEXAS LAW CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC BEGAN PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST-CHAIR FIFTY YEARS AGO.**

Clinics are vital to legal education. In 1974, that wasn’t the case at Texas Law, or anywhere, when the late Professor Robert Dawson started the Criminal Defense Clinic. ¶ Dawson, joined by Bill Allison ’71, wanted to give students “an education through actually practicing law.” Since its inception, the clinic has taught over two thousand students, putting them in first-chair position, with the supervising attorney guiding as second chair. This novel approach soon became a model for legal educa-

tion everywhere. Texas Law now offers seventeen clinics. Clinic students report a thrill at the awakening of their knowledge, and a reckoning with the weight of responsibility, in handling a client’s very real needs. The Criminal Defense Clinic captures this tension perfectly. As Professor Philip Bobbitt taught in criminal law, “No one should ever have to face the awesome weight and majesty of any government of the United States without a friend at their side.” ¶ Under the able direction of former Washington, D.C., public defender Chris Roberts, the Criminal Defense Clinic enters its next fifty years stronger than ever.



**NICOLE SIMMONS ’07**  
CENTER DIRECTOR,  
CLINICAL PROFESSOR

Nicole Simmons has been making a major impact on the academic and professional journeys of Texas Law students for more than a decade. The new executive director of the William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law, Simmons is now also serving as the clinical faculty member teaching Texas Law’s Public Service Internship course. The course gives students hands-on legal experience under the supervision of experienced attorneys in the field, and an academic course component taught by Simmons.

“It’s my passion to support the professional development of students who love public service work as much as I do. Securing internships in non-profit and government offices is an incredible opportunity.”

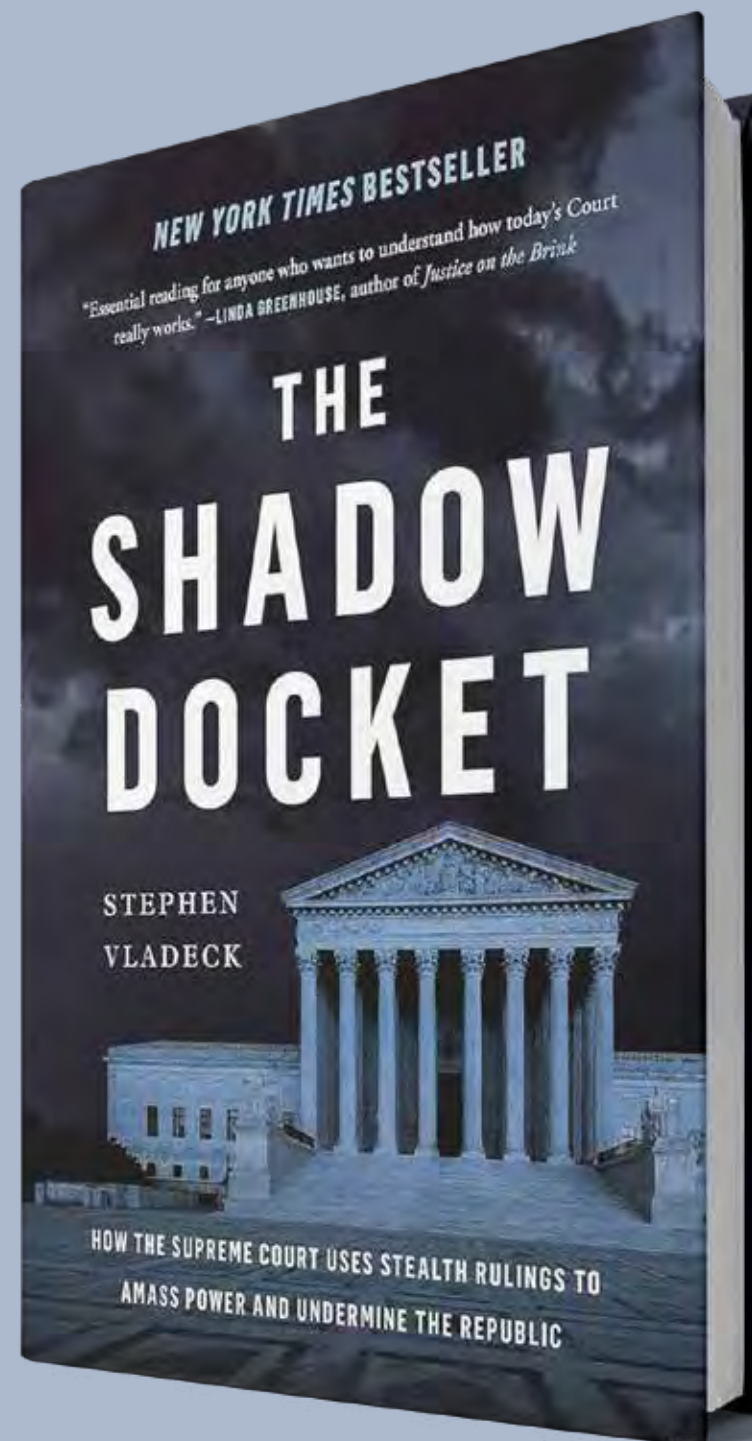
“And,” she adds, “it’s fantastic to be back in the classroom.”

Simmons, a member of the Texas Law class of 2007, practiced law as an associate with Mayer Brown in Houston before taking on roles at Texas Law, first advising students on public service career opportunities, and then as the founding director of the Texas Law Pipeline Outreach and Development program. She’s also held leadership roles with the National Association of Law Placement, Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas, and the Austin Black Lawyer’s Association. ↗

# The Shadow Docket

BY  
LIZ ANDERSON  
HILTON

LIKE WINNING THE LOTTERY, THE ODDS OF DEBUTING A *NEW YORK TIMES* BEST-SELLER ARE ABOUT 1-IN-300 MILLION. PROFESSOR STEPHEN VLADECK DID JUST THAT.



COURTESY BASIC BOOKS PUBLISHERS; COVER DESIGN: EMMILY O’CONNOR; COVER IMAGES: JON BILLOUS/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; @S\_OLEGS/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM; STEVE; BRIAN BIRZER

It’s tough to make *The New York Times* bestseller list, but it’s rare indeed for a law professor writing about obscure court procedures to punch that ticket. Yet that’s exactly what Professor Stephen Vladeck did when his well-researched book, *The Shadow Docket: How the Supreme Court Uses Stealth Rulings to Amass Power and Undermine the Republic*, debuted at Number 9 on the hardcover nonfiction list in May 2023. ¶ “It says a lot about where we are that a wonky book about the Supreme Court has been this successful,” Vladeck remarks. For Vladeck, the Charles Alan Wright Chair in Federal Courts, this lesser-known side of the Court’s caseload is as important as the more thoroughly reported and transparently decided merits docket. ¶ “The ‘shadow docket’ is a relatively new term referring to everything the Court handles other than the 60-65 cases decided on the merits each year,” explains Vladeck. In his book, he critiques the high court’s reliance on unsigned orders to decide these cases without the typical full briefing, oral argument, and written opinion. For most of the Court’s history, the overwhelming majority of emergency petitions involved the death penalty. The Court’s shadow docket — and its unsigned orders — increasingly decide matters involving controversial public policies, such as things like the availability of mifepristone, presidential power to build a border wall, and religious freedoms amidst COVID mitigation policies. ¶ “We’re not always going to agree with the justices’ legal principles, but the Court’s legitimacy is predicated on the hope that we will agree that the justices’ decisions are principled,” Vladeck says.



The University of Texas at Austin President Jay Hartzell has named Vladeck as a recipient of the President’s Research Impact Award.



It's true: prescription drugs are awfully expensive. In the United States, annual costs of prescription drugs exceed a half trillion dollars—that's nearly seventeen percent of the nation's personal health care bill. And they're among the fastest growing segments of health care spending.

The cost is more than financial. Last year, about twenty percent of Americans chose not to fill at least one prescription due to financial considerations, while others rationed the drugs they did acquire. The rising cost of biopharmaceuticals is a critical national concern.

So, why exactly *are* these drugs so expensive?

The public discourse typically focuses on the most visible drivers of cost. These include research and development investments, the significant marketing and advertising campaigns of drug makers, an inefficient healthcare system, and regulatory hurdles, among many others. All are true.

But if we want to start reducing the cost of our prescription drugs, there's another place to look, one too little considered, and one that research tells us can make a huge difference: secondary patents, or the patents that protect peripheral features of a drug rather than its active ingredient.

**The Good and the Bad of Secondary Patents**

Patents provide exclusive rights over a product for a full twenty years, enabling the rights holder (e.g., a drug manufacturer) to charge higher-than-competitive prices to recoup those research and development costs. After the twenty-year patent term expires, generics can enter the market, and the competition drives down drug prices and increases access to life saving pharmaceuticals.

The first patents are filed early in the research phase and typically claim the drug's active ingredient. Later in the drug discovery process, however, firms often attempt to acquire secondary patents on different formulations, or dosages, or alternative forms of the drug's active ingredient. Those later-

filed secondary patents extend the exclusivity period, allowing the patent-holder to extend their control of the price—and the profits.

But do these secondary patents represent true innovation? Or do they provide little or no benefit, merely delaying the competition of generic, cheaper alternatives?

Consider Buspar, a drug used to treat anxiety. Bristol Myers Squibb obtained a secondary patent on the metabolite of the active ingredient of Buspar on the eve of the active ingredient patent's expiration. A metabolite of a compound is the modified form of the compound that results from ingestion or metabolism. There's nothing novel or new about that. Under standard patent law principles, this patent should have never been issued. Indeed, a court later invalidated the patent on summary judgment. But until that judgment, Bristol Myers Squibb reaped the benefits of keeping the price for Buspar arbitrarily high.

It's not that all secondary patents are inherently dubious. Some do stem from continuous research and development and offer important clinical and therapeutic benefits. Take, for example, Lumigan, a drug which treats glaucoma.

The original formulation of Lumigan had a side effect: severe red eye.

That led to a significant number of patients discontinuing the drug without telling their physician, and this sometimes resulted in blindness. Lumigan's manufacturer, Allergan, developed a second formulation of the drug that reduced that adverse side effect, in turn improving patient compliance. Here, the secondary patent clearly provided a significant clinical benefit over the primary one, warranting an extension in market exclusivity.

Not all secondary patents are created equal, but our system of granting these patents does a poor job of distinguishing the good from the bad. We can do better.

**Too Many Patents, Too Little Time**

To know how to do better, we have to understand where the system actually breaks down. As simple as it sounds, the time spent on patent applications may be the problem.

On average, a patent examiner spends only nineteen hours reviewing a patent application. A typical pharmaceutical patent application might run to 100 pages, with extensive, highly complex claims. Clearly, nineteen hours isn't enough time to do the job well. And because patent applications are presumed valid upon filing, if examiners don't find and articulate a basis to reject an application in



the allotted time, they are legally expected to allow it.

It's easy to see how this hurried process leads to bad results.

**Follow the Examiner**

My new research, co-authored with Michael Frakes of Duke University School of Law, is focused on attacking this problem. Our research tests whether giving patent examiners more time to review patent applications on peripheral drug features will increase the quality of issued pharmaceutical patents. We also conduct a cost-benefit analysis of this reform.

To investigate empirically the link between examination time and the various markers of the legal validity, we followed the patterns of the examiners themselves.

Here is how we did it. Patent exam-

iners are allocated a certain amount of time to conduct each patent investigation assigned to them. But, as they are promoted within the Patent Office, they typically incur a 10-15% decrease in that time allocation. Because of this, and because applications are assigned to examiners randomly, we could explore whether examiners issue secondary patents of more dubious validity when they get promotions that leave them with substantially less time to review applications.

Our results are striking.

Examiners *do* issue more dubious patents as they get promoted, dramatically so. And the research is also clear that adding time back to a review process, or even increasing it, can have just as dramatic benefits. Our numbers show that a 50% increase in examination time is associated with a 10

percentage-point *decrease* in the likelihood that the Patent Office will issue an invalid secondary patent.

Put another way, over just one year, a 50% increase in examination time per application would result in a staggering 17 years of accelerated access to generic drugs.

What would these 17 years of accelerated access mean?

It would mean that individuals taking prescriptions because their lives depend on them could realize lower prices, transforming other areas of their lives that would benefit from the resources they'd save. It would mean that patients rationing their prescriptions, or refusing to fill them at all, could finally access the health care they actually need.

It would mean, according to our estimates, a total consumer savings of somewhere between \$2.53 and \$5.28 billion—yes, *billion*—per year from lower prices and increased access.

**But Can It Be Done?**

Happily, increasing the time spent on these applications would be easy to do. No act of Congress nor any regulatory oversight is needed for the USPTO to simply hire more examiners, and the cost involved—our research shows that \$20M is the right number—could come from straightforward changes to the fees pharmaceutical patent applicants pay. In other words, taking this step would be cost neutral.

There's yet another hidden benefit to doing this: the elimination of administrative fees associated with downstream litigation around bad patents. The same research shows that approximately \$32M in these costs can be saved by a more efficient and effective patent review process.

Investing in resources for the Patent Office won't solve the entirety of the high cost of prescription drugs. Other challenges, from the high cost of research to regulatory hurdles, are real and stubborn. But if we can save up to \$5B with an investment of time, at no cost to American taxpayers, that seems like a good place to start. ↗



**Melissa Wasserman** is the Charles Tilford McCormick Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Research at The University of Texas School of Law.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPHAN SCHMITZ(THE ISPOT); MELISSA: BRIAN BIRZER

Why Are Drugs So &!\$@#%! Expensive? Uncovering a simple fix.

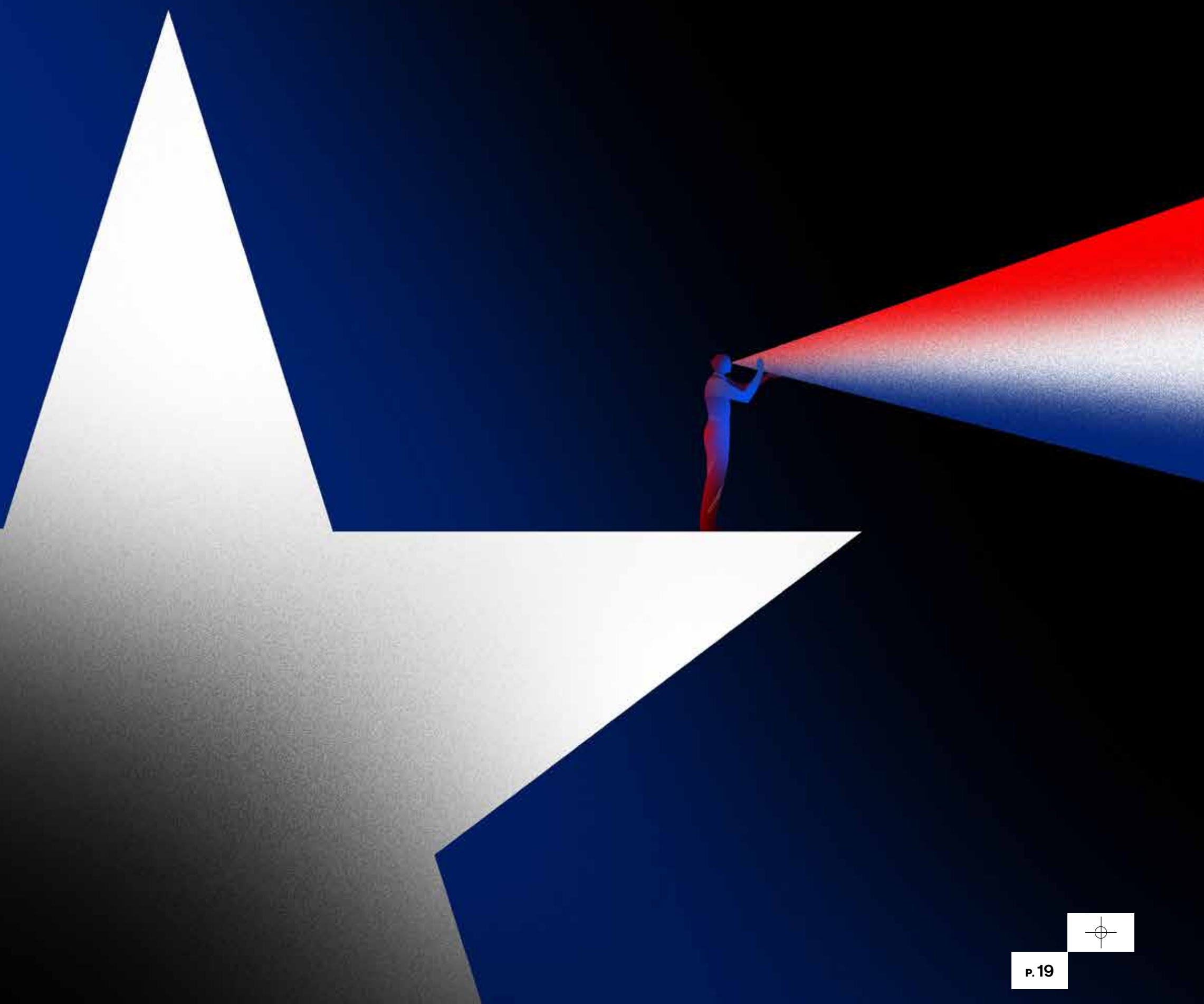
# America

# Votes

Legal issues increasingly shape election outcomes. Here's a primer on the 2024 election.



BY **Professor Joshua Sellers**  
ART BY BRIAN STAUFFER



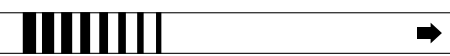
# When the United States Supreme Court intervened in the 2000 presidential election, many legal experts viewed the choice with dismay.

➔ Why, they asked, would the Court threaten its legitimacy by weighing in on a dispute, the resolution of which was certain to have a significant, if not dispositive, impact on the electoral outcome? If there was ever a case for which judicial restraint was appropriate, many would say *Bush v. Gore* was it. ¶ Nearly twenty-five years later, to observe that the federal judiciary routinely influences political outcomes is to risk banality. Today, many Americans have impassioned views on the Court's opinions in cases like *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, which facilitated the growth in corporate political expenditures, and *Shelby County v. Holder*, which invalidated a key provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These and related cases exacerbate a commonly held view that law is merely politics by other means. ¶ For those who dislike the idea of judges regulating politics, fair warning, 2024 may provoke distress. The mere volume of so-called "law of democracy" cases is striking, but the content of some of the litigation is particularly noteworthy.

## Uncharted Legal Territory

○ Never before had the Supreme Court considered the question of whether a presidential candidate is constitutionally prohibited — under Section 3 of the Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment — from assuming the presidency for having "engaged in insurrection." Remarkably, following the Colorado Supreme Court's determination that former President Donald Trump was ineligible for placement on the state's primary election ballot due to his activities leading up to and on January 6, 2021, the Court was asked to resolve the issue. The Court's opinion, issued on March 4, concluded that only Congress is constitutionally empowered to enforce Section 3. In short, Trump is entitled to placement on the ballot.

Relatedly, in the context of his federal indictment by special counsel Jack Smith for interfering in the 2020 election, Trump claims that presidents enjoy absolute immunity from federal prosecution for crimes committed in office, unless first impeached by the House of Representatives and convicted by the Senate. That issue, another legal novelty, will soon be resolved by the Supreme Court as well. Trump faces an additional federal indictment by Jack Smith, an indictment in Georgia, and an indictment in New York, each of which involves legally complex issues. These cases alone present enough legal and political uncertainty to keep election law aficionados and political junkies fully occupied. As novel as these cases are, though, they are just a small fraction of the election law litigation underway.



### EXHIBIT A

Law of democracy cases are on the rise. Will the quill be mightier than the vote?



## Voting Rights

One highly consequential set of cases involves redistricting. As background: following the decennial census, all states are required to redraw their congressional and state legislative electoral districts to ensure they are “equi-populous” (i.e., that each district contains the same number of people). This constitutional requirement is meant to prevent what is known as “vote dilution,” the weakening of a group’s voting power by manipulating district lines in a way that dilutes its influence.

Consider, hypothetically, one voter who is assigned to a district with 5,000 people, and another voter assigned to a district with 10,000 people; the latter’s voting power is diluted as compared with the former. The law has long prohibited this type of dilution. However, even with equi-populous districting it is nevertheless possible to dilute the voting power of racial or ethnic minorities (racial gerrymandering) or of political opponents (political gerrymandering). Because abundant information is available about where people live, and how people vote, it is not difficult to strategically design electoral districts that either overrepresent (a.k.a. packing) or underrepresent (a.k.a. cracking) certain populations. In fact, these days, computer pro-

grams do most of the work. In either scenario, the political influence of the targeted population is weakened.

The law pertaining to racial and political gerrymandering is dense and context-specific, making each redistricting litigation dispute unique. Litigation is currently ongoing in several states, including Wisconsin, New York, Louisiana, Utah, and Texas. Because the partisan composition of the House of Representatives is so evenly split, the outcomes in these cases could very well determine which political party has control in the next Congress.

## A New Third-Party Ticket?

Another curious feature of this election cycle are the maneuverings of various third parties in the presidential election. For instance, for months it appeared that the political group No Labels might influence the race, though that no longer appears to be the case. The group initially promised to run a moderate unity candidate for president if the major parties renominated Joe Biden and Donald Trump. Although the group was set to reveal its standard bearer following March 5, Super Tuesday, at which point many of the major parties’ convention delegates were assigned, it recently disclosed that it was unable to find anyone willing to run under its banner. It is now unclear whether No Labels has a future.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., however, remains on the campaign trail. Though technically running as an independent, and therefore not directly connected with any single political party, Mr. Kennedy is opportunistically aligning with a multitude of third parties for the purpose of obtaining ballot access in various states. It is hard to predict what impact he might have on the election, though media reports suggest that his policy positions resonate with certain segments of the electorate. What seems obvious is that this year’s election will be

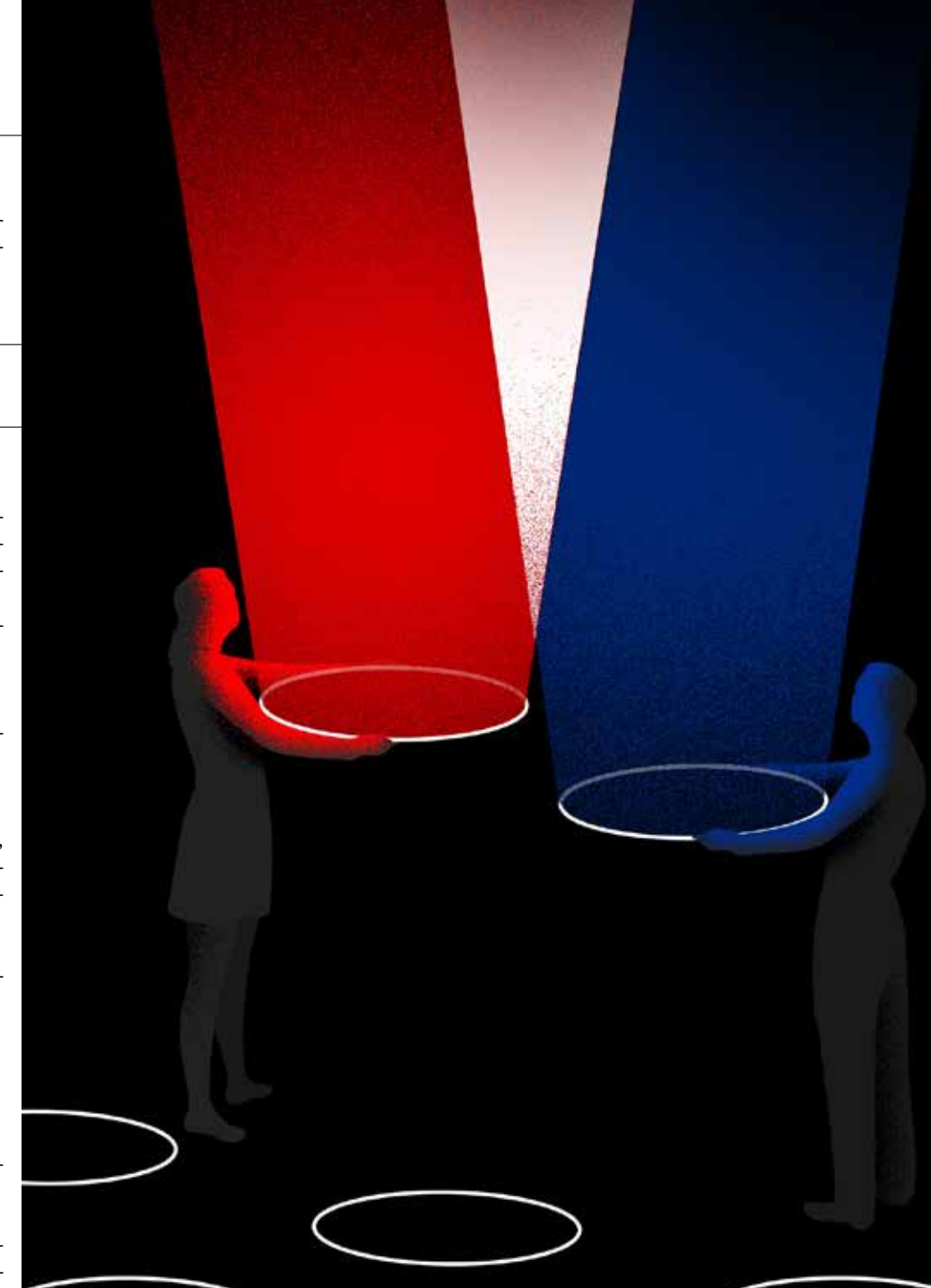
closely contested, which would make the casting of even a small percentage of votes for a non-major party candidate – whether Mr. Kennedy or another third party contender – potentially quite consequential.

## Improving Election Systems

Not to be forgotten in the coverage of these high-profile issues are the multitude of prosaic yet immensely important matters that accompany every election. Are prospective voters afforded easy registration? Have enough ballots been procured? Are polling places sufficiently staffed? Have voting machines been properly tested for both reliability and security? Are the rights of disadvantaged voting populations protected? Are post-election procedures — procedures for recounts or routine election audits, for instance — clearly established well in advance of the election? All these issues, and countless others, have at least the potential to become the subject of election litigation. Far too often, they do.

Accepting that fact, though, should not detract from efforts to improve our elections systems in ways that would reduce the amount of election litigation. As my own scholarship has argued, the right to vote, our most precious fundamental right, is unique among rights. Most rights are conceptualized as negative rights, they are premised on government noninterference. When Americans invoke their rights to free speech or the right to be free from unlawful searches and seizures, for example, they establish a bar that the government must clear before those rights may be infringed.

The right to vote, by contrast, is best conceptualized as a positive right; we simply cannot exercise it without the government creating the conditions, the apparatus, through which the right can be effectuated. This distinction obligates the government to invest in and preserve well-functioning, inclusive elections systems. The creation of such systems, would substantially reduce the frequency of election litigation. That would be a positive development, though the realization of markedly improved elections systems will require sustained investment.



## Our Collective Responsibility

In this fraught moment, long-term thinking feels like an indulgence. The months ahead look to be tumultuous. Political polarization defines the era and impedes progress on everything from reducing the cost of groceries to the nation’s response to foreign wars. The presidential contest will generate abundant commentary, much of it sordid. And, for better or worse, the judiciary will undoubtedly play a leading role in how the election unfolds, as it did at the start of the century. But, ultimately, the responsibility for democratic preservation and improvement is ours; it exists independent of any judicial pronouncements. How we collectively wield that responsibility is of the gravest importance, and will lay bare the essence of our democracy. ↗

### EXHIBIT C

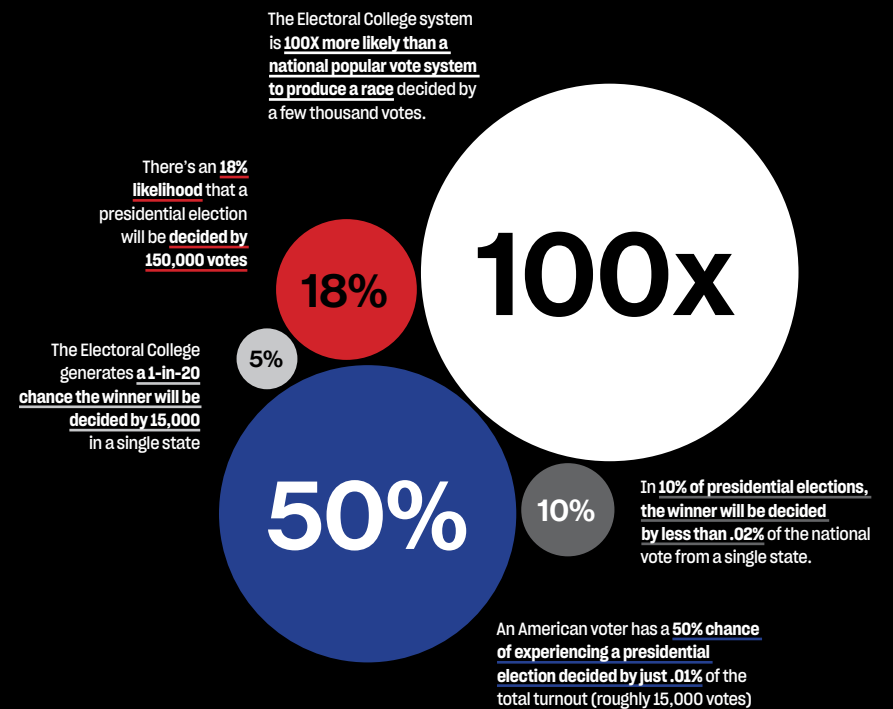
Voting is a positive right. It requires affirmative government action to support the collective exercise of that right.

### EXHIBIT B

## Unpopular Vote?

Are the close elections of the 21st century a fluke? New research from UT Austin professors Michael Geruso and Dean Spears suggests that recent elections — and the legal, practical, and political concerns they raise — are here to stay. The researchers found not only that U.S. elections are statistically likely produce razor-thin margins of victory. The authors contend “the electoral college itself causes this closeness. It would not occur under any plausibly comparable popular vote system.”

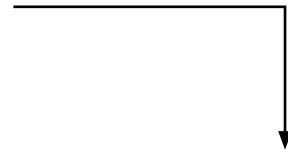
BY TEXAS LAW MAGAZINE STAFF



SOURCE: GERUSO AND SPEARS, “THE RISK OF NARROW, DISPARATE RESULTS IN THE U.S. ELECTORAL COLLEGE: REVIEW OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS (2024).”

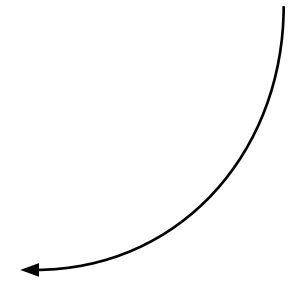
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For two decades, the innovative **Society Program** has been transforming students' experience of Texas Law.

E S.



WRITTEN BY  
Christopher  
Roberts

ILLUSTRATION BY  
Sean McCabe

pg. 24



# J



**JAMIL BATA WAS A FIRST-GENERATION GRADUATE** student when he arrived at Texas Law in the Fall of 2012, unsure of what a career as a lawyer would truly be like, much less what the experience of law school might have in store. The prospect of finding his way in an incoming class of nearly 400 other aspiring attorneys was intimidating, even for someone as naturally outgoing and gregarious as he was.

But on the first day of orientation, he was introduced to fellow members of the McCormick Society, a group of about 50 fellow first years with whom Bata was going to be share his law school career. He and the other McCormick society members were going to be in classes together, attending social functions together, and participating as a group in a wide range of public service activities, outings in Austin, and even friendly athletic competitions.

“It was awesome,” Bata recalls thinking.

Of course, Bata and his McCormick companions weren’t the only ones enjoying this special small-group arrangement. The entire school was doing it.

### **MAKING THE BIG CLASS SMALLER**

Texas Law alumni who graduated before 2004 may have no idea that for the last two decades one of the school’s central features is its innovative Society Program.

It was that summer that then-Dean Bill Powers created a working group, led by Prof. Jane Cohen, to tackle the perceived problem that students were feeling a little lost upon arrival at a big law school. “The size of our student body and our high student-faculty ratio are obstacles to student-faculty interaction,” the group wrote in one of its reports.

“Students want more contact with faculty, and with upper-class students as mentors,” the report continued. “We need to create smaller units of academic, intellectual, and social interaction among students and faculty.”



The group come up with an innovative proposal. Inspired by the collegiate systems of large universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, they landed on an idea to create eight societies, into which incoming students would be sorted, with each society overseen by a combination of upper-class students, faculty advisors, and what the group termed “community fellows,” alumni or other legal professionals in the community who would work with the new student groups.

Powers was sold on the idea right away, but needed a full-time person with the talent to turn the vision into a reality.

“Bill came to me with this basic notion and gave me a huge amount of trust to make it happen,” reflects David Sokolow, the longtime and beloved professor of contracts and business associations. “I wasn’t an administrator, but I knew our students and I knew I could do this.”

### **PUTTING STUDENTS AT THE CENTER**

Assisted by his former student, Allyson Childs (now Hale) ’95, whom he convinced to run the new program with him, Sokolow focused on creating the most crucial element of the Society Program: the student mentors.

He took his cue from the school’s Teaching Quizmaster model, in which 2L and 3L students taught legal writing to first-year students in the days before the school’s current

BRIAN BIRZER

BRIAN BIRZER

legal writing program was created. “I wanted TQs,” says Sokolow, “but for the social instruction that’s necessary for law school, developing friendships and building the knowledge to navigate the complicated space of law school.”

The commitment was serious. Student mentors would see to it that every incoming freshman made at least ten contacts with other incoming students in the weeks before orientation so that they would arrive on the first day knowing those people. They would meet weekly, sometimes daily, with the ILs, helping them adjust to the academic, social, and personal challenges of law school. They served as connectors for the new students to the school’s resources and offices. It was a heavy responsibility.

But that level of investment made an immediate impact—and a huge impression.

“It’s just so special to connect with people that have literally experienced what you’re experiencing only one year

before,” says Bata, the 2012 first-year who graduated in 2015 and is now a vice president and senior counsel in the Dallas office of Goldman Sachs. “It transforms the experience when people are that accessible. Law school is stereotypically intimidating, but Texas Law, as incredible a school as it is, isn’t like that. And the societies are why.”

Bata’s first-year experience made such an impression that he became a mentor himself, and later ran for, and won, the role of class president. “My time in the Society Program changed the direction of my law school career.”

### **GAME ON**

Sophie Hess ’25 is a coordinator for the Green Society. (See sidebar on p. 29 for the names, and namesakes, of the eight societies.) She concurs that the societies are vitally important to the culture and success of student life at the law school, but she’s quick to point out how much fun is involved.

“The Society Games are one of the best parts of the year,” says the Lexington, Mass., native.

Hess is referring to the day-long annual celebration in which all eight societies vie in a series of light-hearted competitions to claim bragging rights for the year. Events include, among others, sack races, a water-balloon toss, Pictionary, and, for a grand finale, a tug-of-war that puts everyone—participants and spectators alike—in high spirits.

“The games themselves are silly,” Hess concedes, “but the camaraderie is serious. And that carries into the classroom, into student organizations and journals, and, of course, into community projects.”



BRIAN BRZHEN

TEXAS LAW ARCHIVES

## DOING WELL BY DOING GOOD

At the very start, a key component of the Society Program was service in the community.

Each society chose a pro bono project, which through the years ranged from volunteering at Casa Marianella or Habitat for Humanity, taking up collections for the Caritas of Austin food pantry, working with veterans and those with severe disabilities, and doing legal work helping low-income families with wills and estates. Today, students do this vital work through the school's Richard and Ginni Mithoff Pro Bono Program.

For Elizabeth Bangs, the school's dean of student affairs, who has overseen the Society Program since 2013, the service element has always been especially meaningful. "Service to others, no matter your intellectual pursuits and eventual career path, is an important part of this profession and an essential part of our culture," she says. "Getting that exposure from the start of law school both through our amazing pro bono program and through our societies, is invaluable."

## MAKING PARTNER(SHIP)

Bangs is quick to point out that many of the opportunities the societies enjoy come about through the support the program receives, both within the school and from the extended legal community, especially the law firm Norton Rose Fulbright. The firm, going back to when it was known as Fulbright and Jaworski, has been a generous sponsor of the program from the first.

"The firm is so proud to have sponsored The Society Program since its inception two decades ago," says Richard Krumholz '92, who is the global head of litigation and disputes in the firm's Dallas office and has remained involved at the law school as a volunteer and mentor. "The school has been critical to recruiting and developing the 'best-of-the-best' for more than a century, and this program has been vital to fostering a community built on inclusion and meaningful connections. We look forward to playing a meaningful part in this exceptional program for many years to come!"

The financial support the firm has provided covers the cost of the many Society Program events throughout the year—including the colorful and distinctive Society tee shirts that members wear to show off their society affiliation.

## STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

It's no surprise students take pride in their society and being part of the program. After two decades, more than 6,000 graduates have a society affiliation. For some, it continues after law school. "Some of my best friends are the people I met in my society on day one of law school," boasts Bata.

On top of that, dozens of faculty have served as advisors to the societies, including some—such as Michael Sturley and Jennifer Laurin—who have been known to roll up their sleeves and get on the line for that (in)famous tug-of-war.

"Really, that's the legacy of the Society Program," muses Bangs. "To see first-year students and upper-class students, along with faculty, working that hard, side-by-side, literally pulling together in one direction, I can't think of a better metaphor for what this place is all about." 🏆

## THE GREAT EIGHT

In 2004, a working group of students and faculty determined that "each society will have conferred on it by the Dean the surname of an individual whose reputation for achieved excellence has become woven into the fabric of the Law School's own reputation for excellence."



### GLORIA K. BRADFORD '54

A classmate of both Heman Sweatt and Virgil Lott, she was the first Black woman to graduate from Texas Law, and the first to try a case in Harris County.



### CARLOS CADENA '40

Cadena, with co-counsel Gustavo Garcia, became the first Mexican American attorneys to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, winning their case unanimously. (See page 41.)



### LEON GREEN '15

Co-founder of *Texas Law Review* with Profs. Ira Hildebrand, Charles Potts, and Judge Ireland Graves. His students include Supreme Court Justices John Paul Stevens, Arthur Goldberg, and Tom C. Clark '22.



### HELEN HARGRAVE '26

As head librarian, Hargrave was the first woman in the school's administration and played a vital role designing the Tarlton Law Library and its collection.



### GUS HODGES '32

Prof. Hodges was a favorite of students and one of the law school's most colorful professors, favoring red socks, polka-dot bow ties, and a trademark handlebar mustache, which he twirled while lecturing.



### ANTONIO "T.J." MARTINEZ '96\*

Ten days after passing the bar, he joined the Society of Jesus, later founding Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory to help impoverished children before passing away in 2014 from stomach cancer.



### ALICE SHEFFIELD '18

Sheffield, the youngest woman certified to practice before the Texas Supreme Court, had a successful career at Gulf Oil Corporation, eventually rising to associate general counsel.



### JOHN SUTTON '41

An F.B.I. special agent in WWII, Sutton joined the faculty in 1957 and served as dean from 1979 to 1984. Although he retired in 1988, he taught part-time until 2009.

\*Editor's Note: The McCormick Society became the Martinez Society in 2018.

# recess

TEN THINGS  
TEXAS LAWYERS  
ARE ENJOYING  
OUT OF OFFICE



SPORTS

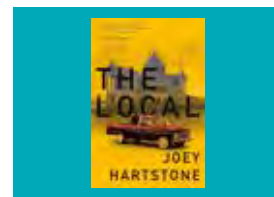
## 1 Texas Longhorns

Texas Volleyball killed it, winning back-to-back national championships. Quinn Ewers, Xavier Worthy, and Jonathon Brooks shined in the College Football Playoffs. In July, Longhorn student-athletes go for gold at the Paris 2024 Olympics in swimming, diving, rowing, and track and field.

BOOK

## 2 *The Local* by Joey Hartstone

Big Law, high-tech startups, local counsel, and patent infringement are an unlikely backdrop for a courtroom thriller. But *The Local*, written by Joey Hartstone, is a page-turning mystery set in the epicenter of American patent law, the Federal Courthouse in Marshall, Texas.



TV

## 3 Extraordinary Attorney Woo

A brilliant, young attorney — who happens also to have autism spectrum disorder — finds success in a prestigious law firm. This visually creative, well-acted, endearing courtroom drama both delights and prompts lawyers to see their colleagues through fresh eyes.



PODCAST

## 4 Stories from Texas

hosted by W.F. Strong

A master of the art of storytelling, W.F. Strong brings to life the nooks and crannies of Texas, its history, culture, and literature, everything that makes this state so compelling. And for billable hour demands, this delectable soundbite runs just 6 mins.



MOVIE

## 5 Hit Man

The newest film of Richard Linklater and starring Austin native Glen Powell, *Hit Man* is based on a true story of a professor who becomes an undercover hit man for the Houston police. A noir caper with Linklater's signature quirkiness, the film is due out summer 2024.



TV

## 6 Better Call Saul

Everybody loves a good backstory. "Better Call Saul" tells us how the earnest young attorney Jimmy McGill, champion of the little guy, becomes the morally questionable Saul Goodman, attorney to drug kingpin Walter White. The prequel to "Breaking Bad" is freaking good.



BOOK

## 7 *Justice of the Pies* by Maya-Camille Broussard

Honoring her lawyer dad, Netflix's Bake Squad pastry chef Maya-Camille Broussard serves up over 85 mouthwatering recipes, along with a generous helping of inspiration à la mode, in *Justice of the Pies: Sweet and Savory Pies, Quiches and Tarts Plus Inspirational Stories from Exceptional People*.



PODCAST

## 8 One by Willie

hosted by John Spong

In "One by Willie," a *Texas Monthly* podcast, host John Spong '93 asks guests like Whoopi Goldberg, Ethan Hawke, and Brené Brown, which Willie Nelson song has meant the most to them. For the record: "Stardust," "Too Sick to Pray," and "Amazing Grace," respectively. All song roads, it seems, run through Willie.



GAME

## 9 Pickleball

Drive, drop, dink, repeat! Pickleball claims the top spot as America's fastest growing sport three years running. With its open-play format, pickleball is first and foremost social. Add hot chicken or tacos, and you've got a recipe for lawyers' stress relief: good food, friends, fitness, and a little healthy competition.

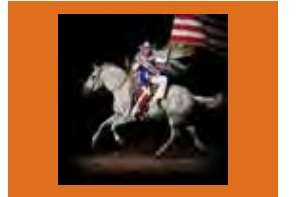


MUSIC

## 10 Cowboy Carter

by Beyoncé

Whether curious, inspired, or provoked, America is listening to Houston-born Beyoncé's eighth studio album. As "Texas Hold 'Em" debuted number one on the country charts, *Cowboy Carter* blends legendary voices together with new talent. Kind of like legal giants and junior associates.



1: COURTESY OF TEXAS ATHLETICS; 2: DOUBLEDAY/PUBLISHERS; 3: NETFLIX; 4: TEXAS STANDARD; 5, 6: NETFLIX; 7: CLARKSON POTTER; 8: TEXAS MONTHLY; 9: FELLIPE DITADI (UNSPLASH); 10: PARKWOOD ENTERTAINMENT



# THE FUTURE IS BEING BUILT HERE

A CONVERSATION  
WITH TEXAS  
LAW DEAN  
BOBBY CHESNEY

Interview by CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS  
Portrait by Callie Richmond

**FOR OVER TWO DECADES**, Bobby Chesney has helped shape national and global dialogues on an array of cutting-edge legal issues. His academic career began in the wake of 9/11 with a focus on national security law and terrorism. Chesney became one of the most prominent voices in that dramatic field, prompting his recruitment to The 40 Acres in 2008. In the years that followed, his national security work continued but also merged into groundbreaking work in the emerging field of cybersecurity law. This, in turn, led him to prominence in still another strategically significant field: artificial intelligence.

Along the way, Chesney developed a passion for strategic leadership that dovetailed with his love for The University of Texas. On July 1, 2022, this son of San Antonio—and a *magna cum laude* graduate of both Texas Christian University and Harvard Law School—became the School of Law's 16th dean.

I sat down with him for a conversation about the future of legal education, being dean of one of America's top law schools, and the unique pull of this 140-year-old institution.

**You're a Texan with the global perspective of a national security expert. How has that shaped your perspective as dean?**

I understand deep in my bones how special Texas is. People sometimes caricature it, or skip over its incredible variety of people, outlooks, cultures, and landscapes. But Texas is all those things, not just one of them, and the combination is unlike anywhere else in the world. The future is being built here and Texas Law, as the flagship for legal education in Texas, plays a very special role in that.

My national security work does have a big impact on how I approach my role as dean. In the national security context, it is common to think carefully about the relationships among ultimate objectives, strategies to achieve them, institutional design to serve those strategies, and tactics to execute them, as well as external and internal strengths and weaknesses that will enable or constrain all of that. Well, it shouldn't be any different for the law school, at least not if we are serious about establishing ourselves as the very best of what a public flagship law school can and should be.

**You do have a bold vision of Texas Law being the best public law school in the country. What does that mean to you?**

We have long been a top national law school, and the crown jewel of legal education in Texas in particular. That will never change. But there's a bit of room to be even better, to be—and be widely recognized to be—the very best public law school.

Part of this is about the excellence of our faculty, where we've always been so well-regarded. We maintain our strengths in all the familiar areas like Constitutional Law, Intellectual Property, and Civil Procedure. But we've also established ourselves in key emerging areas such as cybersecurity and, increasingly, artificial intelligence. We do not lose sight of the importance of ensuring that our students are practice ready, either, and you see that in areas such as our surging trial advocacy program and innovations in our

# closing

arguments

“I HOPE THAT PEOPLE WHO KNEW ME IN THE ROLE WOULD FEEL THAT I PUT THE STUDENTS FIRST.”

Bobby Chesney,  
Dean,  
Texas Law

business-related offerings, not to mention our world-class clinical program. I suppose the bottom line is that we are firmly committed to our “best of both worlds” tradition, in which our students receive strong grounding in both theory and practice.

**Back to AI, how are you thinking about that, as an educator and as a lawyer?** I’m excited about it! My scholarship has studied the intersection of law, technology, and strategic change, and I have been looking closely at AI in particular since co-authoring the first law review article addressing deepfakes back in 2018.\*

One thing is certain: every law school will need to adapt to some extent. My goal is to model an approach that is creative and bold yet also thoughtful. We have a three-pillar strategy to guide this. First are ordinary business operations, which means giving our staff tools that will help them in their jobs. Towards that end, we will soon have access to key capabilities and training on how to make the best use of them. Second is teaching and we will ensure Texas Law students are well-versed in what AI tools can and cannot do for lawyers, and the fundamentals of using those tools effectively. Third, there is the law of AI. Many of our faculty members already are writing on AI-related topics, and we expect to grow in this area in the future as part of our larger emphasis on the intersection of law and technology.

**You really are an enthusiast! I’m curious, is there a gadget or app you can’t live without—or don’t want to?** Oh, that’s a tough one. I admit there are many I love! But I’d be in real trouble without the Ultimate Guitar app for my iPhone. That’s my go-to for getting the chords and notes for the songs I want to learn. Which I suppose reveals that my true “can’t live without” gadget is my guitar, not my phone!

**That’s fabulous. Let me ask about the housing facility you’re building. Why is that important now, and how does it fit into our role as the best public law school?** I spend a lot of time thinking about strategic challenges, and long ago noticed that the rising cost of rent in Austin was becoming a serious threat to our goal of providing elite outcomes for our students without burdening them with as much debt as other places. But I love the notion that challenges can be converted into opportunities. Several years ago, when the University Co-op outpost across Dean Keeton Street closed, the Law School Foundation bought that land. Now we are going to build a first-class residence hall for ILs there, featuring below-market rent.

The working title is “Texas Law Village.” Our research suggests about two-thirds of the IL class will likely choose to live there, and some 2Ls and 3Ls will live there too. The best part will be lowering the total cost of attendance, but I also love that this will further deepen ties among classmates during their first year, and that it will likely boost IL involvement in extracurricular offerings like career panels, guest speakers, and so on. When the doors open, hopefully in fall 2027, it will be a major milestone in the history of Texas Law!

**Speaking of the future, how should we prepare students for the ever-evolving legal job market?** Well, there’s an

employer side to that question, and a student side. For the employers, one of my core tasks is to help them see just how talented our entire student body is, and that they should hire from throughout the class rather than using some kind of grade cut-off. From the student side, conversely, there’s a somewhat similar task of helping students to better appreciate the wide range of employers who are out there, and to see how many of them would provide a wonderful home.

Over the coming decade we will see some of the higher-volume employers reconsider their entry-level hiring approaches to some extent, rewarding schools whose graduates seem best adapted to the evolving nature of their work. The same thing happened about a dozen years ago, following the Great Recession, when there was a wave of pressure on schools to better prepare their graduates to be effective practitioners from the start. I think we will do well when that time comes, both because we’ll never lose sight of our core task of teaching students the battery of analytic and communicative skills that constitute “thinking like a lawyer,” and because we will adapt wisely to legal practice trends.

**You may be our first dean to play in a rock band as a side hustle. What are your ‘desert island discs’?**

Hah! I suppose the clues to that are in some things we’ve already touched on: Texas and guitars. The thing that comes immediately to mind is Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble, “Texas Flood.” When I started playing guitar, around age 16, I discovered that record—and I do mean vinyl record. And Robert Earl Keen’s “No Kinda Dancer.” Same era, another Texan, totally different sound. Amazing record. Finally, another rock album altogether, same year as “Texas Flood,” but no Texas connection: U2’s “Under a Blood Red Sky.” That’s their album recorded live at Red Rocks. Incredible songs, incredible performance, incredible sound.

**One last light-hearted question: favorite law-themed movie?**

Easy. “My Cousin Vinny.”

**Excellent choices, all around. Texas Law has had some legendary deans. Townes, Keeton, Powers. What do you expect to be your legacy as dean?**

I won’t dare try to imagine how I’d compare to my predecessors. But whether they boot me out tomorrow, or I get to hang on for decades, I hope that people who knew me in the role would feel that I put the students first, that I treated everyone fairly, and that I always tried to do what was in the school’s best interests. And, well, I do hope someday at mid-century there will be some students enjoying the view from the roof deck of Texas Law Village, with the sun setting behind the Tower, and one of them will say something like “I don’t know who this Chesney guy was, but I’m sure glad they built this thing when he was dean!” 🦋

\*Chesney’s article for the California Law Review, “Deep Fakes: A Looming Challenge for Privacy, Democracy, and National Security,” co-written with University of Virginia School of Law professor Danielle Keats Citron, is a seminal work in the field.



Tailgate  
Sizzles  
The Rodriguez  
Way

BRIAN BIRZER

**M**ichael Rodriguez '94 and Eduardo Rodriguez '68 served up their legendary South Texas barbecue at the law school's 25th Annual Alumni Tailgate Extravaganza in November. The ebullient father and son team, both successful partners at Atlas, Hall & Rodriguez, are the heart of this wildly popular alumni experience. 🍴 The annual tailgate has grown from about 40 local lawyers in 1998 to over 1000 guests in 2023 with alumni from across the country and over various class years. The 26th Tailgate is November 9, 2024!



## Diane Brayton '96 In pursuit of the truth.



**NEBRASKA-RAISED AND TEXAS-**educated, Diane Brayton '96 is a senior executive for *The New York Times*. With millions of subscribers, the *Times* is a massive, global enterprise and Brayton is its Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer. This January, Brayton met with 2L Sydney Jean Gottfried, the incoming Editor in Chief of the *Texas Law Review*, to talk about journalism, media law, and Brayton's experiences.

COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

**The *Times* is at the heart of the most important issues of our time. What is it about your work that drives you?** An important driver for me is the company's mission, which is to seek the truth and help people understand the world. And that mission directly underpins our strategy, which is to be a digital-first, subscription-first business that's centered on journalism worth paying for. Another driver is the people. I'm fortunate to work with a terrific team of smart and committed colleagues.

**Where do you get your news?** *The New York Times*, of course! But I do try to read a variety. There's so much excellent content. In addition to the *Times*, I would add *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, NPR, CNN. There are also some more relatively recent digital brands that I read, *The Information*, *Axios*, *Puck*. In terms of legal news, I follow legal reporters from those various outlets and specialty publications like *Law360* and *Law.com*.

**You were named executive vice president and CLO in January 2017, a time when people across the political spectrum were questioning, often in sharp terms, the role of the media. How do you view those debates?** I would say in many ways there's been a wake-up call that press organizations have needed to do a better job of explaining what they do, how they do it, and why they do it. The *Times* has some of its own research that suggests that readers did not understand that our journalists, who in a normal year report on the ground for more than 160 countries, often in difficult and dangerous conditions, actually go to the places they're writing about. Over the years, we have sought to be more transparent at explaining how stories come together. Recently, the *Times* publisher A.G. Sulzberger had an essay in the *Columbia Journalism Review* that explores the history, meaning, and importance of an essential value to journalism: independence. It makes the case that in an era of misinformation and polarization, independent journalism is the greatest service that media outlets can provide to the public and our democracy. And that "a fully informed society not only makes better decisions, but operates with more trust, more empathy, and greater care." That is clarifying and to me a really powerful perspective.

**What advice would you offer your younger self?** Be willing to take opportunities as they arrive, even if they don't necessarily match your career vision. I think there's an enormous amount of luck and serendipity that informs our careers. Being open to new experiences provides a real opportunity to grow and develop. ↗

**Sydney Jean Gottfried '25**, in collaboration with the Bech-Loughlin First Amendment Center, produced a 50th Anniversary Conference - Actual Malice: Ongoing Threats to *The New York Times v. Sullivan* and Its Progeny. Gottfried's full conversation with Brayton can be found at [law.utexas.edu/news](http://law.utexas.edu/news).

# Honor Lies Here

## The Texas-sized impact of Judge Harriet Murphy '69.



Judge Harriet Louise Mitchell Murphy's destiny may have been foretold when she found herself in the childhood orbit of Martin Luther King, Jr. "We just called him M.L.," Murphy once recalled of her friend from the hallways of Booker T. Washington High School.

"It was not unusual for those that came through Atlanta and that environment to become leaders — not only political leaders but just leaders," Murphy noted. "It made me candid and outspoken and believe in my opinions."

That was a characteristic understatement for Murphy, who later turned down "M.L.'s" offer of a job with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, believing her calling was elsewhere. That calling turned out to be in East Texas.

She taught government at Prairie View A&M University and threw herself into civil rights and voter registration efforts in Gregg County, Texas. In 1966, Murphy pursued her dream and enrolled at Texas Law. In challenging circumstances — as a widow in her late thirties, running Huston-Tillotson's government department, and the only Black law student in her class — Murphy nonetheless thrived.

She practiced law in Austin and advocated for opportunity and equality throughout the state. She led the founding of the Austin Area Urban League, one of many organizations benefitting from her savvy leadership. In 1973, Murphy became the first African American woman appointed to a judgeship in Texas.

Judge Murphy was inducted in 2010 into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame "in recognition of her community involvement and of the significant contributions she has made to the cause of justice during her life in the law."

"Looking back on my life, I feel proud to have acted well my part, for there all the honor lies," Murphy reflected in her 2018 memoir. She added, "Although I wonder how I did it all!"

She just did. And then some. ➤

art by LAURA SALAFIA

# Gus Garcia '38

BY  
TEXAS LAW  
MAGAZINE STAFF

THE 1954 LANDMARK DECISION IN *HERNANDEZ V. TEXAS* WAS A TRIUMPH OF EQUAL PROTECTION. IT WAS ALSO THE HEIGHT OF A LEGAL CAREER CUT TOO SHORT.



He had movie-star good looks and was a gifted orator. The brilliant young man from Laredo, Gustavo C. Garcia '38, was a prodigy. Valedictorian of his high school class, Garcia received an academic scholarship to UT Austin, earning both his BA '36 and LLB '38 at a time when Texas segregated its public schools for children of Mexican descent. ¶ After serving overseas in the JAG Corps in WWII, First Lieutenant Gus Garcia returned to San Antonio and began chipping away at discrimination. Working with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC),

Garcia and Carlos Cadena '40 successfully challenged a Texas school district's segregation of children of Mexican descent in *Delgado v. Bastrop ISD* (1948), six years before *Brown v. Board of Education* would be decided. ¶ Garcia and Cadena, joined by James DeAnda '50, soon represented a murder defendant in what would become another 1954 landmark decision. *Hernandez v. State of Texas* challenged Texas's jury selection process excluding Mexican Americans from serving. A unanimous court agreed, finding "the exclusion of otherwise eligible persons from jury service solely

because of their ancestry or national origin is discrimination prohibited by the Fourteenth Amendment." ¶ Cadena and Garcia shared the oral argument. Impressed with Garcia's rebuttal, the Chief Justice voluntarily extended Garcia's time by fifteen minutes, a rare occurrence then and now. ¶ Following their success in *Hernandez*, Cadena and DeAnda enjoyed long and esteemed careers, both becoming judges. Garcia did not fare as well. He died in 1964 at age 48 from alcoholism. Lost to the world too soon, Garcia's service to this country continues to inspire new generations.

"FRAMED" features stories behind the portraits, moments, and memorabilia of the Texas Law community.



**Left**  
Mack McCormick (right)  
and drummer Spider  
Kilpatrick in the 1960s.

# Mojo Hands

## Alumni secure America's most legendary blues archive.

**F**or more than 60 years Mack McCormick chased music, supporting his obsessive curiosity with a series of odd jobs while amassing over 4,000 photographs; cabinets stuffed with notes, transcripts, and manuscripts; and nearly 600 recordings of singers, guitarists, and pianists. The massive and mysterious archive filled his Spring Branch home. He called it *The Monster*.

The self-taught ethnographer's treasure trove might have been lost with McCormick's death at age 85 in 2015 if not for Bill Kroger '89 and Roger Fulghum '94. The two Baker Botts partners, working pro bono, guided the Smithsonian's acquisition of *The Monster*, which in 2023 celebrated the archive with the release of *Biogra-*

*phy of a Phantom*, McCormick's never-published manuscript about the search for the legendary bluesman Robert Johnson, an exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, and a Grammy-nominated boxed set of McCormick's field recordings, *Playing for the Man at the Door*.

In 2014, *Texas Monthly* writer Michael Hall suggested Kroger, an estate attorney, help McCormick, whose bipolarity factored into his notoriety as a paranoid possessive. McCormick placed Kroger's information in a file titled "Ambulance

Chasing Lawyers." When her father passed, McCormick's daughter and sole heir Susanna McCormick Nix reached out for Kroger's advice securing *The Monster*.

Kroger was born for the task. His parents owned Parker Music Company, a Houston music instrument, sheet music, and record store dating back to 1911. "I was exposed to all kinds of music," he said. "We sold accordions, bajo sexto. [Guitarists] Albert Collins and Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top were customers." During his undergraduate and law school years at UT, Kroger's weekly visits to Antone's Nightclub were revelations. "You could hear the people who played on those blues records playing in a pickup band."

The Smithsonian was an easy choice. "They had dealt with complex collections before, and they would take the whole thing," Kroger said. "They also knew how to pay out royalties and do it legally correct. Susanna wanted to make sure the families of the artists got paid and got the credit."

With so many items, *The Monster's* intellectual property questions were tricky. "Mack took many of the [4,000] photographs in the collection, but it was also possible that [he] possessed photographs that were taken by others, which raised both ownership and copyright issues." The Smithsonian invested over \$3 million organizing and preserving *The Monster*.

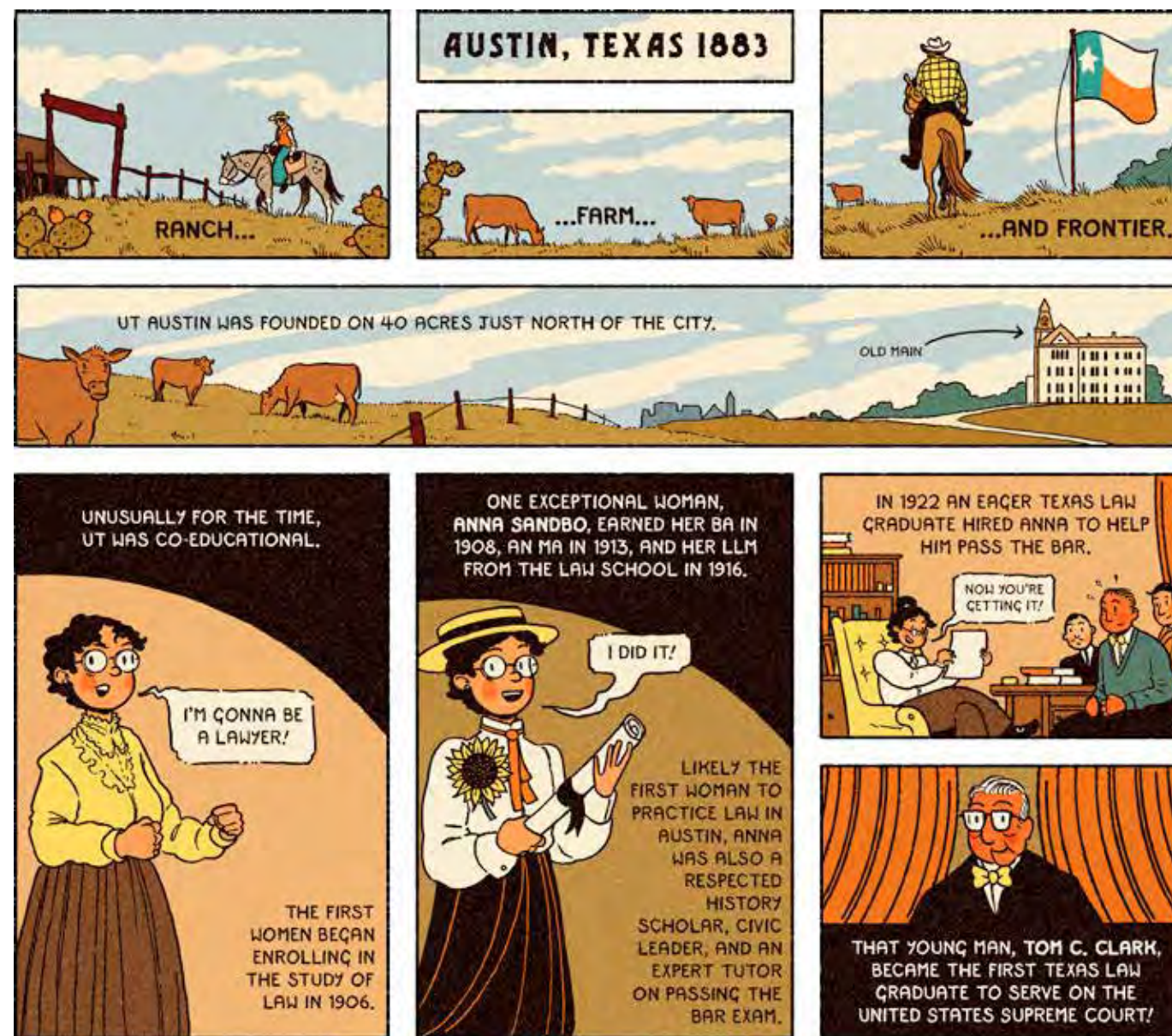
McCormick understood the importance of the music and the people who made it, Kroger said. "He knew how to talk to people and get them to open up. He knew who these people were. There's Bongo Joe doing proto-rap. There's African Americans playing fiddles. Hop Wilson playing Bob Wills on his steel guitar in a Houston club. Many had never recorded before or since. That's an incredible gift. To me, [McCormick's] a hero for that." 🐉

CHRIS STRACHWITZ/COURTESY OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

# Anna Sandbo's Bar Review

BY  
TEXAS LAW  
MAGAZINE STAFF

ONE ALUM'S PATH TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT STARTED WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM A FRIEND, ANNA SANDBO, CLASS OF 1916. IT WAS SERENDIPITOUS.



"HEARSAY" tells stories, yarns, and legends from The University of Texas School of Law's long and colorful history.

# Class Notes

EDITED BY  
TEXAS LAW MAGAZINE STAFF

'64

**Mike Hatchell**, an appellate lawyer and partner at Haynes and Boone, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas.

'65

**Larry Fallek**, has been named the 2023 Man of the Year by the McAllen Chamber of Commerce. A double Longhorn, Fallek currently serves as the chairman of Castle Hospitality.

**Eduardo R. Rodriguez** has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas. Rodriguez is a partner at Atlas, Hall & Rodriguez.

'69

**Duke R. Ligon**, an attorney and the owner and manager of Mekusukey Oil, has been elected senior trustee for the board of trustees of the University of Texas Law School Foundation.

'72

**John D. White** has been awarded the 2023 Outstanding Alumni Award from the Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M Uni-

versity. In addition to his numerous public service appointments, White served as a judge advocate general in the United States Air Force and practiced law for three decades.

'75

**Scott J. Atlas** has been elected senior trustee for the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

**Jeff Civins** was honored by the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas with the creation of the Jeff Civins Volunteer of the Year Award, recognizing

his longtime dedication to the section and the practice of environmental law.

**Richard R. Orsinger**, a partner at Orsinger Nelson Downing Anderson, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas.

**Joe W. Redden Jr.** founding partner emeritus of Beck Redden has announced his retirement from the firm and the practice of law after 48 years. He was elected to fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1995.

**Pete Schenkkan** has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas. He specializes in regulatory and other public policy litigation at Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody.

'76

**Linda Addison** has joined the board of Lexitas, a national provider of technology-enabled litigation support ser-



*David A.*  
ANDERSON '71

David A. Anderson, the Fred & Emily Marshall Wulff Centennial Chair Emeritus in Law, was honored in January 2024 as the inaugural recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Communications, Media & Information Law section of the Association of American Law Schools. His former student, Lyrissa Lidsky '93, now the Raymond & Miriam Ehrlich Chair in U.S. Constitutional Law at Florida Law, presented the award.

BRIAN BIRZER

vices to the legal industry, businesses, and corporations. The former U.S. managing partner of Norton Rose Fulbright is the founding president of the Center for Women in Law and has received both the University's Presidential Citation and Distinguished Alumnus Award.

**S. Jack Balagia**, a lawyer, arbitrator, mediator, and adjunct professor at the Texas Law, has been elected senior trustee for the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

**Hon. Bill Henderson**, former district judge of Harris County Family Court and later legal advisor to County Judge Ed Emmett, has retired.

**Richard Pena** has received the National Conference of Bar Presidents' 2024 Fellows Award. Pena, who is only the second bar president from Texas to receive the award, is a past president of the State Bar of Texas and the Austin Bar Association. He is president and CEO at the Law Offices of Richard Pena in Austin.

**George Christopher Scruggs** published the novel *Marshland* under the pen name Alystair West. In addition to being an author, he is a retired lawyer and pastor.

'77

**Roger W. Hughes** has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas. Hughes is a partner at Adams & Graham.

**Jim Smith** is visiting professor of law for spring semester 2024 at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He is professor emeritus at the University of Georgia School of Law.

'78

**Josiah M. Daniel III** has published "Cooptation of the Carmack Amendment by the Railroads, 1906-1917: A

Study in Associational Lawyering" in the *Kentucky Law Review* and "AI Chatbots Are Useless for Bankruptcy Lawyering" in *The Texas Lawbook*.

**Stephen R. Pattison** has joined Hunton Andrews Kurth as a special counsel. He is a business immigration attorney and a former U.S. State Department senior foreign service officer.

'81

**Susan L. Blount**, a legal and financial services senior executive, has been elected chair of the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation. A founding member of the Center for Women in Law, she served as general counsel of Prudential Financial, and currently is a member of the board of directors for DISCO.

Former state appellate judge the **Hon. Harvey Brown** has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas.

The **Hon. Tracy E. Christopher** has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas. Judge Christopher has served as chief justice of the 14th Court of Appeals since 2020.

'82

**Wilson S. Neely**, director of strategic initiatives for InterNex Capital, has been elected senior trustee for the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

**Marc Stanley**, the former president of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, Stanley serves as the United States Ambassador to Argentina.

**Layne Thompson** has been appointed as the district attorney of the 159th Judicial District in Angelina County, TX, by Governor Greg Abbott. Thompson, who previously served as an assistant district attorney, is former of



## Carrin F. Patman '82 & JAMES V. DERRICK '70

Ambassador Carrin F. Patman and husband James V. Derrick have established the Patman Center for Civic and Political Engagement through a \$10 million gift to the LBJ School of Public Affairs. With a long family tradition of public service and commitment to the university, their gift creates a vital hub on campus for student-focused opportunities to develop skilled leaders who exemplify an ethos of civility, service, and bipartisanship.

counsel for Mike Love & Associates and former vice president of Thompson Cattle Company.

'83

**John Beckworth**, lecturer, lawyer, arbitrator, and former associate dean at Texas Law, received the 2024 Ernest Smith Lifetime Achievement Award at the Texas Journal of Oil, Gas, and Energy Law (TJOGEL) Symposium. The award, named after the legendary Texas Law Professor Ernest Smith, is a testament to the exemplary impact of the recipient's career in energy law.

**Demetrio Duarte Jr.** has been selected as a foundation fellow by the San Antonio Bar Foundation. Duarte is a trial attorney at Duarte & Molina and is board certified in criminal law.

'84

**Susana Alemán**, Texas Law's longtime assistant dean of student affairs,

# Class Notes

was featured on the Austin Bar Association's "Council of Firsts" podcast.

**Lamont Jefferson**, a partner at Jefferson Cano, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas.

**David Kinder** was elected to the San Antonio chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. A trial attorney at Dykema, Kinder serves as co-chair of the firm's Pro Bono Committee.

**José Angel Moreno** has retired from the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas after more than 32 years of service.

## '85

**Dee J. Kelly** has written a novel, *The Malachi Covenant*, published in April by Forefront Books. Kelly is a partner at the firm Kelly, Hart & Hallman and previously served as the firm's managing partner.

**Del Williams**, general counsel of Hillwood, a Perot company, has been elected vice chair for administration of the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

## '86

**Robert L. Levy** has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas. Levy currently serves as executive counsel of legal policy at ExxonMobil.

**Jaime A. Saenz**, a partner at Colvin, Saenz, Rodriguez & Kennamer in Brownsville, Texas, has been elected to the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.



## Christopher LUNA '86

Chris Luna is the new president and CEO of SPCA of Texas, the animal welfare organization founded in 1938. In addition to extensive his community service in the Dallas area, Luna is also a former three-term Dallas city councilman and deputy mayor pro tem. Prior to joining SPCA, Luna served as vice president of legal affairs at T-Mobile for 18 years. A double Longhorn, Luna earned his undergraduate degree in Accounting in 1983 from the McCombs School of Business.

**Karen P. Seymour**, a partner and member of the management committee of Sullivan & Cromwell in New York City, has been elected to the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

## '87

**Steve Benesh** has been named president-elect of the State Bar of Texas. He will take office in June 2024.

## '88

**John A. Guerra** has been elected senior trustee for the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

**Solace Southwick** has joined Hogan Thompson Schuelke as Of Counsel handling complex civil litigation in Texas and federal courts of appeals.

**Darcell Walker**, an intellectual property lawyer and published author, has co-developed a new app to help inventors, artists, businesses, and others identify the appropriate protection for their ideas.

## '89

The **Hon. John Browning** has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas. Judge Browning has served on Texas's Fifth District Court of Appeals since 2020.

**Alistair Dawson**, a partner at Beck Redden, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas.

**Cynthia Graham**, with her own practice in Amarillo, Texas, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas.

**Byron L. LeFlore Jr.** has been selected as a foundation fellow by the San Antonio Bar Foundation. LeFlore is a partner at Pulman, Cappuccio & Pulen practicing corporate law and business litigation.

**Kimberly S. Winick** has been elected as president of the board of directors of the Pasadena Symphony and POPS. Winick specializes in commercial finance law and serves as a mediator for local bankruptcy courts.

## '90

**Stephen L. Burns**, a partner with Cravath in New York City, has been elected senior trustee for the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

The **Hon. Peter Michael Kelly** has been appointed to serve on the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas. Justice Kelly has served on the Texas First District Court of Appeals since 2018.

**Tracey A. Kennedy**, a partner with Sheppard Mullin in Los Angeles, California, has been elected senior trustee for the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

**Demetrius G. McDaniel**, regional operating shareholder of Texas and co-chair of Greenberg Traurig's government law & policy practice, has been elected to the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

## '91

**Audrey T. Andrews**, a legal strategist and compliance expert known for guiding companies in transition, has been elected to the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

The **Hon. Alfred H. Bennett**, United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, has been elected senior trustee for the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

**R. Mick Cantu**, executive vice president, chief legal officer, and business and development officer for the Methodist Hospital System, has been elected to the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

**Jerry Bullard** has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas. He is a part-

ner at Adams Lynch & Loftlin specializing in civil appeals in complex civil litigation.

## '92

**Janet McQuaid**, with a background in chemical engineering, has joined the Pittsburgh, PA, office of Frost Brown Todd.

**Paul F. Schuster** has been promoted to partner at Bracewell's litigation department. He specializes in representing healthcare providers on a range of litigation and regulatory matters.

Professor **Lonny S. Hoffman**, the Law Foundation professor at the University of Houston Law Center, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas.

## '93

**James Billingsley** has joined Duane Morris as a partner in the firm's business reorganization and financial restructuring practice group in its Dallas office. Prior to joining Duane Morris, Billingsley was a senior partner at Polsinelli.

**Hilda Galvan** has been elected vice chair for development for The board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation. She has also been named in the Top 50 Diverse Board Candidate List, a recognition by Equilar and the Nasdaq Center for Board Excellence. She is partner in charge at the Dallas office of Jones Day and specializes in intellectual property.

**Lori A. Gobillot** has been elected to the board of directors of ONEOK. She has held officer roles in both business and legal functions and has served on the board of directors of Republic Airways Holdings since 2017.

**Jeffrey B. Simon**, a founding partner and attorney of Simon Greenstone Panatier, PC, has written *Last Rights*:

*The Fight to Save the 7th Amendment*, published in the fall of 2023.

**Macey Reasoner Stokes** has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas. Stokes is partner at Baker Botts where she serves as practice group chair of the firm's appellate practice.

## '94

**Warigia M. Bowman**, associate professor at the University of Tulsa College of Law, has written her first book, *Digital Development in East Africa: The Distribution, Diffusion, and Governance of Information Technology*, published fall 2023.

**Yolanda Harris Sayre** has been appointed as a circuit judge in the 5th Subcircuit of Cook County, Illinois. Prior to her appointment, Sayre served as an attorney for the Chicago Police Department and for the Illinois State Police.

**Angela B. Styles**, a partner in Akin Gump's Washington, D.C., office and a recognized leader in government contracts and grants law, has been elected to the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation.

**David Tamisiea** has been named executive director of the North Dakota Catholic Conference. Tamisiea is the dean of the School of Arts & Sciences and associate professor in Theology at the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D.

## '95

**Angélica Salinas Evans**, who has served with distinction in a variety of roles at Texas Law, has been named the new assistant dean for career services. She succeeds her long-time colleague, and classmate, David A. Montoya '95, who held the assistant deanship for over 20 years before announcing his retirement at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

# Class Notes

**Will Liebmann** has been appointed to serve as director of Dykema's business services department. Liebmann focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and other strategic transactions.

The **Hon. Leon Schydlower** was nominated by President Biden and confirmed in March 2024 by the United States Senate as a federal district judge for the Western District of Texas.

'96

**Tammy Cooper** now serves as deputy general manager of regulatory, communications, compliance and legal services at Austin Energy.

'97

**Karen Robinson** has been named to



**Monica**  
INGRAM '98

**Monica Ingram**, who served as Texas Law's dean of admissions from 2002 to 2015 has been named vice provost at Seattle University. Having led the admissions teams of two top law schools, Texas Law and Cornell Law School, she is now responsible for undergraduate admissions and student financial services for the largest independent private university in the northwestern United States.

the board of directors of ChIPs Network. She is vice president and associate general counsel at Adobe.

'98

**Brenda Barrett** has joined Husch Blackwell's energy & natural resources industry group as a partner in the firm's Austin office.

'99

**Shawn Raymond**, a partner at Susman Godfrey, received in April 2024 the Anti-Defamation League's Karen H. Susman Jurisprudence Award, an annual award presented by ADL South-west that recognizes an outstanding member of the legal community who shows a commitment to equality, justice, fairness, and community service.

'00

**Lisa Bowlin Hobbs** has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas. She is a founding member of Kuhn Hobbs.

**Brandy Manning** has been named co-director of Dykema's energy industry group. Manning represents clients in oil and gas commercial litigation.

**Christy Lea** has been appointed co-chair of the medical device litigation group at Intellectual Property law firm Knobbe Martens. Lea represents clients in the medical device and pharmaceutical industries.

'01

**Jimmy Kirby** has been named deputy director of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. Kirby previously served as associate director of FinCEN's research and analysis division, as well as FinCEN's chief counsel.

**Rich Phillips**, a partner at Holland & Knight specializing in energy-related appellate matters, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas.

**Andrew Sherwood** has been selected to serve as assistant leader of Dykema's real estate practice group. Sherwood practices in the areas of real estate and debt financing.

**Sherry Talton** has joined Ogletree Deakins as shareholder in the firm's Seattle office. Talton represents local and national employers in court and previously served as principal of Jackson Lewis' disability, leave and health management practice group.

**Courtney York** has joined Greenberg Traurig as a corporate practice shareholder specializing in multimillion to billion dollar corporate and commercial technology cases.

'02

**Stephanie Townsend Allala**, a partner with Townsend Allala, Coulter & Kludt, received the Member of the Year Award from the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Texas Chapter, for her outstanding service.

**Jessica Mederson** has been elected to Stafford Rosenbaum's board of directors, overseeing human resources. Mederson's practice focuses on business law and litigation, including manufacturing and construction disputes, Uniform Commercial Code litigation, and contract negotiations and disputes.

**Renee Meisel** has been named executive vice president and general counsel at UnitedLex. Meisel previously held legal and operational leadership roles at PractiLaw, Breakwater, Purpose Legal, and Dell Technologies.

**Rebekah Prince** has joined Duane Morris in Los Angeles. Prince, who previously worked at Barnes & Thornburg, specializes in celebrity endorsement transactions and representing professional athletes.

'03

**Sakina Rasheed Foster**, managing partner of the Dallas office of Haynes and Boone, has received the Texas State Bar's annual Trailblazer of the Year Award.

**Gerami Granello** has joined the real estate practice of Holland & Knight in Houston. He was previously a partner with Mayer Brown. Gerami provides acquisition, disposition, leasing and asset management representation to real estate funds and advisers in connection with their office, retail, and industrial real estate portfolios.

**Rebecca Olla** has joined the Bishop Law Firm in Raleigh, N.C., representing personal injury and workers' compensation clients. She previously worked for Texas's Office of the Attorney General and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

'04

**Carrie Douglas** has been promoted to partner at Bracewell, specializing in the firm's healthcare and life sciences practice.

**Hilary Frisbie** has been appointed to senior director of investor relations at Oceaneering International.

**Connie Pfeiffer** has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas. Pfeiffer is a partner at Yetter Coleman as a board-certified appellate specialist.

**Amanda Tyler** testified in October 2023 before the U.S. House Oversight Committee's Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs. Tyler is the executive director of Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC) and lead organizer of the Christians Against Christian Nationalism campaign.

**Kennon Wooten**, a general civil and complex litigation partner at Scott



**James**  
ANDREW  
HEARN '03

**James Andrew Hearn's** short story "Home Is the Hunter" is included in *The Best American Mystery and Suspense 2023*, published fall 2023. His writing has also earned an Edgar Allen Poe Award Nomination for "Blindsided," co-written with Michael Bracken and published in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, September/October 2021.

Douglas McConico, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court of Texas.

as a partner in Houston specializing in investor-state arbitrations, commercial disputes in Latin America, international arbitrations among parties in the energy industry, and post-M&A disputes.

'05

The **Hon. Richard B. Farrer** has been elected to the American Law Institute. Farrer currently serves as a federal magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.

**Saeed Mody** has started a new position as deputy associate attorney general at the Office of the Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice.

'06

**Chante Brantley** has been recognized as the August 2023 Volunteer Attorney of the Month at the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program. Brantley is a clinical professor at the SMU Dedman School of Law and is the director of the VanSickle Family Law Clinic.

International arbitration lawyer **David Weiss** has joined Mayer Brown

'07

**Neill Fuquay** has joined Jackson Walker's corporate & securities practice group in the firm's Dallas office. Fuquay focuses his practice on commercial real estate and corporate transactions.

**Manuel Mungia** has joined Norton Rose Fulbright's global insurance practice as a partner specializing in advising domestic and foreign insurers in complex coverage matters.

'08

**Allison Becker** has been appointed as co-chair and partner of the national health care practice group at Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani in Raleigh, N.C.

**Elizabeth H. Fry** has been selected

# Class Notes

as a foundation fellow by the San Antonio Bar Foundation. Fry practices trust and estate planning at Hornberger Fuller & Garza.

**Kate Higginbotham** has been named chief administrative officer at the U.S. International Trade Commission. Higginbotham previously served for more than a decade in multiple roles with the Federal Election Commission.

**Rose E. Jenkins** has been nominated by President Biden to be a judge on the United States Tax Court. Jenkins currently is an attorney in the Office of Associate Chief Counsel at the Internal Revenue Service.

## '09

**Matt Gates** has joined Wittliff Cutter as senior counsel focusing on complex commercial litigation and intellectual property matters, antitrust matters, and product defect cases.

**Brian M. Gillett** has been promoted to partner at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings in Dallas. Gillett specializes in handling high-stakes, commercial matters at all stages of litigation.

**Nathan Robinson** has been elected as partner of Wilson Sonsini specializing in corporate and securities law.

**Jason P. Steed**, a visiting professor at the University of Kentucky Rosenberg College of Law, has been elected to the American Law Institute.

## '11

**Jamie E. France** has been promoted to partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher focusing on merger and non-merger antitrust investigations and private and government antitrust litigation.

**Kate Doorley** has been promoted to partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld's Washington, D.C., office. Doorley focuses her practice on advising clients on a wide range of complex financial restructuring matters.

**Maka Hutson** has been promoted to partnership at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld's Dallas office. Hutson focuses her practice on immigration law and policy and received the National Law Journal's Immigration Law Trailblazer Award in 2023.

**James Lloyd** has been promoted to deputy attorney general for civil litigation in the Texas Office of the Attorney General.

**Nicholas Maxwell** has been promoted to partner at the New York firm of Cohen Ziffer Frenchman & McKenna specializing in insurance litigation.

## '12

**Charles Fowler** rejoined McKool Smith as a principal in Austin focusing on appeals, trials, and critical motions in complex commercial and intellectual property litigation. Fowler returned to McKool Smith after four

years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Central District of California and Western District of Texas.

**Brandi Howard**, who focuses her practice on commercial litigation and appellate matters, has joined Brown Rudnick as partner in the firm's Washington, D.C., office.

**James Leader Jr.** has been elected to partnership at Vinson & Elkins' Houston office. He focuses on commercial and business litigation and served on the board of directors for Houston Volunteer Lawyers since 2019.

## '13

**Brittany Castillo** will serve on FEMA's National Advisory Council. Castillo currently is CEO of AshBritt, a government solutions provider specializing in emergency management, logistics, and disaster response. She has also published her first children's book, *Kids Can Be Hero Helpers!* as a resource to help children confronting the impacts of natural disasters.

**Erin Gaines**, a supervising senior attorney at the national nonprofit Earthjustice, has joined the Environ-

mental Clinic at Texas Law as a clinical professor.

**Ralph C. Mayrell** has been promoted to special counsel in Kramer Levin's litigation practice focused on complex commercial litigation and appeals.

**Amanda Thomson** has been named partner at Arnold & Porter. Thomson is a member of the firm's complex litigation practice, specializing in representing clients in health care and aviation industries.

## '14

**Hayden Harms** has been promoted to partnership at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld's Houston office. Harms focuses on the development, construction and operation of highly complex power and infrastructure projects with a focus on renewable energy and energy transition industries.

**Rachel Ratcliffe Payne** has been elected a partner at Latham & Watkins in Austin. A member of the mergers & acquisitions and private equity practice and corporate department, she advises public and private companies across industries on strategic and private equity M&A, take-private transactions, SEC compliance, and corporate governance.

## '15

**Shelisa Brock** has been elected to partnership at Jackson Walker. A double Longhorn, Brock specializes in labor and employment law.

**Nicholas Bruno** has become board-certified in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Bruno is an associate at the Houston office at Beck Redden.

**Stephen K. Moulton** has joined the Dallas office of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings as a senior attorney. A former federal prosecutor and assistant United States attorney, Moulton is a member of the firm's government

enforcement & investigations practice group.

**Mary Kate Raffetto** has been named partner at Beck Redden. Raffetto is a trial and appellate specialist with significant experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants.

**Alex Robertson** has been elected to partnership at Vinson & Elkins' Dallas office. Robertson focuses his practice on M&A and capital markets and serves as president of the Mergers and Acquisitions Section of the Dallas Bar Association.

**Daniel Williams** has been elected a partner at Latham & Watkins in New York. A member of the mergers & acquisitions and private equity practice and corporate department, he advises private equity sponsors, their portfolio companies, and strategic investors in M&A, dispositions, and asset sales transactions.

## '16

**Carson Glass Lamle** has been elected as one of the newest shareholders at Hall Estill practicing complex commercial litigation and energy and natural resources law. She rejoined Hall Estill in January 2022 after serving as a law clerk for the Hon. John F. Heil III.

**Kayvon Rashidi** is now board certified in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Rashidi is with Powers and Kerr.

## '19

**Zimei Fan** has joined Stinson's New York office as a member of the energy, environmental, mining & transportation division. Fan actively focuses his practice on corporate and transactional matters, with a particular emphasis on energy, electric power, and energy finance.

**Joshua Kelly** has joined Botkin Calaf, an Austin-based commercial and IP litigation and business law firm, as



## Obadele THOMPSON '15

Obadele Thompson has been elected to the Barbados Olympic Association (BOA) Board of Directors. Thompson is also a three-time Olympian and the only Olympic medalist from Barbados.

an associate. Kelly was an editor for the *Texas Environmental Law Journal* and a judicial intern in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

**Dymond Mensah** was crowned in September 2023 winner of the International Ms. Pageant. Mensah serves as an assistant district attorney with the Travis County District Attorney's Office and currently is a spokesperson for the National Advocacy Alliance.

**Travis Maples** has joined Botkin Chirello Calaf as a commercial litigation associate. Prior to private practice, Maples clerked at Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

## '20

**Nick Lowrey** has joined Klasko Immigration Law Partners as counsel at the firm's Washington, D.C., office.

## '21

**Miatta Echetebe** has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings as an associate in the firm's corporate and securities



## Alejandra ÁVILA '14

Alejandra Ávila has rejoined Kellogg, Hansen, Todd, Figel & Frederick as of counsel. Ávila was formerly an associate at the firm before serving as a judicial law clerk to Justice Sonia Sotomayor on the United States Supreme Court.

TEXAS LAW ALUMNI  
**REUNION** 2024  
 APRIL 12-13



# Class Notes



## Julianne GRELLNER '22

Julianne Grellner (right), an associate with Locke Lord in Austin, was honored as the Texas Law 2023 Alumni Mentor of the Year, making her the most junior attorney to receive this recognition.

practice group, specializing in private equity and other corporate and securities transactions.

## '22

**Claire Demers** has joined Bracewell as a first-year associate. She previously served as a summer associate at the firm and clerked with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

## '23

**Sam Jefferson** has joined Texas Law as special assistant to student affairs and admissions.

BRIAN BRZHEN

## IN MEMORIAM

Calvin Jayroe '51  
 Billy Kerr '52  
 Peter Quoyeser '52  
 James Crain '53  
 John Davidson '54  
 Edward Frost '54  
 Sander Shapiro '54  
 Jimmy Vollers '54  
 Robert Bledsoe '55  
 Harold Howard '55  
 Roger Bonney '56  
 Finis Cowan '56  
 Harry Jung '56  
 Sam Croom '57  
 Elton Montgomery '57  
 James Shatto '57  
 Edwin Bluestein '58  
 Cecil Cammack '58  
 Carl Parker '58  
 Coke Wilson '58  
 William Pool '59  
 John Vinson '59  
 Lorence Bravenec '60  
 Victor Hlavinka '60  
 Franklin Houser '60  
 John Winslow '60  
 John Clark '61  
 Kenneth Clark '61  
 William Hudson '61  
 Thomas Snow '61  
 Bobby Young '61  
 George Williams '62  
 David Cleveland '63  
 Campbell Gillespie '63  
 Herbert Haschke '63  
 Gordon Holloway '63  
 Michael Sebastian '63  
 Johnson Cherry '64  
 Joseph Colbert '64  
 Kenneth Glaser '64  
 Dale Harvill '64  
 Melinda Vance '64  
 James Easterling '65  
 Jon Gooch '65  
 Paul Jones '65  
 Kenneth Joyce '65  
 Clarence Tatum '65

William Thau '65  
 Jerry Adams '66  
 Ernest Altgelt '66  
 Garland Andrews '66  
 Robert Bailey '66  
 Anne Gardner '66  
 James Hammett '66  
 Larry Jones '66  
 James Keeshan '66  
 John Placke '66  
 William Rittenhouse '66  
 Paul Buchschacher '67  
 George Callahan '67  
 Roland Dahlin '67  
 John Kinard '67  
 Joel Klein '67  
 William Teague '67  
 Aubrey Biard '68  
 John Foster '68  
 John Hollyfield '68  
 Clayton Hutchins '68  
 John Powers '68  
 Charles Arbaugh '69  
 Ed Auler '69  
 Tolbert Dalton '69  
 Stewart DeVore '69  
 O. Theodore Dinkins '69  
 David Hall '69  
 W. Majors Harris '69  
 Harriet Murphy '69  
 Donald Schofield '69  
 Joseph Wicker '69  
 Timothy Brown '70  
 William Connolly '70  
 Robert Glasgow '70  
 Gordon Jones '70  
 Michael McLeaish '70  
 James Considine '71  
 Jerry Johnson '71  
 Judd Osten '71  
 Hollye Fisk '72  
 Glen Rosenbaum '72  
 Philip Vitek '72  
 Linda Aaker '74  
 Chris Cox '74  
 Jack Emmott '74  
 Steve Simms '74

Boyd Herndon '75  
 Norvell Jackson '75  
 Richard Alexander '76  
 William Blanton '76  
 Burt Carnes '76  
 Jeffrey Love '76  
 Robert Neal '76  
 Ann Snell '76  
 Celia Castro '77  
 Jayme Dissly '77  
 John MacKinnon '77  
 Leland McKeeman '77  
 Lidia Serrata '77  
 Hollis Turnham '77  
 William Farris '78  
 Richard Chapman '78  
 Thomas O'Meara '78  
 Arcie Jordan '79  
 Rene Oliveira '79  
 John Head '80  
 William Pargaman '81  
 John Tunnell '81  
 Janice Pardue '82  
 Louis Taylor '82  
 David Mullican '83  
 Alfonso Soliz '83  
 Paul Alexander '84  
 David Holmes '84  
 Theresa Couch '85  
 Mark Partin '85  
 Thad Dameris '86  
 James Myart '88  
 Elaine Romberg '88  
 Daphne Hays '89  
 Ellen House '89  
 Thomas Sheehan '89  
 Diana Holt '94  
 Richard King '98  
 Eyvette Lopez-Hetherington '99  
 Scott Simmons '99  
 Jennifer Monday Goldman '00  
 Matthew Bassford '03  
 Tracy Cox '05  
 Paul Buratto '13  
 Martin Kamp '18  
 Thomas Collins '21

Recorded during the production of the Spring 2024 issue of *Texas Law Magazine*, and current as of April 15, 2024.



ADJOURN \ **PROOF**

No caps and gowns here! Texas Law graduates don suits and sunflowers for commencement, a tradition dating to the 1890s. ¶ Helianthus grew wild on The Forty Acres then, supplying hand-picked boutonnières for nearly 100 years. According to legend, a sunflower always keeps its face to the sun, just as a Texas Law lawyer always keeps turned to the light of justice. Texas Law graduates its 140th class at the 2024 Sunflower Ceremony this May. *Hook 'em!*