

The image shows a banner at the top of the page. On the left, there is a dark teal vertical rectangle containing the text 'ROCKET DOCKET' in white, with 'ROCKET' in a smaller font above 'DOCKET'. Below this, there is a small white 'B' followed by 'BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL' in white. To the right of this rectangle is a faded, green-tinted photograph of a large, classical-style building with columns, likely the Baylor Law School building.

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From The Dean's Desk

Change is in the air in and around Baylor Law School.

Here on our Baylor Law School website the most significant change you no doubt already have noticed is our Rocket Docket. Our monthly electronic alumni newsletter has been redesigned and now is fully integrated into our Alumni & Friends website. Within Rocket Docket, you have access to stories and photos that are only available on this site. We're trying something different, so we welcome your ideas and suggestions for making Rocket Docket even better. Also, remember to keep sending us your news and any great photos you may have. We can't promise we will use all of the photos, but we would love to have copies to keep in our archives.

We also have some new faces here at Baylor Law School. Over the summer we welcomed Assistant Professor Mark Snider, who will be teaching various business law, securities law and tax law courses; Daniel Hare, who as our new Director of Career Development - Employer Relations will be cultivating relationships with firms, businesses and/or organizations that may have a need to hire a Baylor lawyer; and our new Director of Communications and Marketing Janet Perez, who is revamping and developing new ways to tell Baylor Law School's story. You can read more about Mark, Daniel and Janet in this issue of Rocket Docket.

And now for what is changing around Baylor Law School. Just a few weeks ago, the Island Condos that sat on the banks of the Brazos River - and across from the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center - were demolished, clearing the way for construction to begin on Baylor University's new \$250 million football stadium set to open in 2014. Those condos likely hold many memories for decades of Baylor Law School alumni. You can see photos of the demolition here in Rocket Docket. There's much more to read in this issue, so please, enjoy!

A Change Of Scenery

Going ... Going ... Gone!

A long-time Waco landmark was razed to the ground during the week of Sept. 17. The Island Condos, which sat on the banks of the Brazos for decades, came down last month to make way for Baylor University's new \$250 million football stadium set to open in 2014.

The Island Condos dominated the landscape for a decade's worth of Baylor Law School students whenever they peered out the riverside windows of the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center.

Baylor Judges Recognized For Their Service

Baylor lawyers who sit on the bench were honored at the Ninth Annual Baylor Judges' Breakfast.

The breakfast was held on Sept. 10 in Houston in conjunction with the State Judicial Conference.

"The Baylor Judges' Breakfast gets better every year," said the Hon. Robin Malone Darr (JD '82) of the 385th Judicial District. "Reuniting with Baylor classmates and meeting new Baylor friends is a highlight of the annual conference for me. The faculty reports remind me of the great emphasis placed on work ethic at Baylor and make me proud to be a Baylor lawyer."

Dean Brad Toben provided the almost 100 people in attendance with updates on the law school's plans and programs, while Associate Dean Leah Witcher Jackson gave information on the curriculum, including Baylor Law's highly touted Practice Court program.

Assistant Dean of Career Development Angela Cruseturner discussed new endeavors in the Career Development Office, and Director of Alumni Relations Berkley Knas spoke about alumni initiatives.

"We are so proud of the impact our Baylor judges have in shaping the efficient and fair administration of justice within the court system of Texas," Toben said.

The Hon. Elizabeth Coker (JD '92) of the 258th Judicial District, who has attended every Baylor Judges' Breakfast, said she looks forward every year to catching up with other alumni.

"It's just a wonderful opportunity, particularly for rural judges who don't get to be around as many of the Baylor Law alumni as we would like," Coker said.

She added that she was especially heartened to learn about the public service programs Baylor Law has recently initiated, such as the Veterans and Immigration clinics.

"As a public servant, as an elected official - and as the daughter and granddaughter of judges - I have always been raised to believe that you serve your community, you serve the people" Coker said. "I was thrilled to death to hear about these services that Baylor Law School is now providing for Waco and the McClennan County area."

Get Ready For Baylor Law Alumni Weekend 2012

The Third Annual Baylor Law Alumni Weekend is set for Nov. 16 and 17. Last year, more than 200 Baylor Law alumni gathered in Waco for this fun-filled event. This year's activities include:

- Judge and Mrs. Ken Starr Dessert Reception at the Allbritton House;
- Breakfast, tour of the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center, and mock trial demonstrations with current students;
- Burgers & Blue Bell at the home of Dean and Mrs. Brad Toben;
- Baylor vs. Kansas State football game.

Tickets are \$50 for adults, \$15 for children 13-18, and children 12 and under are free. The tickets cover all Baylor Law Alumni Weekend events, however, tickets to the football game must be purchased sep-

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arately.

We look forward to another successful Baylor Law Alumni Weekend this year - and we will see you there!

Baylor Lawyers Build Lifelong Friendship

Graduation and more than 20 years have not been able to weaken the friendship of one group of Baylor lawyers.

Fast friends since the first day they stepped into Baylor Law School, the women - Michelle DeVoe, Maura Reilly Crawford, Robin Hill O'Donoghue, Chris Mercing Robinson, Katherine Laws and Missy Atwood - graduated in 1991 and have made it a point to try to get together at least once a year.

"We were all in the same class, we had every class together; we were friends from the beginning of law school," said O'Donoghue, who recently returned to Texas and now lives in Longview. "We just got along so well. It's not like we talk all the time with each other, but when we do get together it's as if no time has passed. We're right back to where we left off. They're just a bunch of easy-going girls that are really fun to be around."

Recently, the group met in Austin, and while traveling together from Dallas for the mini-reunion, Laws and O'Donoghue decided to make a detour in Waco.

"As we were going into Waco, Katherine said, 'Let's stop by the new law school.' We still call it the new law school. So on the spur of the moment we just decided to stop in and we went up to the teachers' section and we were looking for some of our teachers," O'Donoghue said. "We found Professor (Gerald) Powell and we knocked on his door and visited with him. He's the one who told us to go meet with Dean Toben. So we went and knocked on his door and he invited us into his office.

"We decided we would have gotten much better grades if we had been in the new law school. It was just gorgeous," O'Donoghue joked.

That after 21 years this group of women continues to not just keep in touch, but also frequently reunites speaks to the strong bonds that Baylor lawyers have to each other and the school.

"There will be just silence over the email and then someone will strike up an email saying, 'OK, it's time to plan a trip.' Then the emails start flying back and forth because everyone is ready for a trip. There's no real plan or organization involved; someone just decides to take the lead one year and get it organized," O'Donoghue said. "Everybody is doing different things, but somehow we manage to get most of us together."

Celebrate Baylor Homecoming 2012

The Baylor Law Alumni Association invites you to celebrate with fellow Baylor lawyers, faculty, students and friends at Baylor Homecoming 2012, Saturday, Nov. 3.



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Starting at 8:30 a.m., alumni can gather under the Law School tent on the front lawn of Morrison Constitutional Hall, 1410 S. 5th St., to watch the Baylor Homecoming Parade and enjoy breakfast. After the parade, alumni can head to the Baylor vs. Kansas football game. Game time TBA.

Meet The Faculty & Staff

Mark Snider

Assistant Professor of Law

Mark D. Snider joined the faculty at the Baylor Law School during the fall of 2012. Mark will be teaching various business law, securities law and tax law courses. His academic interests and scholarship are focused on issues relating to business transactions, corporate governance, tax and tax policy. Immediately prior to joining Baylor Law School, Mark was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Florida. Mark has worked as an attorney for more than 20 years, representing both public and privately held clients principally in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, commercial financing transactions, business formations, other complex business transactions and tax matters. He has been a partner in law firms based in Chicago and Florida. Mark has also worked in-house and for several years served as an officer and the general counsel of a national service company formed by one of the largest public utilities in the Upper Midwest and Northwest.

Daniel Hare

Director of Career Development - Employer Relations

Daniel Hare is sure to become a familiar face to our alumni. Daniel now serves as the Director of Career Development - Employer Relations, a position he began in September 2012. Daniel's primary role will be to cultivate relationships with firms, businesses and/or organizations that may have a need to hire a Baylor lawyer. He will also work with On Campus Interviews (OCI), Off-Campus Job Fairs, and general marketing to prospective employers. Most recently, Daniel served as Director of Athletics at NCAA Division II Western Oregon University. There he oversaw 13 varsity sports and nearly 50 full- and part-time coaches and staff, as well as serving on the President's Cabinet. During Daniel's tenure, the Wolves achieved their best all-sports competitive finish at the Division II level, and had multiple teams win conference championships and qualify for NCAA postseason play. His new job is actually a homecoming. Daniel earned his JD from Baylor Law School in 2009, and from 2003-2006, he served as Athletic Development Officer at Baylor University.

Janet Perez

Director of Communications and Marketing

After more than 25 years of working in the media, Janet Perez made the move to higher education. It's a



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move she has found to be both challenging and exciting. Born and raised in El Paso, Janet spent most of her media career in Phoenix, where she was editor-in-chief of Arizona Business Magazine and provided on-air business news analysis for the independent Phoenix TV station KTVK. Earlier, Janet was managing editor of community and tourism magazines for Gannett Pacific Publications. Janet also has worked as a reporter and producer for CBS and Fox affiliates in El Paso and Phoenix. Her work has been featured in such publications as The Chicago Tribune, The New York Times, The Arizona Republic, The Phoenix Business Journal and Hispanic Business Magazine. Prior to joining Baylor Law School, Janet served as a senior communications specialist for University Communications & Marketing Services at New Mexico State University.

Class Notes

1965

Walter Umphrey, founding partner of Provost Umphrey Law Firm was recently selected Lawyer of the Year by The Best Lawyers in America 2012 in the field of Personal Injury Litigation-Plaintiffs. Umphrey began his career as a prosecuting attorney and ultimately chief felony prosecutor for the Jefferson County District Attorney's office right out of Baylor Law School. He is board certified in the areas of personal injury trial law and labor and employment law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Umphrey is a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers. He was selected for inclusion in Texas Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters Business, 2003-2012, an honor only 5 percent of the lawyers in the state are selected for annually. Beyond the practice of law, Umphrey serves as director of the National Wildlife Association, director of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, director of both Texas Regional Bancshares and Texas State Bank. The newest cancer institute in Southeast Texas was named the Walter Umphrey Cancer Center. Umphrey helped to build the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center on the banks of the Brazos River at Baylor University, which is hailed as a state-of-the-art educational facility. In June 2000, Umphrey was recognized as one of the top Texas lawyers of the 20th century in the Texas Lawyer publication, "Legal Legends: A Century of Texas Law and Lawyering." For its special 2010 anniversary issue, Texas Lawyer named Umphrey as one of the 25 Greatest Texas Lawyers of the Past Quarter-Century.

1967

Former U.S. District Judge T. John Ward has joined the law firm of Ward & Smith in Longview. Judge Ward will lead the firm's new mediation practice. Judge Ward, who retired on Sept. 30 after 12 years of service on the federal bench in the Eastern District of Texas, has joined the firm founded by his son, T. John "Johnny" Ward Jr. Judge Ward earned recognition for establishing the speedy "rocket docket" handling of intellectual property cases in the Eastern District and will focus his mediation practice primarily on IP disputes.



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Jack Klein of Jackson Walker was selected as 2010 Dallas Top Lawyers by LexisNexis. This is the inaugural year of the Top Lawyers award, and the attorneys are chosen as the best in their field by both their clients and peers. The list was published in the December 2010 issue of Smart Business Dallas magazine.

1969

Keith Galitz has been appointed to CHR Board of Directors. Galitz's significant legal, operational and senior management experience spans three decades in the telecommunications industry. Since 2004, he has served as the president and general manager of Canby Telcom-a CHR shareholder. Canby's shareholder status resulted from CHR's 2010 asset acquisition of Western Datapro, Inc., of which Canby held an ownership interest. Prior to Canby, he served for two years as President, Oregon Division of Advanced TelCom Group. He spent 25 years with Mountain Bell/US West/Qwest in various management positions including Vice President – Mountain Division and subsequently Vice President General Counsel for US WEST Direct, and General Manager – Wholesale Division with Qwest. Prior to joining the Bell System, Galitz practiced law in various capacities including serving as a Trial Attorney for the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

1970

The law firm of Thompson & Knight LLP is pleased to announce that Gary D. Compton has joined the firm's Austin office as a member of the Firm's Oil and Gas Practice Group. Compton has 30 years of experience in regulatory and legislative matters. He represents corporations, major utilities, pipelines, oil and gas producers, and alternative and renewable energy companies. He has representative experience with administrative and regulatory matters as well as government affairs. He was named to The Best Lawyers in America by Woodward/White Inc. in 2012. Compton's experience includes serving as Special Counsel to the Texas Railroad Commission, including participation on the Special Advisory Council for the Blue Ribbon Natural Gas Rules Committee and acting as Special General Counsel to the Chairman's Committee on Natural Gas Marketing. He was appointed by three different Texas governors, including former Governor Bush, to serve on the Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission and Chairman of the Texas Youth Commission. He is a former Board Council Member for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. He also participated in the White House Intern Program in 1967 under President Lyndon B. Johnson. He has practiced before the U.S. Congress, White House, Texas Legislature, Texas Railroad Commission, Texas Public Utility Commission, Texas General Land Office, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Comptroller of Public Accountants, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy, Department of Interior, and various other regulatory agencies and state legislatures throughout the southwest. Compton is a former President of the Baylor Law Alumni Association.

Darrell L. Keith, was named the Dallas Area Best Lawyers Medical Malpractice Lawyer of the Year for 2011 by The Best Lawyers in America publication. Keith is the founder and senior shareholder of the Keith Law Firm PC in Fort Worth, and represents plaintiffs in the areas of medical and legal malpractice, personal in-



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jury, and civil liability law and litigation. After more than a quarter of a century in publication, Best Lawyers designated Lawyers of the Year in high-profile legal specialties in large legal communities beginning in 2011. Only a single lawyer in each specialty in each community is honored as the Lawyer of the Year. The lawyers honored as Lawyers of the Year have received particularly high ratings in the Best Lawyers surveys by earning a high level of respect among their peers for their abilities, professionalism, and integrity. In 2010, Keith was also recognized by the Dallas Bar Association as one of the legal profession's Texas Trial Legends honoring several trial lawyers for their courtroom achievements, preeminent careers, and contributions to the North Texas business and legal communities.

1973

W. Mike Baggett of Winstead PC, has been named Best Lawyers - Lawyer of the Year in 2012 Dallas Litigation - Real Estate by Best Lawyers.

The editors of Texas Lawyer newspaper recognized attorney Don Martinson from Dallas-based Fanning Harper Martinson Brandt & Kutchin for winning a “game-changing” court cases and is naming him to the paper’s list of Impact Players for 2011. The Dec. 19, 2011, edition of Texas Lawyer singled out Martinson based on his victory in a “highly watched, precedent-setting appellate case that are game-changers for current and future Texas litigants.” In *Re Universal Underwriters of Texas Insurance Co.*, Martinson won a unanimous Supreme Court of Texas opinion that will dramatically impact many Texas insurance cases, including hundreds of pending storm damage claims from Hurricane Ike in 2008. In the ruling, the Supreme Court held that the insurance company did not waive its right to compel an appraisal to settle a storm-damage claim even though a related lawsuit already had been filed. Legal observers told Texas Lawyer that the ruling is likely to result in fewer insurance claim lawsuits and more resolutions through the appraisal process.

1975

George R. Carlton Jr., chair of the Mass Tort Litigation Practice Group for Godwin Ronquillo PC, has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2013* in the area of Product Liability Litigation Defense.

Thomas A. Forbes was elected Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of Southwestern University this past March. He has been on the Board since 2001. Southwestern is a selective national liberal arts institution in Georgetown, chartered in 1840. It has a student body of about 1,350 and has sent many of its graduates to Baylor Law School.

1976

Kyle Peeler has been inducted into the Lee Legacy Wall of Honor at Lee High School in Midland. Peeler graduated from Lee High in 1970, where he was involved in football and choir. He also was president of the student Council president, was voted Mr. Integrity, and was an Eagle Scout and charter member of Origin. He practiced civil, criminal and family law for more than 30 years. Peeler currently serves as a Midland



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County court at-law judge.

1978

Marilea W. Lewis, chair the firm's Family Law Litigation Practice Group for Godwin Ronquillo PC, has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2013 in recognition of her Mediation work.

John Eddie Williams Jr. has been named the Baylor University Alumnus of the Year. Williams, who graduated from Baylor University in 1976, was named as part of the 2012-13 Baylor Meritorious Achievement Awards. Williams is a prominent attorney in Houston. Baylor University received a major gift from Williams earlier this year for Baylor Stadium. This generous gift, which ranks among the top five capital gifts in university history, will support construction of the university's new on-campus Baylor Stadium. With this naming rights gift, the field at Baylor Stadium will be named the John Eddie Williams Field. Williams also provided one of the lead gifts to the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center constructed in 2002.

1979

Roland Johnson, a partner in Harris, Finley and Bogle P.C., has been appointed to the board of directors of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation. The State Bar of Texas appointed Johnson to a three-year term on the Foundation that provides grant funding for civil legal aid in Texas. A proven leader in the Texas legal community, Johnson served as president of the State Bar of Texas for 2009-2010. He holds extensive memberships in professional legal associations, often serving in committee and board positions, and has received numerous awards and recognitions. His extensive legal experience is focused on commercial litigation, arbitrations and legal malpractice matters. Johnson earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Baylor University and is currently serving as president of the Baylor Alumni Association.

1981

Frederick S. Adams Jr. has joined the Dallas-based law firm of Quilling, Selander, Lownds, Winslett & Moser PC. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He has been board certified in Family Law since 1996, and has been voted Super Lawyer in Texas Monthly every year since 2003. He has practiced family law in Dallas for more than 30 years.

1982

Debora B. Alsup, partner with Thompson & Knight LLP, was named a Fifth Circuit Litigation Star in Texas first annual edition of Benchmark Appellate.

1983

Keith Nelson of McCurley Orsinger McCurley Nelson & Downing LLP, has earned recognition on the Texas Super Lawyers list. Additionally, Nelson was recognized among the Top 100 Attorneys in Dallas-Fort Worth for the second time.



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Keith Branyon has been selected for the 2012 Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters. The list was published in the October issue of Texas Monthly magazine. Branyon is a partner in the Fort Worth office of Jackson Walker LLP. He practices primarily in the areas of estate planning, probate, guardianship and tax, with particular emphasis on the taxation of individuals, estates and trusts and all types of transfer taxes (estate, gift and generation skipping taxes). He is also an experienced litigator in probate and guardianship cases, including will contests and guardianship disputes.

1984

John Charles Sherwood was named in Texas Monthly's List of Super Lawyers in Business Litigation for October 2012.

1986

Alan Vickery, Partner at Sedgwick LLP, has been recognized by LMG Life Sciences 2012 as a Life Science Star.

Thomas J. Farmer has earned recognition in the Texas Super Lawyers list of the state's top attorneys. Farmer, who also is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law, is a fellow of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association.

1987

Sharon V. Lovejoy of Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher in Honolulu, Hawaii, has been selected for inclusion in Benchmark Litigation's Top 250 Women in Litigation. Lovejoy is a director of the firm and is experienced in representing clients in a wide variety of commercial and business litigation, and real estate disputes. Lovejoy has been named a Litigation Star by Benchmark Litigation and Benchmark Appellate and is recognized by Super Lawyer for Business Litigation. Lovejoy was also recognized by The Best Lawyers in America 2011 and 2012 in the fields of Appellate Law, Litigation-Banking & Finance, Litigation-Construction and Mortgage and Banking Foreclosure Law. She is a Fellow of The Litigation Counsel of America, a trial lawyer honorary society composed of less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers.

1988

Marianne M. Auld, a partner at Kelly Hart in Fort Worth, was elected for inclusion in 2012 Texas Super Lawyers. Auld graduated first in her class from Baylor Law School, where she served as editor-in-chief of the Baylor Law Review. Following law school, she served as law clerk for the Hon. Thomas M. Reavley of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Auld was a professor of law at Baylor Law School, teaching federal civil procedure, remedies, and legal analysis, research and communications. In addition to her professional career, Auld currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Trinity

Paul R. Bessette has joined King & Spalding as a partner in the Austin office. Bessette has a national securities litigation practice with clients ranging from established Fortune 100 companies to the newly public. He



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has been lead counsel in scores of cases nationwide, defending companies, officers, directors, underwriters and accountants in shareholder class action lawsuits, derivative litigation, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission proceedings, M&A litigation and other complex commercial litigation. He also has experience in litigation involving breaches of fiduciary duty and representing board committees in various types of corporate investigations. He is admitted in Texas, California, and New York.

Charles A. Spain Jr. has been appointed associate judge of the City of Houston Municipal Courts by Mayor Annise Parker. He will continue to serve as a senior staff attorney at the Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas.

1989

Robert Gilbreath was named one of the Top 100 lawyers in Texas by the Super Lawyers publication. Gilbreath is a partner in Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young's litigation department and serves as appellate and legal issues practice group leader. He is AV rated by Martindale Hubbell and has handled approximately 200 appeals in a wide variety of areas, including trust and estates, personal injury, breach of contract, breach of warranty, breach of fiduciary duties, fraud, family law, oil and gas, contempt of court, arbitration, government regulation, defamation, RICO, shareholder oppression, and Lanham Act false advertising claims.

The law firm of Thompson & Knight LLP is pleased to announce that Geoffrey A. Long has joined the firm's Houston office as a Partner in the Corporate and Securities Practice Group. Long has more than 20 years of buy and sell-side transactional experience, with an emphasis on mergers, divestitures and acquisitions; business-entity structuring; corporate governance; commercial transactions; and general legal matters for a variety of private and publicly traded companies across various sectors, including manufacturing, medical devices, health information technology, petrochemicals, oil and gas, entertainment and construction. Long is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Houston Downtown Alliance. He is a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and a member of the Houston Bar Association and State Bar of Texas. His recent honors include being recognized in The Best Lawyers in America based on his work in Corporate Governance Law, and earning a Community Service Award from the Houston Downtown Alliance. Long joins the Firm from Bracewell & Giuliani LLP, where he began his career as an Associate in 1989 before being named Partner in

1997

Adam J. Paradoski has become a Lifetime Member of the Baylor Law Alumni Association and challenges all of the great attorneys of the class of 1989 to do likewise. This class was fortunate to have had the WWII generation of Baylor Law professors hand down their wisdom about practicing law and the Baylor Law tradition of excellence to them. Paradoski also recently became a member of the College of the State Bar of Texas. He has been working in Houston on an energy law project since May 2011.

Walt Shelton has been selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2012 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the practice areas of Environmental Law and Water Law. Shelton has received recognition every year for more than 10 years.

Jeff Smith has been named president and chief executive officer of the Baptist Foundation of Texas. Smith



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currently serves as the foundation's vice president and general counsel. He will begin his term on Jan. 1. Smith has served the foundation for 10 years as a trust attorney and 10 years as general counsel.

1990

Bryan Blevins Jr., senior equity partner with Provost Umphrey Law Firm, has been included in the 2012 edition of Best Lawyers in America in the field of product liability litigation - plaintiffs. Blevins joined Provost Umphrey in 1990, specializing in personal injury law. He became a firm equity partner in 2007. In 2006 Blevins was named Baylor Law School's Young Lawyer of the Year.

Rosemary Sage Jones has been named chairwoman-elect of the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce. Jones will serve for one year as chair-elect and will take over the helm as chair the following year.

1992

Duane L. Coker was recently selected as one of the 2011 Texas Super Lawyers for Super Lawyers and Super Lawyers magazine. Coker is a member of the College of the State Bar of Texas, the Collaborative Professionals of Denton County, Certified Ad Litem of the State Bar of Texas, and the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. He is also Past Chair of the Denton County Family Law Section and the President Elect of the Denton County Bar Association (will serve as President in the 2012-2013 fiscal year).

Michael C. Smith was recently elected as Chair of the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas. Smith is a partner in Siebman, Burg, Phillips & Smith LLP. He has served on the governing council of the Litigation Section since 2001. Approximately one out of every 10 lawyers in Texas is a member of the Litigation Section, which is the largest section in the State Bar. Smith is also serving his third term as Chair of the Board of Editors of the Texas Bar Journal and has also been the editor of the O'Connor's Federal Rules * Civil Trials handbook on federal civil procedure since 1998. He maintains the nationally recognized Eastern District of Texas Federal Court Practice web log at www.EDTexweblog.com, which tracks local federal court news and case law. He is a frequent author and speaker on federal civil procedure topics at seminars nationwide.

Michele Smith is serving as President of the Jefferson County Bar Association. She is a shareholder with Mehauffy Weber and currently serves on the firm's Management Committee. She also has been named a Distinguished Young Alumna for 2012 by Lamar University.

1993

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP announced on Oct. 3 that former U.S. magistrate judge Chad Everingham has joined as a partner in its intellectual property practice in the firm's newly established office in Longview. Everingham has had a distinguished career in both public service and private practice. For four years, he served as a magistrate judge in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, one of the busiest patent litigation courts in the federal system. Everingham will advise clients on an array of intellectual property litigation matters, with a particular focus on patent litigation.

Verdict Search, a leading national source for verdicts and settlement news and research, has selected Eagle-Pro Construction v. Coastal Caverns Inc. among its 2011 Top Texas Verdicts. Beaumont attorney Jane S.

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Leger of Provost Umphrey LLP, represented Eagle-Pro. Jurors awarded Eagle-Pro \$280,238 for the breach of the oral agreement and an additional \$691,568 for the breach of the Jan. 7, 2009 services agreement, which included damages for the remaining contract balance and 15 change orders.

Verdict Search, a leading national source for verdicts and settlement news and research, has selected Muñoz v. Brown's Machine Works among its 2011 Top Texas Verdicts. Mathew Matheny of Provost Umphrey LLP, represented plaintiffs Stacy Alexander, and her daughters, Lauren and Megan Muñoz, who were all injured in the accident. The jury awarded \$970,770.86 to the family after finding driver Yolanda Brown of Brown's Machine Works at fault in the accident.

1996

Leane C. Medford was selected for inclusion in 2012 Texas Super Lawyers. Medford is an attorney in the Dallas office of Polsinelli Shughart. Her innovative approach to commercial litigation and appeals has also resulted in her section for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America and Top 100 Attorneys in Dallas/Fort Worth lists. Her practice includes handling litigation and appellate matters related to intellectual property disputes, copyright and source code enforcement, trade secrets, employment law matters, Fair Labor Standards Act matters, class and collective actions, aviation related litigation, oil and gas litigation, indemnity and fraud claims, business torts and contract actions.

Celeste R. Yeager, Vice-Chair of the Hospitality Industry Team at Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, is slated to participate in the 2012 Labor and Employment Roundtable hosted by The Center for Hospitality Research (CHR) at the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University. The event will be held May 6-7 2012 at the Cornell University campus in Ithaca, N.Y. In addition to her leadership role with the Hospitality Industry Team, Yeager chairs the Firm's Immigration and Naturalization Practice and is a partner in Gardere's Labor and Employment Practice Group. Yeager is Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and regularly represents employers nationally in all types of employment disputes, including class and collective actions before local, state, and federal administrative agencies and courts.

1997

Floyd Hartley Jr., a shareholder at Godwin Ronquillo PC, has been named to the 2012 Texas Rising Stars listing of the state's top young lawyers.

Shareholder David Fowler Johnson has been named managing shareholder of Winstead PC's Fort Worth Office. Johnson is certified in Civil Trial Law, Civil Appellate Law and Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. When obtained, he was the youngest attorney in Texas to achieve this triple certification. Out of more than 84,000 attorneys in Texas, Johnson is one of fewer than 20 with this triple certification. Johnson is licensed and has practiced in the U.S. Supreme Court; the Fifth, Seventh, and Eleventh Federal Circuits; the Federal District Courts for the Northern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas; the Texas Supreme Court and various Texas intermediate appellate courts. A prolific writer and speaker,



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Johnson has authored over 25 legal articles and has presented at over 60 legal education courses on both trial and appellate issues. His articles have been cited as authority by the Texas Supreme Court (twice), and the Texas Courts of Appeals located in Waco, Amarillo, Texarkana, Beaumont, Tyler, and Houston, as well as a federal district court, and many other legal commentators. Johnson is a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit, the Tarrant County Bar Association, the College of the State Bar of Texas, and the Counsel of Appellate Lawyers.

1998

Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP, attorney Christopher B. Trowbridge has been selected by the Dallas Business Journal for inclusion on its annual 40 Under Forty list for 2012. This distinction highlights executives and entrepreneurs 39 years of age and younger who are, according to the Dallas Business Journal's Managing Editor Katherine Cromer Brock, "at the top of their game professionally, and personally have demonstrated a commitment to the North Texas community." He also was named to the 2012 Texas Rising Stars list by Super Lawyers -- a Thomson Reuters publication and rating service. Trowbridge, a partner, is a member of the firm's Commercial Finance; Corporate and Securities; Creditors' Rights; Entertainment, Advertising and New Media; Intellectual Property; and Litigation practice areas. He is focused on helping clients with complex business disputes and his litigation docket routinely includes class action defense, securities matters, broker-dealer disputes, FINRA and AAA arbitrations, and appeals for clients nationwide and ranging from high-net-worth individuals to Fortune 500 companies.

Bane Phillippi has joined Weisbart Springer Hayes LLP, a new boutique law firm focusing on high-stakes business, technology, employment, and aviation litigation. Phillippi focuses on litigation involving regulatory enforcement and compliance matters, and has represented companies in a wide range of environmental-related disputes, hearings and transactions. Among other honors, Phillippi has been recognized in The Best Lawyers in America directory for the past five years, and was named one of the 10 Environmental Lawyers Under 40 to Watch by the Law360 news service in 2010.

1999

Dallas civil trial and appellate lawyer Melanie Okon of Taber Estes Thorne & Carr was honored by Texas Lawyer in the inaugural Winning Women list of the state's top women lawyers. Okon focuses on trial and appellate work in state and federal courts. She has represented Fortune 500 companies, as well as medium and small businesses, regulated and unregulated electric utilities, gas companies, mining operations, home-builders, commercial construction companies, and property owners in a wide range of matters, including contract damages, property damages and personal injury claims.

Kirk L. Pittard was recently selected as one of nineteen Best Lawyers in Dallas in Appellate Law by D Magazine and was named a Texas Lawyer Rising Star for 2011 for the seventh year in a row. Pittard is a partner at Kelly, Durham & Pittard LLP, in Dallas.



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2000

Winn, Beaudry & Winn announced that Alexander G. Blue (Alex) has joined their legal team. Blue recently earned a spot on the 2012 Texas Rising Stars list of young attorneys under age 40, as featured in the current issue of Texas Monthly magazine. Only 2.5 percent of eligible Texas attorneys received this honor in 2012. This is the third time he has been so recognized by his peers. He was chosen as the Marine of the Year by the Big D Detachment of the Marine Corps League in 2009, and selected for the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers 2006 Leadership Class. From 2000 to 2008, Blue served as a Corporal in the Marine Corps. Currently, he serves on the Board of Directors of Heroes on the Water, a nonprofit designed to help wounded warriors from the military and law enforcement relax, rehabilitate and reintegrate into society.

Michael C. Kelsheimer has been named to the board of directors of Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas. Kelsheimer currently serves as a shareholder in the employment law section at Looper Reed & McGraw PC. Kelsheimer has had experience in a wide variety of employment and commercial matters during his tenure with Looper Reed & McGraw. Kelsheimer is the author of the Texas "Employer Handbook," a monthly guide for Texas business owners, and is a frequent radio commentator on KRLD and KTRH NewsRadio 740. Prior to joining Looper Reed, Kelsheimer served as briefing attorney to U.S. Federal District Court Judge Sam R. Cummings.

Natalie Scott has been promoted to director in the Austin office of Coats Rose, a Houston-based legal services provider. Scott joined the firm in 2008, and is a Director in its Construction/Surety, Litigation and Government Relations sections. She focuses her practice on a variety of matters, including employment litigation and professional malpractice litigation, as well as construction and real estate litigation.

2001

Jennifer A. King, Partner with Burford & Ryburn LLP, was named a Best Lawyer in Dallas 2012 by her peers and D Magazine for her outstanding work in the Professional Liability Litigation area. King has been named a Texas Super Lawyer, Rising Star, by Reuters, published in Texas Monthly magazine from 2006 to 2011. She is very active in the Dallas Bar Association and has served as chair and co-chair of various Dallas Bar Association committees.

Celeste C. Lawton has joined the Houston office of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP as senior counsel. Lawton comes to Fulbright's tax department from Duane Morris LLP in Philadelphia, where she assisted clients in all aspects of their estate planning. She received her LL.M. in taxation from New York University School of Law, prior to which she received her J.D. from Baylor Law School, graduating magna cum laude and finishing first in her class. She earned her B.S. from Texas A&M University, graduating magna cum laude.

Julie (Harris) Wade has joined the Dallas office of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr as a shareholder. Her practice continues to focus on business- and family-based immigration, including employment visas, PERM labor certifications, and applications for permanent residency and citizenship. She also advises clients on I-9 compliance and outbound immigration issues, and she is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA).



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John T. Wilson IV, a member of Kelly Hart & Hallman's Appellate and Litigation practice groups, has been named a partner. Wilson was a summa cum laude graduate of the law school.

2002

Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons LLP, is pleased to announce the appointment of a new partner, Amy S. Friday. Friday is a member of the Litigation and Products Liability & Mass Torts sections and is based in the Austin office. Friday's practice focuses on civil litigation in a broad range of matters with an emphasis in serious person injury litigation, products liability, construction litigation, contract disputes, healthcare regulatory matters, and catastrophic tort matters. She currently represents defendants comprised of corporate and individual clients in state and federal courts throughout Texas.

Vinson & Elkins promoted Tab R. Urbantke to Counsel. Urbantke represents regulated electric and gas utilities, competitive energy companies, and other entities in the electric power and gas industry in state and federal regulatory compliance and public policy matters, including rate proceedings, legislative advocacy, and transactions.

2003

Brannon C. Dillard has joined the Houston Office of Winstead as an associate.

Barbara-Ellen Gaffney has been named to Thompson and Knight's Labor and Employment Practice Group in the Dallas office. She is actively involved in numerous organizations, including the State Bar of Texas, Texas Young Lawyers Association, Dallas Bar Association, and Dallas Young Lawyers Association. She is a Board member of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Mothers' Association and is Past Vice-President of the Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association.

2004

Andrea Hight has joined the Dallas office of Winstead PC as an associate in the Construction practice group. Hight previously worked at Canterbury, Elder, Gooch, Surratt, Shapiro & Stein PC, in Dallas, TX. She has represented clients in litigation and arbitration proceedings as well as contract negotiations and drafting for prime contracts, subcontracts and purchase orders.

Sara Hollan has been elected partner at Jackson Walker LLP. Hollan focuses her practice on corporate and construction litigation as well as related appellate work. Hollan's corporate litigation practice involves breach of contract and business tort disputes. Her construction practice involves cases relating to construction defects, breaches of contract, and mechanic's liens. Hollan also has practiced in a wide variety of other areas.

Attorney Leslie L. Hunt has been named a shareholder at Decker Jones McMackin McClane Hall & Bates PC. Hunt joined Decker Jones in 2004 after graduation from Baylor Law School, where she was the recipient of the Loy M. Simpkins Award for Excellence in Marital Property Studies and served on the Order of the Barristers. She had received her B.A. from Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri in 1999. Hunt's prima-



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ry practice areas include commercial litigation, employment litigation, probate litigation and estate planning. Hunt was named the 2011 Outstanding Young Lawyer of Fort Worth and Tarrant County by the Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association. She served as President of the group in 2008-09. She has been a member of the Tarrant County Bar Association since 2004 and was an Eldon B. Mahon Court Member from 2007-2009. During 2011, she also was honored by the Fort Worth Business Press as one of the area's top 40-under-40 professionals. Hunt has been recognized the past three years as a "Texas Rising Star" by Texas Super Lawyers and five times as a Tarrant County "Top Attorney" by Fort Worth, Texas magazine. Hunt is active in community service organizations in Fort Worth. She is the current chair of the Advisory Planning/Bylaws Committee for the Junior League of Fort Worth, and served as co-chair of the Sweethearts Dessert Fantasy annual fundraiser for the Lena Pope Home in 2010 and 2011.

The law firm of Brown McCarroll announces the election of Kevin Koronka to partner. Koronka is a member of the litigation group in the Dallas office. Koronka has participated in multiple jury and bench trials, including significant first-chair experience, and has successfully handled appeals for his clients before a variety of appellate courts. He concentrates his practice on all aspects of civil litigation, both state and federal, with extensive representation of clients in the human resources, financial services, mortgage lending, commercial leasing and real estate development industries. He also has extensive experience in arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. Koronka earned his J.D. from Baylor University School of Law, where he received the Order of the Barristers award for his oral advocacy skills. He graduated magna cum laude from Saint Edwards University with a B.A. degree.

Terrell R. Miller has been promoted to partner at Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP. Miller practices in the firm's Dallas office. He focuses on all aspects of intellectual property law, as well as complex litigation involving software, electrical, mechanical, and other technical issues. Prior to his legal career, he was a technology consultant for Accenture in Houston.

Marilyn Montano has been elected partner at Jackson Walker LLP. Montano has experience in a wide variety of commercial litigation, having developed particular expertise in eminent domain matters, labor and employment issues, class action litigation, and the availability of mental health and substance abuse coverage under benefit plans governed by ERISA.

Gwen I. Walraven has been elevated to partner at Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP. Walraven is a commercial litigator and works with Bell Nunnally's Litigation, Intellectual Property and Creditors' Rights groups. She represents companies and individuals in business disputes involving claims such as breach of contract, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, tortious interference and patent infringement. Walraven also represents corporate creditors in collection of defaulted loans; foreclosure of secured properties; perfection of lien claims; and lawsuits based on promissory notes, guarantees, and unpaid accounts.

2005

Justin Blount teaches securities law course on an adjunct basis at the law school. He and a former student and recent graduate (Spencer Markel) have written an article that has been accepted for publication in the



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Fordham Journal of Corporate and Financial Law. The article discusses the whistleblower provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act.

Michael Blue recently formed Blue Rhodes. The Austin-based firm focuses on corporate, real estate, and estate planning and probate matters.

Lawrence Morales II, formerly of Haynes and Boone LLP, has formed The Morales Law Firm with Lawrence G. Morales. Morales II is board certified in labor and employment law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and he will continue his practice in the areas of labor and employment law, and business litigation.

Carol H. Wilkins has joined the Houston office of Winstead as an associate.

2006

R. Heath Cheek was named one of the 2011 Five Outstanding Young Dallasites by the Dallas Junior Chamber of Commerce. Cheek was selected based on his extensive work raising more than \$65,000 in scholarship funds for needy students at Texas Tech University and his work as an Action Team chair for the North Texas Super Bowl XLV Host Committee, which aided in preparing and hosting Super Bowl XLV on Feb. 6, 2011, at the new Cowboys Stadium in Arlington.

Kevin J. Muenster has earned a spot on the Texas Monthly and Texas Rising Stars magazine listing as a 2012 Texas Rising Star, which recognizes the state's top young lawyers. Muenster practices with the Dallas-based law firm of Taber Estes Thorne & Carr PLLC. Muenster represents businesses and individuals in a wide variety of complex disputes, including suits pending in both state and federal courts. To compile the listings, lawyers across the state are asked to name the top attorneys they've personally observed in action. Once the candidate pool is assembled, background credentials and experience of each lawyer are assessed. A blue ribbon panel within their primary area of practice then evaluates the lawyers. Before final selections are made, the lawyers are divided by firm size, and the top lawyers from each group are placed on a list that represents 5 percent of the lawyers in the state. The Rising Stars list is limited to the top 2.5 percent.

Scott Rhodes recently formed Blue Rhodes. The Austin-based firm focuses on corporate, real estate, and estate planning and probate matters.

2007

J. Ryan Fowler, an associate with Sloan, Bagley, Hatcher & Perry Law Firm, has been recognized by Law & Politics Magazine and Texas Monthly Magazine for the 2012 Texas Rising Stars list. Fowler is the lead attorney for the firm's Houston office.

Captain Campbell Warner, Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States Army, received the Bronze Star Medal in February 2012 for his service as a Detainee Review Board Attorney, Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435, Parwan, Afghanistan. He will return to the United States in March.

2008

Larence M. Lansford III (Trey) has joined Winstead PC, as an associate. He previously practiced with Mullin



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Hoard & Brown LLP in Amarillo, specializing in commercial litigation and eminent domain litigation. At Winstead, Lansford is the newest member of the firm's eminent domain team and will also handle commercial and energy litigation.

2009

The Austin firm of Martens, Todd & Leonard is pleased to announce that Danielle V. Ahlrich has joined the firm as an associate attorney. Martens, Todd & Leonard limits its practice to federal and state tax litigation.

2010

Jess Casenave Skinner was on a two-member defense team and argued the case successfully. [Read more here.](#)

2011

Kent Harris has joined the Dallas office of Fish & Richardson as an associate.

William X. "Will" King recently joined Sloan, Bagley, Hatcher & Perry Law Firm in Houston as an associate. King was admitted to practice by the State Bar of Texas in 2011. Before joining the firm full-time, King supported The Sloan Firm on a part-time, contractual basis from April 2011 to June 2012. In addition to working for The Sloan Firm, King was also a staff member at his alma mater, Baylor Law School, where he served as the Practice Court Associate. In that role, he assisted Abner V. McCall Professor of Evidence Gerald Powell and professors Jim Wren and Jeremy Counsellor to administer the nationally ranked Practice Court program. He also provided briefing and consultative services for plaintiffs' firms in California, Oklahoma and Texas in 2011.

2012

Sophilia Hsu has joined the global business and technology law firm of CHESTER PLLC in Dallas. Hsu handles a range of commercial of intellectual property matters, including copyright, trade secret, and trademark registration, licensing and enforcement. She also assists clients with technology transactions, e-commerce and international business and trade matters.

In Memoriam

These notices were received after Aug. 30, 2012

Clarence O. Bentley (JD '48) passed away on Aug. 30, 2012. He was born Oct. 14, 1921, the son of Sallie and Fieldon Bentley of Eddy. Clarence received a BA degree from Baylor University in 1943, a BBA degree from Southern Methodist University and a law degree from Baylor Law School in 1948. He practiced law in Dallas for 64 years, where he served as president of the Dallas Bar Association. On Nov. 10, 1951 he married Mary



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Jo Ellis, his wife of more than 60 years. They were active members of First Baptist Church Dallas, where he was a deacon for 56 years. He owned several farms and ranches, but his greatest investments were in his family, friends and the Lord he served. He was a kind Christian man of integrity, with a wonderful sense of humor. He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Jo; daughter, Sally DeBoard; grandchildren, Robert and Emily; son, Ellis Bentley; and grandsons, Hunter and Brayden of Rockwall. He was preceded in death by his parents; son-in-law, Greg DeBoard; brothers, Leslie, Reuben, Milton; and sister, Merle Jones.

Larry Ray Brandon (LLB '67) of Amarillo passed away Aug. 15, 2012. Brandon was born in Loma Linda, Calif., on March 8, 1939 to Lewis Fields Brandon and Claire Littleton Brandon. The family soon moved to Canyon, where Brandon attended Canyon schools, graduating from Canyon High School and West Texas State University. From 1957 to 1963, Brandon served in Company F, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, 36th Division, Texas National Guard in Canyon. He attained the rank of Sergeant F5. Upon an honorable discharge, Brandon enrolled at Baylor Law School, graduating in 1967, and began his career as an attorney. He was highly respected in his field and served the city of Amarillo as an assistant city attorney and first assistant city attorney. He was also a lecturer and presenter for the Texas Association of Assessing Officers on topics such as delinquent tax collection and an array of continuing legal education programs. He was admitted to practice law before the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas; U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; and U.S. Supreme Court. Brandon was a founding partner of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott, LLP, Attorneys at Law. He held professional memberships in the Texas Association of Assessing Officers, Texas Tax Assessors Association, Amarillo Bar Association, American Bar Association, State Bar of Texas and Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity. Brandon held an AV preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell. He served on the legal advisory board for the Texas Association of Counties. He was honored with TAAO Member of the Year, North Plains Chapter, 2004, and a Texas Bar Foundation Fellow. Aside from a distinguished career within his avocation, Brandon greatly enjoyed traveling the world, reading and researching the stock market. Above all, he loved his family and attending all his grandchildren's activities and events. To those who knew and loved him, Brandon was generous, kind, considerate and loved a good laugh. He was a good provider to his family and had a philanthropic nature for the community in which he worked and lived. Brandon was preceded in death by his parents and sister-in-law, Carolyn Glanton Brandon. He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Tina Lynne Brandon; his children, Tracy Brandon Tucker and husband, Jeff Tucker, of Fort Worth; Erin Beth Pingelton and husband, Jerod Pingelton, of Dumas; Dr. Todd Whitehead and wife, Gerri Whitehead, of Amarillo; Timothy Michael Fleming and wife, Dr. Sarah Fleming, of San Diego; 10 loving grandchildren, McKenzie Saige Tucker, Caitlin Sterling Tucker, Jackson Cole Tucker, David Neil Pingelton, Jordan Andrew Pingelton, Ryan Todd Whitehead, Raegan Thomas Whitehead, Reed Tucker Whitehead, Margaret Elizabeth Fleming and Katherine Claire Fleming; his brothers, David Arthur Brandon of Boulder, Colo., John Steven Brandon and wife, Deanna, of Arizona; nieces, Jessica Rudisel, Jaime Looger; nephew, Jordan Brandon of Amarillo; sisters-in-law, Dona Howe of Shreveport, Diane Spradlin of Dallas; and loving nieces, nephews and cousins.



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John Virgil Cottle III (JD '59) of Austin passed away on Friday, July 27, 2012, at age 76 at his home in Austin surrounded by his loving family. After a long battle with pancreatic cancer, he was received into the loving arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Cottle was born on March 31, 1936 in Waco to Mary Alice Washington Cottle and John Virgil Cottle Jr. He worked as general counsel and vice president of refining for Diamond Shamrock and Valero for more than 30 years. He and his wife, Sammye, retired in Austin to be near their children and grandchildren. Cottle was an active member of the First Evangelical Free Church in Austin. He loved his family and his family adored him. His impact on the lives of his family members is immeasurable. He will be greatly missed. Survivors include his wife, Sammye Kinkade Cottle of Austin; son, Chuck Cottle and his wife, Michele, their children, Lindsey, Madeline, and Logan; daughter, Mary Ellen Doak, and her husband, Philip, and their children Andrew, Molly and Spencer Doak, all of Austin; his brother, David Cottle, and his wife, Carolyn, of Florida.

Jasper G. Harris Jr. (JD '70) passed away on Aug. 30, 2012. He was 66. Born in Jackson, Miss., on Sept. 6, 1945, Harris was the beloved only child of Jasper G. Harris Sr. and Orna J. Harris, née Fortenberry. He was their late-life baby and they are rejoicing to have their son with them again. Harris was a 1963 graduate of William P. Murrah High School in Jackson. He served his country as a member of the U.S. Army Infantry enlisting, in 1968. Private Harris was stationed at Ft. Benning, Ga., and Ft. Dix, NJ. Harris received citations as an M14 sharpshooter and expert M16 marksman. He also earned the U.S. Army Parachutist Badge, having made 24 jumps. Harris received an honorable discharge from the Army Reserve in August 1974. He moved to Waco in 1963 to attend Baylor University. He was a proud Baylor graduate, having earned a BA in history in 1967 and his Juris Doctorate in 1970. He earned admission to the Texas State Bar in 1970 and practiced law in the Houston metropolitan area for the next 40 years. He worked as a staff attorney in the reimbursement division for the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation from 1986-1992. Harris opened his own general law practice specializing in criminal law until his retirement in August 2010. Harris has one son, Michael Chadwick Harris, with his first wife, Mary Elizabeth née Warren. An avid sports enthusiast, Harris enjoyed many years with his son on the playing fields of the Alief Youth Association (AYA) managing T-ball, championship Little League teams (All Star Division Championship) and Pony League (All Star Team). He coached the AYA Vikings football team to a championship. He also coached the YMCA basketball team, the Gobots. Harris always believed in community work. He served as the president of the Alief/Southwest Chamber of Commerce and was also the president of Alief Noon Lions' Club. He was elected to the Alief ISD Board of Trustees. Harris was a member of the Baylor University Law School Alumni Association and participated in the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Association. He also volunteered and sponsored numerous events for the Midtown Management District. A running enthusiast, he enjoyed participating in numerous long-distance runs benefiting area charities. He faithfully ran nine miles a week for years and took excellent care of his body. Harris enjoyed traveling, especially to the mountains and any place that was cold. Highlights of his travels include England, Canada, and much of the U.S. He traveled to



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Canada numerous times and always attended hockey games while visiting. He went to Alaska in the winter of 2003 and rode part of the Iditarod Dog Sled Race. Harris loved anything sports related and he carefully planned his Saturdays during the college sports season around game day. Another hobby Harris enjoyed was politics, especially during election season. By chance in 2004, Harris met the love of his life, Cynthia. Together they traveled, enjoyed the company of friends and family, ate at the very best restaurants and shared wonderful times. Together, with unwavering love and faith, they walked on his tumultuous journey home, because this is what it means to be married and in love. The couple is blessed with dear friends and family, who made Harris' 66th birthday a very special event. For all the love, the prayers, the friendship circle, the birthday cards, the champagne and visits, thank you with all of our hearts. Cynthia sought out only the very best care for her husband. The family would like to thank the renowned Gustavo C. Román, M.D., director, Alzheimer & Dementia Center Methodist Neurological Institute, director of the Nantz National Alzheimer Center and a Jack S. Blanton Distinguished Endowed Chair at the Methodist Neurological Institute; the amazing Therese Bilnoski and the entire Methodist Team; the exceptional Dr. Deepti Mishra of the Memorial Hermann System for her dedication to quality care; Deborah Harney, Pat Arp, and the staff of The Hampton; and Griswold Special Care for the outstanding quality care. The family also would like to thank Harris' personal angel, Ada Farlough, the person who impacted Harris' quality of life in a most positive way after his wife, Cynthia. In addition, the family sends thanks to Hallmark Hospice, Laura Howard, Joanie Taylor, Baywood Crossing, Pasadena and all the wonderful CNAs and aides, you were with him to the end and paved the way for us to say goodbye. Harris is survived by his wife of five years, Cynthia Alvarado; his son, Michael Chadwick "Chad" Harris of Richmond; first cousin, Catherine Bates of Forest, Miss.; his best friend, H. Clay Moore; Squire Lex; and numerous close family friends.

H. Kelly "Pat" Ireland III (JD '69) passed away Oct. 3, 2012. He was 70 years old and had battled multiple sclerosis for more than 25 years. Ireland was born in Houston on Sept. 20, 1942, to Hanson K. Ireland Jr. and Kathryn Ireland. He grew up in Houston and graduated from Midland High School in 1960. At The University of Texas at Austin he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration, played baseball and was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity. He married Nancy Conner of Midland in 1965, and while she taught elementary school, Ireland attended Baylor Law School and received his J.D. in 1969. Eager to do trial work, from 1969 to 1970 he served as a briefing attorney for the Hon. K.K. Woodley, presiding judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. He then worked as assistant district attorney for two years in Travis County and ultimately came to Tyler as an assistant U.S. Attorney. In 1975, Ireland joined the distinguished Potter firm in Tyler and became a partner practicing civil defense. In 1984, he became founding partner in the firm of Ireland, Carroll and Kelley and continued his practice as a trial lawyer until 1996. He was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1985, and when his condition began to deteriorate so that trial work was too physically demanding, he became one of the first lawyers in Tyler to be trained in mediation by the State Bar of Texas. He enjoyed mediating both state and federal cases until his medical retirement in 2000. Ireland and his wife, Nancy, raised two daughters, Kelly and Patricia, in Tyler. He was active in the community and was a

The logo for "ROCKET DOCKET" is displayed in a white, sans-serif font on a dark teal background. The word "ROCKET" is positioned above "DOCKET". Below the logo, the text "B | BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL" is visible in a smaller white font. The background of the entire page features a faded, green-tinted image of a large, classical-style building with a prominent pediment and columns, likely a part of the Baylor University campus.

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member of Marvin United Methodist Church, where he served on the administrative board. He also served on the board of Parents Anonymous. He was a resource lawyer for The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, and received an Outstanding Service Award for his efforts as a member of The University Health Science Center at Tyler Institutional Review Board Committee from 1996 to 2009. In 2010, he Ireland received the prestigious Justinian Award from the Smith County Bar Foundation for outstanding community service, legal ethics and professionalism. Ireland was an avid baseball fan and enjoyed following the Texas Rangers and St. Louis Cardinals. In spite of his frustrating illness, he is remembered for his gregarious nature and sense of humor. Ireland is survived by his wife, Nancy; his two daughters, Kelly Ireland of Los Angeles, Calif., and Patricia Ireland Garza of San Antonio; his sons-in-law, Matthew Lambro and Joe Garza; his three granddaughters, Camryn Elizabeth Garza, Kathryn Ruth "Kacie" Garza and Camille Ireland Garza; and many dear friends whom he considered family.

Len Gardner "Tuffy" McCormick (LLB '52) accomplished oilman, rancher, member of the Baylor Bears Final Four Basketball Team, NFL football player for the Washington Redskins and Baltimore Colts, died Aug. 20, 2012 in his home at the age of 89. McCormick was born in Eldorado on Oct. 28, 1922 to Jimmie and Van McCormick and was an only child. He grew up in a pioneering ranching family in Eldorado. His grandparents, P.H. and Sally McCormick, were one of the founding families of Schleicher County. After graduating from high school in Eldorado, McCormick attended Schreiner Military Institute in Kerrville. As a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, he served his country first in World War II from 1942 to 1945 and then in the Korean War from 1950 to 1952. Between his military services he graduated from Baylor University in 1947. At Baylor, he played center, linebacker and placekicker for the Baylor Bears football team. He was also the center for Baylor's basketball team that won the Southwest Conference Championship and played in the 1946 NCAA Final Four. This was the first time Baylor ever appeared in the NCAA Tournament. After college, he played for the Washington Redskins and the Baltimore Colts as a linebacker and center for two Hall of Fame quarterbacks, Sammy Baugh and Y. A. Tittle. During the off-season, he managed to attend Baylor Law School and received his law degree in 1952. His first job after Korea was as city attorney for Midland at a time of great excitement and growth. Continuing his love of sports, he was a participant of the Midland Misfits, a group of young Midland businessmen who got together on weekends to play football against other towns. The team included former NFL stars, weekend athletes, future business and government leaders and even a future President -- George H. W. Bush. Harnessing the opportunities of Midland, McCormick set up a private law practice and started his career in the energy business. He became the chairman and president of Santiago Oil and Gas, Santana Petroleum Company and Gold Metal Consolidation Mining Company, which later merged with Tom Brown Oil Company. He was active in Midland charities such as the YMCA, and was a club president of the minor league baseball team the Midland Indians. Returning to his roots in ranching, he purchased the Big Bend Ranch in 1958. Listed as one of the 12 largest ranches in North America, it contained 320,000 acres and 650 miles of fencing. Today, a large part of the ranch makes up the Big Bend Ranch State Park. Most importantly, McCormick will always be remembered for the time,

The top of the page features a dark green background. On the left, there is a vertical teal bar containing the text "ROCKET DOCKET" in white, with "ROCKET" in a smaller font above "DOCKET". Below this, the Baylor Law School logo is visible, consisting of a stylized "B" followed by the text "BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL". The rest of the background is a faded image of a large, classical-style building with a prominent pediment and columns.

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care, advice and great energy he gave to everyone, both on the phone and through his memorable imposing presence. Many people from all walks of life sought his sage advice and encouragement. His favorite slogan was “Mount up and get it done!” He was pre-deceased by his loving wife, Vera Lu Sumner Blanton McCormick, to whom he was happily married for 20 years; and her daughter, Kathy Blanton. After the passing of his wife, he spent nine wonderful years with his beloved companion, whom he was predeceased by, Betty DeMontrond. He was the proud father of Marlee McCormick and Van McCormick (married to Tina Jurgens-McCormick), and the proud grandfather of a total of nine grandchildren, Shelby, Sidney, Calli and Casey Padgett, as well as Max, Alex, Myles, Nathaniel and Amelia McCormick. Other surviving family members include Lea DeMontrond and George DeMontrond III (married to Marilyn DeMontrond) and their children, Melissa and George DeMontrond IV; Chuck and Danny Blanton; Gail Cusack (married to Greg Cusack) and their children, Thomas, Daniel, Matthew and Ava Cusack; as well as Kathy Blanton’s children, Kristan, Travis, Cameron and Karli. He also is survived by his cousins and his best friends, Steve and Carolyn Mafrige.

Judge Larry Weldon Starr (LLB, '60) of Longview passed away on June 20, 2012. He was born on June 23, 1932 in Elkhart. The youngest of nine children, he received his early education in Waco until his family returned to Elkhart. He played football for the state regional champion 1949 Elkhart Elks, as well as the bi-district champion 1950 team. Starr graduated Elkhart High School as valedictorian of the class of 1950 and received a Naval ROTC scholarship to attend the University of Louisville in Kentucky. After graduating with a B.A. in mathematics, he served as a naval aviator and navigator in the U.S. Navy from 1954 until 1957. Starr then attended Baylor Law School, where he received the Bachelor of Laws degree (later Juris Doctor) in 1960. He spent the first six years of his private law practice at the Houston law firm of Fulbright, Crooker, Freeman, Bates & Jaworski. While in Houston, he met and married Nancy Elizabeth Ogletree (B.A. '61) of Griffin, Georgia on June 26, 1963. He moved to Longview in 1966 to join Kenley, Boyland, Hawthorn, Starr & Coghlan as a partner. Starr spent the last two years of a 20-year practice as a partner with the firm of Sharp, Ward, Ross, McDaniel and Starr. In 1981, Starr was appointed as the first judge of the County Court at Law of Gregg County, an office in which he served for five years. He was elected as the second judge of the 188th Judicial District Court and presided over that court for nine years. In 1996, then Texas Gov. George W. Bush appointed him as the first Republican to serve as justice of the Texarkana Court of Appeals. Starr was the first Gregg County resident in several decades to serve on any of the Texas appellate courts. After retiring, Starr continued to serve as a visiting judge on the Texas Courts of Appeals and as a visiting trial judge in several East Texas counties. Starr’s family has been actively involved at the First Baptist Church in Longview for decades, where Starr sang in the choir. He also enjoyed traveling, reading and music and was an avid basketball fan of his beloved Louisville Cardinals and both the men’s and women’s Baylor basketball teams. Starr is survived by Nancy, their three children and spouses, nine grandchildren, one sister, and many nieces and nephews. His children and their families are: Mike (BA '86, JD '89) and Sarah Rutherford Starr (BA '88, MA '90) and Elizabeth, Emily and Matthew of Tyler; Jeff and Ellen Bullock Starr

The image shows a dark green background on the left with the text "ROCKET DOCKET" in white, with "ROCKET" in a smaller font above "DOCKET". Below this is a white horizontal line, followed by a stylized "B" logo and the text "BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL". The right side of the image shows a faded, light green image of a large, classical-style building with a prominent portico and columns, likely a Baylor Law School building.

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and Emma, Anna Mary and Rebecca of Walnut Creek, Calif.; David (JD '93) and Jenny Starr McCumber (BA '90, JD '93) and Will, Michael and Andrew of Los Alamos, N.M. Elizabeth, the Starrs' oldest grandchild, is a freshman at Baylor.

Walker Don Weathers (JD '83) passed away July 16, 2012. Weathers was born in Columbus, Miss., on Aug. 21, 1957, and attended school in Tyler. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1975, before continuing his education at Abilene Christian University, where he received his Bachelor of Business Administration in 1979. In 1983, he completed his formal education at Baylor Law School. Weathers returned to Tyler to pursue the practice of law and his love of aviation. He was admitted to practice law before the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas; the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; and the U.S. States Supreme Court. While in law school at Baylor, Weathers met Rhonda Marie Sylvester, the love of his life and wife of 28 years. He was a second-year law student and she was a senior. He saw her in the student union building and came over to introduce himself. Walker was a proud father. He and Rhonda have two children, Ross Walker Weathers and Grace Marie Weathers. Both of their children are students at the University of Texas at Austin, studying business and education respectively. Ross received his private pilot's license on Aug. 21, 2008, 31 years and one day after his father. On July 18, 1978, Weathers took his first flight lesson in Boulder, Colo. After immediately discovering his passion for aviation, he received his private pilot's license 32 days later. He also earned his helicopter license and was a charter member of the Tyler QB Hangar. Weathers worked with many aircraft organizations and was fortunate enough to fly diverse aircraft, flying many interesting people from all walks of life, as well as numerous sports franchises, including the Texas Rangers and Houston Rockets. He was also a captain of the Maricopa County, Ariz., sheriff's posse. After graduation from law school, Weathers went to work for the Saunders Law Firm in Tyler. He was a general practice lawyer and was with the firm until 1990, when he and his brother, Wade, began their own practice and started the Weathers and Weathers law firm. He was active in his Tyler practice and worked as the vice president and general counsel for The Wikert Group out of Dallas. Weathers was an outstanding advocate for his clients both inside and outside the court room, and was well respected by judges and his fellow lawyers. Weathers was actively involved as a member of the West Erwin Church of Christ. He served as a deacon, a member of the missions committee, and was also a Sunday school teacher. He served on the board of directors for Boles Home, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Ross Walker. Weathers had an adventuresome spirit and loved the outdoors and wildlife. Some of his favorite pastimes were spent at his deer camp in McCullough County, and tending to his farm and livestock. More important to Weathers than his professional or personal accomplishments was his family. He was well known as the "peacemaker" of the family and voted the "nicest uncle." He will be remembered for his great honesty, integrity, patience and calmness in the midst of chaos. He was a leader for the family and everyone else who knew him. Many times throughout his life Weathers anonymously and generously gave to others in need. Weathers loved the Lord and served him diligently. Weathers touched the lives of many people, both young and old, with his quiet ways and sense of humor. He enjoyed working with people of all ages and backgrounds. It did not matter if



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you only had a nickel or a million, he would always treat you the same. He was known for always finding the good in those around him. Weathers is survived by his loving wife, Rhonda, and his two children, Grace and Ross; parents, Wanda and Don Weathers; brothers, Wade Weathers and his wife, Diane, and their children Caroline, Katherine and Rebecca; and Wynne Weathers and his wife, Kristi, and his children Wendy and Will. Weathers is also survived by his father- and mother-in-law, Bill and Wanda Sylvester; sister-in-law, Cindy Tye; his favorite uncle, Rex Walker of Boulder, Colo.; and many others who loved him dearly.

Wade Tyler “Ty” Wilson (JD ’05) of Dallas passed away Sept. 13, 2012. He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Miranda; parents, Kitty and Swinford Wilson; brother, Taylor Wilson; and grandparents, Fay and Johnny Pavlica. Also, in-laws, Laurie and Tom Anger; aunts and uncles, Sherry and Jim Cattin, Penny and Johnny Pavlica, Gay and Jim Jordan, and Tom Ayars; cousins Cy and Allison Cattin, Cristy and Stephen Lawrence, Ian Pavlica, Hannah and Scott Davis, Michael and Wendy Jordan, and numerous other family members and loved ones. Wilson was born on July 16, 1980 and brought joy to his family from the first day he was placed in their arms. He attended Victoria High School, where he played football and golf, was president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and graduated Salutatorian of his 1999 class. In the speech to his class he quoted 1 Corinthians 9:24: “In a race, all of the runners run, but only one will get the prize. Run in such a way as to get the prize.” He attended Southwestern University in Georgetown, where he double majored in psychology and religion and graduated in three years. His proudest achievement his first year there was to obtain a charter with four close friends to start a chapter on that campus of the Christian fraternity, Kappa Upsilon Chi. He was accepted to Baylor Law School and graduated with his Doctor of Jurisprudence in May 2005. He started his own practice, W. Ty Wilson Law Office, where he practiced in Burleson, near Dallas. In an earlier time, Wilson would have been an adventurer/explorer in unknown lands. He never lost his enthusiasm for new places. There weren’t enough hours in the day for him to accomplish all that he wanted to do. He loved his family and friends beyond words and had a gentle way of helping someone in need and explaining all sides of an argument. He did have an opinion about everything and would share it if asked. He was always the energizer, always driven, always thoughtful, always caring, always tolerant and almost always optimistic. We know by the journals he kept his knowledge of his shortcomings, his love of scripture, and depth of faith. We will remember someone who could make anything fun, who was incredibly witty and smart, loving, and forgiving. He left us such a legacy in his short time with us. We know he had God in his heart and pray that he was in God’s hand the moment he left this earth.