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From the Dean's Desk

Fall is shaping up to be a great season for Baylor Lawyers.

First, John Eddie Williams Jr. (JD '78) was named the Baylor University Alumnus of the Year. Williams has been a great friend to both Baylor Law and Baylor University. John Eddie and Sheridan provided a lead gift for the construction of the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center and most recently made a very generous gift to the new Baylor Stadium that will sit on the banks of the Brazos River directly across from the Law School.

Second, the Hon. Leonard E. Davis (JD '76), Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, has been named the 2012 Baylor Lawyer of the Year. He was surprised with the announcement at the Bench and Bar Conference of the Eastern District of Texas.

Finally, a survey of litigators conducted by *The American Lawyer* selected Baylor Lawyer, the Hon. James Rodney Gilstrap (JD '81) of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, as one of "*10 Federal Judges to Watch*."

You can read all about them in this issue of the *Rocket Docket*.

Also in this issue, you'll meet some more of our terrific faculty and staff colleagues and see a photo gallery of Baylor's Homecoming parade. And don't forget, Baylor Law Alumni Weekend is just around the corner! You can get details on events and registration in this issue of the *Rocket Docket*.

James Rodney Gilstrap Selected as a Federal Judge to Watch

According to a survey of litigators conducted by *The American Lawyer*, Baylor Lawyer, the Hon. James Rodney Gilstrap of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, has been selected as one of "*10 Federal Judges to Watch*."

President Barack Obama nominated Gilstrap to the court on May 19, 2011, to a seat vacated by Thad Heartfield. Gilstrap was confirmed by the Senate on Dec. 5, 2011, and received commission on Dec. 6, 2011. He graduated with a BA from Baylor University in 1978 and received his JD from Baylor Law School in 1981. Gilstrap was in private practice in Marshall, Texas from 1981 to 2011. He also served as a judge in the Harrison, Texas County Court from 1989-2002.

Baylor Lawyer John Eddie Williams Jr. Named Baylor University Alumnus of the Year

Baylor Law School graduate John Eddie Williams Jr. (JD '78) 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 dedicated in 2002.

Baylor Law Alumni Weekend 2012 Is Almost Here

Johnny Allen, the son of 2012 Young Baylor Lawyer of the Year Vincent Allen, really enjoyed himself at the Baylor Law Alumni Weekend last year. Now it's your turn. 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 separately. We look forward to another successful Baylor Law Alumni Weekend this year - and we will see you there!

Federal Judge Leonard E. Davis Named Baylor Lawyer of the Year

Leonard E. Davis, chief judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, has been named the 2012 Baylor Lawyer of the Year.

The image features a dark teal vertical banner on the left side. Inside the banner, the words "ROCKET" and "DOCKET" are stacked vertically in a white, sans-serif font. Below them, a small white "B" is followed by the words "BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background of the entire image is a faded, green-tinted photograph of a large, classical-style building with a prominent portico and columns, likely the Baylor Law School building.

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A committee of the Baylor Law Alumni Association recently selected Davis, a long-time friend of Baylor Law School, for the honor.

“I’ve had the pleasure of knowing Chief Judge Davis for more than 35 years, both professionally and as a friend,” said Baylor Law School Dean Brad Toben. “He is a paradigm of what we all want to see on the bench in our courtrooms — a judge who is bright, discerning, hard-working, prepared, fair, courteous to all and decisive. And, of course, Judge Davis is a person of pristine character and integrity. He was nominated by an entire array of high profile and respected lawyers and judges . . . and the selection committee indeed chose well and wisely.”

Davis was nominated to the Eastern District of Texas by President George W. Bush on Jan. 23, 2002, and was sworn in on May 15, 2002. Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Davis served as chief justice of the Twelfth Court of Appeals of the State of Texas. Before becoming a judge, Davis was a practicing civil trial attorney in East Texas for 23 years, handling cases at all levels of state and federal courts involving all types of major civil litigation.

“He is universally respected by both the bench and bar,” wrote Judge James Rodney Gilstrap of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas in a letter nominating Davis for Baylor Lawyer of the Year. “His judicial service in the area of intellectual property has established him as one of the nation’s premier jurists in this important field.”

Davis attended Baylor Law School and graduated cum laude and first in his class in 1976. While at Baylor, he served as editor-in-chief of the *Baylor Law Review* and was a member of Baylor’s Interscholastic Moot Court and Mock Trial Teams, winning first place in the State Moot Court Competition in 1976. He also received the American Jurisprudence Awards for Excellence in Contracts and Federal Courts.

Davis received his undergraduate degree in mathematics from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1970, and his Master of Management Science from Texas Christian University in 1974. Before entering law school he worked as a computer programmer and systems analyst.

Davis joins dozens of Baylor Law School alums who have been named Baylor Lawyer of the Year since 1963. Past honorees include Leon Jaworski, Abner V. McCall, Angus S. McSwain Jr., R. Matt Dawson, William S. Sessions, Bob Bullock, Jack Hightower, Walter Umphrey and John Eddie Williams.

Baylor Law School will host a luncheon in Davis’ honor in the spring 2013.

Baylor Homecoming 2012

The Baylor Law Alumni Association once again turned out a stellar gathering for fellow Baylor Lawyers, faculty, students and friends at Baylor Homecoming 2012 on Nov. 3.

Baylor Lawyers gathered under the Law School's tent on the front lawn of Morrison Constitutional Hall to watch Baylor University's fabled Homecoming Parade and enjoy breakfast.

After the parade, alumni headed to the Baylor vs. Kansas football game, where the Bears trounced the Jayhawks 41 to 14. Sic 'Em Bears!

Meet The Faculty & Staff

Every month we will be featuring some of the faculty and staff members here at Baylor Law School.

Kathy Serr

Advocacy Program Coordinator

Kathy Serr became Advocacy Program Coordinator in the Fall of 2008. Prior to that she served as a coach to many of Baylor's winning moot court and mock trial teams for more than a decade. She continues to coach teams but is now responsible for the administrative aspects of maintaining and improving Baylor's nationally ranked advocacy program, including recently coordinating the highly successful National Top Gun Mock Trial Competition.

Berkley Knas

Director of Alumni Relations

Berkley Knas, Director of Alumni Relations, leads our alumni community of 7,049 Baylor Lawyers. Berkley focuses on developing programs and events to make the alumni experience more rewarding to our community of Baylor Lawyers. Berkley graduated from Baylor Law School in 2010 and has been leading alumni relations since graduation. She attended the University of Texas at Austin for her undergraduate education and graduated with high honors in Public Relations from the University of Texas' College of Communication.

Nicole Neeley

Director of Admissions and Student Recruitment

Nicole Neeley joined the admissions office in September 2011. She attended University of Michigan Law School and worked in Chicago, New York, and the Twin Cities before coming to Waco, Texas. She is a licensed attorney who has worked as a law firm consultant. She enjoys using everything she knows about law school and the legal market to help students in their decision to go law school and to help Baylor Law recruit



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the best candidates for its program.

Alumni Membership Dues

It's time to renew your membership to the Baylor Law Alumni Association.

Thank You

Many thanks to Baylor Lawyers Kyle Farrar (JD '02) and Wesley Ball (JD '03) for hosting the Houston Baylor Lawyer Reception at their firm, Farrar & Ball LLP, on Oct. 25.

Upcoming Alumni Networking Events

Austin Baylor Lawyer Reception

Sponsored by Ryan Squires (JD '04) and Steve McConnico (JD '76) of Scott, Douglass & McConnico.

Thursday, Nov. 15

5-8:30 p.m.

Abel's on the Lake

3825 Lake Austin Blvd., Suite 201

Billiard's Room

Austin

Dallas Baylor Lawyer Reception

Sponsored by the Baylor Lawyers of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr PC: Glenn B. Callison (JD '88), Sarah A. Cardwell (JD '03),

Chris DeMeo (JD '96),

Sameer S. Karim (JD '11),

Deborah M. Perry (JD '97),

James R. Ray III (JD '11),

Christopher Rusek (JD '11),

Devon D. Sharp (JD '07) and

Julie S. Wade (JD '01).

Thursday, Nov. 29

5:30-7 p.m.

Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr

3800 Lincoln Plaza

500 N. Akard St.

Dallas.

Class Notes

1960s

Walter Umphrey (JD '65) has had an endowed scholarship established in his name. Lamar University and the Beaumont Foundation of America created the Southeast Texas Legends Scholarships to assist underserved Lamar University students. On Oct. 26, the university announced that the 15th in a series of \$100,000 endowed scholarships was named in honor of Umphrey, founding partner of the Provost Umphrey Law Firm.

1970s

Lee Haney (JD '79) was appointed the new municipal court judge by the Brownwood City Council. Haney was the associate municipal court judge under Don Clements, who recently retired. Haney had been serving as interim municipal court judge since Clements' retirement. Haney has served Brown County as an attorney in many capacities, including county judge, district attorney and as the Early city judge. Haney will continue to serve as Early's city judge.

1980s

George "Tex" Quesada (JD '86) of the Dallas firm of Sommerman & Quesada L.L.P. was named the recipient of the 2012 Gene Cavin Award for Excellence in Continuing Education. Named for the State Bar's first full-time CLE director, the award is the highest honor given annually by the State Bar of Texas in the area of continuing legal education. Quesada is a past president of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association and the Dallas Trial Lawyers Association.

1990s

Mark Slough (JD '97) was appointed by ES Performance to the positions of CEO and president. This move precedes the grand opening of the company's Houston facility on Oct. 13. CES Performance will operate its training facility in partnership with The Methodist Center for Sports Medicine out of the Houston Amateur Sports Park, which also serves as the training location of the Houston Dynamo. In his role as CEO, Slough will oversee all strategic decision making, operations, events and facilities, and will lead the effort to expand CES into new vertical markets.

2000s

Thomas John "TJ" Turner (JD '04) has been appointed by Gov. Rick Perry as a new public member of the Texas Real Estate Commission with a term to expire Jan. 31, 2015. Turner is a partner at Cain & Skarnulis LLP in Austin. He previously served as a briefing attorney for the Eleventh Court of Appeals, as Assistant General Counsel to the Governor of Texas, and as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas. At the Gover-



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nor's Office, he provided counsel in the areas of local government, natural resources and open government.

In Memoriam

William "Bill" Ritchie Magnussen (JD '65), 72, died peacefully at home Oct. 27, 2012, surrounded by his family and friends after a courageous battle with cancer. Magnussen was a longtime Fort Worth defense attorney whose great love was serving the underdog. He was born and raised in Fort Worth, attended Paschal High School and then Baylor University for both his BBA and JD. After returning to Fort Worth, he first worked as an assistant district attorney and then with George Cochran before going into private practice at Magnussen and Eakman for 16 years, Magnussen and Thomas for 17 years, and most recently with Magnussen and Davis for 10 years. One of Magnussen's finest qualities as an attorney was his incredible respect for all aspects of the legal system. He was known for his integrity at all times while making sure that justice was served. Magnussen was a founding member of the Texas and Tarrant County Criminal Defense Association. He was committed to his family, especially his wife, his three daughters and seven grandchildren. His generosity was renowned, and whether it was treats for neighbors or the annual bikes at Christmas for needy children, Magnussen served others with great love, humility and a cheerful heart. Magnussen's professional memberships included the Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the Tarrant County Bar Association and The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. His other memberships included Colonial Country Club, Ridglea Country Club and the Petroleum Club. A special thank you goes out to his Monday night ABC Club for years of fun, Kristy Marsh for her smile, and to Jill Davis and Mike Thomas for their wonderful and sustaining friendships. Survivors include his wife, Edie Magnussen; daughters, Lynne Magnussen Thompson, Missy Magnussen Wallace and Laura Magnussen Cook; grandchildren, Sarah Elizabeth Thompson, Mary Alice Thompson, Charlotte Meadors Wallace, William Joseph Wallace, Martha Lucille Wallace, Grant Ritchie Cook and Robert Inman Cook; his dog, Mango; the mother of his children, Judy Clinkscales; and husband-in-law (as Magnussen called him), Paul A. Clinkscales.

Ray E. Lee "Ray" Montgomery (JD '58), age 79, passed away on Oct. 17, 2012, in Buffalo, Texas. Montgomery was born on April 29, 1933 to Raymond and Gertrude Winkler Montgomery in McKinney, Texas. He graduated from Waco High School in 1950. He graduated from Rice University in 1955 with a BA degree and earned his Juris Doctorate in 1958 at Baylor Law School. Montgomery met his wife, Jan, while attending high school in Waco. They were married on the Jan. 18, 1957 in Waco. The couple moved to Houston, where he worked in insurance defense and private practice in general litigation from 1958 to 1962. His career in the judicial system included Assistant District Attorney, Harris County - Capital and Major Crimes Division; Narcotics Prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office; Special Judge, Criminal Defense Attorney, Harris County; Special Prison Prosecutor, Huntsville, Texas; instructing in police schools; and trying more than 1,000 criminal trials to a jury verdict. He served as elected district attorney from 1997 to 2004. He initially served in Madison and Leon counties, then solely as Leon County District Attorney. After his retirement from his position as DA



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he returned to criminal defense practice in Leon County. He was a former Houston Live Stock Show Committeeman and was involved in many other civic organizations. He was a 32° Mason, a member of Centerville Lodge No. 1291, and a member of the Arabia Shrine Temple. Montgomery and his wife were members of Bethel Baptist Church in Buffalo, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Janis Main Montgomery of Buffalo, Texas; sons, Raymond Brian Montgomery of Orlando, Fla., Mark Bradley Montgomery and Alan Thomas Montgomery of Cypress, Texas; his grandchildren, Luke Montgomery, Jake Montgomery and Alexandra Montgomery; and a host of friends in Harris and Leon Counties.

Ray Bryan Williamson (JD '66), 71, passed away Oct. 21, 2012 following his courageous fight with leukemia. He was born on May 15, 1941 to Elburn Bryan "Dick" and Ruby Gold Williamson in Llano, Texas. Predeceased by his parents, Williamson is survived by his wife, Suzanne Smith Williamson; sons, Jason Smith, Matthew Smith and Scott Williamson; stepfather Blaine Quirl; brothers, Don Williamson and James Williamson; daughters-in-law, Jill Smith and Bethard Smith; grandchildren, Emily, Cade, Tanner and Reeves; and nieces, nephews and many friends. Williamson grew up in Llano playing at the river with his brothers. He attended Waco High School, the University of North Texas, where he played football, joined Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, was president of the Talons men's service organization, president of the Baptist Student Union and president of the Student Body. Williamson received his law degree, with honors, from Baylor Law School in 1966, where he served as editor of the *Baylor Law Review*. He was a member of the Texas and American Bar Associations and was admitted to practice before the state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Williamson was a partner in the Shank, Irwin, Conant, Williamson & Grevelle before founding Williamson, Johnson & Gruber. Although Williamson engaged in numerous business ventures, he loved to serve his clients. As an athlete, Williamson played a fine game of tennis, golf and skied the mountains of Colorado, Utah and France. As a Christian, he was an active member of Park Cities Baptist Church. His warmth, sense of humor and positive attitude will be greatly missed.