From The Dean's Desk

Many faculty members have become legendary in the history of Baylor Law School. One who looms especially large is Matt “Mad Dog” Dawson (LLB ‘38).

This month, Professor Dawson turns 97, and as a birthday salute, Baylor Lawyer and Jaworski Fellow David Hill (JD ’81) penned an article for Rocket Docket about a recent visit he had with the man who directed the Practice Court program from 1971-1983.

David told me that while chatting with Professor Dawson, for a moment he “was back in school and felt like I was there on row three, five seats from the left side in the big room in Morrison Constitution Hall.”

That’s the influence Professor Dawson still has over a generation of Baylor Lawyers.

Also in this issue, we meet Baylor Lawyer Robert Painter (JD ’99). In Rocket Docket’s interview with Painter the words “dinosaur bones,” “Mongolia,” and “Homeland Security” are all used. Trust me, it’s a fascinating read. Enjoy!

Monster Case: Baylor Lawyer helping to stop illegal trade of dinosaur fossils from Mongolia

Recently, Baylor Lawyer Robert Painter (JD ’99) found himself involved in a most unusual case. Painter, who has his own law firm in Houston, specializes in catastrophic injury and death cases, brain injuries, and business litigation. However, he also has worked with the government of Mongolia on various issues and that’s how he became involved in what we will call “the case of the stolen dinosaur bones.” In May 2012, the Mongolian government heard that the 70-million-year-old bones of a Tyrannosaurus Bataar, a cousin of the Tyrannosaurus Rex, were going to be auctioned off in New York City. The Tyrannosaurus Bataar has been found only in Mongolia, so the government there had reason to believe that the bones had been illegally smuggled out of the country. While Painter was no expert on dinosaur bones or the shadowy black market for them, he jumped right into the case, which drew international attention in the media. Painter spoke to Rocket Docket about United States of America v. One Tyrannosaurus Bataar Skeleton.

How did you become involved in this case?

Over the past 10 years, I have become good friends with the president of Mongolia, Tsakhia Elbegdorj. During that time period we have worked together on a number of significant projects, including election reform.

Around 6:30 p.m. one Friday last May, one of President Elbegdorj’s advisors contacted me to see if there was
any legal mechanism that I could use to stop an auction of a fossilized Tyrannosaurus skeleton that was taking place in two days in New York City. The president had only learned of the auction on the previous day. The Tyrannosaurus was believed to have been illegally smuggled out of Mongolia and was being sold by a Dallas-based auction company, Heritage Auctions. At that point, I knew, that as a Texas lawyer, there was definitely something I could do.

**How were you able to find a judge who would issue the temporary restraining order?**

It is always difficult to find a judge during weekends. It was particularly difficult in this case because venue was in Dallas County, and I am based in Houston. I spent about three hours that Friday evening calling a lot of lawyer friends in the Dallas area, including several of whom I knew from Baylor Law School. One of my former Baylor classmates, Kirk Pittard (JD ‘99), quickly found two Dallas district court judges who were willing to see me in Dallas on Saturday morning. Kirk was a huge help. Even after we got past the temporary restraining order stage, Kirk and his law partner, Leighton Durham, continued to work with me as local counsel.

**There was a very dramatic incident you were involved in during the auction of the fossils. How did you prepare for all the possible scenarios that could occur?**

In any case — but especially a high-profile matter where your client is a head of state — it is crucial to do everything possible ahead of time so there will be time to deal with the unexpected challenges that pop up.

President Elbegdorj’s main goal was to stop the Tyrannosaurus auction so there could be a proper investigation to prove the ownership of the fossil. Paleontology experts had informed us that it was almost certainly from Mongolia, where exports of such items are illegal. Once an irreplaceable artifact like this is sold and possession is transferred, it is almost impossible to recover it.

From a legal perspective, a temporary restraining order was essentially the only tool available to stop the auction and allow time for proper investigation of this matter. From a practical matter though, I had several concerns that required careful planning.

First, overnight I had to get the president’s office to find an expert on Mongolian cultural heritage law who could identify the relevant legal provisions, and have them translated and certified back to me by the morning.

Second, even after the Dallas district judge signed the temporary restraining order (TRO) on Saturday morning, it was impossible to have the normal citation issued by the Dallas County district clerk until Monday — a day after the auction. I decided that, under the circumstances, it was crucial to show that I undertook every reasonable effort to inform Heritage Auctions of the TRO. Of course, their offices were closed, so I faxed a copy
of the TRO to their office in Dallas, as well as to the auction venue in New York City. I then emailed copies of
the order to every address I could find, and even obtained several read receipts, including one from the auction
coordinator.

Third, even though I had evidence that Heritage Auctions was aware of the order, I lacked verification that they
would comply with it. After all, even though it is a Dallas company, the auction was taking place in New York
City. Therefore, it was possible that they could argue that the Dallas court lacked jurisdiction to stop the auction.
I was confident that we would eventually win that argument, but I did not want the dinosaur fossil to be lost in
the process. I flew to New York City that Saturday evening so I could be present to deal with whatever happened
at the auction in person. I brought a videographer/photographer from my office with me, planning ahead to
ensure that I had all necessary evidence to use in any future hearing necessary to enforce the TRO or to seek
contempt of court sanctions. I also asked an attorney friend in New York City to attend the auction so I could
have another set of eyes and ears on site.

Fourth, my group arrived at the auction site three hours before the dinosaur auction was set to take place. We
split up and casually looked around the hall at various lots and spoke with different people. Our goal was to
ascertain whether or not the dinosaur auction would proceed. Although there were a few hundred items being
auctioned, the dinosaur fossil was certainly the big-ticket item and was even on display in the auction hall. We
overheard a public conversation in which a representative of Heritage Auctions stated that they would proceed
with the dinosaur auction, but make an announcement that it was subject to the outcome of the legal proceeding.

Fifth, once I had verification that the auction house did not intend to comply with the court order, I had to
decide what to do next. As a litigator, if there is a dispute about an order or perhaps an applicable rule, it is
common to call the judge and ask for a telephone hearing and an immediate ruling. I decided to call the judge
on his cell phone. I explained the situation and the judge said something like, ‘Tell them it is an order, not a
suggestion, and they better follow it unless they want to spend six months at Dallas County jail.’ The judge
seemed to doubt that Heritage Auctions would defy his order, but agreed to be available by phone immediately if
he needed to explain this directly to the auction company.

Over the next several minutes, I decided that the best course was to let the auction company proceed as it had
planned, and then interrupt the auction and get the judge on the phone. That way, the court would have no
doubt as to the auction company’s intent. I asked my videographer/photographer to capture everything that was
about to happen.

When the auctioneer started to open up bidding, I phoned the judge, stood up, held the phone up in my right
hand, and said something like, ‘I’m sorry to interrupt, but I have the judge on the phone, and he would like to
explain to you how what you’re doing violated his order.’ There were gasps in the room because that auction
crowd had certainly not seen anything like that before.

The confused auctioneer was told to proceed and some Heritage Auctions people asked me to walk with them to the back of the room. I was an invitee on their leased property, so I thought it was best to comply. They initially refused to speak to the judge, all while he was still on the phone and probably able to hear what was going on. When their lawyer finally got on my phone with the judge, I heard his side of the conversation and there was a lot of apologizing and backtracking.

After prosecutors in New York took over the case, how did your involvement in the matter evolve?

A few days after the auction, I spoke with an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, who was chief of the forfeiture unit. We discussed a forfeiture procedure available to the U.S. government in which the government’s burden of proof to seize allegedly smuggled property is merely probable cause. If the government successfully files a forfeiture action, it can have the judge issue an *in rem* arrest warrant and seize the property. Our case was styled *United States of America v. One Tyrannosaurus Bataar Skeleton*. My wife, Taunya, and I happened to be in New York City and got to watch the FBI actually arrest the dinosaur skeleton. That’s something you don’t see often! After a federal forfeiture suit is filed, the burden shifts to any potential claimant to prove his or her interest in the seized property by preponderance of evidence.

In short, the U.S. government was willing to help its ally, Mongolia. I discussed this with the Mongolian president and we decided to officially request U.S. assistance and to abate our Texas lawsuit in the meantime. Eventually, we decided to nonsuit the Texas lawsuit.

The U.S. attorney’s investigation included resources from Homeland Security and the FBI. In the process, a large smuggling ring involving many more artifacts was uncovered. Eventually, criminal charges were filed against the alleged smuggler of the Tyrannosaurus fossil, Eric Prokopi, and he pled guilty to three felonies.

I have continued to have a daily role in this case, as the liaison between the U.S. and Mongolian governments, and working with the legal and paleontological experts to provide the testimony necessary for our successful litigation.

What was your reaction to the widespread attention this case generated in the media?

My wife and I practice together and we both have experience in politics and with the media. My lawyer friend in New York, who was with me at the auction, also works with the media and had extensive press contacts. As soon as it was clear that Heritage Auctions did not intend to fully comply with the order, we framed and released a message to the media. I anticipated that this would generate some media attention, but in the end it far exceeded
my expectations. Top newspapers around the world have given the story front-page coverage; New Yorker magazine did an in-depth feature, and I appeared on national television in feature pieces on CNN and CBS. Thousands of unique stories were published about this case.

The media coverage was a significant factor that contributed to the fast success of this case. If you think about it, I filed the temporary restraining order application on May 19, 2012. By the end of 2012, the smuggler had pled guilty to three felonies and the stolen dinosaur fossil was essentially on its way back to Mongolia. It would be difficult to think of even a minor car wreck case that would be resolved more quickly.

The day after the auction, this story was all over the media. Two days after the auction, Heritage Auctions called and offered to cooperate, I believe in large part because of all of the negative media attention it received. Within two weeks of the auction, I had retained world-renowned paleontological experts and we were on site in New York City to examine the fossilized skeleton so they could form opinions about its origin.

I think that any time there is a case where a party’s conduct goes against the cultural normative beliefs of honesty, fair dealing, and obeying a court’s order, the media can help generate pressure to correct that conduct.

**The fossils are being returned to Mongolia. How do you feel about the ultimate outcome of this case?**

I feel great about it. Mongolia’s Gobi Desert is one of the world’s most fertile field of fossils. These dinosaur fossils are a part of its rich cultural heritage. This case has generated a lot of attention in Mongolia, as well as the rest of the world, about the smuggling of cultural artifacts such as dinosaur fossils. It has led to more cooperation among governments and increased prosecution in Mongolia. The legal case and the worldwide attention that it generated have certainly had a chilling effect on illicit smuggling activity.

The Mongolian government has decided to open a new museum in the capital city, Ulan Baatar, to house and display the returned cultural treasures. I look forward to being there in May to watch the fossils arrive home.

**How did you draw on your Baylor Law training in dealing with this case?**

I think Baylor Law School excels at training its students on the litigation tools that are available to solve complex problems. The challenging curriculum forces students to learn how to confront these problems under pressure. While at Baylor, I learned a way to approach matters that I still use today: assess the big picture, formulate a strategy, prepare as much as humanly possible, and then swing with the punches. That is exactly what I did in this dinosaur case.

**Can you see yourself involved in similar cases in the future?**
I continue to work with the Mongolian government about preservation of its dinosaur fossil heritage on an almost daily basis. Currently, we are working on matters that include players in Great Britain, France, Germany, South Korea, and Japan. We are also reaching out to auction houses, fossil festivals, and online companies like eBay. I also will not be surprised to get a call from some other client if something similar comes up.

**What type of cases do you handle other than dinosaur disputes?**

I started my practice at a big defense firm doing almost exclusively medical malpractice defense. At the end of 2005, I started my own practice. About 75 percent of my docket is representing plaintiffs in medical malpractice cases, with the balance being a variety of commercial and other litigation.

**On Topic With President Ken Starr: George Mitchell**

Baylor University President Ken Starr continues his series On Topic, an engaging conversation about our country and important issues facing our nation, with retired Sen. George Mitchell.

The event takes place April 16 at 7 p.m., in Waco Hall. Admission is free, but requires a ticket. Tickets will be available beginning March 18 at the Bill Daniel Student Center Ticket Office or by contacting Berkley Knas, director of Alumni Relations, at Berkley_Knas@baylor.edu.

Mitchell served as U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace from January 2009 to May 2011. Prior to that he had a distinguished career in public service. He was appointed to the United States Senate in 1980 to complete the unexpired term of Sen. Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, who resigned to become Secretary of State. He was elected to a full term in the Senate in 1982 in a stunning come-from-behind victory. After trailing in public opinion polls by 36 points, Mitchell rallied to win the election, receiving 61 percent of the votes cast. He went on to an illustrious career in the Senate spanning 15 years.

In 1988, he was re-elected with 81 percent of the vote, the largest margin in Maine history. He left the Senate in 1995 as the Senate majority leader, a position he had held since January 1989.

Mitchell enjoyed bipartisan respect during his tenure. It has been said “there is not a man, woman or child in the Capitol who does not trust George Mitchell.” For six consecutive years he was voted “the most respected member” of the Senate by a bipartisan group of senior congressional aides.

While in the Senate, Mitchell served on the Finance, Veterans Affairs, and Environment and Public Works committees. He led the successful 1990 re-authorization of the Clean Air Act, including new controls on acid rain toxins. He was the author of the first national oil spill prevention and cleanup law. Mitchell led the Senate to
passage of the nation's first childcare bill and was principal author of the low-income housing tax credit program. He was instrumental in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, landmark legislation extending civil rights protections to the disabled. Mitchell's efforts led to the passage of a higher education bill that expanded opportunities for millions of Americans. He was a leader in opening markets to trade and led the Senate to ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement and creation of the World Trade Organization.

Mitchell received an undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. He served in Berlin as an officer in the U.S. Army Counter-Intelligence Corps from 1954 to 1956. From 1960 to 1962 he was a trial lawyer in the Justice Department in Washington, D.C. From 1962 to 1965 he served as executive assistant to Muskie. In 1965 he returned to Maine, where he engaged in the private practice of law in Portland until 1977. He was then appointed U.S. attorney for Maine, a position he held until 1979, when he was appointed U.S. District Judge for Maine. He resigned that position in 1980 to accept the appointment to the Senate.

In 1995 he served as a special advisor to President Bill Clinton on Ireland, and from 1996 to 2000 he served as the independent chairman of the Northern Ireland Peace Talks. Under his leadership, the Good Friday Agreement, a historic accord ending decades of conflict, was agreed to by the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom, and the political parties of Northern Ireland. For his service in Northern Ireland, Mitchell received numerous awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor given by the U.S. government; the Philadelphia Liberty Medal; the Truman Institute Peace Prize; and the United Nations (UNESCO) Peace Prize.

In 2000 and 2001, at the request of President Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization Yasser Arafat, Mitchell served as chairman of an international fact-finding committee on violence in the Middle East. The committee's recommendation, widely known as The Mitchell Report, was endorsed by the Bush Administration, the European Union, and by many other governments.

In 2006 and 2007 he led the investigation into the use of performance-enhancing drugs in Major League Baseball. He also served as chairman of the special commission investigating allegations of impropriety in the bidding process for the Olympic Games, and was the independent overseer of the American Red Cross Liberty Fund, which provided relief for September 11 attack victims and their families.

Mitchell served as chairman of the global board of the law firm DLA Piper; chairman of the board of directors of The Walt Disney Company; a member of the board of the Boston Red Sox; and a director of several companies, including Federal Express, Xerox, Staples, Unilever, and Starwood Hotels and Resorts. He also served for 10 years as the chancellor of Queen's University of Northern Ireland; as president of the Economic Club of Washington; and as chairman of the International Crisis Group.
In 2008 *TIME* magazine named Mitchell one of the 100 most influential persons in the world.


**‘Mad Dog’ Memories: Baylor Lawyer Catches Up With Matt Dawson**

There he was, looking right at me, eye to eye, and I was immediately transformed back to the spring of 1980 and into my third row seat in the Practice Court room at Morrison Constitution Hall. At almost 97 years of age, the intensity of his presence was completely there, even in his own home. And that wonderful deep Southern baritone drawl was still just as strong. As we shook hands, his face broke into a big warm smile seldom seen in class.

After all these years, Matt Dawson was still exactly as I had remembered and hoped he would be. He was not interested in talking about politics, sports, or current events. He wanted to talk about what he considers his greatest honor and passion: teaching law students the skills of trying lawsuits. He went straight to it and asked, “Are you able to be around the law students any at all?” When I answered yes, his eyes sharpened, he perked up, and the amazing old professor started holding class right there in his living room.

He said, “Please tell those law students that the most important thing a trial lawyer does is play to the jury.”

His volume noticeably increased.

“If you want to carry the day for your client, you have to play to the jury!”

More volume added.

“You are there to represent your client, and the jury makes the decisions!”

Sitting back on his couch, I savored the moment, hoping it would last a long time. He continued:

“Those students need to learn that when you are questioning your client, you want that jury to have its full attention on your client ... but, when you are interrogating your opponent, you want the jury’s attention on you.”
“You must make those students understand how important it is to play to that jury!”

Just for a moment I was back in school, once again hearing those foundational principles first heard and so ably demonstrated 33 years ago. Matt Dawson was a master teacher because he was first and foremost a master trial lawyer. He taught the art of cross-examination from personal experience and from the heart. He desperately wanted every one of his students to walk away with the advocacy tools needed to effectively represent a client in court. The long hours he spent at the Law School were direct evidence of his love for teaching, for his students, and for the law.

Professor Dawson’s critiques were unique, attention getting, and unforgettable. Legend has it that after having listened to what he thought was a particularly poor and ill-advised cross-examination one afternoon, Dawson told the law student, “No, no, no, that is not how you do it ... now you’ve embarrassed yourself, you’ve embarrassed your school, you’ve embarrassed your family, you’ve embarrassed your client, and your law partner!!”

That type of one-on-one criticism straight from Dawson really stung, but it was done in order to mold, motivate, and toughen. In Dawson’s world, there were no excuses for failing to be absolutely and completely prepared.

From 1971 through 1983 Baylor Law School students were indeed extraordinarily fortunate that Matt Dawson chose to interrupt his law practice so he could teach Practice Court. He returned to his practice for two full decades after teaching. The lessons and skills he drilled into his students are still being used on a daily basis in courtrooms all over Texas and beyond. Matt Dawson would still tell you today exactly what he taught back then, that the most important thing you can do for your client is play to the jury.

David Hill (JD ’81) is a Jaworski Fellow at Baylor Law School and has his own law firm in Henderson.

On March 20, Matt Dawson celebrates his 97 birthday. You can send birthday greetings via the Law School at: Baylor Law School Attention: Berkley Knas 1114 S. University Parks Drive Waco, TX 76706 or email your greetings toBerkley_Knas@baylor.edu and Dean Toben will deliver them to him.

Meet The Faculty & Staff

Patricia Wilson
Professor of Law

Professor Patricia A. Wilson has been a member of the Baylor Law School faculty since 1993. Her teaching responsibilities include Employment Discrimination, Employment Relations, Labor Law, and Family Law. She taught the first year Property course for 12 years, and she has also taught courses on Antitrust, Intellectual Property, Consumer Protection, and Legal Writing. Before joining the Baylor Law faculty, Professor Wilson practiced law for seven years, including four years with American Airlines. There, she litigated multimillion-dollar cases, negotiated and drafted contracts for topics as diverse as software licensing and health care plan administration, and handled matters involving airline regulation and employment discrimination.

Jerri Cunningham
Registrar

Jerri Cunningham has worked with Baylor Law School since 1988 and has served as registrar since 1992. As the registrar, Cunningham assists students with academic planning and registration, law school regulations, grades and transcripts, and graduation. Outside of Baylor, Cunningham is the assistant executive director of the National Network of Law School Officers (NNLSO), an organization committed to the professional development of administrators at law schools across the country.

Meredith Meyer
Administrative Associate

Meredith Meyer joined the Baylor Law School team in July 2003. She currently holds the job title of administrative associate and assistant to Associate Dean Leah Jackson. Meyer is usually the first face visitors see when they enter the Dean's office. She can assist you with almost any question you have and can direct you to the different areas of the Dean's Office, such as Admissions, Registrar, Development, Marketing, the Associate Dean or the Dean himself. She answers incoming calls and is also the coordinator of events in the Law School.

News & Notes

Position Open

Are you ready for a change or new professional challenge? Would you enjoy working with Dean Toben, raising money for scholarships and other needs at Baylor Law School? Learn more about our opening for a Director of Development - Law School position. Direct all inquiries to Heidi Boyd, Human Resources, at Heidi.boyd@baylor.edu.
**Houston Baylor Lawyer Network Reception**
Thanks to Don Jackson (JD ’83), Libby King (JD ’01), and Jason Walker (JD ’97) for hosting the Houston Baylor Lawyer Network reception on Feb. 7 at the River Oaks Country Club. Everyone had a great time and we hope to see even more Baylor Lawyers at our next gathering on April 30.

**Austin Baylor Lawyer Network Reception**
Thanks to Monte James (JD ’92), Marilyn Montano (JD ’04), Andee Hartig (JD ’12), Kimberly Gdula (JD ’08), Jack Skaggs (JD ’05), Leonard Woods (JD ’86), and Scott Weatherford (JD ’11) of Jackson Walker L.L.P. for hosting the Austin Baylor Lawyer Network reception on Feb. 13. Our next meeting is May 14, and we look forward to seeing you.

**On Topic With Ken Starr: George Mitchell**

Tuesday, April 16, 2013
7 p.m.
Waco Hall
Baylor University Campus

**Upcoming Alumni Networking Events**

Dallas Baylor Lawyer Network Reception
Hosted by the Baylor Lawyers of Carrington Coleman, L.L.P.
Jennie Bauman Knapp (JD ’09)
Charles Josef Blanchard (JD ’99)
Alexis Young Lantz (JD ’06)
Debran O’Neil (JD ’12)

Thursday, April 11, 2013
5:30-7 p.m.

Reception will be held at the firm of:
Carrington Coleman, LLP
901 Main St.
Suite 5500
Dallas, TX 75202
Houston Baylor Lawyer Network Reception
Hosted by John Eddie Williams (JD ‘78) of Williams Kherkher

Tuesday, April 30, 2013
6-7:30 p.m.

Reception will be held at the firm of:
Williams Kherkher
8441 Gulf Freeway, Suite 600
Houston, TX 77017

Austin Baylor Lawyer Network Reception
Hosted by the Baylor Lawyers of Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, L.L.P.
Chris Elliot (JD ‘90)
Preston Randall (JD ‘90)
Susan Burton (JD ‘87)
Lauren Damen (JD ‘11)

Tuesday, May, 14, 2013
5:30-7 p.m.

Reception will be held at the firm of:
Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, L.L.P.
401 Congress St.
Suite 2200
Austin, TX 78701

Alumni Notes

1990s

James Deets (JD ’93) is opening the Dallas office of Compensation & Benefit Solutions LLC, which he has joined as a director. Previously with Hunton & Williams, Deets focuses his practice in the employee benefits and executive compensation areas, and his experience includes qualified and nonqualified retirement plans, equity plans, executive compensation arrangements, and health and welfare plans, including correction of plan defects before the IRS, as well as issues that arise in connection with mergers and acquisitions.
Stephanie Dooley Nelson (JD ’97) has joined the Dallas-based appellate law firm of Hankinson LLP. Nelson handles a variety of appellate matters, including jurisdictional challenges, mandamus petitions, and interlocutory and accelerated appeals. She also works with trial teams on motions and evidentiary issues, jury charges, and litigation strategy. Her commercial and business litigation experience includes cases involving fiduciary obligations, professional liability, employment relations, contract disputes, insurance coverage, and products liability. She represents a broad cross section of clients, including those involved in the legal, manufacturing, insurance, aviation, trucking, and oil and gas production industries. Nelson graduated cum laude from Baylor Law School, where she was managing editor of the Baylor Law Review and earned the President’s Award. She is a past president of the Dallas Young Lawyers Association and chair of the group’s foundation, as well as a member of the Dallas Bar Association’s board of directors. From 2004 through 2009, Nelson was named to the Texas Rising Stars list by the publishers of Texas Super Lawyers magazine.

Kristie A. Wright (JD ’95) was recently named the executive director of 1st Choice Pregnancy Resource Center (FCPRC) in Texarkana. FCPRC is a 501(C)3 nonprofit dedicated to empowering young women in crisis pregnancies.

In Memoriam

John Milton Barron Jr. (JD ’74) passed away Feb. 12, 2013 at his home in Bryan. Barron was born Nov. 5, 1948 in Bryan to Mildred Lee Dowling and John Milton Barron Sr. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School in 1967. He received his bachelor’s degree in political science from Texas A&M in 1971, where he was a walk-on place kicker for Texas A&M. After graduation from Texas A&M, he entered Baylor Law School and received his law degree in 1974. He served as county attorney for Brazos County from 1978 to 1981. In 1981 he began his private practice in Brazos County. Barron was a lifelong Aggie fan. He is preceded in death by his mother, Mildred Dowling Barron, in 1980; and his father, Judge John M. Barron Sr., in 1989. He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, David and Trisha Barron of Bryan; and numerous cousins, including Phillip Banks.

Jack Henry McCreary (LLB ’51) passed away on Feb. 9, 2013. He was born June 4, 1926, in Weatherford to Pearl Powell and William Malloy McCreary. McCreary graduated from Weatherford High School in 1943 and signed up for the Navy at the age of 17 to serve in World War II. During this time he accepted Jesus Christ and was baptized in the Pacific Ocean. This was a decision that would impact every facet of his life and touch the lives of countless others. After his discharge, he attended Weatherford Junior College for two years and then attended Baylor University on the GI Bill. He earned his BBA in 1950 and went on to earn his LLB from Baylor Law School in 1951. While at Baylor, he played on the golf team along with Bob Dodson, whose sister, Dorothy Dodson, McCreary married in 1949. McCreary then started his law career in Taft before relocating to Austin in 1952. After working eight years for Ross Terry, McCreary began his own law firm, which is today known as McCreary, Veselka, Bragg, and Allen. McCreary and his wife raised two daughters in Austin, Beverly Jean
and Jo Anne. McCreary was very active in Baptist life throughout the state of Texas. He was ordained a deacon and taught Sunday school at Allandale Baptist Church, and continued to serve in those capacities at Hyde Park Baptist Church. He was later a charter member of Austin Baptist Church, where he was recently named deacon emeritus. He was known for his empathic statement, “God said it, I believe it, and that settles it!” He served on the board of Buckner Benevolences for 25 years and upon his retirement was named a member emeritus. He was on the Committee of 100 of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He was cause of Christ working with Campus Crusade, Operation Brotherhood, Gideons International, and numerous other Christian organizations. McCreary was a member in good standing with the Masonic Lodge in Austin, and in Weatherford as a member of Shriners. He served on the Seton Hospital Fund when it was formed. He also held membership at the Austin Country Club, Headliners Club, and Onion Creek Country Club. Politically, he sat on the board of the Texas Aeronautics Commission and ran twice for mayor of Bell County. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was a friend to all. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, an infant son (William Henry), and his daughter (Jo Anne). He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Dorothy; his daughter, Beverly; and his three grandsons, and their wives.

Crawford B. Reeder (JD ‘52) passed away on Feb. 17, 2013 in San Antonio. Reeder was born in Amarillo on Oct. 3, 1920. He enlisted in the USAAC after Pearl Harbor and served as a PFI fighter pilot in Europe during World War II. He was shot down in Italy in 1943 and spent the remainder of the war as a POW in Germany. After the war, he was stationed in Japan, where he flew some of the first jet fighters in the USAF. Upon returning to the U.S., he enrolled in Baylor Law School, where he earned his law degree in 1952. After graduation, he worked as a law clerk for Federal District Judge Joseph Sheehy in Tyler. In 1953 he moved to Corpus Christi, where he was in private practice until 1956, when he was hired as an assistant city attorney in San Antonio. He then served as city attorney in the 1960s and 1970s. During this time, he also served as a professor of law at St. Mary’s University. He retired from the city in 1987. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 41 years, Elizabeth Duncan Reeder. He is survived by his wife, Glenda F. Reeder; children, Edie Daniel Payette; Joan Townsend and her husband, Jerry Townsend; John Reeder, Jay Reeder and his wife, Debbie; step-daughter, Laura Hill, and her husband, L.G. Clark; six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.