Send us your Baylor Law testimony for consideration in an upcoming Baylor Law publication.

Law_alumni@baylor.edu
Governor Mark White devoted his life to public service. During his term, Gov. White’s signature achievements came in education, with his reform efforts enacting sweeping changes in Texas public schools, leading to dramatic improvements.

A business major at Baylor University, Gov. White graduated in 1962 and immediately entered Baylor Law. After earning a JD in 1965, he practiced law in Houston and served as assistant attorney general before assuming his offices in state government. Gov. White was Texas Secretary of State and Attorney General prior to serving as Governor. In 1982, he won the election for Texas governor, becoming the fourth Baylor graduate to hold that office.

Gov. White’s dedicated and selfless service as a public leader reflects Baylor University’s mission to educate men and women for worldwide leadership and service. Today, students continue to come to Baylor Law with the same kind of dedication Gov. White had during his time as a law student: a desire to serve others and to influence political arenas across the state and nation.

Honoring A Legacy Of Service
THE GOVERNOR MARK WHITE CHAIR IN PUBLIC SERVICE AND PUBLIC INTEREST

HONORING AND SUPPORTING A LEGACY

Now is your time to invest in the lives of Baylor Law students and honor the legacy of Gov. Mark White, one of Baylor Law’s most outstanding alumni.

Encourage and assist Baylor Law students in recognizing their role as future stewards of our nation’s system of justice and challenge others to join in making a gift to establish The Governor Mark White Chair in Public Service and Public Interest at Baylor Law.

To learn how you can help, please contact Susan Wommack, senior director of development for Baylor Law, at Susan_Wommack@baylor.edu, call 254.710.8537, or visit baylor.edu/law/give.
A Message from
Dean Toben
In every sphere of society, lawyers lead. Our Baylor Lawyers are no exception, faithfully stepping up to serve their communities.

Since 2010, Baylor Law students have devoted more than 10,000 hours to pro bono efforts. In 2015, the American Bar Association honored Baylor Law with its highest recognition, the Pro Bono Publico Award for its commitment to providing free legal services for the underprivileged.

At Baylor, we are proud of the leadership demonstrated by our alumni and students. In this issue, we will explore the many ways Baylor Law prepares students not only for practice, but for leadership. Our desire to develop leaders is reflected in the University’s Pro Futuris strategic vision, which states that “We strive to prepare students to make a difference in our world as citizens and leaders who have the faith and integrity to do what is right in the face of competing pressures and to have a passion to apply their knowledge to ends that transcend mere self-interest.”

Law schools produce many of the nation’s most prominent leaders, but first, we must attract those who serve. Only from a heart for serving others comes the drive to be a leader, in that leadership often extends one’s opportunities to serve. The leaders of tomorrow are within our walls today, and we have every intention to steward their pathways towards service and leadership.

This issue of Docket Call shares insights into our Leadership Development Program and our student-led Leadership, Engagement, and Development (LEAD) Counsel organization. You will hear from Associate Dean Leah Jackson Teague, about the importance of Leadership Development for the future of the legal profession and how Baylor Law is responding to the need.

We are excited to announce a grant from the Cooper Foundation of Waco that has provided resources for a Trial Advocacy Clinic, an opportunity for third-year Baylor Law students to represent low-income Waco residents in municipal citation cases.

You will enjoy reading about Baylor Law student Stephen Carl, who serves in the U.S. Army and who views his developing role in the legal profession as “a call to serve.” You also will meet Peter Rusek, JD ‘84, an adjunct professor and prominent leader in the Waco community.

Our Baylor Law mission statement emphasizes our “particular obligation to develop students who have the character, maturity, skills, and values needed to assume leadership positions.” I hope you enjoy reading about the many ways we have seen this ring true for our students and alumni.

Thank you for the vital part you play in the Baylor Law family.

Brad Toben
DEAN OF BAYLOR LAW

Docket Call is published by Baylor Law for its alumni, faculty, staff, students, supporters, and friends.

Established in 1857, Baylor Law was one of the first law schools in Texas and one of the first west of the Mississippi River. Today, the school has more than 7,400 living alumni. It is accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools.

EDITOR
Berkeley Knas, JD ’10

DESIGN AND ART DIRECTION
Seedhouse Creative

CONTRIBUTORS
Bethany Harper, Suzy Daniel, Eric Eckert, Karen Kemp, Ed Nelson, Leah Jackson Teague, JD ’85, Nick Teixeira, Brad Toben, JD ’77

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Robbie Rogers
Nick Teixeira
Jose You

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNER
Nick Teixeira

BAYLOR LAW FULL-TIME FACULTY
Bradley J.B. Toben, JD ’77, Dean
Leah Jackson Teague, JD ’85, Associate Dean


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Dick Tye, JD ’89, San Antonio
Leah Jackson Teague, JD ’85, Waco

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Please send address changes and correspondence to:
Docket Call, Baylor Law
One Bear Place #97288, Waco, TX 76798-7288
254.710.1911 phone
254.710.2316 fax
law_alumni@baylor.edu
Lawyers Lead
Baylor Lawyers: Ready to Practice, Prepared to Lead.
Lawyers make up less than one-half of one percent of the population, yet no other profession accounts for more leaders throughout society. Lawyers have led our country at critical junctures since its inception. Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Of the 55 delegates to the 1787 Constitutional Convention, 35 were lawyers. Abraham Lincoln led the Union to victory in the Civil War. Twenty-five of the 45 U.S. presidents have been lawyers.

Serving in positions that require legal training, as well as serving in a wide array of other leadership roles, lawyers influence society. Lawyers have contributed to pivotal historical events including the founding of our nation, the progressive era, the New Deal, the civil rights revolution, and more. As heads of nations, universities, foundations, companies, legislative committees, and public offices, lawyers have shaped our society and culture. Today, lawyers advocate for important causes, counsel businesses, and serve nonprofits. It is the leadership of lawyers who advance these causes and enhance these enterprises.

Through legal education, lawyers learn problem solving, strategic planning, persuasion, and ultimately how to command the room; all foundational leadership skills. “Every aspect of what lawyers are called upon to do in the representation of their clients is practiced leadership,” said Leah Jackson Teague, JD ’85, associate dean of Baylor Law. “By advising, advocating and influencing others, lawyers can address an identified need and, hopefully, accomplish a greater good. Utilizing lawyers’ skills, talents and resources can have a tremendous impact on society.”

With the ever-changing nature of our public square and private sector, there is an increasing need for lawyers who are not only prepared to practice, but also to lead. Legal education, in the midst of the growing “access to justice” gap, has received criticism for both its failure to produce lawyers who are ready to practice and for providing a seemingly narrowed and expensive education aimed to meet the specialized needs of a shrinking number of clientele able and willing to pay for legal services. There is a need for innovative and cost-effective solutions to provide legal services, advice, and counsel for everyday problems faced by the majority of citizens.

The challenges facing the legal profession are significant, and law schools need to play a part in problem solving. Baylor Law is committed to seeking solutions for the betterment of the profession.

While Baylor Law faculty and staff have a long history of serving in leadership roles in a broad array of professional associations, this is the first time they are serving in leadership roles within the Association of American Law Schools (AALS)

Dean Leah Teague is chair-elect of the newly-created AALS Leadership Section which was formed through her dedication to the cause and in collaboration with Deborah Rhode, Director, Center on the Legal Profession, Stanford University and former president of AALS. Stephen Rispoli, assistant dean of student affairs and pro bono programs, was elected as chair-elect, and Professor Bridget Fuselier was elected as treasurer of the AALS Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities Section. Professor Scott Fraley is head co-chair for the Legal Writing Section panel at the 2019 AALS Annual Meeting.

The Need for Leadership

In the 1830s, Alexis de Tocqueville observed that the special training of lawyers as both problem solvers and advocates, in addition to the role of lawyers as the keepers of the rule of law, ensured them a “separate station in society” and a duty to protect our democracy. However, over the last century, the number of lawyers serving in prominent leadership roles has declined. In the mid-19th century, nearly 80 percent of U.S. Congressional representatives were lawyers. By the 1960s, lawyers represented less than 60 percent of Congress. Today, lawyers occupy only 40 percent of Congressional seats.

The closing paragraph of The Texas Lawyer’s Creed, adopted by The Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals in November 1989, states: “Throughout the history of our nation, the members of our citizenry have looked to the ranks of our profession for leadership and guidance.

Let us now as a profession each rededicate ourselves to practice law so we can restore public confidence in our profession, faithfully serve our clients, and fulfill our responsibility to the legal system.”

While law schools have traditionally focused on preparing future lawyers for their role as technical experts in the law, the role of lawyers has traditionally been broader. Clients seek their lawyers’ advice and counsel. Organizations and communities look to lawyers for direction and effective leadership. Without attention to lawyers’ roles as legal experts, wise counselors, and leaders, the legal profession is in danger of losing its status that has helped guide our country for over 240 years.

Law schools need to tout our ability to train and develop tomorrow’s leaders. Baylor Law is leading the way in this effort.
GOAL: Leadership Development

The missing piece of the puzzle, where bright and talented law students train to more effectively engage and influence, is leadership development. Law schools can fill that gap by being more intentional about developing lawyers who are aware of their role in society, preparing them to solve societal problems while also meeting the legal needs of the public in an effective and cost-efficient manner. Law schools play a vital role in restructuring legal education and the legal profession to fulfill our obligation to society as trusted advisors and effective leaders.

Leadership is mentioned in the mission statement of many law schools, including Baylor Law. In many ways, leadership development is a core component of the law school experience. Yet intentional leadership training has not been a part of the traditional law school curriculum, until recently. Deborah Rhode writes in Leadership and Law, “A movement has begun in legal education to incorporate programs to emphasize lawyers’ professional identity in society and develop leadership skills to better equip graduates for service and leadership.”

Business schools have long provided specific leadership development courses and programs. Like Baylor Law, a growing number of law schools are incorporating leadership development into their programming to prepare students for their future roles as lawyers and leaders.

ABA Standard 302 requires that lawyers demonstrate competency in “other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession.” This requirement gives law schools an incentive to stress leadership development. Common topics addressed in leadership development programs include cultural competency, conflict resolution, collaboration, negotiation, self-evaluation, and other relational skills.

“Legal employers want law school graduates who need less training and mentoring,” Teague said. “Law firms are demanding that new lawyers have not only intelligence and legal skills but also key characteristics and professional competencies to use those skills in practice and to progress within their organizations.”

The 2016 Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System study found that the majority of its respondents recognized the following professional competencies as necessary right out of law school: integrity, work ethic, common sense, trustworthiness, conscientiousness, emotional intelligence, listening attentively and respectfully, tact and diplomacy, working well with a team, empathy, self-control, self-awareness, being a self-starter, courtesy and respect for others, adaptability, resilience, and possessing a strong moral compass. These are competencies leadership development programs are designed to help law students cultivate.

Baylor Law has created a unique Leadership Development Program to meet the needs of future Baylor Lawyers and to serve as a model for other law schools.

SERVICE: The Predecessor to Leadership

Teague, in an article published by the Texas Bar Journal, suggests that “service is the first step to leadership.” Lawyers, the legal profession, and society as a whole, benefit from lawyers’ engagement in community service and leadership. She offered five reasons for lawyers to serve:

1. Texas lawyers are obligated to serve the public.
   A law license is a privilege held by a small percentage of the population. That privilege comes with an obligation to serve. As expressed in the Preamble to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, “A lawyer is a representative of clients, an officer of the legal system, and a public citizen having special responsibility for the quality of justice. Lawyers, as guardians of the law, play a vital role in the preservation of society.”

2. Legal and professional skills can be developed and honed through volunteer work.
   Pro bono work allows lawyers to perform tasks outside of their normal workload. Lawyers working on pro bono cases gain invaluable experience toward specializations not available to them otherwise.

3. Community engagement increases our networks and can help build a practice.
   Community engagement is an opportunity to meet prospective clients out of the office and develop professional relationships.

4. Volunteering can make us happier and healthier.
   Aristotle once said that the essence of life is “To serve others and do good.” Research from the Harvard Health Blog has shown that “serving others might also be the essence of good health.” Studies have proven that volunteers have longer life spans, reduced stress, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression. In The Halo Effect, author John Raynolds argues that we are happier, more confident, and energized at work when we find purpose and meaning through heart-felt volunteering.

5. Our country needs us.
   Our profession and our country need us to reclaim our role in society as an assembly of skilled professionals who accept as our calling a special duty to serve the public.

“Our noble profession can be the change agents our communities need,” Teague said. “Our legal training gives us skills to serve. Community engagement allows lawyers to use our knowledge and skills to communicate, counsel, and persuade. Effective leadership begins with a person’s values, purposes, and identity, and leads to the influencing and empowering of others to act and accomplish more together than separately. Being more intentional about pursuing a path of significance means we can live more impactful lives in the law.”
At Baylor Law, we take pride in the fact that so many Baylor Lawyers serve in a vast array of leadership roles in their communities and throughout the legal profession. Baylor Law’s mission statement expresses our “obligation to develop students who have the character, maturity, skills, and values needed to assume leadership positions.” Baylor Law seeks to challenge the status quo of legal education by placing a strong emphasis on training students to care about the well-being of those around them and encouraging service to their communities. Baylor Lawyers are widely known for their willingness to serve as leaders across a broad spectrum of community organizations.

Leadership Development Program

Baylor Law’s desire to produce leaders is in accord with the University’s Pro Futuris strategic vision: preparing students to make a difference in the world as both citizens and leaders who have the faith and integrity to do what is right in the face of competing pressures and to apply their knowledge to ends that transcend mere self-interest.

Leadership development is a core component of the education and training of every student at Baylor Law. The Leadership Development Program was built to enhance that learning and to better prepare students for the leadership roles they will assume within their communities and the legal profession.

“Servant leadership is a fundamental principle of Baylor Law’s mission. The Leadership Development Program is engineered to help Baylor Law students make a positive impact,” said Stephen Rispoli, JD ‘12, assistant dean of student affairs and pro bono programs. “The program teaches our students the art of tackling large, complex problems and succeeding with their team. Students who participate in the program gain a deeper understanding of their capabilities and skills. They learn how to use their talents to make a difference in their communities.”

Baylor Law’s Leadership Development Program was designed to provide specific emphasis and training on particularly leadership skills students need in an increasingly complex and evolving legal environment. Students are trained to effectively engage and lead through the following:

- A two-hour leadership development class
- A character development and team building course
- At least five additional hours of required Professional Development programming specifically focused on leadership
- Serving as an officer of a Baylor Law student organization for at least two quarters
- Completing 25 hours of community service
- Serving as an intern for a charitable or community organization’s director or management team or as an extern for a legislator (either state or federal level)

LEAD Counsel

Baylor Law’s Leadership, Engagement, and Development (LEAD) Counsel is a student organization that exists to equip and inspire law students to serve in the public arena, whether as officeholders, lobbyists, or leaders in the non-profit sector. LEAD Counsel organizes and hosts an annual conference for lawyers and law students focused on leadership within the community, participates in an annual service effort in partnership with local civic leaders, and organizes an annual fundraiser in support of the service effort.

2017 Making A Difference Conference

The Inaugural Making a Difference Conference took place on February 17, 2017. The keynote speaker was Texas Senator Kirk Watson, JD ‘81, of Senate District 14. Watson delivered “The Importance of Community Involvement (How a Lawyer Can Lead).” The first session following the keynote was a panel discussion titled, “Run for it. Don’t just complain about problems in your community; do something about them.” The panel consisted of former Congressman Chet Edwards, House of Representatives District 17, Councilman Dillon Meek, JD ‘10, member, Waco City Council, and Mayor Ken Shetter, JD ‘98, the long-tenured mayor of Burleson. The second session, “Breaking the code. How you can impact legislation during your legal career, and why you should want to,” was presented by Joe B. Allen, JD ’67, lawyer and lobbyist, and Bill Miller, a government relations specialist with HillCo Partners.

Ashley Allison, director of the Waco Foundation, Abby Griffith, a second-year Baylor Law student and founder of the Golden Door Foundation, Berkley Knas, JD ‘10, of Baylor Law’s Alumni Relations and a Waco community leader, and Leah Jackson Teague, JD ‘85, associate dean of Baylor Law and founding board member of the LEAD mentorship program and several other community programs, presented “You want to help – now what? Charting a path toward leadership roles in non-profit organizations” as the third session of the conference.

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The closing panel included Teague, Knas, Allison, Griffith, Edwards, Shetter, Allen, and Miller, and addressed “Roadblocks.” They answered the question, “What obstacles will you face when trying to get involved in the public sphere in your community and how can you overcome them?”

“The conference surpassed our expectations,” said Jenny Forgey, 2017 President of LEAD Counsel. “I’ve heard from several attendees that the advice given by the speakers has inspired them, and they are thinking through how they can get involved and make a difference.”

2018 Making A Difference Conference

The 2018 Making a Difference Conference took place on February 9, 2018. The theme was “Passion for Justice: Using Your Law Degree to Pursue Your Passion and Serve Those in Your Community.” The first session was a view from the bench from Hon. Nathan Hecht, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas. Chief Justice Hecht spoke on access to justice in Texas. Chief Justice Hecht also took questions from Baylor Law’s Stephen Rispoli ranging from access to justice to mandatory pro bono requirements.

Following Chief Justice Hecht’s remarks was a panel discussion focused on combating human trafficking. Professor Laura Hernández moderated questions to experts in anti-trafficking work, Shannon Sedgwick Davis, JD ’00, CEO, Bridgeway Foundation, and Kirsta Melton, deputy criminal chief, Office of the Texas Attorney General.

The keynote speaker, Jim Gash, associate dean of external relations and professor of law at Pepperdine School of Law, spoke on global justice and his work with the Sudreau Global Justice Program helping imprisoned juveniles and adults secure access to representation in the Ugandan justice system. He was invited by the Chief Justice of Uganda in 2012 to become a Specialist Advisor to the Ugandan High Court. Professor Gash was introduced by Professor Brian Serr who shared about his work with Professor Gash and other programs that he plans to expand access to justice in Africa with volunteer students from Baylor Law.

“The extraordinary line-up of speakers provided for an exceptional conference. The students and attorneys in attendance gained invaluable insight to access to justice issues and left fueled with a desire to pursue their passion for justice,” said Dean Brad Toben. “I am grateful for the speakers, LEAD Counsel students, faculty and staff colleagues, and attendees who made the second annual Making a Difference Conference a success.”

LEAD Counsel Seeks to Aid Hurricane Victims

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey and the devastation it caused the Houston metropolitan area, Baylor LEAD Counsel stepped in to serve. Baylor Law students worked alongside Lone Star Legal Aid, the Salvation Army, and the Waco Navy to organize a fundraiser and donation drive to help those affected on the Gulf Coast.

“I grew up in Port Arthur and lived in Beaumont before moving to Waco. I have lived through many storms but have never seen anything like Harvey,” said Professor Bridget Fuselier, JD ’98. “Families lost everything. Schools were damaged. Businesses lost. But the human spirit is remarkable. While surrounded by incredible tragedy, I witnessed incredible faith and love. They need our help now more than ever.”

Students collected cash and check donations, non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, construction supplies, hygiene products, baby formula, and more.

“LEAD Counsel is focused on equipping law students and lawyers to be leaders and serve,” said Morgan Blair, second-year Baylor Law student and president of LEAD Counsel. “When Hurricane Harvey devastated the state of Texas, each one of us realized the opportunity we had to make a difference. We hope this will inspire lawyers everywhere to do the same in times of tragedy.”

“As lawyers, we are often called upon to help when people are experiencing moments of life-defining crisis,” said Dean Brad Toben. “Hurricane Harvey left so many Texans experiencing the greatest trauma of their lives. I am proud of our Baylor Law students for answering the call for help with this relief effort. These future Baylor Lawyers model our mission as lawyers to serve our communities.”
Many Baylor Lawyers exercise leadership and give back to the Baylor community through serving on our executive and steering committees. Thank you to those who have served in the past and those who are currently serving, offering valuable time and energy to these important roles.

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he newly created Trial Advocacy Clinic allows third-year Baylor Law students to represent low-income Waco area residents in municipal citation cases that are set for trial, primarily in Waco Municipal Court. Under the supervision of the Trial Advocacy Clinic director Josh Borderud, JD ’09, this legal representation seeks to reduce the occurrence and impact of fines, surcharges, license suspensions, warrants, and other consequences that can keep local residents from obtaining and maintaining employment and meeting their obligations.

The Trial Advocacy Clinic grew out of the Veterans Clinic, where students have represented veterans in litigation matters under the supervision of Baylor Law faculty and staff attorneys since 2012. With the hire of Borderud in 2016 as a full-time attorney to direct the Veterans Clinic and other clinical programs, the capacity to expand student litigation opportunities increased.

The Cooper Foundation grant provides funding for the expansion of the Trial Advocacy Clinic. This is the first grant awarded to Baylor Law to assist low-income citizens in the Waco area, regardless of military service. With the grant distributed over a three-year period, the funds, designated for clinic personnel, will enable the clinic to grow.
“Since there is no constitutional right to a court-appointed attorney in municipal citation cases, most people are forced to represent themselves,” said Borderud. “With this generous grant from the Cooper Foundation and our partnership with Waco Municipal Court, we will further prepare our students for the practice of law by meeting this need and representing those who could not otherwise afford a lawyer.”

In addition to the Veterans Clinic, the Trial Advocacy Clinic joins the ranks of other Baylor Law clinical programs that give law students practical experience in solving the legal problems of those in need, including the Immigration Clinic, the Estate Planning Clinic, and the Intellectual Property Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic.

“We believe that it is our duty as professionals to assist our neighbors in their time of need. With so many of our fellow Americans unable to afford legal services, we believe it is a key part of our mission at Baylor Law to educate our students about the importance of pro bono work,” said Dean Brad Toben. “We hope that, in serving citizens in need, we will ignite a fire in the hearts of our Baylor Law students that will grow as they move forward in their legal careers.”
Student PROFILE

Stephen Carl

Baylor Law student and U.S. Army veteran Stephen Carl would rather talk about his passion for kids than his experiences on the battlefields of Afghanistan, but he cannot deny the common thread between the two: selfless sacrifice.

During a nine-month deployment to eastern Afghanistan from 2013 to 2014, Stephen flew medevac helicopter missions into battle zones, where he’d pick up wounded soldiers and transport them to hospitals. In battle, he witnessed selflessness among his fellow soldiers that he described as “second nature.” “You don’t even think about it. You’re trained to do it,” the 30-year-old Houston native said. “Every soldier in the Army, no matter the job, is taught to never leave a fallen comrade. We are brothers in arms and we look after one another. It’s just ingrained in us as soldiers.”

Stephen, a married father of two biological children and three adopted children, said his Christian faith coupled with his soldier’s conviction to leave no one behind has driven him to become a lawyer devoted to helping abused and orphaned children find hope—and family.

In recognition of his military service and his mission to help children, Stephen was named a 2017 Pat Tillman Foundation Scholar. Tillman Scholars are U.S. service members, veterans, and military spouses chosen in recognition of their service, leadership, and potential. Of more than 2,000 applicants, only 60 are named each year. “Stephen is the most humble person I know,” said his wife, Lindsey. “He often tries to distract any attention he may receive, but he is so deserving of the Pat Tillman Scholarship. The Pat Tillman Scholarship focuses on a committed life of service, which is exactly what Stephen has done.”

Power to Change the World

After Stephen returned from Afghanistan in 2014, the family—including their young son and daughter—turned their attention to fostering and adoption. “Even before we were married, Stephen and I both knew we wanted to adopt,” Lindsey said. “A couple of years ago, before we entered the adoption process, we chose a Bible verse to define our mission as a family, 1 John 4:19, which says, ‘We love because He first loved us.’ This verse is one of the core reasons why we pursued adoption. We, ourselves, were orphans spiritually, and yet our heavenly Father chose and adopted us as His children.”

Soon after their approval as foster parents, they welcomed three little girls into their home, all biological sisters, who later became permanent members of the family in 2015.

It was during the legal stages of the adoption process that something churned in Stephen’s heart. He had been searching for his next steps, post military, and realized how important lawyers were in affecting change and influencing society. “My mind was blown by how powerful the legal profession is,” he said. “Not the kind of power that makes you rich and famous, but the kind of power that helps you change the world. The lawyers who helped us adopt changed the world for my little girls.”

After much prayer and consulting his wife and his father, Stephen began researching law schools. The goal was to find a place that offered a strong commitment to service and that would help him get the training he needed to help other kids like his.
“My heart is with these kids in the Texas child welfare system who don’t have a home, and I know there are a lot of problems that can only be solved by lawyers,” he said. “A lot of which are legal issues, so that put the little spark in me to go to law school, get a law degree, and help people.”

A Calling to Serve

Stephen visited several law schools, including Baylor Law.

He and his wife ultimately chose Baylor Law, he said, because of its proven commitment to service. They packed their belongings, loaded up their five kids and moved to Waco in May 2017 and began Baylor Law in the summer quarter.

“The law profession is a call to serve,” he said. “That was made very clear from the first time I visited the school. It’s not just a pitch to recruit students. It’s taught in the classroom.”

Among its many initiatives, the Law School’s pro bono and public service programs include the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Immigration Clinic; the People’s Law School; Pro Bono and Public Service Program; and the Veterans Assistance Clinic.

But the program that most interests Stephen is the Law School’s annual Adoption Day, an event organized by faculty, staff, and students in collaboration with the Baylor Law Public Interest Legal Society, the Waco-McLennan County Bar Association, and the McLennan County office of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

In November 2017, 33 children were adopted during Baylor Law’s Adoption Day. In 2016, a record-breaking 41 children were adopted. Since the inception of the program in 2008, the adoptions of 255 children have been finalized.

Professor Bridget Fuselier, founder and director of Adoption Day, said she is excited to have Stephen on board.

“He already knows—and lives—the meaning of service,” Fuselier said. “He served our country in the military, he served as a foster parent to children he ultimately adopted, and as a lawyer he will serve his community and the justice system. Stephen is dedicated and focused on his calling. He is going to be an incredible Baylor Lawyer.”

Stephen said he’s a firm believer in God guiding his steps. He said he knew the next step was law school. What follows is unknown.

“I’m stepping in with a desire to help—not knowing how to get to the end result,” he said. “I want to live a life that changes the world by making a difference that outlives me, through helping other people.”
National Mock Trial Competition Regionals
Chris Arnell and Marcus Fifer won first place at the 2018 National Mock Trial Competition Regionals. Stephani Cook, Matthew Hinojosa, and Jordan Jarreau advanced to the finals.

National Veterans Law Competition
Alex Oestrech and Leah Towe won first place at the 2017 National Veterans Law Moot Court Competition. The team also received the award for second Best Petitioner Brief.

Mack Kidd Moot Court Competition
Ellie Fossier and Kyle Gardner won first place at the 2017 Mack Kidd Administrative and Public Law Moot Court Competition. Abby Griffith and Chase Hardy advanced to the semi-finals and Mason Jones and Daniel Wiseman advanced to the quarter-finals.

The Ultimate Writer

Stetson National Pretrial Competition

Emory Moot Court Competition
Hailey Knab and Maddie Tansey advanced to the semi-finals at the 2017 Emory Civil Rights and Liberties Moot Court Competition. Sorsha Huff and Kevin Miller advanced to the octo-finals. Kevin was also named Best Speaker.

National Health Law Competition
Christina Greer and Angela Tyler advanced to the octo-finals at the 2017 National Health Law Moot Court Competition.

Steve Dillard Practice Court Award
Kyle C. Steingreaber received the Steve Dillard Practice Court Award for being the highest performing student in the fall 2017 Practice Court class.

Fall 2017 ‘Mad Dog’ Competition
Kate Harrison won the Fall 2017 Bob and Karen Wortham “Mad Dog” Mock Trial Competition.

Naman Howell Smith & Lee Client Counseling Competition
Chase Lalouette and Andrew Martinez won first place at the 2017 Naman Howell Smith & Lee Client Counseling Competition. Josh Dunega and Maddie Tansey won second place.

Chicago Bar Association Competition
Aryanna Bradford, Sammy Rajaratman, and Georgi Garza advanced to the octo-finals at the 2017 Chicago Bar Association Moot Court Competition. Sammy was also named Best Oralist.
Dean Brad Toben, JD ’77, conferred 13 juris doctor degrees on November 4, 2017. Dean Toben and Associate Dean Leah Jackson Teague, JD ’85, presented the diplomas. Professor James Wren, JD ‘80, delivered the commencement speech, and Professors Elizabeth Fraley, JD ’88, and Gerald Powell, JD ’77, hooded the graduates. Highest-ranking student, Erika Griffin, delivered the student address, and William McMichael was selected by the class to deliver the invocation.
1970’s

Roy Stacy, JD ‘74, received the Dallas Bar Association Morris Harrell Professionalism Award. This award is presented annually to the “attorney who best exemplifies, by conduct and character, truly professional traits who others seek to emulate and who all in the bar admire” in memory of Morris Harrell, JD ‘42.

David C. Kent, JD ‘75, received a Presidential Citation from the Dallas Bar Association for his meritorious service.

Hon. Max Sandlin, JD ‘78, was inducted into the Rabbit Alumni Hall of Fame by the Atlanta Education Foundation and Atlanta High School Alumni Association.

1980’s

John Penn, JD ‘82, was named firm-wide chair of Perkins Coie’s bankruptcy & restructuring practice.

Ron Bunch, JD ‘83, was appointed by the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct for a six-year term.

Norlynn Blocker Price, JD ‘84, relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to serve as executive director of the Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program. Price previously was a litigation partner with Norton Rose Fullbright US LLP in Dallas, Texas, having been with the firm for over 28 years.

Jana Litsey, JD ‘86, was named general counsel of Huntington Banchares Incorporated. She will be only the third general counsel of Huntington. Litsey was previously with Bank of America, where she served in multiple leadership roles for more than 20 years.

Lori Givens Little, JD ‘88, was named president and chief executive officer of National Affordable Housing Trust.

John Meredith, JD ‘88, joined Chamberlain Hrdlicka as chief operating officer. Chamberlain Hrdlicka has offices in Atlanta, Houston, Philadelphia, and San Antonio.

1990’s

Russell R. Barton, JD ‘91, of Harris, Finley & Bogle, PC in Fort Worth, was named a 2017 Texas Super Lawyer in appellate law.

JoAl Cannon Sheridan, JD ‘92, of Sheridan Barrett Cable and Andrae in Austin, is the 2017-2018 president of the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists. She also was named a Top 50 Lawyer in Central and West Texas by Super Lawyer.

Elizabeth Ingram Carlyle, JD ‘95, was named vice president and general counsel of Vision Source, the largest alliance independent optometrist in the North America. In 2017, Vision Source was named the number one optical retailer in the U.S. on Vision Monday’s annual report.

1990’s

Hon. Hemant H. “Shashi” Kewalramani, JD ‘96, was appointed as United States Magistrate Judge in the Central District of California. He took the bench in August 2017.

Christopher B. Townbridge, JD ‘98, of Bell Nunnally & Martin, LLP in Dallas, was named to the 2017 Texas Super Lawyers list for business litigation.

Laura Hallmon, JD ‘99, of Cantey Hanger, was selected for Fort Worth Magazine’s 2017 list of the Top Attorneys in Fort Worth.

2000’s

Jeff Domen, JD ‘00, of Goranson Bain, PLLC in Plano, was elected president of the Collin County Bar Association. The Association launched and successfully completed Collin County’s first Trial Academy. This program gives young lawyers in Collin County an opportunity to learn from judges and seasoned attorneys and provides them the opportunity to perform mock voir dire, opening statements, cross, direct, expert examination, and closing arguments. As president, Domen also is organizing a legal internship with a local high school.

Brandon Jones, JD ‘00, has joined Winstead’s taxation, employee benefits, and private business practice group as a shareholder in the Fort Worth office.

Josh Van Eaton, JD ‘01, attorney for nine years with the Department of Justice, earned a Federal Employee of the Year award from the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals. Van Eaton was the lead attorney on a team that litigated and negotiated a $4.3 billion settlement with Volkswagen.

Brian K. Carroll, JD ‘02, of Sanderford & Carroll, P.C. in Temple, Texas, was selected for the 2017 Texas Super Lawyers list for construction litigation. He also was in the first class of board certified construction law attorneys in Texas in 2017.

Kathryn Knotts, JD ‘02, of the Carlson Law Firm in Bryan, Texas, was named American Business Woman of the Year by the American Business Women’s Association, a national program that honors 10 outstanding members for achieving excellence in career, education, and community involvement. Knotts manages the firm’s Bryan-College Station office, representing personal injury victims.

Stephen Mason, JD ‘03, joined Muncy Wilson Mandela, LLP in Austin, Texas, as senior counsel in the intellectual property group.

Kristy J. Orr, JD ‘03, joined Baylor University as the board professional. In this new role, Orr provides advice, guidance, and support to President Linda A. Livingstone and the board to facilitate communication in a manner that enhances effective board operations, governance, and relationships among the regents, senior administration, and other constituencies of the University.

Hon. John Webster, JD ‘03, was unanimously elected by the judges of Kern County in California to serve as a subordinate judicial officer. He is assigned to the East Kern Division, primarily in the Ridgecrest, California, branch. He hears traffic, family law, small claims, and other civil matters by assignment and criminal matters.
Thank you to the Baylor Lawyers and firms who underwrite and host our January and February Baylor Lawyer Network receptions.

These Baylor Lawyers are invaluable to providing successful networking receptions for Baylor Lawyers.

Dustin Paschal, JD ’05, of Simon Paschal PLLC in Frisco, was honored for his firm being named by Frisco Style Magazine as the 2017 Best of Business Award for Giving Back to the Community.

Dan Moore, JD ’08, was recognized as the 2017 Coalition of Residential Excellence “C.O.R.E.” Alumnus of the Year, for his contributions to the Methodist Children’s Home, Family Compass of Dallas, Habitat for Humanity, the One Man Dallas project, and the Dallas Volunteer Attorney’s Program.

FORT WORTH BAYLOR LAWYER NETWORK RECEPTION
January 11, 2018
Hosted by the Baylor Lawyers of Cantey Hanger’s Fort Worth and Dallas offices:
Brian Brisco, JD ’10
J. Michael Colpoys, JD ’78
Laura Hilton Hallmon, JD ’99
Mary Colchin Johndroe, JD ’86
Steve Madsen, JD ’75
Bradley Poulos, JD ’78
Randy Price, JD ’77
Carol Traylor, JD ’84

DALLAS BAYLOR LAWYER NETWORK RECEPTION
January 23, 2018
Hosted by the Baylor Lawyers of Drinker Biddle’s Dallas office:
Travis S. Gamble, JD ’97
Jude T. Hickland, JD ’08
Brittany D. Johnson, JD ’12
David C. Kent, JD ’78
George S. McCall, JD ’77
Kristen L. Perry, JD ’14
W. Neil Rambin, JD ’79
Alan R. Vickery, JD ’86
S. Vance White, JD ’85

AUSTIN BAYLOR LAWYER NETWORK RECEPTION
February 1, 2018
Hosted by JoAl Cannon Sheridan, JD ’92, of Sheridan Barrett Coble and Androe, PLLC

CONROE BAYLOR LAWYER HAPPY HOUR
February 22, 2018
Hosted by Patrick Scott, JD ’10, of The Scott Law Firm

If you are interested in hosting a Baylor Lawyer Network reception, please contact Berkley Knas at Berkley_knas@baylor.edu.

To submit your alumni note for publication, please send your professional accomplishment to Berkley_Knas@baylor.edu.
## Faculty Notes

### Thomas M. Featherston, Jr.  
**The Mills Cox Professor of Law**

**Publications**
- Marital Property Liability Post Tedder, State Bar of Texas, Family Law Section Report (September 2017)

**Presentations**
- “Marital Property Interests in Trusts and Their Distributions,” Tarrant County Probate Bar Association, Fort Worth, TX (December 2017)
- “Marital Property Law for Estate Planning and Administration,” Waco-McLennan County Bar Association, Waco, TX (November 2017)

### Elizabeth Miller  
**Professor of Law**

**Presentations**
- “Marital Property Law for Estate Planning and Administration,” Waco-McLennan County Bar Association, Waco, TX (November 2017)

### Michael Morrison  
**Professor of Law**

**Presentations**
- “14th Amendment, Is It Living?” Law Day Celebration, Fort Hood Military Base (May 2017)

### Michael Rogers  
**Professor of Law**

**Presentations**
- “Yesterday and Today: Amos and Social Justice,” 2017 LLC Institute, Committee on LLCs, Partnerships and Unincorporated Entities Committee of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association
- “Practice the Ancient Tradition of Creating Social Justice,” Austin American Statesman (January 6, 2018)
- “Turn Worry into Meditation,” Austin American Statesman (October 14, 2017)

### Patricia Wilson  
**Professor of Law**

**Presentations**

### Leah Jackson Teague  
**Associate Dean and Professor of Law**

**Presentations**
- “Leadership Development in Law Schools,” 2018 AALS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA (January 6, 2018)

### Bradley J.B. Toben  
**Dean and M.C. & Mattie Caslon Chair of Law**

**Presentations**
- “No Taxation Without Representation,” 2018 AALS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA (January 6, 2018)

### James Underwood  
**Professor of Law**

**Presentations**
- “Contributor, General Practice Digest (Torts)
Adjunct Faculty PROFILE

Peter Rusek, JD ’84

When Peter Rusek graduated from Baylor Law in 1984, he never anticipated being asked to teach negotiable instruments as a Baylor adjunct professor just three years later. “I was shocked and honored when I was asked to teach soon after I graduated,” Rusek said. “Thirty years later, I still deeply enjoy the opportunity to teach students at Baylor Law.”

Outside of the classroom, Rusek is a shareholder at Sheehy Lovelace & Mayfield PC in Waco where he practices labor and employment law, school law, public law, and business litigation. He is actively involved in the Waco community and has served as a prominent leader of Midway Independent School District (ISD) for decades.

“In the late 1990’s, a former principal encouraged me to run for Midway ISD Board of Trustees,” Rusek said. “After consulting with my wife, I decided to run and was elected to the Board. I have served on the Midway ISD Board since 1996. I have served as president of the Board since 2004.”

Rusek credits his legal background for his long tenure as president of the Board. “I think my legal background is why people wanted me to serve as president,” Rusek said. “My law degree is invaluable to my role as president.”

When asked why Rusek spent over three decades of his life leading his local school district, he replied, “I believe, at this point in time, that public education in the State of Texas is critically important. There are approximately 5.4 million kids in Texas public schools—with a large percentage of those being economically disadvantaged. If we do not do a good job educating these students, we will not have a workforce. Involvement at the board level is one way to address that.”

Rusek also serves on the Communities in Schools Board of Directors, the McLennan Community College Committee for Alternative Certification, and is a member of the Waco Business League. He previously served seven years on a District Grievance Committee for the State Bar of Texas.

He and his wife, Robbye, are proud parents of five children—the oldest, Christopher, graduated from Baylor Law in 2011—and have three grandchildren.
ADOPTION DAY

In 2008, Professor Bridget Fuselier, JD ’98, founded Baylor Law’s Adoption Day program when she hosted an event to celebrate the adoption of 15 children in McLennan County. Ten years later, Baylor Law’s Adoption Day is still a beacon of light in the community. The 2017 Star Wars theme was a hit for the hundreds of people who attended to celebrate the legal adoptions of 33 children into their new families. A special Baylor Law family created by three generations of adoptees, Sheila, Bart, Laurie, and Luke Umphrey served as Grand Marshals and special guests. Sheila and her husband Walter, JD ’65, generously established an endowment to help fund Baylor Law’s Adoption Day into the future. More on Baylor Law’s Adoption day at baylor.edu/law/AdoptionDay
JANUARY 11-14

THE CLOSER. An invitation-only competition, Baylor Law’s The Closer brings together students from 10 of the most accomplished transactional law programs in the country to compete in the nation’s most challenging transactional law competition. Students vied to win one of two $5,000 top prizes and bragging rights as a top closer. Brian K. Adams, Jr. from the University of Tennessee College of Law and Ericha Penzien from American University, Washington College of Law were the 2018 winners. There’s more to learn about The Closer, visit baylor.edu/law/TheCloser
Leslie August Rasner, JD ’50, passed away Nov. 23, 2017. He was raised in Ben Hur before joining the U.S. Navy in Long Beach, where he taught calisthenics to the sailors. After his military service, Rasner returned to Waco where he married Ernestine Burns, who passed away in July, shortly before they would have celebrated their 70th anniversary.

Rasner received a BBA from Baylor University, his law degree from Baylor Law and an MBA from the University of Texas. After a stint with the FBI, he became a professor at Baylor University’s Hankamer School of Business where he taught for more than 42 years. He was instrumental in forming the insurance program and was chairman of the departments of business law, insurance, and real estate.

He is survived by his son Blake, JD ’80, and wife, Diane, JD ’82; son, Brent and wife, Mary; and five grandchildren. He is also survived by his 98-year-old brother, Gus Rasner, his wife, Doris, and five nieces and nephews.

Don Tate Cates, JD ’57, passed away Dec. 9, 2017. He was born June 12, 1933. He was married for 60 years to his wife, Stella. His children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were his delight and spending time with them was his favorite pasttime.

Cates received his bachelor’s degree in 1955 and his JD two years later, both from Baylor University. He was an active public servant serving as the Mayor of Forney from 1985-1997, Kaufman County Justice of the Peace from 2001-2010, and as a director for the North Texas Municipal Water District from 2002-2017.

Cates is survived by his wife, Stella Oates Cates; son, William Don Cates and wife, Susan; daughter, Margaret Ruth Cates Burchett; son, John Robert Cates and his wife, Belinda; son, Harry Louis Cates II; sister, Vivian Cates Crowson; brother, Michael Reid Cates and his wife, Linda; 18 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Don is preceded in death by parents, Harry Louis Cates, Sr., and Bobbye Tate Cates; brothers, Harry Louis Cates, Jr., George Truett Cates, and Durward Hampton Cates; and sister, Yvonne Cates Garrett.

James Ralph Horton, JD ’61, passed away Oct. 7, 2017. He was born June 27, 1936.

He graduated from Baylor University in 1958 with a degree in economics and from Baylor Law in 1961. He then served as a Judge Advocate General in the U.S. Air Force. Horton married Maxie A. Golmon in 1958. He later began his banking career in Dimmitt, Texas, with the First State Bank of Dimmitt. In 1976, he married Jerrie G. Boo.

After 21 years of supporting the agriculture community in a financial capacity, he began practicing civil law in Castro County. In 2001, he was elected district attorney of Castro County, where he served for 12 years. He was an entrepreneur with successful ventures in aerial spraying, raising cattle, and real estate. He enjoyed flying airplanes and gliders, fishing, and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his daughters; Sherry Schaeffer and husband, David, Linda Mask and husband, Mark, Amber Dembroski and husband, Kevin; sons, David Horton and wife, Laine, and Austin Horton and wife, Donna; sister, Dr. Joann Goatcher and husband, Earl; and numerous grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife of 37 years, Jerrie Horton, and sons; Mike Booe and Danny Booe.


He was born Oct. 12, 1933. He was the only child of Esther Jane Stoker Mullin and William Oldrey Mullin, a native of Glasgow, Scotland. He took pride in being the son of a native Texan and a Scottish immigrant. In 1955, he graduated with honors from the University of Texas at Austin. In 1956, he enlisted in the US Army. He was later accepted into the Army Language School in Monterey, Calif., where he became proficient in Russian. Subsequently, he was assigned to the Army Security Agency in Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1965, he graduated from Baylor Law. He practiced law in Waco and Caldwell before returning to Weatherford in 1969. After being in private practice for several years, he served as Parker County Attorney from 1973 through 1976. He later returned to private practice, also serving as Weatherford City Attorney. In April of 1985, he was appointed by Gov. Mark White as judge of the 43rd District Court, a position he held until December of 2000.

As a youth, he was a member of the Boy Scouts, and as an adult was an assistant scoutmaster. He very much enjoyed the camping trips, a highlight being a trip to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. He and his wife, Marianne, loved to travel and enjoyed many trips to various places in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Many of the European trips included visits with his Scottish cousins in Glasgow and London.

His lifelong interest in learning foreign languages was sparked by his fourth-grade teacher, Miss Isbell, at Stanley School in Weatherford, when she taught her students some Spanish. That led to him becoming fluent in Spanish, German, and Russian, and being acquainted with many others.
He was a fine Christian man and a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather and a member of Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church in Hudson Oaks. He is survived by his wife, Marianne Holder Mullin; son, Andrew Mullin; daughter, Sara Mullin Edwards and her husband, Dr. David Edwards; stepsons, Brady Washburn and his wife, Kim, and Brett Washburn; and five grandchildren.

Danny Allen Makowsky, JD ’70, passed away Oct. 1, 2017. He was born Nov. 3, 1945, to Herman and Louise Makowsky. He attended Baylor University, where he received his law degree in 1970.

He was a devoted and loving father and a faithful friend. He was a longtime member of Trinity Lutheran Church, where he served in many different ways over the years. Those who knew him will remember his love of music, memorabilia, and the Atlanta Braves. He was a champion volleyball player, and once bowled 186 left-handed. He is responsible for the Waco City Softball League’s rule that all players must wear shoes. He once chased a fugitive through the streets of downtown Waco and tackled him.

Hon. James E. Crouch, JD ’66, a lawyer in Hamilton for more than 50 years, passed away Sept. 23, 2017 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born Feb. 20, 1941, the son of John William and Mary Boatwright Crouch. He graduated from Baylor Law in 1966. He was passionate about history, especially the Civil War and the study of the Bible and biblical times.

He was a partner in Crouch & White, Attorneys at Law, in Hamilton and purchased the Hamilton County Abstract Co. He was a member and past president of the Hamilton Lions Club, a member of the Hamilton County Historical Commission, a deacon and member of First Baptist Church, past chairman of the Hamilton Democratic Party and active at the state level, a member of the Texas State Bar Association and its foundation, and a member and past officer of the Hamilton Masonic Lodge.

His quest for learning about the culture, government, and history of foreign countries led him and his wife to many places. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman, activities that he shared with his grandson.

Hon. Joseph Harold O’Bryan, JD ’73, of Cabot, Arkansas, passed away Dec. 6, 2017. A loving father and grandfather, O’Bryan was a retired attorney and district judge for Cabot, Austin and Ward. He was a long-time member of Hope Presbyterian Church, where he served as an Elder on the Church Session. He graduated Baylor Law in 1973 before returning to Cabot to raise his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Mary Jo O’Bryan and his son, Eric O’Bryan. He is survived by his wife, Sandy O’Bryan; twin daughters, Jessica Wallace and Stephanie O’Bryan; sister Judy (Bob) Springfield; brothers, Jon (Sandy) O’Bryan and Jeff (Kris) O’Bryan; two grandchildren and several nieces and cousins.

Paul Thomas Jones, JD ’71, passed away Dec. 6, 2017. He was born in El Paso, Texas, on Feb. 22, 1947 to William and Alice Jones. He graduated from Baylor Law in 1971, and was a practicing attorney and CPA in Fort Worth for 35 years.

Survivors include his wife, Pamela Jones; son and daughter-in-law, Clayton and Wendy Jones; son, Austin Jones; daughter and son-in-law, Stacey and Justin Gould; and four grandchildren.

C. David Porter, JD ’71, passed away Sept. 27, 2017. He was born Dec. 31, 1946 in Shreveport, Louisiana, to the late Lydia Hamilton and Lynn West Porter. He graduated from Baylor University in 1968, where he was a varsity letter winner on the football team. He graduated from Baylor Law in 1971. He was a fixture in the Lufkin community. He practiced law in Lufkin and was a mentor to many young professionals in the local area until the time of his death. He was a thoughtful and generous man known to his friends and family as someone who was always thinking of others. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Lufkin.

Survivors include his wife, Madelyn Erwin Porter; son, D. Brian Porter and his wife, Nicole; daughter, Meagan Porter Smith and her husband, Joel; six grandchildren; and sister, Suzanne Wray and her husband, Edwin. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Jay C. Bobbitt, JD ’75, passed away Nov. 12, 2017, in Dallas. He was born June 12, 1949 to Dorsey Brown and Genevieve (Smith) Bobbitt. He graduated from The University of Texas in Austin where he was on the debate team and president of Delta Upsilon. He graduated from Baylor Law in 1975. In 1976, he joined
his brother’s company, Bob Bobbitt Custom Homes, and soon was placed in charge of construction where he remained until his retirement in 2015.

He is survived by his brother, Bob and wife, Shirley; nephew, Lance Bobbitt and wife, Julie; and great-nephew, Jaxon Bobbitt. Jay was preceded in death by his parents.


He graduated from Baylor University in 1976, and Baylor Law in 1979 at just 23 years of age. He moved to Lufkin to join the Zeleskey Law Firm, where he practiced for 35 years before forming a partnership with Bob Cain and Erika Neill in 2014. He was as passionate about his practice as he was about his family—a strong oak, with flexibility and strength combined.

He left no detail unfinished for his clients and law partners, and for the most part, he did it all on a legal pad. He believed in paper, not digital information—something tangible and tactile that could not be deleted. He found purpose in the completion of a task done the “right way.” He explained that his work as a lawyer was never finished, never truly completed, it was an ongoing calling and service to his clients.

He served his community in many ways: active in the Volunteer Services Council, Noon Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, State Bar of Texas, American Bar Association, Angelina County Bar Association, Texas Associate of Defense Counsel, State Bar Foundation, coaching of Youth Baseball and Soccer, Leadership Lufkin, YoungLife, Baylor University Alumni Association, Crown Colony Country Club Tennis Association, and First Christian Church. His passion was Barefoot Ranch, his horses, and the work he loved to do there.

He is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Kaye; his four children, Amber (Jon) Williams Trickey, Robby (Rachel) Alderman, Katie (Fabian) Alderman Salazar, and Cole (Robin) Alderman; three grandchildren; his brother Frank and his wife, Wanda; and many nieces and nephews.

David R. Childress, Sr., JD ’88, passed away Oct. 1, 2017. He was born Oct. 13, 1953. After graduating from Trinity University in 1975, he moved to Dallas and worked in pharmaceutical sales. While he enjoyed success in this profession, he decided to pursue his lifelong goal of attending Baylor Law and graduated with honors in 1988. He practiced at Whitaker Chalk Swindle and Schwartz PLLC in downtown Fort Worth. A dedicated and tireless advocate, he was well known and loved by both his partners and clients.

Childress loved music and had an affinity for all types, from Mozart and Beethoven to The Beatles and Kris Kristofferson. He played both the trumpet and guitar and was infamous for late night music gatherings and guitar pickings, keeping family members and friends awake with him until the wee hours of the morning.

A true litigator at heart, he also loved analyzing, considering, examining, and debating. Those who knew him well can likely attest to a conversation or two that lasted for hours.

He was a conscientious, ardent, and deeply caring man. Though imperfect like us all, he rested daily in the promise of Jesus Christ for forgiveness and hope.

He is survived by his two children, Kathryn Eleanor Childress and David Robert Childress, Jr., two sisters, Kathy Childress Barton and Nancy Childress McDonald; seven nieces and nephews, and 12 great nieces and nephews.

Michael B. Bonner, JD ’89, passed away Sept. 7, 2017. He was born Sept. 13, 1947 to James Dunbar Bonner and Martha Elizabeth Bonner. He served in the U.S. Army as a Light Weapons Infantryman from 1964 to 1984, and was stationed in Vietnam, Thailand, Central America, Korea, Germany, and the United States. His awards included the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

He graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1986 and from Baylor Law in 1989. He served Texas and Nacogdoches as an assistant attorney general, assistant district attorney, and assistant county attorney. Bonner fought all his life for liberty and justice, and strove to conduct himself as a Christian gentleman.

He is survived by his wife, Corliss Ellen Bonner; son and daughter-in-law, Nathan and Crystal Bonner; and two grandchildren.

Adam J. Paradoski, JD ’89, passed away Sept. 5, 2017. He was born in Houston, Texas, and graduated from Baylor University, Baylor Law, and University of Houston.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Edward Paradoski, Jr. He is survived by his mother, Susan Allely Paradoski; sister, Lisa Wood and her husband, Hap; nephew, Ryan McConnell and his wife, Daniela; and other relatives.
ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEW PROGRAM

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“I owe Baylor everything. Baylor undergrad paved the way and gave me the preparation I needed to achieve my goal of becoming a U.S. Marine Corps officer. Following the Marine Corps, my time at Baylor Law, and the unbelievably outstanding professors I had there—particularly Professors Louis Muldrow, Gerald Powell, Thomas Featherston, Erwin Elias, Dean Brad Toben and Edwin Horner—gave me the preparation I needed to help countless clients and provide for my family for the last 27 years and for decades to come.”

“Thank you and Sic’em Bears”