Mike Bourland, JD ’69, and Linda, his wife of 48 years, have made it a priority to give back to Baylor Law School over the years.

“Throughout our lives, many people invested their resources in us, asking only that we do the same,” Bourland said. “I attended Baylor on a football scholarship provided by Mr. Earl Hankamer. His humility and strong Christian values profoundly influenced the manner in which I conduct my life.”

As the founding shareholder of Bourland, Wall & Wenzel, P.C., a Fort Worth law firm focusing on business, tax, estate planning, probate, charitable entity and charitable giving law, Bourland looks back at his time at Baylor Law as foundational and essential to his career in transactional law. “The large number of required courses I took during my Baylor Law School experience introduced me to many of the law areas that intersect in a transactional project,” he said.

Mike and Linda Bourland believe it is their responsibility to give to others. “Our Lord stated in Luke 12:48, ‘To whom much is given, much is required.’ Further, giving back is fulfilling, providing us much joy,” they said.

To learn more about how your generous gift can contribute to the lives of others, contact Susan Wommack, Senior Director of Development for Baylor Law School, at Susan_Wommack@baylor.edu, call 254.710.8537 or visit baylor.edu/law/give.
While we are proud of the strength of our advocacy program, Baylor Law School has other areas of excellence that may be less recognized but are equally important. Almost half of today’s students are interested in pursuing some type of transactional area of practice, and we have outstanding transactional programs to meet their needs. Baylor Law provides students with the opportunity to delve deeply into the theory and practice of five transactional areas: business planning, estate planning, healthcare law, intellectual property, and real estate and natural resources.

This issue of *Docket Call* highlights these course offerings, spotlights the noteworthy efforts of our transactional faculty, and profiles students and alumni who have set themselves apart in transactional study and practice. We also discuss changes and accomplishments within our transactional programs and present previews of exciting new opportunities.

Through an array of required and elective courses, Baylor Law School offers a curriculum designed to meet the specific needs and interests of each student. In this issue, we explain the current transition taking place in which our course concentrations are shifting to a more diversified spread of professional tracks and special distinctions. These changes will allow students to focus on more than one transactional area. The significant investment of resources in the required legal writing courses across all three years of law school will also assist our students in gaining a strong foundation for transactional practice. These movements taking place within our programs have generated a great deal of excitement among students and faculty.

Additionally, we discuss our capstone course offerings which provides students with real-world experience in transactional practice. Students work one-on-one with professors to conduct mock transactions and replicate the process involved in carrying out transactions from...
beginning to end. Our transactional competition teams, which compete in regional, state, and national competitions conducting mock negotiations and transactions, also provide our students with transactional experience.

In this issue you will hear from some of our graduates who are involved in an array of venues in transactional law. Dathan Voelter, JD ’99, has spent most of his legal career with Freescale Semiconductor, which merged with NXP Semiconductor in a transaction that closed in December. Glenn Callison, JD ’85, shareholder in the real estate section of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, leads the firm’s Hospitality and Resorts Practice. Nikki Laing, JD ’12, practices at Capshaw Green, PLLC, where her practice include estate planning, probate, fiduciary litigation support, business transactions, and taxation. Bernard Lau, JD ’91, serves as head of legal affairs for Ericsson, Inc’s Southeast Asia and Oceania region. You also will be introduced to 2016 Baylor Lawyer of the Year, Albert Witcher, an accomplished real estate and oil and gas lawyer.

We are excited to announce innovations in our curriculum and upcoming student opportunities, including our inaugural Business Law Boot Camp and a transactional invitational competition that will be hosted at the Law School.

I hope you enjoy reading about these programs in this issue of Docket Call as much as we enjoy implementing them.

Brad Toben
Dean of Baylor Law School
BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL AND
OFFERS PROGRAMS THAT
COURSE TRACKS TO
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FOR
TRANSACTIONAL
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PRACTICE.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016 at 4:06 p.m.

15 June

16 4:06

DOCKET CALL | SUMMER '16

BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL
OFFERS PROGRAMS THAT
COURSE TRACKS TO
ALLOW STUDENTS TO
EXCEL AND PREPARE
FOR
TRANSACTIONAL
PRACTICE.
Baylor is unique in that we have a broader base of required curriculum than other law schools, providing a strong foundation in both litigation and transactional law,” said Elizabeth Miller, professor of law and recipient of the 2011 Glass Cutter Award presented by the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association.

“All students are going to receive a foundation through our required curriculum that will serve them in either a transactional or litigation context, and we have been intentional about expanding our elective curriculum in recent years to provide students who are interested in a transactional practice, the opportunity to focus on developing additional skills that are necessary in that type of practice as well as the opportunity to focus on any of a number of substantive areas of transactional law.”

Every student is required to take classes that cover transactional topics, including contracts, property, business organizations, and trusts and estates, all of which provide a foundation of knowledge relevant for use in both a transactional and litigation context. In addition to the required curriculum, students can take primarily transactional-related courses if they choose.

Though often recognized for the strength of its advocacy curriculum, Baylor Law’s distinct approach to transactional law is highly relevant to the interests of law students today.
“All the professors instilled in us the value of integrity and goodwill, which transcends all areas of legal practice. I like to think that I became a better person as a result of my experience at Baylor Law.”

Bernard Lau

“I found Baylor Law’s transactional focus and was able to take some classes with really intelligent professors, including Dean Jackson Teague and Professor Miller,” said Dathan Voelter, JD ’99. “All the professors instilled in us the value of integrity and goodwill, which transcends all areas of legal practice,” said Bernard Lau, JD ’91. “I like to think that I became a better person as a result of my experience at Baylor Law.”

For students intending to pursue transactional practice, there are professional tracks and special distinctions available, providing a solid foundation for practice in business planning, estate planning, healthcare law, intellectual property, and real estate and natural resources.

“Over the last several years, we have enhanced our transactional course offerings and have seen an increase in the number of students wanting to take these classes,” said Miller.

The scope of content in these courses has increased, incorporating practical skills components such as working with and drafting documents for clients.

Unique opportunities to work individually with professors in capstone courses are a highlight for many students who have participated in the programs. Available capstone courses include the Business Planning Capstone, the Administration of Estates Capstone, the Wealth Transfers Capstone, (formerly the Trusts and Estates Capstone) and the Intellectual Property Capstone.

From planning and documenting the formation or sale of a business to developing estate plans and working through the various steps of the administration of an estate, Baylor Law’s transactional capstones are designed to provide personalized, one-on-one courses that uniquely challenge students’ skills. The capstone courses were created to give students experience equivalent to that of real-life casework.

“The estate planning track and related capstones are designed to build upon the students’ classroom experience by giving the student the opportunity to apply the substantive, procedural, and ethical aspects of what was learned in class through real life simulation settings,” said Tom Featherston, Mills Cox Professor of Law.

Nikki Laing, JD ’12, completed the Estate Planning Concentration during her time at Baylor Law, taking both the Trusts and Estates Capstone and Administration of Estates Capstone.
“The Trusts and Estates Capstone was a simulation where Professor Featherston assumed the role of the client. I was required to research his issues and draft documents for him,” Laing said. “This course improved my skill set for the tasks I face on a day-to-day basis in practice and helped me to think outside the box to provide the best solutions for our clients.”

In the Administration of Estates Capstone, Featherston assumes the role of an executor of a decedent’s estate. Laing was required to guide the executor through all of the steps of probate and administration of the estate. “Throughout the course, Professor Featherston continuously challenged me to examine the situation from all angles and anticipate any problems before they surfaced,” Laing said.

One course students have particularly enjoyed is the Venture Capital course. The curriculum provides an introduction to transactional practice through an examination of various legal issues and documents commonly encountered in venture capital transactions. The course includes an examination of the different potential financing options available, the deal and closing process, and the structure and terms of various venture capital documents. Some assignments include document review, drafting, and negotiation exercises.

In addition to transactional subject-matter courses, Baylor Law School will offer a mandatory writing course on drafting transactional documents beginning in the fall quarter of 2016. This course, known as LARC 5: Legal Communications, will utilize transactional problems as a basis to teach students about drafting offer letters, engagement letters, legal opinions, contracts, and the like. The goal is to expose students to the drafting of common transaction-related documents and communications.
The structure of Baylor Law’s transactional programs is in the midst of a transition that will expand opportunity for students interested in practicing transactional law. What used to be called ‘concentrations’ has evolved into a variety of “professional tracks” and “special distinctions.” Professional tracks require students to take 16 to 18 hours of content-related courses. Different tracks vary in allocation of hours, but all have required core courses with a variety of electives to choose from in order to fulfill the remaining course requirements. Special distinctions require 23 hours of courses, all of which include one or more capstone requirements. Track participants are welcome to participate in capstone courses; however, they are not required to complete the professional track.

**THE FOLLOWING TRANSACTIONAL TRACKS ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS TO STUDY:**

### BUSINESS PLANNING

The business planning professional track builds upon concepts taught in Business Organizations I and Basic Taxation Principles for Lawyers, providing students with an understanding of fundamental issues business attorneys regularly face, including basic tax treatment of various business entities and basic analysis and planning in the organization and operation of a business. The courses expose students to a range of statutory and regulatory issues, including the federal securities concerns in raising capital, and important judicially developed doctrines with which a practitioner must be familiar in order to advise businesses with respect to governance and other structural and operational issues.

**BUSINESS PLANNING PROFESSIONAL TRACK**
- 13 hours of required courses
- At least 5 hours of additional electives

**BUSINESS PLANNING SPECIAL DISTINCTION**
- 19 hours of required courses, including the Business Planning Capstone
- At least 4 hours of additional electives

### ESTATE PLANNING

Estate planning courses are designed to give students a well-rounded legal education with focused study in the areas of trusts, estates and estate planning, and probate administration, so students can begin their career with a fundamental understanding of the major aspects of estate planning and probate procedure. The courses build upon a number of required courses taken by all students, including Trusts & Estates, Business Organizations I, and Basic Taxation Principles for Lawyers. Students work under the supervision of an experienced estate planner devising an estate plan, preparing drafts and documents, and working through the steps of the administration of an estate.

**ESTATE PLANNING PROFESSIONAL TRACK**
- 16 hours of required courses
- At least 2 hours of additional electives

**ESTATE PLANNING SPECIAL DISTINCTION**
- 18 hours of required courses, including the Administration of Estates Capstone and the Wealth Transfers Capstone
- At least 5 hours of additional electives
HEALTHCARE LAW

The healthcare law professional track provides appropriate background courses and necessary specialized healthcare law classes, including clinical experience for students interested in the field of healthcare law. Students have the option to participate in an interdisciplinary internship that takes place within the general counsel or legal affairs office of a health system or other healthcare-related entity, exposing students to a variety of legal, medical, ethical, and administrative issues.

HEALTHCARE LAW PROFESSIONAL TRACK
- 11 hours of required courses
- At least 6 hours of additional electives, including an optional internship

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual property is one of the fastest growing legal practice areas worldwide. The combination of courses in the IP professional track is designed to introduce students to the major substantive areas likely to be encountered in intellectual property practice.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROFESSIONAL TRACK
- 16 hours of required courses

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SPECIAL DISTINCTION
- 23 hours of required courses, including the Intellectual Property Capstone

REAL ESTATE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Real Estate and Natural Resources professional track is designed to provide students with a basic foundation in real property matters including environmental concerns, land use planning, both public and private, and disputes that arise in the real estate context. Students can expect to learn skills including negotiating, drafting, and reviewing commercial real estate transactions, preparing real estate finance and foreclosure documents, assisting with due diligence, interacting with other professionals such as environmental consultants, and working with governmental agencies.

REAL ESTATE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL TRACK
- 18 hours of required courses, including an optional independent study or externship

CAPSTONE

BUSINESS PLANNING CAPSTONE: This capstone course builds upon and ties together various fundamental areas covered in the business planning core courses by requiring students to develop a plan and draft documents for a hypothetical business transaction.

ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES CAPSTONE: Students work to develop and apply analytical and problem solving skills in connection with topics covered in Trusts and Estates and Administration of Estates, allowing the student to experience the types of problems lawyers practicing in this field handle on a routine basis.

WEALTH TRANSFERS CAPSTONE: Upon completion of Wealth Transfers, students may enroll in this capstone course which provides an opportunity to work one-on-one with a faculty member in order to apply, through drafting exercises, what the student learned in the substantive course and also to experience the types of problems lawyers in this area of the law handle on a routine basis.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CAPSTONE: This capstone course focuses on skills development, which provides students the opportunity to learn how to conduct an appropriate client analysis as well as apply substantive law to the drafting, reviewing, and negotiating of intellectual property-related agreements.

DOCKET CALL | SUMMER '16
TRANSACTIONAL TEAMS

Each year since 2012, Baylor Law School has sent teams to the Transactional LawMeet competition sponsored by Drexel Law School. The Transactional LawMeet is considered the premier “moot court” experience for students interested in transactional practice. In 2013, the Baylor Law team won at the regional level and was runner up at the national competition. In 2015 and 2016, Baylor Law teams were regional semifinalists. The competitions give law students hands-on experience in developing and sharpening transactional lawyering skills.

The format of the competition involves receipt by the teams of a mock transactional “problem,” a scenario and facts related to the client they will represent, several weeks before the competition. Teams then work on drafting key transactional documents that are submitted for judging before the competition. At the competition, rounds consist of negotiating sessions between teams representing each of the two parties to the mock transaction. Transactional lawyers act as judges, scoring the teams and providing critique.

2016 BEST DRAFTED TERM SHEET AWARD

Blake Landon, Hunter Hullett, and JP Haskins won the Best Drafted Term Sheet award and advanced to the semifinals of the Southwestern Regional Transactional LawMeet at SMU Dedman School of Law.

Baylor Law School will host The Southwestern Regional IP LawMeet on October 21, 2016

IP lawyers interested in judging the competition are encouraged to contact Kathy Serr at Kathy_Serr@baylor.edu.
EXCITING CHANGES FOR THE LEGAL WRITING CENTER

The Legal Writing Center and legal writing program, directed by Matthew Cordon and Scott Fraley respectively, will offer a new flow of courses requiring students to perform writing exercises that relate not only to litigation but also to transactional activities. Numerous elective classes will offer the option to learn how to draft for transactional processes. A new course will include writing projects and assignments that are representative of what a lawyer would do in a transactional context.

“We have been aware that hiring partners in transactional areas would like to see new graduates enter practice with better skills, such as the ability to draft substantive contracts and ancillary agreements, use forms and checklists correctly, locate company information, and competently complete a range of other tasks that are fundamental to various types of transactional practice,” said Cordon. “The new LARC changes focusing on legal correspondence will include formal instruction about drafting in transactional practice.”

Specifically with regard to the restructuring of the writing curriculum to include transactional matters, the department is revamping the course that will become LARC 4: Legal Communications, to make it specific to transactional matters and issues. The course, along with LARC 5: Litigation Drafting, which is specific to pleadings, motions, and other litigation documents, is intended to provide a comprehensive understanding of transactional law writing.

"Baylor wants all of its law students to be effective written advocates, and our added focus on transactional drafting and writing is designed to help us accomplish that goal," said Fraley.

Once LARC 4 and LARC 5 are implemented, Baylor Law School will have a unique three-year legal writing program that begins with basic grammar and syntax and flows through Practice Court. "In this way, we hope to foster continuity and cohesiveness in the Baylor Law School writing curriculum," Fraley said. "Our goal is to produce students who can write effectively, succinctly, precisely, and with rigorous analysis in any practice area they may choose."

“The goal is to ensure that our writing curriculum provides beneficial, practice-oriented training to our students regardless of the nature of their future practices.”

Scott Fraley

LEGAL ANALYSIS, RESEARCH, & COMMUNICATIONS (LARC)

Part 1 & 2: Introduction to Legal Writing
A two credit hour course taken during two consecutive quarters where students learn fundamentals in important aspects of legal writing and problem-solving. Students also receive instruction in legal research and citation.

Part 3: Persuasive Communications
An introduction to appellate advocacy in which students research, write, and rewrite an appellate brief and participate in a required moot court competition.

Part 4: Litigation Drafting
This course introduces students to the drafting of litigation pleadings, motions, briefs, discovery, and other trial documents preparatory to having to draft them in Practice Court and/or in a litigation practice.

Part 5: Legal Communications
This course introduces students to the drafting and reviewing of documents in a transactional setting, including offers, contracts, engagement letters, purchase agreements, and other related documents.
TRANSACTIONAL LAW

TRANSACTIONAL COMPETITION PREVIEW

Baylor Law is excited to host an interscholastic transactional law competition on its own turf, welcoming schools from all over the country to participate in an innovative style of competition. In recent years, Baylor Law School has entered teams in interscholastic transactional law competitions, providing students interested in this growing area of law the opportunity to compete.

“Building on Baylor Law School’s experience and reputation in creating the unique Top Gun invitational mock trial competition, we are proposing to create and host a unique invitational transactional law competition called ‘The Closer,’” said Elizabeth Miller, professor of law.

Schools that have excelled at the Transactional LawMeet will be invited to send a competitor to participate in The Closer, which will follow a format somewhat similar to Baylor Law School’s Top Gun. At this competition, an individual rather than a team will represent each school.

Also similar to Top Gun, the problem at The Closer will not be provided in advance. After arriving at the competition, each competitor will be given a day to prepare for the first round of negotiations, with each round involving additional facts or twists in the problem. Unlike Top Gun, The Closer plans to reveal a “teaser” with regard to the parties to the transaction that is the subject of the competition.

The competition will be an invitational and no entry fee will be charged for participation. Competitors will arrive Thursday afternoon for dinner and orientation. The problem will be distributed Friday morning, providing a full preparation day for competitors. Also on Friday, there will be scheduled meetings between competitors and their “clients.” Rounds will be held on Saturday and Sunday, with four preliminary rounds on Saturday and semifinal and final rounds on Sunday. Judges will be transactional lawyers from across Texas.

The Closer competition is expected to take place over Martin Luther King weekend in 2017. Transactional lawyers who are interested in judging the competition are encouraged to contact Professor Miller at Elizabeth_Miller@baylor.edu.

The inaugural Business Law Boot Camp, an intensive intersession course between the spring and summer quarters, kicked off on Sunday, May 1, and concluded on Friday, May 6.

The course offered a very practical perspective on multiple aspects of business and its legal requirements and implications, including forming a business, commercial borrowing, raising capital, trademark and advertising issues, succession planning, selling a business, basic accounting, contract drafting, and negotiation skills. Students took part in special networking events and supplemental opportunities for professional development throughout the duration of the course.

“The Boot Camp was unlike any other experience offered by Baylor Law School,” said Ian Todd, a current 3L student. “Each guest lecturer taught a different aspect of transactional law, and by the end of the week we were able to see the interrelatedness of each of these areas. In addition to the coursework, we were treated to multiple networking opportunities, including lunches and dinners with attorneys, and a reception sponsored by Haynes and Boone in
the President’s Suite at McLane Stadium. We were incredibly lucky to have been a part of this class!”

This unique course opportunity was made possible by the generous support of Bill Shaddock; Haynes and Boone, LLP; Bourland, Wall & Wenzel, P.C.; Greg Looser; and Beard Kultgen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson, LLP.

“This new course was taught by a team of adjunct professors who are well established, highly regarded transactional lawyers,” said Elizabeth Miller, professor of law and the driving force behind the Business Law Boot Camp. “The adjunct faculty for the course did a masterful job of relating to the students and providing clear and practical instruction and insight.”

INAUGURAL BUSINESS LAW BOOT CAMP COURSE TEACHES STUDENTS ESSENTIALS OF BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

FACULTY FOR THE COURSE INCLUDED:

- JOHN F. LYLE, III, Partner at Adams and Reese, LLP, in Mobile, Alabama
- CRISTIN CONLEY KEANE, Shareholder at Carlton Fields in Tampa, Florida
- CLAUDIA COSCIA, J.D. ’96, Deputy General Counsel for Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., in Fort Worth
- CARMEN I. FLORES, Director of the Business & Public Filings Division of the Office of the Secretary of State of Texas
- BRIANA GODBEY, Manager of the Legal Department of the Business & Public Filings Division of the Office of the Secretary of State of Texas
- MOLLIE DUCKWORTH, Partner at Baker Botts in Austin
- RICK BROPHY, J.D. ’77, Partner at Beard Kultgen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson, LLP, in Waco
- JENNIFER LINDSEY, J.D. ’06, Partner at Beard Kultgen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson, LLP, in Waco
- D. HULL YOUNGBLOOD, JR., J.D. ’76, Of Counsel for Ford Murray, PLLC, in San Antonio
- MIKE BOURLAND, J.D. ’69, Shareholder at Bourland, Wall & Wenzel, P.C., in Fort Worth
- DAVID DUNNING, J.D. ’94, Shareholder at Bourland, Wall & Wenzel, P.C. in Fort Worth
- TOM D. HARRIS, J.D. ’89, Partner at Haynes and Boone, LLP, in Dallas
- CHRISTINA MARSHALL, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Chalak Mitra Group in Dallas
- SHANNA NUGENT, Shareholder at the Law Offices of Shanna Nugent, P.C., in Dallas
- E. STEVE BOLDEN, Shareholder at Mahomes Bolden, P.C., in Dallas

LUNCHEON SPEAKERS INCLUDED:

- MARK CURRIDEN, Founder of Texas Lawbook and author of Contempt of Court: A Turn-of-the-Century Lynching that Launched a Hundred Years of Federalism, from Dallas
- GREG LOUSER, J.D. ’94, Co-Founder and Partner, Clarion Offshore Partners, LLC, from Houston
DATHAN VOELTER, JD ‘99

Following his undergraduate studies at The University of Texas at Austin, Dathan Voelter sat for the CPA and worked for Coopers & Lybrand for a few years. As an accountant, he had a great deal of interaction with lawyers on transactions and deals. Voelter planned to attend law school to round out his thinking before returning to a business role. However, his vocational direction shifted during his time at Baylor Law School.

“I was able to take some really wonderful courses and learn from incredible professors including Dean Teague and Professor Miller. I learned what to focus on in building a firm foundation in transactional practice. My perspective from the beginning of law school changed because of what I learned in these courses,” Voelter said.

After law school, Voelter spent his formative practice time with Vinson & Elkins, LLP, in corporate and securities. His role led to a position with Freescale Semiconductor in 2005; the company had just spun out of Motorola and was operating as a stand alone public company. He worked as Freescale’s securities lawyer and has seen them through multiple transitions. In 2006, the company went through a leveraged buyout and went private, allowing Voelter to conduct many financial transactions. In 2011, Freescale again went public.

“As the lead securities lawyer, I had the opportunity, from an in-house perspective, to really lead the legal piece of the IPO, which was great career experience,” Voelter said.

Freescale announced a deal in 2015 to merge with NXP Semiconductor and closed the transaction last December. As one of Freescale’s lead transactional lawyers, Voelter was on the core team that led the transaction. Since the merger, NXP/Freescale is the fourth largest semiconductor company in the world.

GLENN CALLISON, JD ‘85

Glenn Callison graduated from Baylor University with a BBA in Finance in 1985. He attended Baylor Law School shortly after graduation and speaks highly of the foundation provided for transactional practice at Baylor Law, despite the rarity of transactional lawyers at the time.

Today, Callison is a shareholder in the Real Estate Section of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, where he heads the Hospitality and Resorts Practice. He has been with the firm for 22 years since joining in 1994 as a lateral associate from Strasburger & Price. His experience includes representation of commercial real estate owners, operators, investors, and developers in the acquisition, development, financing, and management of hotels, senior living, skilled nursing, and assisted living facilities, as well as investments in office, retail, multifamily, and industrial projects.
The core curriculum at Baylor Law provided an excellent base for transactional law. My BBA degree from Baylor was helpful as well,” Callison said. “Even the rigors of Practice Court have served me well by providing me with the confidence to effectively advocate for my clients during complex negotiations.”

Callison’s career in real estate and transaction-based commercial practices came with hands-on experience. He attributes his vocational growth to mentors and colleagues throughout his career.

“My Baylor Law foundation was essential for me to grow and develop as a young lawyer,” Callison said. “As an aside, I was quite relieved to know that a real estate practice is much more dynamic and interesting than what you might expect from a first year property class.”

NIKKI LAING, JD ’12

“Baylor Law provided me with a strong educational foundation, both in general legal concepts and in the areas of my selected concentration,” said Nikki Laing. “Baylor Law taught me an effective framework for approaching legal problems, and I rely on that framework in practice to achieve optimal solutions for my clients.”

As part of the Estate Planning concentration, Laing completed both the Trusts and Estates Capstone and Administration of Estates Capstone. “In my transactional classes, I learned more about business organizations than I ever imagined possible.”

Laing is a Certified Public Accountant, which offers a unique perspective to her law practice. “Being a CPA has benefitted my law practice in two main ways,” she said. “First, it gives me a unique perspective in many matters, especially in structuring transactions.” Laing finds herself considering tax or accounting consequences simultaneously with legal consequences.

“Being a CPA is an advantage when dealing with third parties, such as auditors or clients’ other professional advisors. When I communicate with our clients’ financial advisors or accountants, it is often helpful that I ‘speak’ their ‘language.’”

Following graduation from Baylor Law School in 2012, Laing chose to practice at Capshaw Green, PLLC, where her areas of practice include estate planning, probate, fiduciary litigation support, business transactions, and taxation. She decided to practice at Capshaw Green because of their commitment to supporting and mentoring young attorneys, which includes offering vast opportunities for professional activities. Laing’s work at Capshaw Green has opened up multiple unique opportunities including having articles published in a number of tax and law journals, presenting at multiple continuing education courses around the state, and traveling to seminars to expand her expertise.

Laing serves as president-elect of the Texarkana Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, vice president of the Friends of the Foundation of CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System, and secretary of the Pleasant Grove ISD Education Foundation.

BERNARD LAU, JD ’91

“Baylor Law prepared me well for transactional practice. In Practice Court, my professors instilled work ethic and discipline. They taught me to be precise and concise, which is imperative in drafting contracts and briefing senior executives,” said Bernard Lau.

Prior to entering Baylor Law, Lau was the head of the statewide accounting division in the Texas Comptroller’s Office. After graduating from law school, he started his legal career as an associate in the Dallas office of Hughes & Luce, focusing on transactional practices in the high tech industry.

In 1997, Lau joined Ericsson, one of his major clients at Hughes & Luce, as a United States business lawyer, responsible for handling contract negotiations in sales of telecommunications products and services to United States operators. He also provided legal support to business clients in litigation management and labor and employment issues.

In 2016, Lau became the head of legal affairs for Ericsson’s Southeast Asia and Oceania Region, which covers 13 different countries. He is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with staff spread across eight countries. He is responsible for contract negotiations, litigation, tax cases, labor and employment issues, corruption investigations, and import/export trade compliance.

“Baylor trained me to identify issues and find solutions to address the issues,” Lau said. “The skill set I acquired from Baylor enables me to be a constructive counselor, allowing me to find solutions that help my business clients to achieve their objectives while protecting the company’s interest.”
Albert Witcher, JD ’62, was selected by the Executive Committee of the Baylor Law Alumni Association as the 2016 Baylor Lawyer of Year.

“Albert Witcher exhibits every qualification of the Baylor Lawyer of the Year,” said Leah Witcher Jackson Teague, JD ’85, Witcher’s daughter and Baylor Law School’s associate dean. “He is the epitome of a Baylor Lawyer. Celebrating Al Witcher as the Baylor Lawyer of the Year as he retires after 53 years of practicing law with Naman Howell Smith & Lee, PLLC, is a fitting tribute to his life’s work,” said Teague.

Baylor Law School honored Witcher during an intimate luncheon in the President’s Suite of McLane Stadium. Overlooking the John Eddie Williams Field, the suite served as an apt place to honor him—Witcher, a former Baylor football player, was inducted as a Baylor University Football Legend in 2011.

At the luncheon, Dean Brad Toben noted that among Witcher’s friends and colleagues in attendance were six former Baylor Lawyers of the Year: Cullen Smith, Judge Maurice Robert Campbell, Louis Muldrow, Noley Bice Jr., George Chandler, and Professor David Guinn.

Throughout his life, Witcher has excelled in all his endeavors. Witcher entered Baylor Law School in the spring of 1959. While a law student and still playing football, Witcher received a number of football and scholastic awards. In the fall of 1960, the Houston Oilers drafted Witcher, and he took a break from law school to play professional football. As a starting left linebacker, Witcher helped the Oilers win the American Football League championship. After that season, Witcher ended his football career and returned to law school. During his second and third years at Baylor Law, Witcher helped coach the Baylor freshmen football team as part of his law school scholarship funded by the head football coach, John Bridgers.

“In all that he attempts, whether it be football, law school, law practice, civic or Christian endeavors, or raising a wonderful family, Al excelled,” said Noley Bice, JD ’61, senior attorney for the Office of General Counsel at Baylor University.

After graduating cum laude from Baylor Law School in 1962,
Witcher began what would become a more than five decade career practicing law in Waco with Naman Howell Smith & Lee, PLLC, including service as the firm’s president. Roy L. Barrett, JD ’69, chairman of the board at Naman Howell Smith & Lee, PLLC, practiced law alongside Witcher for more than 45 years. At the luncheon, Barrett regaled stories of Witcher’s virtues, comparing his countenance and legal practice to that of Atticus Finch in “To Kill a Mockingbird.” Barrett also praised his commitment to public service.

“Al has probably done more pro bono work than any lawyer I know,” Barrett said.

Throughout his career as an accomplished, board-certified oil and gas lawyer, Witcher was recognized for high legal achievement. He served in numerous leadership positions including a distinguished appointment to the Texas Board of Law Examiners. He served his community of Woodway, Texas in elected offices. He also served in leadership positions for local and national charities such as the Waco Boys Club and the American Red Cross.

His service to Baylor University includes serving as the president of the Baylor Stadium Corporation in 1971 and president of the Baylor “B” Association. Dean Teague recalls Judge Abner McCall and Herbert Reynolds, former presidents of Baylor University, expressing their admiration for Witcher and their appreciation for work he did for the University upon their request. Witcher’s service to Baylor Law School includes serving on the Baylor Law Alumni Association board and as an adjunct professor teaching Oil and Gas. Teague recounted hearing often from countless Baylor Lawyers how much they admired Witcher and appreciated his wise advice, guidance and mentoring over the years.

As for his civic and Christian attainments, Witcher is “known for his quiet generosity of time and resources to support and help meet the needs of individuals and organizations, always without the desire for any recognition or repayment,” said Teague. “As much as he loves his family and his professional life as a lawyer, a higher priority still is living a Godly life,” she said. “Because of his caring and sharing spirit, he lives out the Christian principles by helping others through sharing his talents and resources with those in need—from helping single mothers guide a troubled youth through difficult times while keeping a family together, to helping pastors at several struggling black churches keep their doors open,” Teague said.

A deeply devoted husband to his wife, Ginger, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Witcher always placed a priority on loving and serving his family. Aside from Witcher’s high achievements in his career and love for Baylor, it is his exemplary Christian character that sets him apart, according to his daughter. Dean Teague used the following attributes during the luncheon to describe her father:

- A for Authentic, Caring and Loving Spirit
- L for Legendary Work Ethic
- B for Benevolent and Faithful Servant
- E for Endless and Unwavering Loyalty
- R for Relentless Determination
- T for Trustworthiness Born from Integrity

That may spell Albert, but perhaps his most endearing attribute, his genuine humility, is what sets him apart.
ABA Moot Court Regional
Kelly Depew and James Muela advanced to the finals of the ABA Moot Court Regional.

ABA Client Counseling Regional Competition
Branson Rogers and Hunter Ratcliff finished third in the 2016 ABA Client Counseling Regional Competition in Dallas. Alfonso Salazar and Kaytee McMullan advanced to the semifinals.

Catholic University Immigration Law Moot Court Competition
Kate Fullerson was named Best Advocate at the 2016 Catholic University Immigration Law Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C.

AAJ Regional Mock Trial Competition
Tara Gough, Keshav Nair, Alex Risinger, and Gabby Shayeb advanced to the finals of the AAJ Regional Mock Trial Competition.

Mark Firmin, Harris Huguenard, Leda Juengerman, and Hannah Brewer advanced to the semifinals. Firmin was also recognized as Best Advocate.

Transactional LawMeet Regional Competitions
The transactional law team of Blake Landon, Hunter Hullett, and JP Haskins won the Best Drafted Term Sheet award at the 2016 Southwestern Regional Transactional LawMeet in Dallas. The team also advanced to the semifinals in the competition.

The team of Abby Aldrich, Mark McMullen, and Ian Todd won the Best Drafted Term Sheet award at the 2016 Midwestern Regional Transactional LawMeet hosted by the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.

Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition
Toni Anderson, Patrick Crim, and Ty Wilson advanced to the quarterfinals of the Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition in New York.

Alex Bishop, Michaela Larson, and Elizabeth Brabb advanced to the octofinals and also had one of the best briefs.

National Moot Court Competition in Child Welfare & Adoption Law
Penny Maley and Matthew Swanger advanced to the finals of the Adoption and Family Law National Moot Court Competition.

Amanda Howard and Sarah Holub advanced to the octofinals. Holub was recognized as 5th Best Speaker and Howard was recognized as 7th Best Speaker.

TYLA National Trial Competition
Mark Altman and Brenna Buchanan won the Best Brief and placed second at the Frank A. Schreck Gaming Law Moot Court Competition. The team of Lexi Atkins, Kristen Messina, and Neal Parekh won second place brief and advanced to the semi-finals.

Spring 2016 Strasburger & Price Moot Court Competition
Congratulations to the winners of the 2016 Spring Strasburger & Price Moot Court Competition. Stefani Preston and Matthew Hinojosa took first place with a split decision over finalists Chris Arnell and Marcus Fifer.

SEMI-FINALISTS
Macy Matthews and Stephani Cook, and Alexandra Burke and Rachel Koehn. David Coles won the Professionalism Award.

TOP TEN SPEAKERS
Chris Arnell
Marcus Fifer
Stephani Cook
Stephen Burbank
Rachel Koehn

Reid Burley
Macy Matthews
Matthew Hinojosa
Christopher Allison
Elizabeth Beless

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FINAL ROUND JUDGES
Judge Rex Davis (Chief Judge)
Prof. Connie Nichols
Prof. Scot Fraley
Prof. Rory Ryan
Prof. Bridget Fuselier
Rachel Buchhorn
Lauren Fetty

HNBA National Moot Court Competition
Susana Naranjo-Padron, Melina Tabibian, and Shane Vreeland were finalists at the HNBA National Moot Court Competition and were recognized as having the Best Respondents Brief. The HNBA also awarded them $11,000 in prize money.
Graduation Day

Baylor Law School awarded degrees to 30 graduates during the winter commencement ceremony on February 6. The Hon. Ed Kinkeade delivered the commencement speech and Professors David Quinn and Jim Wren hooded the graduates. Congratulations to the winter 2016 graduating class!

Profile of the Spring 2016 Entering Class

32 Enrolled
Median LSAT/GPA...157/3.52
25% LSAT/GPA........156/3.15
75% LSAT/GPA........159/3.75

Gender
17 Females
15 Males

Ethnicity
23 Anglo or Caucasian
9 Minorities (28%):
4 Hispanic/Latino
2 Black/African-American
3 Asian

States Represented

4 Out-of-State Residents
28 In-State Residents

Texas (28)
Connecticut (1)
Illinois (1)
Kentucky (1)
Tennessee (1)

Public service is an important aspect of Baylor Law School. During new student orientation, each entering class is given the opportunity to help the local community through an organized public service project. The Spring 2016 entering class partnered with the Animal Birth Control Clinic, volunteering to go door to door educating Waco residents on ways to help control the population of stray animals in their neighborhood.
Ashby Davis is a third year Baylor Law student who plans to pursue an estate planning practice. He describes his time and the transactional programs at Baylor Law school as “invaluable,” attributing his positive experience to the intentional investment of professors, practical and foundational course requirements, and the generosity of scholarship donors.

“An major factor in my decision to pursue estate planning came from seeing its effect in my own family,” Davis said. “I was able to see that an attorney can have an extremely positive effect by ensuring everything a family has worked for over many years is seamlessly passed on to the next generation.”

In addition to the numerous transactional classes that make up a portion of the required curriculum, Davis is also pursuing the Estate Planning Concentration, which requires a variety of estate planning and tax classes, as well as two capstone courses. Davis has completed the Administration of Estates Capstone and is currently enrolled in the Wealth Transfers Capstone. “Both of these capstones have been challenging,” he said, “but the opportunity to sit down one-on-one with professors and learn from their vast experience has been invaluable.”

Davis has filled out estate and income tax forms, drafted letters to clients, completed memoranda to senior partners, and more as part of his coursework.

“As a result of this training, when I have worked as an intern or law clerk, I have already been familiar with nearly every issue I had to deal with,” he said, “and I feel well prepared to enter the practice of law when I graduate.”

A huge highlight for Davis has been the hands-on involvement of his professors. “All the professors I have taken classes with are talented communicators who know how to help students learn,” Davis said. He expressed appreciation for Baylor Law School’s open door policy, which allows students to talk with faculty members when questions arise. He has found most professors are extremely willing to take the time to answer even the most complex questions.

“Baylor Law has a reputation for being one of the most difficult and labor intensive law schools in the country, and that reputation is certainly well deserved,” Davis said. Though law school has been his most difficult venture thus far, it has shown him how much he can accomplish when pushing himself to succeed.

Aside from professors, Davis attributes much of his success to scholarship donors. “The scholarship I received was one of the deciding factors in my decision to choose Baylor over other law schools,” he said. “I simply could not have afforded to attend Baylor Law without this scholarship, and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity the generous donors have given me.”

Following graduation, Davis plans to take the Bar and then work for a year as a law clerk for federal judge, the Hon. S. Maurice Hicks in Shreveport, Louisiana. While clerking, he will look for future employment with a firm that offers a strong estate planning practice.
Frank Chamlee Dickey, Jr. (JD ’52), was born Oct. 1, 1925, and passed away March 1, 2016. Frank attended the Marine V12 program at Yale University while serving in the U.S. Marine Corp. He graduated from Baylor Law School in 1952 and then became an attorney for Coke County and TXDOT. He was appointed 51st District Attorney by Texas Governor John Connally in 1963 and later served as DA in San Angelo before going into private practice. He retired to South Padre Island in 1989.

Frank is survived by his wife of 64 years, Sheila Ryan Dickey, and their five children, in addition to grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Robert “Bruce” Connaway (JD ’76) passed away on Jan. 25, 2016, in St. Augustine, Fl. Bruce met his wife, Nancy (Ingalls), while serving in the Army Medical Service Corps in Colorado Springs, Co. They married in 1974 and Bruce then went on to graduate from Baylor Law School. He practiced law in Texas for more than 20 years and retired in 2012. Bruce made friends wherever he went, had a special gift of humor, and never met a stranger. He was an avid sailor and historian; he loved music and travel.

Ira Michael “Mike” Goodrich (JD ’81) was born March 6, 1957, and passed away March 18, 2016, after a valiant fight against a rare strain of pneumonia.

He graduated with honors from Baylor in 1979 with a BBA, earned his JD in 1981 from Baylor Law, and an MBA in 1982. He later completed an LLM in International Tax from the University of Exeter, England, and subsequently earned his CPA.

Mike fulfilled a lifelong dream in 2013 of opening his own estate-planning firm, Goodrich Planning Strategies, LLC. He loved to travel, enjoyed the outdoors, and successfully climbed Mount Rainier in 2014. Mike is survived by his beloved wife of 33 years, Kathy Casner Goodrich, his mother, two daughters, and many other family members, friends, and colleagues.
Tracie Renfroe (JD '85) was appointed to managing partner of the Houston office of King & Spalding. Renfroe is a trial lawyer whose practice focuses on toxic tort, environmental, product liability, and commercial disputes.

Elizabeth M. Fraley (JD '88), assistant professor at Baylor Law, was named a "Best Lawyer in Dallas" by D Magazine and a "2016 Super Lawyer." Fraley has been named a "Best Lawyer" annually since 2011. She has been named a Super Lawyer annually since 2004.

Shyla Buckner (JD '93), of Sprouse Shader Smith, PLLC, in Amarillo, was selected as a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). She is also Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law.

Eric Bruntmyer (JD '94) has been elected by the trustees at Hardin-Simmons University as the 16th president of Hardin-Simmons. Bruntmyer previously served as vice president for financial affairs and chief financial officer at Dallas Baptist University.

Sara E. Barry (JD '00) has been named a shareholder at the law firm of GableGotwals in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Matt Acosta (JD '08) became partner in the Dallas office of Jackson Walker, LLP. Acosta's practice focuses primarily on intellectual property and complex commercial litigation. Matt was also selected to the Thomson Reuters “2016 Texas Super Lawyers – Rising Stars” list.

Katrina D. Hill (JD ’08) has been named partner at Bell Nunnally & Martin, LLP, in Dallas. Hill is a member of the firm’s litigation practice, focuses on trials and disputes. He represents clients from Fortune 500 companies to start-up businesses and high-net-worth individuals in industries including private equity, financial services, energy, and real estate.

Wade Faulkner (JD ’01) recently retired from the United States Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps after more than 23 years of service. He has opened the Law Office of Wade Faulkner, PLLC, in Harker Heights. Faulkner’s practice focuses on criminal law with a special focus on defending service members accused of crimes at court-martial. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Baylor Law.

Allen F. Gardner (JD ’04) joined the Tyler office of Gillam Smith as partner.

R. Heath Cheek (JD ’06), of Bell Nunnally & Martin, LLP, was named to the 2016 “Texas Rising Stars” list published by Super Lawyers. Cheek, a member of the firm’s litigation practice, focuses on trials and disputes. He represents clients from Fortune 500 companies to start-up businesses and high-net-worth individuals in industries including private equity, financial services, energy, and real estate.

Jarad L. Kent (JD ’07), partner of Chamblee, Ryan, Kershaw & Anderson, will lead the firm’s new office in Tyler. This office is the firm’s first expansion outside of Dallas in its 18-year history.

Deren L. Worrell (JD ’07), of Florence, Kentucky, was named to the Women’s Fund Leadership Council of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. Worrell is vice president of trust services and trust counsel at Johnson Trust Company.

Senator Kirk Watson (JD ’81) was elected to the prestigious American Law Institute. Sen. Watson is a partner at Husch Blackwell in Austin.

David Dial (JD ’83) was selected as a 2016 Georgia Super Lawyer for his excellence in Construction Litigation.

* In 1987, the Texas Bar Foundation created the Outstanding Jurist Award to honor an active Federal or State Judge. In 1995, the Foundation received a bequest to the endowment from the estate of Mrs. Samuel Pessarra in honor of her late husband for the purpose of funding the Outstanding Jurist Award and renamed the award to the Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Jurist Award in 1995. Samuel Pessarra attended Baylor University and Baylor Law School.
Richard Howell (JD '08) has been named partner in the Houston office of Jackson Walker, LLP. Howell is a commercial trial lawyer and was selected to the Thomson Reuters “2016 Texas Super Lawyers – Rising Stars” list.

Webber Barton Roscher (JD ’09) has opened the Roscher Law Office, PLLC, in Austin. Roscher specializes in estate planning and probate.

Jad Dial (JD ’09) was promoted to member at Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial in Atlanta.

Nathan Cash (JD ’10) has been named partner at Walter, Balido & Crain in Dallas.

Trisha Dixon (JD ’10) has been named partner at Gray & Becker, PC, in Austin where she practices family law. Dixon has also expanded her practice to include family law mediation.

Carson R. Runge (JD ‘10), partner at Sloan, Bagley, Hatcher & Perry Law Firm in Longview, has been named to the “2016 Texas Rising Stars List” by both Super Lawyers and Texas Monthly.

Justin Smith (JD ’10), partner at Sloan, Bagley, Hatcher & Perry Law Firm in Longview, has been named to the “2016 Texas Rising Stars List” by both Super Lawyers and Texas Monthly.

Emily G. Cottingham (JD ’13) has joined Parker Straus, LLP, as an associate attorney at the firm’s Fort Worth office.

Baylor Law extends its gratitude to the Baylor Lawyers who hosted and underwrote the following Baylor Lawyer Network Receptions

Dallas Baylor Lawyer Network Reception – April 7
Hosted by the Baylor Lawyers of KoonsFuller:
Ike Vanden Eykel (JD ’73)
Fred Adams (JD ’81)
Reagan Vernon (JD ’12)
Lindsey Vanden Eykel (JD ’14)

Austin Baylor Lawyer Network Reception – May 3
Hosted by the Baylor Lawyers of Scott Douglass & McConnico, LLP:
Steve McConnico (JD ’76)
Doug Dashiell (JD ’84)
Ryan Squires (JD ’04)

Houston Baylor Lawyer Network Reception – May 24
Hosted by the Baylor Lawyers of Gray Reed & McGraw:
Joe E. Coleman (JD ’57)
Robbie S. Morris (JD ’73)
J. Cary Gray (JD ’83)
David G. Henry (JD ’85)
Andy Landry III (JD ’91)
Darin L. Brooks (JD ’96)
Alexis Foster (JD ’10)
Michael D. Ellis (JD ’14)

If you would like to host a Baylor Law alumni event, please contact Berkley Knas at Berkley_Knas@baylor.edu.
Thomas M. Featherston, Jr.
The Mills Cox Professor of Law

**Professional Activities**
- Senior Editor, Probate & Property, published six times a year by the Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section of American Bar Association
- Member, Publications and CLE Committees of the ABA’s Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section
- Member, Legislative Review Committee, Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section, State Bar of Texas

Scott Fraley
Director of Legal Writing

**Presentations**
- “Essential Rhetoric for Legal Writing Students,” 16th Annual Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Institute Conference, Tucson, Arizona (March 18, 2016)

Bridget Fuselier
Professor of Law

**Professional Activities**
- Member, Planning Committee for the Legal Writing Section of the AALS, which will plan the legal writing program for the annual AALS Conference in January 2017

Michael Morrison
Professor of Law

**Professional Activities**
- Contributing Editor, Defamation and Invasion of Privacy, Texas Association of Defense Counsel Professional Newsletters/ Case Law Updates
- Program Director, Texas Association of Defense Counsel’s annual Spring meeting in Washington, D.C., with responsibility to plan and conduct two days of MCLE programming
- Board of Directors, Forum for Education Abroad, the entity recognized by the federal government as the official standards setting body for U.S. study abroad programs
- Current Chair, Texas Association of Defense Counsel’s board of directors committee, charged with evaluating and preparing comments on the Texas Supreme Court’s proposed rules for Expedited Trials
- Board of Directors, Texas Association of Defense Counsel

Connie Powell Nichols
Professor of Law

**Publications**
- Sex, Lies and Internet Shaming: New Media Considerations for Defamation and Privacy, co-authored with Mita Moody-Ramirez and T. Lewis (under consideration with New Media And Society Journal)

Michael Rogers
Professor of Law

**Professional Activities**
- Chair, Presidential Task Force Committee on Intergcolligate Athletics (May 2015)

Walt Shelton
Adjunct Professor of Law

**Presentations**
- “Death Need Not Be Feared, But Life Appreciated,” Austin American Statesman (March 26, 2016)
- Stewardship and the Reuse of Texas Water, 17th Annual Changing Face of Water Rights, State Bar of Texas (February 25, 2016)
- Stepping Outside the Box Can Lead You Back to It,” Austin American Statesman (February 20, 2016)

Leah Teague
Associate Dean and Professor of Law

**Presentations**
- “Connecting” Closing Keynote, Women in the Academy 2016 Annual Conference, Baylor University (April 9, 2016)
- “Moving the Needle: Strategies for Successfully Steering the Advancement of Women,” Keynote Address, Texas Women in Higher Education 2016 Annual Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas (April 4, 2016)
- “Promoting Women’s Advancement & Equity Leveraging Title IX & Other Strategies for Success,” ACE Women’s Network Annual State Chairs Conference, San Francisco, (March 12, 2016)

Jill W. Lens
Professor of Law

**Publications**

Elizabeth Miller
Professor of Law

**Publications**
- Model Company Agreements for Simple LLCs, 7th Annual Essentials of Business Law Course, State Bar of Texas (March 4, 2016)
- Overview of Fiduciary Duties, Exculpation, and Indemnification in Texas Business Organizations, 38th Annual Conference on Securities and Business Law, University of Texas School of Law (February 11, 2016)
- Fiduciary Duty of Agent to Principal Under Texas Law, 18th Annual Conference on Securities and Business Law, University of Texas School of Law (February 11, 2016)

**Presentations**
- Annual LLC Case Law Update; American Bar Association Business Law Section Spring Meeting 2016 (April 8, 2016)
- “Governing Documents of LLCs,” 7th Annual Essentials of Business Law Course, State Bar of Texas (March 4, 2016)

David G. Swenson
The George G. Kelly Professor of Law

**Publications**
- “The Fundamentals of Fiduciary Duty,” 38th Annual Conference on Securities and Business Law, University of Texas School of Law (February 11, 2016)
- “Drafting Governing Documents for LLCs,” 38th Annual Conference on Securities and Business Law, University of Texas School of Law (February 10, 2016)

**Professional Activities**
- Joint Editorial Board, Uniform Unincorporated Organizations Acts, Uniform Law Commission and American Bar Association
- Editorial Board, The Business Lawyer, quarterly journal of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association
- Chair, Editorial Board of Publications of the LLCs, Partnerships and Unincorporated Entities Committee of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association
- Member, Business Organizations Code Committee of the Business Law Section of the State Bar of Texas
- ABA Advisor, Drafting Committee, Series of Unincorporated Business Entities Act, National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws

**Presentations**
- Selected through peer review process for inclusion in the 2016/22nd annual edition of The Best Lawyers in America (Tier One Best Law Firm/ highest classification) in the practice areas of Environmental Law and Water Law. This is Professor Shelton’s 17th consecutive year of selection
- Liaison, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas with the Section of the Environment, Energy and Resources of the American Bar Association
- Contributing Editor, General Practice Digest, State Bar of Texas, Environmental Law
- Chair, Law School Committee of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas

James Underwood
Professor of Law

**Professional Activities**
- Chair, ABA Law Student Division, 7th Annual Essentials of Business Law Course, State Bar of Texas (March 4, 2016)
- Governing Board Member, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Chair of Legal Committee
- Vice-President, Waco-McLennan County Bar Association
- Board Member, Dispute Resolution Center (Waco)
- Chair, ABA Law Student Division, Client Counseling Subcommittee
- Contributor, General Practice Digest (Family Law)
“PART OF MY INTEREST IN LAW SCHOOL CAME FROM AN INTEREST IN POLITICS AND THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE LAWS WE WORK WITH AS ATTORNEYS ARE PUT INTO PLACE,” said Trenton Hood, adjunct professor at Baylor Law School and attorney at Naman, Howell, Smith & Lee in Waco. “That interest led to my majoring in political science during my undergrad studies at Baylor, which naturally led into law school.”

Hood graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor’s in political science from Baylor in 2000. He went on to graduate second in his class from Baylor Law in 2003. Today, he has a general corporate practice at Naman Howell, where he works on a variety of transactions and business disputes. He often does work on entity formations, mergers and acquisitions, business succession planning, and contract review and drafting.

At Baylor, Hood teaches Family Business Planning, a class about representing small and family-owned businesses. He has also taught multiple transactional capstone courses. “I enjoy these topics because of how they are designed to be a culmination of a student’s study in various classes up to that point,” Hood said. “I get the benefit of the legal foundation set by faculty in other classes and have the opportunity to show students in a practical, practice-oriented class environment how transactional practice involves pulling knowledge from a variety of legal areas and moving away from thinking of legal issues in separate and distinct silos of information.”

Hood also coaches Baylor’s transactional law teams and considers his experience working with the teams as extremely worthwhile. “I hope the students are able to catch a glimpse of what real transactional practice is like and confirm their interest in pursuing this practice area,” Hood said. “As with any competition, there are certain elements of the process that cannot work like real life practice if the competition is to run efficiently. However, we always discuss as a team where the competition process deviates from the real world.”

Hood describes Baylor’s transactional practice faculty as excellent but underappreciated. “While they are well-known and respected in their own fields, I don’t know how much these professors are known in the legal community at large,” he said. “I appreciate how much the rigor of Baylor Law—from the quarter system to the Practice Court program—prepared me for the pressure of juggling multiple transactions at one time or of engaging in tense negotiations on a business transaction or dispute.”

Hood is thankful for his time working at Baylor in multiple capacities. “I feel like Baylor Law School has given so much to me, both in my time as a student and in the numerous times in practice when I have called on faculty members for their expert input on a matter I am handling,” he said. “The opportunity to serve as adjunct faculty is a way to give back to Baylor, and I am thankful for the opportunity to do so.”
For the fourth time since 1998, the Supreme Court of Texas convened at Baylor Law School to hear oral arguments. Over 200 people, including government officials, members of the Waco-McLennan County Bar, and Baylor Law alumni, faculty, staff, and students were in attendance. Read the full story and see more photos online @ baylor.edu/law/SCOTX2016
Congressman Flores’ lecture, "Finding Solutions: Lessons From a Legislator," discussed the critical art and skills of advocacy, negotiation, and problem solving. He gave advice to students who are considering using their law degrees in the political arena.

Law students representing 12 schools from across the country competed at the 2016 ABA National Client Counseling Competition organized by Professor Patricia Wilson and hosted by Baylor Law School. Kellan Potts and Glenna Morgan of Albany Law School won the competition.
There’s a reason Baylor Law School maintains an impressive number of “Super Lawyers” across the nation and claims one of the highest Bar passage rate in Texas. With its unwavering commitment to high standards, Baylor Law propels graduates to excel in the courtroom, the boardroom, the office, and the community through a culture of professional excellence.

“The practice of law is very demanding. Baylor Law School prepares students for the demands and stress of a busy law practice,” said J. David Dickson JD ’76, founding partner of Beard Kultgen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson, LLP in Waco.

As Dickson notes, the “demanding” work of the practice of law dictates an equally demanding law school experience. Baylor Law is well known for its rigorous academic standards. The required curriculum becomes more challenging as each quarter progresses, and the small class sizes increase opportunities for each student to develop the skills necessary to be an attorney.

“I try to get the students practice-ready by application, application, application,” said Tom Featherston, Mills Cox Chair of Law. “The students do not just learn the legal theory, but we go through exercises where we apply what we’ve learned. Because the bottom line is to reach a correct, or at least a defensible, result.”

In addition to being academically rigorous, Baylor Law also enjoys notoriety for the practice-oriented approach to legal education for both transactional law and litigation. All Baylor Law students complete the highly-acclaimed Practice Court program. Students are also exposed to a variety of courses in the Legal Writing Center and legal writing program, which prepares them to conduct legal writing exercises for both litigation and transactional means. Some students elect to pursue a specific professional track in order to delve deeper into an area of law they wish to pursue, and a handful of students choose to take their specialization training to an even greater level by completing a capstone.

“The students who elect to take a Capstone in Estate Planning work with me ‘one-on-one,’ as if they are associates in a law firm and I am the senior partner,” said Professor Featherston, who leads the Estate Planning Concentration and is Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. “The main idea of the capstone is not to teach new material or to re-teach old material but to apply what they’ve learned in the classroom to a real-life situation.”

The culture of professional excellence cultivated at Baylor Law contributes to the numerous graduates recognized as noted authorities in their fields and in their communications across the country.

“Baylor Law School is competitive, and the real world is competitive,” said Dickson, who is one of only 57 attorneys in the State of Texas to hold Texas Board of Legal Specialization certifications in Commercial, Residential, and Farm & Ranch Real Estate Law. “Baylor prepares you to meet that competition with confidence and provides a set of skills that will translate into the real world. Baylor Law students graduate ready to practice law.”
#1 EMPLOYMENT RATE IN TEXAS FOR A REASON:

BAYLOR LAWYERS ARE PRACTICE READY

Baylor Law School is best known for outstanding advocacy, but its transactional law programs are equally impressive. The rigorous, multi-dimensional curriculum prepares Baylor Lawyers to serve you, and your clients from day one.

Register Today For Fall On-Campus Interviews

SESSION I: AUGUST 12–19    SESSION II: OCTOBER 3–7
ONLINE: baylor.edu/law/RegisterforOCI  BY PHONE: 254.710.1210
BY EMAIL: Monica_Wright@baylor.edu

BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL  CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP
DEAN BRAD TOBEN, ASSOCIATE DEAN LEAH JACKSON TEAGUE
AND THE “SILVER ANNIVERSARY” FACULTY AND STAFF WHO HAVE JOURNEVED WITH THEM

OCT  |  21  |  2016