THE MARGARET AMSLER PROJECT + A TRIBUTE TO “MAD DOG”
The Honorable Rebecca Simmons (JD ’80) grew up holding her own against three Simmons brothers: Pat (JD ’79), Roy (JD ’83), and Joe (JD ’89). Playing baseball in the backyard right alongside the boys on long summer nights, there was no “slow pitch” for her. Following her father’s and grandfather’s footsteps into the practice of law came as naturally to her as it did to her brothers.

As Chairwoman of the Judicial Committee on Information Technology, Rebecca demonstrated her strength and leadership by revolutionizing the Texas State Bar’s and court’s e-filing system. And along the way, she stepped forward to establish the Simmons Family Scholarship in Law, a fund celebrating the family legacy. Any time someone says she does anything “like a girl,” Rebecca takes it as a compliment.
**Docket Call** is published by the Baylor University School of Law for its alumni, faculty, staff, students, supporters, and friends.

Baylor Law School, established in 1857, was the first law school in Texas and one of the first west of the Mississippi River. Today, the school has more than 7,200 living alumni. It is accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools.

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**A Message from Dean Toben**

**NINETY-FIVE YEARS AGO, THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA GUARANTEED EVERY CITIZEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE, REGARDLESS OF GENDER.**

Since then, our nation has progressed in the quest for gender equality and women’s empowerment across professional, educational, and political platforms. At Baylor Law School, we take seriously the progress that has been made in the arena of the law and recognize there is work yet to be done.

In this issue of Docket Call, we celebrate our own women lawyers and place the spotlight on their acts of strength and determination. They will tell you they are ordinary women, but the strides they have made in the legal profession certainly speak to their extraordinary dedication and remarkable focus. Each has her unique way of giving back to our state and nation.

We begin by showcasing Margaret Amsler (JD ’37) whose portrait will be unveiled at Baylor Law this fall. She was notably influential in setting the foundation of Baylor Law School during the early post-World War II years. The initiative behind the portrait, known as the Margaret Amsler Project, was sparked by my faculty colleagues and our law students and will inspire others for many years to come.

The 2015 Baylor Lawyer of the Year, Jerry Clements (JD ’81), is also highlighted in this issue. Jerry diligently pursues excellence in everything she does—both professionally and personally—and the community is enriched because of her commitment. She is a fearless leader and shining light in the profession, all the while gracefully and humbly inspiring others to strive for excellence as well.
We also celebrate the anniversary of Johnson v. Darr, a notable spark in the judicial history of the state that paved the way for women to take a more active role in the law. In addition to providing a brief history of this interesting case, we share with you details about the reenactment of the case’s oral arguments held at Baylor Law School to commemorate the anniversary. The presentation was well received and left a lasting impression.

In addition, you’ll learn more about the Academy of the Advocate at St Andrews, which is a distinctive opportunity for our students as well as students from other law schools. We are blessed that Judge Ken Starr and others who are highly influential and skilled share their time and talents in this special program. The Academy helps prepare students to become effective courtroom advocates in a historical setting that gives additional meaning to the academic material.

In this issue we honor the legendary Matt “Mad Dog” Dawson, who passed away earlier this year. Matt was one of the greats of our profession...and one of the greats of life. He will be missed deeply but remembered daily. His time as a dedicated and successful trial lawyer in Texas and Practice Court professor at Baylor Law is a tremendous example of advocacy and activism for the benefit of others.

In our regular features, you will learn about Professor Jill Wieber Lens, adjunct faculty member Elisa Rainey, and current law student Sune Agbuke, who just completed her final season as a member of the Lady Bears basketball team. These are all dedicated women who give the entire Baylor Law family reason to be proud.

We continue to include information about recent happenings, including alumni receptions, commencement, trial advocacy competitions, and the People’s Law School. We are grateful for the alumni, faculty, students, and friends who represent Baylor Law, and everything for which it stands.

I continue to be immeasurably proud of all who have made their mark on our school and on our University. Together we form a compelling community of Baylor Lawyers, and I could not be more proud to call each and every member of this community family.

Together, we will continue to scale new heights and work to improve opportunities for all.

Brad Toben
Dean of Baylor Law School
The initiative started almost two years ago by chatter amongst the students. As they walked through the foyers of Baylor Law School, they wondered why there were no portraits of women lawyers hanging on the walls. Through this call for change, the Margaret Amsler Project was born.

Professor Elizabeth Miller (JD '85) and Associate Dean Leah Jackson Teague (JD '85) set out to gather support from those who follow in the footsteps of Margaret H. Amsler (JD '37).

"Margaret Amsler has been written about in history books and law review articles about pioneering women in law and legal education, but her story was in danger of being lost to our Baylor Law School family, so I resolved to tackle this project, " said Professor Elizabeth Miller.

The daughter of Judge Nat Harris, professor of law at Baylor, Margaret Amsler was born in 1908 and reared in the Waco area. She was pushed by her parents' progressive views to develop her intellect and knowledge no matter her gender. Unencumbered by social cues of the time, her parents believed "sex had nothing to do with making full use of your mind" (Maryland Law Review).

Amsler earned her undergraduate degree in English and French from Baylor in 1929. After finishing a master's degree at Wellesley College and teaching at a Texas public high school for one year, Amsler decided to pursue a law degree. Her father warned her that it would be difficult for a woman, but Amsler was determined. She was accepted to Baylor Law School and completed her juris doctor in 1937.

Amsler graduated first in her Baylor Law class—she was also the only female.
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Amsler realized a remarkable career serving as professor, law reformer, and government official.

After serving in the Texas legislature, Amsler began her teaching career at Baylor Law School in 1940. In 1942, she became the first woman employed in any capacity by the Texas Supreme Court. After serving as briefing attorney, librarian, and Marshall of the Texas Supreme Court, Amsler returned to the Baylor Law faculty in the fall of 1942 and remained on the faculty for the next 30 years.

She was respectfully known as “Lady A” among her students. Not only a dignified instructor, she carried herself with grace, showing up to teach class in hat and gloves.

She even played a key role in the reopening of Baylor Law School after it temporarily closed during World War II. Amsler was the first woman in the State of Texas, and third in the entire nation, to hold a tenure-track position in a law school accredited by the Association of American Law Schools.

“Margaret Amsler’s legacy, like any teacher’s, is first and foremost her students and the impact her students have made on the world,” said Miller. “But in Professor Amsler’s case, of course, her role as a tenured law professor sent an important message about the progressive nature of Baylor Law School and provided an opportunity that was lacking at most law schools for students to interact with an accomplished woman in the legal profession. One of the priorities at Baylor Law School has always been providing a well-rounded education—which is about more than just book-knowledge—and experiencing as a norm something that was not really the norm in the larger world was a valuable opportunity for Baylor law students.”

She also made her mark in Texas law reform involving women’s rights. Amsler and a colleague collaborated to write the Texas Married Women’s Act in 1963. It gave married women the right to own property and enter into contracts. Several reforms regarding corporations were also accomplished through Amsler’s work. She was the first woman to serve as chair of the State Bar Corporation Laws Committee, and she was instrumental in the drafting and passage of the Texas Business Corporation Act and the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act in the 1950s.
By summer 2014, the majority of the funds for the Margaret Amsler Project were raised and artist Ellen Cooper of Philadelphia began depicting Amsler. She used articles, stories, pictures, and even a live model in order to bring out the life and dignity of her subject.

“It’s an honor to be asked to paint a subject for a portrait, and I’m inclined to get very involved with getting to know my subject, trying to bring aspects of their likeness, their personality, and accomplishments into the painting. In the case of Margaret, she is a posthumous subject; I did not have the privilege of meeting her and getting to know her personally. Upon learning even the basics about her background, I was immediately intrigued by her accomplishments and what I saw as a no-holds-barred, unstoppable spirit,” said Cooper.

Cooper set out to capture the essence and character of Amsler, even down to a glimmer of wit in the sparkle of her eyes. “As a painter, when I see Margaret’s image in a photograph, I pick up on clues to her personality through her body language, her gaze, and her expression,” said Cooper. One particular photo of Amsler stood out to Cooper. The photograph captured Amsler working at her desk. Cooper decided to use this photo for her main source.

“Looking back through the lens of time, this photo shows that Margaret, as a fairly young woman, had achieved goals that very few women had at the time: a law degree, respect in her field, teaching status. I wanted to convey how remarkable Margaret was in her achievements, given the context of the time period in this country. But further, I wanted to bring out the warmth that her expression conveys to me, her dynamism, and yet her seriousness, her love of the law.”

THE PORTRAT IS TO BE UNVEILED IN FALL 2015 AT THE LAW SCHOOL. The Law School family is proud to honor a woman who made such a mark through her service and leadership. “Margaret Amsler was ‘first’ in many respects, so it is fitting that her portrait is the first Baylor woman lawyer to hang on the walls of the Law School,” said Miller. “Baylor Law School has now produced many highly accomplished women lawyers who have made outstanding contributions to the legal profession and to society at large, but it should be a point of pride for Baylor Law that it had the wisdom and open-mindedness to secure the talents of Margaret Amsler on its faculty at a time when law schools generally were not interested in hiring women law professors, and women law professors were close to non-existent. There is such excitement among our donors that current generations of students and visitors to Baylor Law School will learn of Amsler’s pioneering role and her accomplished career.”

As one of the only women who stood alongside men in the legal world her entire lifetime, Margaret Amsler once again joins them. Her portrait signifies the example she set and the foundation she laid for a generation of women lawyers to follow her lead. Margaret Amsler’s legacy of “firsts” will now forever be remembered.

MARGARET AMSLER’S PORTRAIT WAS FUNDED BY THE FOLLOWING BAYLOR WOMEN LAWYERS AND FACULTY MEMBERS in appreciation of her trailblazing roles as professor, law reformer, and public servant.

Marianne Marsh Auld
Jerry K. Clements
Gayla Campbell Crain
Angela Russell Cruseturner
Ruth Ann Daniels
Hon. Robin Malone Darr
Janice Zabukovec Davis
Melissa Webb Essary
Elizabeth M. Fraley
Sharla J. Frost
Bridget M. Fuselier
Linda A. Hale
Laura A. Hernández
Jennifer A. King
Libby Ketelers King
Jennifer Campbell Lindsey
Hon. Jaclanel Moore McFarland
Elizabeth Stone Miller
Hon. Alice Oliver-Parrott
Hon. Priscilla Richman Owen
Tracie J. Renfroe
Robin Russell
JoAl Cannon Sheridan
Leah Witcher Teague
Patricia A. Wilson
The Baylor Law Alumni Association Executive Committee selected Jerry Clements (JD ’81) as the 2015 Baylor Lawyer of the Year. Baylor Law School hosted a luncheon May 5 in Austin to honor Clements as a distinguished leader in her professional achievements and service to the community.

“Jerry does it all and has been recognized as a leading light in our profession,” said Dean Brad Toben. “She is one of the few ‘go to’ lawyers on everyone’s list. She never fails to impress all of whom she meets, both professionally and personally, and she gives to each person, regardless of circumstances, the full measure of her best efforts and service as a stand-out professional and as a caring person.”

In practicing law for over 30 years, Clements has transformed the legal landscape and forged a path in the world of women lawyers. As Chair of the international firm Locke Lord, with approximately 1,000 attorneys and 23 offices worldwide, her consistent determination and integrity motivates colleagues to follow her example.

Clements specializes in commercial litigation, working as a top litigator with clients in Fortune 500 companies and key industry players around the globe. Jerry oversees operations of Locke Lord through regular meetings with the executive leadership team and she also played the lead role in the recent merger between Locke Lord and Edwards Wildman Palmer as she collaborated with partners to ensure integration, cross-selling, and teamwork among all offices.

Recognized as one of the Top 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers by the National Law Journal, her commitment to diversity in the legal arena catches national attention. Clements is dedicated to the improvement of trial advocacy and legal justice through her fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers. She was also named one of the 30 Extraordinary Women in Texas by Texas Lawyer. She truly is extraordinary, but not only because of her professional accomplishments. Clements also emerges as a leader in service to the community.

Clements serves on the Baylor University Board of Regents and is a loyal supporter of her alma mater. She is also a Lifetime Member and past president of the Baylor Law Alumni Association. She stands behind the mission of Baylor Law School in developing lawyers who are practice ready, committed to integrity, and strive for academic excellence. As an active member of the United Way of Central Texas and Dallas, Clements advances initiatives for opportunities for all through education, job stability, and personal health. Through her service on the Board of Directors of the National Women’s Council, Clements empowers women of all backgrounds providing mentorship and support. She was selected as a Yellow Rose of Texas by Gov. Rick Perry for the positive impact she has left on the state through her efforts to improve the lives of others.

“I am humbled and honored to be counted among a group of such prestigious Baylor Lawyers,” said Clements. “To be the first woman selected as Baylor Lawyer of the Year makes it even more meaningful. Baylor Law School gave me a wonderful education, many dear friends, and the opportunity to achieve things that this girl from Ft. Worth could never have imagined. For that, I am forever grateful and indebted.”

Baylor Law School is proud to present the award of Baylor Lawyer of the Year to such a remarkable woman. Jerry’s professional accolades and legal innovation align perfectly with her character: one of compassion and dignity.
Anniversary of Johnson v. Darr Celebrates Women’s Right in Texas

Baylor Law School celebrated the 90th anniversary of the monumental case of Johnson v. Darr, 272 S.W. 1098 (1925). Local attorneys, judges, and faculty and students of Baylor Law gathered to observe and participate in a live reenactment of the case at Baylor Law School.

The circumstances surrounding the case, which involved trustees of the organization Woodmen of the World and their rights to land in El Paso, forged the way toward equality for women in the Texas legal system. Every standing justice on the Texas Supreme Court in 1925 was disqualified from the case since they were all members of the exclusively fraternal organization.

Out of necessity, a spark of transformation was born. Governor Pat Morris Neff (later to become the ninth president of Baylor University) specially appointed three women—Hattie Leah Henenberg of Dallas, Ruth Virginia Brazzil of Galveston, and Hortense Ward of Houston—to hear the case. Ward, who served as Chief Justice on the case, was the first woman in Texas to pass the state bar exam.

“Women were not able to sit upon juries until 1954 in our state. So this is a glimpse back into a bit of history that was out of time even in its own time,” said Dean Brad Toben.

At the time, the case drew national attention and received coverage in The New York Times. Ninety years later, it continues to earn recognition.

Gabe Price (JD ’10) from the McLennan County District Attorney’s Office said, “This case led to a lot of different women’s rights in Texas: women becoming judges—even the next governor elected after the case was heard was a woman. It was an important case and an important time in Texas history.”

Justice Jan Patterson, organizer of the event, portrayed one of the original justices in the case. “I’ve been particularly eager to reenact this great event. Ninety years—in another ten years it will be a century old, so we wanted to share it with the law school, with law students, and with citizens of McLennan County,” said Patterson.

Texas Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman, who played the role of Chief Justice, said, “As the first Latina to serve on the Texas Supreme Court, the event was particularly meaningful to me.” Judge Vicki Menard, the first female district court judge in McLennan County acted as one of the judges, while Dean Toben played the part of Governor Neff.

The celebratory event commemorated an important part of history for the judiciary system and women’s rights in Texas. Baylor Law was proud to honor a watershed event that left a legacy for the next generation of Texas women lawyers to uphold.
Power of the Spoken Word

THE ACADEMY OF THE ADVOCATE AT ST ANDREWS

The art of storytelling is a theme deeply embedded in the Academy of the Advocate at St Andrews. Surrounded by rich history, students learn that at the core of trial and appellate advocacy, what you say—and how you say it—matters.

At the Academy, one piece of St Andrews history particularly emphasizes the power of advocacy. In 1559, during the Protestant Reformation, John Knox gave a fiery sermon that incited the listeners to “cleanse” the St. Andrews Cathedral. As a result, the Cathedral was abandoned in 1561 and became the ruins seen today. Early in their time at the Academy, this footnote in history is shared with students to demonstrate the power of the spoken word.

The program links the art of advocacy to the rich history of the British Common Law system and the traditions of the trial by jury and the right to appeal. It is the result of a partnership between Baylor University (the oldest continually operating university in Texas) and the University of St Andrews (the third oldest university in the English-speaking world). Students are provided with intense and practical training in trial and appellate advocacy from some of the best lawyers, judges, and advocacy professors in the United States.

“The Academy of the Advocate is a unique opportunity for law students to attend class at the 600-year-old University of St Andrews, where they will be inspired by prominent lawyers, professors, and judges, all experts in trial and appellate advocacy. Students also find time to explore 13th century history in the picturesque town of St Andrews that lies on the rugged coast of the North Sea. This hands-on, intensive experience will not only help make better advocates but will also provide...
students the benefit of advice from master teachers regarding the best practices in a court of law," said the Academy’s Distinguished Lecturer, and President and Chancellor of Baylor University, Judge Ken Starr.

The interaction students receive with various judges acutely enhances their learning experience. In the first year of the Academy, Judge Starr’s speech, entitled “The Complete Lawyer,” emphasized the need for lawyers to be both good advocates and servants to the people. Judge Starr touched on his personal pro bono work and service to the community. This year, Judge Starr will be discussing the enduring importance of the Magna Carta in honor of the 800-year anniversary of the signing of the historic document.

A student favorite is “On Topic with Judge Starr,” where Dean Toben interviews Judge Starr and examines his life on both professional and personal levels. The interview provides students with a platform to form questions they wish to ask Judge Starr as he meets with small groups of students throughout their time at St. Andrews.

The “View from the Bench” panel affords students the rare chance to learn what judges look for in advocates. The panel delivers this unique insight from several different perspectives. Judge Starr, as former Solicitor General of the United States, Supreme Court Scholar, federal judge, and appellate justice, offers his viewpoint from a wide array of experience.

In the past, Judge Ed Kinkeade, U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Texas, offered his point of view as a sitting federal trial court judge. Justice Jan Patterson, previously serving as Justice on the Texas Third Court of Appeals along with an extensive appellate law practice in the Second and Fifth Circuits and Texas state courts, provided the state appellate perspective. Last year, Judge A. Lee Harris, who presides over Texas’ 66th State District Court, accompanied Judges Starr and Kinkeade on the panel to provide his perspective.

“The Academy of the Advocate at St Andrews is one of the world’s finest training grounds for aspiring courtroom advocates,” says Professor Jeremy Counseller, the Academy’s Program Director.

The program is organized into three schools: the School of the Appeal, led by Professor Brian Serr; the School of the Trial, led by Professor Gerald Powell; and the Advanced School of the Trial, led by Robert Little of the law firm Naman Howell Smith & Lee. Upon enrollment, students choose a school and complete the course of study in the two-week session. “The Academy’s School of the Trial focuses on the art of trial advocacy and its School of the Appeal focuses on crafting the written and oral arguments critical to highly effective appellate advocacy. In short, the Academy provides students an invaluable and unforgettable experience,” says Counseller.

Students from all over the country participate in the Academy of the Advocate at St Andrews. While Baylor Law students make up a significant portion of the students attending the program, several law schools send their top advocates to learn more about the art of advocacy. In addition, prominent professors from top advocacy schools around the country are invited to the program to share their expertise with the students.

“Being admitted to Baylor Law School’s Academy of the Advocate is a fantastic opportunity. I am excited about attending the School of the Appeal and learning more about appellate advocacy, as well as traveling to Scotland,” said Victoria Feather, a fourth quarter Baylor Law student who will accompany other students to St Andrews this summer.

The program also includes visits to legal institutions, such as Parliament Hall in St Andrews. Parliament Hall was the seat of Scottish Parliament for part of the 17th century. During these visits, students learn about the history and development of Scottish democracy and trial by jury.
“Matt was one of the giants of our profession, and one of the greats of life,” said Baylor Law Dean Brad Toben. “He was so proud of, and an inveterate cheerleader for, Baylor Law and all that Baylor Lawyers represent.”

Born in Waco on March 20, 1916, he later earned his Bachelor of Arts from Baylor University and juris doctor from Baylor Law School in 1938. At Baylor, Dawson met the man who would become his lifelong friend, Abner V. McCall, who later served as the dean of Baylor Law School for 11 years, followed by 20 years as Baylor University President. After graduation the duo started a law firm in Longview, Texas—a prosperous oil city with desperate need for lawyers. “The lawyers there were overwhelmed and referred to us every old dog of a lawsuit that we were willing to take on, and which we later tried the fool out of, gaining invaluable experience even though we lost,” Dawson said.

In 1942, Dawson ran for county judgeship; the young lawyer defeated 12 more-seasoned candidates to win the election. Dawson served as Gregg County judge until joining the Navy in 1944. By that time, Dawson, now 28, and his wife of five years, Princess Louise, had two children.

Professor Matt Dawson—a towering figure in the Texas legal profession and cherished member of the Baylor Law School family—passed away Feb. 17, 2015. He was 98 years old. A Baylor University and Baylor Law graduate, Dawson was the director of Baylor Law’s top-ranked Practice Court program for 13 years.
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A Tribute to Baylor Law Professor Matt “Mad Dog” Dawson

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After early discharge, Dawson worked as a trial attorney at his brother’s law firm in Corsicana until 1971. In those 25 years, Dawson became renowned in Texas legal circles as a trial lawyer who was fierce, tenacious, and effective. He learned “getting” the jury was the key to winning a case and excelled in that pursuit.

After 35 years of trying lawsuits, Dawson became director of the Practice Court program at Baylor Law. His demand for excellence earned him the affectionate nickname “Mad Dog” among students. Under Dawson, the PC program added “mini-trials” consisting of opening statements, examination of witnesses, and final arguments which became the model for mock trials at the National Trial Competition. Baylor Law now awards the “Mad Dog”—an 18-inch bronze statuette—to the student winner of the Bob and Karen Wortham “Mad Dog” Practice Court competition every year.

After retiring from teaching in 1983, Dawson resumed his profession as trial lawyer for another two decades. His list of professional honors includes such distinctions as Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers; Outstanding 50-Year Lawyer, by the Texas Bar Foundation; one of Texas Lawyer’s 100 Lawyer Legends of the 20th Century; and Texas Monthly’s oldest Super Lawyer 2005-2007.

With all he accomplished over 65 years of practice, Dawson always said his greatest honor was teaching at Baylor Law School. In 2009, a life-sized bronze statue of Dawson was unveiled at the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center and stands watch outside a Practice Court classroom.

“I had Mad Dog for Practice Court,” said Toben. “I will never forget that daunting experience. I believe I speak for all who had the privilege of learning from Matt in saying that we would not trade that opportunity…or the memories…for anything. Whether you’re in the courtroom or not, we all owe a debt of gratitude to this great man and great lawyer.”

The tribute continues online. Visit baylor.edu/law/RememberingMattDawson to view additional photos, articles, and news stories about Matt Dawson.
R. Matt Dawson was how he was listed in the law school catalog. As students, we addressed him as Mr. Dawson. He worked us harder than we had ever worked before. He, frankly, scared us to death. Among ourselves, we called him “Mad Dog.” We told our friends stories about him, and they never believed us.

You see, Mr. Dawson was a master of the art of trial advocacy. He was a Michelangelo. And we couldn’t color within the lines to save our lives. We would not even realize he had entered the practice courtroom when we’d hear that dreaded voice from the back of the room...“Naw, naw, naw, that’s not how you do it...”

I remember it so well. I would be doing my dead level best to try the case like he taught me. But that man’s face could express disappointment as clearly as his words. And his hand slowly wiped my inexperience from his memory. And then he would show us how to do it, and it seemed so easy for him. So perfect. It was so obvious. Why could I not seem to get it? But I tried. We all did. We wanted him to be proud of us.

And slowly, with much trial and many errors on our part, he somehow made us into trial lawyers. This place is filled with them today. For decades now, whenever we get together we find ourselves recalling our days with Mr. Dawson. We tell stories. We imitate his every word with all of its syllables...“Mr. witness, don’t you know...” And always with the greatest respect. I admired him so much that I even adopted his hair style.

Family members, I discovered later—much to my surprise—that “Mad Dog” was actually human. He had a big heart, a warm smile, and an engaging personality. That face could also express joy. But Becky [Dawson’s daughter], I’ll leave that Mr. Dawson for you.

I am not sure we really appreciated it at the time but when we first met him, Mr. Dawson was already one of the greatest trial lawyers in Texas history. He tried case after case all over the state, learning the lessons of the courtroom the hard way in front of judge and jury. He tried cases of all sorts from personal injury to anti-trust. He had great success in will contests. He tried criminal cases too. He became that master of the art of trial advocacy one trial at a time.

Courtroom success did not come by accident. He learned, as he often later told his students, that the lawyer who was better prepared generally won the case.

It is not surprising that his ability drew the attention of the finest trial lawyers of the day. Henry Strasburger, Joe Jamail, Jim Kronzer and many others asked Matt to help them. He achieved the highest professional recognition possible from his peers—Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

In 1971, Baylor University called Matt too. They needed a giant of the courtroom to take over the Practice Court course after Judge Frank Wilson died. And so, a new phase of Matt Dawson’s career began. He brought the same passion and the same degree of preparation to his teaching. Professor Matt Dawson turned Practice Court into a program matched by no other law school in America.

I am privileged now to teach that course along with another of his disciples, Jim Wren. I hear myself saying things that Matt pounded into me so many years ago. And he still stands watching over Practice Court. His bronze statue towers over the hallway just outside the classroom. He is there to remind us every day of what it takes to be a great lawyer like he was—his passion, his devotion to the right to trial by jury, his meticulous preparation, his fearlessness, his tenacity.

Mr. Dawson, “Mad Dog,” Matt: I wish you could have heard the talk around here in the last few days. There have been heard many voices of your protégées. And it was almost a chorus: I would not be where I am today without you. I am so grateful.

Dr. Snowdon [Pastor, First Baptist Church of Waco], I don’t know if Heaven is a place where there’s much need for the trial lawyer’s talents. I suspect your answer would be that there is already perfect justice there. But, you know, maybe, just maybe some of us will need a little advocacy when it comes our time to pass through the gates. If so, I know who I want to make that final plea on my behalf.

I can just hear him.

“St. Peter, don’t you know...”
Rep. Tryon Lewis (JD ’73), former judge and three-term state representative, was named chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission that oversees the state’s multibillion-dollar highway and transit agency.

John Eddie Williams, Jr., (JD ’78), managing partner at Williams Kherkher Law Firm in Houston, Texas, has been named by Pasadena ISD as the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus.

Susan G. Morrison (JD ’83) has been selected for the Outstanding Achievement Award given by the Travis County Women Lawyers Association and the TCWLA Foundation.

John W. Proctor (JD ’83) was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in America.

Bruce Smith (JD ’86), a partner at the East Texas law firm Ward, Smith & Hill, PLLC, has been inducted into the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers. Members must have at least 15 years of trial experience, and membership cannot exceed one percent of the total lawyer population of any state.

Hon. David Schenck (JD ’92) was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the 5th Court of Appeals in Dallas. Schenck, whose term will extend until the 2016 general election, has most recently practiced at Dykema Gossett, PLLC.

Jamal Alsaffar (JD ’00) and Tom Jacob (JD ’09) of Whitehurst Harkness Brees Cheng Alsaffar & Higginbotham, PLLC, received the largest verdict in the history of New Hampshire on behalf of a veteran in a FTCA medical malpractice case.

Chris Brasure (JD ’02) was recognized by Texas Lawyer for receiving a Top Texas Verdict for 2014 for Lopez v. T&C Construction Ltd. Brasure is the managing director at Brasure Law Firm, PLLC, in Edinburg, Texas, where his statewide trial practice focuses on commercial and personal injury litigation. Brasure was appointed to serve on the Pattern Jury Charge Committee of the Texas State Bar. He was also appointed to serve as a Texas Delegate to the American Bar Association’s House of Delegates.

Britta Stanton (JD ’02) of Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox has been recognized as a “Rising Star” by Thomson Reuters as seen in Texas Monthly. She currently serves as co-chair of the Dallas Bar Association’s Trial Skills section.

Brannon Dillard (JD ’03), a shareholder in Winstead’s Houston office, has become a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

Gilland Chenault (JD ’04) of the Law Office of Gilland Chenault, PLLC, in Denton County, Texas, was named a “2015 Texas Rising Star” by Texas Super Lawyers in the area of estate and trust litigation.

Terrell Miller (JD ’04) of Gardere in Dallas, Texas, was named a “2015 Texas Rising Star” by Texas Super Lawyers for the intellectual property litigation area.

Julia Brophy Jurgensen (JD ’05) has become partner of Beard Kullegen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson in Waco, Texas.

Joshua P. Searcy (JD ’05) of Searcy & Searcy, PC in Longview, Texas, has been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation. Selection as a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation is restricted to members of the State Bar of Texas. Each year one-third of one percent of State Bar members are invited to become Fellows.

R. Heath Cheek (JD ’06) of Bell, Nunnally & Martin was named a “2015 Rising Star” by Texas Super Lawyers.

David Corbett (JD ’06) and Craig Pankratz (JD ’08) organized the new firm of Corbett & Pankratz, PLLC, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Jennifer Campbell Lindsey (JD ’06) has become partner of Beard Kullegen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson in Waco, Texas.

Ben Davis (JD ’06) and Mollie McGraw (JD ’06) of McClave & Strickland, LLC, in Las Cruces, New Mexico, were co-counsel in a wrongful death case. A Santa Fe jury returned a $12 Million verdict March 16, 2015.

Brian P. Shaw (JD ’06) was named appellate lawyer of the week by Texas Lawyer Feb. 9, 2015.

Rick V. Anderson (JD ’07), shareholder at Roberts Markel Weinberg Butler Hailey, PC, has again been selected a “Rising Star” by Texas Super Lawyers (2012 – 2015) as well as Texas’ Top AV-Rated Lawyers (2011 – 2015). He was also elected board secretary for the Epilepsy Foundation of Texas and is serving as Chair of the 2015 Houston Rock ‘N’ Roll for Epilepsy.

Ryan Fowler (JD ’07) of Sloan, Bagley, Hatcher & Perry Law Firm became Board Certified as a civil trial advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

Jay T. Huffman (JD ’07) joined the Houston firm of Blank Rome, LLP, as associate in the Maritime, International Trade and Public Contracts group.

Devon Sharp (JD ’07) of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr was promoted from Associate to Shareholder within the firm’s Business Litigation group.

Kristopher Hill (JD ’08) of Bell, Nunnally & Martin was named a “2015 Rising Star” by Texas Super Lawyers.

Alex J. Bell (JD ’09) of Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, LLP, is Board Certified in Criminal Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.
Sam Hays (JD ’10) has become partner at Beard Kultgen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson in Waco, Texas.

Andrew Tuergele (JD ’10) of Harrison Davis Steakley Morrison, PC, was named a “2015 Rising Star” by Texas Super Lawyers.

Michelle Simpson Tuergele (JD ’10), of Hunt & Tuergele, PLLC, was named a “2015 Rising Star” by Texas Super Lawyers.

Michael Thompson (JD ’14) was selected to serve as a Justice AmeriCorps Fellow. Baylor Law School made a monetary contribution to support Justice AmeriCorps and to support our Baylor Law alumnus. The Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps JD program provides law students with the opportunity to deliver critically needed legal assistance in low-income and underserved communities across the country.

Baylor Law Network Receptions

We thank our Baylor Lawyers for hosting and underwriting the Baylor Lawyer Network events. We appreciate your hospitality and dedication to bringing Baylor Lawyers together. If you would like to host a Baylor Law alumni event, please contact Berkley Knas at berkley_knas@baylor.edu.

Dallas Baylor Lawyer Network – Jan. 13
Hosted by Stephen Cockerham (JD ’86), Eric Weatherford (JD ’97), Kevin Koronka (JD ’04), and Amy Bolline (JD ’10) of Husch Blackwell LLP.

Texarkana Area Baylor Lawyer Luncheon – Jan. 22
Hosted by Bill Gooding (JD ’75), John Greer (JD ’70), John Mercy (JD ’82), and Nelson Roach (JD ’84).

Longview Area Baylor Lawyer Reception – Jan. 22
Hosted by Judge Alfonso (JD ’90) and Melissa (JD ’91) Charles at their home.

Fort Worth Baylor Lawyer Network Reception – Feb. 12
Hosted by Richard Bourland (JD ’71) of Griffith, Jay & Michael, LLP.

Austin Baylor Lawyer Network Reception – March 3
Hosted by Travis Barton (JD ’94), Michael Kabat (JD ’05), Jessica Palvino (JD ’05), and Blaire Knox (JD ’10) of McGinnis Lochridge in their Austin Office.

Houston Baylor Lawyer Network Reception – March 5
Hosted by Don Jackson (JD ’83) of Ware Jackson Lee & Chambers, LLP.

Dallas Baylor Lawyer Network Reception – April 16
Hosted by Vincent Allen (JD ’99) of Carstens & Cahoon, LLP and James Greer (JD ’98) of Randall Greer PLLC.

Alumni Notes are published based on the information we receive from our alumni. If you have professional news to share, please e-mail berkley_knas@baylor.edu.
People’s Law School Provides Free Law Courses

FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS, BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL HAS HOSTED AN ANNUAL PEOPLE’S LAW SCHOOL—an event sponsored by the Law School and other organizations for the benefit of the Central Texas community. This year’s event drew nearly 200 attendees for a free half-day of courses designed to educate the public about their legal rights and to make the law user-friendly.

“Baylor Law School sponsors this event so the community can take advantage of the expertise of some of the local lawyers,” said Professor Patricia Wilson, who successfully organizes the People’s Law School year after year. “Topics involve areas of the law that participants can use in their personal and business lives, as well as topics that are purely educational.”

Participants may choose up to three courses from the 14 offered. Selections focus on consumer rights, small business, landlord and tenant rights, retirement planning, wills, elder law, employment law, and family law. The event included a track of courses titled “Teacher’s Law School” specifically designed for teachers, and this year featured two new courses “Pitfalls for Nonprofit Organizations” and “Keeping Your Church out of Court.”

“Everyone who attends can benefit by getting a good, common-sense understanding of the law and the topics covered by the People’s Law School,” said Stephen Rispoli, director of student relations and pro bono programs at Baylor Law School.

Baylor Law School extends a special thank you to Professor Pat Wilson for leading the People’s Law School for more than 10 years!
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Baylor Law School extends a special thank you to Professor Pat Wilson for leading the People’s Law School for more than 10 years!
As a published author in several law review journals, Note and Comment Editor of the Iowa Law Review during her time in law school, and now professor at Baylor Law School, Jill Wieber Lens is no stranger to the art of research.

Since joining the Baylor faculty in Fall 2010, Lens has humbly led students to question the status quo. Through her steadfast research, she has influenced significant legal changes across the country. She brings this model into the classroom by encouraging students to think deeper. “For me it’s important to help this transition for students in beginning to think like a lawyer,” said Lens. “And that’s a tough transition. A lot of students will get hung up by ‘what do I need to know,’ but what I want to foster is deeper thought about the consequences of issues and how they matter.”

Lens’s research is shaped by her legal passions. She has published numerous law review articles on products liability law, tort law damages, and remedies law generally. Her most recent publication in the Utah Law Review argued against the adoption of post-sale warning liability for manufacturers, a topic of interest for both judges and lawmakers. Her most recently written article, “Stays Pending Appeal: Why the Merits Should Not Matter,” was selected for publication by the Florida State University Law Review. She frequently hires students as research assistants, without whom she would be unable to write at her current pace. This is something she appreciates about Baylor Law. “It’s nice to be able to do that here. It doesn’t exist like that at every law school. I like pushing students to think about issues a little deeper and think about how to make arguments if the courts are split on something. And that’s what you do as lawyers—help create the law.”

Professor Lens also recently branched out from her tort expertise to publish an article in the Mississippi Law Journal that argued for change in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) regulations. Alongside her husband Josh Lens, assistant athletic director of compliance at Baylor, she argued against the difficulty for elite student athletes to obtain loss of value insurance.

The Power Five Conferences agreed with them, and the NCAA rule was altered, allowing elite student-athletes to more easily obtain insurance to cover any loss they may suffer if the injury causes them to fall in the draft. “Josh had never written a law review article. That’s where I came in, and I was able to relate it to things I’m doing. Insurance matters a lot with tort law. So that’s why I really pushed him to make it deeper. It was a side project for me, but we’re proud of it because the NCAA adopted what we advocated.”

Lens says it has been fun to involve her family in the research process and values their support. Lens and her husband are expecting their second child in Summer 2015. “Maybe we can get our child and soon-to-be child in the next law review publication,” Lens said with a grin.
Jeremy Counseller  
Professor of Law  

PUBLICATIONS  

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

PRESENTATIONS  
* "The TEDDER Case and Its Impact on Estate Planning and Administration," Waco, Texas, McLennan County Bar Association (Feb. 13, 2015).  

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES  
* Articles Editor, Trust & Estate, Probate & Property, published six times a year by the Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section of the American Bar Association.  
* Member, Publications Committees of the ABA Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section.  
* Member, Legislative Review Committee, Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section, State Bar of Texas.  
* Commentator, at the invitation of the Joint Editorial Board, on the Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act.

Bridget Fuselier  
Professor of Law  

PRESENTATION  
* "To Be or Not to Be? That is the Question," Surrounding the Disposition of Reproductive Material at Death, CLE at Heart of Texas Estate Planning Council (March 31, 2015).  

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES  
* Member of the State Bar of Texas Disciplinary Rules Committee.  
* Contributor, General Practice Digest.

Laura Hernández  
Professor of Law  

PUBLICATIONS  

Jill W. Lens  
Associate Professor of Law  

PUBLICATIONS  

Luke Meier  
Professor of Law  

PUBLICATIONS  

Elizabeth Miller  
Professor of Law  

PRESENTATIONS  
* "The Legal Landscape after Ritchie v. Rupe: Where Will the Battle Lines Be Drawn in Future Disputes between Majority and Minority Shareholders?," 37th Annual Conference on Securities Regulation and Business Law, University of Texas School of Law (Feb. 12, 2015).

Michael Morrison  
Professor of Law  

PRESENTATIONS  
* "Overview of the Proposed Revisions to The Forum on Education Abroad’s Bylaws," 11th Annual Conference of the Forum on Education Abroad (March 26, 2015).  

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES  
* Collaborator, Texas Office of Court Administration’s and the National Center for State Courts’ first year experience with Expedited Civil Actions evaluation research project.  
* Contributing Editor on Defamation and Invasion of Privacy, Texas Association of Defense Counsel Professional Newsletters/Career Law Updates.  
* Program Director for the 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 of the Forum for Education Abroad, the entity recognized by the federal government as the official standards setting body for U.S. study abroad programs.  
* Board of Directors of the Texas Association of Defense Counsel.

Rory Ryan  
Professor of Law  

PUBLICATIONS  

Walt Shelton  
Adjunct Professor of Law  

PUBLICATIONS  

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES  
* Liaison of the 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 of the Law School Committee of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas.
ELISA RAINEY (JD ’94)

ELISA RAINEY (JD ’94) SERVES AS AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR AT BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL IN ADDITION TO MANAGING THE ELDER LAW PRACTICE AT RAINEY AND RAINEY LAW.

She shares what inspires her to teach the next generation of Baylor Law students in her specialization of elder law, powers of attorney, guardianship, and probate.

“Elder law is still a relatively new area of practice. I began teaching in 2008, and at that time the public and many attorneys weren’t quite sure what elder law was,” said Rainey. “My goal has been to increase awareness of the field and to help students explore it as a practice opportunity. Even those who don’t practice in the field will be faced with many of these issues in their own families.”

Rainey reflects a practical training mentality through her teaching in the classroom. “Our classroom environment is pretty informal. I focus much more on the practical than on the theoretical. I enjoy using real world examples of the issues we face every day in an elder law practice.”

The lesson she most wants students to take away from her course is the versatile opportunities a background in elder law provides.

“Elder law is such a broad field. It weaves its way through so many other areas of law. I hope to raise awareness among young attorneys of the hidden elder law issues tucked within other fields. Criminal law, family law, personal injury—all of these areas are tied closely to elder law. More than many other areas of practice, an elder law practice creates an opportunity for a personal connection with your client. Working with families who are facing the complexities of aging, transitioning to long term care or planning for the long-term needs of a child with special needs is deeply rewarding.”
Baylor’s Locker Room Lawyer

A champion on and off the court, Sune Agbuke, a fourth quarter Baylor Law School student, was selected in a nationwide vote as a Senior CLASS Award Second-Team All-American. The CLASS award is an acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School (CLASS). The Senior CLASS Award highlights the total student-athlete—propelling students to use their position as an athlete to make an impact as leaders in their communities.

To be nominated, candidates must excel in notable achievements in four areas of excellence: community, classroom, character, and competition. As one of ten finalists chosen, Agbuke carefully balances all four of these qualifications gracefully.

Avid Lady Bear basketball fans know the 6’4” starting post for her defensive domination, but fans may not see Agbuke’s heart for serving the community off the court. Between demanding practice schedules and law school, Agbuke visits the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility twice a month with teammates to share devotionals and oftentimes plays a game of knockout. Agbuke currently interns in the McLennan County District Attorney’s Crimes Against Children Division.

“I’ve been given so much here and have been able to go to school for free. I think it’s so important to give back—as a human it’s the right thing to do,” said Agbuke.

As an undergraduate, Agbuke made the Big 12 Commissioner’s Honor Roll all three years, was selected for the first-team Academic All-Big 12 twice and was one of four student-athletes invited to participate in the Big 12 Forum in Washington, D.C. Agbuke also made the Baylor Dean’s List three of her six undergraduate semesters. Her dedication in the classroom doesn’t go unnoticed by Baylor Law faculty.

“We have a lot of bright kids in law school, and Sune is one of them,” said Professor Brian Serr. “She is alert, on the ball, well-prepared, and a very serious student.”

Understanding the expense of law school, Agbuke remained focused on completing her undergraduate degree in three years to stretch her four-year basketball scholarship into the first year of law school.

“It’s the encouragement of Baylor Law faculty and peers that makes all the difference during the heavy travel season with tournaments and games,” says Agbuke. “I have a great support system here. My classmates understand the team’s schedule and will email me notes from class. My professors are understanding and have gone above and beyond to help, and you can’t fail when you have people around you like that,” said Agbuke.

The Lady Bears fought hard in the 2015 NCAA tournament, advancing to the Elite Eight, but eventually fell to Notre Dame at the regional final in Oklahoma City. Agbuke registered 12 points and 10 rebounds, and she played a career-high 35 minutes to finish out her final game of college ball.

“You want seniors to go out on a high. Obviously losing is not a high, but if you look at the big picture and what that kid did for her team—based upon her skill level and compared to others across the country—Sune Agbuke has a great deal to do with the kind of year we had,” said Lady Bear Basketball Head Coach Kim Mulkey.

Although Agbuke’s college basketball career has come to a close, she continues to lead her peers with character, in service to the community, dedication in the classroom, and competition in the court. Agbuke is an excellent example of Baylor Law School’s mission to cultivate well-rounded Baylor Lawyers equipped not only with the necessary advocacy skills but a heart for service to the community.

Photo Courtesy of Vernon Bryant/ The Dallas Morning News
Graduation Day

TYLA National Trial Competition
The teams of Brad Ryynanen and Kelsey Warren, and TJ Jones and Mark Altman won first and second place at the 2015 National Trial Competition Regional.

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ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition
Louie Cook, Jess Dees, and Monica Little advanced to the semifinals at the 2015 ABA National Appellate Advocacy Regional Competition. Cook and fellow Baylor Law student Jessica Schwartz, tied for the award of 8th Best Speaker.

Hispanic National Bar Association Moot Court Competition
Nick Deaver, Daniel Saldana, and Herbie Montalvo won the 2015 HNBA National Moot Court Competition. The team also received the Best Petitioner Brief award and a $14,000 cash prize.

Catholic University of America Immigration Moot Court Competition
The team of Leah Smith, Shane Vreeland, and Victoria Ford were named Champions of the Catholic University of America Immigration Moot Court Competition. They were also awarded best brief honors.

Strasburger and Price Moot Court Competition
Hannah Brewer and Kristen Messina won the Spring 2015 Strasburger and Price Moot Court Competition. Braden Allman and Kyle Beckrich won second place. Craig Haynes, Partner at Thompson & Knight in Dallas, Texas, and the Hon. Catharina Haynes of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, served as the competition’s guest judges.

National Adoption Law Moot Court Competition
Spencer Turner and Christy Leipprandt advanced to the finals at the 2015 National Adoption Law Moot Court Competition in Columbus, Ohio. Spencer and Christy were recognized as the 8th and 9th best speakers. The team of Ahtoosa Amini and Jake Jones advanced to the quarterfinals.

AAJ Regional Student Trial Advocacy Competition
At the 2015 American Association for Justice Regional Mock Trial Competition in Houston, Texas, the team of Mark Firmin, Harris Huguenard, Tanner Franklin, and Sameer Hashmi advanced to the finals. The team of Brian Price, Alex Moore, Jackie Wheeler, and Tim Roehrs advanced to the semifinals.

New Baylor Law Review Members
The Baylor Law Review congratulates the following students on their selection for membership based on participation in the write-on competition:
Casey Cashion
Joshua Dickinson
Austin Green

On May 2, Baylor Law School awarded degrees to 55 graduates. The Hon. Ed Kinkeade delivered the commencement speech and Professors Gerald Powell and Jim Wren hooded the graduates. Congratulations to our newest Baylor Lawyers!
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In addition to keeping up with their studies, Baylor Law students are active in the community. In this spirit of service, the Spring 2015 entering class packed lunches for a local senior citizen assistance organization, Meals and Wheels, and spent some time caring for animals at both the Waco Humane Society and Fuzzy Friends Rescue.
Ralph Matthew “Mad Dog” Dawson (JD ’38) was born March 20, 1916, and died at the age of 98 on Feb. 17, 2015. He earned a BA from Baylor University followed by a juris doctor from Baylor Law in 1938. After law school, Matt established his first legal practice in Longview, Texas, and in 1942, stood in an election for a specially created Gregg County Judgeship. At age 26, he became the youngest judge—at that time—to ever to sit on a Texas bench.

After a tour of service in the United States Navy during World War II, he joined a law office in Corsicana, Texas, which he and his older brother eventually developed into the firm of Dawson and Dawson. In 1972, he was asked to fill the Leon Jaworski Chair in Practice and Procedure at Baylor Law School. Matt added mini-trial competitions to the program, which became the model for mock trials at the National Trial Competition. When Matt retired from academia, he resumed his trial practice for another two decades.

Matt married Princess Louise Markham of Longview in 1939 and enjoyed an amazing life with her for more for than 60 years. He is survived by five daughters and sons: Donna Fisher and husband, Robert; Rebecca Brumley and husband, Jon; Mark Dawson and wife, Mary; Carol Dawson and husband, Jeffery Poehlmann; and John Dawson and wife, Allie. He also leaves 16 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Hon. William H. Brigham (JD ’54) was born Aug. 19, 1928, in Murphy, Texas, and passed away Feb. 2, 2015, in Fort Worth. He served in the U.S. Navy, completed his law degree at Baylor Law School in 1954, and then joined the FBI. In 1976, he joined the Criminal Division of the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney’s Office. He then served as a trial attorney in the Civil Division of the DAs Office and was appointed to a vacancy in the judgeship of County Court at Law No. 1 in 1981. The governor later appointed him as judge of the 233rd District Court in Tarrant County, where he served until 1995. He was again appointed and re-elected to the Fort Worth Court of Appeals. Bill retired in 1999 as a justice of the Fort Worth Court of Appeals and embarked upon another 15-year judicial career as a visiting judge.

Hon. David William Crews (LLB ’57) was born in Karnes City, Texas, on Feb. 18, 1933, and passed away Feb. 8, 2015, in Conroe, Texas. David graduated from Baylor University and Baylor Law School in 1957 with a juris doctor. He established a law practice in Conroe in 1957 and was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1960. He diligently served his community and donated his time and talents for the betterment of others. A lifelong member of the First Methodist Church of Conroe, David was a lay historian, with a comprehensive knowledge of Texas history and World War II, a raconteur, and a good citizen.

Hon. Jim Raymond Doolittle (JD ’58) was born Nov. 28, 1928, in Portland, Oregon, and passed away Feb. 2, 2015, in Caldwell, Texas. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and received an honorable discharge in 1952. He took advantage of the GI Bill to attend Boise Junior College, the University of Idaho and Baylor Law School, where he earned a juris doctor in 1958. A lifelong contributor to the University, Jim practiced law in the Caldwell area for 15 years and was appointed as a District Judge of the Third Judicial District in 1977, a position he held until 1993. He married Wanda Gene Nicholas, who passed away in 1990, and later married Lynn Martin.
Hon. Joe Norman Johnson (JD ’64) was born Nov. 28, 1929, and passed away Jan. 31, 2015, in Waco, Texas. He was drafted during the Korean conflict in 1951 and later attended Baylor, earning a BA in music in 1956 and a juris doctor in 1964. While still in law school, Joe was elected as McLennan County Justice of the Peace. He served in that office for 24 years and, in 1986, was elected Judge of the 170th District Court where he presided for 16 years.

Joe is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Deane; his four children—Joe and wife, Gaye; Barry; Mindy Wren and husband, Jim; and Dena Williams; his 14 grandchildren, Blake, Eric, JJ, Melani, BJ, Lexi, and Pierce Johnson; Stacy, Eric and Jackson Wren; Austin, Beau, Colby and Drake Williams; and one great granddaughter, Reagan Johnson.

David Ross Parker (JD ’70), of Hallsville, Texas, was born Feb. 27, 1945, and passed away Jan. 7, 2015. He graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in business administration and also earned a juris doctor from Baylor Law School. He served as a special agent with the FBI before continuing his career as House Council for Petro, Inc., and developing real estate properties.

Harold “Hal” John Laine, Jr. (JD ’72) was born Aug. 4, 1943, in Chester, Pennsylvania, and passed away suddenly Jan. 30, 2015. He was an only child and was married to Shirley Ann Johnson for 46 years. A graduate from Baylor Law School, Hal opened his first law office in Port Arthur, Texas, and later moved his practice to Beaumont, Texas. Hal was a solo practicing criminal defense attorney for almost 50 years and also served our country in the Navy Reserve of the USS FARRAGUT.

Carl Frank Thorne (JD ’67) was born in Luling, Texas, in 1940 and passed away Jan. 9, 2015. He earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1963 and a juris doctor from Baylor Law School in 1967, where he was Editor in Chief of the Baylor Law Review. The following year, Carl joined SEDCO, Inc., an energy service company, retiring as President in 1986. He embarked on a second career in 1987 when he co-founded ENSCO International, Inc., which grew into one of the world’s preeminent energy service companies.

Kyle Crady Cook (JD ’86) was reunited in heaven with his late wife, Karen, Jan. 11, 2015. Kyle was born Nov. 28, 1959, in Waco, Texas, to Evelyn and Grant Cook. He earned a BBA at the University of Texas in 1983 and a juris doctor from Baylor Law School in 1986. After graduation he practiced law in Houston and Dallas until a serious illness in 2010.

Janna Lee Countryman (JD ’86), of Dallas, Texas, was born July 18, 1962, in Tyler and passed away at her residence Feb. 1, 2015. She attended Tyler, Ft. Worth and Hurst schools before attending Tyler Junior College and ultimately graduating from Baylor Law School in 1986. She loved to travel and worked in Plano as the Standing Trustee for the US Bankruptcy Court.

Adam Raul Hardison (JD ’90), of Grapevine, Texas, died Jan. 12, 2015. He was born in Muleshoe, Texas to David and Marilyn Hardison. Adam received his bachelor’s and law degrees from Baylor University. In 2011, he was married to the former Lisbet MacMiller in Mission, Texas. He was the founder and owner of Hardison Law Firm in Dallas.

Charles Walton Jones (JD ’13) passed away Jan. 30, 2015. Born and raised in Waco, Texas, Walton enriched countless lives as a devoted son, a loving brother, and the most loyal of friends. The memory of his generous spirit and quick wit will be cherished by those fortunate enough to have participated in the extended families of which he was a part: Vanguard College Preparatory School, Sigma Phi Epsilon at the University of Texas at Austin, Calvary Baptist Church, and Baylor Law School.
Affectionately known as “Lady A” by her students, Professor Margaret Amsler was a dignified woman who held her own alongside male contemporaries throughout her lifetime. She was the only woman to graduate in the Baylor Law Class of 1937, the first woman elected to the Texas Legislature representing McLennan County, the first woman to serve as Marshall of the Texas Supreme Court, and the first woman to receive the President’s Award from the Texas State Bar.

She co-authored the Texas Married Woman’s Act of 1963, which gave women the right to control their own property. In the 1940s, Amsler joined only two other women in the nation—and the first in Texas—to hold tenure-track appointments in member law schools of the Association of American Law Schools. Female lawyers across the nation stand on the shoulders of Professor Margaret Amsler as the impact of her legacy continues to be felt today.
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