“We the People...”

Baylor Law School and alumni use iCivics to teach government to young students

PLUS

COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINICS + STUDENT PUBLIC SERVICE + ADOPT-A-SCHOOL
YOUR SUPPORT OF THE BAYLOR LAW FACULTY FUND HELPS US TO STRENGTHEN OUR PROGRAM AND PROVIDE OUR DEDICATED FACULTY WITH MUCH NEEDED RESOURCES. PLEASE HELP US TO CONTINUE BUILDING THE BAYLOR LAW LEGACY BY MAKING A GIFT TO THE Baylor Law Faculty Fund THIS YEAR!
We're proud that Baylor Law won the Texas Access to Justice Public Service Award in 2010, and this year, one of our students, Britanny Wray, won the Texas Access to Justice Commission’s Law Student Pro Bono Award.

In this issue of Docket Call, we spotlight Baylor Law School’s commitment to public service and pro bono legal services through the work of our alumni, faculty, staff and students.

Our cover story focuses on Civics, an Internet-based method of teaching civics through games to primary and secondary students. The program was developed in response to a challenge issued by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor to Baylor Law and Baylor University.

During the pilot phase of the project, Berkley Knas (JD ’10), Director of Alumni Relations at Baylor Law School, was the principal leader and developer of the law school’s involvement with iCivics. She worked in tandem with Baylor Law alumna Wendy May (JD ’96), who serves as the iCivics Texas State Coordinator.

Civics is just one of the new public service and pro bono projects Baylor Law began last year. In September, the school introduced two new legal clinics to help military veterans and young, undocumented immigrants.

Under the direction of Baylor Law Professor Bridget Fuselier, the school now hosts monthly legal aid clinics that are open to all veterans. Baylor Law students and area lawyers — many of them Baylor Law School alumni — provide advice and counsel on legal matters, and, if necessary, represent the veterans in court.

We also launched the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Immigration Clinic to assist those who entered the United States without legal documentation before their 16th birthdays. Led by Baylor Law Associate Professor Laura A. Hernández, second and third-year Baylor Law students assisted applicants in completing the documentation they needed to take advantage of the deferred action program. Adjunct professor, Waco immigration lawyer and Baylor Law Professor, Susan Nelson (JD ’90), also provided advice during the clinics.

The new clinics join existing Baylor Law programs that serve the local community — the People’s Law School and the National Adoption Day celebration.

Beyond these programs headed by our faculty and staff, Baylor Law students also take the initiative to reach out to people in need. Our Summer Public Interest Fellowship program underwrites students who intern during the summer at not-for-profit or governmental organizations serving underrepresented populations.

This past year we had students dealing with immigration issues and working in public defenders’ offices. Also, each incoming class of Baylor Law students selects a staff member from a public service project such as Habitat for Humanity or Meals and Wheels during their orientation.

What makes our students’ commitment to public service even more impressive is that many are carrying a full-class load, which can include our grueling Practice Court program. In addition, many students are taking part in a wide array of advocacy competitions across the nation. This past year, teams from Baylor Law School captured first place in the National Adoption Day Celebration.

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One further example of how remarkable our students are: Baylor Law School once again was No. 1 on the Texas Bar exam on each exam this past year. Kudos go out to my faculty and staff colleagues, and to our wonderfully supportive University leadership, for once again putting Baylor in the top slot. None of this comes as a surprise to our wonderful alumni. You know firsthand what it takes to be a Baylor Lawyer. To match your level of excellence, Baylor Law School is in the process of revamping its alumni communications. Last year, we launched an e-version of our monthly newsletter, Rocket Docket, and we continue our efforts this year with the redesign of our alumni magazine, Rocket Docket.

We’re seeking to be in contact with you more frequently and consistently, so beginning with this issue, Docket Call will be published quarterly. This will allow us to share news about the Law School and its alumni in a more timely manner. As always, we ask you to be our partners by contacting us with your latest news and suggestions for content. You can submit your news items directly on our website’s alumni page or by e-mailing our new Director of Communications and Marketing, Janet Perez, at Janet.Perez@baylor.edu.

I hope you take the time to read our new Rocket Docket and learn about all the great programs our alumni, faculty, students and staff are collaborating on to make our profession and community stronger.
For retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, teaching young people about how government works is “the most important thing I’ve done.”

Aiding her efforts is iCivics, a revolutionary Internet-based, interactive method of teaching civics through games that was developed under her leadership and is being refined and executed in many Waco and Midway elementary school classrooms by Baylor Law School.

During last spring’s pilot program, Baylor Law helped to introduce iCivics to about 400 Waco and Midway elementary through high school students. By the fall semester, the number of students taking part in the iCivics program had swelled to 2,000.

During the pilot phase, Baylor Law students, or Law Reps, visited schools throughout the Waco and Midway districts to provide one-on-one guidance to students using iCivics. In the fall, Baylor Law decided to focus its efforts on Bell’s Hill Elementary, the school’s Adopt-A-School partner. The genesis of the iCivics-Baylor Law School partnership can be traced back to Baylor Law alumna Wendy May (JD ’96), who serves as iCivics Texas State Coordinator. With her assistance, Baylor Law sponsored an iCivics dinner in Austin last year in which Baylor University President Ken Starr and Justice O’Connor discussed various ways in which Baylor University could become involved in iCivics. What emerged was a model that placed Baylor Law students in iCivics classrooms and a Baylor School of Education research project that measured the effectiveness of iCivics as a teaching tool.

During this initial phase of the project, Berkley Knas (JD ’10), Director of Alumni Relations at Baylor Law, was the principal leader and developer of Baylor Law School’s involvement with iCivics. Baylor Law formed partnerships with the Waco and Midway schools and sent 25 Law Reps to fifth-through 12th-grade classrooms. The law students discussed various civics concepts using iPlan, an interactive lesson plan that corresponded to the particular iCivics game the Midway and Waco students would play on that day. This process became known as The Baylor Model.

The experience solidified my belief that iCivics is a program that can make a substantial impact on civics education,” she said.

Justice O’Connor and members of her iCivics national team spent three days at Baylor in May hearing from people such as Smith and meeting with Waco and Midway students and teachers, as well as with Baylor faculty, staff and students who participated in The Baylor Model. Justice O’Connor called the partnership a resounding success.

May added that Baylor research has provided good anecdotal evidence that iCivics is a great equalizer in the classroom. “You take an at-risk child and give him or her this resource and improvements on tests equal those of a middle-income child,” she said. Because of the positive response, Smith became more involved with iCivics and spent eight weeks during the summer at the iCivics national office in Washington, D.C. She served on the curriculum team, researched new games and worked on content for existing games.

Alaina Smith, a third-year law student and former teacher, led the efforts to create the iPlans.

“For retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, teaching young people about how government works is “the most important thing I’ve done.”

Building Foundations

Third-year Baylor Law student Alaina Smith teaches Bell’s Hill students Kimberly Gomez and Abraham Arias how to use iCivics.
Baylor Law

Justice For All

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ALLOWS STUDENTS TO INTERN AT ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELP THE UNDERREPRESENTED

Thanks to Baylor Law School’s Summer Public Interest Fellowship program, Matthew Myers was able to work in the immigration department of Catholic Charities of Dallas, an agency that focuses on humanitarian and family applications of U.S. immigration law.

"The most rewarding part of the job was the ability to see directly how my work helped individuals in my community," Myers said. "I actually got an email a few days ago from a former client thanking me like I had saved her children from a burning building. Even though I didn't feel like I really deserved all the gratitude, it still made me feel really great inside." 

Baylor Law’s mission statement declares "a commitment to public service and leadership within one’s community and profession, (and) a commitment to ensuring meaningful public access to our system of justice." Through its Summer Public Interest Fellowships, the Law School encourages students to develop that same commitment by making it financially feasible for them to work in the public sector.

Myers met with three or four clients per day in the mornings, documenting their problems and then working on ways to solve them. The fellowships are awarded to students who intern during the summer at not-for-profit or governmental organizations serving underrepresented populations.

Typical issues students might deal with include poverty, welfare, family, immigration, civil rights, workers’ compensation and bankruptcy. Fellowships are not awarded to students working in prosecution or for the judiciary except in unusual circumstances. The fellowships have been partially funded since the late 1970s through a generous gift from Coulter (JD ’33) and Lily Rush Hoppess for the purpose of "promoting and advancing the administration of justice through the competent and ethical practice of law."

Fellowship recipients receive $400 per week of work and must work a minimum of five weeks and a maximum of 10 weeks with a qualifying organization. During the summer of 2012, eight students received stipends, working for such entities as the Dallas County Public Defender’s Office and the Child Support Division of the Office of the Attorney General.

Fellowship recipient Caitlin Barrett worked with Legal Aid of Northwest Texas and received a $3,000 stipend to help her pay rent.

"I really want to use my law degree for public service in some way, but I had no real hands-on experience with public interest work," she said. "I figured interning with Legal Aid would be a good way to meet some attorneys who work in this area and to see how an office of this kind runs. I believe that to preserve the American principle of opportunity and equality for all, these types of programs are necessary."

2012 SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIPS

Caitlin Barrett
Legal Aid of Northwest Texas

Courtney Boes
Catholic Charities of Dallas - Immigration

Katrina Colwell
Federal Public Defender

Brittany Cravens
Office of the Attorney General - Child Support Division

Hailey Fox
Dallas County - Public Defender’s Office

Taylor Horton
Dallas County - Public Defender’s Office

Matthew Myers
Catholic Charities of Dallas - Immigration

Laura Spence
Dallas County - Public Defender’s Office

Spreading Cheer All Year Long

BAYLOR LAW DEDICATES ITSELF TO THE STUDENTS AT BELL’S HILL ELEMENTARY

Kivas isn’t the only way Baylor Law is partnering with Bell’s Hill Elementary School. For more than a decade, Baylor Law had a relationship with Sul Ross Elementary through the Waco ISD Adopt-A-School program. When budget cuts forced Sul Ross to be shuttered over the summer, most of its students were sent to Bell’s Hill in the fall. As a result, the Law School decided it would make sense to adopt it as a new partner and continue the programs that were in place at Sul Ross.

“We have many law students who eat lunch once a week with Bell’s Hill students,” said Berkley Knas, JD ’10, Director of Alumni Relations at Baylor Law School. “I started the lunch program four years ago while I was a student at Baylor Law School, and the program has continued to gain support and popularity. This lunchtime at Bell’s Hill is the most meaningful hour of the week for the law students and the Bell’s Hill students. We try to make lunchtime educational and fun. Our law students teach the children something during the lunch hour, such as how to introduce themselves or how to make eye contact when speaking to others.”

Along with Baylor Law students, staff and faculty at Baylor Law also are actively involved in serving the Bell’s Hill community throughout the year. Whether it’s organizing a Bell’s Hill belt drive, baking dozens of cookies for Bell’s Hill staff meetings or serving a Thanksgiving lunch to the children, the Baylor Law community is there to help.

“The Baylor Law family truly shares its time and resources to make Christmas for the Bell’s Hill children and families a joyful time. Many of these children do not have the basic necessities of coats, warm socks or even presents,” Knas said. “For years we brought Christmas to the children of Sul Ross and now we’ve so honored to be doing the same for Bell’s Hill.”

Knas, who regularly dresses up as an elf to deliver coats, presents and books to the students, said the Sul Ross children truly believed that Santa sent his elf to school to deliver their Christmas presents. This past Christmas, the Student Bar Association led the massive effort to bring holiday cheer to hundreds of students at Bell’s Hill.

Knas, who once again dressed as an elf, said he heard hundreds of children ask if Santa sent the presents to them. “Santa sure did,” Knas told them. “And that’s the magic of Christmas.”

司法正义，全年共行

BAYLOR LAW DEDICATES ITSELF TO THE STUDENTS AT BELL’S HILL ELEMENTARY

Kivas 不是唯一一个让 Baylor Law 与贝尔山小学合作的方式。超过十年，Baylor Law 与 Sul Ross 小学之间保持着关系，通过 Waco ISD 采纳学校项目。当预算削减迫使其在暑期关闭学校时，大多数学生被送到 Bell’s Hill。作为结果，法学院决定采用它作为新的伙伴，并继续在 Sul Ross 存在的项目。

“我们有许多年轻律师每周吃午饭与Bell’s Hill 学生一起，”伯克利·克纳斯（JD ’10），巴勒尔法学院校友关系主任说。“我开始午餐计划四年以前，而我在巴勒尔法学院是一个学生，该计划已经继续获得支持和流行性。午餐时间在 Bell’s Hill 是最有意义的一小时的周对法律学生和 Bell’s Hill 学生。我们试图使午餐时间教育和有趣。我们的法律学生教会孩子们在午餐时间，比如如何介绍自己或如何在与他人交谈时建立眼神接触。”

此外，除了巴勒尔法学院学生、教职员工在贝尔山也积极地参与其中，为贝尔山社区提供服务贯穿全年。无论是组织一个 Bell’s Hill 的腰带驱动，烤制几十块饼干为 Bell’s Hill 员工会议，还是提供感恩节午餐给孩子们，巴勒尔法学院的社区都参与其中。

“贝尔山法学院家庭真地分享他们的时间和资源，为贝尔山的孩子和家庭带来欢乐时光。许多这些孩子们没有基本必需品，如外套、温暖的袜子或甚至是礼物，”克纳斯说。 “多年来，我们把圣诞节带给 Sul Ross 孩子们，现在我们很荣幸这样做，”他说。“当我们还在 Sul Ross 时，现在我们从圣达到 Bell’s Hill，”

克纳斯，谁又一次穿着精灵服装来送礼物，学生，说 Sul Ross 的孩子们真实地相信 Santa 把他的精灵送到学校，送礼物给他们的圣诞节礼物。在这个圣诞节，学生法学院领导这个巨大的努力来给 Bell’s Hill 的数百学生带来节日的欢乐。

克纳斯，谁又一次穿着精灵服装，说他听到了数百个孩子问 Santa 送礼物到他们。 “Santa 确定送了，”克纳斯告诉他们。“这就是圣诞的奇迹。”
In the fall, 120 Waco-area young people moved closer to the dream of becoming documented U.S. residents. At that same time, other Waco residents — all military veterans — were advised about legal issues such as wills or child support.

The helping hands these groups received came from two new legal clinics started by Baylor Law School in September. The Baylor Law School Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Immigration Clinic was launched as a way to assist local, undocumented residents, ages 15-31, who face deportation, but qualify for relief under the DACA program.

Under the direction of Associate Professor Laura A. Hernández, the clinic relied on the time and efforts of Baylor Law students. Student volunteers assisted with the cumbersome paperwork applicants required for a completed application. Undergraduate students from Baylor University’s Spanish department also provided help with any needed translation, while students from the School of Social Work performed administrative tasks. Additionally, adjunct professor and Waco immigration lawyer, Susan Nelson (JD ’90), gave advice during the clinics.

“The goal was to help 100 people, but we had so many student volunteers that we were able to assist 120,” Hernández said. “And the bulk of the application process was handled by the law students. It was the essence of pro bono service, and it was important to me that our students have positive experiences.”

Another major contribution to the community is the Law School’s new monthly clinic for military veterans. Coordinated by Professor Bridget Fuselier and made possible through a grant from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, the clinic provides legal assistance to veterans with issues such as deeds, child support, and wills and estate planning. Volunteer attorneys also met with a number of veterans regarding benefit appeals. Baylor Law students were able to sit in on the client interviews.

“This clinic provides a chance for students to see the practical logistics of the initial client interview. They learned what they need to ask, how to follow up with clients and more,” Fuselier said.

For the winter, the Veteran’s Clinic added 30-minute sessions on pertinent legal topics to the agenda. A special clinic held in November at the law school dealt solely with executing wills, powers of attorney and other estate matters. The new clinics join existing Baylor Law programs geared toward serving the local community. Two such long-term programs are the People’s Law School and the National Adoption Day celebration.

The People’s Law School is a one-day, free event designed to make the law user-friendly and to educate members of the community about their legal rights. Volunteer lawyers, many of whom are Baylor Lawyers, teach one-hour courses about various legal issues. Popular course topics include wills and estate planning, elder law and an introduction to the U.S. Constitution.

“We try to make the courses current. For example, last year we had a course on the Affordable Care Act,” said Professor Patricia Wilson, who coordinates the event. “We usually have between 120-160 attendees. And we always have a broad spectrum of ages and educational background.”

Baylor Law students, many of whom are members of the Public Interest Society, help with event preparation, registration and other logistical tasks.

These same students and others can be found lending a hand at National Adoption Day at the Law School, when courts open their doors and finalize the adoptions of children from foster care. For the event, law student groups solicit donations for gift baskets and food, and entertain the children with crafts, face painting and balloon animals. Approximately 20 children were formally adopted that day.

“A lot of time you only see arguing as an attorney,” Fuselier said. “Adoption Day and all our public interest work give our students examples of legal work that can do good and help so many people.”
BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL THANKS THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR FALL 2012 ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEW AND RESUME COLLECTION PROGRAMS:


If you would like to register for our SPRING 2013 ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS and Resume Collection Programs scheduled for the week of March 4, please contact Monica Wright at 254.710.1210. We also welcome employers to interview on campus throughout the year.

BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL’S FALL 2012 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY TOOK PLACE NOV. 10, 2012 AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN WACO. CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!
The 64 members of Baylor Law School’s Fall 2012 entering class boasted median LSAT scores (162) in approximately the top 15 percent and median undergraduate grade point averages (3.51) well above the national average. The fall class was seated with more males than females — a difference from previous years — with 27 females and 37 males. The class represents more than 35 universities from across the nation.

“This class has an impressive set of credential statistics, especially given the state of legal education around the country,” said Baylor Law School Dean Brad Toben. “Our school is in demand by highly credentialed students, and our program is a poster child for how legal education should be done (see the raft of recent media criticizing legal education and law schools for being unable to effectively prepare students for practice). With this class, as with all of our classes, we have much to be proud of, as well as much to steward, enhance and preserve.”

During orientation, the class was introduced to the legal profession and law school. They also received their first introductions to reading case law, along with meeting their future faculty and fellow classmates.

Concluding orientation, students participated in a community service project by working with Meals and Wheels, the City of Waco and Habitat for Humanity. Baylor Law School incorporates the service project to aid the Waco community, as well as to introduce the legal profession as a service profession.

Students from Baylor Law School’s Fall 2012 entering class capped off orientation by taking part in a community service project.
“Taking first and second place is rare and incredibly impressive,” Little said.

Along with the team members, Holly Raines served as evidence coach, while Whitney Kelch and Paul Green were members of the practice squad. “Holly Raines did an excellent job as the evidence coach for the team,” Little said. “She proved herself to be an excellent researcher, and really acted as an assistant coach more than an evidence coach in preparing the team for evidence arguments. We were, without question, the most well-prepared team on evidence issues at the tournament, and the credit for that, in large part, goes to Holly. The work that Paul Green and Whitney Kelch did in practice was immensely helpful, as well,” Little continued. “The witnesses at nationals are tough, but by the time we got there we had already practiced with the toughest witnesses you could possibly find.”

The NTC is the largest and oldest of the mock trial competitions. Approximately 300 teams from across the United States competed at the regional and national levels. At the national finals, the 28 regional winners were judged primarily by Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Both Baylor Law teams qualified for the tournament by winning the regional competition. Competitors tried a fictional premises liability case in which a roofer falls through a skylight at a grocery store and is killed. His widow has sued the grocery store.

“Combining the story and the evidence was incredibly challenging,” Lopez said. “What is challenging about the National Trial Competition is that in the post-break rounds (quarterfinals, semifinals and finals) the organizers add a twist to the problem. You have about an hour to eat lunch and incorporate the new facts/witnesses into your game plan. It was very stressful, but an advantage for Baylor Lawyers who are taught from Day One to think on their feet and to be in the moment,” Lopez said.

Little said other coaches were quick to praise the Baylor Law teams, especially for their ability to appear so relaxed in the courtroom. Lopez gave credit to Little for preparing the team so well. “Robert is the best at looking at a mock trial problem and breaking it down to the core issues. With his guidance we were able to go into every round knowing that we had a winning theory of the case. He teaches his students to be lawyers, not actors,” Lopez said.

The team spirit is so strong that Little and Mark Walraven said neither team cared which one came in first. “We were really happy, and we didn’t really want to know which team won. The round was so close that the judges told me that it could have gone the other way on any given day,” said Mark Walraven, who competed against his wife, Chaille Graft Walraven. Little agreed: “Baylor won, and it didn’t really matter who finished first and who finished second.”

Added Baylor Law School Dean Brad Topen: “This remarkable accomplishment brings great honor to Baylor Law School. I am so thankful to each of our coaches and advocates. Throughout the entire trek to this national championship, they invested their skills and gifts over untold hours to not only win, but also to dominate.”
Walter Umphrey, founding partner of Provost Umphrey Law Firm was recently selected Lawyer of the Year by The Texas Lawyer. Umphrey is a renaissance man, having served as a law professor at the University of Texas and Rice University, and ultimately chief federal prosecutor for the Jefferson County District Attorney’s office right out of Baylor Law School. He is board certified in the areas of personal injury trial law and labor and employment law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Umphrey is a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers. He was selected for inclusion in Texas Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters Business, 2003-2012, an honor only 6 percent of the lawyers in the state are selected for annually. Beyond the practice of law, Umphrey serves as director of the Humanities at Baylor University, which is hailed as a state-center on the banks of the Brazos River at Waco.

1976
Litigation Defense.

1989
Robert Gilbreath was named one of the Top 100 lawyers in Texas by the Texas Super Lawyers publication. Gilbreath is a partner in Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young’s Litigation Department and serves as Appellate and Legal Issues Practice Group Leader. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has handled approximately 200 appeals in a wide variety of areas, including trusts and estates, personal injury, breach of contract, breach of warranty, breach of fiduciary duties, real, family, law, oil and gas, contempt of court, arbitration, government regulation, defamation, NROI, shareholder oppression, and Lehman Act Blue advertising claims.

2005
Michael Blue, recently formed Blue Rhodos. The Austin-based firm focuses on corporate, real estate, and environmental law.

2012
Sophia Hisaj has joined the national business and technology law firm of CHAMBERS PLLC in Dallas. Hisaj handles a range of commercial and intellectual property matters, including copyright, trade secret, and trademark registration, licensing, enforcement. She also assists clients with technology transactions, e-commerce and international business and trade matters.

2013
Kevin J. Muenter has earned a spot on the Texas Monthly and Texas Rising Stars magazine listing as a 2012 Texas Rising Star, which recognizes the state’s top young lawyers. Muenter practices with the Dallas-based firm of Price & Carr PLLC. Muenter represents businesses and individuals in a wide variety of complex disputes, including suits pending in both state and federal court. To compile the listings, lawyers across the state are asked to name the top attorneys they’ve personally observed in action. Once the candidate pool is assembled, background credentials and the experience of each lawyer are assessed. A blue ribbon panel within their primary area of practice then evaluates the lawyers. Before final selections are made, the lawyers are divided by firm size, and the State Bar of Texas has placed an extra emphasis on the lawyers that represent individuals.

2016
Scott Rhodes recently formed Blue Rhodes. The Austin-based firm focuses on corporate, real estate, and estate planning and probate matters.

The Hon. Manles W. Lewis, chair of the Family Law Litigation Practice Group for Godwin Lewis PC, has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America in 2013 in recognition of her mediation work.

John Eddie Williams has been named the Baylor University-Namus of the Year. Williams, who graduated from Baylor University in 1996, University in 1996, was named as part of the 2012-13 Baylor Outstanding Achievement Awards. Williams is a prominent attorney in Houston Bailey University received a major gift from Williams earlier this year for Baylor Stadium. The generous gift, which sets aside the top five capital gifts in university history, will support construction of the university’s new on-campus Baylor Stadium. With the naming rights to the field at Baylor Stadium will be named the John Eddie Williams Field. Williams also provided one of the lead gifts to the Shields and Walter Umphrey Law Center dedicated in 2002.

Keith Branyon has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America in 2013 in the area of Product Liability Litigation Defense.

Kyle Peeler has been inducted into the Lee Legacy Wall of Honor at Lee High School in Midland. Peeler graduated from Lee High in 1970, where he was involved in football and choir. He also was president of the student council, was voted Mr. Integrity, and was an Eagle Scout and charter member of Origin. He practiced civil, criminal and family law for more than 30 years. Peeler currently serves as a Midland County court at law judge.

John Charles Sherwood was named in Texas Monthly’s List of Lawyers in Business Litigation for October 2012.

Mananne M. Auld, a partner at Kelly Hart in Fort Worth, was elected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America in 2013. Auld graduated first in her class from Baylor Law School; where she served as editor-in-chief of the Baylor Law Review. Following law school, she served as law clerk for the Hon. Thomas M. Reavley of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Auld is a professor of law at Baylor Law School, teaching federal civil procedure, remedies, and legal analysis, research and communications. In addition to her professional career, Auld currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Trinity University.

Michael C. Kelsheimer has been named to the board of directors of Children’s Advocacy Centers of Texas. Kelsheimer currently serves as a shareholder in the employment law section at Looper Reed & McGraw. Kelsheimer has had experience in a wide variety of employment and commercial matters during his tenure with Looper Reed & McGraw. Kelsheimer is the author of the “Texas Employer Handbook,” a monthly guide for Texas business owners, and is a frequent radio commentator and seminar speaker.

Rosemary Sage Jones has been named chairwoman-elect of the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce. Jones earned a law degree from Texas Southern University in 1976, was named as part of the 2012-13 Baylor Outstanding Achievement Awards. Jones is generous给予 the foundation for 10 years as a trust attorney, resulting in her selection for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America in 2013. Before joining the firm full-time, she served as law clerk for the Hon. Abner M. Reavley of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. In that role, he assisted Abner M. Reavley of the U.S. Court of Appeals. In that role, he assisted Abner M. Reavley of the U.S. Court of Appeals.
Baylor Law Takes NITA Tournament of Champions

The Baylor Law School team of Leah Maxwell, Stephen Netherton, David Shaw and Blayne Thompson won the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) Tournament of Champions. Netherton also won the award for Best Advocate and the team won the Team Professionalism Award. The NITA Tournament of Champions took place Oct. 24-28, 2012, and was hosted by IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. The event was co-sponsored by Lewis & Clark.

Baylor Law Student Wins Pro Bono Award

The Texas Access to Justice Commission selected Baylor Law School student Brittany Wray as the recipient of the 2012 Law Student Pro Bono Award. This award recognizes a law student whose pro bono work has made a significant impact on the community and reflects a passion for advocating on behalf of underserved populations. Wray was recognized at the New Lawyer Induction Ceremony held at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin on Nov. 12, 2012. Wray also received a $250 stipend in recognition of her efforts.

Baylor Team Wins Stetson National Pretrial Competition

A Baylor Law School team won the Stetson National Pretrial Competition over the weekend of Oct. 12-13, 2012. Morgan Harkins and Taylor Romero, who won the Texas Young Lawyers Association Competition together this past summer, were the team’s advocates. Kyle Farrier and Kyle Voss were the team’s brief writers/editors. Harkins also received the award for best advocate in the final round. James Wilks, who competed on the team last year, was their coach.

Congratulations to the winners of the Fall 2012 Dawson & Sodd Moot Court Competition

The team of Jonathan Lowe and Ryan Tammell took home the win in the Fall 2012 Dawson & Sodd Moot Court Competition. The competition took place on Oct. 8, 2012. Congratulations also go out to the runner-up team of Lindsey Vanden Eykel and Jennifer Stanley in 3rd place. 30 teams took part in the competition.

Baylor Law’s First Sports Law Team Competes

In a first, Baylor Law School fielded a sports law team in a national competition. The team, made up of Haley Fox, Robert Green, Glory Rosario and Greg Siemankowski, along with their coach, Professor David Swenson, joined a field of 40 other competitors at the Second Annual National Sports Law Negotiation Competition Sept. 28-30, 2012 at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. Although the team did not win, Swenson was pleased with the students’ performance, especially since this was the first time the school had competed in a sports law competition.

Baylor Law Students Participated in ISUM in Summit in China

Four Baylor Law students participated in the 2012 China America Entrepreneurship & Innovation Summit in Beijing July 31-Aug. 1. Students Robert Green, Scott Frantz, Chris Samaraksis and Amanda Sheerek, under the supervision of Baylor Law’s Adjunct Professor David G. Henry Sr., participated in ISUM and TBI projects. They helped to identify and create recommendations for seeking legal advice for protecting the sponsors’ intellectual property and the potential intellectual property issues that would impact a team’s chosen business strategy, and as team leaders, in which they guided a multidisciplinary international commercialization project partnership with a venture in China. During the summit, the students presented their business plans.
Luke Meier 
Associate Professor of Law 

Elizabeth Miller 
Professor of Law 

CLORENCE E. BENTLEY (JD ’58) passed away on Aug. 30, 2012. He was born Oct. 14, 1928, in Eddy, Bentley received a BBA degree from Baylor University in 1943, a BBA degree from Southern Methodist University and a law degree from Baylor Law School in 1948. He practiced law in Dallas for 64 years, where he served as president of the Dallas Bar Association. On Nov. 10, 1951 he married Mary E. Ellis, his wife of more than 60 years. They were active members of First Baptist Church, Dallas, where he was a deacon for 56 years. He owned several farms and ranches, but his greatest investments were in his family, friends and the Lord he served.

LARRY BRANDON (LLB ’67) of Amarillo passed away Aug. 15, 2012. Brandon was born in Loma Linda, Calif., on March 6, 1939. His family soon moved to Canary, where Brandon attended Canary schools, graduating from Canary High School and West Texas State University. From 1957 to 1963, Brandon served in the Texas National Guard in Canyon. Upon an honorable discharge, Brandon enrolled at Baylor Law School, graduating in 1967, and began his career as an attorney. He was highly respected in his field and served the city of Amarillo as an assistant city attorney and first assistant city attorney. He was admitted to practice law before the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas; U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; and U.S. Supreme Court. Brandon was a founding partner of Fried, Chu, Lin and Mott, LLP, Attorneys at Law.

JOHN VIRGIL COTTEE III (JD ’50) passed away on July 27, 2012 at age 76 at his home in Austin. Cottey was born on March 31, 1936 in Waco to Mary Alice Washington Cottey and John Virgil Cottey Jr. He worked as a general counsel and vice president of refining for Diamond Shamrock and Valero for more than 30 years. He and his wife, Sammy, retired in Austin to be near their children and grandchildren. Cottey was an active member of the First Evangelical Free Church in Austin.

JASPER G. HARRIS JR. (JD ’70) passed away on Aug. 30, 2012. He was 66. He was born in Jackson, Miss., on Sept. 6, 1945. Harris received an honorable discharge from the Army Reserve in August 1971. From 1971 to 1974, Harris practiced law in the Houston metropolitan area for the next 40 years. He worked as a staff attorney in the reimbursement division for the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation from 1979-1982. Harris opened his own general practice law firm specializing in criminal law until his retirement in August 2010.

H. K. STARCEVICH III (JD ’69) passed away Oct. 3, 2012. He was 70 years old and had battled multiple sclerosis for more than 25 years. He was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia on Sept. 20, 1942. Prior to receiving his law degree in 1969, he served as a military attorney for the Hon. K.K. Woodley, presiding judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. He then worked as assistant district attorney for two years at Travis County, and subsequently came to Tyler as assistant U.S. Attorney. In 1975, Ireland joined the distinguished Potter firm in Tyler and became a partner practicing civil defense. In 1984, he became a founding partner in the firm of Ireland, Carroll and Kelley continued his practice as a trial lawyer until 1996. He retired in 2011 after serving in the office of the presiding judge of the Tyler Municipal Court.

LEONARD “TUFFY” McCORMICK (LLB ’53) accomplished attorney, rancher, member of the Baylor Bears Final Four Basketball Team, NFL football player for the Washington Redskins and Baltimore Colts, was born Aug. 12, 2012 in his home at the age of 89. McCormick was born in Eldorado on Oct. 26, 1922. He received his law degree in 1952 and served as a city attorney for Midland. McCormick later set up a private law practice and started his career in the energy business. He became the chairman and president of Santo Oil and Gas, Santealla Petroleum Company and Gold Metal Consolidation Mining Company, which later merged with Tom Brown Oil Company.

JUDGE LARRY WELDON STARK (LLB ’50) of Dallas passed away on June 20, 2012. He was born on June 23, 1930 in Elkhart. He received his law degree in 1960. He spent the first six years of his private law practice at the Houston law firm of Fulbright, Crooker, Freeman, Bates & Jaworski. He moved to Longview in 1967, to practice with Kenneth, Boydell, Hawsman, Starr & Coughlin as a partner. Stark spent the last two years of a 20-year practice as a partner with the firm of Shapy, Ward, Ross, McDaniell and Starr. In 1981, Stark was appointed as the first judge of the County Court at Law of Gregg County, an office in which he served for five years. He was elected as the second judge of the 188th Judicial District Court and presided over that court for nine years. In 1996, then Texas Gov. George W. Bush appointed him as the first Republican to serve as justice of the Texarkana Court of Appeals.

WALKER DON WEATHERS (JD ’83) passed away July 16, 2012. Weathers was born in Columbus, Miss., on Aug. 21, 1957, and attended school in Tyler. In 1983, he completed his formal education at Baylor University and the University of Texas from law school. Weathers went to work for the Saunders Law Firm in Tyler. He was a general practice lawyer and was with the firm for 20 years. In 2002, Walker and his brother, Wade, began their own practice and started the Weathers and Weathers law firm. He was elected as the second judge of the County Court at Law No. 5 in Tyler in June 2007, and served as the vice president and general counsel for The Wikert Group out of Dallas.

WADE TYLER “TY” WILSON (JD ’65) of Dallas passed away Sept. 13, 2012. He attended Southwest University preparation for the LSAT, which would double majored in philosophy and religion and graduated in three years. His practice began in 1996 when there was to obtain a charter with four close friends to start a chapter on that campus of the Christian fraternity, Kappa Upsilon Chi. He was accepted to Baylor Law School and graduated with his Doctor of Jurisprudence in May 2005. He started his practice, W.T. Wilson Law Office, where he practiced in Burleson, near Dallas.
BAYLOR LAW LAWYERS AND FRIENDS TOOK PART IN EVENTS AT THE THIRD ANNUAL BAYLOR LAW ALUMNI WEEKEND.
The Law Annex, located near the Tidwell Bible Building across from Carroll Library, was occupied by Baylor Law School as additional quarters during the Carroll Library years. The Law School occupied this building from 1946 until the opening of Morrison Constitution Hall in 1955, at which time both the Carroll Library and the Law School Annex were vacated. The Annex had classrooms and offices, as well as a courtroom that was built onto the rear of the building in 1953, when the Law School Court Room near Pat Neff was demolished. The “new law school,” The Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center, was dedicated in 2002. Come visit us; our doors are always open to our Baylor Lawyers and friends.
Established in 1857, Baylor Law School is ranked fifth in the nation for advocacy by U.S. News and World Report. Every year, Baylor Law students achieve one of the highest bar passage rates in the country and enjoy an excellent career placement rate.

BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL

Baylor Law is committed to being one of the smallest law schools in the nation. With a total student body of 409 (Fall 2012), we are able to offer more personalized attention to each student.

TOTAL STUDENT BODY
FALL 2012

409 TOTAL STUDENTS

50.3% Men 49.6% Women

PROFILE OF ENTERING CLASS
FALL 2012

64 ENTERING STUDENTS

75th/25th GPA - 3.75/3.31
(Median 3.51)

75th/25th LSAT - 163/161
(Median 162)