Baylor Law.
DOCKETCALL
Summer 2019
Volume 144

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK:
THE Leon Jaworski
LEGACY

2019 BAYLOR LAWYER OF THE YEAR – LEWIS SIFFORD
BAYLOR LAW TAKES TOP SPOT IN MOOT COURT RANKING
Baylor Law dedicated the Charles E. Wallace Family Courtyard at the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center in the memory of distinguished Waco lawyer Charles “Chuck” Wallace. The Wallace Family Courtyard was named in appreciation for a $2 million gift from Sherri W. and Robert “Bobby” L. Patton Jr. of Fort Worth in memory of Sherri’s father and in honor of her mother, Sandra Stoesser Wallace. In addition to enhancements to the courtyard, the gift helps underwrite Baylor Law’s legal writing and pro bono programs through the Charles E. Wallace Endowed Fund for Legal Writing and the Sherri W. and Robert L. Patton Jr. Endowed Fund for Pro Bono Clinics and Programs.

After earning a Bachelor of Business Administration from Baylor in 1955, Charles graduated from Baylor Law in 1960 and went on to a distinguished legal career as a partner in the Waco law firm Wallace and Smith, which later became Wallace, Fisher and Neville. In addition to his law practice, Charles was a businessman and served as an adjunct professor at Baylor Law and in the Hankamer School of Business.

“Baylor has been very important to our entire extended family, and Bobby and I wanted to honor my father and mother, in particular, with this gift. Baylor Law had a tremendous impact on my father and, consequently, on me,” Sherri Patton said. “Having the courtyard named after my father is especially meaningful in that it combines both of my parents’ interests — my mother’s appreciation of nature and my father’s commitment to the law school that provided the foundation for his professional career.”

Sherri Wallace Patton graduated from Baylor University in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science in interior design. She subsequently studied at the Southern Methodist University Deadman School of Law, where she earned a juris doctor in 1988. She retired from a successful career in law that included serving as an assistant district attorney in Dallas.

Robert “Bobby” Louis Patton Jr. earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Texas. In addition, he earned a law degree from St. Mary’s University and a Master of Laws from Southern Methodist University. He operates oil and gas properties and has holdings in insurance, real estate and other sectors. Additionally, the Pattons are involved in many joint business ventures, including co-owning the Los Angeles Dodgers. They have two children, Robert and Rachel Patton.

BEGIN YOUR FAMILY LEGACY.

To establish your own scholarship fund, contact Kristine Bridges, director of development for Baylor Law, at Kristine_Bridges@baylor.edu, call 254.710.8537, or visit baylor.edu/law/give

Baylor Law.
IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK:
The Leon Jaworski Legacy

Baylor Law Hosts Tenth Annual Mock Trial Competition

2019 Baylor Lawyer of the Year: Lewis R. Sifford

Baylor Law Takes Top Spot

Dual Degreed
HEALTHCARE LAW + ADMINISTRATION

@BAYLOR LAW

Back Cover
BAYLOR LAW TAILGATE, NOVEMBER 16

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A Message from
Dean Toben

Baylor Law.
DOCKETCALL

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

Established in 1857, Baylor Law was one of the first law schools in Texas and one of the first west of the Mississippi River. Today, the school has more than 7,500 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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2 D O C K E T C A L L  S u m m e r  2 0 1 9
Baylor Law develops great lawyers.
It’s something that we’ve excelled at for generations.
The great work being done at Baylor Law today is due in no small part to the dedicated faculty, staff, and legal practitioners who have gone before us.

Sir Isaac Newton stated, “If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” Here at Baylor Law, we recognize that we truly stand on the shoulders of giants. Giants like Leon Jaworski, who dedicated his life to furthering the rule of law and defending our nation’s legal system and its core principles. Jaworski, who is best known for his role as Special Prosecutor during the Nixon administration’s involvement in the break-in at the Watergate Hotel, was one of the youngest graduates of Baylor Law ever. Just 19 when he received his law degree in 1925, Jaworski spent the next six decades advancing and promoting our country’s legal system, striving to guarantee that every individual receives due process under a fair and equitable system.

The Jaworski name is inextricably linked to Baylor Law. The Jaworski Memorial Office is a prominent feature of the Sheridan & John Eddie Williams Legal Research and Technology Center — our law library; the Jaworski Fellows Program taps some of our most accomplished, seasoned trial lawyers and judges to return to Baylor Law to critique Practice Court advocacy exercises in the second quarter of the Practice Court Program; and the Leon Jaworski Scholarship Program is one of Baylor Law’s most prestigious — offering tuition grants to incoming students who have outstanding records in undergraduate advocacy programs such as debate or mock trial.

In this issue of the Docket Call, we’re reintroducing some of our giants — like Leon Jaworski — through a series of articles: “If These Walls Could Talk,” an introduction to the artwork, people, and history that adorn the walls of Baylor Law. In future issues of Docket Call, we’ll highlight a different named area of the Law Center, a portrait, or piece of art to learn about its relationship with Baylor Law, and to give a new voice to the giants who have marched through these hallowed halls before us.

We won’t only be looking to the past and resting on our laurels. We’ll also share with you information about the current events and exciting, innovative programming underway here at Baylor Law. I am truly blessed to ‘stand on the shoulders of giants’ and be in the company of so many wonderful educators and staff colleagues, who every day strive to make Baylor Law the best it can be.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Docket Call and it brings you fond memories of the giants on whose shoulders you too stand.

Brad Toben, JD ’77
DEAN OF BAYLOR LAW
The halls of Baylor Law are filled with the stories, portraits, and celebrated histories of some of the most prolific alumni that have passed through the rigorous academic gauntlet. Most every student in the Baylor Law program will spend significant time in the stacks of the Sheridan & John Eddie Williams Legal Research and Technology Center — our law library, with many probably noticing a second-floor office in between several rows of the extensive bookcases.
At first glance, the glassed-in and locked room could easily be written off as an oddly placed faculty office or perhaps a library administrator’s workspace, though admittedly more ornate than one might expect.

A closer examination of the museum-like space, however, points to something much deeper.

A framed issue of TIME magazine from March 11, 1974 displays the headline “Charging Nixon’s Men” and pictures along the desk include a snapshot of a pair of suited men kneeling on the side of a swimming pool, with one extending a handshake to a lounging swimmer.

A double-take reveals the waterside host to be President Lyndon Baines Johnson, taking a dip in the pool.

The long and winding road for Leonidas Jaworski, known to his friends as Leon, from studying by oil lamp as a child at his home in Waco to maintaining friendships with some of the most powerful men and women in the world, is a remarkable look into a lifelong commitment to service and justice.

A Waco native born in 1905 to Polish and Austrian immigrant parents, Jaworski finished high school at the age of 15, earning early recognition as a champion debater at Waco High School.

An early enrollee at Baylor University, Jaworski would go on to receive his law degree from Baylor Law in 1925, becoming the youngest person ever to be admitted to the State Bar of Texas.

After a short stint in Waco defending local bootleggers during the Prohibition era, Jaworski would move on to join a high-profile Houston law firm, eventually becoming a managing partner in what would become Fulbright & Jaworski, one of the largest firms in the nation.

Jaworski served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1945, becoming a member of the Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG).
He served as chief of the War Crime Trials Section of Europe, prosecuting the first Nazi war crimes in Germany.

With stints as President of the State Bar of Texas and American Bar Associations, Jaworski quickly rose through the ranks of the American legal system to become one of the most well-respected lawyers in the country.

His first brush with political headlines came in 1960, when Jaworski successfully represented a fellow Texan, Lyndon B. Johnson, in a lawsuit that allowed the then-Senator to run both for reelection to his Senate seat and on the federal ticket as John F. Kennedy’s vice president.

Jaworski’s name again hit the national spotlight in 1962, when Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy asked him to serve as Special Assistant Attorney General in a contempt case against Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett, who blocked the enrollment of an African-American student in the University of Mississippi.

After the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, Jaworski worked as a Special Counsel to the Texas Court of Inquiry and the Warren Commission.

Despite having served on the forefront of history-making proceedings several times over and serving in higher-profile legal roles than the vast majority of the nation’s lawyers would ever reach, Jaworski’s most prominent title was still to come.

On October 20, 1973, the infamously titled “Saturday Night Massacre” marked the firing of then-Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox and a number of other high-ranking officials by Federal Judge Byron Skelton administers the oath of office for Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski on Capitol Hill, Washington D.C., November 5, 1973. Jaworski was acting U.S. Attorney General Robert Bork’s selection to replace Archibald Cox. During what became known as the Saturday Night Massacre, Bork had fired Cox at the behest of President Richard Nixon during fallout from the Watergate scandal.

### Jaworski Scholar Spotlight

**Kip Brar**

Kip Brar represents clients in the energy, petro-chemical, healthcare, and manufacturing industries in all aspects of their legal needs. While primarily a trial attorney, Kip is often called by his clients as a legal first-responder at the time of an incident, routinely assists clients with corporate and regulatory matters, and serves as a trusted advisor, counseling clients through their legal issues. Kip has served as a Board of Director for the Federal Bar Association’s Southern District of Texas Chapter since 2015. He has been recognized as a Rising Star in Texas by Thompson Reuters Super Lawyers since 2016.

Prior to attending Baylor Law, Kip was a debater at the University of Texas. In fact, he and his brother Jas debated together while they were at the University of Texas. He is currently a partner in the Houston, Texas law firm of Seyfarth Shaw, LLP. He was awarded the Jaworski Scholarship in 2005.
President Richard Nixon. The tumultuous clearing of investigators related to the rapidly unfolding Watergate scandal cleared the way for the appointment of a new Special Prosecutor — Leon Jaworski.

A crucial piece of the investigation — the “Smoking Gun Tape” — was one of sixty-four taped conversations that Jaworski subpoenaed from Nixon, with the President resisting on a number of grounds, including presidential privilege.

Jaworski, unwilling to allow any delay in a quickly developing constitutional crisis, took his appeal directly to the Supreme Court. He successfully argued his standing, collecting the unedited recordings that led directly to the first and only resignation of a sitting president in American history.

Backing away from the national spotlight after resigning as Special Prosecutor in 1974, Jaworski would be called back to the national political stage one final time.

Paula Denney

After 29 years in private practice, Paula now works for the non-profit Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation (PCCI), where she enjoys being the “least degreed” person at the company, advising her data scientist, physician, statistician, and inventor clients. While no longer working in an adversarial context, the advocacy skills she learned at Baylor remain invaluable when she negotiates agreements with third parties regarding intellectual property and data use; presents corporate governance recommendations to PCCI’s Board of Directors; and works across substantive areas within PCCI and its parent and sister companies to create consensus to plan for, fund, and implement new initiatives that blend clinical and data science insights to improve patient outcomes. Prior to joining PCCI, Paula was a partner at Jackson Walker in Dallas, Texas.

Prior to attending Baylor Law, Paula competed nationally as a member of the Glenn R. Capp Debate Forum at Baylor University. Paula was awarded the Jaworski Scholarship in 1984 and graduated from Baylor Law in 1987.
Jenifer Pfanzelt

Jenifer (Jen) Pfanzelt’s civil litigation practice is focused primarily on complex commercial and coverage litigation. She represents clients involved in high-stakes cases in state and federal courts throughout the U.S. Jen’s broad practice has included representing corporate entities and individuals in cases involving coverage, commercial litigation, fiduciary liability, construction, catastrophic injury, complex tort litigation, products liability, premises liability, and transportation litigation.

Prior to attending Baylor Law, Jen competed nationally for the undergraduate mock trial team at the University of Texas at Dallas. She is currently an attorney at the Atlanta, Georgia, law firm of Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP. She was awarded the Jaworski Scholarship in 2011 and graduated from Baylor Law in 2014.

In 1977, the House Ethics Committee selected Jaworski to serve as Special Counsel in an investigation of the Tongsun Park Scandal, also known as “Koreagate,” involving the bribing of members of Congress in exchange for leniency in policy dealings with the government of the Republic of Korea.

Jaworski’s life of service was not limited to the practice of law. He served with distinction in a large number of organizations and charities, including the Board of Southwest Bancshares, Inc., as President of the American Bar Association, President of the State Bar of Texas, President and Director of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the Board of M.D. Anderson Hospital, Trustee of the Baylor College of Medicine, U.S. Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, and Member of the Board of Elders for the First Presbyterian Church. His list of memberships, affiliations, and charitable service extends on even further.

Any of his significant career accomplishments certainly read like its own political-legal thriller work of fiction. But Jaworski recorded the stranger than fiction life experiences in four books over the course of his career. *After Fifteen Years*, recounts his experiences in the Nazi War Crime Trials, *The Right and The Power*, retells his service in the prosecution of the Watergate scandal, *Confession and Avoidance*, a personal memoir, and *Crossroads*, which discusses the role of faith in his prolific life and career.

Late in his life, Jaworski carried the weight of his storied and remarkable life, enjoying a working escape on his ranch, reading the newspaper, and an eager retelling of a good Aggie joke. He would pass on December 9, 1982, suffering a heart attack while chopping wood at his ranch near Wimberley, Texas.
The Leon Jaworski Memorial Office on the second floor of Baylor Law’s Library offers a near replica of his original law office in the Bank of the Southwest Building in Houston, Texas. The furnishings and decorations of the office were lovingly donated and curated by his late wife, Jeanette; their children, Joseph Jaworski, Claire Draper, and Joanie Moncrief; and the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski.

National and international recognition led Jaworski to the pinnacle of the legal community, but his journey began much the same way as today’s Baylor Law students. Appropriately, thanks to the dedication of the Career Development Office, many of these students will sit for interviews with potential hiring law firms in Jaworski’s recreated office, often unknowingly sitting in the same chair or next to the same desk that one of Baylor Law’s most distinguished alumni used while participating in some of the greatest legal battles of the 20th century.

Jaworski Fellows

Students that enter the competitive academic arena of the nation’s premier Practice Court Program at Baylor Law receive a priceless benefit — studying and learning under some of the top trial lawyers in the country. The full-time advocacy faculty at Baylor Law provide world-class instruction and leadership, but supplemental development under the tutelage of some of the school’s most distinguished alumni is an educational experience second to none.

The Baylor Law Jaworski Fellows Program sets up advocacy students to continue to build a legacy that traces back from Jaworski’s international attention as the Watergate prosecutor (and Baylor Law alum) through to the current Jaworski Fellows and the students they mentor today.

During the second quarter of the Practice Court Program, distinguished and preeminent trial lawyers and judges make the return trip to the halls of Baylor Law to offer guidance and critiques of the advocacy exercises.

Despite the extreme demand for the time, expertise, and talents of the Jaworski Fellows, candidates commit to returning to campus to spend five afternoons evaluating Practice Court exercises.

Working alongside full-time Practice Court faculty to maintain elite teaching standards and procedures, the candidates observe the full-time faculty leading the advocacy exercises.

After earning the title of a Jaworski Fellow, the men and women in this exclusive group join the rotation of instructors to offer real-world insights, perspectives, and suggestions based on their vast experience and successes in trial advocacy.

The legacy of Jaworski led to the program’s formation, and now Jaworski Fellows are preparing and equipping the top trial advocacy practitioners in the country.

Jaworski Scholar Spotlight

Joshua C. Zive

Josh Zive is an advocate and counselor for clients confronting complex legislative, regulatory and legal compliance issues. He has worked with clients in a wide range of industry sectors to develop and implement advocacy strategies and arguments that can succeed in front of legal, political, and public audiences. Josh works with clients on all stages of legislative and regulatory advocacy and helps clients design and implement strategies to have an impact on public policy. This includes crafting formal rulemaking comments, designing effective lobbying strategies, and the development and implementation of public messaging campaigns.

Josh was on several moot court and mock trial teams while he was at Baylor Law. Prior to coming to Baylor, he was a debater for Kansas University, where he reached the semifinals of the National Debate Tournament in 1994.

He was awarded the Jaworski scholarship in 1999 and graduated from Baylor Law in 2002. He is now a Senior Principal at Bracewell, LLP in Washington, D.C. In addition, Josh is one of the hosts of ‘The Lobby Shop’ podcast that dives into current political and policy issues with input from the nation’s foremost experts and insiders.
1. A signed black & white photograph of Leon Jaworski and President Lyndon B. Johnson in the Oval Office. The writing on the front of the photograph reads: “To Leon Jaworski my friend – Lyndon B. Johnson.”


3. A handmade ornate wooden box given to Leon Jaworski by his daughter Joanie. Included in the box is a small envelope labeled “Colonel Leon Jaworski” and a card from Joanie dated December 20, 1977. The front of the card says “Midnight ’77” on it. The inside of the card reads: “Dad – This box is difficult to open until you know the secret. It struck me as a lot like you and your life has: purposeful, beautiful, unyielding to assault, fully of quiet (and not so quiet) strength, and precious. I am so grateful to you for letting me love you. Joanie.”

4. A black & white photograph
of Leon Jaworski as a child with his brothers, Hannibal and Joe Jr., and his sister, Mary.  
5. The second annual Harry S. Truman Public Service Award presented by the Harry 
S. Truman Award Commission and the Citizens of Independence to Leon Jaworski on 
May 8, 1975. Jaworski received the award for his integrity in handling the Watergate 
case.  
6. The Military Jacket issued to Leon Jaworski during his service in the U.S. 
Army Judge Advocate General’s Department from 1942-45. In the later stages of 
World War II, Jaworski served as Chief of the Trial Section of the war crimes branch 
where he was one of the first to prosecute Nazi war criminals. 7. Key to the City of 
8. Great Leaders Award given to Leon Jaworski. The engraving reads “For inspiring 
leadership contributing to the welfare of the world, our nation, and community and 
to the happiness and dignity of the individual.” 9. A signed color photograph of Leon 
Jaworski shaking hands with President Ronald Reagan. The writing on the front of the 
photograph reads: “To Leon – With Every Good Wish & Best Regards, Ronald Reagan.”
Out&Abouts

April 23
AUSTIN NETWORK RECEPTION
PHOTOS BY KATIE CASPER

Thanks to all who attended the Baylor Law Alumni Reception held in conjunction with the 2019 State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas.

PHOTOS BY TAYLOR NICOLE PHOTOGRAPHY

April 4
DALLAS NETWORK RECEPTION
PHOTOS BY KATIE CASPER

June 13
SBOT ANNUAL MEETING
Thanks to all who attended the Baylor Law Alumni Reception held in conjunction with the 2019 State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas.

PHOTOS BY TAYLOR NICOLE PHOTOGRAPHY

June 18
SAN ANTONIO HAPPY HOUR AND SOCIAL
PHOTOS BY KATIE CASPER
Thank you to the Baylor Lawyers who underwrote the April through June Baylor Lawyer Network Receptions.

Dallas Baylor Lawyer Network Reception
APRIL 4, 2019
Underwritten by the Baylor Lawyers of Bell Nunnally:
Katie R. Beaird, JD ’14
R. Heath Cheek, JD ’06
Kristopher D. Hill, JD ’08
James A. Muela, JD ’17
Saba F. Syed, JD ’13
Christopher B. Trowbridge, JD ’98
Gwen I. Walraven, JD ’04

Austin Baylor Lawyer Network Reception
APRIL 23, 2019
Underwritten by the Baylor Lawyers of Scott Douglass & McConnico:
Doug Dashiell, JD ’84
Sameer Hashmi, JD ’16
Stephen McConnico, JD ’76
Ryan Squires, JD ’04

Houston Baylor Lawyer Network Reception
MAY 23, 2019
Underwritten by the Baylor Lawyers of Andrews Myers, P.C.:
Claire Dykeman, JD ’18
Brittany Craven Cooperrider, JD ’13
Katie Gourley, JD ’17
Patrick Kelly, JD ’19
Jason Walker, JD ’97

If you are interested in hosting a Baylor Lawyer Network reception, please contact law_alumni@baylor.edu.
Alumni NOTES

1970’s

Ike Vanden Eykel, JD ’73, was named by Texas Super Lawyers as one of the Top Ten Attorneys in Texas for the fifth consecutive year. He is CEO of Koons Fuller, the largest Family Law firm in Texas.

Thomas A. Forbes, JD ’75, has joined the regulatory and government group of the Butler Snow office in Austin. He has been recognized by Best Lawyers® for administrative/regulatory law and government relations practice since 2007 and as Austin’s government relations practice “Lawyer of the Year” in 2017.

Steve McConnico, JD ’76, was named 2019 Trial Lawyer of the Year by TEX-ABOTA. Steve has been an active and ardent supporter of ABOTA and TEX-ABOTA for more than 30 years. He served as the president of TEX-ABOTA in 1997, and president of the Austin chapter from 1993-95.

Marilee Lewis, JD ’78, has joined Duffee + Etten, LLP as partner. She has been selected for the seventh year among the Top 100 attorneys in Texas by Texas Super Lawyers and named to D Magazine’s Best Lawyers list.

Katie P. Klein, JD ’78, with Dale & Klein in McAllen, Texas, has been honored as a Texas Super Lawyer for the past nine years. She has also been named as a “10 Best in Texas” in the area of Client Satisfaction by the American Institute of Family Law Attorneys for four consecutive years.

Roland K. Johnson, JD ’79, is the recipient of the 2019 Lola Wright Foundation Award from the Texas Bar Foundation. The Lola Wright Foundation Award, established in 1985, is presented in memory of Coleman Goy, who was a distinguished Texas lawyer who exemplified the highest standards of professional ethics. The award is presented in recognition of outstanding public service in advancing and enhancing legal ethics in Texas. Roland is a proven leader in the Texas legal community. A former president of the State Bar of Texas, he has been honored for his professionalism and legal knowledge, and is often asked to speak on ethics, professionalism, arbitration, and leadership issues. Roland’s experience benefits his clients and the community in their quest for justice in commercial litigation, arbitrations, and legal malpractice arenas. Roland is a Fellow of the College of Commercial Arbitrators, a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, a member of the American Bar Foundation, and commissioner to Texas Access to Justice Commission. He is a shareholder in Finley & Bogle, P.C. in Fort Worth. Roland was publicly recognized at the Texas Bar Foundation Annual Dinner held on June 14, 2019 at the JW Marriott in Austin.

He selected Baylor Law and the Texas A&M Foundation to receive donations in honor of his acceptance of the Lola Wright Foundation Award.

Charles Olson, JD ’79, was named to the Board of Trustees of Southwestern University. He also serves as the president of the Southwestern Alumni Association.

1980’s

Herb Bristow, JD ’81 and Craig Cherry, JD ’99, shareholders with the Haley & Olson firm in Waco, are joining forces with Andy Tindel, JD ’82, and Mark Mann, JD ’81, partners in the Mann, Tindel & Thompson Law Group in Tyler & Henderson, for an IP practice with a downtown Waco office. The joint venture will focus on patent infringement disputes.

Jerry Clements, JD ’81, has been selected to serve as chair of the Baylor University Board of Regents. Clements is a partner in the international Dallas-based law firm Locke Lord LLP. He served as chair of the firm from 2006 to 2017, overseeing two mergers and an increase in annual revenue from $222 million to $449 million.

Andy Messer, JD ’85, announced that north Texas-based Messer, Fort & McDonald has merged with Austin-based Aker & Aker. Andy has more than 28 years of municipal legal experience.

J. Jeffrey Springer, JD ’85, with Springerdyt in Denton, has been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation. He has practiced law in Denton for more than thirty years.

Janice Davis, JD ’86, a corporate attorney who focuses on mergers and acquisitions primarily in the health care and technology spaces, has joined Morgan Lewis after almost 20 years with Bracewell.

Jeffery T. Nobles, JD ’86, recently joined Husch Blackwell as a partner in the Houston office. A well-known and respected member of the appellate bar, Nobles joins the firm’s Technology, Manufacturing & Transportation industry group and its Commercial Litigation practice group. He is board certified as a Civil Appellate Specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. His practice includes ten years as Chief Judge.

1990’s

David Schulze, JD ’90, was recently appointed as the first executive level Chief of Staff for Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART).

Cristopher Farrar, JD ’93, has joined Bridle Arant Boult Cummings’ Houston office as a partner in the Construction Practice Group. Cristopher focuses his practice on draftng construction, engineering, and architectural agreements, as well as service and operation-related contracts and oilfield transactions. He represents clients in a wide range of sophisticated and complex project development matters related to commercial, energy, oil and gas, power, renewable, manufacturing, chemical, pipeline, offshore, and infrastructure. He has extensive experience managing major matters involving capital improvements and large asset-based transactions ranging from $25 million to more than $8 billion. Cristopher also frequently presents at conferences and seminars on topics related to risk allocation in construction contracts. Prior to joining Bradley, Mr. Farrar was a principal at Cokinos Young.

Hon. Jeane Parker, JD ’93, was re-elected to County Court at Law No. 1 in Bell County. She has presided over this court since 2015 and is one of only four women to have served on the bench in Bell County since its founding in 1850.

Eric Hill, JD ’96, was appointed to the Board of Directors for Light Engine Design Corporation and will serve as Chief Executive Officer for the company.

Melanie Okon, JD ’99, has joined the complex litigation and employment law teams of Munck Wilson Mandala in Dallas.

2000’s

Artie Renee Pobjecky, JD ‘01, was honored with the Julie Pope Award by Girls, Inc. of Winter Haven, FL, at their 28th Annual “She Knows Where She’s Going” luncheon. Girls, Inc. honored Artie for embodying their program’s core values, serving as a viable female role model,
Catherine (Cassie) Hoyer Bird, JD ‘10, has been nominated by President Donald J. Trump to serve as General Counsel at the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years. She currently serves as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration (ASA) at the Department of Health and Human Services overseeing divisions such as human resources, IT, real estate and logistics, acquisitions, and grants management.

Jessica Kirker, JD ‘10, is the Employment Relations Counsel for Torchy’s Tacos in Austin.

Hunter Lewis, JD ‘10, has joined Duffee + Eitzen, LLP as partner. He has been selected for six years as one of the youngest Texas Super Lawyers.

Ronnie Turner Jr., JD ‘10, of Texas-based Provost Umphrey Law Firm, has been named to the 2019 Texas Rising Stars list of top young attorneys, marking the fifth year he has earned this honor. He has also earned recognition in The Best Lawyers in America. Ronnie is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Jeanie Novosad Rispoli, JD ‘11, has been elected to serve as District 9 Director for the Texas Young Lawyers Association’s Board of Directors.

Lauren Renee Sepulveda, JD ‘11, has been sworn in as the President of the Hidalgo County Young Lawyers Association and has been re-elected to serve as District 13 Director for the Texas Young Lawyers Association’s Board of Directors.

Veronica Lynn Sepulveda, JD ‘11, has rejoined the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney’s Office Felony Division.

Stephen Rispoli, JD ‘12, Baylor Law’s Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Pro Bono Programs, has been honored by the State Bar of Texas with the 2019 Pro Bono Coordinator Award.

Leah Maxwell Graham, JD ‘13, was named to the Top 40 under 40 roster of Texas civil plaintiff trial lawyers by The National Trial Lawyers. She was also recognized as a 2019 Texas Rising Star. Leah is with Hicks Thomas LLP in Houston.

Jennifer Fallon Pfanzelt, JD ‘14, has joined the law firm of Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP in Atlanta, Georgia. She handles matters related to insurance coverage, commercial litigation, and construction litigation. Her experience includes representing carriers in coverage arbitration and litigation, providing claims advice, and defending against bad faith claims. She also serves in pro bono activity with the Truancy Intervention Project and the Georgia Bar High School Mock Trial programs.

Jessie Freud, JD ‘15 and Walter “Skip” Reaves of Waco were honored by the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association with the Charlie Butts Pro Bono Award on Thursday, June 13 in San Antonio.

Chase Lalouette Taskred, JD ‘19, recently served as a judge for the Harker Heights Teen Court Competition, a program in which she had participated as a teen defender/prosecutor. She will begin service as a JAG attorney in the U.S. Air Force.

2010’s

Amanda G. Taylor, JD ‘04, received the 2019 Litigation/Appellate Attorney Award from the Travis County Women Lawyers’ Association (TCWLA). Award recipients are nominated by their peers for their work merit, volunteer activities, and the atmosphere they create in the workplace. Amanda is a board-certified civil appellate specialist who routinely represents clients in both district and appellate courts across Texas. She has been recognized by Super Lawyers® as a Texas Super Lawyer for civil appellate practice every year since 2014 and was named as a Top 50 Central/West Texas Lawyer in 2018. Amanda is the current Chair of the Civil Appellate Section of the Austin Bar Association and has served on the ABA Board of Directors for the last four years.

Heath Cheek, JD ‘06, with Bell Nunnally & Martin, was recognized as one of D Magazine’s “Best Lawyers Under 40 in Dallas.”

Bruce Wilkin, JD ‘06, joined Shackelford Bowen McKinley & Norton LLP to open their new Houston office. Wilkin handles trials and appellate cases in the practice areas of energy, environmental, and insurance disputes.

Allison Dickson, JD ‘07, has been selected as a “Rising Star” by the Central Texas Girl Scouts (Women of Distinction).

Steven Einhorn, JD ‘07, has joined Brown Rudnick LLP’s New York office as a partner in its Tax Practice Group.

Jorge Gutierrez, JD ‘07, was promoted to Partner at Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP. Jorge is board certified in Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law and works in the firm’s Energy Transactions practice group in the Dallas office. His practice focuses on representing oil and gas companies in the upstream and midstream sectors.

George Gutierrez, JD ‘07, joined Reed Smith LLP as a partner in its recently opened Dallas office. He handles transactions in the oil and gas space, with a focus on exploration and production, and midstream companies. He helps companies with acquisitions and divestitures and assists banks in their deals with E&P entities.

Tad Allen, JD ‘08, is a shareholder in Harrell, Stoebner & Russell PC, a law firm with offices in Temple and Killeen. He focuses his practice on civil litigation, including personal injury.

Cassie Rivas, JD ‘08, founded the firm Rivas Law, PLLC in Sherman, Texas. Rivas Law specializes in business, transactional, corporate, and health law.
Lewis R. Sifford, accomplished trial lawyer and founding officer of Sifford, Anderson & Company, P.C. in Dallas, has been honored by Baylor Law as its 2019 Baylor Lawyer of the Year.

To honor Sifford, Baylor Law hosted a luncheon at the Belo Mansion on May 1, 2019. Sifford, a 1972 Baylor law graduate, received the recognition from Dean Brad Toben and Ike Vanden Eykel, president of the Baylor Law Alumni Association.

"Lewis speaks compellingly to the truth that as lawyers and as citizens we must pay heed to the need to preserve our sacred Seventh Amendment right to trial by jury."

– Dean Brad Toben
Sifford’s professional accomplishments and service to both the legal profession and Baylor Law are extensive. He has conducted more than 300 continuing legal education presentations, trial demonstrations, and ethics seminars in 26 states and overseas. He has been a Leon Jaworski Fellow at Baylor Law since 2012, volunteering his time and expertise to help train the next generation of Baylor Law students in its award-winning Practice Court Program. He has also served as an adjunct faculty member at the Academy of the Advocate, Baylor Law’s study abroad program at the University of St Andrews, Scotland.

“Lewis speaks compellingly to the truth that as lawyers and as citizens we must pay heed to the need to preserve our sacred Seventh Amendment right to trial by jury,” said Dean Toben. “As a genuine quality person and as a Baylor Lawyer, his reach into the profession and his deep understanding of human relations gives Lewis a distinctive role as a commentator on the needed directions of our profession.”

“I am deeply honored and humbled to be named the 2019 Baylor Lawyer of the Year,” Sifford said. “When I read the names of those who have previously received this recognition, it is with great admiration for all of their wonderful professional and personal achievements in life,” he added. “The great commitment Baylor Law has always offered its students and alumni is the continuous quest for professional excellence. I am most thankful for that commitment. I will be forever grateful for this incredible recognition and I will endeavor to live my life in honor of it.”

Sifford’s practice includes complex commercial litigation and catastrophic personal injury and death cases, where he has represented both plaintiffs and defendants. He has tried more than 150 civil jury trials to verdict. He is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and Board Certified as a Civil Trial Advocate and as a Civil Pretrial Practice Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He has also served as an arbitration judge in complex securities cases and disputes involving pharmaceuticals and medical devices and is an experienced mediator.

Sifford is a Diplomate of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), one of the most prestigious legal associations in the country. In 1997, he was the national winner of the Masters in Trial Award presented by ABOTA. He was also named as the Texas Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2000 by the Texas Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

In 2007, he was elected to serve as the National President of ABOTA. On January 14, 2012, Sifford was awarded the highest honor that the ABOTA Foundation gives: The Mark P. Robinson Lifetime Achievement Award. On January 20, 2018, he received the highest honor that the National ABOTA gives: The National ABOTA Lifetime Achievement Award. He is only the second recipient of both awards in the more than 60-year history of the organizations.

Sifford is a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, the American College of Trial Lawyers, and Litigation Counsel of America. He has been repeatedly named by D Magazine as one of the “Best Lawyers in Dallas” and by Texas Monthly as one of the state’s “Super Lawyers”. In April of 2018, Sifford received the Texas Trial Legend Award from the Dallas Bar Association.
Ron Beal  
Professor of Law

**PUBLICATIONS**
- “Holdover Officers,” *San Antonio Express* (April 29, 2019)
- “Holdover Officers,” *Fort Worth Star Telegram* (April 26, 2019)
- “Holdover Officers,” *Austin American Statesman* (May 2, 2019)

**PRESENTATIONS**
- “Adopting a Rule? Do You Need to Repeal a Rule?” 31st Annual Texas Administrative Law Course sponsored by the State Bar of Texas, Austin, TX (June 6-7, 2019)

Elizabeth M. Fraley  
Associate Professor of Law

**PUBLICATIONS**

Bridget Fuselier  
Professor of Law and Executive Director of the Baylor Law Veterans Clinic

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**
- Baylor Teaching Fellow
- Editor, *Easements & Covenants, REPTL Reporter*
- Contributing Editor, *Real Estate, General Practice Digest*

Laura A. Hernández  
Professor of Law

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**
- Latina Commissioner, Hispanic National Bar Association

Hon. Ed Kinkeade  
Jurist in Residence

**PUBLICATIONS**
- *Texas Rules of Evidence with Objections*, 5th Edition (Co-Author with Professor Elizabeth M. Fraley and Judge Ed Kinkeade)

Elizabeth Miller  
M. Stephen and Alyce A. Beard Professor of Business and Transactional Law

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

Michael Morrison  
Professor of Law

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**
- Trustee, The Madison Cooper and Martha Roane Cooper Foundation
- Member, Board of Directors, Texas Association of Defense Counsel
- Vice President of Programs, Texas Association of Defense Counsel
- Member, Board of Directors, Association for Good Government
- Public Policy Fellow, University of Texas Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation

Gerald Powell  
Abner V. McCall Professor of Evidence

**PUBLICATIONS**
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Michael Rogers  
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- Director, McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center
- Board Member, McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center
- Chair, Baylor’s NCAA Pro Sports Counseling Panel

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Michael Rogers  
Professor of Law

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**
- Director, McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center
- Board Member, McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center
- Chair, Baylor’s NCAA Pro Sports Counseling Panel
Baylor Law’s Matt Cordon, Director of the Legal Writing Center and Professor of Law, has been selected as one of only twelve Baylor University professors to be honored with Outstanding Faculty Awards for teaching, scholarship, and contributions to the academic community for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Matt Cordon Honored as Outstanding Professor

Walt Shelton
Adjunct Professor of Law

- “Handle with Care the Words We Use,” Austin American Statesman (May 26, 2019)
- “Finding the Universal Truth of that First Easter,” Austin American Statesman (April 13, 2019)

Professional Activities
- Liaison, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas with the Section of the Environment, Energy and Resources of the American Bar Association
- Contributing Editor, General Practice Digest, State Bar of Texas, Environmental Law
- Chair, Law School Committee of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas

Leah Jackson Teague
Associate Dean and Professor of Law


Professional Activities
- Chair, AALS Section on Leadership
- Chair, Strategic Initiative Committee, American Council on Education’s Women’s Network Executive Council
- Secretary and Treasurer, Baylor Law Alumni Association
- Member, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Texas Federal Tax Institution

Bradley J.B. Toben
Dean and M.C. & Mattie Caston Chair of Law

- Elected Member, American Law Institute
- Board Member, Juliette Fowler Homes, Inc.
- Chair and Accreditation Inspector, American Bar Association (ABA)
- Master of the Bench, Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court
- Member, Board of Directors of the Waco Chamber of Commerce

James Underwood
Professor of Law

- Contributor, General Practice Digest (Torts)

Patricia Wilson
Professor of Law

- Governing Board Member, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Chair of Legal Committee
- Board Member, McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center
- Chair, ABA Law Student Division, Client Counseling Subcommittee
- Contributor, General Practice Digest (Family Law)
The Defamation Experience

Members of the Waco community, Baylor students, faculty, and staff gathered at Baylor Law to serve as the jury for the nationally acclaimed “The Defamation Experience,” a riveting courtroom drama and discussion that explores the highly charged issues of race, class, religion, gender, and the law. Photos courtesy of Ed Nelson

First: Sandra Day O’Connor

Baylor Law welcomed historian, journalist, and New York Times best-selling author, Evan Thomas with special guest Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, as they discussed his book First: Sandra Day O’Connor. Drawing on exclusive interviews and first-time access to Justice O’Connor’s personal archives, Thomas shared an intimate and captivating biography of the first female justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

@Baylor Law
BUSINESS LAW BOOTCAMP

Now in its fourth year, the Business Law Boot Camp is an intensive, week-long course held between the spring and summer quarters directed by Professor Elizabeth Miller, JD ’85. The course — underwritten by Kim and Bill Shaddock, JD ’77, and sponsored by Beard Kultgen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson, Haynes and Boone, and Greg Looser, JD ’94 — is taught by experienced practicing transactional attorneys.

CRIMINAL LAW BOOTCAMP

Part of Baylor Law’s Criminal Law Special Distinction degree program, the Criminal Law Boot Camp is a three-day course taught by highly-experienced and distinguished prosecutors, defense lawyers, and judges.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RYAN CALVERT
EASTERFEST
Organized and hosted by the Baylor Law Alumni Association and student organization the Baylor Public Interest Legal Society, Baylor Law’s Easterfest brought together Baylor Law alumni, friends, faculty, staff, students, and their families for an Easter egg hunt, bounce house, photos with the Easter Bunny, face painting, and many other family-fun activities.
SEVENTH COURT OF APPEALS

Chief Justice Brian Quinn, Justice James Campbell, and Justice Judy Parker of the Seventh Court of Appeals, Amarillo, visited Baylor Law to hear the oral arguments of three cases. In a compelling twist, the second case featured Professor Greg White, JD ’82, squaring off against Baylor Lawyer Jim Dunnam, JD ’87. Recent Baylor Law graduates Kyle Gardner and Mason Dunnam, awaiting the Bar Exam at the time, assisted Dunnam with the case.

ABA NATIONAL CLIENT COUNSELING COMPETITION

The regional champions of the ABA Client Counseling Competition gathered at the Sheila & Walter Umphrey Law Center to participate in the national competition hosted by Baylor Law.
Now in its tenth year, Baylor Law’s Top Gun National Mock Trial Competition is the most challenging invitation-only mock trial tournament in the country.

“This competition is tremendous… there’s a lot of sacrifice that goes into this moment. I’ve been wishing it, hoping it, praying about it for two years,” stated the 2019 Top Gun X Champion Tatiana Terry. “I’ve always envisioned myself as a trial lawyer and this competition is made for people like me.”

Tatiana Terry of Campbell University’s Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law was declared the winner of “Top Gun X,” Baylor Law’s special tenth anniversary edition of the Top Gun National Mock Trial Competition. In front of presiding judge, the Honorable Barbara M.G. Lynn, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Terry persuaded an all-star jury of experienced trial attorneys and former Top Gun champions to return a verdict in her favor in the intense final round. Terry narrowly beat out runner-up Craig Shirley of Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law.

Created in 2010, Baylor Law’s Top Gun National Mock Trial Competition is the most challenging invitation-only mock trial tournament in the country. The best advocates from the nation’s top sixteen trial advocacy schools compete head-to-head in the winner-take-all tournament. As the host, Baylor Law does not compete.

“We started Top Gun to be an exceptional competition that uniquely challenges the most successful mock trial competitors in the country,” said Gerald Powell, Master Teacher and The Abner V. McCall Professor of Evidence at Baylor Law. “Top Gun gives law student advocates a chance to not only compete against the very best and most talented of their peers,” continued Powell, “but thanks to our great friends at Naman, Howell Smith & Lee, the Top Gun, the best advocate at the competition, also leaves with a $10,000 prize.”

Top Gun distinguishes itself from other mock trial competitions with its innovative rules and challenging surprise changes and additions over the course of the competition. Unlike most mock trial competitions, participants cannot prepare for the case prior to the start of the competition. Upon arriving at Baylor Law, the advocates are given a brief video introduction, a case file, and only 24 hours to prepare both sides of the case before the first rounds begin. Case packets contain carefully prepared depositions, records, photographs, and videos. Witnesses are played by Baylor Law students, faculty, and friends, and the competitors have only a short period of time to prepare them for each round.

“I’ve always envisioned myself as a trial lawyer... this competition is made for people like me.”
PRODUCT LIABILITY - A REAL WORLD SITUATION

This year’s fictitious case was titled SARAH GWYNETH DAY, Plaintiff v. AMERICAN TRIATHLON ASSOCIATION, INC. AND TEIXEIRA CYCLING CORPORATION, Defendants.

Sarah Day, expertly played by Baylor Law’s Dean Leah Teague, filed a products liability suit against Teixeira Cycling Corporation and American Triathlon Association, Inc. Ms. Day was a competitive triathlete. While competing in the Doris Miller Memorial Xtremis Triathlon in Waco, Texas, Day was injured shortly after beginning the biking portion of the triathlon. Day alleged that Teixeira defectively designed, manufactured, and sold the bike she used for the triathlon.

Another unique aspect of the Top Gun Competition is the use of real-world partners and contributors in the case. This year, Clinical Associate Professor at Baylor University’s School of Engineering, and experienced mechanical engineer, Joe Donndelinger, utilized his extensive design experience to create a realistic engineering analysis of the design of the front fork of the bike in question. Access to the School of Engineering’s 3D printers allowed Prof. Donndelinger to produce 3D printed versions of the front fork in question — and that of an ‘improved’ design — for use by advocates throughout the competition.

Cycling experts from Bicycle World in Waco made appearances at Baylor Law as well — volunteering their time to inform the case file drafters and the competitors of the ins-and-outs of cycling and to discuss how the bikes in the case work. Bicycle World also lent Baylor Law several bikes for testing and provided a bike for the final round.

The Top Gun X National Mock Trial Competition was underwritten by Naman, Howell, Smith & Lee, PLLC, and sponsored by Weinberg Wheeler Hudgings Gunn & Dial. Thank you to LitSoftware’s TrialPad for their support during the competition.

TOP GUN X RECOGNIZED ADVOCATES

CHAMPION - Tatiana Terry
Campbell University’s Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law

FINALIST - Craig Shirley
Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law

SEMI-FINALISTS -
Kyle Decamp, UCLA School of Law
Imokhai Okolo, University of Akron School of Law

PROFESSIONALISM AWARD - Greg Dachko
Temple University Beasley School of Law

TECHNOLOGY AWARD - Kian Khajoei
UCLA School of Law

TOP GUN X EXCLUSIVES

Baylor Law’s Top Gun has developed a national reputation for realism and attention to detail. Each year’s fictional case contains hundreds of pages of documents and exhibits, including court pleadings, witness statements, depositions, photos, physical evidence, and surveillance videos. With 2019 marking the tenth year, Baylor Law partnered with Baylor University Department of Museum Studies graduate students Caroline Cruseturner, Samuel Rieta, and Victoria Royal to curate an exhibition celebrating some of Top Gun’s most memorable moments. Dr. Julie Holcomb, Graduate Program Director of Baylor’s Museum Studies program, and Trey Crumpton, Exhibits Development Manager for the Mayborn Museum, mentored, advised, and assisted the students.

TOP GUN TV LIVE STREAM

The final round of Top Gun X was streamed live and featured commentary and analysis from some of the country’s leading advocates and mock trial coaches:

Anchor:
Liz Fraley (JD ’88)
Associate Professor of Law, Baylor Law, Partner, Beard Kultgen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson

Commentators:
Professor Elizabeth Lippy, Associate Director of Trial Advocacy, American University, Washington College of Law
Spencer Pahlke, Director of Trial Competition Teams, University of California Berkeley School of Law
Julia Metts, Director of Trial Programs, Stetson College of Law
Sara Jacobson, Associate Professor and Director of Trial Advocacy Programs, Temple University Beasley School of Law
Susan Poehls, Professor of Law and Director of Trial Advocacy, Loyola Law School – Los Angeles
Founded in 1857, Baylor Law is both the smallest and the oldest law school in the state of Texas. Known as the nation’s leading law school for rigorous, results-oriented legal training, it’s no surprise that Baylor Law attracts ambitious, dedicated students. One such student is Erika Griffin, a twenty-eight-year-old 3L who is blazing a new trail at Baylor Law. Griffin will be the first student in Baylor’s Dual-Degree program to simultaneously complete the Law School’s Healthcare Law Professional Track and the Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a specialization in healthcare administration at the Hankamer School of Business.
Having recently fulfilled the requirements for her JD with a focus in Healthcare Law, Griffin will officially earn both of her degrees upon completion of her MBA in Healthcare Administration in the spring of 2020. In addition to carrying the necessary coursework for her dual degree, Griffin stays busy outside of the classroom. She’s a Student Ambassador, Graduate Business Association member, and a student member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Griffin’s path to Baylor and her chosen vocation in the healthcare system is as unique as she is. Originally from Florida, living there for the first seventeen years of her life, she is the youngest of six siblings, the first to graduate from college, and the only one to pursue a JD. Three different undergraduate schools had the pleasure of teaching Griffin before she settled at Baylor for her graduate degrees. “Funny story about how I actually chose Baylor,” Griffin laughed. “I was applying to graduate universities in Florida and my dad said, ‘apply to one Texas school,’ because he lives here, so I did some research and found Baylor.” Obtaining an undergraduate degree wasn’t challenging enough for Griffin. She wanted to be “seriously challenged,” to see how she would deal with that pressure — and the one thing that everyone promised Griffin would push her like never before, was Baylor Law’s Practice Court. “When I found out I got into Baylor, I knew immediately that I was going to commit, and it was one of the best decisions I’ve made.”

Griffin has always wanted to be an attorney. Originally, she thought she might end up practicing family or criminal law. Griffin recognizes that healthcare impacts everyone. Even though her roll is different from the one she first imagined, she knows that as a Baylor Lawyer she’ll still be fighting for justice and helping people.

There are quite a few careers available in the combined field of healthcare and law, including healthcare provider, chief of resource manager, chief operating officer (COO), or working in compliance and ensuring that hospitals & healthcare providers are meeting certain established requirements. Griffin, ever seeking the next challenge, has decided that none of these fit her future goals. She envisions herself making partner at a firm that focuses on Qui Tam lawsuits — colloquially known as ‘whistleblower cases.’ “There’s a lot of healthcare fraud and abuse unfortunately,” she laments. “These Qui Tam cases are specialized in helping to reduce the amount of healthcare fraud — by attacking it, making sure it doesn’t happen, and going after the people that abused the system.”

She is currently spending the summer as an intern at a hospital in Arizona. She is a resident administrator, where she oversees the day-to-day operations while also managing the hospital.

One of the professors who had a profound impact on Griffin’s future — and that of many other students at Baylor Law, is Professor Pat Souter, JD ’91. “I could always go to him with a question and he wouldn’t give me a straight-end answer. Instead, he would challenge me, and I like to be challenged.” Professor Souter has worked at Baylor Law for twenty-four years, currently oversees the healthcare law program, and teaches six different classes. Four years after earning his JD from Baylor Law, he ran into Professor William Trail — now retired — at a healthcare conference. “He asked if I wanted to help him teach a class,” Professor Souter said. “So I did. I enjoy the teaching aspects of it, the students are sharp and ask questions where you need to continuously stay current on everything.” Professor Souter is a ‘Double Bear.’ He graduated from Baylor University with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in ’87 and earned his JD in ’91 from Baylor Law. Souter added, “Baylor means so much to me. Teaching is a way for me to give back — because Baylor gave me a great education.”

Souter grew up in Dallas, and the first time he ever stepped foot on Baylor was in the eighth grade during a field trip. “We were coming back from Austin and it was a Sunday afternoon,” he began. “We stopped, and they let us get off and walk around the campus. As I walked around, everyone would always smile or say hello. So since then, I knew I wanted to come to Baylor.” He had been impacted by the school’s amenities, the family-like atmosphere, the alumni, and the reputation to attend Baylor University. “I love Baylor, I’ve always felt comfortable here.”

Griffin and Souter both agree that Baylor Law is unique. “The faculty and staff really care about you. You’re more than just a number and they want you to succeed,” Griffin noted. “I wouldn’t have come as far as I have if it weren’t for them — when you graduate from Baylor Law, you leave here with more than just a degree, you leave with a family.”
According to data compiled by the University of Houston Law Center’s Blakely Advocacy Institute, Baylor Law’s Moot Court Program is now the #1 program in the nation for the 2018-2019 moot court competition season.

Each year, the Blakely Advocacy Institute ranks law schools across the nation using a scoring system that evaluates the quality of the moot court competitions, the size of the competitions, and the overall performance of schools in these competitions to determine the best programs in the nation.

The top 16 schools are then invited to participate in the Hunton Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship sponsored by the Blakely Advocacy Institute. Baylor Law was a semi-finalist in the 2019 championship and has been invited to participate again in next year’s competition, scheduled for early 2020.

Baylor Law participated in 21 moot court competitions during the 2018-2019 season, finishing as a finalist, semi-finalist, quarter-finalist, best brief, best speaker — or some combination of the above — at 15 of those highly-competitive events.

Baylor Law’s Dean Brad Toben said the first-place result underscores the effectiveness of the law school’s distinctive approach to results-oriented legal training.

“We are so proud of the hard word of our advocacy teams and their coaches. This ranking is not the result of just one team or one coach. Having a successful outcome at 15 out of 21 competitions is an amazing feat given the size of Baylor Law. These wins really show the depth and overall strength of our advocacy program.”

Moot court competitions are an extracurricular activity that simulate appellate court proceedings. These competitions allow students to apply classroom knowledge in a courtroom setting, hone their research and writing skills, apply the skills and knowledge they receive in the classroom, and practice arguing both sides of a case before a panel of lawyers and judges.

Baylor Law’s successful season was capped off with an impressive showing at the country’s largest moot court competition, the ABA’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition. At the National Championship, the team of Kyle Gardner, Haley Mowdy, and Kyle Stone took first place, best speaker, second-best speaker, and second-best brief.

The top 16 moot court programs in the country, according to the Blakely Advocacy Institute are:

1. Baylor Law
2. University of California-Hastings School of Law
3. Loyola University Chicago School of Law
4. University of Alabama School of Law
5. South Texas College of Law Houston
6. St. Mary’s University School of Law
7. George Washington University School of Law
8. William and Mary University Law School
9. University of Georgia School of Law
10. Liberty University School of Law
11. Louisiana State University School of Law
12. Texas Tech University School of Law
13. University of Kansas School of Law
14. University of Houston Law Center
15. Columbia University Law School
16. Georgetown University Law School
**ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition**

The Baylor Law team of Kyle Gardner, Haley Mowdy, and Kyle Stone won the 2019 National Championship of the American Bar Association’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition — the largest moot court competition in the nation. Additionally, Haley won Best Speaker, Kyle Gardner was Second-Best Speaker, and the team won second-best brief.

**Texas Young Lawyers Association Moot Court Competition**

Congratulations to the team of Kylie Calabrese, Kyle Gardner, AJ Horner, & bailiff Elizabeth Gardner for winning the 2019 Texas Young Lawyers Association State Moot Court Competition. In addition to the first place win, Kyle was also named Best Speaker.

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**Profile of the Summer 2019 Entering Class**

**28 ENROLLED**

- MEDIAN LSAT/GPA: 158/3.55
- 25% LSAT/GPA: 154/3.30
- 75% LSAT/GPA: 159/3.66

**GENDER**

- 18 FEMALES
- 10 MALES

**RESIDENCY**

- 24 IN-STATE RESIDENTS
- 4 OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTS

**ETHNICITY**

- 22 ANGLO OR CAUCASIAN
- 6 MINORITY STUDENTS (27%)
  - 1 AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE
  - 1 ASIAN OR NATIVE HAWAIIAN/OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER
  - 4 HISPANIC/LATINO

**STATES REPRESENTED**

- 2 CALIFORNIA
- 1 LOUISIANA
- 1 TENNESSEE
- 24 TEXAS

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**Spring Mad Dog Mock Trial Competition**

Taylor McConnell was the winner of the 2019 Bob and Karen Wortham Spring Practice Court “Mad Dog” Mock Trial Competition. He received a $7,000 grand prize given by Judge Bob and Karen Wortham and an 18” bronze statue of Matt “Mad Dog” Dawson.

**FINALISTS:**

- Matthew Morian

**SEMI-FINALISTS:**

- Andrew Harding
- Joseph Shaneyfelt

**FINAL ROUND JUDGES**

- PRESIDING JUDGE: Director of Advocacy Robert Little, JD ’05
- SCORING JUDGES: Professors Mike Berry and Scott Fraley
SPRING 2019

Dean Brad Toben, JD ’77, presided over the ceremony and Vice Provost for Graduate Professional Education and Professor of Management Dr. Gary Carini conferred the degrees. Professor Liz Fraley, JD ’88, delivered the commencement address while Professors Luke Meier and Jerry Powell, JD ’77, hooded the graduates. Graduating student Madeline Mariana Tansey gave the invocation and Taylor Christopher Fitzner addressed the class as the highest-ranking graduate.
Bryant Wesley (Wes) Ferrell, JD ’49, died on March 21. Wes was born August 18, 1921, as the third son of Bryant Earl and Mary Lona Ferrell in Linden, Texas, where he went to school, and afterward attended the College of Marshall. After graduating in 1941, he attended Sam Houston State Teachers College in 1941. In 1942, he joined the Marine Corps on inactive status. He graduated from Sam Houston in 1943 and reported to the Marine Corps. He attended officer’s school, where he graduated in the spring of 1944 and was sent to the Pacific. He landed in Iwo Jima on D Day. He was wounded and evacuated February 22, 1945. After the war ended, Wes continued on active duty until March 5, 1946. He entered Baylor Law in the fall of 1946, graduating with an LLB in 1949. Wes went into FBI training in 1950 in Washington, D.C. In the FBI, he met his wife of over 50 years, Martha Cole, and they were married on Christmas Day. They moved back to Texas where Wes joined his brother, Vincent, in the practice of law in Linden. Later, he joined Hunt Oil Company as an Oil and Gas lawyer. Wes and Martha had Joanna in October of that year. John made his appearance in 1954, followed 11 months later by Tom. Their final child, Pamela, was born in July, 1956. He retired in 1988 as Associate General Counsel. Wes was an active and loving member of the church body and embraced the Gospel as practice in his everyday life. He took joy in all of his children and was excited to see his grandchildren and to survive long enough to see his three great grandchildren. Wes is preceded in death by his parents and brothers, and his children, John and Pamela. Wes is survived and missed by his loving wife, Martha, and his two living children, Joanna and Tom. He leaves behind a legacy of love in his children, children in law, eight grandchildren, and three precious baby great grandchildren. He hopes all who remember him will continue to carry on his urge to love, to help those around them, and to seek to spread hope to the world.

Hon. William Arthur Thomas Jr., JD ’52, was born April 28, 1924, to William Arthur Thomas Sr. and Zola (Downing) Thomas just outside Ranger, Texas. Bill had two older sisters Imageone Thomas (Corley) and Ina Thomas (Gibson). Bill was raised primarily by his sister Imageone. Bill graduated from White Deer High School and went to work for Skelly Oil Company. In late 1942, he went to join the Army Air Corps, but he was denied because he did not have a birth certificate. Shortly after he returned to work, he received a draft notice to report to Fort Sill. Bill was in Service Company C. 86th Blackhawk Infantry Division. He spent three years serving in France, Belgium, Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Austria. He reached Salzburg Austria, (Hitler’s home) on May 6, 1945, the day WWII ended. Bill was formally discharged from the Army in December 1946. Bill received 4 years of paid education on the GI Bill. He graduated from Hardin Simmons University in 2 years with a double major in Government and History. He took one year off to work before he returned to Baylor Law. Bill completed undergrad and Law School, (7 years of education) in 4 years, all on the GI Bill.

Bill married Johny Maxine Riley on July 4, 1950. They remained married for 64 years until her death on October 2, 2014. They had two sons, Cliff and Clint Thomas. Bill spent numerous hours coaching his sons’ baseball teams, serving as President of the PTA, Rotary Club, Little League, Colt League, Pony League, and Abilene High Booster Club. Bill served as County Attorney for Somervell County, Taylor County, Callahan County, Shackelford County and Stephens County. He was later appointed District Attorney for the 42nd Judicial Court until he went into private practice. Bill was appointed District Judge 350th Court in 1982. He served as District Judge for 5 years then went on to serve as Visiting Judge all over the State of Texas for 8 years. He retired in 1990. Bill and Johny moved to Granbury, Texas, in 2008 to be closer to their sons and their families.

Bill is survived by his sons Cliff Thomas (Ilene) and Clint Thomas (Glynis); grandchildren, Christina Davis (Tim), Billy Ray Thomas (Taylor), Haley Walker (Kody), Crilion Thomas, and Jake Thomas; and great-grandchildren, Lincoln Davis, Olivia Walker, Colton Davis, Paige Walker, and Micah Thomas. He is preceded in death by his parents, sisters, and wife, Johny Thomas.

Donald J. Baker, JD ’64, of Woodway, Texas passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 13, 2019, surrounded by family and loved ones. Don was born April 1, 1940 in Austin, Texas, and moved to Waco in 1949. Upon graduation from Waco High School in 1958, Don majored in business at Baylor University where he received his bachelor’s degree in 1962. Two months later he earned his CPA certification. In 1964, he graduated from Baylor Law and went on to graduate from New York University School of Law in 1965 with a Master of Laws in Taxation. Don had many accomplishments to be proud of during his 50-year law career as he was appointed to practice in multiple courts throughout the United States and Texas; US Court of Appeals, US Tax Court, US District Court, and the Supreme Court of Texas.

In addition to being a successful attorney, Don was an avid member of the Waco community, spending many hours supporting local organizations; he was President of the Northwestern Little League (now known as Lake Air Little League), Commissioner of the Texas Teenage Baseball League (District 14), Boy Scouts of America, Downtown Waco, Goodwill Industries, and a Lifetime Member of Ducks Unlimited, just to name a few. In 1991, Don was elected as a Woodway City Council Member and subsequently elected as Mayor of Woodway in 1994. When he retired as Mayor after 23 years, Don was (and still is) the longest serving mayor in Woodway’s history. In 2013, the City of Woodway honored Mayor Baker for his service and dedication by forever naming the Council Chambers the “Donald J. Baker Council Chambers.”

Don is survived by his wife, Charlie; son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Robin Baker of Houston; daughter and son-in-law, Stacey and Allen Brown of Crawford; grandchildren, Aaron, Jesse, and Colton; and nephews, Mark Baker of Waco and Phil Baker of Houston.
Frank P. Dickson Jr., JD ’65, was born in Temple, Texas, on May 7, 1942, to Virginia Denson Dickson and Frank Preuitt Dickson Sr. He succumbed to Lewy Body Dementia on June 2, 2019. Frank graduated from Corsicana High School in Corsicana, Texas, in 1960. The summer after graduation, he met his wife, Elinor Misfeldt of Butte, Montana, at Fishing Bridge in Yellowstone National Park where they both worked. They married on March 22, 1963 in Waco, Texas. Frank obtained a Bachelor of Laws degree from Baylor University in 1965, and he and Elinor moved to Santa Fe shortly thereafter. He was admitted to the New Mexico bar in 1966. Frank practiced in a firm he helped founded, then as a solo practitioner, and later he served as General Counsel at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Frank had a distinguished fifty-year career practicing law throughout New Mexico. He dedicated his life to zealous advocacy for his clients and to public service. He was personable, hardworking, and had a great sense of humor. His practice drew him into many challenging and complex situations; it also introduced him to some colorful characters and wonderful life-long friends, colleagues, and clients alike. He loved the West, particularly New Mexico, Montana, and Southwestern Colorado, and the many pursuits offered there, including hiking, skiing, and fishing. He was an avid reader, especially of history, and an amateur western historian. He was very active in his church, serving on the vestry and participating in the church’s annual service project to build homes for people in need in Juarez, Mexico.

Frank is survived by his wife, Elinor; his three children, Frank and his wife Margaret, Claire and her husband Sam Gollis, and Mark; as well as his grandchildren, Bryan Galindro, Adam Dickson, Paul and Ella Gollis, and Isabella Davis; and his sister Diana Saine, her husband Steve and their children Cynthia and Margie.

Jack Randall Crews, JD ‘83, was born in Corpus Christi on February 12, 1957, to Paul and Mozelle Crews. Jack lived a life full of faith and service to his family and community. He grew up in Houston where he met the love of his life, Diane, when he was 17 years old. They married on September 1, 1979, and went on to have five children: Andrew, Courtney, Amanda, Rebecca, and Clay. While beginning his career as an attorney, Jack coached his children in tee-ball, soccer, and basketball. He never missed a game, recital, or presentation. He was always there, a steady and reliable presence, through it all. He was a wonderful father and will be remembered for his generosity, compassion, and wise counsel.

Jack studied law at Baylor Law and joined the firm Baird, Crews, Schiller & Whitaker, P.C. more than 35 years ago. During that time, he served his church and community in many capacities. More than anything, Jack was a man of faith who entrusted his life, family, and career to the God he served so devotedly. In 2017, he traveled to Uganda to share his legal expertise and Christian faith with young law students and attorneys who were striving to create a more just and honest society. However, he loved nothing more than to spend time with his family, especially his wife, children, and grandchildren. Jack is survived by his mother, Mozelle; his brother, Paul; his wife, Diane; his children, Andrew, Courtney, Amanda (and Brett, his son-in-law), Rebecca, and Clay; and his grandchildren, Madden and Miles.

Frank W. Mitchell, JD ’84, passed away March 16 of cancer. Frank was born in Anaconda, Montana, on June 28, 1957 to Fergus and Louise Mitchell. He spent ten years in Anaconda and later moved to Great Falls in 1967. Frank graduated from C.M.R. High School in 1975 and went to University of Montana in Missoula for two years on a debate scholarship. Later, he moved on to University of Utah where he received his BA Degree in 1979. Frank received a grant to Wake Forest University in Winston Salem, North Carolina, where he received his master’s degree in 1981. Frank received his law degree from Baylor Law in 1984. Frank practiced law in Austin and Houston for over twenty years and then moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, where he had his law practice for ten years until his death. Frank married Melissa Matheny in 1984 and she passed away in 2007 in Houston. She was the love of his life and was so missed. Frank was a collector of many books and he enjoyed traveling in the U.S. and in Europe with Melissa and Delia. He enjoyed reading and baseball. Frank is survived by his daughter, Delia Maria; mother, Louise Mitchell; brother, John Mitchell (married to Carey Hughes); his sister, Margaret Mitchell (Louis Ippolito); sister-in-law, Melane [Mark] Ralston; nieces, Adreanna and Tesla; and nephews, Andrew and Evan. His father, Fergus, passed away Oct. 2016.

Marla Deanne Carter Jones, JD ’86, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on April 19, 2019, following a courageous fight with cancer. She was born in Augusta, Georgia, on August 26, 1960, to Dwayne Carter and Merle Dunn. Marla graduated as valedictorian from Canton High School and received a full-ride basketball scholarship to Weatherford Community College. She completed her undergraduate degree at Texas A&M, graduating magna cum laude with a BBA in accounting. She then pursued a law degree from Baylor Law, where she was on Baylor Law Review and graduatedcum laude. Her distinguished legal career began at Jackson Walker in 1986 where she made partner in six years. In 1997, she started working at Anadarko Petroleum Corporation where she would finish out her legal career, in which she built a reputation characterized as honorable, trustworthy, and dependable. Her peerless work ethic allowed her to achieve success far beyond the norm, earning the respect of anyone that knew her.

Marla had a generous and loving nature, ceaselessly thinking of new ways to help her friends and family. She loved to travel, experience life, and plan adventures. She loved trying new wines and foods. Her happiest times were spent with her family. She was a kind soul; and more than anything, she will be remembered for her remarkable talent to make everyone around her feel special and loved.

She was preceded in death by her father, Dwayne Carter, and her brother, Kelly Carter. She is survived by her husband, Randle Jones of The Woodlands; her sons and daughter, Christopher Price of Dallas, Mitchell Price of Conroe, and Allie Jones of Austin; parents Merle and Howard Dunn of Canton, and stepmother Nell Carter of Wills Point; brothers Bret and Tammie Dunn of Canton, Matthew and Emily Dunn of Canton, and Scott Carter of Winston Salem, North Carolina; and many nieces, nephews and extended family.
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