

# BRIEFCASE

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** | LAW CENTER



## STRATEGIC VISION

FOCUS ON FUTURE OF LEGAL EDUCATION



**2013**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**



# BRIEFCASE

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | LAW CENTER

## Please direct correspondence to:

**Carrie Anna Criado**  
**BRIEFCASE EDITOR**  
University of Houston Law Center  
100 Law Center  
Houston, TX 77204-6060  
cacriado@central.uh.edu

713.743.2184  
713.743.2122 (fax)

<b>Writers</b>	Carrie Anna Criado, John T. Kling & Stephen B. Jablonski
<b>Photographer</b>	Stephen B. Jablonski
<b>Design</b>	Eric Dowding, Seleste Bautista & Kathy Fieldcamp
<b>Printing</b>	UH Printing Services

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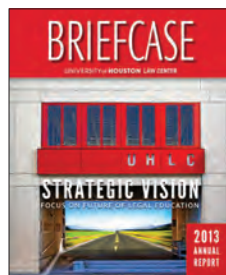
**Director, Business Operations**  
Mybao Nguyen

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Carrie Anna Criado '95

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**University of Houston Law Center**  
100 Law Center  
Houston, TX 77204-6060  
713-743-2100  
[www.law.uh.edu](http://www.law.uh.edu)

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## DEAN'S NOTE

This is the time of year when everyone seems to be giving a "state of" speech. So what is the "state" of the Law Center? The State of the Law Center is good, very good. The reputation of the school as measured by any number of national rankings is increasing, and this improved reputation is well deserved for so many reasons:

We continue to attract quality students who are supported by an extraordinarily talented and committed Law Center staff; we have hired outstanding new faculty members, filling out a faculty roster that consistently produces important scholarship, and our teaching program is second to none, thanks to the combined efforts of the full-time faculty and our amazing group of adjunct professors who are drawn from one of the country's most vibrant legal markets.

Internally, Associate Dean Lonny Hoffman has piloted our academic programs masterfully, reinforcing what we've done well in the past and establishing important new programs, like the new upper-level mentoring program and revising the schedule to add even more classes to help ensure our students are "practice ready" when they graduate. And our career development office continues to help our students find employment at a rate higher than most schools in the country. Externally, we have hired a new director of advancement, and continue to build our relationship with our alumni, resulting in increased fund-raising opportunities and good will.

The Law Center, however, will face many changes and challenges in the year ahead as a result of the new reality in both legal education and the legal profession. The cost of earning a J.D. is up and the job market, though strong in the Houston area, is generally down nationally. This year, we again face a substantial decrease in applications, and must rely even more on generous alumni to maintain many of our programs.

But change can be beneficial to an institution, and dealing with the new reality can be exciting. Faculty and staff recently approved a "Strategic Vision" for the school that addresses such issues as faculty scholarship, skills training, costs and student debt, admissions standards, and numerous other concerns of faculty and students alike. I feel this road map for the future is important enough to reprint in its entirety on pages 10-11 in this edition of Briefcase so you can see where your school is headed.

Also enclosed in this issue is our "Annual Report," showing you, the lifeblood of this institution, exactly where the money came from and where it went in Fiscal 2013.

Please take a few minutes to catch up with all that is happening at the school, and then stay in touch so you can be a part of the University of Houston Law Center's future.

**Richard M. Alderman**

**Interim Dean**

**Dwight Olds Chair in Law**

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## Rankings and Recognition

The Law Center and its alums fared well in national rankings and ratings by publications and peers with the school's overall national ranking jumping nine spots to 48th in the annual survey conducted by U.S. News & World Report. Two specialty programs, Health Law and Intellectual Property Law, continued to place in the top 10 among the nation's 194 ABA-accredited law schools. U.S. News also recognized UHLC's part-time program, singling it out as 16th in the country. And for the first time, the Law Center's tax program was nationally ranked at No. 18.

These high rankings were fueled by the strength of the graduates the school turns out. Nearly 600 were deemed Super Lawyers by colleagues who had first-hand knowledge of their skills and professionalism, and almost 500 were cited as Rising Stars in the annual survey. The quality of a Law Center education was not lost on major law firms as the school moved up to 29th in the "Go To" ranking of schools whose recent graduates were hired by the nation's 250 largest law firms, according to a survey by the National Law Journal.

Finally, in a survey of most interest to recent graduates, the City of Houston and its legal market ranked third nationally in the buying power new associates enjoy with their first-year salaries, according to a survey conducted by the National Association of Legal Career Professionals. The survey, based on cost of living and median private practice salaries, attempted to determine which locations provided the most "bang for the buck," translating into discretionary income and lifestyle options for new attorneys.



## Student Regent

UH Law Center students are becoming a fixture on the University of Houston System Board of Regents. Gov. Rick Perry in May appointed **Benjamin Wells** as the 5<sup>th</sup> Law Center student to serve a one-year term as student representative. The governor instituted the student regent program in 2006. Wells earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Southern Methodist University. He competes on the UH Law Center Moot Court Team and is a member of the Student Bar Association and Intellectual Property Student Organization. He also is an online editor for the Houston Journal of International Law. Wells has served as a judicial intern for The Honorable Eva Guzman of the Supreme Court of Texas and as a law clerk for the Texas Attorney General's Antitrust Section.



## Perry Appoints Peter Taaffe '97 to Board of Regents

Gov. Rick Perry in October appointed University of Houston Law Center alum **Peter Taaffe** '97 to the University of Houston System Board of Regents for a term ending Aug. 31, 2019.

Taaffe of Austin is a litigator with the Buzbee Law Firm. He handles maritime, negligence, real estate, technology, and commercial claims.

Taaffe is a member of the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law Advisory Board at UHLC, a former adjunct professor at the Law Center, and a past board member of the UH Law Alumni Association.

## Students Choose Kumar

The Law Center student body made it patently clear that Assistant Professor **Sapna Kumar** was its choice as "Faculty of the Year" for the 2012-13 academic year. "Having the chance to teach such fantastic students is an honor in itself," Kumar said, "but to be recognized by the students is indescribable." Kumar joined the faculty in 2009, teaching Patent Law, Administrative Law, and Property. Prior to coming to the Law Center, she clerked for the Honorable Judge **Kenneth F. Ripple** of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, conducted research as a faculty fellow at the Duke University School of Law/Duke Center for Genome Ethics Law & Policy, and practiced with two law firms. She earned B.A. and B.S. degrees from The University of Texas at Austin and her J.D. from the University of Chicago.







## Progress in Bi-national Relations

The Center for U.S. and Mexican Law at the University of Houston Law Center has made great strides since its founding a year and a half ago, undertaking two major research projects, conducting timely briefings on important international events, and fostering internships and graduate studies.

Under the directorship of Professor **Stephen Zamora**, the center draws upon experts in law and other fields from both countries to research issues that affect the two nations with the goal of reaching mutual understanding and bettering relations.

Research is currently under way to examine regulation of transboundary oil and gas development in the Gulf of Mexico and the significant legal, institutional, and regulatory challenges that must be resolved as interaction between the two countries intensifies.

The second project deals with cross-border legal services, assessing how lawyers represent clients on the opposite side of the border, how they are regulated, and the level of their legal education.

The center also oversees Mutual Cooperation Agreements with the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the state-owned petroleum company, Pemex. These agreements provide scholarships for Mexican lawyers to earn LL.M. degrees at the Law Center and summer internships for UHLC students in return.

## IPIL Fall Lecture

The technological revolution of recent years has been driven more by information than the industrialized processes of years past, and it is getting increasingly difficult for companies to safeguard that proprietary information, a leading authority on intellectual property law said at the annual IPIL Fall Lecture.

"The internet is a scary place for trade secret owners; corporate espionage is a threat from many quarters," **Elizabeth A. Rowe**, professor and director of the Program in Intellectual Property Law at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, told the gathering at the Four Seasons Hotel in November.

The Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law Fall Lecture is sponsored by the Ronald A. Katz Foundation.



## Shepard Receives Outstanding Tax Lawyer Award

University of Houston Law Center Professor Emeritus **Ira Shepard** was honored as the 2013 recipient of the Outstanding Texas Tax Lawyer award by the Tax Section Council of the State Bar of Texas. The award is the highest bestowed by the Tax Section to honor colleagues for their outstanding reputation, expertise, and professionalism in the practice of tax law in Texas.

"I am delighted and gratified to receive this recognition for doing exactly what I wanted to do and exactly what I loved doing," Shepard said.

Shepard taught at the Law Center from 1975 to 2011 and was a primary force in establishing the school's LL.M. Taxation program. The LL.M. program is ranked 18th nationally by U.S. News & World Report in its latest survey. Shepard serves as a senior adviser to the program. Before his tenure at the Law Center, Shepard taught at the University of Georgia School of Law and also as a visiting professor at the University of North Carolina Law School.

Shepard received his baccalaureate degree from Harvard College in 1958 and his law degree from Harvard University in 1964, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review.



## UHLC Welcomes Foreign Scholars

University of Houston Law Center Interim Dean **Richard M. Alderman** and **Peggy Fortner**, director of Graduate Legal Studies, welcomed visiting scholars who will be conducting research and studying in various areas of the law during the 2013-14 school year. Since 2007, the Law Center has hosted 45 scholars from 19 countries. Clockwise from left are **Haci Acikgul** from Turkey, who will work in the area of Consumer Law; Alderman; **Xiaoqing Chen**, China, Energy and Environmental Law; **Yangbing Wang**, China, International Investments and Environmental Protection; **Camilla Sciume**, Italy, Contract Law; **Milosz Hodun**, Iceland, Doctrine of Implied Powers and Necessary and Proper Clause; Fortner; and **Luz Sanchez**, Spain, Nanopatents.



# FACULTY FOCUS



## Barbara Evans

Law Center Professor Barbara Evans likes to push boundaries. The boundaries of health law, in her account of the field, start deep within the nanodistances of the cellular nucleus and run out 60 million miles into interplanetary space.

"That's the rough distance to Mars, depending on the vagaries of elliptical planetary orbits. So far, I'm only thinking about health law out as far as Mars," she admits.

A prolific author on legal issues in genome sequencing and medical genetics, she recently was tapped to think about health law in outer space as a member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Ethics Principles and Guidelines for Health Standards for Long Duration and Exploration Spaceflight. She also has an active research agenda that includes an NIH grant examining clinical genome sequencing in cancer; a prestigious Greenwall Faculty Scholar in Bioethics

award funding a four-year study of health database governance; and an FDA-sponsored study addressing privacy issues in postmarketing drug safety surveillance.

A Houston native and direct descendant of Mattie Miller, the first baby born in Wilbarger County after covered wagons rolled into Texas, Evans joined the Law Center's faculty in 2007 after serving as a World Bank energy economist and a Moscow-based partner in a large New York law firm. "People always ask how I got from an international energy law practice into U.S. health law," she says, "But it's simple: after about 10 of those 45-below-zero Russian winters, I was wild to get back to the tropics. When I did my due diligence, the U.S. healthcare industry was the only industry I could find that was as inefficient, corrupt, and totally exciting as the Russian energy industry. So that's how I got hooked on health law."

A Yale Law graduate, she enrolled in UH's Health Law LL.M. Program in 2002 "for remedial training and rehabilitation," as she puts it. "My very first LL.M. class was

Professor Chandler's health law survey class. What a comeuppance! The UH Law Center intended to make me learn some law, and against all odds, they did it! They made me sit down and actually read statutes. It was hard, but that's when I fell in love with law." After writing an LL.M. thesis under Professor Bill Winslade's supervision, Evans won a coveted Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Ethics at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and was hired by the Indiana University School of Medicine as director of its Program on Pharmacogenomics, Ethics, and Public Policy. Indiana was "even colder than Moscow--it's technically a bit warmer, but they are politically correct so you don't get to wear mink." Evans was "thrilled" to get a call from Professor Joe Sanders in 2006, inviting her for a job interview at the Law Center. "The rest is history," she says with a smile.

*Evans is George Butler Research Professor and Director of the Center for Biotechnology & Law.*

## Sapna Kumar

With the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Association for Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics*, the public has become aware of how patents can have devastating consequences for individuals with potential genetic mutations. Law Center Professor Sapna Kumar has been writing about this quickly evolving area of law. In *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Genetic Information*, she argued that the issuance of broad gene patents and other broad diagnostic patents by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) violates the substantive due process rights of individuals by curtailing patient access to their own genetic information. Kumar presented her research at the PTO Genetic Testing Roundtable and at the 2013 Fall Speaker Series for the Cardozo IP & Information Law Program as well as in a panel session at the Law Center.

Kumar now turns her attention to a related issue—how to get patients access to courts, so they can challenge bad patents. In order to file a lawsuit, a plaintiff must show

that they have standing. One requirement is that a plaintiff must show that she is within the "zone of interests" of the statute at issue, such that her interest is not marginally related to or inconsistent with the implicit purpose of the statute. Under the most recent Supreme Court test, the plaintiff must show that Congress intended the statute at issue to benefit people like her.

But the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has held that the Patent Act was not intended to protect mere members of the public who have been harmed, but instead, only protects direct competitors of patent holders. The court therefore maintains that third parties cannot be within the zone of interests of the Patent Act.

However, passage of the America Invents Act ("AIA") in 2011 calls the Federal Circuit's position into question. Under the AIA, Congress expanded the right of third parties to challenge bad patents in the Patent and Trademark Office. Furthermore, the legislative history for the Act acknowledged

a growing consensus that "questionable patents are too easily obtained and are too difficult to challenge," and emphasized the constitutional imperative that Congress promote innovation by encouraging inventors to disclose their inventions "in a manner that ultimately benefits the public."

Kumar maintains that the goal of patients attempting to challenge bad patents that harm the public is within the zone of interests of the Patent Act. She believes that the Federal Circuit ruled incorrectly in striking several of the plaintiffs during the *Myriad* litigation, and that the court should stop creating artificial barriers that prevent people from utilizing the court system.

*Kumar is an assistant professor who teaches courses on Patent Law, Administrative Law, and Property.*





# Marcilynn Burke



Burke visits the Bureau of Land Management's Carrizo Plain National Monument near San Luis Obispo, CA.

It has been one year since Professor Marcilynn A. Burke returned to the Law Center from her service in President Barack Obama's Administration. The experience of helping shape policy for management of the nation's natural resources was rewarding, and the opportunity of a lifetime to have an impact on things that matter to her and the country. Her time in Washington, D.C., she says, was invaluable in bringing a new dimension to her teaching, scholarship, and service at the Law Center.

From 2009 until 2013, Burke took a leave of absence from the Law Center to serve at the U.S. Department of the Interior as a presidential political appointee. She began as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Deputy Director for Programs and Policy. During her time as BLM Deputy Director, the agency launched several significant policy changes. Burke is most proud of the development and implementation of the BLM's oil and gas leasing reform. "These reforms will have lasting, positive effects on the nation's ability to produce its own energy while protecting its many other natural, cultural, and historical resources," she says.

Burke also provided leadership to the department's Tribal Consultation Team, traveling across the country gathering input from Native Americans and working with their representatives. The team developed the first department-wide government-to-government consultation policy.

In 2011, Obama designated Burke as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM). As the acting ASLM, she helped develop the policies that are administered by four federal agencies: the BLM, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. These agencies have more than 12,000 employees who try to ensure appropriate management and use of federal lands, waters, and cultural resources, and the regulation of surface coal mining. The geographic scope of these activities is vast, encompassing the continental United States and large parts of Alaska.

Given the enormity of the geography and substance for which ASLM has oversight responsibilities, it was vitally important for Burke to foster positive, productive relationships among stakeholders — including tribal, state, and local governments, environmental groups, industry, recreationists, and other interested parties — to carry out the department's management responsibilities. Burke worked on matters ranging from recreation at sand dunes in California, island protection in Washington State, livestock grazing in Idaho, sacred sites in Arizona, and lighthouses in Florida to oil production in Alaska, timber harvesting in Oregon, coal mining in Tennessee, helium production in Texas, and renewable energy from coast to coast and beyond.

Burke says the bureaus' activi-

ties have a positive impact on communities and businesses of all sizes, ranging from the hundreds of thousands of jobs that the bureaus' activities support to the billions of dollars in economic benefits derived from the management of federal resources. These bureaus also play a tremendous role in protecting America's outdoor heritage so that present and future generations may appreciate and enjoy it. Burke notes that the value of these activities was underscored by the government shutdown in 2013. She frequently testified before committees in Congress about these impacts. She testified so often, that one congressional staffer called her the BLM's "professional witness." Burke says she took that as a compliment.

Burke also represented the Department on the White House Business Council and the White House Rural Council, conducting roundtable discussions in several states, including Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, New Mexico, and Texas. Obama formed the councils to have his representatives meet with citizens throughout the country and report their concerns back to him. One of Burke's more challenging moments on the road occurred at a roundtable meeting in Fairbanks, AK. One participant stridently expressed his utter frustration with and disdain for the National Park Service after rangers subdued a man on the Yukon River in what has been described as an overzealous enforcement action. Although Burke did not oversee the Park Service, she had to figure out how to diffuse the situation and be respectful of the participant's passion. "I turned to the next person who was slated to speak and said, 'Whew, I bet you can't top that!' Everyone laughed, and then I tried to constructively engage the group on the constant struggle to balance the rights of individuals and

(Burke continues on pg. 6)

Burke at the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race at the BLM's Campbell Tract in Anchorage, AK.



# FACULTY FOCUS (CONT.)

## Thomas Oldham



Professor Thomas Oldham has been researching how the stability of U.S. families is affected by income and education. Those with less education have for some time had less stable families, but the differences were modest. In more recent times, however, the differences have grown substantially.

For example, in the three decades between the early 1960s and the early 1990s, Oldham found, the divorce rate for women with less education almost doubled, while the rate for college graduates remained essentially unchanged. In the early 1960s, of

those women marrying without a high school diploma, 25 percent experienced a marital dissolution within 10 years of marriage. In contrast, for high school graduates the divorce rate within 10 years was 19 percent, compared to 15 percent for those women who married with a college degree. From that period through the late 1970s the divorce rate for all categories of women increased. In 1975-1979, of those women marrying without a high school diploma, 38 percent divorced within 10 years, compared to 36 percent of high school graduates, and 28 percent of college graduates. During the next 15 years, however, the divorce rates for those women with less education continued to increase, while the divorce rate for college graduates declined markedly. By 1990-1994, 47 percent of women without a high school diploma who married experienced a divorce within 10 years, compared to 37 percent of high school graduates and 16 percent of college graduates.

Oldham noted this comparison of divorce rates does not reveal the full magnitude of the difference in family stability in the U.S. based on education. Those with less education are much more likely,

compared to college graduates, to establish romantic partnerships other than marriage. These relationships are much less stable than marriages. For example, from 1997-2001, 93 percent of women with a college degree who gave birth were married, compared to 57 percent of mothers who were high school graduates, and 39 percent of women who did not finish high school.

According to Oldham, this data suggest that children in poor families are experiencing many challenges. Not only do poor families have fewer resources, but their families are much less stable. Oldham said it seems quite likely that the growing economic inequality in America is having a big negative impact on America's families. The family instability of those Americans who do not graduate from college is a problem that deserves much more attention, he added.

*Oldham is the John H. Freeman Professor of Law and teaches courses on Family Law, Marital Property, Agency and Unincorporated Associations, Business Associations, and Mediation.*

## Marcilynn Burke (continue from page 5)

those of the nation as a whole."

Burke spent more time in the field than the typical political appointee. She believes it was time well-spent in getting to know the employees, stakeholders, and resources. "We can learn a lot from memos, books, and conference calls," she says, "but nothing can match the value of 'boots on the ground.'"

Obama nominated Burke in 2012 as his Assistant Secretary-Designate, and the U.S. Senate's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources positively reported on her nomination later that year. While awaiting action by the full U.S. Senate, Burke continued to serve as acting ASLM until January 2013, before resuming her professorship at UHLC. Many have asked Burke if her experience met her expectations. She says she did not have many specific expectations. She just knew it was an opportunity she was not going to pass up. "I've never worked so hard in my life. I learned a lot and I gave a lot. I

also had a lot of fun. But, I also knew when it was time to come home."

Burke has been very active since returning to the Law Center in January 2013, with presentations in both the U.S. and abroad, in addition to teaching. Shortly after her return, she presented her paper on hydraulic fracturing on federal land at the 2013 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Academy of Environmental Law's Annual Colloquium in New Zealand. In March, Burke will lead an environmental symposium co-sponsored by the Law Center's Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Center, The George Washington University (GWU) Law School, and the Environmental Law Institute.

Burke is also writing three articles that are an outgrowth of her work at the Department of the Interior. Her teaching, service, and scholarship will never be the same, she says. "My students, for example, will have the benefit of a view from the inside. They

will have some understanding of what's not explained in the casebooks—how things really work.

"It was indeed an honor and privilege to serve at the Department of the Interior," Burke says, "and I am very appreciative of the central UH administration and former Law Center Dean Ray Nimmer for allowing me to take advantage of this special opportunity.

"While I had an incredible time, I was very happy to return to the Law Center. On tough days—and there were a few tough days—it was always comforting to know that I would someday return to the amazing, supportive community here at the Law Center."

*Burke is an associate professor of law and teaches courses on Property, Environmental Land Use Law, Land Use, and Natural Resources.*



# NIMMER PROFILE

FORMER DEAN LOOKS BACK ON HIS TENURE AND AHEAD TO THE SCHOOL'S FUTURE



Raymond T. Nimmer, who stepped down as dean of the University of Houston Law Center in early 2013, reflects on his almost eight years at the helm with the satisfaction of having accomplished nearly all the goals he set for himself when he first moved into the dean's office.

In a Briefcase interview after his appointment in 2006, he summed up the challenge before him: "My task is pure and simple: To get the Law Center into the upper ranks of top-tier schools. When that's accomplished, we will hold a rank and status that we will never relinquish."

Nimmer feels he met the challenge. The Law Center is nationally recognized, and several of its specialized programs today rank among the best in the country. Its graduates work in one of the nation's most robust legal markets, while its faculty members are recognized authorities in their fields at home and abroad.

And as he notes, the Law Center's rise in stature has been accompanied by a newfound collegiality among faculty, students, and staff. "We have been really working well together and getting things done." The effort has paid off with overall rankings by U.S. News & World Report improving from the 70s when he took office to 48th today among the nation's nearly 200 law schools, and well into the 30s and higher in various other rankings.

When he stepped down in late February, he said it was time for someone with new ideas to take over. He counts among his proudest accomplishments, the hiring of 16 outstanding faculty members, establishing foreign programs, and a greater international presence for the Law Center, expanding the LL.M. program, especially attracting more foreign-trained attorneys, revising the first- and third-year curriculum, substantially increasing scholarship funding, increasing support for students and graduates, restructuring the budgeting system at the Law Center, and revitalizing the alumni organization and participation at the Law Center.

From his vantage point of nearly 40 years at the Law Center, Nimmer has seen many changes in the school, the student body, and the legal profession itself. "The quality of the students has gone up dramatically over the four decades," he said. "We always had good students and always had our share of excellent students, but now, across the board, the quality has gone way up." Part of the reason is because several years ago, before softening of the legal market prompted talk nationwide of limiting the number of new lawyers, Nimmer purposely began reducing the size of entering classes, while maintaining high admission standards. This had the effect of increasing the value of a Law Center degree while reducing the number of new lawyers competing in a shrinking job pool.

Smaller classes, however, raises the specter of higher tuition and fees, which have almost doubled to \$29,748 a year during Nimmer's tenure. "We had a below market tuition that could not support high quality legal education going forward," he said. "It jumped in a few years, but it has leveled off with no substantial increase in the last two years of my term or this year." Significantly, UHLC is still ranked as one of the best valued legal degrees in the country

when one considers cost, quality, and job opportunities. "We are the only tier one law school in Houston," he said, "uniquely situated in a strong market for legal services."

The legal profession itself has also changed during Nimmer's deanship. While Houston's market remains strong, nationwide, firms are cutting back and hiring fewer summer clerks and first-year associates. Because of financial constraints, he said, firms can no longer afford the traditional practice of training new associates in the basic skills of "lawyering." The answer, Nimmer said, is more practical training in law school, a solution substantially met at the Law Center with its clinical, trial advocacy, externship, and other programs. However, he cautioned, "Most faculty aren't equipped to teach students the skills that might come up in a law practice, and it is not possible to train graduates to be 'practice ready' simply because there is too much diversity in what lawyers encounter in practice – it's a double bind. I don't think law schools should primarily focus on training practical skills. They should concentrate on providing graduates with the skills and knowledge that enables them to be a good lawyer as they encounter the many different challenges they will face."

Well into his year-long sabbatical, Nimmer said he has been "trying to learn how to take it easy" while staying busy with speaking engagements, writing several lengthy articles, maintaining updates on five treatises, and collaborating on two new books. He has just returned from Lisbon where he taught a semester as Distinguished Chair in Residence at the Universidad Católica School of Law. As Leonard Childs Professor of Law at UHLC, he will return to the classroom in the fall.

"I have no plans to retire," he said emphatically.

# STRATEGIC VISION



The legal world is changing rapidly, and law faculty at the University of Law Center have put a great deal of thought into how the law school should position itself in light of the new landscape.

While the legal market remains strong in Houston, elsewhere law firms are feeling the economic pinch, cutting staff, and limiting the number of new hires while dealing with money-conscious clients demanding more service for their dollar. Some feel the marketplace may never rebound to the level of only a few years ago and believe the traditional practice of law will never be the same.

Law schools are struggling to meet the challenges of this new world. Applications are down; tuition and post-graduation debt are up, while the job pool shrinks.

"The Law Center, like most schools, has seen a substantial decrease in applications and has had to work much harder to ensure our students are employed," said Interim Dean Richard M. Alderman. "Fortunately, we continue to enroll a high quality class, and have one of the higher employment rates in the country."

As part of the seven-year accreditation process, a committee comprised of Law Center faculty, staff, and students drafted a "Strategic

Vision" to address concerns and to serve as a broadly stated blueprint for the future of the school. The plan was voted on and approved by Law Center faculty and staff in November. The opening paragraph states: "This document . . . is inspired by pride in our success but with recognition of the need to adapt swiftly in light of changes in the legal education environment that will affect this school, its faculty, and students." (See complete text on pgs. 10-11)

"The plan," Alderman said, "recognizes that to compete in the law school marketplace and produce 'employable' graduates, we need to strengthen our experiential learning programs, adjust curriculum to better prepare graduates for practice, hold the line on tuition as much as possible, increase financial aid and scholarship funding, cut costs, and enhance counseling to help students avoid unmanageable debt."

"American law schools are not standing still," said Leo P. Martinez, president of the Association of American Law Schools and professor at the University of California Hastings College of Law. "As American legal education has evolved since the

founding of the republic, law schools are adapting to deal with changing times."

Much of the focus has been on the need to better prepare graduates to meet the new reality of legal practice. "It used to be firms would invest heavily in training of young associates on the theory that they would see a long term return," said Professor Seth J. Chandler, co-chairman of the 11-member committee that drafted the "Strategic Vision." "But, as attorneys become more mobile, firms are not eager to pay for it. So, our students need to hit the ground running."

**"The Law Center, like most schools, has seen a substantial decrease in applications and has had to work much harder to ensure our students are employed."**

*Interim Dean Richard M. Alderman*

Alderman said the school is placing a greater "emphasis on courses that help our students become more 'practice ready,'" noting a strengthening of clinical programs and encouraging co-teaching between faculty and practitioners. Professor Michael A. Olivas, co-chairman of the "Strategic Vision" drafting committee,





agreed. "We have had a strong trial and growing clinical program, with signature specializations," he said. "We meet the demand there, but do not do enough to stimulate or require more demand."

While praising the Law Center's various programs, former Dean Raymond T. Nimmer cautioned against placing too much emphasis on practical training to the detriment of providing a sound grounding in the law and producing good, highly qualified lawyers. However, Chandler said, "I think we can do both; a lot of good teaching can be done that more approximates what lawyers actually do."

Martinez, the AALS president, said some schools have moved in that direction with innovative programs to prepare students for changes in the marketplace. "Some of the developments in law schools around the country include integrated curricula, a renewed focus on foundational skills, profession partnerships, technology-oriented clinics, and bridge to practice programs, to name a few," he said. "In each case, the programs are tailored to each school's unique circumstances, and in each case the programs draw on the school's strengths and resources."

The Law Center, for instance, is drawing upon successful practitioners to mentor upper level students and prepare them for practice. To help graduates obtain that first job and pay down debt, the school has created new paid apprenticeships, established several full-time fellowship positions with public interest organizations, and began a forgivable loan program for those working in public interest or government jobs after graduation.

While schools look for answers, there is no question that the softening

legal market and rising costs have affected law school enrollment. The American Bar Association reported in December that the total first-year enrollment nationwide for 2013 was 39,675, down from 44,481, or 11 percent, from the year before. The decline compares to the record high of 52,488 in 2010. About two-thirds of ABA-law schools (135) experienced declines in first-year enrollment from 2012 to 2013. Law Center enrollment remained steady the last two years, with an entering class of 213 in 2013 and 212 in 2012. The class size was reduced by design, since the 2010 class of 267 as a means of reducing the number of young lawyers entering the legal market and increasing the value of a Law Center degree. Applications, however, experienced a much greater decline, dropping 18.5 percent from 3,060 in 2012 to 2,494 in 2013. In 2010, 3,942 candidates applied for admission. Tuition and debt has risen substantially during the same period. In-state tuition for Fall 2010 was \$26,491 compared to current tuition and fees of \$29,748. The percentage of students incurring debt remained steady at 79 percent, while the average debt load rose from \$75,387 in 2010 to \$89,530 in Fall 2012-Spring 2013, the most recent figure.

The Law Center has long enjoyed a solid reputation as a good value and quality school, ranking in the nation's top tier overall with four specialty programs in the top 20, according to U.S. News & World Report. However, to address declining applications and retrain a high caliber class, one solution is to offer more scholarships and financial aid. Olivas believes this is essential to the school's future viability: "If we do not increase our development

efforts and increase our very modest endowment, especially with regard to student financial support and general support, we may lose our place in the universe." A large part of the "Strategic Vision" deals with placing a high priority on fund raising as well as various means of cutting costs and increasing efficiency to make a J.D. more affordable. "One thing is to start being really conscious of whether a particular expense is really necessary," said Chandler. "It may make things



more comfortable. It may be trendy, but now, more than in the past, we're going to be looking at whether that expense really helps our students and in some cases, the answer is going to be 'No.' "

A Law Center degree has paid off in the most important way to those willing to put in the money and effort -- employment. For the years 2005-2011, an average of 92.4 percent have found employment within nine months

(Strategic Vision continues on pg. 12)

# STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE UNIVERSITY

*This document constitutes a strategic vision for the University of Houston Law Center. It is inspired by pride in our success but with recognition of the need to adapt swiftly in light of changes in the legal education environment that will affect this school, its faculty, and students. We expect any changes required as a result of the goals and plans approved herein to be implemented through the existing university, decanal, and faculty governance processes and at a pace that tempers the general desirability of rapid adaptation with the institutional capacity for change.*

1. We are proud of our successes in delivering excellent, affordable education at the University of Houston. This aspiration will remain our highest priority.
2. We remain committed to providing a quality education and service to the broader political and intellectual community through support for diverse forms of high quality scholarship and contributions to legal education. We will do so by a variety of means, including but not limited to:
  - a. rewarding faculty consistent with university guidelines for the production of excellent scholarship and teaching materials, and
  - b. supporting financially and otherwise the production of excellent scholarship and teaching materials to enhance our national reputation.
3. Quality scholarship complements quality teaching. At its best, it serves to enhance our knowledge of legal doctrine, theory, and institutions and so indirectly enables our students to benefit from our research and experiences. For these reasons, as well as the incidental effects such efforts may have on our own reputations and the reputation of the Law Center, we will continue to stress the importance of high quality faculty scholarship in our community.
4. We also recognize that scholars are effective in multiple arenas apart from scholarly publications. We will lend our support as a leader in the community to improve justice, to improve access to justice, and to inform policymakers.
5. We will harness the expertise and energy in our community by partnering to a greater extent with practitioners to infuse our classes with challenges and methods drawn from the modern legal environment.
6. We will actively foster innovative, efficient, collaborative, and coordinated teaching methods. These efforts should extend across the J.D. and LL.M. curriculums.
7. We will enhance our work in institutional research and empiricism in education, including evaluation of the success of traditional and innovative teaching methods and indicators of student success in both law school and in their professions.
8. We will retain high standards for admissions but recognize the imperfections of existing algorithms using selected numeric indicators as predictors in our initial admission practices both by consideration of other factors and other algorithms. Additionally, with respect to admission of transfer students, we will use success in other quality law schools more fully as a basis for welcoming transfer students.
9. We will increase the opportunities for all matriculating students to attend the University of Houston Law Center without incurring unmanageable debt through a variety of means, including, but not limited to:
  - a. making job opportunities for those in both the top and the bottom halves of our graduating class a significant factor in determining class size and the cost of attendance,
  - b. making fund raising for financial assistance and career opportunities an important priority,
  - c. attempting through fund raising to increase by 50 percent over the next five years the amount provided in financial assistance and giving increased priority to need in the distribution of financial assistance,
  - d. immediately providing more intensive and effective counseling to students at all stages of their education on borrowing for law school, options with respect to paying back borrowings, and financial assistance or other funds that may be available to help pay for law school,
  - e. making it the Law Center's policy to hold tuition as steady as practicable over the near term,
  - f. taking steps to help ensure that a student with our median post-graduation income can, without undue hardship, fully discharge the mean level of education loans within no more than 20 years,
  - g. enhancing offerings outside of the fall and spring semesters to facilitate graduation in 2.5 years by students wishing to accelerate their studies,
  - h. urging faculty to make use of less expensive course materials where appropriate,



- i. maintaining flexibility in the size and composition of our full-time faculty without withdrawing our support for tenure-track hiring where appropriate,
  - j. heightened faculty participation in effective and efficient development efforts, and
  - k. vigilance in fighting waste and inefficiency throughout Law Center operations.
10. Building on earlier efforts already undertaken, we will foster experiential learning and a heightened sense of professional responsibility by various means, including, but not limited to:
- a. continuing assessment of students' sense of preparation to handle skills likely to be important in early practice, including, without limitation, drafting of transactional documents, pretrial litigation skills, familiarity with local rules and customs, and the business and marketing of legal practice, and
  - b. as soon as possible adjusting course offerings and course content to heighten students' preparation to execute skills likely to be important in early practice.
11. Where appropriate, we will emphasize research and writing across the curriculum, valuing and rewarding excellence in teaching in this area as in other forms of teaching.
12. We will enhance the internal sense of community at the Law Center by various means, including, but not limited to:
- a. fostering greater participation in faculty governance,
  - b. enhancing job security for non-tenure track faculty,
  - c. encouraging and valuing the service faculty provide to the community,
  - d. rapidly breaking down any artificial barriers amongst full-time faculty involved in educating our students, and
  - e. providing dignity and certainty to full-time faculty through regularization of titles and responsibilities consistent with university guidelines.
13. We support the construction of new facilities that will enhance our connections with the community and the development of the most important competencies. We will adjust our budgets insofar as necessary to make sure that successes in this area do not jeopardize the opportunities for the broad spectrum of qualified students to attend the University of Houston Law Center without incurring unmanageable debt. We further support renovation of existing facilities insofar as possible to enhance their functionality and aesthetic appeal to students, faculty, and staff.
14. We will begin studies, with recommendations requested as soon as practicable but no later than the end of the 2014-15 academic year:
- a. on a holistic proposal to address the minimum practice skills, substantive upper-level courses, and bar preparedness classes (including a bar review course) that all students should take before graduation. In developing the proposal, the Law Center shall consider whether any courses or suite of upper-level courses should be required to help ensure that students possess the minimum core competencies needed for the practice of law. In this process, the Law Center will determine whether students should be allowed to take courses or credit hours on a pass-fail basis. The Law Center will also develop a strategy for improving the bar passage rate of its students.
  - b. to continue to review our curriculum to determine how best to organize and sequence it in order to optimize our students' preparedness to enter a variety of the most common types of legal careers and, thereafter, to provide them with detailed guidance on how best to take advantage of those opportunities,
  - c. to re-examine the efficacy of the part-time program,
  - d. for means by which grading and credit-awarding practices induce students, insofar as possible, to select courses based on their relevance to future professional success and not on achieving the highest possible grade point average,
  - e. for means by which the Law Center might use, abandon, or adjust grade distributions and pass-fail course designations to provide optimal opportunities for its graduates while informing prospective employers of any old and new grading practices,
  - f. for means by which the Law Center might use, abandon, or adjust grade distributions and pass-fail course designations to enhance collaborative learning and appropriate reward student achievement,
  - g. on any reduction in the number of credits needed for the J.D. degree consistent with ABA accreditation requirements that would provide our students the best and earlier opportunities for professional success as well as adjustments to the curriculum appropriate in light of any such change, and
  - h. for means by which formative and summative assessment methods can best be added to the curriculum to measure and improve student learning and provide meaningful feedback to students.

# STRATEGIC VISION

(CONTINUE FROM PAGE 9)

of graduation, second highest among the state's nine law schools and barely behind The University of Texas School of Law. But with changes in the legal profession, the question arises: Is a J.D. still a wise choice, and for those who believe it is, should they be advised of career opportunities outside the traditional practice of law?

"I strongly believe a law degree is a 'good investment' that helps ensure that you will find a rewarding career," said Alderman. "As in the past, most of our graduates will use their degree to enter the practice of law. But, I think a legal education has value beyond the practice of law and opens many doors besides those at law firms. Students should not think, 'I have a law degree, I have to get a job as an attorney.' There are many professions where a law degree is a substantial



slightly different view of law school as a means to other ends. "I think most people who come to the University of Houston should do so with the expectation of being a practicing lawyer. If you want to be in business, get an MBA. Law school is kind of an inefficient way of learning other skills."

Among the changes facing the Law Center is one that will undoubtedly have a major impact, both immediate and long-range – the hiring of a new dean who will bring new ideas, set new goals and directions. A nationwide search has been under way since shortly after Nimmer stepped down in February 2013. Interviews have been scheduled, and while the timetable is uncertain, the basic requisites for the job are not. "I think the Law Center needs a dean with vision, who recognizes the potential of the school and will lead us to the next level," said Alderman. "We need a person who can work with all of the constituencies that a dean

enough to raise money from them." Chandler, who founded the school's Program on Law and Computation in 2011, was a bit more specific about what he is looking for in a dean. "I need someone who understands 21st Century legal practice and understands how students in high school are learning about all (the technology) that is available to gain an education;" (someone who is) "flexible, adaptable, and has an orientation toward delivering value for students."

Where might the "Strategic Vision" take the Law Center in the near and distant future? On a steady course, said Olivas, "Much better than most law schools, especially those of our vintage." Much depends in the long run on successful development efforts, he added. Chandler looks to technology as a means to greater efficiency and more effective teaching in the long run. "I'm not convinced that anyone has nailed it yet, but there is a huge market out there for the person who can use technology to teach law in a quality way," he said. "That's the long run challenge of law schools to adapt to that change and not see it as a threat, but see it as an opportunity, a huge opportunity. The Law Center is pretty well placed, but we will see substantial changes over the next five or 10 years."



benefit, from industry and banking to television reporting," said the interim dean who has been a fixture on local television, giving consumer advice as "The People's Lawyer." Chandler had a

interacts with — the students, faculty, alumni, the University, and the outside community." Olivas added to the shopping list, "A good scholar-leader and listener who likes people well





## National Juvenile Justice Advocates Convene in Houston

Juvenile rights, education, and national juvenile defense standards, were the focus of the 12th Annual Zealous Advocacy Conference held May 16-17 at the Law Center. Co-sponsored by the Center for Children, Law & Policy and the Southwest Juvenile Defender Center, the two-day seminar is the premier training for juvenile defense attorneys practicing in the Southwestern United States. Houston Mayor **Annis Parker** was on hand to discuss what effects economic growth and educational opportunities have on young people. The keynote speaker was **David Domenici** who discussed alternative education in juvenile facilities. Domenici is the co-founder of the Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools, a network of alternative schools in the District of Columbia, and a Senior Fellow at Center for American Progress. He is also the director of the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings. He is credited with taking one of the country's worst schools for incarcerated youth and transforming it into a national model. Juvenile justice attorney **Francis Guzman** was another featured speaker. Guzman was convicted of armed robbery and sentenced to 15 years in the California Youth Authority at the age of 15. After serving six years of his sentence, he was released on parole and began pursuing a career in law. He won a coveted Soros Justice Fellowship, a two-year grant that will fund his work at the National Center for Youth Law in Oakland to study alternatives to placing youths who are first-time offenders of serious crimes in adult prisons. CCL&P Director and Professor **Ellen Marrus** and Professor **David Dow** also spoke at the event.



## Health Law Symposium

The Health Law & Policy Institute and the Houston Journal of Health Law & Policy (HJHLP) brought a group of health law scholars together for an in-depth discussion of their upcoming articles. The event was held in September at the JW Marriott San Antonio Resort. The symposium was titled "Our Patchwork Health Care System: Benefits and Challenges" and focused on the advantages and challenges of a U.S. health care system that consists of a hodgepodge of distinct components. Presenters were **Frank Pasquale** (Maryland), **Timothy Greaney** (St. Louis), **Nicholas Terry** (Indiana-Indianapolis), **Erin Fuse-Brown** (Georgia State), and **Ani Satz** (Emory). Commenters were **Allison Hoffman** (UCLA) and **William Sage** (UT). The presenters' articles will be published in HJHLP's spring 2014 symposium issue.

## First Court of Appeals Convenes at UHLC

The First District Court of Appeals of Texas held oral arguments in the University of Houston Law Center's Krost Hall auditorium in March. The panel consisted of The Honorable **Terry Jennings**, The Honorable **Jane Bland**, and The Honorable **Michael Massengale**. The cases heard were:

- Gary Jones, et al., Appellants v. Pesak Brothers Construction, Inc., Appellee, No. 01-12-00535-CV
- Charles Saden, et al., Appellants v. Brian Smith, et al., Appellees, No. 01-11-00202-CV

The arguments offered students a unique opportunity to observe appellate lawyers and judges at work.

## Frankel Lecture

Leading scholars at the 18th Annual Frankel Lecture held Oct. 31 agreed on three points concerning the Affordable Care Act: It remains very confusing to the public; more data is needed to determine whether it is succeeding; and patience is required to see if it will meet its goals and gain public acceptance.



"It's the debate that never dies," said **Mark A. Hall**, professor of law and public health at Wake Forest University, noting that it remains a point of heated contention even though the law was approved by Congress three years ago, upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, and reaffirmed by the reelection of President Obama. Hall was the keynote speaker in the program titled, "Reforming the Market for Individual Health Insurance: Success is in the Eye of the Beholder."

The first of two commentators, **David Orentlicher**, professor and co-director of the Center for Law and Health at Indiana University McKinney School of Law, agreed more data is needed to grade the ACA, but said the law is "falling short" of many of its goals. It was supposed to lower insurance costs, he said, not limit increases, and it was intended to provide universal health care, yet many will remain uninsured.

"More health care does not mean better health," said Orentlicher, who holds both J.D. and M.D. degrees. "The connection is more tenuous than one may think." He faulted the emphasis being placed more on insurance than prevention. "The ACA may do more for economic health than physical health," he said. "It's a drop in the bucket. It could have done a lot more."

Professor **William M. Sage**, J.D., M.D., of The University of Texas School of Law, said health care just needs a magic wand to make everyone insured and money in the form of affordable reforms. "If we don't get healthier, we are broke," he said. Obesity, for instance, is increasing across the country. "We have to fix the underlying health of Americans," he said.

Law Center Professor **Seth J. Chandler** served as moderator of the annual program which is hosted by the Houston Law Review and underwritten by the Frankel Family Foundation.

# ALUMNI PROFILES



## Nandita Berry '95

Former University of Houston System Regent Nandita Berry was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry in December as the 109th Texas Secretary of State. In this role she will serve as the state's chief elections officer and unofficial economic ambassador. A native of Hyderabad, India, Berry is the first Indian-American to hold the state office.

Berry earned a B.A. in political science at the University of Houston, a J.D. at the Law Center, served on the Board of Regents, and worked as senior counsel at the firm of Locke Lord.

"Nandita Berry personifies what is possible through hard work and dedication in the State of Texas," Perry said in announcing her appointment. "Her work ethic, intelligence, and wide array of experience will serve her capably in her new duties as secretary of state."

Berry has served on the boards of the Houston Zoo, the Houston Area Women's Center, the South Asian Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Family Center. She chaired the University of Houston System Board's Audit and Compliance Committee for two fiscal years, and was a member of the Finance Administration Committee and the Academic and Student Success Committee.

As a distinguished alumna, Berry discussed her new role in public office, reflected on her time at the Law Center, and expressed her hopes for the school's future.

**Q: What was your reaction to your appointment by Gov. Perry?**

A: Just as I was honored by Governor Perry appointing me to serve as a University of Houston System regent, I am grateful for this call to service. I came to UH in 1989 from India to study economics. I continued my studies at UH by entering the law center in 1992. When asked to be secretary of state, I felt it was my opportunity to say thank you

to Texas for embracing me. My mission as secretary is a continuation of that of Stephen F. Austin, our first Texas secretary of state. He wrote in 1836, "The prosperity of Texas has been the object of my labors, the idol of my existence, it has assumed the character of religion for the guidance of my thoughts and actions, for fifteen years." For the next year, fairness in our electoral system and the prosperity of Texas shall be the object of my labors.

**Q: How has UHLC made a difference in your career?**

A: UHLC made my career. I obtained a first class education, but more importantly, UH awakened my intellectual curiosity. My professors at UH, Tony Chase, Craig Joyce, Stephen Huber, John Mixon, and so many others, instilled in me a confidence to pursue other goals and dreams. It is a confidence I still carry with me in this new role as Texas Secretary of State.

**Q: What are you most looking forward to in this new role?**

A: The opportunity to share Texas' story both at home and abroad; the opportunity to ensure that every eligible vote counts; the opportunity to show to all Texans that the secretary of state's office is here to provide services efficiently and with a smile and show Texas-style hospitality.

Our state economy continues to outperform other states year after year. This has attracted a lot of attention not only from American companies but also overseas investors who want to learn about Texas' economic performance and invest here. As Texans, we are proud of our state, as we should be. We also have free, fair elections, where we send public servants to do our state's work. Ensuring that every vote counts is a tough task, but a worthy one.

**Q: What are your hopes for the Law Center going forward?**

A: I think the education within the walls of the Law Center is equal or better to anything in the state. The faculty is first rate, the student body is strong. I hope we can increase the sense of community among graduates, and thereby increase the value of the degree from our school. I want people to feel their degree from the UH Law Center put them ahead of other graduates because the hiring partner was an alumnus.

## Jeff Brown '95

Gov. Rick Perry in September appointed University of Houston Law Center alumnus Jeff Brown '95 to the Texas Supreme Court. Brown, who has served as a justice on the 14th Court of Appeals since 2007, will serve on the high court until the next general election. He served six years as judge of the 55th District Court in Harris County prior to his appointment to the appellate bench. His appointment to the high court filled a vacancy created by the retirement of Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson.

"Jeff is an outstanding and accomplished jurist whose highest priority on the bench is preservation of the rule of law," Perry said in announcing the appointment. "Jeff is a staunch defender of the constitutional freedoms our state and our nation are founded upon, and he will uphold these values with honor, dignity, and integrity as a

Supreme Court justice."

Brown has been an active supporter of the Law Center, where he has served on the boards of the Houston Law Review and University of Houston Law Alumni Association, and taught as an adjunct professor. He was named the Civil District Court Judge of the Year by the Houston Police Officers Union in 2002 and by the Peace Officers Looking Into Courthouse Excellence in 2003. The Texas Jaycees named Brown one of the Five Outstanding Young Texans of 2008. He also has served on the boards of the Texas Lyceum, Texas Su-





preme Court Historical Society, and the Christian Community Service Center. Brown is also an Eagle Scout, and has served on the Sam Houston Area Boy Scouts' Urban Scouting Committee.

Brown answered some questions about his new role on the state's highest bench as well as his hopes for his alma mater.

**Q: What was your reaction to your appointment by Gov. Perry?**

A: I was floored. I had dreamed of returning to the Supreme Court as a justice ever since I had served there as a law clerk in my first year after finishing at UHLC. It's still hard to believe. It's my third appointment by Gov. Perry — he appointed me to the district court in 2001 and the 14th Court of Appeals in 2007 — and I'm very grateful for and honored by the confidence he has shown in me.

**Q: How has UHLC made a difference in your career?**

A: UHLC was a great place to go to law school. It provides a perfect combination of scholarly courses taught by brilliant professors who inspire students to think deeply, and to think like good lawyers, and practical courses that prepare students for the actual practice of law. I took advantage of both, and the education I received at UHLC has served me well. I'm still in touch with some of my professors, who have now become more like peers, and some of my best friends are the friends I made at UHLC. Many are now among the best lawyers in their fields, and it's good to have friends like that to turn to for advice and support. UHLC is still a great place to study law, and I'm confident it will continue to be for years to come.

**Q: What has been the biggest change in your day-to-day routine since your appointment to the Supreme Court?**

A: Right now the biggest change is that I still live in Houston even

though I work in Austin. My wife, Susannah, and I decided to let our sons, Rob and Gus, finish out the school year before moving to Austin. I also didn't want Susannah, who teaches English at Bellaire High School, to have to leave her job in the middle of the year. So, I'm back and forth between Houston and Austin a lot. We may move to Austin this summer. For now, I stay with my cousin and her husband when I'm in Austin. They're empty-nesters and have very generously let me take over the second floor of their home whenever I'm in town.

The fact that the Supreme Court practices discretionary review is also a big change. At the Court of Appeals, we heard cases as a matter of right, which means we considered, decided, and issued an opinion in every case that came to us. At the Supreme Court, a big part of our job is deciding which cases to take. Our constitutional charge is to consider cases that are "important to the jurisprudence of the state," and just deciding which cases fit that designation is difficult in itself. Also, at the Court of Appeals we heard cases in panels of three. At the Supreme Court, all nine of us are involved in every case. When I was a trial judge, I had to convince just myself that I was right — now I've got eight very smart and very opinionated fellow judges I have to try to convince. Every day is a challenge, but it's a rewarding one.

**Q: What are your hopes for the Law Center going forward?**

A: My hope is that UHLC will continue to turn out top-notch lawyers and continue to be a place that effectively balances scholarship and practical skills. I hope that the Law Center always strives to be considered among the top law schools in the country. And I hope that the school's alumni will remember what a difference UHLC has made in their lives, and will support its efforts to sustain the rule of law and advance our noble profession.

## Marvin Nathan '66

As a student at the University of Houston Law Center during one of the most turbulent periods of the American civil rights struggle, Marvin Nathan started down a path that would lead to a lifelong commitment to human and civil rights.

He began his legal studies in 1963 as voter drives, Freedom Rides, and demonstrations spawned counter-violence, killings, and bombings in the deep south. In 1965, the year of "Bloody Sunday" during a protest march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, he heard the U.S. Solicitor General talk about the civil rights movement and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. That speech inspired him after graduation to become a trial lawyer in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Though he returned to Houston in 1970 and founded the law firm that later became Nathan Sommers Jacobs, he continued his advocacy for human rights and his fight against racial and religious intolerance.

In November 2013, the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Southwest Region honored Nathan with its Centennial Award for his "contributions to fighting anti-Semitism and securing justice and fair treatment for all."

"I am extremely proud that the Anti-Defamation League chose me to receive its Centennial Award," Nathan said. "ADL is one of our country's oldest and premier civil and human rights organizations, and for me to be distinguished by ADL is an exceptional honor."

During his time at the Law Center, Nathan was editor in chief of the Houston Law Review, winning the Matthew Bender Award and

West Law Award for Most Outstanding Contribution to Houston Law Review. He also was awarded the Wall Street Journal Award for Faculty Recognition of Most Outstanding Student in Study of Business Organizations and earned several Bancroft Awards for having the highest grade in various courses.

Nathan is a longtime supporter of the law school, which awarded him the Volunteer of the Year Award in 1994 and 1995, the Law Alumni Association President's Award in 1991, the Dean's Award in 1993 and 2004, and the Alumnus of the Year Award in 1997.

The University of Houston awarded him the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2008.

"The Law Center was largely responsible for my participation in the Attorney General's Honors Program of the United States Department of Justice," he said. "My legal studies at the Law Center gave me skills, empowered me with beliefs, encouraged my growth, and instilled me with professionalism and ethical values."

"Helping others is one of the critical pillars of the legal profession," Nathan said. "I hope that UHLC will continue to successfully educate and train men and women and to inspire them in the same ways that it did me and so many other legal colleagues to proudly serve their clients and communities in the law."



# NEW FACES

## Faculty

### David Kwok

#### Assistant Professor of Law



David Kwok's primary research interest is in the area of white collar crime. He has written about the role of whistleblowers and private litigation in addressing fraud against the federal government under the False Claims Act. He graduated from Northwestern University with a B.S. from the McCormick School of Engineering and received his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif. At UC Berkeley he also received his Masters Degree in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy and his Ph.D. in Jurisprudence and Social Policy. After law school, Kwok clerked for the Honorable John T. Noonan, Jr. on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Kwok teaches in the areas of white collar crime, public policy, and law and the social sciences. "I'm excited to work with students in helping them navigate the challenging uncertainties and tradeoffs of our legal system," he said.

### D. Theodore Rave

#### Assistant Professor of Law



"Teddy" Rave writes and teaches in the areas of civil procedure, complex litigation, constitutional law, and election law. His recent research has focused on settlements in mass litigation and alternatives to class actions. He also has written about political gerrymandering of legislative districts and fiduciary theories of government. His articles have appeared in such journals as the Harvard Law Review, the Vanderbilt Law Review, and the Journal of Tort Law. Rave received his J.D. from the New York University School of Law and his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College. While in law school, he served as Senior Executive Editor of the NYU Law Review. After law school he clerked for the Honorable Leonard B. Sand on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and for the Honorable Robert A. Katzmann on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Prior to joining the Law Center, Rave was an associate in the Issues and Appeals practice at Jones Day in New York, where he focused on federal and state appellate litigation, as well as class actions and multi-district litigation. After that, he was also a Furman Fellow at the NYU School of Law.

## Staff

### Elizabeth Clearman

#### Assistant Director of Admissions



Liz Clearman holds a B.A. in Political Science from Texas A&M University and a J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center class of '04. Prior to coming on board at the Admissions Office, Clearman worked as an assistant city attorney for the City of Houston, a career counselor at the UHLC Office of Career Development, a stay-at-home-mom with her own organizing business, and most recently, the marketing director for a local restaurant. During her time at UHLC, Clearman co-founded AgLaw, now known as the Aggie Law Society, and was also an Admissions Office Student Ambassador.

### Russ Gibbs

#### Assistant Dean of Advancement



Russ Gibbs brings more than 16 years of professional development experience in social services, higher education, and academic health philanthropic sectors to his role at the Law Center where he is responsible for all campaign, major gift, and planned giving initiatives. Gibbs, a native Texan, holds a B.A. from Baylor University and Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He served in pastoral ministry in Texas for 17 years before beginning his career in development.

Prior to coming to the Law Center, Gibbs was vice president for institutional advancement for the Texas A&M Health Science Center in Bryan. From 2003 to 2008, Gibbs served as associate vice chancellor of advancement programs and services for the Texas Tech University System. He previously worked as vice president for institutional advancement at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview.

Gibbs received his Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) certification in 2002 and was recertified in 2005, 2008, and 2011. He is an avid fly fisherman, golfer, bird hunter, and mountain biker.



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**Brisa Gossett**  
**Executive Secretary**



Brisa Gossett currently splits her time between the Clinical Legal Education Program and the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law. Brisa began working at the Law Center in 2007 as a work-study for the Legal Clinics before becoming a part time member of the staff. She received a B.B.A. in Entrepreneurship from the C. T. Bauer College of Business and a B.S. in Spanish from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Houston in spring 2011. Gossett graduated from the Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship in 2008.

**Amy Hawk**  
**Associate Director, Blakely Advocacy Institute**



Amy E. Hawk joined the Blakely Advocacy Institute after practicing for 10+ years in Houston as a trial attorney specializing in general civil and commercial litigation. She earned a B.A. in English from Davidson College in 1995 and spent a year studying abroad in Edinburgh, Scotland. She earned her J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center in 2001. As the BAI Associate Director, Amy works closely with UHLC students to improve their advocacy and lawyering skills.

**Angela Hazlegrove**  
**Business Services Administrator**



Angela M. Hazlegrove graduated from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, in 2010 with a B.A. in Business. She joined the Law Center staff as the Business Department Administrator after her husband started working at the University as a deputy fire marshal. Hazlegrove previously worked in various administrative positions for small companies around Houston.

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**Daniel Hope**  
**User Support Specialist**



As a member of the IT team, Daniel Hope specializes in Macintosh support for faculty, staff, and students. He previously worked directly with Apple in Dallas, helping clients integrate Macs into Windows environments. Hope graduated with a B.B.A. from The University of Texas at Arlington. Having spent his childhood in Houston, he is grateful to move his family back to his hometown.

**Stephen Jablonski**  
**Multimedia Specialist**



Prior to joining the Law Center staff, Stephen Jablonski edited video and motion graphics for clients, including the international law firm White & Case and the non-profit storytelling series, The Moth in New York. There he once shook hands with chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov, served a chicken dinner to Diane Sawyer, and stood in a crowded room with Garrison Keillor. Jablonski received his B.A. from Baylor University in Journalism and Film & Digital Media.

**Amanda Parker**  
**Executive Secretary**



Amanda Parker recently returned to the Law Center after a two-year period in Osaka, Japan, teaching English and immersion English preschool classes. She graduated from the University of Houston in 2010 with a degree in Political Science. She currently works in the Faculty Suites as a secretary. She spends her free time reading news and legal periodicals, and considering future graduate studies.

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**Adrianna Runnels**  
**Accountant, Law Foundation**

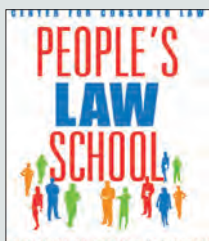


Adrianna L. Runnels earned a B.S. in Accounting from Prairie View A&M University in 2010. She worked as a budget specialist at Prairie View A&M for two years before joining the Law Center as an Accountant II in the Law foundation in November. Even though she has only been at the law school for a short while, she finds the atmosphere friendly and the faculty and staff very helpful.

**Oscar Sevilla**  
**Program Coordinator**



Oscar Sevilla is a graduate of Sam Houston State University with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. Prior to joining the University of Houston Law Center, he was a member of the Advise Texas College Advising Corps with the Texas State University Chapter. He plays a dual role providing administrative support to both Graduate Legal Studies (LL.M.) and J.D. Admissions. Sevilla is currently working on his M.Ed. in Student Development/Leadership in Higher Education at Angelo State University.



## People's Law School Educates Hundreds

Houston area residents seeking information about their legal rights filled Krost Hall October 5 as more than 40 volunteer judges, practitioners, and law professors taught classes during the annual People's Law School held at the Law Center.

"Once again we had a great crowd of people who all seemed to leave with a better understanding of the law and how important it is to know your legal rights," **Richard M. Alderman**, interim dean and director of the Center for Consumer Law,

said of the more than 400 attendees. "As long as people keep coming, we will keep presenting classes."

Hosted by the Center for Consumer Law with the sponsorship of the Houston Bar Association, the free program is the oldest and most successful of its kind in the nation, having taught more than 50,000 people over the years.

Classes dealt with business law, bankruptcy, employment, criminal law, health insurance, consumer law, credit and debt collection, wills and estates, family law, insurance law, landlord tenant law, small claims court, and how to deal with an attorney. There was even a class on how to find the law on the Internet.

## Genetics Revolution

Three University of Houston Law Center authorities on the law of genetics spoke about their research, as well as the latest trends in biotechnology, intellectual property and genetics, in a panel discussion held at the law school Oct 29.

The panel consisted of Professors **Sapna Kumar**, **Jessica Roberts**, and **Barbara Evans**. Each has conducted research and written extensively on genetic-related legal issues.

"Scientific advances after the Human Genome Project are starting to have broad impacts, not just in medicine, but throughout many diverse sectors of the U.S. economy," Evans noted. "The University of Houston has one of the nation's deepest teams of professors at the very forefront of genetics-related policy issues."

Kumar added, "Scholars and courts are only beginning to consider how intellectual property can affect the individual rights of patients. My research looks at how patents can impact the substantive due process rights of individual patients, and how current standing doctrine can leave these people without any recourse."

Roberts, widely viewed as one of the nation's leading thinkers on the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, has explored how genetics affects a wide range of interests within and beyond healthcare, such as employment law, criminal law, and discrimination.

## Indian Parliament Member Lectures at UHLC

A member of the Indian Parliament, elder statesman, and renowned attorney captivated UHLC students with a wide-ranging historical perspective on democracy and religion from the ancient Greeks to today's extremists.

**Ram Jethmalani** spoke at the Law Center on Sept. 24. The subject of his talk was "Secularism in the Indian Constitution." Jethmalani said his country owes a debt of gratitude to the American constitution and the founding fathers for providing a model for India in establishing a democratic, non-sectarian nation.



## EENR Fall Speakers Series

The Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center fall speaker series focused on three key issues facing the state and nation – the social costs of carbon, water development in Texas, and what to expect from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the coming years.

The kick-off presentation held Oct. 16 was "The Social Cost of Carbon - A View from Both Sides." It featured **David Bookbinder**, former chief climate counsel of the Sierra Club, and **David Bailey**, former global climate policy manager for ExxonMobil, both now with Element VI Consulting.

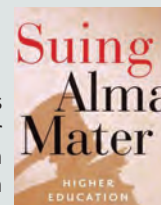
**Carlos Rubinstein**, chairman of the newly reconstituted Texas Water Development Board, discussed "The Future of Texas Water Law and Policy" on Oct. 28.

The final lecture held on Nov. 14 was "EPA in the Rearview Mirror." It featured **Scott Fulton**, EPA's general counsel from 2009 to 2013. Fulton is now a partner in the firm of Beveridge & Diamond in its Washington office.

The EENR Center Speaker Series is made possible through the support of Bracewell & Giuliani LLP, Vinson & Elkins LLP, Blackburn Carter, P.C., and the Environmental & Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas.

## Olivas Publishes 'Suing Alma Mater'

Higher education litigation has proliferated in recent years over weighty constitutional issues such as free speech and admission policies as well as more mundane matters of grade disputes and post-graduation employment expectations. The litigation is often expensive and contentious, and the repercussions for the institutions can be severe. In his 14th book, Professor **Michael A. Olivas** examines more than 120 higher education cases that made their way to the U.S. Supreme Court during the past 50 years, and delves deeper into six that didn't make it that far, to see what sort of legal patterns emerge. "Suing Alma Mater, Higher Education and the Courts" is published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. Olivas is the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law and director of the Institute of Higher Education Law & Governance at the Law Center.





## Ethics and Compliance Symposium

A diverse group of industry professionals discussed issues ranging from privacy, data security, and hospitality to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) during the 2nd Annual Ethics and Compliance Symposium held at the Law Center on June 6. The conference provided attendees with practical advice and real-world examples of issues facing ethics and corporate compliance officers today. The event was sponsored by the Center for Consumer Law.

"Ethics and compliance challenges affect an organization's performance, its reputation and ultimately, its survival," said Interim Dean **Richard M. Alderman**, director of the Center for Consumer Law. "Our objective is for this symposium to shed light on the many issues present in the field of corporate compliance today."

Former Deputy Attorney General **George J. Terwilliger, III** opened the event by discussing the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and how it is enforced in regards to the anti-bribery provision. The FCPA prohibits companies from paying bribes to foreign government officials and political figures for the purpose of obtaining business or an unfair advantage.

"The FCPA is in need of reform," said Terwilliger, co-chair of Morgan Lewis' White Collar Litigation & Government Investigations Practice.

"In its current state, the FCPA is not as effective as it could be in achieving the very objectives that Congress set out to achieve when it enacted the legislation."



## '13 Grads Told Law Degree Can Lead to Many Paths

Graduates of the University of Houston Law Center Class of 2013 were advised during commencement exercises May 11 to pursue their passion, because their newly minted law degrees can open doors to many successful careers in addition to the practice of law.

Commencement speaker, KTRK – Channel 13 news anchor **Melanie Lawson**, joked that her longtime friend and part-time broadcast colleague, Interim Dean **Richard M. Alderman**, might not appreciate her saying

so, but she is a prime example of an attorney who took her legal education to a different field where she has had great success and personal satisfaction.

After graduating with J.D. and journalism degrees from Columbia University in 1980 and working three years as a Wall Street attorney, she "took a huge pay cut and came back home" to her first love, journalism. "Not everybody takes the same path," she told the 347 graduates, mentioning a number of careers in which attorneys have parlayed their legal skills and knowledge into alternate careers, including authors, sports agents, Hollywood and Internet executives, and even presidents. "The economy is on an upswing," she said, "good jobs are coming back.

"My point is, you will find a job and you will be a success," Lawson told the grads in her fast-paced, upbeat delivery. "In fact, your future job may not even exist yet, but the law will help you in any career. She urged them to work for love, not money. "Find the thing you want to get up and do every morning."



## Judge Stresses Human Factors in Federal Sentencing Reform

The Hon. **William K. Sessions III** opened a University of Houston Law Center symposium on federal sentencing guidelines, arguing for greater emphasis on human characteristics, discretion, and flexibility for judges within the guideline structure.

Sessions, a U.S. district judge in Vermont and former chairman of the Federal Sentencing Commission, called for reform as keynote speaker of the symposium on "Federal Sentencing Challenges Post-Booker." In his address Nov. 14, Sessions stressed the importance of considering factors labeled in current federal sentencing guidelines as "not ordinarily relevant to the determination of whether a sentence should be outside the applicable guideline range" -- factors such as education, vocation, employment, family ties, and community ties.

"This is a human system," Sessions said. "If you believe it's eye for an eye or tooth for a tooth then you don't consider the human characteristics. I don't believe that. I don't believe this is how you handle human beings in a totally human system."

His comments were echoed the following day by UHLC visiting scholar **Melissa Hamilton** who focused on the preference toward imprisonment in the federal criminal justice system during her lecture and the roundtable discussion that closed the symposium. The Criminal Justice Institute and the Houston Law Review hosted the event.



# LAW ALUMNI NEWS

*It is our pleasure to congratulate the recipients of the University of Houston Law Center Alumni Awards. The 2014 recipients will be honored at the 38th Annual Law Gala & Auction on March 28th. Many thanks to all who participated in the nomination process.*



**David Hittner,**  
HONORARY ALUMNUS

United States District Judge David Hittner has been a practicing attorney, Army infantry captain and para-trooper, author, lecturer and humorist, active sup-

porter of the Boy Scouts, and has presided over state and federal courts for 35 years. He also has been an active supporter of the University of Houston Law Center, mentoring judicial interns and law clerks and judging advocacy tournaments. During his years on the federal bench, 12 of his 31 law clerks, about 40 percent, have been graduates of the Law Center.

Hittner was nominated for the federal bench by President Ronald Reagan and confirmed unanimously by the Senate in 1986. He served on the 133rd State District Court bench in Houston from 1978 until his federal appointment.

He has received numerous honors during his five-decade legal career, including the Samuel E. Gates Award from the American College of Lawyers, the Presidents' Award from the State Bar of Texas as the outstanding lawyer in Texas, both civil and criminal Judge of the Year awards, and the American Bar Association Special Award of Merit. He has published more than 80 legal articles, including a three-volume book, *Federal Civil Procedure Before Trial*, Fifth Circuit Edition, and 13 law review articles. In 2001, Hittner received the Honorary Order of the Coif recognition from the Law Center's chapter. He also originated the "Saturday Morning in Court" lecture program, often sponsored by the Law Center, which was presented throughout the country for 26 years and has been recognized nationally for innovation in continuing legal education.

Hittner received his B.S. in 1961 from New York University and his J.D. from the NYU School of Law in 1964.



**Yvonne Ho '06**  
RISING STAR

Yvonne Ho joined the firm of Bracewell & Giuliani in 2011 as an associate in the appellate group and this year was recognized as a Texas Super Lawyer in Appellate Law.

Valedictorian of her class, Ho has remained active with the Law Center, serving as secretary/treasurer of the Houston Law Review Alumni Association Board of Directors and as chair of the Judicial Clerkship Committee for the UHLC Alumni Association. Ho has recruited alumni to serve as contacts and mentors for students pursuing clerkships. She regularly speaks on campus to promote clerkships and has mentored more than a dozen UHLC students, many of whom have gone on to clerk in various state and federal courts.

Before attending law school, Ho was a professional classical pianist with degrees from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and the University of Southern California. Following graduation from law school, Ho clerked for the Honorable Ewing Werlein, Jr., U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, and for the Honorable Thomas M. Reavley, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Ho is an active member of the Houston Bar Association, serving as an HBA Ambassador. Last year she co-chaired the HBA Lawyers for Literacy Committee which collected and distributed more than 24,000 books to 27 local organizations and charities. This year, Ho is co-chairing the HBA Minority Opportunities in the Legal Profession Committee, whose goal is to promote employment and mentoring opportunities for first-year minority law students.



**Evelyn V. Keyes**  
'87  
PUBLIC SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT

Justice Evelyn V. Keyes has served on the First Court of Appeals since her appointment in May 2002 by Gov. Rick Perry.

Before joining the First Court, Keyes was a partner in Clements, O'Neill, Pierce, Wilson, and Fulkerson, L.L.P., practicing complex civil litigation. She also served as a special assistant attorney general to then Texas Attorney General John Cornyn.

Keyes is a former member of the University of Houston Law Alumni Board of Directors and Law Review Board of Directors. While at the Law Center, she was chief articles editor of the *Houston Law Review* and a member of the Order of the Coif, the Order of the Barons, and Phi Delta Phi. She was awarded the Wall Street Journal Award and a Distinguished Service Award.

Keyes is a member of the United States Supreme Court Bar, the Texas State Bar, and the federal bars for the Southern and Western Districts of Texas and the Fifth Circuit. She is a member of the American Law Institute and an advisor to the ALI Government Ethics Project. She is also a member of the National Advisory Council of the American Judicature Society and a member of its Ethics Committee. Keyes is a member of the American Bar Foundation, a life member of the Texas Bar Foundation and Houston Bar Foundation, and a member of the Texas State Bar College. She is an active member of the American, Texas, and Houston Bar Associations, serving in various capacities on section boards and committees.

Prior to receiving her law degree, Keyes earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy from Rice University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in English from The University of Texas. She received her B.A. in English from Sophie Newcomb College, Tulane University. She is a former Woodrow Wilson fellow and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.





## Marvin D. Nathan '66

PRIVATE SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT

Marvin Nathan, founding partner of a Houston law firm and lifelong activist in behalf of civil rights and against racial and religious

intolerance, was previously honored by the Alumni Association 16 years ago.

After graduation, Nathan was inspired to become a trial lawyer in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (1966-68) after hearing at the Law Center United States Solicitor General Archibald Cox speak about the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He founded the firm of Nathan Sommers Jacobs in 1970. In November, 2013, the Anti-Defamation League's Southwest Region honored him with its Centennial Award for his civil rights efforts. Nathan is a National Commissioner of the Anti-Defamation League, having served as chair of its national civil rights committee, and serving currently as chair of its national planning committee. Nathan received the Karen H. Susman Jurisprudence Award in 2003.

Nathan has been honored several times for his active support of the law school. In 1991, he received the President's Award from the UH Law Alumni Association. He was honored with the Volunteer of the Year Award from the University of Houston and the Law Center in 1994 and 1995, the Alumnus of the Year Award in 1997, the Law Center Dean's Award in 1993 and 2004, and he was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Houston in 2008.

Nathan is a board member and past president of the University of Houston Law Foundation, a board member of the University of Houston Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League Foundation, and the Frankel Family Foundation, and a board member and the secretary of the Marlene Nathan Meyerson Family Foundation. He is also a national board member and the secretary of Genesys Works, a non-profit organization that trains and employs high school students to perform technical services for major corporations.



## Samuel E. Stubbs '77

LAW GALA

Samuel Stubbs is the managing partner of the Houston office at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman. He has been recog-

nized several times by Best and Super Lawyers in five categories of litigation.

Stubbs serves on the board of the Sam Houston Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and has served as a member of the Executive Committee. He has received the Silver Beaver and District Award of Merit, and served as a Scoutmaster at the 1997, 2001, and 2005 National Jamborees.

He is also a board member of the Houston Museum of Natural Science and current chair of the Paleontology Committee. He has served on the Anthropology Committee as chair, and currently serves on the Collections Committee.

He is a former attorney representative of the Texas Special Olympics, and served as the state development chair in 1996.



## William D. Wood '84

ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

Willie Wood joined Fulbright & Jaworski in 1984, and is now Norton Rose Fulbright's United States Head of Energy and Infrastructure and a member of its Global Supervisory Board.

While at the Law Center, Wood was an associate editor of the Houston Law Review. He has served as the University of Houston Law Foundation president as well as the University of Houston Law Alumni Association president and currently serves on the board for the Houston Chapter of the American Heart Association. He is an advisory director of the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law, which is seated at the Law Center.

He is a frequent presenter and speaker in U.S. and international legal conferences on topics

of importance to the energy industry, to the litigation practice, and on matters related to Latin America.

Wood has been involved in the successful trial and arbitration of numerous domestic and international cases, primarily involving energy industry matters. He is an elected member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, has been named a Texas Super Lawyer for several years, was honored as one of the top 100 lawyers in the State of Texas and in Houston last year, and is recognized as a top energy litigation attorney in several global directories. He was recently listed in the Houston Business Journal's Who's Who in Energy.



## David P. Young '88

CORPORATE SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT

David Young is a general solicitor for the Union Pacific Railroad Co., supervising all litigation in a five-state region, as well as overseeing the company's legal affairs

in Mexico. He is also responsible for all environmental legal matters and hazardous material emergency responses. Young manages a staff of nine in-house attorneys and utilizes more than 50 outside law firms. Prior to joining the railroad in 1994, he worked at a litigation boutique firm in Houston.

Young earned a B.A. in Urban Studies from Michigan State University in 1980 and completed the Advanced Management Program at Duke University in 2006.

Young is a member of the board of directors of the Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse, the Fort Bend County Women's Center, and on the board of trustees of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. He is also a frequent speaker at continuing legal education programs throughout the country. Young was the 2013 recipient of the Helen Cordes Award from the Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse for his years of community service.

# LAW ALUMNI NEWS



The University of Houston Law Alumni Association is dedicated to helping alumni connect with each other and the Law Center. Please contact us if you want to get involved with our events or have ideas for upcoming programs – we are here to serve you! Email us at [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu).

**Tom Hetherington '98**

2013-2015 UH Law Alumni Association President, University of Houston Law Alumni Association  
Partner, Edison, McDowell & Hetherington LLP

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

We have had a great year and wanted to share some of the event highlights with you...



Law Alumni Association Annual Meeting  
and 2013 Alumni Award Winners



2nd Annual Wine Tasting



Houston Area Alumni Reception  
at the Grotto



Family Fun Day at  
the Zoo

### STAY CONNECTED

Please keep in touch by letting us know of your career and personal achievements: Do you have a new job? Have you moved? Married? Had a baby? Other news? Contact Hope Young, Director of Alumni Relations at [hyoung@central.uh.edu](mailto:hyoung@central.uh.edu) or 713.743.2539.



# GET INVOLVED



## HIRE HOUSTON FIRST

The Career Development Office (CDO) assists employers in identifying and recruiting talented students and alumni to fulfill their employment needs. With in-depth knowledge of the student and alumni population, the CDO can guide employers to the right candidate. UH Law Center students encounter a rigorous curriculum and are practice ready when they graduate.

If your law firm, business, or organization is interested in hiring a University of Houston Law Center law student or graduate, please visit the CDO website at [www.law.uh.edu/career/](http://www.law.uh.edu/career/) where you can post your position free of charge. If you have any questions, please email Allison Hickey Regan, assistant dean for Career Development, at [ahregan@central.uh.edu](mailto:ahregan@central.uh.edu).

## LAW FUND

The Law Fund is the UH Law Center's annual giving program. Gifts are unrestricted and are allocated to the highest priorities of the Law Center. Excellence in higher education never happens by accident.

Your support is critical in helping educate the next generation of lawyers. Please give.

To give online, please visit [law.uh.edu/giving](http://law.uh.edu/giving). If you would like to make a recurring gift, please contact Kathy Brannon at 713.743.2089 or [kabranno@central.uh.edu](mailto:kabranno@central.uh.edu).

## MENTORING PROGRAM UPDATE

This past October UHLC hosted a kick-off event at the 14th Court of Appeals in the refurbished Harris County Courthouse for the new upper level mentoring program. We have nearly 50 lawyer volunteers in this program and 80 3L students participating as mentees. We are pleased with the support for this initiative and have heard very positive feedback from students and their mentors. Many thanks to all of you who have dedicated your time and support to make this program a success!

## UH LAW CENTER ADMISSIONS

Do you know someone who is interested in attending law school? The professional staff in the Office of Admissions is available to guide candidates through the application process. Tours and class visits are also available by appointment.

### Deadlines for Fall 2014 admission:

\*February 15 for full-time

May 15 for part-time

Call 713.743.2280 or email [lawadmissions@uh.edu](mailto:lawadmissions@uh.edu) to schedule an appointment.

\* Applications received after the deadlines will be reviewed after the regular decision applications have been considered.

## REUNIONS – 50 AND 25 YEAR MILESTONES

Calling all alumni in the following classes:

**1964, 1987, 1988, 1989**

We will be hosting reunion events this Spring – be on the lookout for more information! Please contact Hope Young at [hyoung@central.uh.edu](mailto:hyoung@central.uh.edu) or 713.743.2539 to serve on the planning committee or with any questions.



Enjoying the Gala are Dr. Suresh Khator, left, and Renu Khator, chancellor of the University of Houston System and president of UH, Jarvis V. and Andrea Hollingsworth, and Janie and Richard M. Alderman.

## GALA TAKES ALUMS AROUND THE WORLD

The 37th Annual Gala & Auction with the theme of "Passport Around the World" drew a crowd of 525 to the Hilton-Americas-Houston Ballroom and raised \$430,000 for the law school. Guests, including UH System Chancellor and President Renu Khator, strolled among landmarks such as Stonehenge and the Great Pyramid of Giza as they bid on a huge selection of items during the silent auction, followed by dinner and a live auction before dancing the night away. Jarvis V. Hollingsworth '93, chairman of the University of Houston System board of regents and partner in the firm of Bracewell & Giuliani, was the Gala's first honoree for his support and commitment to the university and the Law Center.



Hon. Bill King '78 and Neda Ladjevardian



Sam '77 and Melinda Stubbs



From left, Jody '07 and Sarah '08 Mitchell, Cynthia '10 and Chad Mabry

# Holiday Coffee

The Law Center community gathered in early December to celebrate the spirit of the season at the annual Holiday Party hosted by Interim Dean Richard M. Alderman. The traditional kickoff to the holiday season gives guests a chance to renew friendships, start new ones, catch up with classmates on career moves, and proudly show off their families.







UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**

LAW CENTER

**2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

## Office of External Affairs

### Assistant Dean for External Affairs

Kathy Brannon  
kabranno@central.uh.edu  
713.743.2089

### Assistant Dean of Advancement

Russ Gibbs  
ragibbs@central.uh.edu  
713.743.1454

### Director of Major Gifts

Tom Troegel  
tftroege@central.uh.edu  
713.743.2207

### Director of Alumni Relations

Hope Young  
hyoung@central.uh.edu  
713.743.2539

### Director of Events

Shannon Smith  
ssmith5@central.uh.edu  
713.743.2394

### Funds Manager

Cheryl Drew  
cjdrew@central.uh.edu  
713.743.2114

### Donor Relations/Stewardship Manager

Carolyn Taylor  
cdtaylo3@central.uh.edu  
713.743.2289

### Event Coordinator

Michaela Clark  
miclark@central.uh.edu  
713.743.2201

## UH Law Foundation Staff

### Assistant Director

Karen Krenek  
klkrenek@central.uh.edu  
713.743.3742

### Accountant

Adrianna Runnels  
alrunne2@central.uh.edu  
713.743.2503

### University of Houston Law Center

100 Law Center  
Houston, TX 77204-6060  
713-743-2100  
www.law.uh.edu

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

*Richard M. Alderman*



One of my goals as Interim Dean is to expand lines of communication among all those in the Law Center community. Part of that effort is this Annual Report, showing our alumni, the lifeblood of this institution, exactly where our money came from and where it went in Fiscal 2013. As you will see, the Law Center is currently on firm financial footing, in large part because of the strong support of its alums. But we cannot become complacent, and we must continue to increase our donor base and total contributions. All law schools today face intense competition from both other law schools and other professions. To maintain our position within the academic community and continue to attract the best students, we will need to increase the resources available for scholarships and other student support. As you read this report, please consider increasing your support to the Law Center in Fiscal 2014.

I hope this report will become a recurring exercise in “transparency,” so you will understand the importance of your contribution to the Law Center. I encourage your continued support and because communication is a two-way street, please let me hear from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Alderman".

Richard M. Alderman  
Interim Dean  
Dwight Olds Chair in Law

## MESSAGE FROM UH LAW FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

*Jeff C. Dodd*



This is the first in what I hope to be several communications about our shared alma mater, the University of Houston Law Center. We have much to be proud of – rankings that continue to rise; a growing prominence within academia, the legal industry and media; enhanced curriculum and programs; development of mentoring and other programs to equip our graduates for the demands of the practice; and an ability to attract terrific faculty and students. Our Law Center also has the undeniable and important benefit of being the best law school in Houston, one of the most dynamic cities, and 4th largest, in the U.S.

However, our Law Center also faces significant challenges. We all know them. Chief among them, of course, is the need to secure non-state sources of funding in order to maintain the school's trajectory of increasing prominence and recognition, even as levels of state funding continue to decrease. Moreover, the fundamental and permanent changes in the legal marketplace buffet it and its graduates, no less than other law schools. Also, the Law Center is competing with other schools in searching for a permanent dean who will be equal to her or his immediate predecessors.

The Law Foundation recently reorganized its structure to provide greater support for the Law Center and its dean in addressing some of these challenges. We now have committees focused not only on the essential and traditional foundation functions of overseeing investment and expenditure of foundation funds, but also on assisting in building bridges between the Law Center and the legal and business communities in which our alumni participate, identifying and supporting with the Alumni Association specific initiatives, including fundraising, and advocating the interests of our Law Center.

We will be communicating with all of you about the initiatives that we pursue, but we also want to hear from you. To that end, and recognizing that you are key to our continued success, we commissioned an Alumni Attitude Study to canvass our alumni about issues that were of concern and interest. We share a summary of those findings in this issue on pages 4-5. I think you'll find it as interesting as I do. That is just the beginning. Let me hear from you about what you would like to do to build the reputation and reach of our Law Center.

Jeff C. Dodd (JD, 1979; BA, 1976)  
President, UH Law Foundation

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW FOUNDATION  
FISCAL YEAR 2013 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2013 (IN THOUSANDS)**

Total Revenues	\$ 3,599.3
Total Expenses*	\$ 2,594.1

**REVENUES**

Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 731.7	20%
Temp Restricted Gifts	\$ 1,161.9	32%
Perm Restricted Gifts	\$ 174.0	5%
Special Events	\$ 193.6	6%
Investment Income	\$ 1,305.4	36%
Other	\$ 32.7	1%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 3,599.3</b>	<b>100%</b>

**EXPENSES**

Institutes/Clinics	\$ 926.2	36%
Faculty Support	\$ 400.2	15%
Student Support	\$ 319.7	12%
Law Center Support	\$ 333.5	13%
Fundraising	\$ 358.5	14%
Management & General	\$ 256.0	10%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,594.1</b>	<b>100%</b>

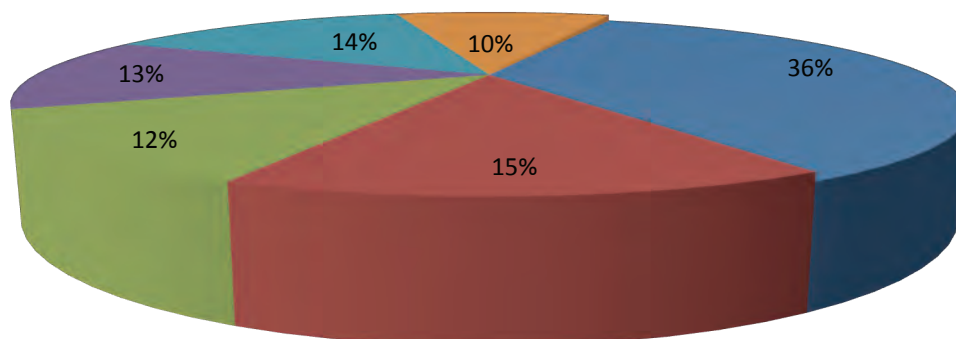
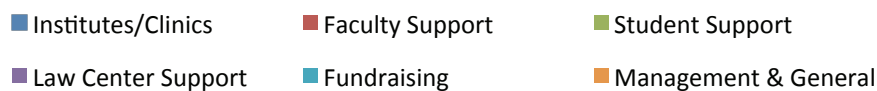
**NET ASSETS**

Total Perm Restricted	\$ 14,408.2	64%
Total Temp Restricted	\$ 6,687.8	30%
Total Unrestricted	\$ 1,326.1	6%

Total Foundation Net Assets	\$ 22,422.1	100%
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\*Foundation policy requires a minimum \$1 million operating reserve

**Expenses**





# BILL MAYNARD '73

## 40 YEARS OF SUCCESS AND SUPPORT FOR THE LAW CENTER

Although Bill Maynard recently completed his term as chairman of the board of the University of Houston Law Foundation, he has no intention of distancing himself from the Law Center. In fact, he says now more than ever is the time when he and fellow alumni should be actively involved.

"We're in transition. We're facing cuts in state funding, searching for a new dean, and we need a new facility," he says. "And, we have three programs ranked in the top 20, and we're in the fourth largest legal market. People like to go with the winners."

As the law school looks ahead in its search for a dean, Maynard hopes that person will be, "dynamic and charismatic." "That person needs to be able to wear several hats, including a public relations hat, so that he or she can motivate the greater Houston community to support the Law Center," he says.

"We are not a law school, but a law

center," says Maynard, which was reflected in the short video, "A Case for Excellence," he spearheaded during his term as foundation president. Long active in the Law Center, Maynard was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 2005, and has taught courses offered by the Blakely Advocacy Institute.

Maynard first arrived on the UH campus as an undergraduate in 1968, following a tour in Vietnam with the U.S. Air Force. He majored in psychology, thinking it would be an ideal background for any career path he chose. A Pine Bluff, Arkansas, native, Maynard completed his undergraduate degree – at in-state tuition of \$50 per semester – within 24 months.

He immediately enrolled at the law school and won the moot court competition in his freshman year, sealing his career path in law. He earned his J.D. summa cum laude in 1973. His legal career began in



1972, the first year Houston law firms came to campus to recruit students, when Maynard accepted an offer from Baker Botts to work as a summer clerk.

After graduation, he joined Fulbright, Crooker & Jaworski, where the central docket included 250 cases each week. He founded Beirne Maynard & Parsons in 1979 with colleagues from Fulbright. The firm evolved into Beirne, Maynard & Parsons and grew to become one of the largest litigation firms in the country with more than 100 trial lawyers experienced in every aspect of civil litigation. Maynard specialized in aviation litigation, representing corporate clients in major cases involving aviation accidents.

While Maynard recently retired, he maintains an office and a secretary at the firm's Post Oak Boulevard office. He also volunteers with the Veterans Legal Services Clinic, which he helped establish, works and fishes at his ranch in Liberty, TX, and spends time with his children and grandchildren.

"UH gave me a great education," Maynard said. "Now is the time to give back to the school that taught me what I needed to succeed."



*Bill Maynard spends a good deal of time on his ranch in Liberty where he raises 500 head of cattle. He also has an agreement with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to improve wildlife habitat on his 5,000-acre property where he must log at least 100 hours a month working the wetlands with his heavy equipment.*

In order to better serve Law Center alumni and students, the University of Houston Law Foundation and UH Law Alumni Association, conducted the first alumni survey to compare results with benchmarks and comparable results from other law schools. The survey asked what alums consider most important in forming their opinion of how the school is doing; what role they should play for their alma mater and vice versa; how they rate their law school experience; their attitude toward giving; and how they are using their degree.

Responses from 700 alums allowed a comparison with a group of comparable law schools to see how opinions are similar and different, and to help gauge performance. “Our 9.8 percent electronic survey response rate is on par with other law school alumni and helps provide a comfortable level of confidence in our survey results, even as findings are analyzed for specific alumni age groups and segments,” said Tom Troegel, director of major gifts. The Law Center survey compared results from the University of Southern California, Cornell, Drake, Emory, George Washington, Indiana, Santa Clara, and Tulane.



### OVERALL

Alumni expressed an underlying theme of “value and respect for the UHLC degree” in formulating their overall opinion of the Law Center. Of highest importance were “rankings,” such as those compiled by U.S. News & World Report and other publications and organizations, followed closely by “accomplishments of alumni, faculty, and students.” “Law school building and equipment” ranked fifth in importance of the 13 issues most often used by alumni as they form their opinion of their law school alma mater.

### ALUMNI RELATIONS

Respondents across all age groups indicated the most important role they and the school’s support services could provide is “finding jobs for graduating students.” The Law Center’s performance in this area was rated higher than that given by alumni of the other law schools.

The second most important issue was “serving as ambassadors promoting UHLC to others,” followed closely by “helping alumni find jobs.” Ranked fourth, “mentoring students” is receiving strong programming support from the Law Alumni Association and Law Center. “Providing financial support” for the Law Center was next in importance and, unlike alumni at other law schools, our alumni felt the Law Center could do more to improve fund development.

Of the 13 issues alumni were asked to consider, two of the top seven involved opportunities for alumni to become involved with the Law Center in a meaningful way. “Providing leadership by serving on boards, committees, etc.,” ranked seventh in importance, preceded by “networking with other alumni.”

### STUDENT EXPERIENCE

When compared to alumni from other law schools, UHLC alumni were more likely to recommend the Law Center to others 23 percent to 16 percent. Despite this sign of support, Law Center alumni rated their “experience as a student” lower than graduates of the other schools. Slightly more than 80 percent of Law Center alumni rated their student experience as “good” or “excellent” compared to 87 percent of comparable alumni.

Looking back to their time as a student, the top two issues were “academics and classes” and “quality of faculty.” Next in importance were acquiring the requisite “skills and training” to begin their careers followed closely by being “treated with respect.”

When asked about the Law Center’s performance in these and other areas, alumni showed a clear preference for additional emphasis on “skills and training for career” and “quality of Law Center facilities.” Not surprisingly, younger alumni are most concerned about the condition of Law Center facilities.

Overall, alumni described a common set of values when evaluating their student experience. These values would form a “supportive community and culture” that:

- Offers quality academics provided by high-caliber faculty
- Provides the requisite skills and training students need to begin their careers
- Assists students in finding jobs
- Values and respects all students

### GIVING

Alumni indicated the Law Center’s rankings would most influence their decision to support the school financially.

### CAREER

Finally, the survey found approximately 64 percent of Law Center alumni are practicing law, with almost 40 percent of them employed by firms with fewer than 10 employees, including sole practitioners. The remaining alumni are fairly evenly divided among firms with 10 to 100 attorneys, firms with more than 100 attorneys, the public sector, and inside counsel.

For more information on the alumni survey, contact Tom Troegel, Director of Major Gifts, at [TFTroegel@uh.edu](mailto:TFTroegel@uh.edu) or 713.743.2207.



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**THE DEAN'S SOCIETY RECOGNIZES DONORS WHO CONTRIBUTE \$2,500 OR MORE ANNUALLY TO THE LAW CENTER IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED STUDENT AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE. MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SPECIAL EVENTS WITH THE DEAN AND FACULTY.**

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# ANDREWS KURTH RENEWS THREE-YEAR SPONSORSHIP OF BLAKELY INSTITUTE'S MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The University of Houston Law Center received a ringing endorsement from one of Houston's largest law firms in January 2014 when Andrews Kurth LLP pledged continuing sponsorship of the Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship for another three years. Now in its sixth year, the competition – hosted by the Blakely Advocacy Institute – is growing in stature as law students from across the nation vie for an invitation to compete for the national title, scholarships, and recognition – and possibly a job offer.

“Moot court competition, and advocacy programs overall, give students the experience that recruiters are often looking for,” said Jim Lawrence, director of the Blakely Advocacy Institute. “The true to life courtroom setting complete with opposing counsel, real judges, and winners and losers is an experience that everyone remembers. Thanks to Andrews Kurth’s support and involvement, this competition is top quality and on the rise both in Houston and nationally.”

The law firm views the competition and its sponsorship as a commitment to future generations of lawyers. “Lawyers practice advocacy every day. Our support of this competition is our way of helping to train better lawyers,” said John Shely, partner at Andrews Kurth

who earned his J.D. from the Law Center in 1986. “We gain a close-up look at some of the top trial talent available for future recruitment.”

Based on their rankings in regional interscholastic moot court competitions, the top 16 moot court teams are invited to Houston each January to present oral arguments on an emerging legal issue to members of the practicing bar and judiciary. The competition begins with a symposium featuring speakers and experts on the competition topic. This year’s topic was hydraulic fracturing.

On a personal level, Shely enjoys engaging members of the Houston legal community in the competition and helping to bring national attention to the Law Center and its advocacy programs. “Andrews Kurth wholeheartedly believes in giving back to and connecting with the communities in which we practice,” said Shely. “Our involvement, which we consider more as a partnership than a sponsorship, is part of our culture and a win-win for all involved.”

*For more information on the Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship, visit [law.uh.edu/blakely/MCNC/homepage.asp](http://law.uh.edu/blakely/MCNC/homepage.asp) or contact Blakely Advocacy Institute Director Jim Lawrence at [jelawren@central.uh.edu](mailto:jelawren@central.uh.edu).*



The moot court team from the University of Georgia School of Law won the 2014 Andrews Kurth national championship. Judges and winners of the competition were Texas Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey Boyd, left, Texas Supreme Court Justice John Devine, Georgia Law team member Maggy Randels, 5th Circuit Judge James Graves, Jr., 5th Circuit Judge Jennifer Elrod, team member Utrophia Robinson, Texas Supreme Court Justice Jeff Brown, and former Texas Supreme Court Justice Scott Brister.

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I encourage you to consider affirming your commitment to the Law Center by contacting Assistant Dean of Development Russ Gibbs, at 713.743.1454, or Tom Troegel, director of Major Gifts, at 713.743.2207.

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# FACULTY GIVING

## OLIVAS' BOOK ROYALTIES FUND 15TH SCHOLARSHIP



University of Houston Law Center Professor Michael A. Olivas and his wife and fellow UH professor, Augustina Reyes, have established their 15th scholarship to serve as a legacy of their commitment to the law school and university. The most recent scholarship will be funded by royalties from a book Olivas edited about Alonso S. Perales, a ground-breaking Mexican-American attorney and founder of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

**“The real margin of excellence (for the Law Center) is going to be the many small acts of generosity, not likely the one big donor of old.”**

The first scholarship will be awarded at the 2014 Dean's Awards Ceremony to “a member in good standing of the UH Law Center's Hispanic Law Student Association who has academic merit and a record of involvement in the Houston Latino community.” Olivas is faculty adviser to the HLSA.

“If senior employees of an organization believe strongly in that organization's mission and purpose, they should enthusiastically support it financially,” said Olivas, William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law and director of the Institute of Higher Education Law & Governance

at the Law Center. “The real margin of excellence (for the Law Center) is going to be the many small acts of generosity, not likely the one big donor of old.”

The book, “In Defense of My People: Alonso S. Perales and the Development of Mexican-American Public Intellectuals,” was published in 2013 by Arte Público Press. It includes essays written by U.S. and Mexican scholars on Perales' defense of Mexican-Americans' civil rights as well as education, religion, race, Texas politics and law.

A graduate of George Washington University School of Law, Perales was one of the earliest Mexican-American attorneys to practice law in Texas. “Alonso Perales came from a very poor family, and prospered not so much financially as personally and professionally. He was an extraordinary leader in difficult times, an exceptional lawyer for his people, and a public intellectual when it was hard to practice that profession,” Olivas said.

“I am struck by how I benefited from others' gifts, including people I did not know, and am grateful to be in a position to give back, as did the others before me,” Olivas added.

Olivas and Reyes, a professor in the College of Education, also included the Law Center and the University of Houston in their wills, becoming members of The Albertus Magnus Society and The 1927 Society.

# 2014 UPCOMING EVENTS

## University of Houston Law Center and Law Alumni Association

### March 6

Arrival Awards benefiting the UHLC Immigration Clinic  
For more information, contact: [ssmith5@central.uh.edu](mailto:ssmith5@central.uh.edu)

### March 6

IPIL Spring Lecture  
For more information, contact: [ipil@uh.edu](mailto:ipil@uh.edu)

### March 21

Class of 1954 - 50th Reunion Luncheon  
For more event information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### March 28

38th Annual Law Gala & Auction  
For more information, contact: [lawgala@uh.edu](mailto:lawgala@uh.edu)

### April 8

Ruby Kless Sondock Lecture In Legal Ethics  
For more information, contact: [briefcase@uh.edu](mailto:briefcase@uh.edu)

### April 23

Dean's Award Ceremony  
For more information contact: [vcrain@central.uh.edu](mailto:vcrain@central.uh.edu)

### April 24

Houston Area Alumni Spring Reception  
For more information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### April 30

Dallas Area Alumni and Friends Reception  
For more information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### May 2

Classes of 1987, 1988, 1989 - 25th Reunion Celebration  
For more event information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### May 10

University of Houston Law Center Commencement Ceremony  
For more information, contact: [briefcase@uh.edu](mailto:briefcase@uh.edu)

### May 14

UH Law Alumni Association Annual Meeting  
For more information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### May 30 - May 31

Teaching Consumer Law CLE  
For more information, contact: [rbjohnson@uh.edu](mailto:rbjohnson@uh.edu)

### June 5

Galveston Area Alumni Reception  
For more information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### June 6-8 & June 13-15

A.A. White Dispute and Resolution Center 40-Hour Basic Mediation Training  
For more information, contact: [jaclark@central.uh.edu](mailto:jaclark@central.uh.edu)

### June 13

Third Annual Ethics and Compliance Symposium  
For more information, contact: [rbjohnson@uh.edu](mailto:rbjohnson@uh.edu)

### Global Law Alumni Network

The Global Law Alumni Network is designed to bring our U.S. and overseas graduates together and strengthen their connection to the Law Center. You are a Global Law Alumnus/Alumna if you live outside the United States, or if you live in the U.S. (including Houston, that international energy capital) and either work or have an active interest in international law. The Network will maintain an up-to-date database of alumni contact information, feature mini-profiles on alumni abroad, and circulate alumni news and opportunities. The Network will also sponsor occasional Global Law Alumni gatherings. Join our global directory and become a regular reader. Visit [law.uh.edu/alumni/global](http://law.uh.edu/alumni/global).

### Stay connected to UHLC

UHLC has several online tools to help you keep up with the latest news and events and to engage in discussions with alums.

- Sign up for eBriefcase at [law.uh.edu/alumni/sign-up-ebriefcase.asp](http://law.uh.edu/alumni/sign-up-ebriefcase.asp).
- On Twitter, follow [@uhlaw](https://twitter.com/uhlaw).
- On Facebook, become a fan at [facebook.com/uhlawcenter](https://facebook.com/uhlawcenter) and [facebook.com/uhlawcentralumni](https://facebook.com/uhlawcentralumni).
- On LinkedIn, look for the UHLC group.
- On YouTube, watch our videos at [youtube.com/user/TheUHLawCenter](https://youtube.com/user/TheUHLawCenter).

### June 26

State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting and UHLC Reception  
For more information, contact: [lawalumni@uh.edu](mailto:lawalumni@uh.edu)

### August 20-23

A.A. White Dispute and Resolution Center Specialized Course in Commercial Arbitration  
For more information contact: [jaclark@central.uh.edu](mailto:jaclark@central.uh.edu)

### September 12-14 & September 19-21

A.A. White Dispute and Resolution Center 40-Hour Basic Mediation Training  
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