

# BRIEF CASE

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** | LAW CENTER



**HURRICANE  
HARVEY:**  
LAW CENTER  
LEND A HAND

**2017**  
YEAR IN  
REVIEW

# BRIEFCASE

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | LAW CENTER

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## DEAN'S NOTE

This “Year-In-Review” edition of Briefcase magazine marks a modern and new format. It is meant to remind University of Houston Law Center alumni and friends of the happenings, successes, and challenges of 2017. Hurricane Harvey provided the greatest challenge of the year, and the Law Center community rallied to help those affected by it. Though the building itself survived water intrusion, the storm and its aftermath forced the closure of the school for 10 days. A number of students, faculty and staff fell victim to the flood waters that inundated large parts of the city, county and state.

The magazine highlights some of the relief efforts led by the Law Center in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and the different ways we pitched in to help our neighbors. It also includes feature stories that occurred throughout the past year that showcase students, alumni, special programs, conferences, and additional community outreach initiatives.

During the summer, another edition of Briefcase will be published with additional features and information about the Law Center and its future direction.

I hope you enjoy this new format, and that reading about all the great things happening at the Law Center will reaffirm your pride in your alma mater and spark your interest in getting more involved.

Sincerely,

Leonard M. Baynes  
*Dean and Professor of Law*

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## A LOOK BACK

2017  
YEAR IN  
REVIEW**UHLC PROF. WILLIS STRESSES MEDIATION GUIDELINES AT UN CONFERENCE IN TBILISI, GEORGIA**

Tasha Willis

University of Houston Law Center Professor Tasha Willis spoke in Tbilisi, Georgia at a United Nations program designed to reform that eastern European country's judicial system, in part, through the increased use of mediation to ensure justice for all, especially children.

Willis, director of the Law Center's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program and a mediation clinic professor, spoke on the subject: "Regulating Mediation: Importance

and Necessity of Voluntary Credentialing." She stressed the importance of developing a system in which mediators actively choose to follow a defined set of ethical guidelines as opposed to being government regulated.

The program, "Enhancing Access to Justice and Development of a Child Friendly Justice System in Georgia," was sponsored jointly by The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Project (UNDP).

**UHLC'S CENTER FOR U.S. AND MEXICAN LAW PARTNERS WITH RICE'S BAKER INSTITUTE FOR BOOK**

The University of Houston Law Center's Center for U.S. and Mexican Law celebrated the publishing of a book that examines recent reform of the energy sector in Mexico.

The book is titled, "Estado de Derecho y Reforma Energética en México," which translates to "The Rule of Law and Mexico's Energy Reform." The project is the culmination of a major research effort to examine rule of law issues arising under Mexico's new energy legislation.

It was published in collaboration with the Baker Institute's Mexico Center at Rice University, in association with the School of Government

and Public Transformation of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, the Centro de Investigación para el Desarrollo A.C. (CIDAC), and the Faculty of Law and Criminology at the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León.

The book is dedicated to former dean and professor Stephen P. Zamora, founding director of the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law and one of the organizers of the research project. Zamora passed away in July 2016.

Center for U.S. and Mexican Law Affiliate Scholars who contributed to the book include Dr. José Ramón Cossío Díaz, a justice of the Mexican Supreme Court, and Dr. Alberto Abad Suárez Ávila, professor-researcher at Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (IIJ-UNAM).

The conclusion to the book was co-authored by Zamora and Tony Payan, director of Rice's Mexico Center.

**UHLC COMMUNITY JOINS VOLUNTEER EFFORT TO AID IMMIGRANTS AFFECTED BY TRAVEL BAN**

Geoff Hoffman

As confusion mounted across the nation's airports in the wake of a Jan. 27 order banning immigrants from certain countries, the director of the University of Houston Law Center's Immigration Clinic, in his individual capacity, former students, and local attorneys headed to Bush Intercontinental Airport to see if they could help.

"We were an impromptu bunch of volunteer lawyers who gathered with little or no prior discussion to help

families get their loved ones released from Customs and Border Protection after arriving from all over the world," said Geoffrey A. Hoffman, head of the Immigration Clinic, who worked into the night along with Rosemary Vega, a supervising attorney at the clinic. "Some of the 20 to 25 volunteers were immigration attorneys, but most were not, their expertise and practice areas ranging from civil rights, criminal defense and federal courts to commercial litigation, tax and in-house counsel."

International travelers, including those with green cards and valid visas, were questioned and some detained in the wake of Executive Order 13769. The order included a 90-day ban on travel to the U.S. by citizens



of the predominantly Muslim countries of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, and a 120-day suspension of the U.S. refugee program. The president said the order was necessary to prevent “radical Islamic terrorists” from entering the country.

“We answered questions and assured families who were waiting for hours that relatives holding valid visas or green cards would be released under a nationwide stay order issued by a federal judge in New York,” Hoffman explained. “We stood ready to file habeas corpus petitions in the event family members were not released or detained.”

The volunteer attorneys also spoke with customs officials trying to determine the status of travelers being detained or questioned.

“Since there is no right to counsel generally at the border, attorneys were not permitted to meet with their clients or review answers to questions which may have been asked by immigration officials under the new travel ban program,” Hoffman said. “The frustration was palpable in the fear, confusion and panic I saw in many of the family members.”

Amid the confusion, strangers provided the volunteers with pizza, Starbucks gift cards, and cases of bottled water.

“There was a feeling of common purpose, doing good for total strangers, for people in need,” Hoffman said of the volunteer effort. “The experience reminded me to never forget the spirit of our great country, its people, its lawyers, and to remember the power of the immigrants,

America’s source of inspiration, power and compassion.”

Law Center alumni who participated include: Sanajy Bapat ’14, Justen Barks ’13, Megan Daic ’13, Veronica Cruz ’15, Laura De La Cruz ’15, Josh Hilbe ’14, Maha Khalil ’15, Katie Ray ’14, Adam Robertson ’14, Luiz Ruiz ’14, and Alexandra Vickery ’13.

### **UHLC PARTICIPATES IN UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON’S “HERE, WE GO” CAMPAIGN**

The University of Houston Law Center played a supporting role as the University of Houston unveiled its \$1 billion capital campaign, “Here, We Go: The Campaign for the University of Houston” on Jan. 18.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs Sondra Tennessee spoke at “Launch Talks,” where representatives from all UH colleges, schools and units were represented in one-minute, rapid-fire presentations. Speakers at the event each answered the question, “What does it mean to launch?” with responses based on their respective disciplines.

“Launch is to bring about positive change,” Tennessee said. “At the UH Law Center, students have an opportunity to work with real people who have real problems. Whether it’s an immigrant seeking asylum, an inmate proclaiming innocence, or a parent seeking custody, our UH Law students are at the center of each solution.”





Dean Leonard M. Baynes

## UHLC DEAN BAYNES CALLS UPON STUDENTS TO HELP ATTAIN FUTURE 'VISION'

University of Houston Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes outlined a five-year "Implementation of the Strategic Vision" for the school and asked students for their help in achieving the "lofty" goals during a "Discussion with the Dean" session.

The plan with its lengthy list of goals is "very aspirational," the dean said, "but it is important to set goals and figure out ways to get there with strategies and action steps. The more you focus, the better your chances of succeeding."

Backed by a PowerPoint slide presentation, he noted to students, staff and faculty members that the strategic vision was facilitated by Professors Seth Chandler and Michael A. Olivas and developed by committees comprised of faculty, staff and students in 2013 and that its implementation was delegated to the dean, faculty committees, and the University as may be applicable.

Objectives include attaining the second highest overall ranking in Texas and improving Top 10 ranking of specialty programs from the current three to four; attaining the highest percentage of student employment 10

months after graduation among Texas law schools; increasing diversity and entry-level academic credentials; improving bar passage rate to top three ranking, and ultimately consistently being ranked number one in Texas; increasing reputation and presence both globally and nationally; increasing involvement in the community; encouraging greater alumni financial support; and attaining alumni and state support for a new facility.

Baynes explained how students can help attain each of these goals. "We are all in this together," he said. "We will rise together, and the school will rise along with you."

## EENR CENTER CELEBRATES CAREER OF PROFESSOR WEAVER



Jacqueline L. Weaver

After a career spanning 39 years, Professor Jacqueline L. Weaver, the A.A. White Professor of Law, retired from the University of Houston Law Center.

She was honored at a February reception sponsored by the Law Center's Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center, where colleagues, family, friends and former students celebrated her decorated career. Some guests traveled from across the country for the event, and one alumnus made a 22-hour trek from Uganda.

"It's a bittersweet moment because Professor Weaver is such a part of the fabric of the institution of the Law Center," Dean Leonard M. Baynes said in his opening remarks. "She has risen to the occasion and has done an excellent job of being a terrific law faculty member and professor who's known for being one of the premier experts on energy, environment and natural resource issues."

Weaver is an internationally sought after scholar who has lectured on topics of oil and gas law, energy law and policy, international petroleum, and environmental and natural resources law. She has lectured on topics in international petroleum transactions in Africa (Luanda, Namibia, Uganda), China, Kazakhstan, Portugal and Thailand.

Weaver graduated from the then-UH Bates College of Law magna cum laude in 1975. She began teaching at the school as an adjunct professor

in 1977. She also served as associate director of the Energy Studies Program at that time. In 1979, Weaver became an assistant professor before becoming an associate professor in 1982. She received tenure in 1984 and became a full professor in 1986. Weaver was the Law Foundation Professor from 1986-1987. She was also the interim director of the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Center from 2013-2015. She held the A.A. White Professorship until her retirement.

She is a co-author of "The Texas Law of Oil and Gas;" a national casebook titled "Energy, Economics and the Environment;" another casebook titled "International Petroleum Transactions;" and the treatise, "International Petroleum Exploration & Exploitation Agreements."

Weaver wrote articles on offshore safety after the Macondo disaster, Enron's effect on the energy markets, sustainable development in the international petroleum industry, comparative unitization laws, and traditional oil and gas law. Her excellence in legal education has been recognized with awards from the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators, the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, the University of Houston's Teaching Excellence Award, and the Law Center's Ethel Baker Award.

In 2010, Suzanne and Jan Baker, 1973 Law Center alumni and longtime friends of Weaver and her family, established the Weaver-Lang Presidential Endowed Fellowship in Law to honor her, her husband, Kirk, and their parents, Cecile Weaver and Harold Weaver and Ruth Lang and Hans Lang.

"This fellowship is meant to recognize the decades of support given to graduate and professional education by the Weaver and Lang families," Weaver said. "It's not just me — there are many Weavers and many Langs who were involved in higher education and have been over the years, especially in public institutions."

The Weaver-Lang Fellowship is intended to provide scholarships to help recruit the best-qualified students to the Law Center, especially those interested in the LL.M. program in Energy, Environment and Natural Resources.

"The Weaver-Lang scholarship is an opportunity for all of us to give and ensure there is scholarship funding for our LL.M. students," Baynes said. "It really is important for us to have as many students from as many places across the world to study with us and then bring back what they've learned to their home countries."

## **NFLPA'S SMITH DEFENDS RIGHTS OF PRO PLAYERS AT UHLC HEALTH LAW PRESENTATION**

DeMaurice Smith, executive director of the NFL Player's Association, called for fans to recognize the humanity of professional athletes in regards to safety and legal rights during a discussion presented by the Health Law & Policy Institute at the University of Houston Law Center.

The event titled, "Medical and Legal Ethics in the NFL and Sports," was

held days before Super Bowl LI was played at NRG Stadium between the Atlanta Falcons and New England Patriots.

"The kinds of legal protections we have in place for workers apply with equal force to professional athletes," said Professor Jessica Roberts, director of the Health Law & Policy Institute. "We were delighted to give the Law Center community the opportunity to hear about these issues firsthand on the eve of the Super Bowl."

Smith provided a broad overview of the NFLPA's activities and also spoke about player safety, including the NFL's issues with concussions and violence committed off the field by players.

Smith noted that while NFL players don't have typical days at an office or factory, the gridiron is just as much of a workplace.

"We have confronted the league over the issue of workplace safety for our players," Smith said. "While I use the word 'workplace,' some would refer to that as a field or a locker room. But if we are concerned about the condition of a field and it impacting the career of a player, that's not a football field for me."

"When those men step onto the field they're stepping into the world of a workplace. While football is a great game, my hope is that people understand the NFLPA looks at it as big business."

Smith said the perception of football players being labeled as well-paid, superhuman specimens can make some fans lose sight of their human rights.

"At the end of the day, 99 percent of the fights we have with the NFL are about whether our players are going to be treated as people," he said. "It becomes very easy to say these aren't football players, they're gladiators. Well, they're not. I get a little cross when our own players refer to themselves as gladiators. They're husbands, they're sons, they're fathers, they're brothers — they're human."



DeMaurice Smith





NFL's vice president of labor relations Brook Gardiner, NCAA's Managing Director of Enforcement Investigations & Processing Derrick Crawford, and Chairman and CEO of the Butler Lappert Williams Firm, M. Quentin B.L. Williams

## NCAA, NFL LAWYERS GIVE TIPS ON WHAT MAKES A GOOD SPORTS LAWYER AT UHLC LECTURE

Three attorneys with years of experience in the NBA, NCAA and NFL shared tricks of the sports law trade during "Touchdown! A Sports CLE Program" at the University of Houston Law Center.

M. Quentin B.L. Williams served as moderator for the opening panel discussion, "Being a Good Sports Lawyer and In-house Counsel." Williams is the chairman and CEO of the Butler Lappert Williams Firm in New York. He previously worked as an FBI agent, former federal prosecutor, and attorney for the NBA and NFL.

"There's no one recipe for getting into sports," he said. "There are many different ways to do it. I'm a firm believer that relationship-building is the way to go about business and to gain access to the sports world. If you meet one person who really believes in you, it's better than meeting



100 people who couldn't care less about you."

Brook Gardiner, the NFL's vice president of labor relations, advised the audience that being a successful sports lawyer has little to do with supporting your favorite team.

"Being a sports lawyer is not a lawyer who likes sports, or is a fan of sports,"

Gardiner said. "It's really a lawyer who's passionate about understanding the business of sports and having a deep understanding of the legal issues involved in sports."

Derrick Crawford, the NCAA's Managing Director of Enforcement Investigations & Processing, encouraged aspiring sports lawyers to prioritize the development of practical skills and networking. He also echoed Gardiner's sentiments about not showing your team colors.

"If you really want to get into sports, you really have to know people in the industry," Crawford said. "It's super competitive. You really need to develop good legal skills."



“The worst thing you can say if you want to work in sports as a lawyer is that you’re a fan. It’s probably helpful to know the terminology and to have a basic level of knowledge, but you shouldn’t talk about how much you love the Houston Texans or Dallas Cowboys. That will turn your prospective employers off.”

### **UHLC PROF. THOMPSON URGES CONGRESSIONAL PANEL TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE STATE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE SYSTEM**

University of Houston Law Center Professor Sandra Guerra Thompson extolled the success of Houston’s relatively new forensic science center during testimony before a congressional subcommittee in February and called for federal support to improve that crucial component of the criminal justice system nationwide.

Plagued by botched test results, an independent audit that raised questions about the integrity of lab work in thousands of cases, and a rape kit backlog of more than 6,000, the Houston Police Department’s Crime Laboratory was reinvented as the Houston Forensic Science Center in 2014. The new entity operates independently of law enforcement and is governed by a board of community volunteers, including Thompson.

“Today the laboratory serves as a national model, pioneering cutting-edge practices in forensic science,” Thompson told members of the House Judiciary Committee’s subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. “I believe these efforts can make a valuable contribution to national discussions about the future of forensic science in the United States.”

Thompson specifically suggested the system could be improved by placing scientists in charge of overseeing forensic science research rather than placing the office within the Department of Justice.

### **UHLC UNVEILS NEW CLINICAL OFFICE SUITE WITH RIBBON-CUTTING**

The University of Houston Law Center celebrated its new and expanded clinical office space with a ribbon-cutting celebration.

The complete overhaul includes five interview rooms, two of which have telephone and video capabilities to facilitate mediations and other meetings outside of the Houston area and abroad; new offices for the program’s nine faculty members as well as staff; and a new reception area to give clients and students the feel of a real law office.

UH Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Paula Myrick Short and Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“Clinical legal education is so important because students want to be practice-ready,” Baynes said. “It’s very important for us to have a space that represents the quality of our students and faculty. It also provides the clinic’s clients a space that’s like any other law office, where they

have security and safety in terms of representation, and where they feel welcome.”

“I want to congratulate the Law Center,” added Short. “The Law Center is one of the crown jewels of the University of Houston. The legal profession is so important, and this is a law school that is moving forward and making decisions for the right reasons.”

The new facility brings previously scattered offices together in one area and allows for further growth of the clinical program.

“The clinic space now reflects the professional setting that corresponds with the legal services our clinic students and talented faculty provide to the community,” said Associate Clinical Professor Janet Heppard, director of the Clinical Legal Education Program as well as the Civil Practice Clinic.

The Law Center’s clinical program gives students the opportunity for hands-on practical experience by providing legal services in six practice areas: Civil Practice, Consumer Law, Criminal Defense, Entrepreneurship & Community Development, Immigration and Mediation.

“The clinic allows students to work on the types of cases they would handle in their first five years of practice,” Heppard said.

In 2016, the clinic’s 95-plus students mediated more than 1,500 cases in Justice of the Peace Courts and the Dispute Resolution Center and worked more than 20,000 clinic hours helping immigrants, indigent families, consumers, small businesses and non-profit organizations in Harris County and surrounding areas, according to Heppard.



*Provost Paula M. Short (Left), Dean Leonard M. Baynes, and Clinic Director Janet Heppard at clinic ribbon cutting ceremony*



Renee Knake

## UHLC PROFESSOR KNAKE PAYS TRIBUTE TO SHORTLISTED FEMALE SUPREME COURT NOMINEES AT ROSENBERG LECTURE

Professor Renee Knake praised unsung heroes of the legal profession in a talk titled, “What Does it Mean to be the First? Lessons from Women

Shortlisted for the U.S. Supreme Court” at the Yale L. Rosenberg Memorial Lecture in Krost Hall at the University of Houston Law Center.

“What does it mean to be the first,” Knake pondered. “Why does this matter? In a legal profession where women and minorities continue to be significantly underrepresented in positions of leadership and power, I believe it matters a great deal.

“Although the entering classes of law students now reflect an equal number of men and women and increasingly improve in minority representation—especially here at the University of Houston—we do not see this same diversity among senior leadership in law firms, law schools, general counsels of major corporations, or our courts.”

Knake, the Law Center’s Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics, said while the accomplishments of Sandra Day O’Connor are celebrated as the first woman to become a Supreme Court justice, she was far from the first woman to be considered or qualified to be on the court. She pointed to nine women who were shortlisted before O’Connor, and highlighted the careers of four of them: Florence Allen, Mildred Lillie, Soia Mentschikoff and Susie Sharp. She cited a forthcoming article she co-authored with Hannah Brenner titled, “Shortlisted,” to be published in May, that highlights the struggles each woman faced as a trailblazer in a profession dominated by men.

“Firsts don’t happen without those who go before us,” Knake said. “Firsts get all the glory. We cracked the glass ceiling. We broke the color barrier. But here’s the truth: We didn’t. Firsts are beneficiaries of a legacy of cracks and breaks that let the light in—a light that ‘firsts’ bask in.

“Those who should have been first, but were not, because the timing wasn’t right, because society hadn’t yet fully progressed in its understanding of equality and fairness, or because other factors got in the way, these are really the ones we should remember.”



## INTERNATIONAL LL.M. GUIDE RANKS TWO UHLC PROGRAMS IN TOP 10

The University of Houston Law Center’s LL.M. programs in Energy and Health Law were ranked in Top 10 lists published by LLM GUIDE.

The rankings praised the Law Center’s

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources program for taking advantage of Houston’s global role in the oil and gas market.

“With over 5,000 energy firms in the region, the city of Houston is one of the world’s biggest oil and gas hubs, and a great place to study for LL.M. students looking to be close to the action,” the ranking said. “The school offers an LL.M. in Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Law, which helps students navigate the complex policies around energy production, transportation and use.”

LLM GUIDE touted the Law Center’s Health Law program for its No. 3 ranking in U.S. News & World Report and recognized its research capabilities.

LLM GUIDE is a website based in Germany that, “aims to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date directory of LL.M. programs, along with providing community tools and editorial content of interest to people interested in pursuing an LL.M. or a similar postgraduate law degree.”

## THREE UHLC SPECIALTY PROGRAMS KEEP TOP 10 RANKINGS IN U.S. NEWS SURVEY



Three University of Houston Law Center specialty programs maintained their Top 10 rankings in the annual U.S. News & World Report survey of the nation’s law schools.

The school’s Health Law program tied for 3rd place while Intellectual Property held the 8th position. The Law Center’s part-time program remained tied for 6th among the nation’s 81 schools that offer such programs.

Overall, the Law Center ranked 54th among the nation’s 197 ABA accredited law schools.

“The Law Center is an excellent institution and remained steady in the rankings,” said Dean Leonard M. Baynes. “Working together, we can continue to move this great institution forward.”

The overall rankings are based on several factors including peer, judicial and lawyer assessments, undergraduate GPA, LSAT scores, faculty/student ratio, bar passage, and employment rate after graduation.

Specialty programs are ranked by faculty teaching in the field. Part-time rankings are based on reputation among deans and faculty at peer schools, LSAT scores, undergraduate GPAs, and the breadth of each school’s part-time program.

## HOLLYWOOD PIZAZZ AND ALUMNI GENEROSITY MAKE GALA '17 A SWINGING SUCCESS

It was a night of glitz and glamour as University of Houston Law Center held its 41st Annual Law Gala & Auction at the Hilton Americas with the theme “Hollywood Swing.”

More than 550 guests filled the hotel’s Ballroom of the Americas, bedecked with rich red lighting and black and gold accents surrounded by lush flowers and lights, to honor outstanding faculty and alumni of the Law Center, including The Honorable Mary E. Bacon ’72, Judith A. Blissard ’87, Tony Buzbee ’97, Michelle Gray ’11, The Honorable Eva M. Guzman, William J. Jackson ’92, Greg King ’85, George Levkoff ’85, Professor Michael A. Olivas, Gary W. Orloff ’73, Ricky A. Raven ’86, The Honorable Randy Wilson ’77 and the law firm, Andrews Kurth Kenyon.

Alex Roberts ’06, a partner at Beck Redden LLP, chaired the 41st Annual Law Gala with his wife Anne Roberts.

Dean Leonard M. Baynes, spoke about the success of the Law Center and shared with attendees exciting developments with the Cornerstone Club campaign to support a new law building.

UH System Chancellor Renu Khator took the stage to congratulate the Law Center on this year’s accomplishments and to honor Buzbee as winner of the Dean’s Award.

Auctioneer Vincent J. Montalbano performed a lively “Paddles Up” speed fundraiser where attendees were encouraged to donate on the spot to support student scholarship. The “Paddles Up” and live and silent auctions raised more than \$99,000. The auction was co-chaired by Michelle Gray. The event overall raised nearly \$500,000, which will fund scholarships, advocacy programs, faculty research, student organizations, library acquisitions, technology advances, student recruitment, and other student activities at the Law Center.

Following the auction, attendees danced the night away to the musical stylings of the Richard Brown Orchestra.

## U.S. NEWS RANKS UHLC ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMS AMONG NATION’S BEST

The University of Houston Law Center’s Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center and the Blakely Advocacy Institute were recognized for environmental law and trial advocacy respectively by U.S. News & World Report. UHLC’s trial advocacy program ranked No. 21 and environmental law ranked No. 28.

“The Law Center has a tremendous advocacy program and it is good to see our excellence being noticed on a national scale,” said Blakely Advocacy Institute Executive Director, Jim Lawrence ’07.

For the Law Center’s Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center, it marks a first appearance in the U.S. News & World Report’s rankings since EENR was founded in 2008.

“Houston is the energy capital of the world,” said Professor Darren Bush.

“The EENR Center is and should be the center of all things related to energy, environment, and natural resources.”

## UHLC PROF. EVANS CHAMPIONS “HIDDEN FIGURES” AT LONDON CONFERENCE ON ‘CITIZEN SCIENCE’

University of Houston Law Center Professor Barbara Evans traveled to London to deliver the keynote address at a conference exploring the growing worldwide citizen science movement on March 2.



Barbara Evans

Citizen science occurs when ordinary laypeople assume the roles of innovators and researchers in a people-driven process of scientific discovery, as opposed to treating research as the exclusive province of professional scientists who handle discovery for a disengaged public.

“We tend to forget that all throughout history, regular people were the main drivers of scientific discovery. A few citizen scientists became famous, like Carl Linneaus in the 18th century and Charles Darwin in the 19th, but there were innumerable ‘hidden figures’ like the

women who invented settled agriculture millennia ago by figuring out how to cultivate plants from seeds,” Evans noted.

## NATIONAL LAWMAKERS OFFER VARYING PERSPECTIVES ON ENERGY POLICY AT UHLC-HOSTED SYMPOSIUM

A discussion that analyzed the implications of President Donald Trump’s administration’s energy policies and their potential impact on the industry, economy, and the future of the planet brought several U.S. congressmen to the University of Houston Law Center.

“The Future of Energy Policy,” was the final symposium of the UH Energy Symposium Series.

The opening speaker was Wayne Christian, a commissioner on the Railroad Commission of Texas. Christian was elected to the agency in November 2016. Christian represented District 9 in the Texas House of Representatives from 1997-2005 and again from 2007-2013.

Rep. Gene Green, a 1977 Law Center alumnus, followed. Green was elected to the Congress from the 29th Congressional District in 1992 after 20 years in the Texas legislature. He is the ranking member for the subcommittee on health and also serves on the subcommittees on energy, environment and digital commerce and consumer protection.

Rep. Pete Olson was the final speaker. Olson was elected in 2008. He serves as vice chair of the energy and power subcommittee and is a member of the communications and technology subcommittee. He also serves on the environment subcommittee and co-chairs the Congressional Refinery Caucus and Corrosion Caucus.





*Douglas Moll with Provost Paula M. Short*

## UH HONORS LAW CENTER PROF. DOUGLAS MOLL WITH TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

The University of Houston presented Law Center Professor Douglas Moll with a faculty excellence award in April for his outstanding achievement in teaching.

Moll received the Teaching Excellence Award at the 2017 Moores Professors, Teaching Excellence Global, and Undergraduate Research Mentoring Awards Dinner at the University of Houston Hilton.

"I am delighted Professor Moll received this award," added Dean Leonard M. Baynes. "He is an outstanding teacher. His dedication to students epitomized the qualities and character of all the Law Center's faculty."

"I am truly honored to be one of the recipients of this year's award," Moll said. "Thanks to my students, who make teaching enjoyable, and to my colleagues, who are always willing to lend an ear on days when my teaching is far from excellent. Thanks also to Dean Baynes and the administration for nominating and supporting me during this process."

Moll came to the University of Houston Law Center in the fall of 1997 as an associate professor. He was elevated to professor of law in 2008. He was the George Butler Research Professor of Law from 2002-2005. He is currently the Beirne, Maynard & Parsons, L.L.P. Professor of Law, a title he has held since 2005.

He teaches business organizations, doing deals, securities regulation, secured financing, sales and leasing, and business torts.

In 1998, 1999, 2003, 2011, and 2014, Moll was honored with the "Professor of the Year" award by the Order of the Barons. He previously received a Teaching Excellence Award from the University of Houston in

2000. He is a past chair and current executive committee member of the AALS section on agency and unincorporated business associations. In April 2015, he was elected to membership in the American Law Institute.

## AIR FORCE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS HOLDS HEARING AT UH LAW CENTER

The University of Houston Law Center was the site of a U.S. Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals hearing in Krost Hall. The hearing was led by Chief Judge Col. Rodger Drew, a 1987 Law Center Alumnus.

"It was an honor to have this esteemed court come to the University of Houston Law Center," said Jim Lawrence, director of the Blakely Advocacy Institute.

The Court heard the case of U.S. vs. Blatney, where the issue on appeal is whether a military judge erred by suppressing the appellee senior airman Chad Blatney's act of unlocking his cellular phone for investigators, as well as the contents of his phone pursuant to the Fifth Amendment.



*Judges with the U.S. Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals*



*Fernando Basilio, Sydney Nguyen, Carlos Ruiz, and Danny Avila*

## **MOOT COURT COMPETITION IN SPANISH TAKES UHLC STUDENTS TO COLOMBIA**

Three University of Houston Law Center students traveled to Bogotá, Colombia as they participated in the International Investment Arbitration Competition, a moot court contest conducted entirely in Spanish.

“With the Law Center’s proximity to Latin America, providing our students with an opportunity to interact with the Latin American legal culture is a tremendous benefit,” said Jim Lawrence, director of the Blakely Advocacy Institute. “Participating in this competition also supports two main goals of the Law Center: diversity and international branding. The fact that the competition is entirely in Spanish makes this competition even more unique.”

Second-year Law Center student Carlos Ruiz said the competition proved to be stimulating, even for someone who grew up speaking Spanish.

“It was a very different experience from what we are used to in the U.S.,” he said. “Even for a native Spanish speaker, it was challenging to keep a conversation or argument with an attorney that comes from a different educational system. I hope more students are able to have the same experience.”

For Fernando Basilio 2L, his time in Colombia has inspired him to pursue practice in the field of international investment arbitration.

“This experience has opened my eyes to the world of international investment arbitration, and it is an area of law that I would like to keep learning about.”

Sydney Nguyen 3L said the competition was one of the most satisfying and challenging experiences she has undertaken. She credited some of her success to learning Spanish while completing her undergraduate education at the University of Houston.

“The problem was complex and covered investment arbitration, a vast area of law that was completely new to me, and a growing field,” Nguyen said. “The fact that this competition was completely in Spanish made it especially challenging during the whole process of research, writing, and oral arguments.”

“When Jim Lawrence asked if I wanted to take on this challenge, I was thrilled and excited to push myself to accomplish something I will never forget. I attribute my experience to my teammates and coaches, Lorena Perez-McGill, Julián Cárdenas García and Eldy Quintanilla Roche, who were all very supportive and crucial to my growth and success from the start.”





Star Jones

## STAR JONES '86 ANALYZES LAW'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NEWS AT UHLC LECTURE

New York prosecutor-turned-TV journalist and talk show host Star Jones returned to her alma mater on May 5 to discuss the law's intersection with the press in a talk titled, "Law, Justice & the Media" in Krost Hall at the University of Houston Law Center.

Jones, a 1986 alumna of the Law Center, began her legal career as a prosecutor in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office before becoming a senior district attorney for New York City. She gained notoriety as a legal commentator for the cable network "Court TV" in the early 1990s. She then worked as a legal analyst and correspondent for NBC's "Today" and "NBC Nightly News." She later was a co-host of the ABC woman-centric talk show "The View" from 1997-2006.

"When I came to the University of Houston Law Center, law and justice obviously went together," she said. "I just never thought the media would make such a vital impact on my whole career."

In her talk, Jones referenced the high-profile trials of William Kennedy Smith, the Menendez brothers, O.J. Simpson, Mike Tyson and others.

She said these trials are partly responsible for the tabloidization of media and helped feed the public's insatiable appetite for celebrity news and gossip.

"With the media, there's a very fine line between reporting on a trial and sensationalizing a trial that can lead to jury dismissals, jury sequesters, and the disregarding of evidence in fear of media biases," Jones said. "Sometimes the law steps on its own toes as we saw in some of these cases. It's unfortunate, but justice doesn't always mean closure."

Jones is now president of the Professional Diversity Network, an internet software and services company that develops and operates online networking opportunities for professionals and employers seeking to hire women, minorities, veterans, LGBT and disabled professionals.

"Star Jones is one of our most prominent alums," Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes said. "She is an all-around player. She is a lawyer, she has been a legal correspondent, she's been an author, and now she's a businesswoman who is the CEO of a major enterprise. She is one of our own, and I couldn't be prouder to have Star come back to the Law Center."



Mada Chambriard



Yvonne Fabara

## UHLC 'ENERGY VISITING SCHOLAR' PROGRAM DESIGNED TO SHARE EXPERTISE AND PROMOTE RESEARCH THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAS

The Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center at the University of Houston Law Center launched an "Energy Visiting Scholar" research

program with two former Latin American government officials as its first participants.

The joint initiative with UH Energy is a unique effort to promote exchanges and research on best regulatory practices in the oil and gas industry in the Americas.

The initial visiting scholars are Magda Chambriard, former president of the Brazilian National Petroleum Agency (ANP), and Dr. Yvonne Fabara, former Secretary of Hydrocarbons of Ecuador.

They will be affiliated with the Law Center for one year, conducting research, participating in lectures, and sharing their expertise on specific concerns that affect the oil industry in the western hemisphere

"We are very fortunate to have these two outstanding experts and energy leaders from the Americas, who will help us disseminate both fact-based research and policy recommendations to government, decision-makers and the general public on vital energy issues," said UHLC Research Professor Julian Cardenas, who is coordinating the program.

The energy scholars program is an offshoot of the "Inter-American Hydrocarbons Regulators Dialogue," an initiative started by the EENR Center in 2016 that seeks to bridge the gap between the oil and gas industry, national hydrocarbon agencies and academia.



Ellen Marrus at podium

## ZEALOUS ADVOCACY CONFERENCE COMMEMORATES 50-YEAR MARK OF GAULT DECISION

Juvenile justice attorneys learned new legal techniques to defend their clients during the 16th annual Zealous Advocacy Conference in May at the University of Houston Law Center. The conference, titled "Gault@50: Quality Representation for Youth," was a two-day event that highlighted the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court Case that granted children the right to counsel in delinquency cases. The conference focused on access to counsel and quality of counsel in delinquency proceedings.

"Gault is a landmark decision as it granted children due process rights, particularly the right to counsel, in delinquency proceedings. As with any Supreme Court decision, however, the implementation is just as important and is why we wanted to focus on access and quality of counsel," said Professor Ellen Marrus, director of the Center for Children, Law & Policy and Royce Till Professor of Law at the Law Center.

"Having an attorney guide a child through the delinquency process is more than just having a warm body sitting next to the youth. It is important for the attorney to understand delinquency, civil, criminal, education, immigration and disability law as several examples, adolescent development, family interactions, and how to give a voice to the child's expressed interests. Juvenile law is one of the most complicated and demanding areas of practice."





Members of the 2017 graduating class

## BAKER '94 ENCOURAGES CLASS OF '17 TO EMBRACE UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES OF A LEGAL CAREER

Meredith Attwell Baker encouraged 311 University of Houston Law Center graduates to keep an open mind about their practice areas at the Law Center Convocation at NRG Arena. The graduating class included 237 J.D. candidates and 74 graduates of the Law Center's LL.M. program.

Baker, a 1994 alumna of the Law Center, is the president and CEO of CTIA, a trade association and advocacy group for the wireless communication industry.

"Our profession is designed to be adversarial," she said. "But that does not make us adversaries. If you raise your voice, act out in frustration or anger, you aren't helping your cause and are only impacting your blood pressure. Plus it rarely, if ever, works. You should always strive to see the other side. Make each other human and find compromise."

Baker used her own career trajectory as an illustration of how a law degree can lead to many paths.

"I'm an example of what people mean when they say you can do anything with a law degree," she said. "Upon reflection, at every stop along the way in my career, I was a lawyer, even if not a practicing one, and that's important. Some of you will have traditional legal careers and others will chart more non-traditional careers, like me, or have a mix."

"There is no right path. But as I said, no matter what job you have, whether it is your first or the one you'll have 20 years from now, you will be a lawyer every day of your life starting today."

Dean Leonard M. Baynes told graduates that the Law Center eagerly anticipates their success, and emphasized the long-term value of a law degree.

"Graduates, you have been taught by some of the best law professors in the country who have fundamentally transformed each one of you by teaching you how to think like lawyers," Baynes said. "You have learned to write precisely, to analyze rigorously, to advocate persuasively and to conform to the highest professional standards."

"You can now take these tools and transform the world by representing individual clients to secure justice and by providing the legal architecture of global, national social, political and economic movements."

## UHLC PROF. RAYMOND L. BRITTON DIES AT 92 AFTER 59 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM

Professor Raymond L. Britton, who taught Admiralty Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and business law courses at the University of Houston Law Center for 59 years, passed away on May 19 of complications resulting from a broken leg.

Britton was the second longest tenured professor in the history of the law school.

Britton was born Aug. 20, 1924 in Charleroi, Pa., a steel-mining town on the Monongahela River. When he was 3 years old, his father died in a

construction accident. Raised by a single mother, Britton helped her run the family grocery store throughout the Great Depression.

He served in the Army during WW II, rising to the rank of lieutenant, and was in Japan with the occupation forces during which he witnessed the Japanese surrender to Gen. Douglas MacArthur in Tokyo Bay.

After returning to the U.S., Britton earned his undergraduate degree from Penn State University in 1948; his LL.B. in 1951 from Southern Methodist University law school, graduating first in his class; and LL.M. in 1961 from Harvard Law School under a Ford Foundation Fellowship.

Prior to entering academe, he worked as an associate for the now defunct firm of Butler, Binion, Rice & Cook from 1953-58.

He was practicing at Butler, Binion when then-Dean A.A. White hired him as an adjunct professor. He joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 1958, was promoted to associate professor in 1961 and full professor in 1966.

He became active in labor arbitration early in his career, gaining national recognition as an arbitrator and member of the National Academy of Arbitrators. He also served as a director of the board of the Houston Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas from 1978 to 1983.

Professor Emeritus John Mixon notes in his book, "The Autobiography of a Law School," that Britton brought the computer age to the law school: "Ray was the first of the faculty to join the computer generation with his state-of-the-art Wang word processor." Mixon also noted that Britton "attended every law graduation ceremony since he joined the faculty."

He wrote numerous publications, including "Are We Beginning a New Day for Management Rights;" "Law of Eminent Domain in Texas;" "Blue-Sky Sweat Shops;" "Texas Law of Condemnation" (with Rayburn); and "The Arbitration Guide."

## UHLC'S MARGARET WEBBER GRADUATES AND GIVES BIRTH ON SAME DAY

As Margaret Webber prepares to embark on a career in law, she is also beginning another lifelong journey — motherhood.

On the afternoon of May 13, the 2017 University of Houston Law Center graduate and her husband, Hudson Webber, welcomed their newborn son, Hudson Brian Webber Jr., who will be referred to as Beau. His birth provided Webber a special reason to miss the Law Center Convocation ceremony later that day.

"I am so proud of my J.D. and really wanted to walk across that stage, but this was a great life achievement too," Webber said. "Becoming a mother and graduating cum laude from UHLC all in one day was the best day of my life."

Webber said while juggling a pregnancy with her final semester of law school proved to be challenging, the support of her husband helped her persevere.

"There's no way I could have finished as strong as I did without the love and encouragement of my husband," Webber said. "He was the best cheerleader I could ask for. While the timing of the baby seemed a little crazy, I actually think it was completely perfect."

"I sat in the hospital bed the night of graduation holding my new son. I glanced at the clock at 6:45 p.m., and knew the ceremony was going on. I think my heart almost burst with pride. Beau could not have picked a better birthday, even if it meant I had to take finals at 40 weeks pregnant."



*Peter Roos, left, Thomas Saenz, Vilma Martinez and Professor Michael A. Olivas*

## UH LAW CENTER, MALDEF COMMEMORATE PLYLER V. DOE'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

The University of Houston Law Center celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Supreme Court case *Plyler v. Doe* with a panel discussion hosted by the Institute for Higher Education Law & Governance and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in the Hendricks Heritage Room.

The U.S. Supreme Court decided in *Plyer v. Doe* that no public school district has a basis to deny children access to education based on their immigration status, citing that children have little control over their immigration status, the harm it would inflict on the child and society itself, and equal protection rights under the 14th Amendment.

"This was a landmark Supreme Court decision in the history of education law, Latino civil rights, and certainly in the history of MALDEF," said Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of MALDEF. "We're pleased

to be at the Law Center to commemorate this decision which emanated from this very state based upon a law that sought to deprive undocumented children from the right to a free, public education."

Saenz then moderated the panel discussion held in the Hendricks Heritage Room that included Vilma Martinez, the former president and general counsel of MALDEF, Peter Roos, the former MALDEF national director of education litigation, and Professor Michael A. Olivas, the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law and director of the Institute for Higher Education Law & Governance at the Law Center.

Olivas said he considers *Plyler v. Doe* the preeminent decision in immigration law, but that it needs support as these issues evolve.

"This case is the high-water mark for immigrant rights," Olivas said. "It was courageous and strategic. Winning is one thing, but it's not static. It has to be fought for, it has to be defended, re-conceptualized and re-applied."





*Julia Peebles (student coach), Stefan Casso, Mary Borrego, Zach Scott, and Angela Odensky (coach)*

## UHLC STUDENTS EMERGE VICTORIOUS IN HEALTH LAW MOOT COURT TOURNAMENT

Three University of Houston Law Center students brought home first-place hardware after winning the seventh annual L. Edward Bryant, Jr. National Health Law Transactional Competition in Chicago. The competition was hosted by the Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

The winning students included recent 2017 Law Center graduate Stefan Casso, 3L Mary Borrego and 3L Zachary Scott. The team was coached by Angela Odensky, a 2014 graduate of the Law Center and a current adjunct professor, and Julia Peebles, a 2017 Law Center graduate and LL.M. candidate in Health Law.

"We at the Health Law & Policy Institute are so proud of these students' success," said Professor Jessica Roberts, director of the Institute. "We appreciate their hard work and dedication."

## HLPI AND LEGAL EXPERTS FROM MD ANDERSON TEAM UP FOR COMPARATIVE HEALTH LAW COURSE

University of Houston Law Center students compared and contrasted U.S. legal health systems with some of its European counterparts during Alfonso López de la Osa Escribano's comparative law class. López de la Osa Escribano is an adjunct professor and the director of the Law Center's Center for U.S. and Mexican Law.

The course, from the Law Center's Health Law & Policy Institute, featured guest speakers from MD Anderson who specialize in the area where law and healthcare intersect. Students also studied legal and health systems in Belgium, Brazil, France, Italy, New Zealand, Spain and the U.K.

"I'm glad our students were able to take advantage of learning directly from MD Anderson experts in HIPAA, end of life and patients' rights, protection of human subjects, human tissues, and body parts

and medical malpractice in the U.S., as well as learning how other countries' legal systems work in issues related to health law," López de la Osa Escribano said.

Additional speakers included Krista Barnes, a senior legal officer in institutional compliance at the MD Anderson Cancer Center; Holly Rumbaugh, managing legal officer for litigation, patient care and hospital operations at the MD Anderson Cancer Center; Madhu Purewal, a senior legal officer and director in institutional compliance at the MD Anderson Cancer Center; and Dr. Tyron Hoover, the director of the biospecimen research office at MD Anderson.

## TOP SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITE JOTWELL RECOGNIZES UHLC PROFESSORS' EXCELLENCE

Three University of Houston Law Center professors were featured on a prestigious scholarship website during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Founded in 2011, JOTWELL has become a leading venue for highlighting outstanding legal scholarship. The site features peer-selected and peer-written commentary featuring, in its editors' words, "the best in recent scholarship relating to the law."

"Having an article selected for a JOTWELL feature represents a significant reflection on the excellence of a professor's work," said Professor Dave Fagundes, who serves as UHLC's Assistant Dean for Faculty Development. "Law Center faculty members regularly produce

high-profile scholarship that draws national attention, and makes important contributions to contemporary dialogues about the law.

"The regularity with which scholarship by faculty has been selected for JOTWELL is just one of many indicators of the Law Center's commitment to academic excellence."



*Kellen Zale*

Professor Amy Salyzyn of the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law reviewed Professor Renee Knake's article, "The Commercialization of Legal Ethics," for a November 2016 review in the Legal Profession section of JOTWELL.



*Renee Knake*

Professor Eric Biber of Berkeley Law School featured Professor Kellen Zale's article, "When Everything is Small: The Regulatory Challenge of Scale in the Sharing Economy," in the Lex section of JOTWELL.



*Lonny Hoffman*

In April, Professor Elizabeth G. Thornburg of the SMU Dedman School of Law showcased Professor Lonny Hoffman's article "Plausible Theory, Implausible Conclusions," in the Courts Law section of JOTWELL. For Knake and Hoffman, it marked multiple article reviews on JOTWELL.



## UHLC FACULTY PROVIDES ROUNDUP ON SUPREME COURT

Faculty members discussed a case involving religious freedom, immigration issues and other topics at the U.S. Supreme Court Update at the University of Houston Law Center.

Assistant Professor James Nelson began the discussion with an analysis of *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia, Inc. v. Comer*.

The case centered on an application by the Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia to resurface its playground at the church's preschool and daycare center.

"Missouri had a grant program which allowed non-profit organizations to apply to the state for funds so that they can resurface their playground with recycled tires," Nelson said. "It also had a policy in the grant program of categorically denying any funds to churches or other similar religious organizations."

"Trinity Lutheran Church applied for a grant to convert its gravel playground to the recycled tire surface, and not surprisingly it was denied funding on the basis of Missouri's policy and was denied funding despite the fact that it had finished fifth among 44 applicants in the scoring process. The top 14 qualified for funds, and had it not been a church, it would have qualified for the funds."

In a 7-2 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that Missouri's policy toward religious institutions was discriminatory.

"The church filed suit and claimed its exclusion from the grant program violated the free exercise clause of the First Amendment. The free exercise clause forbids laws that prohibit the free exercise of religion," Nelson said. "The Supreme Court in this case held that Missouri's policy of excluding churches from the grant program was unconstitutional and violated the free exercise clause of the First Amendment."

The second speaker was Clinical Associate Professor Geoffrey A. Hoffman, who discussed the recent attempts at a travel ban along with citizenship and immigration cases. Hoffman, director of the Law Center's Immigration Clinic, recounted when he helped immigrants affected by the ban by volunteering at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in late January.

"I felt like I was in a moment of history," Hoffman said. "I spent from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the airport. It was quite an experience. Protestors arrived in the afternoon, and Terminal E was completely flooded with people. It was very dramatic."

The session concluded with a general discussion about the October 2016 Supreme Court Term with Professor Peter Linzer and Josh Blackman, an associate professor at the South Texas College of Law Houston. Attendees received 2.75 hours of continuing legal education credit.

## SCOTUS JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR CITES AMICUS BRIEF CO-AUTHORED BY UHLC PROFESSOR RAVE

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor cited the work of University of Houston Law Center Assistant Professor D. Theodore Rave in her dissenting opinion in *Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. Superior Court of California, San Francisco County*.

The case involved 86 California residents and 592 non-resident plaintiffs who sued Bristol-Myers Squibb over alleged injuries from the drug Plavix. Bristol-Myers Squibb argued that, despite selling millions of Plavix pills in California, the California state court did not have the jurisdiction to preside over claims from the 592 non-residents because their alleged injuries were not "caused by" the company's California contacts.

Rave's brief argued that requiring the strict causal connection between the plaintiffs' claims and the defendant's contacts with the state that Bristol-Myers Squibb advocated could cause uncertainty and undermine settled expectations about jurisdiction in both simple and complex cases in federal and state courts. It also argued that Bristol-Myers Squibb's proposal would be inconsistent with the court's seminal 1945 decision on jurisdiction in *International Shoe Co. v. Washington*, and urged the court to reject a strict causation test.

The Supreme Court reversed and remanded the judgment of the California court in an 8-1 decision delivered by Justice Samuel Alito on June 19. Although the court held that courts in California did not have the proper jurisdiction to adjudicate claims by the out-of-state plaintiffs, it did not adopt Bristol-Myers Squibb's proposed causation rule, as Sotomayor pointed out in dissent, citing Rave's brief.

## HOUSTON-BASED FOUNDATION AWARDS MAJOR GRANT TO UHLC'S PROGRAM TO AID AT-RISK YOUTH



Katy Dow

The University of Houston Law Center's Juvenile & Capital Advocacy Project was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant from The Simmons Foundation to support its record-sealing program and to develop a program for dual-status youth.

Dual-status youth — often referred to as "crossover youth" — are children who are simultaneously involved in the juvenile justice system and foster care system; they suffer from histories of abuse and neglect. Without appropriate and targeted interventions and specialized legal representation,

these youth are at increased risk for mental health concerns, educational problems, occupational difficulties and public health and safety issues.

"We saw a real need for a program to address the needs of dual-status youth, and we came up with the idea of training law students to serve as guardians ad litem for these children," said Katya Dow, the legal program director of JCAP and a professor of practice at the Law Center.

Dow noted that dual-status youth are poorly served by the existing system because of a lack of meaningful and regularized communication between the courts with jurisdiction over the delinquency matters and those with jurisdiction over foster care matters. JCAP's newly-established program aims to correct these problems by training law students to address the issues these juveniles face holistically.

"In the existing system, these children and young adults often simply fall through the cracks, and JCAP's dual status representation program aims to help fill those cracks," Dow said.

"The record-sealing program we operate in partnership with the Houston Bar Association and the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, while enormously important to the juveniles, is also enormously time-consuming," Dow added. "Consequently, without this grant from the Simmons Foundation, JCAP would simply not have had the capacity to add the GAL program to its operations.

"JCAP is grateful to the Foundation and honored by its confidence and looks forward to serving this new and deserving constituency of dual-status youth."

The Simmons Foundation is a philanthropic organization that partners with other groups to provide support to women, youth and families, among many other vulnerable members of the population.

JCAP was established at the Law Center in 2014 by Professor David R. Dow, longtime death penalty attorney and founder of the Texas Innocence Network. The project seeks to reduce juvenile delinquency and improve life outcomes for economically and socially disadvantaged youth through the provision of legal, educational and social support services.

## UHLC PRESENTED WITH TEXAS BAR TRADEMARK AWARD FOR DEFENDING SCHOOL'S BRAND IN NAMING DISPUTE



The University of Houston Law Center was honored with the inaugural State Bar of Texas IP Section Annual Trademark Award for its defense of the school's brand after South Texas College of Law announced plans to change its name to Houston College of Law.

"I am very thankful that the Texas Bar recognized the Law Center for protecting

its name and brand," said Dean Leonard M. Baynes. "The case presented important and novel legal issues. The Law Center community is deeply grateful for the expert legal representation by UH General Counsel Dona Cornell, Al Deaver, and alumnus Tony Buzbee '97. Our success is solely attributable to their outstanding lawyering and advocacy."

"The presentation of this award is not about highlighting a winner or a loser in a lawsuit," Craig Stone, chairman of the IP Law Section's Trademark Committee, said in announcing the award during the state bar's annual meeting in Dallas. "It's to recognize the exceptional work of a team of in-house lawyers, brand guardians and outside counsel collaborating and taking action under expedited deadlines to gather evidence and meet a burden of proof in the context of a trademark injunction hearing.

"Their representation of the UHLC brand under emotion-filled circumstances is a great example of what trademark lawyers and teams face every day when tasked with protecting their multi-generational assets as brand stewards," added Stone, senior counsel, Intellectual Property, for Phillips 66 in Houston.

After a successful federal district court decision in UHLC's favor, the two law schools ultimately settled the case and agreed on the name South Texas College of Law Houston.

"This case was a huge win for the University of Houston and the University of Houston Law Center in protecting its valuable brand and reputation it has worked so hard to achieve in the higher education and legal community," said Cornell, UH System Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, UH Vice President for Legal Affairs and UH System/UH General Counsel.

"We knew this case had to be aggressively pursued by a powerhouse of attorneys and the collective support of the administration at UH and the UH Law Center. Tony Buzbee showed why he has a reputation for truly being one of the best litigators around. The specialized IP and litigation experience offered by Al Deaver and the attorneys at Sutton, McAughan, Deaver, including Elizabeth W. King, as well as the knowledge of UH trademarks by Jennifer Sickler at Thompson & Knight were critical to a favorable ruling by (U.S. District) Judge (Keith) Ellison.

"Additionally, Dean Baynes' exceptional leadership and the support of his staff working with my office and outside counsel throughout the litigation made this a true team win for which UH and the UH Law Center should be proud."

"I was honored to serve as lead counsel for this important and unique case," said Buzbee, a 1997 Law Center graduate. "The team involved in this effort are some of the best in the IP field. The support we received from the chancellor, the dean, and their staffs was top notch and most appreciated. And I would be remiss to fail to mention General Counsel Dona Cornell. In my estimation, she is the absolute best. We are very pleased with the result of the case."



*Associate Dean Greg Vetter, Paul M. Janicke, and Dean Leonard M. Baynes*

## **TEXAS BAR IP SECTION HONORS UHLC PROF. JANICKE WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

University of Houston Law Center Professor Paul M. Janicke was honored with the Tom Arnold Lifetime Achievement Award by the Intellectual Property Law Section of the State Bar of Texas during its annual meeting in Dallas.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to teach at the Law Center," Janicke said in accepting the award. "I have wonderful students and terrific colleagues. While I very much appreciate this award, the real reward during the past 25 years of service at the Law Center has been the process itself."

"Professor Janicke is a giant in the field of intellectual property law," added Dean Leonard M. Baynes. "He is an outstanding teacher, a

terrific scholar, and a very valued and respected member of our Law Center community. I am delighted that his accomplishments are being recognized by the Texas Bar."

Janicke, who joined the UHLC faculty in 1992, was instrumental in creating the Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law at the Law Center. He teaches Evidence, Patent Litigation, an introductory survey course in Intellectual Property Law, and a seminar for Advanced Topics in Intellectual Property Law. He has published extensively in the fields of patent law and licensing law.

"He is a big reason why UHLC's IPIL has been consistently regarded as one of the top IP law programs in the country," said Greg Vetter, associate dean and HIPLA Professor of Law who teaches various intellectual property law courses.



While introducing Janicke at the awards luncheon, Vetter thanked his colleague for his mentoring and friendship during his 15 years at the Law Center. "His support for my endeavors has been invaluable. It has been a privilege to help Paul in his singular mission: to give the best and highest education and professional development to our students."

Prior to entering academe, Janicke practiced patent litigation for more than 20 years with the Houston firm of Arnold, White & Durkee, where he was outside patent counsel for clients such as Shell Oil Company and Compaq Computer Corp. The firm was founded by Tom Arnold, the namesake of the lifetime achievement award.

## MABRY '10 TAKES REINS OF UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW ALUMNI BOARD



Cynthia Mabry

Seven years after completing her legal education at the University of Houston Law Center, Cynthia Mabry paid it forward.

The 2010 alumna was elected president of the University of Houston Law alumni board in 2017. Mabry said she hopes to make an impact by expanding the Law Center's alumni network and assisting Dean Leonard M. Baynes and the Office of Law Alumni Relations' bold vision for the future.

"My goal is to help with the Law Center's ambitious goals," Mabry said. "It's focusing on organization, outreach and supporting Dean Baynes' objectives for the Law Center. The most precious thing you can give is time. I really enjoy working with the Law Center. It's fun to see classmates, and I enjoy meeting our next generation of lawyers. The staff at the Law Center is world-class and makes my job easy."

Armed with an accounting degree from LSU, Mabry began working as an auditor at PricewaterhouseCoopers. She was intrigued by the work of advising clients in financial matters, and after three years, she resigned from her position and solidified her path to the Law Center.

Her favorite memories of the Law Center are the relationships she developed with classmates and professors. Mabry worked as a research assistant for Professor Darren Bush and fondly recalls being a student in Professor Barbara Evans' first Torts class at the Law Center. Professor Jacqueline Weaver taught one of Mabry's favorite classes, Oil & Gas, sparking an interest that led her to develop an expertise in the energy industry.

Mabry has represented public and private entities, investors and underwriters in a wide variety of capital markets and finance transactions. Mabry explains that, while her accounting degree was helpful in understanding the business world, her law degree gave her the ability to work from all perspectives and to look at issues from different angles.



Calvin F. McKnight

## UHLC STUDENT AWARDED TWO ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOLARSHIPS TO PURSUE NATURAL RESOURCES LAW

A part-time student at the University of Houston Law Center and a veteran of nine years in the oil and gas field has been awarded two scholarships by the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation.

"I competed with a large number of well-qualified applicants and to be selected amongst my peers is truly an honor," said Calvin F. McKnight. "The Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation has been dedicated to the study of laws and regulations relating to natural resource and energy law in which I have had great interest since before my legal studies began."

McKnight received a \$7,000 RMMLF scholarship in addition to a \$7,000 Joe Rudd Scholarship, named in honor of a prominent natural resources attorney.

The scholarships are designed to encourage the study of natural resources law by highly-qualified students who have the potential to make a significant contribution in the field.

"My journey in energy started after my sophomore year of undergrad, when I received my first internship with BP as a production engineer," McKnight said. "It was there I realized how fascinating and vast the energy industry is."

"Calvin is a shining example of the University of Houston law student," said Dean Leonard M. Baynes. "He is super smart and talented. Most importantly, he has grit providing him with the capacity to juggle a wife, young family, demanding job, and challenging school work. Calvin is just one example of the Law Center's amazing students. And the law students today share the same spark as the countless number of Law Center graduates who preceded them."

While in law school, McKnight has served as vice president of the UHLC chapter of the Association for International Petroleum Negotiators (AIPN) and mentored 8th grade students at the Lawson Academy as well as the Law Center's Pre-Law Pipeline Program.

McKnight shares credit for his success in a demanding lifestyle: "I thank my wife, Sabrina, and my two children, Julianna, 2 years old, and Parker, 8 months; without their support none of this is possible."



Graduating Class of 2017 Pipeline Program

## UHLC PRE-LAW PIPELINE PROGRAM SCHOLARS LEAVE WITH MISSION TO BE TRAILBLAZERS

Forty-six graduates of the University of Houston Law Center's Pre-Law Pipeline Program were encouraged to follow their dreams of pursuing a legal education at a closing at the Student Center South on the University of Houston's main campus.

The theme of this year's Closing Ceremony, "Trailblazing," was selected by Leen Basharat, a student at the University of Houston. "I felt that nothing could better describe the 46 students selected into this program," said Basharat, one of the Pipeline Program students. "As I asked those who were the first in their family to become a lawyer, first to attend a college in the U.S. or the first to attend a second level of higher education to stand to be recognized, I saw the room rise.

"This program offered opportunity to shape ourselves and society, regardless of where you've come from."

The program, which completed its third year, was established by Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes and Program Manager Kristen Guiseppi. The eight-week summer course is designed to increase diversity among law school applicants and to provide students from underrepresented backgrounds an opportunity to consider law school seriously. The 2017 class marked the highest attendance in the program's brief history.

"It is quite fitting that trailblazing was the theme for this year's ceremony," Guiseppi said. "In many ways, these students have shown themselves to be trendsetters and have demonstrated the drive and grit to take on the role of being leaders and future lawyers. These students are going to make their mark on the world, and it was an absolute pleasure being part of their genesis this summer. I anticipate only great things from each and every one of them."

The program divides students into two tracks: Scholar I and Scholar II.

Nineteen students participated in the program's Scholar I track, which is designed for students in their first two

years of college. The curriculum consists of three weeks of introductory law school classes taught by UHLC faculty, two weeks of LSAT preparation, and three weeks of internships.

"Prior to the start of our internship period, we were prepped to be stellar young professionals through professional development workshops hosted by Kristi Johnson, a communication consultant and coach, and Kourtney James Perry, associate director of the Career Development Office," said Elena Villarreal, a student at Texas A&M University.

"We were supported throughout our internship placement by an online session with Tiffany Tucker, assistant dean for Career Development, who generously volunteered her time with the pipeline students."

Twenty-seven students took part in the Scholar II track, designed for students in their third or fourth year of college who are preparing to apply to law school. The Scholar II track focuses on building a strong law school application. The curriculum consists of eight weeks of LSAT preparation, résumé and personal statement workshops, and follow-up one-on-one sessions. It is recommended that students participate in both tracks to maximize their potential in the program.

"As a Scholar II student, we participated in a comprehensive LSAT focused curriculum," said Divine Collins, a student at Spelman. "We developed a strong foundation of LSAT basics during the first few weeks, and we built upon them during the remainder of the program. Each student was assigned mentors, current law school students and attorneys, who were able to advise us and provide important information about law school experiences. This is one of the many support systems that will remain in place for us when we return to our homes and colleges.

Participants came from universities around the country, with two previous Scholar I students returning to bolster their law school applications in the Scholar II track.





*Japanese Garden Hermann Park Conservancy*



*Houston Food Bank packaging area*

## UHLC FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS INTRODUCED TO LEGAL COMMUNITY WITH SERVICE PROJECTS

Before cracking their textbooks and attending courses, University of Houston Law Center 1L students began the fall semester with acts of generosity.

The volunteering initiative, started by Dean Leonard M. Baynes, is intended to set a good example for Law Center students entering the legal profession in terms of providing support to the community.

Entering students and faculty participated in a number of community service programs spread over three days.

Twenty students spent time assisting volunteer attorneys at a naturalization workshop at the Ripley House Center.

About 10 students joined Houston Volunteer Lawyers for the Houston Bar Association's Veteran's Clinic at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where they had an opportunity to sit in on meetings with veterans seeking legal advice.

The following day, Law Center students and faculty spread throughout Houston for four separate initiatives.

About 25 students went to the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Legal Clinic in the Third Ward to assist citizens in need and those who cannot afford legal representation.

Twenty volunteers assisted with mulching, making beds for planting and weeding at the Beauty's Community Garden in Independence Heights. Beauty's Community Garden is a community beacon that has been a consistent source of health and wellness for residents who need it the most. In a neighborhood that is a food desert, the garden is and has been a historically natural source of healthy vegetables and a site for mentorship and educational programs.

More volunteers got their hands dirty when 40 students lent a helping hand at the Japanese Garden Hermann Park Conservancy. The final event at the Houston Food Bank drew nearly 150 students who spent the afternoon preparing packages for those in need.



# HURRICANE HARVEY

## LAW CENTER COMMUNITY SERVICE

*When Hurricane Harvey slammed into the Texas coast on Aug. 25, 2017, no one predicted the historic amount of rain and flooding that would devastate the greater Houston area in its wake, leaving one-third of Harris County underwater. Damage estimates make Harvey the most costly natural disaster in U.S. history.*

*Houstonians took to their boats and high-water vehicles to rescue those threatened by rising water. Volunteers and financial aid poured in from across the country, and many members of the University of Houston Law Center community were among those who pitched in to do what they could. While the Law Center quickly remediated water intrusion, a number of students, faculty and staff were affected with flooded homes and cars and damaged personal property. Classes were canceled for 10 days as flood victims coped, and recovery began.*

*The following is a compilation of stories detailing some of the efforts undertaken by Law Center volunteers to help others as well as their own.*

### **UH Law Center re-opens, reaches out to community in aftermath of Hurricane Harvey**

University of Houston Law Center students and professors returned to the classroom on Sept. 5, but continued to help classmates and other flood victims struggling to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

The Law Center sustained minor water intrusion during Hurricane Harvey, and the University of Houston was closed for one week.

"I'm very happy to welcome students, faculty and staff back to the Law Center and provide nourishment to them," said Dean Leonard M. Baynes during a back-to-school breakfast. "Classes have resumed without a hitch, and no mere hurricane is going to stop the Law Center's mission. We are here for all of you and welcome you with open arms."

Students, faculty and staff were welcomed back with comfort food like doughnuts and pizza.

"My heart goes out to our whole community. It may take time for us to recover some sense of normalcy. At times like these, it is important for us to be kind and patient with each other and focus on the bonds that bring us together. We are all Houstonians, and we all love UHLC," Baynes added.

As students recounted their stories from the storm, many expressed gratitude for emerging from Harvey with minimal to no property damage.

But not all students were as lucky. John Hebert, a first-year-student, recounted how water breached his family's home in Pasadena.

"It was chaos. We put all of our sheets and linens against the door because water was already coming in through the back of the house," he said. "We basically tried to make a barricade, but it seeped through the bottom. The water eventually got about ankle-high. I've seen it flood in Pasadena before, but never like that."

The Law Center established a Harvey Resource Page on its website.





*UH Law Center Young Alumni Committee members assist with Hurricane Harvey cleanup.*

Faculty, staff, and students completed surveys to assess Harvey's impact. Every student, full-time faculty and staff member were accounted for after the storm.

"I would not feel comfortable until I knew that all the students were safe," said Sondra R. Tennessee, associate dean of Student Affairs.

According to the surveys, most Law Center students were not impacted by Harvey, but 23 percent reported minor losses and three percent suffered major damages. The survey indicated that 73 percent of students sheltered in place, and 27 percent evacuated their dwellings.

Clinical Associate Professor Geoffrey Hoffman, director of the Law Center's Immigration Clinic, led several volunteering efforts assisting flood victims with pressing legal questions.

"The most urgent needs are going to be lost documentation like a green card or work authorization," Hoffman said. "Another urgent need is if somebody is undocumented and they may be afraid of deportation and how to deal with those issues. We're also trying to direct immigrants to FEMA and determine if they're eligible or not."

Students, faculty and staff volunteered at the George R. Brown Convention Center in partnership with the Tahirih Justice Center. They later helped evacuees at the NRG Center where Hoffman volunteered alongside Baynes, Janet Beck, a visiting clinical assistant professor at the Immigration Clinic, and Lone Star Legal Aid.

"Lawyers are presented with many opportunities, and it is important for us to give back. We set the standard of leadership in our communities," said Baynes, "At times like this, it is ever so important for attorneys to reach out to serve their communities. It is a blessing that the Law Center is able to provide service to the greater Houston community during this time of need."

#### **UHLC Professor Chase co-chairs Harvey relief fund advisory committee**



*Tony Chase*

University of Houston Law Center Associate Professor Anthony R. Chase was named co-chair of the advisory committee of the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund in September to ensure there is a process to determine the needs of flood victims that are not met by other sources.

The fund was established by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. The Greater Houston Community Foundation will oversee and administer the grant distribution process. The 10-member advisory committee will approve funding for various purposes, including shelter and temporary housing needs, food and supplies, healthcare, transportation, child care, facility needs of child care and social service agencies, and others.

"The mayor and county judge partnered to create the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund to provide short, medium, and longer-term recovery assistance," said Chase, chairman and CEO of Chase Source who teaches Contracts, Communications Law, Entrepreneurship and Race & American Law.

"The resources, consistent with previous natural disasters, will be directed to non-profit organizations with strong capacity and successful track records in helping individuals and families rebuild their lives. Together with the other board members I'm excited to roll up my sleeves and get to work."

In announcing the appointment of Chase and Bill Jackson, Harris County Budget Officer, to lead the advisory committee, Stephen Maislin, CEO of the Greater Houston Community Foundation, said, "The Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund is vital to the recovery efforts and will fill gaps where federal and state funding will not. In other words, many of these funds will



*UH Law Center Young Alumni Committee members work on flood cut and drywall removal in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.*

go directly to support immediate needs in our city.”

The GHCF, with more than \$640 million in assets, is one of Houston’s largest grant makers and provides individuals, families, corporations, foundations, and advisors with the ability to maximize its philanthropic impact.

### **ABA President Bass visits UHLC to observe post-Harvey legal volunteering efforts**



*Richard McElvaney and Hilarie Bass*

Hilarie Bass, president of the American Bar Association, came to the University of Houston Law Center in September to oversee and assist in the training of volunteer lawyers in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Her remarks were part of a program, “FEMA and Beyond: Hurricane Harvey Legal Issues,” presented by Lone Star

Legal Aid and sponsored by the Law Center’s Center for Consumer Law and the school’s clinical programs. Volunteers were provided with information about FEMA and other legal issues related to Hurricane Harvey.

“Through its young lawyers division, the ABA has a contract with FEMA to provide disaster legal services,” Bass said. “The ABA has been on the ground after all the disasters have taken place. It’s critical that people who need assistance get it. Much of what’s being done by the American Bar Association is to provide volunteer lawyers who give free legal advice to victims of a hurricane.

“It was great to see law students who are all volunteering to help provide

assistance to disaster victims,” she said.

Additional speakers included Sandra Brown, managing attorney of Lone Star Legal Aid’s Disaster Relief Unit, and Martin Mayo of Martin L. Mayo & Associates, who specializes in weather-related insurance claims and lawsuits.



*Richard M. Alderman*

### **‘People’s Law School’ focuses curriculum on Harvey-related issues**

The University of Houston Law Center hosted a special session of the “People’s Law School” in October that was a bit more somber than usual, focusing on the many legal issues faced by victims of Hurricane Harvey.

“This program is a little different from the ones we have done in the past,” said Professor Emeritus Richard M. Alderman, who for years has led the program to inform people of their basic legal rights. “It is usually a fun and upbeat event. People are usually here because it provides information on something interesting for them to know. However, the main point of this program is a little more serious.

“Harvey was a devastating event and most of the participants are here because of it. It not only destroyed property, it has disrupted your lives, and it is going to have long-term consequences.

“One of the best ways to deal with all of this is knowing your legal rights. You do have legal rights, and a lot of them you can deal with yourself,” he assured participants gathered in Krost Hall before heading off to “classes” taught by volunteer judges, lawyers and law professors. In addition, a number of attorneys and FEMA representatives were on hand to meet individually with people needing specific assistance.





*UH Law Center Young Alumni Committee members volunteered to help many Hurricane Harvey victims.*

Subjects covered a wide range of storm-related issues facing homeowners, tenants and businesses, including insurance coverage, FEMA qualifications, landlord/tenant disputes, contracts, price gouging and scams.

Normally, the volunteer teachers field questions in various areas of the law, including business law, criminal law, credit and debt collection, wills and estates, health law, and landlord tenant law.

Hosted by UHLC's Center for Consumer Law, which Alderman continues to serve as director, the free, biannual program is sponsored by the Houston Lawyer Referral Service. The "People's Law School" is the oldest and most successful program of its kind in the nation, having taught more than 55,000 people over the years.

### **Law students from across the country step up to support UHLC victims of Hurricane Harvey**

Law students, far from the destruction and misery of Hurricane Harvey, came to the aid of their fellow students at the University of Houston Law Center in November with financial and moral support to help in their recovery.

Students at the University of Alabama School of Law, Albany Law School, and Syracuse University College of Law combined to match the nearly \$1,500 raised by Law Center students to help classmates affected by the widespread flooding caused by the late August storm. Student representatives from more than 20 other law schools offered words of encouragement in solidarity with Law Center students.

"The outpouring of support from our colleagues at law schools around the country has been both uplifting and awe-inspiring," said Reed Fryar 2L, president of the UHLC Student Bar Association. "Hurricane Harvey left a

heavy financial, physical and emotional impact on our friends and family in the Houston community and in our school. We cannot express enough gratitude for the financial and moral support we have received in the wake of this disaster."

Relief money will be distributed to students based on need by the Law Center's Scholarship Committee.

"The overwhelming response speaks to the generosity and camaraderie of fellow law students," said Associate Dean for Student Affairs Sondra R. Tennessee. "The money will help those struggling to recover financially from the loss of cars, laptops, personal property, and, in some cases, damage to their homes. The heartfelt words of support were equally meaningful."



## DIVERSITY MAGAZINE RECOGNIZES UH LAW CENTER FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW



The University of Houston Law Center is among five law schools nationwide recognized for outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. It marks the second straight year that the Law Center has received this recognition.

The Law Center and the University of Houston were among 85 recipients of the 2017 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award — the only national award honoring institutions for their efforts on behalf of diversity. INSIGHT Into Diversity is the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

“It is a humbling experience for the Law Center to be recognized two years in a row,” said Dean Leonard M. Baynes. “It shows that the Law Center’s considerable efforts at diversity and inclusion are garnering notice. But most importantly, it is satisfying that our programs are having an impact in everyday people’s lives.”

Institutions were selected for the HEED Award based on their initiatives that embrace all aspects of diversity, including gender, race, ethnicity, veterans, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ community. Award recipients for 2017 include community colleges, public and private schools, baccalaureate-granting institutions, graduate schools, and one school system.

“The HEED Award process consists of a comprehensive and rigorous application that includes questions relating to the recruitment and retention of students and employees — and best practices for both — continued leadership support for diversity, and other aspects of campus diversity and inclusion,” said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.

UHLC was selected for its numerous diversity initiatives, including the Pre-Law Pipeline Program. The program, which recently completed its third year, was designed to prepare undergraduate students who are first generation, low income or members of groups underrepresented in the legal profession for a career in law.

“Many thanks to INSIGHT Into Diversity for recognizing the UHLC and its efforts,” said Program Manager Kristen Guiseppi. “It is such an honor for us to receive this prestigious award for a second time. Diversity is such an important topic, and I am happy that we are able to continue furthering the discussion, and fostering a culture where diversity is recognized and celebrated.”

## TEXAS SUPREME COURT CONDUCTS ORAL ARGUMENTS AT UH LAW CENTER

The Supreme Court of Texas convened at the University of Houston Law Center’s Krost Hall to hear oral arguments in two cases involving parental rights and mandatory arbitration.

“It was a special day for the Law Center, and we were delighted to have the Texas Supreme Court here,” said Dean Leonard M. Baynes. “It gave our students a chance to see great lawyering and well-prepared and thoughtful judges. It was a tonic after Hurricane Harvey for so many of us that we’re moving forward.”

In the 19th century, when Texas first entered the Union, the state Supreme Court was required to sit only in the city of Austin. Occasionally, the Constitution would change to allow the court to sit elsewhere in Texas, but it wasn’t until the 1990s that an amendment passed in the legislature that allowed the court to sit anywhere in the state anytime it chooses. It marked the first time in more than a decade that the court convened at the Law Center.

“The court was pleased to hear oral arguments at the University of Houston Law Center,” said Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht. “We’ve had Law Center alums over the years serve on the court, like my good friend Raul Gonzalez who is now retired, and Justice Jeff Brown now. Justice Eva Guzman is a University of Houston graduate and honorary Law Center alum, and former Blakely Advocacy Institute adjunct professor. We



Texas Supreme Court with UH Law Center students



consider this to be a strong school for Texas.

"I hope law students who attended will see that the third branch of government does business differently from the other two. It's very deliberative; it's very orderly, thoughtful, honest and provocative. The judges ask hard questions, and the lawyers need to give straight answers. The cases are hard and close, and most of the time there is no one right answer. I hope people see that this is a place where you're going to be treated fairly."

The Court heard oral arguments on two cases on appeal from the Fourth Court of Appeals in San Antonio.

The first case involved a couple dealing with drug and neglect issues who voluntarily relinquished parental rights to their daughter. While a state district judge found that was in the child's "best interest," the appellate court ruled "best interest" had not been proved.

The second case was a challenge by payday loan borrowers to mandatory arbitration of complaints under terms of loan agreements with the lender, Cash Biz. The borrowers contend the arbitration agreement had been waived because the lender had involved the judicial process by filing criminal bad check charges, resulting in borrowers paying heavy fines and even serving jail sentences.

## SONDOCK JURIST-IN-RESIDENCE, NY APPELLATE JUDGE, SEES RENEWED INTEREST IN COURT SYSTEM



Judge Jenny Rivera of the New York State Court of Appeals provided an overview of how the court functions at the Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Jurist-In-Residence Program at the University of Houston Law Center.

"With the recent changes in our national government, the appointment of Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch and the filling of vacancies in

the federal judiciary, there has been a reinvigorated discussion of the role of state courts and protecting individual rights and ensuring access to justice," Rivera said in her lecture on Sept. 18.

The New York Court of Appeals is the highest court in the state of New York. Rivera, an associate judge, was nominated by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Jan. 15, 2013. The New York State Senate confirmed her appointment on Feb. 11, 2013.

Rivera is one of two Latinos on the court, which includes three women justices, an African-American man, and the first openly gay member.

"Our court is quite diverse in professional experience, personal background and geographic representation," Rivera said. "Our chief judge, Janet DiFiore, is the second female chief judge of the court and a former district attorney. Each of us brings an interesting perspective to our work."

## IMMIGRATION ADVOCATES LEARN BASICS OF ASYLUM LAW IN ANNUAL VAIL WORKSHOP AT UHLC

The University of Houston Law Center hosted the annual Joseph A. Vail Asylum Law Workshop to educate immigration lawyers and advocates on current issues and provide practical information to help

them better serve their pro bono clients.

While the main thrust of the day-long program was asylum, primarily for families and children, a special focus this year was placed on challenges immigrants face in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

"We have all been through Harvey," Clinical Associate Professor Geoffrey A. Hoffman, director of the Law Center's Immigration Clinic, said in the opening segment. "Imagine if you are an immigrant, undocumented, DACA, and your documents were lost."

He said he researched FEMA eligibility requirements while volunteering to help immigrant flood victims who had taken refuge at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Benefits are available to non-U.S. citizens, depending on their legal status, he said, including those holding green cards, those granted asylum or admitted as refugees, victims of domestic violence with pending petitions, and others.

"FEMA is under DHS (the Department of Homeland Security)," he reminded audience members. "So there is a risk in applying." He urged them to make sure their client's status is clear before applying for federal aid, help in replacing lost documents, and other immigration relief.

In welcoming remarks, Hoffman defined asylum as protection for those who are unable to return to their countries of origin due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

"A lot of what you learn here today will make you a better lawyer," he said, while urging attorneys to work pro bono for those needing help. "It is a lot of work, and it takes a long time, but it's worth it, and this workshop will hone your skills."

In a presentation she dubbed "Asylum 101," Josephine Sorgwe, a clinical supervising attorney at the Law Center's Immigration Clinic, detailed two visas potentially available to those seeking refuge.

The U-Visa provides asylum to those who are in danger of substantial physical or mental abuse as the result of being the victim of a crime or having knowledge of criminal activity. The key word to eligibility, she said, is "substantial," including being helpful to ongoing law enforcement investigations.

Victims of trafficking who can demonstrate they were subject to "severe force" in being brought to the U.S. for sex or other purposes can apply for a T-Visa.

Successful applicants are given work permits, allowed to stay in the country for four years and may apply for reevaluation of their status after three years. In addition, victims of domestic violence can file for protection under the Violence Against Women Act.

"People are not aware that they may qualify for one of these visas," Sorgwe said, adding that the Immigration Clinic conducts informational sessions throughout the community.

Janet Beck, a visiting clinical assistant professor in the Immigration Clinic, discussed immigrant juveniles who arrive unaccompanied at the border seeking admittance. She said they must show why they are leaving their country, whether they are fleeing danger or exploitation, joining family, or escaping abuse, neglect or abandonment. They are taken into federal custody, but have no right to appointed counsel. Beck said they may apply for asylum or, in some cases, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status if they have been abused, abandoned or neglected by one or both parents.





UH Law Center and Anti-Defamation League speakers

## UHLC & ADL ANALYZE INTERSECTION OF FAITH, LAW, IMMIGRATION, AND PUBLIC POLICY

The University of Houston Law Center and the Anti-Defamation League co-sponsored “The Effects of Immigration on America’s Local Communities,” an event consisting of three panel discussions that focused on interplay between religious scripture, law, and public immigration policy in Krost Hall.

“When I think of the Anti-Defamation League, I think of a great civil rights organization and its message of standing up to hate is so pure,” Dean Leonard M. Baynes said. “The Law Center has a long relationship with the Anti-Defamation League. One of our most prominent grads, Marvin Nathan is the national chair. He sponsors fellowships every year where Law Center students get to work at his great organization.”

Marvin Nathan, a 1966 alumnus of the Law Center, illustrated how the ADL’s message still rings true and referenced violent white supremacist demonstrations that occurred Aug. 11-12 in Charlottesville, Va., where one counter-protester was killed.

“I’m forever grateful to the Law Center for educating me, enhancing my legal skills and making me a lawyer that is always engaged in what is equal justice and what is wrong,” Nathan said. “It’s a privilege to be here, and I’d like to thank the Law Center for helping the ADL host this event and applaud its integrity and credibility.”

The first discussion provided a current overview of immigration and featured Geoffrey A. Hoffman, a clinical associate professor and director of the Law Center’s Immigration Clinic. Hoffman discussed how immigration laws tend to be altered frequently.

“A quote from (philosopher) Meister Eckhart I like to use is, ‘be willing to be a beginner every single day,’” Hoffman said. “Practicing immigration law can make you feel like a beginner every day. It’s changing on a daily basis, and it’s a very fast-paced practice for my students and I.”

The next panel, titled: “Law, Religion and Public Policies,” included Law Center Professors Johnny R. Buckles and James D. Nelson.

Buckles pointed to certain books in the Bible that show a complex history

between law and theology.

“I’ve noticed a common theme in multiple passages — some in Deuteronomy, some in Leviticus, some in Numbers — a provision for the hungry,” Buckles said. “Special treatment of the vulnerable, including immigrants, pervades the law.”

Nelson pointed to contrasts between law and religion, referencing the 1971 Supreme Court Case, *Lemon v. Kurtzman*. In an 8-1 decision, the Court ruled that for a law to be considered constitutional under the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, it must be nonreligious.

“All government acts must have a secular purpose,” he said. “Government acts must be supported by reasons that are not fundamentally religious or theological in nature. This basic fundamental constitutional principle comes to us from the famous *Lemon* case and the first part of the *Lemon* test.”

## UHLC ALUMNI GO BACK TO SCHOOL FOR REUNION WEEKEND 2017

Alumni made their way back to the classroom with Professor David Dow and Professor Emeritus Jacqueline Weaver during Reunion Weekend at the University of Houston Law Center.

Weaver, an internationally known scholar in oil and gas law and energy law, delivered a presentation titled, “Role of the Regulator: Reflections on Forty Years of Research and Learning About Energy, Economics & the Environment.”

She said regulators need to set the standards of the industry and must be able to assess those standards before adopting them in regulations or guidelines. Despite no recent major accidents in the oil and gas industry, Weaver said regulators must hold the industry accountable to maintain safety.

“After 40 years of my research, I basically decided the theme of it has been



Reunion Weekend 2017

a good regulator is industry's best friend," she said. "If regulators do not act, litigation, I assure you, will fill the gap.

"Ultimately, the regulator's goal is to combat industry's inevitable sense of complacency, and to force continuous improvement on the entire industry as increasingly complex technology and procedures advance," she said.

Weaver taught at the Law Center for 39 years and retired at the conclusion of the 2016 fall semester.

Dow provided a primer on death penalty cases. Dow, the Law Center's Cullen Professor of Law and a capital defense attorney, is the founder of the Texas Innocence Network, which was established in 2000. In 2014, the Texas Innocence Network incorporated the Juvenile & Capital Advocacy Project, which seeks to reduce juvenile delinquency and improve life outcomes for economically and socially disadvantaged youth through the provision of legal, educational and social support services.

He gave an overview of recent developments in death penalty law, with special attention to Texas. He discussed what differentiates Texas from other states that practice capital punishment, including how juries are asked to foresee if a person would be a threat to the public if he or she isn't sentenced to death.

"Texas is in a league of its own when it comes to deciding whether someone's going to be sentenced to death," Dow said. "What's peculiar about Texas as compared to every other state that has the death penalty, is that the decision whether to sentence someone to death is not based on the facts of the crime itself. It's instead based on the jury's prediction about what's going to happen in the future if the person isn't executed."

## **SONDOCK JURIST-IN-RESIDENCE SPEAKER, ELEANOR ROSS '94, EMPHASIZES NEED FOR CIVILITY IN LEGAL PROFESSION**

Judge Eleanor Ross of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia said attorneys must practice a code of respect when deliberating in the courtroom during her lecture as part of the Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Jurist-In-Residence Program at the University of Houston Law Center.

Ross, a 1994 graduate of the Law Center, noted that she has seen occasional instances of attorneys displaying a lack of civility.

"In my mind, the courtroom is sacred ground," Ross said. "Over the years I have developed a strong opinion that there are certain things you dare not do, say or wear in a courtroom. The decline in civility that I have seen in the cases that have been handled before me have been very disheartening."

Ross said she has not seen egregious behavior in her courtroom, but an increase in condescension, sarcasm, and other forms of demeaning behavior by attorneys.

"Key elements of civility include dialogue, respectful communication, and informed public decision-making," she said. "The short definition that I often use is a code of respectful behavior within the legal community."

"I like to distinguish civility from the broader category professionalism. Professionalism encompasses so much like competency, remaining knowledgeable about the laws and the rules governing the practice of law and the judgment you use. Civility is a component within professionalism — that component deals specifically with the interaction of the players involved in the legal process."

Ross noted that while lawyers should always maintain proper behavior,

the spirit of courtroom debate should remain competitive.

"Civility is not liking opposing counsel or agreeing with everything that opposing counsel or the judge says," Ross said. "I don't like when attorneys say to me, 'Judge, I really hate to disagree with opposing counsel, but that's not really the law.'"

"Don't hate to disagree. This is an adversarial process. It's not about agreeing on everything, it's about showing respect."

## **ENGRAVINGS IN O'QUINN LIBRARY REDEDICATED TO FORMER UHLC DEAN AND PROFESSOR STEPHEN ZAMORA**



*Professor Emerita Laura E. Oren, Camille Zamora, Dean Leonard M. Baynes, and Lois Zamora*

Colleagues, friends and family members celebrated the life of former University of Houston Law Center Dean and Professor Stephen Zamora at a ceremony in O'Quinn Library.

A set of 10 copperplate engravings from the "1742 Atlas Coelestis" by Johann Gabriel Doppelmayr were donated to the Law Center in 1998 by Jan and Suzanne Baker, 1973 Law Center alumni. Doppelmayr was a prominent 18th century astronomer, mathematician and cartographer. The plates were rededicated in Zamora's memory and in recognition of his many contributions to the Law Center.

"These engravings are astronomical maps of the world," Dean Leonard M. Baynes said. "It's such a fitting tribute that these maps are dedicated to Professor Zamora, given his emphasis on globalism, NAFTA and Latin America."

Zamora, who retired in 2014 after 36 years in the classroom, died in Mexico City on July 8, 2016 at the age of 72. Zamora joined the Law Center faculty in 1978, and served as the Law Center's dean from 1995 to 2000. He founded and continued to direct the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law at the law school, served as director of the North American Consortium on Legal Education, and as an advisor to the Houston Journal of International Law.

He is survived by his widow, Lois Zamora, a University of Houston English professor; a son, Peter Zamora, his wife Marcela; a daughter, Camille Zamora, and her husband Thomas; grandsons Landon and Nate, and siblings Carol, Mary, Anita, John, Paula, and Tony; and many nephews, nieces, cousins, aunts, in-laws, and friends. Lois and Camille Zamora attended the ceremony.





Dean Leonard M. Baynes

## UHLC DEAN BAYNES DISCUSSES PLANS FOR NEW BUILDING, FACILITY UPGRADES WITH STUDENTS

University of Houston Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes provided an update on plans for a new law school building and mentioned upcoming facility upgrades at his biannual, "Discussion with the Dean."

"We are moving forward with a new building," Baynes said. "It will be a major objective for the next legislative session. We have made progress, with the Cornerstone Club donations serving almost as a 'down payment' when we ask the state legislature for money in the 2019 legislative session."

Baynes also mentioned the opening of a C-Store in the space that was formerly a Subway. The store is similar to the location in the UH Student Center and offers a variety of menu items, snacks and other provisions.

"We want our students to be as comfortable as possible," Baynes said. "The C-Store will be very interesting and revolutionary in that it will be partially automated. There will be someone there during the day, but it will be automated at night for our evening students who want to grab a cookie, coffee or whatever they want."

## DISCOVER LAW DAY 2017 OPENS WINDOW TO LEGAL EDUCATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE STUDENTS

High school and college students from Houston and the surrounding area visited the University of Houston Law Center for Discover Law Day.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs Sondra Tennessee welcomed the students and shared her four Ps to success: plan, prioritize, publicize and persist.

"The type of job you really want to think about is what you're good at, what you like to do and what somebody will pay you to do," Tennessee

said. "I don't care how extreme your situation is, and it might not always be easy, but with a plan, with priorities, with publicizing and persisting, if you keep on, you will achieve your goals."

Assistant Dean for Admissions Pilar Mensah introduced students to the benefits of DiscoverLaw.org, a website hosted by the Law School Admission Council that encourages racially and ethnically diverse students to discover career opportunities in law and choose a path in undergraduate school to help them succeed.

An alumni panel discussed the versatility of a law degree and featured Monica Mensah '14, director of student advisement at the Law Center, Abby Kotun '13, an associate at Haynes and Boone, LLP, immigration attorney Luis Ruiz '14 and Alissa Gipson '16, an associate at Chamberlain Hrdlicka.

Students also heard from Tiffany Tucker, assistant dean for Career Development, who stressed the significance of maintaining professionalism. Tucker encouraged students to display civility in email and other online communications as well as during telephone calls and on-campus visits.

Students also participated in a mock Constitutional Law class taught by Professor Ron Turner and a question-and-answer session with current students.

The high school students came from Atascocita High School, Carl Wunsche Sr. High School, Coldspring-Oakhurst High School, Elsie High School, Harmony School of Discovery, Memorial High School, Northbrook High School, The Pro-Vision Academy, Ridge Point High School, Spring Woods High School, Stratford High School, and YES Prep High School.

Discover Law Day concluded with current college students learning about law school admission and the Law Center's Pre-Law Pipeline Program.

## FRANKEL LECTURE FOCUSES ON INCOMPETENT DEFENSE IN DEATH PENALTY CASES



Stephen B. Bright

A capital punishment scholar blames inattentive defense attorneys and hard-charging prosecutors for widespread inequities in the criminal justice system, especially capital cases.

Stephen B. Bright, a professor of practice at the Georgia State College of Law who also



teaches at Georgetown and Yale law schools, was the keynote speaker at the Houston Law Review's 22nd Annual Frankel Lecture.

During his lecture titled: "The Right to Counsel in Texas Capital Punishment Cases and Related Issues," Bright referenced Texas, and Harris County in particular, as the national leaders in executions.

He said the legal profession cannot tolerate incompetence in criminal cases, especially in cases where execution is a potential outcome.

"A very large number of criminal cases have all the integrity of a professional wrestling match," Bright said. "That's because they're already rigged from the start because the person accused was not adequately represented or was not represented at all by the lawyer assigned to defend that person."

"Progress has been made, but a lot more progress has to be made. For those of you in law school and are going to be lawyers, you are going to have a monopoly on legal services, and you have a moral responsibility to make this system work."

Additional commentators were Jordan M. Steiker, a law professor and director of the Capital Punishment Center at The University of Texas School of Law, and Lise Olsen, a deputy investigations editor and senior investigative reporter at the Houston Chronicle.

## **JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS PLEDGE TO COMBAT BULLYING DURING ADL YOUTH SUMMIT AT UHLC**

More than 300 middle school students and 60 educators from eight school districts and 32 schools vowed to take a stand against intolerance at the 2017 Beau and Abe Merfish No Place For Hate Youth Summit at the University of Houston Law Center. It marked the second year that the ADL and Law Center joined forces to host this event.

"Hate is a destructive force and goes against our better nature as human beings," Dayan Gross, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League Southwest Region, said in a statement. "Everyone should be treated fairly, equally and with respect, irrespective of their gender, religion, race, immigrant status or sexual orientation."

"In today's climate of escalating level of hate towards minorities, ADL plays a critical role where students and teachers can envision a more respectful America and break down stereotypes before they become a source of hatred."

"I am proud of the Law Center for being able to host this event for the second straight year and spread the important message of standing up to hate," Dean Leonard M. Baynes said. "The Law Center embraces all aspects of diversity, and bullying and prejudices go against the values bestowed upon the legal profession."

After an introduction in Krost Hall, students broke into groups throughout the Law Center to further develop skills to identify and interrupt bullying on their respective campuses.



*Middle school students attend No Place for Hate Youth Summit in Krost Hall.*

## UHLC HONORS PROFESSORSHIP DONORS AT PLAQUE UNVEILING CEREMONY



Professorship Donors' Wall

Alumni and friends of the University of Houston Law Center who have helped fund a number of named professorships were recognized with donor plaques at a presentation at the Law Center. The new plaques can be found in the breezeway between the Blakely Advocacy Institute and the Dean's Suite.

"I recognize how important it is to show gratitude for those who have made a significant difference in the life of the Law Center," Dean Leonard M. Baynes said in his welcoming remarks. "A number of alumni and friends of UHLC provided funding for six named professorships. These professorships are crucial for the Law Center to recruit and retain our very talented faculty. The faculty are the life blood of the institution by teaching our students how to be lawyers.

"The Law Center is forever grateful for the generosity of these donors who have invested in our faculty so they can continue to be excellent teachers and scholars. These professorships are really important to our faculty. It gives them an honorary named professorship that lets people know that they are held in very high esteem in the profession."

Honored contributors of the following professorships are:

Andrews Kurth LLP (Professor Craig Joyce), Mike & Teresa Baker (Professor Emeritus Jordan Paust), Beirne, Maynard & Parsons, L.L.P. (Professor Doug Moll), Houston Intellectual Property Law Association (Associate Dean and Professor Greg Vetter), Law Center Alumnae & Friends — (Professor Barbara Evans and Professor Sandra Guerra Thompson), and Leonard B. Rosenberg Family & Friends — (Professor Darren Bush)

Baynes noted that the Houston Intellectual Property Law Association Professorship will eventually be renamed to honor Professor Paul Janicke, who once held the professorship.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS ADVANCEMENTS IN FORENSIC SCIENCE TO KAZAKHSTANI DELEGATION AT UHLC

Developments in criminal law were the focal point for the U.S.-Kazakhstan Roundtable Discussion on Texas Innovations in Forensic Sciences at the University of Houston Law Center.

Opening remarks were delivered by Associate Dean Greg Vetter and Professor Sandra Guerra Thompson, director of the Criminal Justice Institute.

"We in Houston as a city and at the Law Center are very, very proud of what Houston has done with forensic science," Vetter said. "We're particularly proud of Professor Thompson's role in transforming and improving forensic science in Houston and also our visiting Professor (Nicole) Casarez's role as well."

"We hope the discussion fostered an exciting dialogue for the mutual

betterment of our systems of forensic science and our legal system," Thompson added.

The opening speaker was Casarez, chair of the board of directors at the Houston Forensic Science Center, which is Houston's independent forensic laboratory. She discussed the progress the center has made, including its efforts to battle wrongful convictions.

The second topic focused on the role of prosecutors in uncovering wrongful convictions. The speaker was Inger Chandler, the former chief of the Conviction Integrity Unit of the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

The third topic, "Investigating Past Convictions to Redress Wrongful Convictions Due to Unreliable Forensic Evidence," was led by Robert Wicoff, chief of the Appellate Division of the Harris County Public Defender's Office."

Lastly, the Honorable Judge Barbara Hervey addressed the role of the Texas Criminal Justice Integrity Unit in providing leadership on statewide efforts to correct wrongful convictions caused by unreliable forensic evidence, as well as in providing educational programs. Hervey serves on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

The visit was sponsored by the Kazakh Ministry of Justice and the World Bank.

## ASTROS GENERAL COUNSEL TOUTS ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF WORLD SERIES WIN DURING UHLC PANEL



World Series trophy

The positive effects of Houston ending its championship drought in professional sports, among other sports-related topics, were discussed at a program titled, "Life After the World Series: Impacts on Houston and the Greater Community" at the University of Houston Law Center.

"One of the great things about the Law Center and the University of Houston is we can bring great speakers in to discuss topical issues," Dean Leonard M. Baynes said in his welcoming remarks. "For many of us, this year has been a year of ups and downs. We had Hurricane Harvey, which was a very difficult situation. Then we had the Astros winning a world championship which made everyone excited and put Houston on the map."

The program began with a panel that included Mark Arnold, a partner at Andrews Kurth Kenyon LLP, Law Center Professor Tony Chase, and Giles Kibbe, general counsel of the Houston Astros.



Chase led off with comments about Texas's ability to host major sporting events.

"From an economic perspective, sports play a major role in our region," he said. "It's no mistake, for example, that there have been so many Final Fours in Texas over the last 10 years."

Kibbe agreed with Chase and shared how the Astros' season meant much more for Houston than just team pride.

"Sports are extremely important to our city," Kibbe said. "The numbers that came in after the World Series showed that we had \$95 million of economic impact from our playoffs. It was an average of about \$6 to \$8 million a game, and the World Series was a little bit higher at \$10 million."

"The Super Bowl brought in \$300 million. Ninety percent of the World Series attendance was Houstonians, and the Super Bowl was basically the opposite. Only about 10 percent of Houstonians were at the Super Bowl, and it was a lot of hotel and restaurant revenue."

Arnold, who has represented the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority in connection with the development of Minute Maid Park, NRG Stadium, Toyota Center and BBVA Compass Stadium, reflected on the growth in the area that surrounds the Astros' home field.

"Back in 1997, there was an unused train station and a bunch of train tracks coming into Union Station," Arnold said. "There is now significant development around Minute Maid Park like restaurants, apartments and high-rises going up. Some of that is a result of the Astros having 81 games, plus other events. I think Jim Crane is doing a better job at promoting additional events at Minute Maid Park than the previous ownership did."

For the second panel, Kibbe was joined by Walter Champion, an adjunct professor at the Law Center and the George Foreman Professor of Sports and Entertainment Law at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and Karen Jones, a sports management professor at Rice University.

A portion of the discussion centered on the rise of counterfeit merchandise that followed the Astros' championship win.

"Not only does it have a great impact on business around the city, it also has a big impact on possible business for attorneys," Jones said. "Once you get all of this excitement around selling Astros paraphernalia, you also have an opportunity for lawsuits because a lot of people will start trying to misappropriate the team's logo."

Kibbe pointed to a number of local businesses that make reference to the Astros' logo in their branding. He said the franchise is more concerned with people profiting on unsanctioned memorabilia.

"I don't mind seeing businesses that have an Astros sign that they're not authorized to put up that congratulates us for winning the World Series," he said. "I think it's great for us and great for the city. I have a problem when people start selling unauthorized Astros merchandise. We have to stop that and protect our brand."

## **UHLC PROF. KNAKE JOINS PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE**

Professor Renee Knake is the latest member of the University of Houston Law Center faculty to be elected to the American Law Institute. Knake was one of 44 new members elected to the Institute, which comprises exceptional judges, lawyers and legal academics from all states and the District of Columbia, along with international members.

"It is an incredible honor to be elected to the ALI, and I look forward to contributing to the organization's efforts in improving the law," Knake said.

Knake is the Larry and Joanne Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics and director of Outcomes and Assessments. She also is a faculty affiliate of the Women's,

Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and treasurer for the American Academy of Law School's Section on Professional Responsibility.

She joined the faculty in 2016, after serving as the Foster Swift Professor of Legal Ethics and co-director of the Kelley Institute of Ethics and the Legal Profession at Michigan State University College of Law, where she taught for a decade.

Knake's research primarily focuses on innovation in the regulation of legal services, proposing access to justice reforms. She is an internationally recognized expert on the future of legal services, and has been invited to speak about the topic throughout the United States and internationally in countries such as Canada, England, Guatemala, Mexico, and the United Arab Emirates.

## **UHLC AWARDED GRANT TO SUPPORT SUMMER PRE-LAW PIPELINE PROGRAM**

The University of Houston Law Center received a \$300,000 grant to support its successful, award-winning Pre-Law Pipeline Program which is designed to increase the number of lawyers from underrepresented groups by introducing undergraduates to the demands of law school and the opportunities of a career in the law.

The grant from the Law School Admission Council will allow the school to host 20 or 30 participants each summer for the next three years, paying each student a stipend of \$1,000. The funds will be used to cover the cost of housing, meals, and course materials for our students as well as stipends for teaching faculty and assistants.

"The UHLC Pre-Law Pipeline Program is exceptional," Dean Leonard M. Baynes said. "In just three years, it has made a difference in the lives of many students, including 10 who are enrolled in law schools across the country. The Law School Admission Council grant provides the "Good Housekeeping seal of approval" on what we all know to be a terrific program.

"The Law Center is honored to receive the \$300,000 grant, which will help us expand the pool of qualified law student applicants from all backgrounds enrolling and graduating from law school. By working together, we can diversify the legal profession."

During its first three years, 86 students participated in the Law Center's program. The 2017 session consisted of 46 students: 74 percent female, 39 percent black, 35 percent Hispanic, 13 percent Caucasian, 11 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, and 2 percent Caribbean.

LSAC is a nonprofit corporation that provides products and services to ease the admission process for 221 member law schools and their applicants worldwide. The council is best known for administering the Law School Admission Test. It also processes academic credentials for an average of 60,000 law school applicants annually, provides software and information for admission offices and applicants, conducts educational conferences, and publishes LSAT preparation books and law school guides.

"We consider LSAC PLUS programs to be an investment in the future of the diversity of the legal profession," Kellye Testy, LSAC president and CEO, said in announcing the award to UHLC and four other law schools.

Upon completing the program, participants also receive an LSAC fee waiver that can be used to cover the cost of taking the LSAT, all of their law school application fees, and registering for LSAC's Credential Assembly Service.

"We are honored to have been awarded this prestigious and competitive grant," said Meredith J. Duncan, director of Metropolitan Programs and George Butler Research Professor of Law. "The \$300,000 will move us closer to our goal of increasing diversity within the legal profession."

# BRIEF MENTIONS

## The Power of Legal Education Take your legal career to the next level.

For more information about the UH Law Center LL.M. program, contact [law.uh.edu/llm](http://law.uh.edu/llm) or contact us at [llm@uh.edu](mailto:llm@uh.edu)

### LAW FUND

The Law Fund is the Law Center's annual unrestricted giving program.

Gifts help increase student scholarships, recruit and retain distinguished faculty, provide nationally-recognized programs, offer career development services, and build relationships with our alumni.

To give safely and securely online, visit [law.uh.edu/giving](http://law.uh.edu/giving).

To make a recurring gift, or if you have any questions about the Law Fund, please contact:

Stephanie Johnson, associate director of development, 713.743.3839 or [sejohns9@central.uh.edu](mailto:sejohns9@central.uh.edu).

*Individuals who give a minimum of \$2,500 in a calendar year are recognized as members of the Dean's Society.*

### 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.

#### J.D. Deadlines:

\*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.

#### LL.M. Deadlines:

April 15 — Fall Admission (Applicants with a Non-U.S. Law Degree)

June 1 — Fall Admission (U.S. Law Degree)

November 15 — Spring Admission (U.S. Law Degree only)

Contact [llm@uh.edu](mailto:llm@uh.edu) for more information.

Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis.



# PHOTO GALLERY

# ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION



Warren Harris greets The Honorable Mary Bacon



L to R: William Jackson, Warren Harris, Michelle Gray, Michael Olivas, The Honorable Eva Guzman, The Honorable Randy Wilson, Greg King, Dean Leonard M. Baynes, Gary W. Orloff, Richard Whiteley, Judy Blissard, John Shely, Tom Hetherington, The Honorable Mary Bacon, Ricky A. Raven.



Gala attendees enjoy mobile bidding on silent auction items.



Dean Leonard M. Baynes, Tony Buzbee, UH System Chancellor Renu Khator, Richard Whiteley



2017 Gala Chairs Alex and Anne Roberts



L to R: Sabra Thomas, Dean Leonard M. Baynes, David Rusk



Richard and Laura Whiteley





Cynthia Mabry '10 with daughters Mary Dyer and Madeline



Victor Wright '98



Richard Whiteley '99 with daughters Katie and Allison



Professor Merle Morris '92 and Professor Luke Gilman '10



Honorable Marcia Crone '78, James Nelson, Seth Crone



Kathleen Dawson, Carl Dawson '91, Marilyn Sims '91, Dean Leonard M. Baynes



Renee Zimmerer, Gerald Zimmerer '15, Garland McInnis '74, Jr., Leah McInnis, Gail Shinbaum '92, Bill Soffar '69



Hon. Steven Kirkland '90, Hon. John Coselli '77, Louis Islin '04

## UH LAW DEAN'S SOCIETY INVITES YOU!

The Dean's Society is an integral force behind the Power of Legal Education. The generous support of its members allows the Law Center to innovate and respond to emerging opportunities that will help the Law Center continue rising and be the best.

This society honors and engages the most exclusive group of alumni and friends devoted to providing significant unrestricted support to the Law Fund each year.

As members, Dean's Society individuals enjoy benefits, including:

- Reserved invitations to annual special dinners, receptions, lectures and other events.

- Special Recognition in the Honor Roll of Donors, Law Center website and other publications.
- Access to Dean Baynes and input on the Law Center's strategic direction.

Dean's Society members are recognized based on their giving level within the society. Membership ranges from a minimum annual gift of \$2,500 to up to \$24,999. \*Young Alumni, or graduates of the last 10 years, can join for \$1,000.

Easily give online to "Dean's Society" at <https://giving.uh.edu/law/> or contact Stephanie Johnson, associate director of development, at [sejohnson7@uh.edu](mailto:sejohnson7@uh.edu) or 713.743.3839.



## 2018 EVENTS

Visit UH Law Center home page at  
[www.law.uh.edu/calendar/event-calendar.asp](http://www.law.uh.edu/calendar/event-calendar.asp).

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<http://law.uh.edu/building/>

#### HIRE HOUSTON FIRST

Law Center alumni and other legal employers regularly seek the world-class legal talents of Law Center students and graduates and work directly with the Law Center's CDO to find them. You can meet immediate employment needs for law clerk or new associate positions, by requesting the Graduate Résumé Book, featuring résumés from recent graduates who are available for full-time employment and equipped with the skills to add value immediately to your client services. If you prefer to post a position and at your convenience browse qualified potential candidates, post a position in our online CDO Job Bank, where you can designate your desired application materials and set up your preference for receiving applications. Contact the CDO to receive the Graduate Résumé Book, our Employer Guide: The Top 10 Programs, or to post a position in the CDO Job Bank, and receive customized hiring services by emailing [lawcareer@uh.edu](mailto:lawcareer@uh.edu).

#### ALUMNI-STUDENT CONNECTIONS

Law Center students are always thrilled to connect with our illustrious alumni! The Career Development Office offers numerous ways for alumni to engage with students to offer much needed advice and guidance. Get involved to positively impact current Law Center students and recent graduates through our Upper Level Mentoring Program, Mock Interview Programs, Lunch with a Lawyer series or our Part-Time Partners initiative. To learn more about these excellent opportunities to give back by sharing your experiences, contact the CDO at [lawcareer@uh.edu](mailto:lawcareer@uh.edu).

#### 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 @uhl原因.
- On Facebook, become a fan at [facebook.com/uhlawcenter](https://facebook.com/uhlawcenter).
- On LinkedIn, look for the UHLC group.
- On YouTube, watch our videos at [youtube.com/user/TheUHLawCenter](https://youtube.com/user/TheUHLawCenter).
- Update your email address and other contact information at <https://ssl.uh.edu/giving/update-info>

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