

A portrait of Dean Raymond Nimmer, a middle-aged man with a mustache, wearing a dark pinstripe suit jacket over a black shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The word "BRIEFCASE" is overlaid in large, bold, red capital letters across the top of the image.

BRIEFCASE

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

**Dean
Raymond
Nimmer
Takes
the Helm**

*'Expect big things
from the Law Center'*

BRIEFCASE

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

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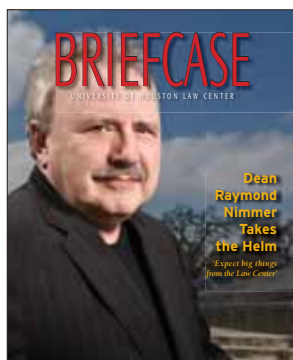
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2008
Volume 28
Number 1

UH Law Alumni Association

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BRIEF CASES

Faculty Scholarship Guide

Every law school likes to brag about its faculty – but the Law Center prefers to let the numbers do the talking. In a compilation of recent faculty scholarship, Law Center professors included citations for more than 70 books and 200 journal articles published between 2004 and 2007. In his introduction to the guide, Dean Ray Nimmer noted how “published scholarship” is one of the key metrics that defines the excellence of a law school. “I am proud to share this collection of recent work by our professors of law – each of whom defines excellence with his or her research, writing and teaching,” he said. Look for a complete copy of the guide at www.law.uh.edu/faculty/scholarship.pdf.



Airline Symposium



Was airline deregulation a bane or boon to the industry? Thirty years after the era of deregulation took to the friendly skies, opinions on the merits of the government's move remain as sharply divided as aisle and window seats. To help clear the air, Professor Darren Bush and the Law Center hosted a one-day symposium featuring a keynote address by J. Bruce McDonald (formerly with the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division) along with experts from across the country. “We discussed a variety of issues that were timely and foreshadowed today's hot topics in the airline industry, including airline consolidation and financial uncertainty, the role of airline alliances in the competitive marketplace of airline systems, and potential predatory conduct of dominant firms in the industry to thwart entry by low cost competitors,” Bush said. As for the final outcome, no clear winners were declared. “We learned that many of the issues we have been discussing for the past 30 years have not been resolved and indeed have grown increasingly complex,” Bush concluded.

Arrival Awards Benefit Immigration Clinic Services

Three noteworthy Houstonians – Samuel Abraham, Leopoldo “Polo” Becerra and Leeshan Birney – were the guests of honor at the **Arrival Awards** fundraiser recognizing immigrant achievement. The annual event supports the Immigration Clinic at the Law Center, which sees law students gain practical experience under the supervision of clinical faculty. Clients served by the Immigration Clinic include refugees facing prosecution in their homeland or removal from the United States; immigrant women who have been the victims of domestic violence; and individuals seeking lawful permanent residence and citizenship in this country. The next Arrival Awards banquet is scheduled for November 2008.

HJIL Lecture Attacks Sport Doping

International sporting events such as the Olympic Games are a showcase for the world's top athletes – and a scientific and legal battleground in the fight against performance-enhancing drugs. The sixth annual lecture hosted recently by the **Houston Journal of International Law** looked at “International Sport Doping in the 21st Century” and featured Anita L. DeFrantz, a member of the Juridical Committee of the International Olympic Committee and one of the 100 “Most Influential Sports Educators in the USA.”

Calhoun Lofts Take Shape



Two construction cranes towering next to the Law Center are busily creating a landmark structure: the first University of Houston housing project dedicated to graduate and professional students.

When the six-story **Calhoun Lofts** opens in fall 2009, it will offer a total of 984 beds in efficiencies, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. Law Center students will be eligible to live in the mixed-use facility, which will include not only retail shops and restaurants but also a theater room, fitness center, floor laundries and – gulp! – a coffee bar.

News of Note in National Rankings

The Law Center continues to fare well in national rankings compiled by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine. Over



the past two years, the Law Center has climbed 15 points – representing the best performance among law schools in the United States. Two specialty programs – health law and intellectual property law – are recognized as among the best in the nation. The Law Center is one of only eight public law schools offering two or more “Top 10” specialty programs, with its health law program ranking among the top three programs in the nation for 11 consecutive years. The IPIL program currently ranks No. 7 in the nation.

EELPJ Symposium Focuses on Climate-Change Legislation



U.S. CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION:
The Should, The Bad, and The Maybe.

For its fourth annual symposium, the editors of the *Environmental & Energy Law & Policy Journal* at the Law Center decided to tackle one of the “hottest” topics of the day: the outlook for climate change legislation in the United States. Offered in collaboration with the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University and the Center for Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Law at the Law Center, the EELPJ symposium attracted

academicians, policymakers and representatives from private industry. Victor B. Flatt, the A.L. O’Quinn Chair in Environmental Law at the Law Center, spoke at the event along with U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee; Neal Lane of Rice University; William Andreen of the University of Alabama Law School; Patricia McCubbin of Southern Illinois Law School; Margaret Hoffman of Chevron U.S.A.; Christopher Schroeder of Duke University; and Bob Sussman of the Center for American Progress. “We’re poised to do more than elect a new president. In a very real sense, the climate-change decisions we’re about to make in the United States will have a profound influence on every human being on this planet. Our EELPJ symposium underscored what we have at stake – and how much we can hope to accomplish,” Flatt said.

David Dow Delivers Yale L. Rosenberg Memorial Lecture



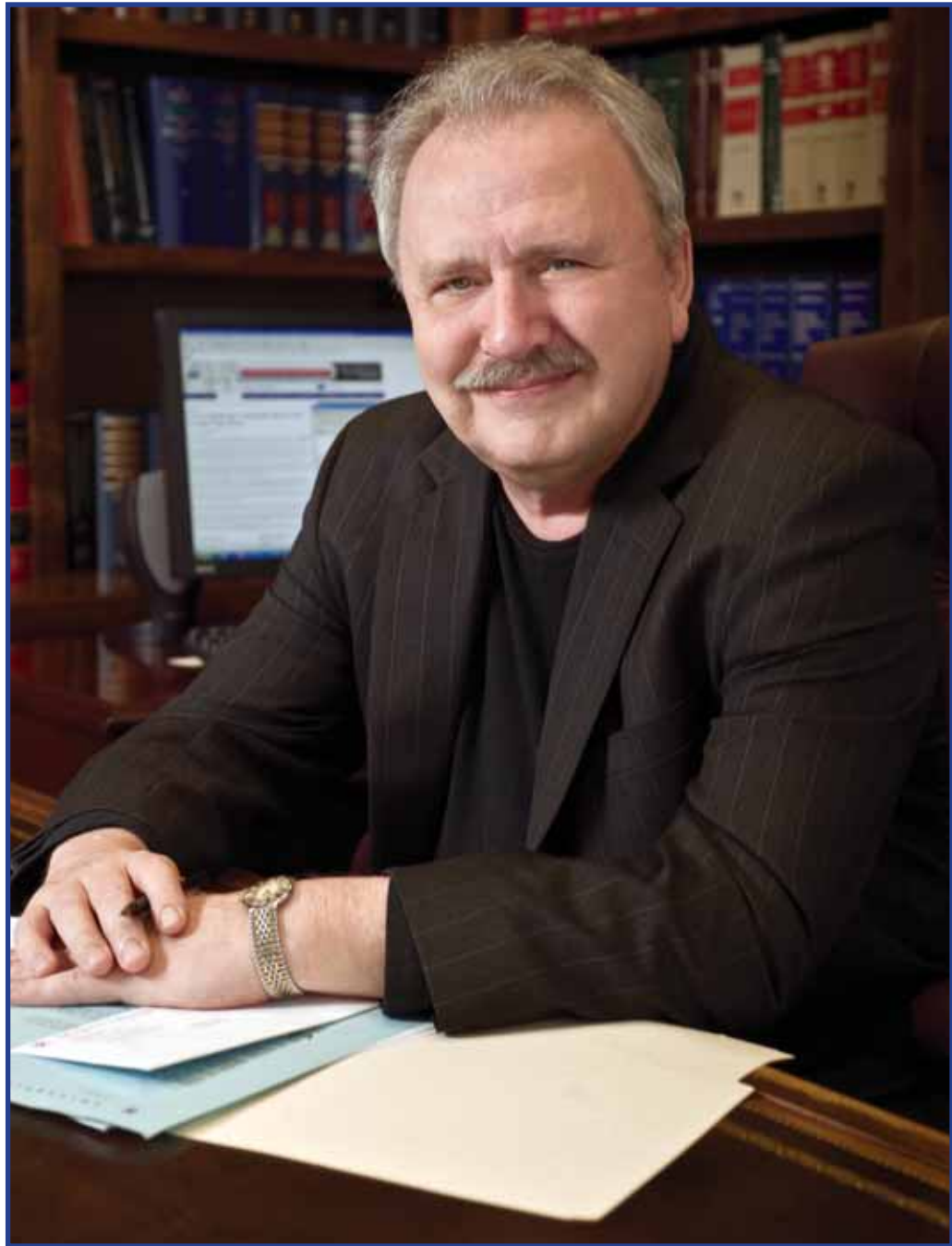
Distinguished Professor of Law David R. Dow recently delivered the Yale L. Rosenberg Memorial Lecture at the Law Center, honoring his friend and colleague who passed away in 2002. In his talk, “The Last Execution: Rethinking the Fundamentals of Death Penalty Law,” Dow noted how our system of capital punishment is “rife with arbitrariness” – not because of juries, but because of legislatures and judges. “Jurors in capital cases may err, but their mistakes are, typically, honest ones. When judges err, their errors exhibit profound and consistent arbitrariness,” Dow said. Given how the U.S. Supreme Court has held that an arbitrary sentence is an unconstitutional sentence, Dow says appellate courts clearly practice “routine lawlessness” in capital cases.

Citing statistics proving a sharp racial bias in death-penalty cases across the country, Dow asked his audience to reconsider where they stand on capital punishment. “The inescapable fact is this: If you are a prosecutor who seeks the death penalty, if you are a judge who upholds death sentences, if you are simply someone who supports the death penalty, then you are participating in perpetuating a regime that values white life more than it values non-white life. You are helping to maintain a racist institution.”

Dow is the founder and director of the Texas Innocence Network and has represented nearly 100 death-row inmates in their appeals. The complete text of his Yale L. Rosenberg Memorial Lecture will be reprinted in an upcoming issue of the *Houston Law Review*.



RAY NIMMER TAKES THE HELM AS LAW CENTER DEAN NO. 8



Once before in a Law Center career spanning four decades, Ray Nimmer had stepped forward to lead his school while a search committee pored over resumes and culled candidates to serve as permanent dean. This time would be different. With Nancy Rapoport's sudden resignation in April 2006, and the school again needing someone to operate the controls on an interim basis, Nimmer agreed to serve in the dean's suite – but only if he could be considered for the permanent position. When a search committee of alumni and faculty members dutifully completed their nationwide search,

Nimmer's name topped the list of nominees submitted to UH Provost Donald Foss. Late in the spring semester, Foss seconded the committee's motion – and made Nimmer the eighth permanent dean in the school's history.

The choice of Dean Nimmer was widely applauded by students, faculty and alumni who had witnessed the school's trajectory under his leadership. Hundreds sent congratulatory messages, including Deborah Selden, staff attorney to Harris County District Courts. "Ray Nimmer is an inspired choice to be Dean of the UH Law Center,"

she wrote in an e-mail to the university. "I have known Ray for over twenty years, and he is a inspirational teacher, an inspired scholar, and an able administrator. I am confident that Ray's tenure as Dean of the Law Center will be filled with innovation and foresight – and will enhance the already glowing reputation of the Law School."

Glowing indeed. During the two years he served as interim dean, the Law Center climbed 15 points in the national rankings compiled by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine – the best performance among nearly 200 accredited law schools nationwide. But Nimmer sees the improvement in the *U.S. News* rankings as only a symbol, and instead points to the substantive achievements of the school as the more important matters. Example: the first class of students admitted under his tenure was the strongest in the school's history, thanks in part to increased national recruiting and allocations of more scholarship money to help to attract elite students. Employment of new Law Center graduates reached its highest level in years with the Class of '07, thanks to more outreaches to smaller firms throughout the region. And finally, the five new faculty added under Nimmer's interim watch – professors Barbara Evans, Julie Hill, Gavin Clarkson, Brigham Daniels and Jim Hawkins – stand among the best group of new hires made by any law school in the country. Along with these tangible pieces of evidence came something harder to pinpoint: a collegial and productive atmosphere throughout the Law Center campus. As the Class of '08 headed out the door to start their careers, they collectively made a statement about their level of confidence in a Law Center headed by Dean Nimmer: they pledged the largest class gift in history, and presciently earmarked it for "future development" of their alma mater.

Why is Nimmer right for the job? "Because Ray understands the Law Center," says Jim Perdue, Jr. '93 of Perdue & Kidd LLP, who serves as president of the UH Law Alumni Association. "He knows the challenges we face, but more importantly, he knows the unique opportunities we have." And because Nimmer forged his scholarly reputation in the fast-changing worlds of intellectual property and information law, Perdue sees the new dean possessing talents that should translate well into charting new directions for the school. "Ray is not encumbered by the past when creating a path for the future," Perdue asserts. Warren W. Harris '88 of the Houston office of Bracewell Giuliani served on the dean search committee, and he emphasizes how Nimmer was in the right place at the right time. "He brought the Law Center community back together," Harris says in his trademark matter-of-fact tone. "He's done a great job, and the school benefits from the continuity of keeping him as dean."

The Scholar Behind the Curtain

Nimmer is no stranger to unwieldy issues, systems of shared governance, or consensus building. When he served as interim dean of the Law Center from 1992 until

1995, he calmed a Law Center in turmoil and galvanized it to invest the time and effort to modernize the financial and technological infrastructure it would need for the increasingly data-heavy demands of legal studies. When he served as one of the authors revising U.S. commercial law, he worked with teams of colleagues to elevate the basic language of commercial contracts to 21st century standards. And more than a decade ago, when he joined forces with faculty colleagues Paul Janicke and Craig Joyce to start the Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law, the team forged an IPIL program that – from the start – has been perennially recognized in *U.S. News* rankings as one of the best offered at any U.S. law school. Even on one of the most prolific groups of law professors in the country, Nimmer stands out. He is the author of more than 20 books and numerous articles, including a three-volume treatise



Well-wishers at an evening reception honoring the start of Ray Nimmer's deanship included Bill Maynard '74 of Beirne, Maynard & Parsons (above); and trial lawyer John O'Quinn '67 (left) and Dan Fontaine '82 of M.D. Anderson.

on Information Law, a multi-volume book on the Law of Computer Technology, a treatise on Modern Licensing Law, and a four-volume treatise on Commercial Asset-Based Financing. In a recent brochure highlighting the 70 books and nearly 200 articles published by Law Center faculty between 2004 and 2007, one of the longest entries chronicles the 15 recent works by Nimmer.

In a news release announcing Nimmer's appointment, UH Provost Foss praised the new dean as "an outstanding scholar with a sterling international reputation." Two years ago, Nimmer's global stature in intellectual property and information law helped land him a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in International Commercial Law and an honorary

teaching position at the Universidade Católica Portuguesa in Lisbon. Although the Fulbright fell in the middle of his interim deanship, both Nimmer and Foss agreed that the tribute was important to the Law Center and needed to be completed without delay. Armed with a laptop computer and several transatlantic “commuter” flights, Nimmer completed his teaching responsibilities in Lisbon without missing a beat of his dean duties. When necessary, the new dean can always turn to his trusted No. 2: Richard Alderman, the Dwight Olds Chair in Law who is reprising his role as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, the same post he held when Nimmer served in the dean’s office during the 1990s.

Planning for the Future

Nimmer is adept at a wide range of disciplines – from legal research and writing to a remarkable facility for numbers and budgets. He’s even schooled on the latest thinking in legal pedagogy, having chaired a committee of faculty members who successfully overhauled the Law Center’s curriculum under former dean Nancy Rapoport. When he stepped in as interim dean, Nimmer “re-introduced” himself to faculty and staff with the following note:

Here’s what you can expect from me. I am pragmatic, oriented to understanding and explicating the role of law and lawyers in society, and I am committed to leading a team that will distinguish our Law Center as being among the best in academia and a major factor in the practical practice of law. I believe in action and achievement. I applaud people who target goals—and invest the necessary work to achieve them. And I am determined to give our highly skilled faculty, administrators and students the support they need to maneuver and achieve.

Ellen Marrus, the George Butler Research Professor of Law and co-director of the Center for Children, Law & Policy, says all the constituents of the Law Center – from faculty and staff to students and alumni – can always expect a fair shake from their dean. “Ray listens,” she says. “He weighs all comments and reviews all aspects – and then he makes a decision. If you come to him with an idea, he will give you everything you need. Then it’s up to you to make it happen.”

Where will Nimmer take the Law Center? “I took the job for a simple reason: because I believe our school is on the cusp of greatness, and I want to help make it happen,” he says. “Excellence” served as the underlying theme of his interim deanship, and he sees no reason to deviate from that ideal. “I’ve heard people criticized at other schools for aiming too high. That’s a criticism I will willingly accept, because I think it’s important to constantly strive to improve your situation,” he says. Nimmer says an important priority over the near term is finding new ways to improve relations with alumni – “to give them a reason to return to their school.” An on-line alumni network is in the works, and it’s no surprise that Nimmer has the system’s designers striving for excellence. “I want people to look at the Law Center and recognize us as one of the best urban public law schools in the country. I believe we’re already there – and now it’s a matter of drawing attention to what we do. Our alumni will play an extremely important role in communicating an accurate picture of what the Law Center is all about,” he says.

Nimmer notes how the three professors he hired this year – Gavin Clarkson, Brigham Daniels and Jim Hawkins – each entertained offers from other excellent schools before deciding to accept positions at the Law Center. “We’re a great school that allows top academic talent to pursue their research, writing and teaching. I’ve been a member of this faculty for over thirty years, and I know the characteristics that define the people who can excel in our environment,” he says. That evaluative skill will prove especially useful over the next handful of years, during which Nimmer envisions hiring as many as a dozen new professors to take the place of faculty veterans who are nearing retirement. “In a very real sense, our hiring program will define where the Law Center will be going for the next 20 or 30 years. It’s probably the most important challenge we face, and it needs to be answered properly and prudently,” he says.

And when that “handful” of years is over, what next? “I’ll be gone,” Nimmer says with a smile. “They may call me a ‘permanent dean,’ but I know better than that. My task is pure and simple: to get the Law Center into the upper ranks of top-tier schools. When that’s accomplished, we will hold a rank and status that we will never relinquish.” ■

Quick Note on Dean’s Notes

Over the past two years, Dean Nimmer has updated alumni and friends of the Law Center via quick “Dean’s Note” dispatches sent via e-mail. To add your name to the list of “Dean’s Note” recipients, please click to this address:

www.law.uh.edu/DeansNotes.html

Q&A DEAN NIMMER

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

FIVE QUESTIONS WITH RAY NIMMER

He expects big things for UH's law school

by Mary Flood
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Professor Ray Nimmer specializes in some of the nation's hottest legal topics — technology, privacy and intellectual property — but he's asking to be pulled aside into administration and be made permanent dean at University of Houston Law Center.

[Several weeks before his appointment] he spoke to reporter Mary Flood about the law school and the spot at the helm. Here are excerpts from that conversation.

Q: Your areas of expertise couldn't be more in demand, and yet you've asked to be made the permanent dean. Why?

A: This place is on the cusp of true greatness. We've made some real forward progress in the last few years, and we've got a real chance to get up in the top 20 law schools nationally in a short time. I'd like to be part of making that happen.

Good things are already happening. We've started a couple of new programs. One potentially sensational program is in environmental and energy law — studying both of them jointly. And we've got a child law and policy center started — focusing on children as part of the legal system, not just as defendants, but on how the legal system interacts generally with kids.

And within the next year and a half, we'll be transformed from a largely commuter law school to a residential one. A 900-unit professional building and graduate student dorm with retail shops and restaurants is going up between the law school and the graduate school of business.

That changes the dynamic. It will be part of what's going to boost us up. We will be the best urban law school in the Southwest.

Q: So what does a dean do, anyway? Do you have to beg a lot?

A: The reality of being dean is there are large numbers of constituencies you have to deal with on a daily basis: alumni, the university administration, the legal community, faculty, students and our administration.

A dean tries to provide leadership and guidance and a general positive direction for all of those constituencies while trying to balance them all. It's the kind of job where a large part of what you do involves interpersonal relationships and relationships with groups.

But I don't think you beg to raise funds. I think you tell people how good the school is and what it needs, and you get people excited about the place. You essentially generate enthusiasm, and that slips over in the sense of both participation and writing checks as donations.

Q: Deans run an academic ship, but don't all regularly teach? How does that work?

A: I think it's a big mistake for a dean of any law school to give up the academic side. One of the things that makes a dean a good leader in the law school environment is the ability to talk to all the senior faculty on a level playing field — that is, to have done as much or more as an academic.

I still do a lot of academic things. I'll be teaching for a month this summer in Sydney.

Plus, frankly, I love to write. I've got four books that have been published before and are updated once or twice a year,

and I'm working on a book about privacy and data protection policy.

Q: So is the primary role of the academic publishing or teaching?

A: I've always thought that if you're going to have claims to being excellent at academics, you have to do both really well. They're basically coequal. Not everybody can do each in a super-high fashion, but they ought to be striving to do that.

One of the reasons I went into teaching years ago was because I like the interaction in the classroom and the sense of a student growing during the class and during their three years. And I think it's exciting to publish a good article that people rely on policywise.

Students benefit from research also. The fact that I was good at teaching commercial law has to do not just with being good in the classroom, but it had to do with the fact that I was involved with a national project revising commercial law. So you know what to teach in addition to how to do it.

If a school gets too carried away with one over the other, the students, the faculty and the school lose.

Q: What are the most fun and the least fun parts of being dean?

A: The most fun about being dean is getting to meet and know a lot of very interesting people. In some cases it's reinstating an old relationship. A second fun thing is the sense of achievement. I enjoy it when I look at a memo or talk to somebody and I'm told a positive thing has happened.

The least fun is having to make difficult decisions that affect individuals, like salaries and hiring. It's never easy if somebody is going to lose, but you have to make choices.

BRIEF CASES

Law Center Welcomes a Power Trio: Professors Clarkson, Daniels & Hawkins

They arrive laden with academic and scholarly laurels, and they constitute one of the strongest groups of “new hires” secured by any U.S. law school. This fall, Law Center students will get their first sampling of the newest members of the faculty. Here’s a snapshot of what to expect.

Gavin Clarkson



DR. GAVIN CLARKSON earned a doctorate from the Harvard Business School in technology and operations management and was a cum laude graduate of the Harvard Law School, where he was the managing editor of the *Harvard Journal of Law and Technology* and president of the Native American Law Students Association.

He joins the University of Houston Law Center from the University of Michigan, where he taught courses in the School of Information, School of Law, and Native American Studies. An enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Dr. Clarkson is the nation’s leading scholar on tribal finance and is widely respected for his extensive published research in both intellectual property management and Federal Indian Law, particularly tribal economic development. He has earned a number of grants from the National Science Foundation and other sources, and he will play an important role in expanding the nationally ranked Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law at the Law Center.

Dr. Clarkson previously served on the Computer Science faculty at Rice University from 1991 until 1998 and is “quite excited” about returning home to Texas.

Jim Hawkins



JIM HAWKINS earned his J.D. in 2006 with highest honors from the University of Texas, where he was the Grand Chancellor and served as the Chief Articles Editor of the *Texas Law*

Review. He has published articles in the *UCLA Law Review*, the *William and Mary Law Review*, and the *Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law*.

Professor Hawkins joins the University of Houston Law Center after clerking for the Honorable Jerry E. Smith of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and working with the Houston office of Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP. His research and teaching interests include consumer borrowing, the fringe banking industry, bankruptcy and secured credit. He will play an important role in the Center for Consumer Law established by Richard Alderman, the Dwight Olds Chair and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Houston Law Center.

Brigham Daniels



BRIGHAM DANIELS joins the University of Houston Law Center poised to complete his Ph.D. program at the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment. He holds a J.D. from Stanford Law School, where he worked on the *Stanford Law Review*, and M.P.A. and undergraduate degrees from the University of Utah. He is a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow and a recipient of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship.

At Duke, he headed a state climate policy project for Duke Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions and was a lecturing fellow at Duke Law School. Prior to attending Duke, he clerked for the Honorable Brian Theodore Stewart in Utah Federal District Court, and worked in private practice. Professor Daniels is the author of a number of environment-related journal articles, white papers and reports. His areas of study include environmental and natural resources law and policy, property, and political economy. At the Law Center, he will play an integral role in the Center for Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Law under the direction of

Professor Victor Flatt, the A.L. O’Quinn Chair in Environmental Law.

Center for Children, Law & Policy Remembers *In re Gault*

The *In re Gault* decision extended due process protection to children – and inspired a generation of lawyers and other professionals working in the juvenile justice system. To

mark the 40-year anniversary of the pivotal Supreme Court decision, the Center for Children, Law & Policy at the Law Center hosted a roundtable discussion that included Michael Lindsay, Steven Mintz, Wallace Mlyniec, Irene Merker Rosenberg and Ellen Marrus, the George Butler Research Professor of Law and co-director (with Laura Oren) of the Center for Children, Law & Policy.

The Gault retrospective followed the Center's highly successful interdisciplinary conference on "Children and the Law After the Katrina Disaster," which generated scholarship to be included in a new book being published by the American Bar Association. More information is available at www.law.uh.edu/center4clp.



Frankel Lecture Focuses on Katrina & Immigration Law

The legacy of Hurricane Katrina included more than deaths and widespread destruction. According to Kevin R. Johnson of the University of California at Davis, the killer storm exposed the



government's lack of political accountability to non-citizens and demonstrated how existing law can facilitate the abuse and exploitation of immigrants. Davis, who serves as the Mabie-Apallas Professor of Public

Interest Law and Chicana/o Studies at his school, was the keynote speaker at the **12th Annual Frankel Lecture** presented by the *Houston Law Review*. After presenting his talk on "Lessons About Immigrants in the Modern Administrative State," he yielded the stage to two commentators: Anna W. Shavers of the University of Nebraska College of Law; and Raquel E. Aldana of the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada.

The Frankel Lecture is made possible by the Frankel Family Foundation, with the next installment of the popular series set for the Law Center campus on November 7, 2008.

The Energy Capital of the World Welcomes EENR Center



Houston Mayor Bill White was the keynote speaker at a reception launching the Law Center's newest center of excellence: the Center for Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Law. Mayor White praised the University of Houston and the Law Center for exceptional work in the environmental and energy arenas, and noted how **EENR Center** could play a key role in improving Houston's environment and reinforcing the city's future prosperity as a leader in the worldwide energy industry. Directed by Prof. Victor B. Flatt, the A.L. O'Quinn Chair in Environmental Law, the new center is committed to studying and addressing the complex legal issues associated with the environment, energy and natural resources. "Each of these areas of the law will become increasingly important as

the United States and nations throughout the world struggle to balance demand for energy and natural resources with deep-rooted concerns about the environment," Flatt said. For more information, click to www.law.uh.edu/EENRCenter.

EENRCENTER





Justice for all

Anything else would be **criminal**,
says ***Sandra Guerra Thompson***

When national news reporters need an expert to explain the nuances of criminal laws or procedures, they know where to find the perfect source: at the Law Center, where Professor Sandra Guerra Thompson has built the Criminal Justice Institute into a high-profile clearinghouse for information.

It's difficult to distinguish Thompson from CJI, the institute she founded in 2003 to help advance the understanding of issues surrounding criminal justice. Both are true "institutions" at the Law Center, and both are widely respected for depth of legal expertise. But while Thompson is typically self-effacing about her own abilities, she is quick to compliment CJI for underscoring the Law Center's groundbreaking research and writings in all areas of the criminal justice arena. In a world where academic "think tanks" are known for leaning left or right, CJI has built a growing reputation as an organization where ideas rather than ideologies reign. "From our very first day, CJI approached things in an even-handed way and from an academic perspective," she says. A quick review of the institute's board of directors confirms the neutrality of her enterprise, with prosecutors and defense attorneys listed on the masthead along with policymakers and federal and state judges from the trial and appellate courts. "We have animated and open discussion on difficult issues, and I believe one of the strengths of CJI is our true representation of the entire legal community," Thompson says.

Thompson was the guiding force behind a special CJI symposium – "The Booker Project – The Future of Federal Sentencing" – that assessed the outcome of 30 years of sentencing reform. Papers presented at

the symposium by the nation's top sentencing scholars were gathered into a special issue of the *Houston Law Review* (43 Hou. L. Rev. 269) and introduced with a lead article by Thompson. Federal judges and other influential people involved in federal sentencing quickly praised the Booker symposium and the scholarship it generated. Guido Calabresi, Second Circuit Judge and former dean of the Yale Law School, minced no words in dashing off an e-mail to Thompson: "I just got a copy of the *Houston Law Review* with your wonderful introduction. You are fabulous!" The Booker Project continues to influence federal sentencing; in May, for example, the "false uniformity" issues raised by her Booker Project article were cited in a U.S. district court sentencing decision (*U.S. v. Garrison*) involving a "sweep" arrest of alleged drug traffickers. CJI has hosted a number of attention-getting events since Booker. A judiciary forum on "The State of the Community and Restorative Justice" attracted leaders from volunteer and government agencies that serve people who are incarcerated or completing supervised sentences. Nearly 200 Houston-area youth participated in a "Teen Court Conference and Competition" sponsored by CJI at the Law Center, with prosecutors and defense attorneys coaching and judging mock trials of actual cases involving teen offenders. And CJI continues to provide cutting-edge lectures such as the recent talk on neurosciences and criminal law by CJI Faculty Affiliate Dr. David Eagleman of the Baylor College of Medicine.

Thompson is currently collaborating with Center for Children, Law & Policy co-directors Ellen Marrus and Laura Oren to coordinate a major symposium



Information on the Criminal Justice Institute is available at www.law.uh.edu/cji.

on the thorny issue of how to provide quality legal representation for indigent defendants in criminal cases. Scheduled for the upcoming fall semester, the symposium will attract an audience ranging from members of the judiciary and government officials to Law Center faculty and students. Thompson says CJI's programming helps broaden students' knowledge of the criminal justice system, and she is always alert to new ways to augment legal studies and "book smarts" with real-world experiences. Throughout her 18 years as a law teacher, Thompson's students have toured Texas prisons and federal courts, and some have even joined Houston Police Department officers for "ride-alongs" in crime-ridden areas of the city.

"We take a wide view of our mission," Thompson says. "Ideally, the criminal justice programming we develop through CJI benefits Law Center students as well as legal communities at the local, national and international levels."

The Education of a Lawyer

Thompson traces her interest in justice to her childhood years in Laredo, Texas – where she watched a mayor convicted of corruption serve his "sentence" on weekends in an unlocked jail cell with meals from the best hotel in town. "It may have been hard for me to define 'justice' at that age, but I certainly knew I was witnessing an injustice," she says. Her parents, both of whom taught in the public schools and were the first in their families to attend college, eventually packed their high-achieving daughter off to Yale University. After earning a degree in economics ("a bad mistake"), she decided to apply to Yale Law School. "One day as I watched my criminal procedure professor lead a discussion, I suddenly realized that I wanted to spend my life thinking about the law, teaching criminal procedure and writing articles. Yale is known for producing academics, and I felt like the luckiest person in the world while I was there," she says.

"When you add up our rubric – from CJI, to the Texas Innocence Network, to our clinics and externships, to the Blakely Advocacy Institute – we offer students a great opportunity to prepare for a career in criminal law practice."

After graduating with her J.D. in 1988, Thompson joined the district attorney's office in New York City. She praises the office as the "finest in the land," and spent two years as an assistant district attorney working on appeals and misdemeanor trials. Along the way, her colleagues turned to her for help with research and writing – even involving the self-described "baby lawyer" in a high-profile case involving pro-life advocates who were arrested during a demonstration. "The law was clear that these people were trespassing and destroying property – but the issues

involved presented tough ethical questions for us as prosecutors. Should we prosecute people engaged in civil disobedience? Would we feel differently if it were Martin Luther King or anti-war protesters who'd been arrested? I still return to the New York case in my classrooms at the Law Center because it challenges students to think through justification defenses and the ethical obligations of prosecutors," she says.

In 1990, the hiring committee at the Law Center identified Thompson as a candidate to join the faculty and teach evidence and criminal law. In addition to her prosecutorial work in New York City, Thompson had published an influential article in the *Yale Law Journal* addressing the voting rights of people who do not speak English. After presenting her article to the faculty, Thompson became one of the first Hispanic professors hired at the school, teaching a docket that included criminal law, criminal procedure, sentencing, and evidence.

Thompson was granted tenure in 1996, and she was promoted to full professor in 1999. After serving a stint as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 2001-2002, Thompson decided to poll her colleagues about creating a new institute dedicated to criminal justice studies – and was pleased to find widespread support. After weighing her proposal, the faculty voted unanimously to launch the Criminal Justice Institute in 2003 under Thompson's direction. "When you add up our rubric – from CJI, to the Texas Innocence Network, to our clinics and externships, to the Blakely Advocacy Institute – we offer students a great opportunity to prepare for a career in criminal law practice," she says.

A Lawyerly Look Ahead

Thompson's scholarly focus has changed over the years, moving from rules governing asset forfeiture to her more recent studies involving sentencing guidelines. These days, she devotes much of her time to researching wrongful convictions and eyewitness identification evidence, as well as working on an upcoming Stanford University Press book about how the Department of Justice interacts with other institutions in the formation of federal criminal law. As always, she remains a force in the classroom, teaching the courses that have become her mainstay as well as innovative courses such as the "Hot Topics in Criminal Law and Procedure" seminar that she taught this year.

"I have one goal with my students: I want to inspire them to think creatively about the law and the cases entrusted to them," she says. "Regardless of what type of law they elect to practice, I want them to understand the critical role that lawyers play in our society. Our system works when the people in it work, and that goes for both prosecution and the defense."

And when the system works, it generates a magical force that has driven Thompson throughout her academic career. In a word: Justice. ■

It's easy – and wrong – to blame immigrants for all crimes

by Sandra Guerra Thompson

The intersection of immigration law and criminal law is a new area of focus in Thompson's work. She has written a number of articles and editorials on the subject, including this op-ed published in the *Houston Chronicle* after an undocumented immigrant shot and killed a police officer. Thompson is slated to speak on immigration and criminal law at the January 2009 national meeting of the Association of American Law Schools.

Every metropolitan area is visited by heinous crimes, and Houston recorded one of its own last month when police officer Rodney Johnson was shot and killed in the front seat of his patrol car. The good news is that Juan Quintero, the alleged murderer, was immediately arrested. The bad news is that Quintero is an illegal immigrant.

Predictably, Quintero has become the adopted poster child of many who favor tightening our nation's borders and limiting the rights of illegal aliens. In the days that followed Officer Johnson's murder, everyone from radio talk-show hosts to U.S. congressmen decried the killing and demanded swift justice for the perpetrator. But with each passing day, the mob's call for justice seemed to climb another rung, escalating to the point where average citizens are now calling for stringent controls of all immigrants, illegal and otherwise.

The airline industry has a term for what Houston is witnessing on the issue of illegal immigrants and the crimes they commit. When pilots make wrong decisions because of a real or perceived need to rush through their tasks, they are said to have experienced the "hurry-up syndrome." Inevitably, the sad result is a calamity.

When opinion leaders rallied their followers around the crime of Juan Quintero, they in effect triggered their own version of the "hurry-up syndrome." They pointed to Quintero as a malevolent example of an immigration policy spinning out of control, and demanded that we act quickly and decisively to eliminate all un-American threats to our families and livelihoods.

Their call to action is patriotic, heartwarming... and completely misplaced. Illegal immigration may create social and economic problems that should be thoughtfully addressed. But there is simply no evidence that illegal immigrants pose a special criminal threat.

It should not surprise anyone to learn that immigrants – both undocumented and otherwise – commit some violent crimes. Even the most jingoistic champion of American values would concede that criminal elements are found in every demographic group.

The real question is whether immigrants commit crimes at a higher rate than U.S. citizens. That's the assertion advanced by U.S. Rep. Ted Poe (R – TX) and others, and it's the perfect falsehood around which to build an agenda for stiffer immigration policies. But despite the profound fear that many people harbor against "foreigners," statistics show that "natives" are more dangerous as a group.

The 2000 U.S. Census data of incarcerated males confirm that foreign-born people commit far fewer crimes per capita than U.S. citizens of every race and ethnicity. All told, U.S.-born people commit crimes at a rate that is approximately four times that of their foreign-born counterparts.

Credit properly goes to reporter Rick Casey of the *Houston Chronicle*, who in his recent column punctured U.S. Rep. Poe's preposterous claim that "25 homicides a day are committed by people who are illegally in the country" – a figure that would make illegal immigrants responsible for more than half of all U.S. killings.

Casey exposed Poe's statistical misstep – but other Houston journalists will inevitably (and inadvertently) fuel anti-immigrant sentiment when they report "yet another" horrible crime committed by an immigrant in the months to come. Meanwhile, the incipient concept of immigrants as wanton criminals gains traction at Houston's water coolers, chat rooms and talk-radio stations.


Before an unwarranted hurry-up syndrome consumes us all, we should consider how a lower incidence of crime among immigrants actually exerts a beneficial influence on major metropolitan areas. According to Ramiro Martinez, a criminologist and visiting scholar at the University of Houston Center for Mexican American Studies, research confirms how immigrants provide a stabilizing effect on their communities, reducing crime rates and increasing the area's economic viability.

Politicians have held hearings on immigrant criminality and lent a sympathetic ear to heart-wrenching testimony from victims of immigrant crime. The sound bites from these hearings may be compelling – as are the tragic stories of all violent crime victims – but they ultimately will tell us nothing about whether immigrants as a group make us more or less safe.

As tempting as it might be to leap to conclusions and "join the mob" favoring a clamp-down on our immigrants, history shows that it's always better to pursue carefully researched and level-headed responses to the needs of our community.

One fact is certain: there is a growing chorus of people determined to protect "us" from "them." Before we yield to those who want to paint immigrants as evil interlopers threatening the American way of life, we should stop to consider a truer picture: "they" are actually much less dangerous than "us." ■





***Law Center alum
Howard Ayers retires
as Andrews Kurth
managing partner***

Paragon of the Part-Timers

On average, they're older and armed with more real-life experiences than the typical law school student. Most have full-time jobs, and many have not only a spouse and family but also a mortgage and 401(k). And according to their professors, the typical student of the Law Center's part-time program is a high achiever who improves the dynamic in every one of their classrooms.

Recently, a true statesman of the part-time program – Howard Ayers, Class of '69 – stepped down from his post as managing partner of Andrews Kurth LLP, one of the oldest and largest law firms in Texas with more than 400 attorneys in offices around the world.

Andrews Kurth prides itself on “straight talk,” and that's exactly what you get when you ask Ayers to assess how the Law Center's part-time program molded his legal career. “Without the evening program, there was no way for me to attend law school,” he says. “I had a wife and a child, and the money simply wasn't there to allow me to be a full-time student.” During orientation for new students, he

recalls meeting soon-to-be classmates with backgrounds in everything from law enforcement to medicine. One of the brightest students in his graduating class, Ayers recalls, was a part-time student who studied law after completing shifts as a full-time pathologist.

“The benefit from that kind of classroom environment is cross-pollination,” Ayers says. “There was no distinction between part-time and full-time students. We were all facing the same burdens of trying to get the reading done, being prepared for class, and surviving the Socratic method. Those are pretty good reasons to bond.”

From Part-Time Student to Full-Time Lawyer

During much of his time as a Law Center student, Ayers worked as a staff landman for Texaco and thought about moving to the corporation's law department after earning his J.D. As the time for a decision loomed, a friend told

him about a new law firm: Woodard Hall & Primm. Ayers interviewed with the fledgling's principals – and wound up spending the next 24 years practicing transactional law at the firm. In 1994, a small group of the firm's transactional lawyers decided to relocate to a firm in the same building: Andrews Kurth. Ayers characterizes the move as not a defection but an “adaptation to the market.”

“I went from a small firm in which I operated more or less independently to one with hundreds of attorneys. The hardest part of the first year was figuring out which memos I could safely ignore,” he says. He now calls the move the best thing that he and his cohorts ever did. “We moved to a bigger stage, with a bigger orchestra, and major transactional opportunities came our way. That’s not a knock on the former firm, it’s just a fact that a firm’s prominence and scale can make a difference in the market,” he says.

When the head of the Andrews Kurth real estate practice decided to retire in late 1995, Ayers was asked to step up and lead the group. He did that and more, and distinguished himself enough to earn an invitation to join the firm’s management committee. “For the first time, I started to understand how and by whom things actually got decided in my law firm,” he says. Two years later, after the firm’s managing partner announced his intention to retire, Ayers found his name

circulating on a list of candidates for the position. “It was a bit surreal. I’d been with the firm only three years, and it surprised me that partners outside my practice area – and certainly the ones outside the Houston office – had any idea of who I was,” he says. Following the election of a new management committee in June 1997, the firm’s partners confirmed Ayers as their new managing partner. Elected for a three-year term, he served (“survived”, in his words) a total of 10 years.

“It’s said, usually by outsiders with services to sell, that law firms typically don’t excel at leadership succession, but I had outstanding acceptance and support from the start,” Ayers says. After completing his predecessor’s initiatives to change the firm’s compensation structure and terminate its burdensome retirement plan for partners, Ayers found himself in the right place at a lucky time: the demand for services from large, general-practice firms took off – and continues its growth to this day. As Andrews Kurth rode the wave of strong demand and routinely booked strong results, Ayers guided the firm through a growth spurt that included

new offices, a substantial merger, and scores of lateral hires. But the pressure of leading a dual existence as both managing partner and practicing attorney carried a toll. One year into his bifurcated duties, Ayers suffered a stroke that required five months of recuperation. When he returned, he decided to stop being a “part-time lawyer” and “part-time manager” and devote himself solely to his management duties. “Not one minute did I miss inflicting myself on clients, and as far as I could tell, they didn’t miss it either, as they all transitioned to other Andrews Kurth lawyers, perhaps more cheerfully than I would have preferred,” he says. “At the time, it was fairly unusual in the industry for a managing partner to stop billing hours, but now it’s a more typical business model. I’m grateful that my partners allowed me to make that choice.”

Asked to identify his proudest accomplishment at the firm, Ayers is quick to share the credit. “There’s no one thing I can claim,” he says. “We have a strong leadership team, and everything we do is a team product. But what I think about most is that we’re still here, 106 years and counting, and stronger in every way. I take pride in joining the long line of Andrews Kurth managing partners who were good stewards, strengthened the franchise, and made things a little better for all our stakeholders. That’s plenty of psychic payoff for me.”

Ayers retains strong ties to Andrews Kurth, continuing to serve as non-executive chairman and member of several operating committees, and his time commitment to the firm has dwindled to perhaps 40 percent of what it was. “I’m experimenting with partial retirement,” he says. “It’s actually working better than I thought it would, as I never saw myself as a ‘partial’ anything. But so far, being free to work only on what interests me and otherwise allocate my time as I choose has been great.” ■



Unlike this relocated Jean Dubuffet sculpture that now graces Discovery Park, Howard Ayers remained an immovable force in downtown Houston, working for most of his career at two firms in Chase Tower (pictured at left).

Editor’s Note:

The Law Center’s part-time program remains a vibrant and integral part of the Law Center. Students have the flexibility of working at full-time jobs as they pursue J.D. degrees in four years instead of the usual three. For more information about the part-time program at the Law Center, please click to www.law.uh.edu/admissions.

CLASSNOTES

Alert your classmates to news of note by sending information to briefcase@uh.edu.

Class of '55

Paul Pomeroy, the founder and president of the Brenham (Texas) Children's Chorus, received a lifetime achievement award and "Man of the Year" honors from the Washington County Chamber of Commerce.

Class of '57

Gladys M. Oakley retired as County Court at Law Judge on December 31, 2006 after 20 years on the bench.

Class of '62

Ruby K. Sondock was awarded the Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Professional Excellence.

Class of '67

Jeff Walker received the Silver Gavel Award from the Tarrant County Bar Association in recognition of his tenure on the bench.

Alvin L. Zimmerman is the president of the International Academy of Mediators in Philadelphia for the 2007-2008 term. He also received the prestigious David Gibson Award for outstanding family lawyering by the Gulf Coast Family Law Specialists.

Class of '68

Clay Lilienstern assumed the position as Head of School at the University School of Jackson, in Jackson, Tennessee. USJ is a 1,300-student independent school serving students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

Class of '70

Jim Lemond was named one of the inaugural Legacy Fellows by the Houston Lawyers Foundation.



Class of '71

Don R. Burgess was honored by the Beaumont Foundation with the Southeast Texas Legends Scholarship.

Class of '72

James H. Shoemake was appointed Judge of the 434th District Court.

Class of '73

Edward 'Ned' Hartline has reopened the Houston law firm Oaks, Hartline & Daly.

Class of '74

J. Manuel Banales was named by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to serve as presiding judge of the Fifth Judicial Administrative District.

Raymond J. Daniel has joined Polunsky & Beitel in San Antonio as the firm's new Director of Client Relations and Business Development.

Marjorie A. Doyle joined LRN, a leading provider of ethics and compliance solutions. She previously served as Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer at Vetco International and DuPont.

Two Law Center classmates – **Charles R. Parker** and **Robert J. Sussman** – now serve as co-chairs of the White Collar Criminal Defense and Internal Investigations practice group at Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell.

Class of '76

Joseph G. Chumlea was named partner at Shackelford, Melton and McKinley.

Gary Rachlin of the Houston office of Liskow & Lewis was selected for inclusion in "The Best Lawyers in America 2008."

Class of '77

Richard L. George serves as CEO of the Canadian oil and gas company Suncor Energy.

Henry J. Kaim has joined the law firm of King & Spalding as a partner.

Class of '78

William E. King has joined Bracewell & Giuliani as counsel.

Class of '79

Frank Alvarez has become an equity partner at Hermes Sargent Bates.

Denis C. Braham has been named one of the Lawdragon 500 Leading Dealmakers for 2007.

Larry E. Cotten has been awarded the prestigious Leader's Circle Award by E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.

Bobbie J. McCartney has been appointed Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Brian W. Wice has been KPRC Local 2's legal analyst since 2003 and won praise as a top legal analyst in the Houston area.

Philip D. Zelikow returned from his post as the director of the 9/11 Commission to teach in the History Department at the University of Virginia.

Class of '80



David E. Butts joined Andrews Myers Coulter & Cohen as senior counsel.

Judy J. Lee of Quan, Burdette & Perez was recognized as a leading immigration lawyer in Texas for the second consecutive year. The firm was also ranked as the top immigration law firm in Texas for the second consecutive year.

Harry A. Perrin has joined the law firm of Vinson & Elkins as partner.

John D. Pringle has formed John D. Pringle, P.C.

Doris Rodriguez was named to the 17-member board of the Texas Diversity Council.

CLASSNOTES

Bruce C. Tough was the recipient of The Woodlands Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" award. He was reelected to



The Woodlands Community Association and will serve another three-year term as Conroe ISD Trustee.

Class of '81
Barbara U. Pashkowski has joined the Phoenix office of Gust Rosenfeld P.L.C. as a partner in the environmental practice group.

Class of '82
Nelda L. Blair was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors for Town Center Improvement District.

Marcia J. Meridith Eason started her term as president of the Tennessee Bar Association in June 2007. She practices at the Chattanooga office of Miller & Martin PLLC.

Claudia W. Frost, a partner with Winthrop Shaw Pittman, was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers.

Richard C. Waites has written a new book: *Courtroom Psychology and Trial Advocacy*.

Class of '83
Clint D. Carlson was reappointed by the University of Texas System Board of Regents to the University of Texas Investment Management Co. (UTIMCO) Board of Directors.

Curtis L. Harrington was appointed to the Taxation Law Advisory Commission, an advisory board of the California Board of Legal Specialization.

Terrence M. Keel was named the new House Parliamentarian of the Texas House of Representatives.

Mark E. Steiner received tenure this spring at South Texas College of Law.

Class of '84
Ann Marie T. Field chairs the general litigation department at Cozen O'Conner and was named vice chair of the Board of Directors of the newly formed Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania.



Alexander E. Hamilton has joined the law firm of Buchalter Nemer as a partner in San Francisco.

Lan T. Nguyen received the Frank J. Scurlock Award from the State Bar of Texas.

James E. Wreggelsworth has been appointed as chair of the Partnership and LLC's Committee of the American Bar Association's Taxation Section.

Class of '85
John M. Bradley has been appointed by Presiding Judge Sharon Keller of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to participate in a statewide task force on criminal justice and mental health issues.

Kelly Ann Chaves, board certified in immigration and nationality law, has opened her own firm in The Woodlands, Texas.

Class of '86
Michele Fortunato was installed as President of the Amarillo Area Bar Association.

Ricky A. Raven was named Trial Practice Group Leader in the Houston office of Thompson & Knight.

Jackie Robinson, a new partner in the Dallas office of Thompson & Knight, was elected director-at-large of the Texas Association of Defense Counsel.

Graciela G. Saenz was named "Woman on the Move" by Texas Executive Women.

Class of '87
J. Edward Prochaska was elected as Circuit Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit (State of Illinois) covering Winnebago and Boone Counties.

Class of '88
Georgina Benavides was named Latino Judge of the Year by the Hispanic National Bar Association.

Jose A. Gutierrez lectured on "Chicanas in Charge: Paths to Political Power in Texas 1964-2004" during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Kevin L. James has been named evening host of News Talk 870 KRLA in Los Angeles.

Peter L. Shaw passed the Board Certification exam for Estate Planning and Probate Law.

Class of '89
Quentin Brogdon served as president of the Dallas Trial Lawyers Association and was chosen by Lawdragon Magazine as one of its "500 Leading Plaintiffs' Attorneys in America." He practices with Frank L. Branson in Dallas.

Daniel J. Churay was recently appointed to the board of directors of Rex Energy.



William W. Davidson was named Construction Law Shareholder in Andrews Myers Coulter & Cohen in Houston.

Nancy Wells Hamilton was named one of Houston's top lawyers by *H Texas* magazine. She is a litigation partner with Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Class of '90

Randal Farber was named one of Houston's top lawyers by *H Texas* magazine. He practices in the business transactions section of Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Thomas A. Leeper was selected by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to serve as presiding officer of the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation Board of Directors.

Rogelio Lopez-Velarde (LL.M.) was profiled as one of Mexico's leading energy lawyers in the *2007 Guide to the World's Leading Energy and Natural Resource Lawyers*.

Bridget L. Purdie was named partner at the Houston office of Bracewell & Giuliani.

Class of '91



Sofia Adrogué has been named one of *Hispanic Business* magazine's 20 Elite Women

for 2007. She also graduated from the Owner/President Management (OPM) Program of Harvard Business School, and at commencement exercises became one of the first women keynote speakers in the history of Harvard Business School's Executive Education programs.

Tarig F. Anani was promoted to company president of P2ES Holdings Inc.

Christopher P. Borreca was elected President of the Education Law Association.

Nicolas J. Evanoff joined TransMeridian Exploration Incorporated as Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary.

Class of '92

Deborah Branch serves as an assistant to the Bee County District Attorney in Beeville, Texas.

James M. Grace joined Baker Botts as a partner in the firm's government relations section.



Kathryn A. Wood was named "Woman on the Move" by Texas Executive Women.

Class of '93

DeMonica D. Gladney has released her new book, *Willing to Wait: From Revelation to Manifestation*, published by New Horizon Publishers.

Jarvis V. Hollingsworth

was elected to the board of directors of the Houston Bar Foundation, 2007-2009.

Richard O. Litsey has accepted the position of Counsel & Senior Advisor on Indian Affairs with the Committee on Finance in the U.S. Senate and will be working for Sen. Max Baucus, chairman of the Finance Committee.

Jim M. Perdue, Jr. formed the Houston law firm of Perdue & Kidd LLP.

Alejandro Lopez-Velarde is now affiliated with Quintana & Arouesty & Lopez-Velarde Abogados.

William R. Pilat has become a director in the Houston office of Kane Russell Coleman & Logan.

Peter A. Sanchez joined the Atrisco Companies as CEO.

Ian Scharfman has formed The Scharfman Law Firm, PLLC, concentrating on representing clients in employment law matters.

Class of '94

Lisa A. Dreishmire was elected shareholder at Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. and was elected president of the Dallas Chapter of the ACLU of Texas.

Valerie K. Friedrich was elected partner at the Houston office of Baker & McKenzie.

Pauline E. Higgins was selected as one of the "Influential African American Leaders in Texas" by *Minority Business News Texas*.

Robert O. Lampert was selected for the Henry Toll Fellowship Program.

John E. Neslage joined the legal department of Westlake Chemical Corporation in November 2006.

Class of '95

Jeff V. Brown was appointed by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to the 14th Court of Appeals.

C. Robert Bunch joined the board of directors of Sub-One Technology, which provides next-generation internal coatings for the oil and gas sector.

Steven M. Diamond has been recognized as one of the "Top Tax Advisors" in the *World Tax 2007 Guide* of leading tax firms and advisors compiled by *International Tax Review*.

Joanna K. Lothringer Napp is a partner in the health care section of Jackson Walker's office in Austin.

Reece Rondon was named one of the Five Outstanding Young Houstonians for 2007.

Lisa M. Rossmiller has joined Fulbright & Jaworski's tax practice as Senior Counsel, Houston office.

CLASSNOTES

Cynthia A. Tari was named partner at Hermes Sargent Bates.

Gregory C. Ulmer was appointed by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists.

Class of '96
Michael E. Clark was appointed by ABA President William Neukom to serve on the ABA Standing Committee on Publishing Oversight.

Aashish Y. Desai was selected as a Rising Star by *SuperLawyers* magazine for class action litigation in Southern California.

Denise Glass joined Fulbright & Jaworski as a partner.

J. D. Hensarling has joined Ragsdale Liggett, PLLC in Raleigh, NC as an associate attorney in the Litigation Department.

Steve Ramon, previously with Jenkins & Gilchrist, has joined the litigation section of Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Class of '97
Rana M. Siam was elected as a shareholder in the energy and public utilities section of Clark, Thomas & Winters.

Peter J. Strelitz has been elected shareholder in Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney in Austin.

Christopher A. Thompson was named a "Rising Star" by *Texas Monthly* magazine.

Class of '98
H. Joseph Acosta leads the bankruptcy practice of Hermes Sargent Bates.



Antroy Arreola was named partner at Locke Lord Bissel & Liddell

Brett E. Braden was named partner at Vinson & Elkins.

John E. Grosselin earned membership at Spilman Thomas & Battle PLLC.

Catherine H. Herrington has opened a new law firm, The Herrington Law Firm, P.C. in Houston, Texas.

Donald E. Hill was elected a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

Chad E. Mills has joined Sutherland Asbill & Brennan's national energy and environmental practices group as partner in the firm's Houston office.

Paris A. Theofanidis was named partner at Vinson & Elkins.

Seth D. Wexler was elected partner at Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.

Class of '99
Claude B. Anello joined Winstead PC as an income shareholder.



Amie G. Berg was elected to a two-year term as a director of The Woodlands Bar Association.

Gary D. Lueck was named partner at Vista IP Law Group in Irvine, California.

Craig Martin has joined Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge's Delaware office as an associate in the firm's Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights and International Insolvency Practice Groups.

Derrick Mitchell has joined the law firm of Bracewell & Giuliani.

Sameer V. Mohan was named partner at Baker & Hostetler in the business group in Houston, focusing on mergers, acquisitions and international business transactions.

Matthew C. Rawlinson was named partner at Hicks Thomas & Lilienstern.

Jonathan D. Young has joined Ahmad, Zavitsanos & Anapakos as an associate.

Class of '00
Tanya N. Garrison was named president-elect of the Houston Young Lawyers Association.

Darrell R. Jones has become a shareholder in Cox Smith Matthews in San Antonio.

Julie A. Machal-Fulks spoke at the IT Compliance Institute's spring conference on drafting and implementing legally defensible privacy and security policies for businesses.

Spencer W. Stevens is a partner at Strasburger & Price, LLP.

Class of '01
Marguerite Miller Johnson joined Prescott Legal Search.

John M. Shumaker joined McKool Smith, P.C. as an associate.

Class of '02
Jason Deats has joined the business transactions section of the Austin office of Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Class of '03
Laura A. Lawton is an associate at Baker Hostetler.

Brent Tantillo now works as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Miami, where he coordinates the Southern District of Florida's Human Trafficking Task Force.

Class of '04
Christopher P. Peirce has joined Walters, Balido & Crain LLP in Dallas as an associate.

Class of '05

Traci Dvorak of Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. focuses on health law matters, including medical malpractice litigation.

Matthew S. Ellis has joined the Dallas office of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.



Forrest D. Gordon has joined the Business Group of Boyar & Miller in Houston, focusing on real estate, corporate and finance.

Yvonne Ho has accepted a clerkship for Judge Thomas M. Reavley of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals for 2008-09. Her clerkship will begin after she completes an existing clerkship with the Honorable Ewin Werlein, Jr., of the Southern District of Texas.

John S. Polzer joined Cantey Hanger LLP as an associate in the Fort Worth office.



Dona Szak was named a partner in Ajamie LLP.

Roger Y. Tsai joined the law firm of Parsons Behle & Latimer in Salt Lake City.



Bobby L. Warren of Patel & Warren, PLLC has moved into new offices at 24 Greenway Plaza.

Class of '06

David Chang has joined Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw in Houston as an associate.

Stephen Cox serves as Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Immigration & Customs Enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security.

Vernon Krueger has joined Stewart Stimmel as a partner.

Vanessa S. Luna passed the Illinois Bar Exam.

James H. Nye has joined Baker Hostetler as an associate.

John W. Petrelli has joined Baker Hostetler as an associate.

Robin L. Phillips has joined the San Diego office of McDermott, Will & Emery. He is a member of the intellectual property, media and technology practice group.

Stacey V. Reese has joined McGinnis Lochridge & Kilgore.

Carolyn J. Shulman has joined Weycer, Kaplan, Pulaski & Zuber, P.C.

Brett Thorstad has joined the corporate group in the Dallas office of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.

Brock E. Whalen has joined Hermes Sargent Bates. ■

In Memoriam

Victor F. Branch '54

May 28, 2007

John T. Kirtley '56

March 4, 2008

Fred Sullins '58

January 1, 2008

Otis H. Martin '59

March 11, 2008

Julietta Jarvis '59

April 27, 2007

Stanley B. Binion '62

December 25, 2007

Miller H. Walsh '64

October 24, 2007

Rosemary Saucillo Moreno '65

January 2, 2007

Ray A. Dunn '67

January 11, 2007

Robert M. Robinson '68

January 4, 2008

Robin M. Pate '70

February 4, 2007

The Honorable David M. Cook '72

January 4, 2007

Jerry N. Smith '72

December 30, 2007

Jameson M. Mapel '74

February 5, 2008

William T. Willis '76

September 29, 2007

Andy Tschoepe, II '78

April 3, 2006

Phillip W. Swisher '78

March 9, 2008

Patricia E. Lara '81

January 29, 2008

Judith Lynn L. Jones '81

April 24, 2007

Nancy L. Martin '82

July 29, 2007

Kathryn A. Hansen '82

July 13, 2007

Cynthia Bell '84

September 26, 2007

Joanne Chadderdon '86

February 4, 2008

Marla Y. Mitschke '97

April 29, 2007

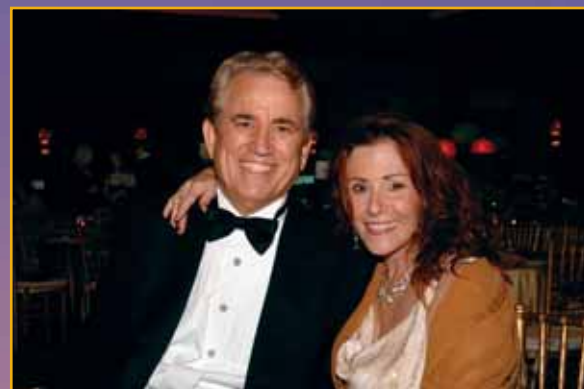
Jeffrey P. Hawes '00

August 1, 2007



Clockwise from top left:

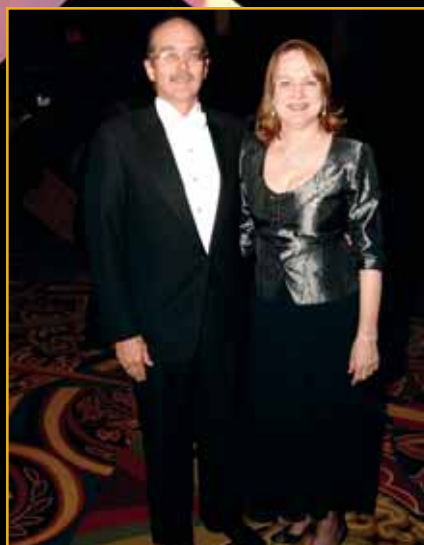
- Honorary Chairs Charles '70 and Karen Matthews and Chair Leslie Kiefer Amann '87.
- John O'Quinn '67 and Darla Lexington.
- Law Alumni Association President Jim Perdue '93 and wife Nicole with Dean Ray Nimmer.

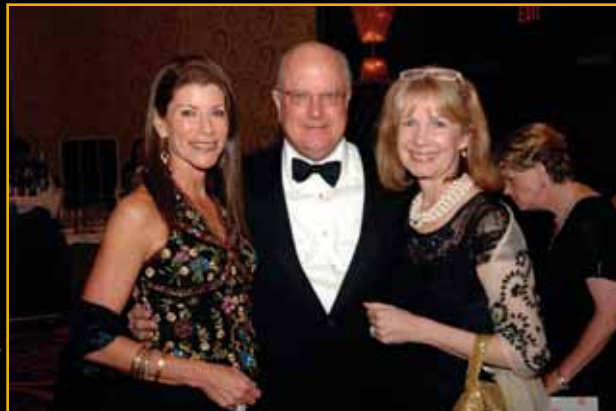


- Law Foundation President-Elect Willie Wood '84 and wife Gail.
- Marcy Kurtz '81 (left) with Houston Bar Association President Tommy Proctor and his wife Elizabeth.
- Guests dancing to 'Password.'
- A strong showing from the Houston firm of Lindeman Alvarado & Frye.



- The Beijing Casino was a big hit – except when dealers showed a face card!
- Law Foundation President John Unger '77 and wife Kathy Welch.
- Live and silent auctions offered something for everyone.
- (center) Far from menacing, a Chinese Dragon Dancer politely summoned all to their dinner tables.





The 2008 Lex Dynasty

Nearly 1,000 friends and alumni turned the 32nd Annual Law Gala & Auction into an Asian-themed extravaganza of fun, food and frolic as they displayed their yen for supporting excellence at the Law Center. As the saying goes: *May Good Fortune Reward Your Generous Deeds.*

BRIEF CASES

Khator Named UH President



Renu Khator was recently named to succeed Jay Gogue as the president of the University of Houston and chancellor of the University of Houston System. President Khator previously served as provost at the University of South Florida, the nation's ninth-largest university with more than 45,000 students. Born

and raised in India, she holds a master's degree and doctorate from Purdue University. "I'm looking forward to working with President Khator to help further her pursuit of excellence at the University of Houston," said Law Center Dean Ray Nimmer.

Spanning the Globe with Consumer Law



When the world looks for answers on consumer law, all roads seemingly lead to the Center for Consumer Law under the direction of Associate Dean Richard Alderman. In May, the Center hosted a unique conference for professors and others

interested in teaching consumer law. The two-day event – the only conference of its kind in the world – attracted attendees from the United States and a number of foreign countries

HL&PI Publishes 'Bench Book' for Texas

How would Texas and its legal system respond to a public health emergency requiring isolations and quarantines? The answers are found in a new "bench book" developed by the Health Law & Policy Institute at the Law Center with support from Region 6/5 South of the Texas Department of State Health Services. The book has won praise for the invaluable information it provides to a wide audience, including every appellate, district and county court-at-law judge in Texas; elected county and district attorneys; local health authorities; and the Texas Supreme Court Task Force on the courts and public health emergencies. Look for more information at: www.law.uh.edu/healthlaw.



Three Law Center Alums Named University of Houston Regents

Texas Gov. Rick Perry recently named four new members to the University Board of Regents – and three of them hold law degrees from the Law Center, as does existing Regent Lynden B. Rose '89. Gov. Perry selected Law Center alumnae Jacob Monty '93, Carroll Robertson Ray '02 and Nelda Blair '82 to join the 10-member Board of Regents along with Mica Mosbacher, who attended the University of Texas. In related news, Gov. Perry recently named Law Center student Tamara Goodwin to serve as a student regent on the UH Board of Regents, and selected Law Center student Charles E. "Trey" Lewis III to serve as a student representative on the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Law Center Tabs Top Teams for Moot Court National Tourney



The "Top 16" Moot Court programs from around the country will descend on the Law Center in January 2009 for the first-ever Moot Court National Championship. Sponsored by the Blakely Advocacy Institute, the competition will invite teams that achieve top performances in major moot court tournaments throughout the United States.

For more information, click to www.law.uh.edu/blakely/MCNC.

The Institute for Intellectual Property and Information Law hosted its National Conference in Sante Fe, New Mexico on June 6-7, 2008. Distinguished presenters from U.S. schools of law included Rebecca Eisenberg of the University of Michigan, Paul J. Heald of the University of Georgia, Michael Meurer of Boston University, Janice M. Mueller of the University of Pittsburgh, and Arti K. Rai of Duke. Click to www.law.uh.edu/ipil for more information.



JEFF WISE '08 played a leading role in collecting the largest class gift in the history of the Law Center. He shared these observations with *Briefcase* as he prepared to start his law career in the Houston office of Shook Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.

“Things have been on the upswing at the Law Center since the Class of ‘08 arrived three years ago. Each new group of first-year students has more impressive credentials than its predecessors. The addition of new faculty members and prominent visiting professors enhanced our academic programs. Plus, the new leadership has taken a proactive approach to addressing student concerns and holds a clear vision for improving the Law Center’s impact on the legal community. All of these positive changes foster optimism for the Law Center’s future - and they encouraged the overwhelming success of the Class of 2008 Gift Fund.”

LAW F  N D

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW FOUNDATION

www.law.uh.edu/alumni/Make-A-Gift

It's easy to stay in touch with important news from the Law Center, including Dean's Notes and invitations to upcoming special events. Click to **www.law.uh.edu/alumni** and update your contact information with your e-mail address.



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