

BRIEFCASE

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | LAW CENTER

GROUNDBREAKING 2020



2019
YEAR IN
REVIEW

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THE JOHN M. O'QUINN LAW BUILDING

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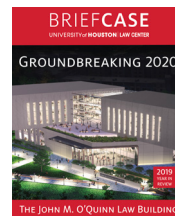
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DEAN'S NOTE



In 2019 our collective dream came true! We raised enough funding and received Board of Regents approval for the construction of a world class Law Center building. It was the highlight of the year, but there were many other accomplishments along the way: national and international honors for faculty, staff and students; top rankings for specialty programs and recognition for diversity and career development efforts; speakers, conferences and events that brought new ideas, explored old ones, and sometimes prompted rethinking of long-held perceptions; expanded community outreach; and mostly, the day-to-day education of ever-brighter students in the skills and principles of the law.

This “Year-in-Review” edition of Briefcase magazine spotlights just a few of these stories illustrating the range of the great things happening at the law school. The cover story and the architectural renderings give you a peek into the building project process and the exterior of the new John M. O’Quinn Law Building.

After reading the magazine, please let me know how we are doing and where you think we should be headed. I hope this “look back” into the past year will encourage you to take pride in your school and get more involved as we look to the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Leonard M. Baynes
Dean and Professor of Law

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ANITA HILL SAYS SOCIETY MUST SUPPORT #METOO MOVEMENT DURING 'FIRESIDE CHAT' AT UH LAW CENTER



University of Houston Law Center Professor Michael A. Olivas, left, speaks with Anita Hill of Brandeis University in Krost Hall.

Professor and civil rights activist Anita Hill said at the University of Houston Law Center that the public has a responsibility to embrace the #MeToo movement, and must confront sexual misconduct wherever it exists in society.

"We have to believe the harm of this abuse is real," Hill said. "There are no bystanders. Use what power you have to change policy or you have become complicit. We need to understand that these are not personnel matters because everyone has a stake in change."

Hill participated in a "fireside chat" with Law Center Professor Michael A. Olivas as part of the Spring 2019 Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series. Olivas is the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law and director of the Institute for Higher Education Law & Governance.

Hill is professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.

She said nearly every industry in the country should create commissions with policymaking power and develop codes of conduct and other protocols to combat sexual assault and harassment in the workplace.

"This issue is housed in the entertainment industry, but there are lessons to be learned all over," she said. "Especially when the core of the issue is the abuse of power."

Hill was thrust into the national spotlight in 1991 during the televised confirmation hearing for now-U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. She testified of repeated sexual harassment while he was her supervisor at the Department of Education and the EEOC.

Parallels were drawn between Thomas' hearing and the polarized confirmation process of U.S. Associate Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh in 2018.

After Kavanaugh's nomination, Palo Alto University Professor of Psychology Dr. Christine Blasey Ford brought forth an allegation that Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted her at a house party when the two were in high school.

Hill said there should have been less of a focus on Blasey Ford's demeanor during her testimony and more on Kavanaugh's qualifications.

"In theory, a confirmation hearing is about the character and fitness of an individual to serve on the highest court in the country," Hill said. "If we all ask ourselves based on his performance whether he met the minimal standards of character, fitness or decision-making on the highest court in the land, I would honestly say absolutely not."

Hill also remarked on the potential presidential candidacy of former vice president Joe Biden, who was the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee at the time of Hill's testimony.

"I'm well aware that a lot of people think that he mishandled the hearings in 1991," Hill said. "He's going to have to respond to those criticisms, and show how he's changed and that he can be trusted to protect victims and survivors. We should be asking these questions of all of our candidates. When you look at the numbers — one in five women in colleges will experience sexual assault — this is a public crisis."

HOFFMAN AND NELSON RECOGNIZED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

University of Houston Law Center Professors Geoffrey Hoffman and James Nelson were honored with 2018-19 Teaching Excellence Awards, among the highest distinctions bestowed by the university.

The awards and \$8,000 prizes were presented by Paula Myrick Short, UH senior vice chancellor for academic affairs and senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, at the University of Houston Hilton in April.

Hoffman, a clinical associate professor and director of the Law Center's Immigration Clinic, was honored with the Community Engagement Award. He also won the Teaching Excellence Award for clinical faculty in 2015.

UH LAW CENTER PROFS SELECTED AS DISTINGUISHED ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARS



Professor Blake Hudson, left, and Professor Victor B. Flatt

Two University of Houston Law Center faculty members were chosen to share their expertise in environmental law as distinguished visiting scholars at law schools in New York and Vermont.

Professor Victor B. Flatt, the Dwight Olds Chair in Law, and Professor Blake Hudson, the A.L. O'Quinn Chair in Environmental Studies, were awarded week-long residencies as Haub Distinguished Environmental Scholars at Pace University's Elisabeth Haub School of Law in White Plains, NY. Flatt and Hudson are co-directors of the Law Center's Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Program.

Hudson also has been chosen for a two-week summer program as a Distinguished Environmental Law Scholar at Vermont Law

School for the summer of 2020.

Flatt is a recognized expert on environmental law, climate law and energy law. His research focuses on environmental legislation and enforcement, with particular expertise in the Clean Air Act and National Environmental Policy Act. While at the Haub School of Law in September, Flatt taught a class in Administrative Law and delivered a public lecture on the overlap of climate change and attorney ethics.

"The experience at the Elisabeth Haub School was fantastic," he said. "It is a remarkable chance to discuss important environment, climate, and energy issues at one of the other law schools with a large and diverse environmental and energy programs."

Hudson's research focuses on the intersection of land use and natural resources law and policy, concentrating of late on private forest management and the role of forests in combatting climate change.

"I am honored to receive both the Haub and the Vermont distinguished visiting scholar opportunities," he said. "Both schools are widely respected for their top-notch environmental scholarship, teaching and programming. It will be an incredibly valuable experience to immerse myself in their respective communities and learn from the excellent faculty and students at both institutions."

PROFESSORS SHARE PERSUASIVE WRITING TIPS, INSIGHTS AT 5TH CIRCUIT APPELLATE ADVOCACY SEMINAR

University of Houston Law Center professors conducted a writing workshop and discussed women and diversity on the U.S. Supreme Court at the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit's 2019 Appellate Advocacy Seminar in New Orleans.

Three Lawyering Skills and Strategies professors shared their expertise in the two-hour writing and editing workshop designed to improve appellate advocacy.

Professors Kate Brem, Hilary Reed and Lauren Simpson led the workshop titled: "Catching the Court's Eye: Effective Writing and Editing Techniques to Elevate Your Advocacy." The presentation included segments on improving persuasion in every section of the brief, improving editing techniques, and evaluating available artificial intelligence tools to improve legal writing.

Law Center Professor Renee Knake, the Joanne and Larry Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics, and director of Law Center Outcomes and Assessments, also spoke at the seminar on the subject: "Shortlisted: Women, Diversity and the Supreme Court."

AWARD-WINNING PIPELINE PROGRAM CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS



2019 PreLaw Pipeline Class

In June, the University of Houston Law Center welcomed 42 undergraduate students from 28 colleges across the nation to its Pre-Law Pipeline Program.

The eight-week summer course is designed to increase diversity among law school applicants and to provide students from low-income and underrepresented backgrounds an opportunity to consider a legal education. The program divides students into two tracks — Law School Admission Council's Prelaw Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Program and Scholar II.

The program, in its fifth year as of last summer, began with generous financial support from Paula Myrick Short, UH senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. The program has produced 46 students who have been accepted to law schools throughout the nation, said Dean Leonard M. Baynes, who established the program.

Students in the PLUS Program start with five weeks of classroom instruction including three weeks of first, second and third-year law

school class instruction taught by Law Center faculty, legal writing and research training, and trial advocacy sessions. Each scholar then has a three-week internship with a variety of law firms and legal organizations in the area.

Scholar II students study a comprehensive LSAT-focused curriculum to develop a strong foundation of LSAT basics, and build upon it throughout the remainder of the program. They also participate in one-on-one personal statement, diversity statement and resume workshops.

"This year, we had our largest applicant pool making the admission process exceedingly competitive," Program Director Kristen Guiseppi said. "Every year, our students demonstrate the ability to adapt to the program's rigorous, fast-paced curriculum and this year is no different. Our scholars are committed, invested, and eager to soak up all of the information and knowledge shared by our teaching faculty, mentors, law school students, practicing attorneys, and other members of the legal community."

ABA HONORS PRE-LAW PROGRAM

The University of Houston Law Center's Pre-Law Pipeline Program was honored by the American Bar Association's Council for Diversity in the Education Pipeline for its efforts on behalf of diversity in the legal profession.

The Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Award for Excellence in Pipeline Diversity was presented at the ABA Midyear Meeting in Las Vegas.

"This Award provides the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval to the

work of the pipeline program," Dean Leonard M. Baynes said. "Our efforts have achieved phenomenal results with median LSAT increase of 12 points, and the vast majority of the participants go off to law school. It feels great to be recognized for our effort."

The Pipeline Program, which welcomed its fifth class over the summer, was established by Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes and Program Director Kristen Guiseppi. Professor Meredith J. Duncan, Assistant Dean of Diversity, Inclusion and Metropolitan Programs, oversees the program.

The eight-week summer course is designed to increase diversity among law school applicants.

UH LAW CENTER SCHOLAR DISCUSSES POTENTIAL NAFTA OVERHAUL AT TRADE SEMINAR

Alfonso López de la Osa Escribano, director of the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law at the University of Houston Law Center, discussed a potential replacement for the North American Free Trade Agreement during a symposium in March held in Fort Worth.

The conference, "NAFTA 2.0: The Puzzle of North America as a Region," was presented by the Texas A&M University School of Law's Program in Global and Comparative Law.

"I was glad to be a part in discussing a very timely topic with such a group of experts interested in U.S. Mexico relations," López de la Osa Escribano said.

López de la Osa Escribano analyzed what could be the impact of the proposed United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which was signed by all three countries on Nov. 30, 2018.

"When approaching the new USMCA, which has yet to be ratified, there is an enormous potential in terms of trade that is very positive, but one needs to pay attention to some unbalances in terms of respective domestic labor law that can exist as they can be an obstacle to trade," López de la Osa Escribano said.

"Although the new USMCA doesn't deal expressly with the social dimension of trade, it is interesting to highlight the acknowledgment from Canada and the U.S. of the existence of Mexico's labor unions and related rights such as collective bargaining."

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER HOSTS NATIONAL MEDIATOR COMPETITION

Twelve law students from across the country competed in the National Mediator Competition hosted by the Blakely Advocacy Institute in October at the University of Houston Law Center.

Cody Miller of the University of South Dakota School of Law won the Jeffry S. Abrams Best Mediator Award and scholarship of \$2,000. The runner-up, Shannon Walker of the Stetson University College of Law, received a \$1,000 scholarship also sponsored by Abrams in recognition of the work of 350.org, an international environmental organization addressing the climate crisis.

The national competition, started in 2010, is held in conjunction with the Law Center's in-house Tom Newhouse Representing Clients in Mediation Competition. Students in the national competition serve as mediators for the Newhouse competition.

Competitors work their way through a series of three problems based on actual commercial mediations and scenarios provided by Abrams, a mediator and 1982 graduate of the Law Center.

"To my knowledge, this competition is the most "real-to-life" mediation competition in the country," said Jim Lawrence, executive director of the Law Center's Blakely Advocacy Institute which sponsors the competition. "The longer time format and the opportunity to have unlimited caucuses really tests the student mediators' skill set."

Final round judges included Leah Leone, Judge Josefina Rendon and Andrew Tolchin.



DIVERSITY EFFORTS DRAW NATIONAL ACCLAIM WITH HEED AWARD

For the fourth consecutive year, the University of Houston Law Center has been honored by INSIGHT into Diversity magazine for the school's efforts to increase minority representation on campus and in the legal profession.

In addition, the Law Center for the second year in a row is the only U.S. law school to be selected for INSIGHT's Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award, which is the only national, application-based award honoring institutions of higher education for their commitment to diversity and inclusion.

HEED Award recipients are selected on the basis of an extensive application, detailing demographics of the faculty and student body, recruitment practices, mentoring and resource programs, community outreach, and other efforts designed to increase diversity.

"Our standards are high, and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being done every day across their campus," said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of INSIGHT Into Diversity.

The Law Center's award-winning Pre-Law Pipeline Program was among initiatives cited by the magazine. The program prepares undergraduates who are first generation, low income, or members of groups underrepresented in the legal profession for a career in law.



Janet Langford Carrig inspired University of Houston Law Center graduates at the May 2019 commencement ceremony at the Fertitta Center.

UH LAW CENTER COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER CARRIG ADVISES CLASS OF 2019 TO SEEK AUTHENTICITY IN THEIR CAREERS

Janet Langford Carrig, a longtime senior legal executive at ConocoPhillips, told students to be true to who they are and follow their own moral compass as they enter the practice of law. Carrig spoke at the University of Houston Law Center Commencement Ceremony at the Fertitta Center in May. The Class of 2019 included 229 J.D. candidates and 57 LL.M. graduates.

“You have a job ahead of you much harder than what you have faced in law school,” Carrig said. “The job I recommend is getting to know yourself -- intimately, deeply, granularly — without false humility. Take your interests seriously. They may well be a window into something deeper. Take inventory now and check in with it as your career unfolds.”



Carrig served as Senior Vice President, Legal, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of ConocoPhillips from August 2007 through September 2018. She was the recipient of the Texas General Counsel Forum's Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Law Journal's 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America and many other accolades.

"Another reason it's important to be authentic is so you can bring your special talents to the world," Carrig said. "This is why I say know yourself without false humility. You have a special gift and the world needs it."

Dean Leonard M. Baynes offered his congratulations and encouraged students to become ethical and effective advocates for their clients and to reap the benefits of their hard work.

"Graduates, your professors have fundamentally transformed each one of you by teaching you how to think like lawyers," Baynes said. "Under the faculty's tutelage, you have learned how to write precisely, to analyze

rigorously, to advocate persuasively, and to uphold the highest of the legal profession.

"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 and national social, political and economic movements."

Greetings from the UH System Board of Regents were provided by Paula Mendoza.

"The UH Law Center and the University of Houston have prepared you, like no other generation before you, not just to compete, but to be leaders," Mendoza said. "I know in my heart that you will make a difference in your workplace and your communities."

Alexandra Grafton served as the J.D. class speaker and expressed gratitude to classmates for helping her see multiple sides to an issue.

"This is the last time we all get to sit together as one class, all of us on the same side of the aisle," Grafton said.

"There was something that shaped every one of your experiences differently from mine there in the same classroom. I hope that I can remember that whether we are here as classmates or out there as opponents, there is so much to learn from those differences."

Rebecca Mei Chen Lee spoke on behalf of the LL.M. class. She said that the friendships she formed at the Law Center will last for a lifetime.

"The kindness and helpfulness that the students here have shown is remarkable," Lee said. "I think these acts of kindness and solidarity that Law Center students have is what defines us and is something that will stay with me long after the academic lessons have faded."

Victor Wright '98, president-elect of the UH Law Alumni Association, welcomed graduates to the Law Center's network of alumni and suggested that they stay involved with the Law Center whether being an alumni mentor, volunteering for advocacy programs or in other capacities.

"This is an exciting time and you're joining the ranks of alums who are very excited and passionate about the things that lie ahead for this law school," Wright said. "We believe the best is yet to come."



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS



UH Law Center 1Ls spent the day volunteering at the Houston Food Bank.

LEGAL CAREERS LAUNCHED WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE

Before completing their first week of classes, first-year students at the University of Houston Law Center fanned out across the city to help those in need and form friendships with new classmates by volunteering for a wide range of community service projects.

Dean Leonard M. Baynes initiated the program at the start of his tenure in 2014 as a means of instilling a sense of public service in the aspiring lawyers. The program, which includes faculty and administrators, has grown from a single day to several days in August with projects ranging from legal aid to parks beautification.

“Each service project provides the students with an opportunity to learn something about the community and its needs,” said Baynes. “It is evident from each project that there is a critical need for access to justice by members of our community.”

This year, students gained first-hand legal experience assisting Houston Volunteer Lawyers as they provided advice to veterans and their spouses at the DeBakey VA Medical Center and later to people in need of help at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center. Students also volunteered at a naturalization workshop at the Hiram Clarke Multiservice Center where they helped immigrants fill out applications.

Those looking to be outdoors volunteered at the McGovern Centennial

Gardens in Hermann Park and Beauty’s Community Garden in Independence Heights. Students assisted in mulching, raking, weeding and preparing beds for planting.

As in previous years, students also assisted at the Houston Food Bank where they prepared food packages for distribution to the needy.



UH LAW CENTER'S 2019 SUPREME COURT UPDATE EXAMINES GERRYMANDERING, DOUBLE JEOPARDY AND OTHER MAJOR CASES

University of Houston Law Center professors and members of the local legal community reviewed the 2018-2019 U.S. Supreme Court term during a continuing legal education session.

The opening discussion analyzed *Nieves v. Bartlett* and *Flowers v. Mississippi*, and was led by Law Center Professor Peter Linzer and George "Mac" Secrest of Bennett & Secrest, PLLC.

Nieves v. Bartlett involved a citizen, Russell Bartlett, who was detained by Alaska state troopers for disorderly conduct and harassment. It resulted in a 6-3 decision in which the court held that the presence of probable cause defeats a First Amendment retaliatory-arrest claim.

"This mechanical argument, which seems to be more about the Fourth Amendment than the First Amendment, puts police in a position of easily finding probable cause particularly when there's a demonstration going on," Linzer said. "At that point it's a blank check."

Flowers v. Mississippi involved Curtis Flowers, a black man who had been put on trial for murder six times. When he was convicted and sentenced to death he appealed on the grounds of racial bias in jury selection. In a 7-2 decision, the Court struck down Flowers' conviction, ruling that excluding black jurors violated the Constitution.

Seth Chandler, the Law Foundation Professor of Law, reviewed two cases involving gerrymandering, *Lamone v. Benisek* and *Rucho v. Common Cause*. Both cases ended with 5-4 decisions, ruling that

partisan gerrymandering claims are not subject to trial in a court of law because they present a political question beyond the reach of the federal courts.

Sandra Guerra Thompson, director of the Criminal Justice Institute and the Newell H. Blakely Chair, lectured on *Gamble v. U.S.* In a 7-2 decision the Court declined to overturn the dual-sovereignty doctrine of the Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment, reaffirming that a crime under one sovereign's laws is not the same offense under the laws of another sovereign.

David Dow, the Cullen Professor of Law, presented on *Timbs v. Indiana*. In a unanimous decision, the Court ruled that the Eighth Amendment's Excessive Fines Clause is incorporated against the states under the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause.

Assistant Professor Emily Berman outlined *Box v. Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky*, a decision where the court upheld an Indiana law relating to the disposition of fetal remains by abortion providers passes rational basis review, but declined to review whether the state may bar the knowing provision of gender, race or disability-selective abortions by abortion providers.

"The Court's opinion in this case in many ways is consistent with other reproductive rights cases that have come before, in that it opted to stay out of this particular social war issue at least for this term," Berman said.



Speakers at the 2019 Supreme Court Update at the University of Houston Law Center included (left back row) James Patrick Cooney, Ira Hatton, Dean Leonard M. Baynes, Professor Seth Chandler (left front row) George "Mac" Secrest, Professor Sandra Guerra Thompson and Capt. Reginald McKamie '86.



Professor Emeritus Richard M. Alderman, Director of the Consumer Law Center, teaches participants of the People's Law School how to avoid check scams.

'PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL' MOVES ONLINE

In October, hundreds of people from the Houston area poured into the University of Houston Law Center's classrooms for their last live, in-person chance to pick up some basic legal knowledge on subjects ranging from Social Security to tax law to landlord-tenant disputes.

The event, called the People's Law School, covered 13 areas of law and was a mainstay at the Law Center for nearly 30 years. But now it is moving online.

As Professor Emeritus Richard M. Alderman, who started the school in 1991, approached the stage to welcome the public for the last time, he was greeted with sustained applause in appreciation for the long-running program.

"I think of everything I've done in my career, and what I'm most proud of is the People's Law School, educating people about their legal rights," said Alderman.

Moving the program online gives a wider audience access to the information 24/7, he said. "It will continue, but it won't be the same. I really enjoy doing it and having people right there to talk to, but putting it online will enable people that need the information to get the information."

Presented by the Center for Consumer Law at the Law Center, the People's Law School is recognized as the oldest and most successful law program for the layperson in the country. An estimated 55,000 people have attended the free program over the years at the Law Center and around the state to learn their legal rights from volunteer lawyers, judges and professors.

The online version of People's Law School will feature much of the information from the live classes. It will cover eight to 10 topics, including consumer law, small claims court, family law, debt collection, starting a new business, landlord-tenant law, Alderman said.

UH LAW CENTER ALUMNUS BROWN '95 SWORN IN AS FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE

Judge Jeff Brown, a 1995 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, took his oath of office as a U.S. district judge in the Southern District of Texas during a September ceremony in Austin.

"I'm honored to have been nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate," Brown said at the time of his confirmation. "I thoroughly enjoyed being a trial judge and I'm looking forward to doing it again. My family and I are excited to move to Galveston and become part of that remarkable community."

Brown was nominated on March 8 and confirmed by the Senate on July 31. His seat is in Galveston.

He was appointed to the Texas Supreme Court by then-Gov. Rick Perry in September 2013. He previously served as a justice on Houston's 14th Court of Appeals and as judge of the 55th District Court. Prior to becoming a judge, he practiced at Baker Botts LLP in Houston and earlier served as briefing attorney to Justices Jack Hightower and Greg Abbott on the Texas Supreme Court.

Brown is an active supporter of the Law Center, having served over the years as an adjunct professor, frequent speaker, member of the UH Law Alumni Association Board, and participant in the school's jurist-in-residence and lecture program.

OLIVAS AND NELSON WIN AALS AWARDS

Two members of the University of Houston Law Center faculty received accolades for their excellence in legal scholarship at the Association of American Law Schools annual meeting in New Orleans.

The AALS honored Professor Michael A. Olivas, the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law and director of the Institute for Higher Education Law & Governance, with the Triennial Award. The lifetime achievement award recognized Olivas' decades of service to legal education and the legal profession.

Olivas joined the Law Center faculty in 1982 and teaches courses in Business Law & Immigration, Higher Education Law, and Immigration Law and Policy.

Professor James D. Nelson won the AALS' Scholarly Papers Competition for his article, "Corporate Disestablishment." In his paper, Nelson identifies and defends a set of legal principles limiting corporate religious liberty in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*.

Nelson, who joined the Law Center faculty in 2015 as an assistant professor of law, teaches Business Organizations and a seminar titled, "The Modern Corporation and Society." He earned a J.D. and BA from the University of Virginia.

FACULTY RETIRE



(Left to right) Dean Leonard M. Baynes, Professor Richard "Rick" McElvaney, Professor Michael A. Olivas, and Robert Palmer (Not pictured: Professor William Streng)

Four University of Houston Law Center professors retired in 2019 after a combined tenure of nearly 120 years in the classroom teaching the ins and outs of higher education, legal history, immigration, tax and consumer law.

- Professor Michael A. Olivas, the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law and director of the Institute for Higher Education Law & Governance, joined the faculty in 1982. He taught courses in Business Law & Immigration, Higher Education Law, and Immigration Law and Policy. From February 2016 until May 2017, he also served as president of the University of Houston-Downtown on an interim basis.
- Professor William Streng, Vinson & Elkins Professor of Law (Emeritus), joined the faculty in 1985 and taught courses in Federal Income Tax, Corporate Tax, Estate Planning, and International Taxation.
- Clinical Associate Professor Richard "Rick" McElvaney, program director of the Center for Consumer Law and supervisor of the Consumer Law Clinic, joined the faculty in 2007. He taught courses in Consumer Law, Landlord and Tenant, Law Practice Strategies, Poverty Law Practice, and Texas Procedure. He previously practiced as a legal aid attorney for 20 years at Gulf Coast Legal Foundation and Lone Star Legal Aid in the areas of housing, consumer and bankruptcy law.
- Professor Robert C. Palmer joined the faculty in 1987. He was the Cullen Professor of History and Law, a joint appointment at the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences' Department of History. He taught American Legal History, English Legal History, History of the Bill of Rights, Property, Readings in American Legal History, Research in American Legal History, English Legal History, Early European Historiography and Constitutional history of Late Medieval England and France.

FOURTH SEASON OF BRIEFCASE RADIO

Briefcase radio, a partnership between the University of Houston Law Center and Houston Public Media, returned with new broadcast episodes on 88.7FM in September. Episodes air at 7:19 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Since its start in 2016, Briefcase has been informing Houstonians on a variety of historical and contemporary legal issues. Hosted by Dean Leonard M. Baynes, each one-minute segment typically features a Law Center faculty member discussing a topic in their area of expertise. More than 50 law faculty members have participated in the radio program.

"It has been a joy to do Briefcase," Baynes said. "The episodes provide me an opportunity to work with my faculty and to educate the public on the law."

The first episode of the Fall 2019 semester featured adjunct professor D.C. Toedt, who provided an overview of how many online shoppers give up their day in court. Other segments include recent changes in U.S. immigration policy with Associate Professor Daniel Morales, the George A. Butler Research Professor, preventing homelessness with Professor Sandra Guerra Thompson, Newell H. Blakely Chair and director of the Criminal Justice Institute, and an episode tackling the age-old question of whether tomatoes are a fruit or vegetable.

In 2018, UH Law Center won Gold in the Webcast/Podcasts category in the Collegiate Advertising Award competition for the nation's graduate school programs. The episode featured Professor Michael A. Olivas, who discussed entertainers like Aretha Franklin dying without wills. The Briefcase radio program also earned a gold medal at the 2017 Collegiate Advertising Awards competition for its segment titled, "Spotting Fake News." The featured guest, Amanda Watson, director of the O'Quinn Library and an assistant professor, provided tips on how to distinguish between truthful or false information disguised as news.

LEGAL WRITING GROUP HONORS PROFESSOR SIMPSON

University of Houston Law Center Clinical Associate Professor Lauren Simpson was honored with the 2019 Outstanding Service Award from the Association of Legal Writing Directors at its biennial conference in Boston.

Simpson, '94, who teaches Lawyering Skills and Strategies, was nominated for her work as chair of the ALWD By-Laws Committee. Simpson was commended for taking on a detailed overview of the bylaws to ensure consistency with recent substantive amendments, clarity in drafting, and consistency with regulatory requirements.

"We were thrilled to acknowledge Professor Lauren Simpson's contributions and honor her as a 2019 Outstanding Service Award recipient," said Jodi L. Wilson, president of the Association of Legal Writing Directors in a statement. "Professor Simpson took a consistently thoughtful and proactive approach to the work, and her efforts were truly impressive."



Professor Lauren Simpson



Preliminary digital rendering of the University of Houston Law Center provided by Shepley Bulfinch.

DESTINATION 4670

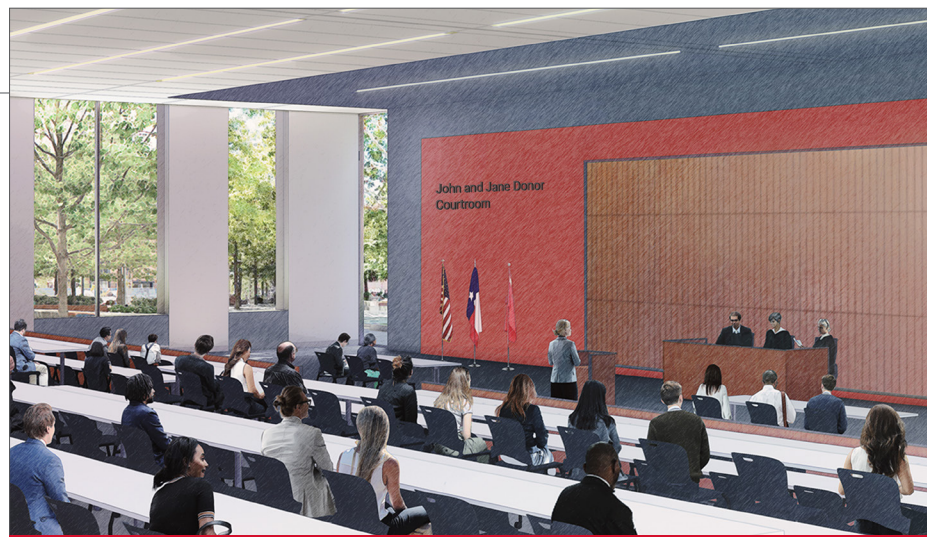
Plans are to break ground Summer 2020 for the John M. O'Quinn Law Building at 4670 Calhoun Road.

A decades-long dream of replacing the 50-year-old Law Center complex with a new facility is now a reality. On August 23, 2019, the University of Houston System Board of Regents approved \$78 million in funding for a new Law Center building. It was announced that the John M. O'Quinn Foundation donated more than \$16 million, a major portion of which supports the construction of the new facility. It is the largest single gift in the Law Center's history. In permanent recognition of the gift, the new facility will be named the John M. O'Quinn Law Building. The late John M. O'Quinn was a UH Law alumnus, an accomplished attorney and philanthropist, and one of the university's most enthusiastic supporters.

The More Than Bricks Campaign has now topped \$90 million toward a new Law Center building. With the campaign approaching its last phase, the Law Center is announcing a \$1 million match to help us reach our goal of \$93 million to ensure the new facility matches the caliber of the Law Center's students, programs and faculty.

Construction for the new building to be located adjacent to the existing facility will begin as early as summer 2020. New renderings by the architectural firm of Shepley Bulfinch show a modern, sleek building that will stand as a testament to the academic excellence, renowned faculty and quality of students within. A large, glass-fronted lobby will serve as a focal point for students and visitors. A multi-level library, and modern technology and facilities throughout will expand teaching capabilities while the bright and airy ambience and other amenities will make the learning experience more pleasurable for students and faculty alike. A multi-purpose event room and flexible classroom spaces will allow greater outreach to the community for clinical services, educational workshops, conferences and judicial proceedings.

"This will be the world class building I have talked about so often," said Dean Leonard M. Baynes who made the new facility a top priority when he became dean more than five years ago. "The Law Center deserves it; the nation's fourth largest city deserves it; and most of all, the faculty, alumni and students deserve it."



Preliminary digital rendering of the court room provided by Shepley Bulfinch.



Preliminary digital rendering of the library provided by Shepley Bulfinch.

The Law Center received substantial support for the new building from UH President and System Chancellor Dr. Renu Khator, who made it her No. 1 priority during the 2019 Texas legislative session. Additional meaningful support came from UH Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Paula Myrick Short, Vice Chancellor of Governmental & Community Relations Jason Smith, and Vice President for University Advancement Eloise Brice. The Law Center also thanks alumni leaders Bill Jackson '92, Jim Grace '92, Victor Wright '98, Cynthia Mabry '10, Richard Whiteley '99, Susan Bickley '84, and Bill Swenson '87, members of the Cornerstone Club as well as the Law Center team of Senior Director of Development Magda Herrera, Executive Director of Law Alumni Relations Hope Young, Associate Dean Greg R. Vetter, Associate Dean of Alumni and Community Relations Sondra Tennessee, and Assistant Dean of Communications and Marketing Carrie Anna Criado '95.

THE LEGACY OF JOHN M. O'QUINN '67



John M. O'Quinn

The late John M. O'Quinn '67 was a renowned trial attorney and philanthropist who left his mark on the Law Center and the City of Houston. In November, his foundation approved a major gift to help the Law Center build a new facility. His generosity is also recognized in the library bearing his name and two endowed chairs – the A.L. O'Quinn Chair in Environmental Studies, named in honor of his father, and the Dwight Olds Chair, named in honor of a UHLC professor.

O'Quinn was also a benefactor of the University of Houston and many charities and institutions, including the Harris County Children's Assessment Center, the Houston Council on Alcohol and Drugs and various Texas Medical Center entities. He was a frequent speaker at the law school, sharing his expertise with the next generation of attorneys.

During his lengthy career, he handled numerous high-profile personal injury cases.

He was raised in West University Place where his father operated a small garage. He attended Rice University as an engineering major before enrolling in the law school and finding his true calling.

"From minute one of day one of class one, I felt like a duck who'd gone to water," he told the Houston Chronicle for a lengthy profile in 1998. "I knew this is where I should be."

\$1 MILLION MATCH ANNOUNCED AS UH LAW CENTER BUILDING CAMPAIGN ENTERS FINAL PHASE

With the support of generous alumni donors, the University of Houston Law Center has launched a \$1 million challenge match to support the new John M. O'Quinn Law Building. The funds will provide a dollar for dollar match for new gifts or pledges to the building campaign until the goal is reached.

With the campaign approaching its last phase, the Law Center is seeking \$1 million to ensure the new facility that matches the caliber of the Law Center's students, programs and faculty.

"This gift serves as a capstone for our building campaign," Dean Leonard M. Baynes said. "The donors hope this challenge match will take us across the finish line by inspiring alumni to reflect on the impact the Law Center has had in their lives and invest in its bright future."

The More Than Bricks Campaign has currently topped \$90 million toward a new Law Center building.

The additional funds raised will make a difference for the long-term planning of the school, including enhancements to the student experience, ensuring space for programmatic growth and establishing a technology fund to implement and maintain technology for the future. A greenspace and event spaces will also be supported with the additional resources.



JOB EXIT RESTRICTIONS HINDER EQUALITY, FRANKEL LECTURE SPEAKER SAYS

An employment and labor law expert outlined how non-disclosure agreements, non-compete clauses and similar measures hurt equality and innovation in the workplace at the Houston Law Review's 24th Annual Frankel Lecture in November.

Orly Lobel, Warren Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of San Diego School of Law, served as the lecture's keynote speaker in her presentation, "Exit, Voice & Innovation: How Human Capital Law Impacts Equality (& How Inequality Hurts Growth)."

"If an employee believes her organization is failing, she can take action using one of two strategies: exit -leaving the company - or voice -striving to bring change from within," Lobel said. "In employment, non-disclosure agreements, non-compete agreements, innovation

assignment clauses, non-disparagement agreements, mandatory arbitration and secrecy policies all create exit constraints.

"They also silence employees, inventors, creators and entrepreneurs from speaking up and from expressing themselves creatively."

Commentators included Lisa Larrimore Ouellette, Associate Professor of Law and Justin M. Roach, Jr. Faculty Scholar at Stanford Law School, and Todd Rakoff,



Orly Lobel of the University of San Diego School of Law served as the keynote speaker of the 24th Annual Frankel Lecture.

Byrne Professor of Administrative Law at Harvard Law School.

Rakoff agreed with Lobel's claim that restrictive agreements harmed employee liberty, but argued that this fell short of actionable discrimination.

"Professor Lobel and I agree on what should be done, but maybe we vary on why it should be done," Rakoff said. "There is certainly a claim that covenants not to compete work out to have unequal results. But is it a claim of discrimination?"

In her commentary, Ouellette said that some companies that use non-disclosure agreements can be resistant to accountability and a change in culture, and can potentially create a hostile work atmosphere.

"Many of the claims that have emerged through the #MeToo Movement have been hidden by NDA protected settlement agreements and mandatory arbitration," Ouellette said. "Lack of transparency about these claims may have allowed harassers to continue in their employment and contributed to hostile work environments in which women did not feel welcome or comfortable and making them less likely to join or remain at these firms."

JUVENILE & CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY PROJECT LAUNCHES ONLINE RESOURCE ENCOURAGING STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND SCHOOL SAFETY

Along with several partner organizations, the University of Houston Law Center's Juvenile & Children's Advocacy Project introduced an online School Discipline Kit in November.

The purpose of the School Safety and Policing Toolkit is to equip students, caregivers, educators, policy makers, and advocates with tools to understand the impacts of the policies and systems that result in students being policed and criminalized in their schools. The toolkit includes information on what makes a school safe, police in schools,



Juvenile and Children's Advocacy Project of Texas

protecting students' rights, students with disabilities and answers to a variety of questions parents or caregivers may have if their child is facing discipline in the educational system.

"This toolkit will help parents and students in navigating the complexities of school disciplinary proceedings," said Christina Beeler, a JCAP staff attorney and Equal Justice Works Fellow.

"Sixty percent of Texas students will experience some form of exclusionary discipline by the time they graduate from high school, so it's very important for families to have access to this information and to know that students have rights."

The toolkit was created as a partnership with Texas Appleseed, Disability Rights Texas and the Earl Carl Institute. Pro bono support came from Latham & Watkins LLP. It can be accessed at <http://makemyschoolsafe.org/>.



Annette Gordon-Reed spoke in observance of Black History Month and as part of the 2019 Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series.

CONFEDERATE SYMBOLS IN PUBLIC SPACES 'PROBLEMATIC,' BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPEAKER SAYS

Confederate monuments send inappropriate and hurtful messages about a dark period of the nation's past and have no place in the public square, according to a Harvard Law School professor and Pulitzer Prize winning historian who spoke at the University of Houston Law Center.

Annette Gordon-Reed's presentation, "Confederate Iconography and Its Relationship to Implicit and Explicit Bias," was in observance of Black History Month and part of the 2019 Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series.

"These monuments exist in a problematic space," Gordon-Reed said. "Not only do they make African-Americans uncomfortable, not only do they send a message about slavery, they send a message about the union in a way. That is why I think many people have turned against them."

Gordon-Reed said that examining the context of the times is essential when discussing Confederate monuments. When organizations such as the Niagara Movement, which eventually became the NAACP, were agitating for change, a common response in southern states was the building of statues honoring Confederate figures.

"The monuments were not so much about honoring the Confederate dead, but were about sending an explicit and implicit message of white supremacy," she said. "It is about history, but it's much more about the history of that time — the time the monuments went up."

Gordon-Reed said such iconography would perhaps be more appropriate at cemeteries or battlefields, but their existence in public spaces like courthouses and public squares represent a hurtful past.

"Confederate monuments in public and community spaces should not exist," Gordon-Reed said. "It's worshipping an entity that went against the United States of America and the ideal of America. It's a visceral subject for a lot of people, but it's a conversation we have to have."

Gordon-Reed, the Charles Warren Professor of American Legal History at Harvard Law School and professor of history at Harvard University, won the Pulitzer Prize in history in 2009 for "The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family," a subject she had previously written about in "Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy." She is also the author of "Andrew Johnson," and most recently published, with Peter S. Onuf, "Most Blessed of the Patriarchs: Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination."

BAYNES RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL AND STATEWIDE LEADER IN LEGAL EDUCATION FOR DIVERSITY

For his efforts to diversify law school applicants and make the legal profession more inclusive, Dean Leonard M. Baynes was the recipient of three awards from nationally-recognized organizations.

Baynes was named a Diversity Champion by the National Diversity Council in October. The non-profit organization advocates for inclusive workforces through consulting, education, programs and training.

"I am delighted to be recognized with this award," Baynes said. "My achievements are shared with the efforts of the Law Center's fabulous faculty, alumni, staff and students. Together we make the Law Center a place of extraordinary diversity and inclusion."

In November, Baynes was given a CLEO Edge award from the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. Baynes was among a small group of outstanding leaders recognized in the areas of education, diversity and greater equality.

"CLEO is one of the premier organization ensuring that there is a steady pipeline of students from underrepresented backgrounds into the legal profession," Baynes said. "Making sure that we pave the way forward for those who follow us is very important to me."



Dean Leonard M. Baynes

"The recipients of this year's CLEO Edge awards are dynamic examples of diversity and inclusion," added Cassandra Sneed Ogden, Chief

Executive Officer of CLEO.

"These characteristics are important to CLEO, the legal profession and our nation. We believe that these nine leaders appreciate and value diversity in all its forms."

Lastly, Baynes received the John Mercer Langston Legal Education Leadership Award during the 15th Annual National Black Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair 2019 in November held at Columbia Law School.

The purpose of the National Black Pre-Law Conference is to provide resources and Law Fair is to, provide a high-quality, comprehensive national event designed specifically for

aspiring black lawyers, and to provide them with access to empowering information, resources, and contacts that will assist them.

On a local level, Baynes was acknowledged for contributions to the local bar and legal education at the Spouses of Houston Barristers 2019 Scholarship Gala on Nov. 9, and The Texas Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education commended the Law Center with a Diversity and Inclusion Excellence and Achievement plaque on Nov. 14 in Austin.

ASSOCIATE DEAN TENNESSEE PRAISED FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENT SERVICE

Sondra Tennessee, associate dean of Alumni and Community Relations, has been unanimously selected as the recipient of the Association of American Law Schools' Peter N. Kutulakis Student Services Award.

The accolade is awarded by the AALS Student Services Committee to recognize administrators and law teachers for excellence in service to students.

Tennessee has worked at the Law Center for more than 20 years, previously serving as an Assistant Dean of Admissions and the Associate Dean of Student Affairs. Throughout her career, she has been a leader in the Law School Admission Council, a member of the American Bar Association Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, past-chair of the AALS Section on Part-Time Programs, and has served on other boards and committees.



Associate Dean Sondra Tennessee

ROCK BAND MUSICIAN DISCUSSES GROUPS SCOTUS VICTORY

A musician whose band's trademark case was taken to the U.S. Supreme Court shared details from his seven-year legal journey in a question-and-answer session with University of Houston Law Center Professor Michael A. Olivas.

The discussion, hosted by the Intellectual Property Student Organization and the Houston Law Review, featured Simon Tam, founding member and bassist of the Asian-American dance-rock group "The Slants."

Tam tried to trademark the band's name in 2013, but the application was rejected for being offensive or disparaging, according to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

"I had the idea of starting an all-Asian-American band that would



Professor Michael A. Olivas, left, and recording artist Simon Tam, right, in the Hendricks Heritage Room at the University of Houston Law Center.

proudly showcase our culture and provide representation in an industry that has very little representation for Asian-Americans," he said. "I thought why not talk about our perspective, our slant on life of what it's like to be people of color while injecting the term with a sense of pride instead."

The USPTO's decision was overturned in December 2015 by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and brought to the Supreme Court which ruled in the band's favor on June 19, 2017 in a unanimous 8-0 decision in *Matal v. Tam*.

"Simon Tam is a most extraordinary young man — a bass player who can thrash with the best of them, and a very savvy band leader who understands the business side of entertainment," said Olivas, the William

B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law and director of the Institute of Higher Education Law & Governance.

"Many Asian-Americans, including law professors, urged him not to bring the case or trademark the hateful name. But he displayed a very nuanced and deep appreciation of free speech, and put all his efforts into this admirable fight, and he won."

CARBON RESEARCH CENTER NAMES HESTER CO-DIRECTOR

University of Houston Law Center Lecturer Tracy Hester was chosen to co-direct the Center for Carbon Management in Energy, an initiative of UH Energy. Charles McConnell, a former energy executive and assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Energy, will serve as the interim executive director.

The center's goal is to bring a holistic approach to a low carbon future by driving research in strategies aimed at lessening carbon emissions and greenhouse gases in the energy industry. The CCME also will create policy and law proposals to help implement the findings of their research.

"Given the University of Houston's unique position as the leading energy university in the world's energy capital, we hope that the center will take advantage of the enormous talent, resources, and interest that Houston provides," Hester said.

"To meet the enormous challenges of combating climate change, the energy industry will have to navigate demands to reduce its carbon emissions while satisfying the growing need for energy in a fast-changing world."

Hester said that to manage carbon effectively in the energy industry, experts must examine all dimensions of its production — otherwise, a solution for one segment may only increase the challenges in another.

"Any truly powerful answer will need an effective combination of innovative basic research, technological development, creative business, finance, and policy designs, and supportive legal strategies," Hester said.

Hester teaches Environmental Law, Statutory Interpretation and Regulatory Practice, Climate Change Law, Practice of Environmental Law, Emerging Technologies and Environmental Law and Environmental Enforcement at the Law Center.



Professor Tracy Hester

UH LAW CENTER CELEBRATES DEAN BAYNES' FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE WITH PORTRAIT UNVEILING

University of Houston Law Center alumni, faculty, staff, friends and families filled the Albertus and Hendricks Heritage rooms in December for the annual Holiday Coffee event.

The celebration marked the five-year anniversary of Leonard M. Baynes' deanship, and his dean's portrait, painted by artist Jon R. Friedman, was formally presented.

"It has been a great pleasure to serve the Law Center for five years," Baynes said. "This portrait is important for many reasons. I am the first person of visible African-American descent to be put on the wall. It's already a diverse wall, with a woman and a person of Hispanic heritage. Now it is even more diverse. It is important for faculty, staff, students,



University of Houston Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes commemorated his five years with the school as his official portrait was displayed for the first time.

and alumni to look up to this wall and see themselves represented. They will know that they too can do anything!"

Jarvis Hollingsworth '93, a former Chair of the University of Houston System Board of Regents, and general counsel at Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, presented Baynes' portrait.

"While I was Chair of the Board, I remember spending a few hours with Dean Baynes when he was interviewing, and I knew he was the right person to lead the Law Center," said Hollingsworth. He noted that under Baynes administration, the median LSAT and GPA of the Law Center's entering class have been higher than it has ever been while also being its most diverse.

The 2019 Holiday Coffee was generously underwritten by Richard Craig Smith LL.M. '00, a partner at Quinn Emanuel & Sullivan, LLP.

IP LAW SCHOLARS EXCHANGE IDEAS DURING NATIONAL WORKSHOP AT UH LAW CENTER

More than 70 intellectual property law professors from across the world shared their latest scholarship at the 2019 Works-in-Progress Intellectual Property Colloquium (WIPIP), hosted by the University of Houston Law Center's Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law in March.

Presentations included a variety of topics including patents, trademarks, copyright and more. The two-day event offered an opportunity for intellectual property law scholars to present their works-in-progress and receive early and in-person feedback from their colleagues.

The event was organized by Law Center IPIL faculty members Dave Fagundes, Paul Janicke, Craig Joyce, Sapna Kumar, Andrew Michaels and Associate Dean Greg R. Vetter. Hosted at a different law school each year, 2019 is the second time the Law Center has hosted WIPIP.

"We are grateful to have hosted WIPIP in 2019 and in 2012," Vetter said. "We love to show the community of IP scholars the wonderful aspects of Houston and our Texas hospitality while promoting the advancement of thinking about IP."

RACISM HARMS HEALTH, UVA SCHOOL OF LAW EXPERT SAYS AT UH LAW CENTER TALK

A University of Virginia School of Law professor drew a direct parallel between racial injustice and chronic health issues during a lecture in April at the University of Houston Law Center.

Professor Dayna Bowen Matthew spoke on the topic "Preventive Lawyering: Empirical Evidence That Medical Legal Partnerships Improve Lives," as part of the Health Law & Policy Institute's 2018-19 Speaker Series.

"One of the things that we care most about is the intersection between health and justice, between health and human rights," Matthew said. "Martin Luther King was famously quoted for saying, 'Of all the forms of inequality, health inequality is among the most inhumane.'"

Matthew elaborated that the reason why health is integral to justice and human rights is because it enables people to participate as a member of society.

"People who are victims of racial discrimination, or perceive that they are, have a different allostatic load," she said of health effects caused by chronic stress. "Their immune system is compromised," she said.

Matthew proposed that although health outcomes may rely significantly on race, they depend on five social determinants as well: housing, food, school, criminal justice and environment.

"Social determinants of health actually matter much more than, let's say, clinical, even biological influences on health outcomes," she said.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR KNAKE EXPLORES LEGAL SERVICES IN AUSTRALIA

Professor Renee Knake is back in the classroom at the University of Houston Law Center with new perspectives on the law after spending six months in Australia researching its legal system and lecturing as a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar.

Knake, the Law Center's Joanne and Larry Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics and director of Outcomes and Assessments, was awarded the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. In the Fulbright Scholar Program, Distinguished Chair Awards are considered the most esteemed designations.

From January through July, Knake researched Australian transformations in the availability of justice and legal ethics as part



Professor Renee Knake and her children, James and Grace, visit an animal sanctuary in Victoria, Australia.

of an ongoing project, "Law Democratized: A Blueprint for Access to Justice."

"Australia has been a wonderful laboratory for exploring innovations in the delivery of legal services," Knake said. "There is a vibrant community of entrepreneurs, practitioners, scholars and students working to improve access to law for individuals and organizations."

Now back at the Law Center, Knake is introducing new views and considerations into her classes.

"A fresh perspective on legal ethics, innovations in the delivery of

legal services, and issues surrounding gender disparity in positions of leadership and power in the legal profession," will inform her research and teaching going forward, she said.

STAFF HIRES AND PROMOTIONS FOCUS ON ALUMNI, COMMUNITY, GLOBAL OUTREACH

University of Houston Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes announced several upper level staff changes and promotions to better serve alumni and the community and expand the school's graduate and global programs.

New positions and assignments are:

- Sondra Tennessee, named Associate Dean of Alumni and Community Relations
- Karen Jones, Executive Director of Global and Graduate Programs
- Hope Young, Executive Director for Law Alumni Relations
- Stephanie Johnson, Director of Development

"I have had the pleasure of working with prospective applicants and current students for more than 20 years at UHLC," said Tennessee. "This will give me the opportunity to connect with the many alumni that I assisted when they were students."

Jones came to the Law Center from Rice University where she was part of the sport management faculty as head of the sport law concentration. She teaches Negotiation in Sports as an adjunct professor at the Law Center.



Sondra Tennessee

Karen Jones

"My new role is to provide strategic vision, guidance and direction to the operation of all global and graduate programs at the Law Center," she said. "A key focus will be on advancing our LL.M. program offerings to an online format allowing greater opportunities for students in the U.S. and internationally to obtain an LL.M. from UHLC."

Young has been involved with the Houston legal community for almost 20 years through her work in recruiting, professional development, and institutional advancement for various law firms and organizations.

With her promotion from associate director to director of development, Johnson will handle major gifts from alumni and friends of the Law Center in support of scholarships, the building campaign, and other top funding initiatives.



Hope Young

Stephanie Johnson

EMBRACE VERSATILITY, EXXON MOBIL GENERAL COUNSEL ADVISES

Randall M. Ebner, general counsel of Exxon Mobil Corp., encouraged students to be flexible and open to change while providing a roadmap to success. Ebner served as the inaugural speaker of the 2019 Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series.

"There is no one direct pathway in any career," Ebner said. "It's always important to be flexible. No matter what you do, have a passion. Don't think of being a lawyer as a job, but as your profession."

When asked what inspired him to become an attorney, Ebner referenced his time as a member of his high school debate team. "I always liked politics and to debate," Ebner said. "I always loved the whole process of standing up on my feet speaking to people and being an advocate."

Ebner also talked to students about ExxonMobil's commitment to diversity, and how the corporation is working to meet growing energy demand, while also addressing the risks of climate change. He also gave advice to pre-law students, including some enrolled in the Law Center's Pre-Law Pipeline Program.

Ebner joined the ExxonMobil law department after graduating from Tulane Law School in 1980. He became general counsel in 2016 after holding numerous positions in the law department.



Randall M. Ebner, Vice President and General Counsel of Exxon Mobil Corp.

THREE UH LAW CENTER PROGRAMS MAINTAIN TOP 10 STANDING IN U.S. NEWS RANKINGS; HIGH MARKS IN OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The University of Houston Law Center saw three of its specialty programs retain their longstanding Top 10 rankings in the U.S. News & World Report 2019 survey of the country's law schools.

The Law Center's Health Law program tied for 6th, Intellectual Property and Information Law, 7th, and the Part-time program, 9th.

Other rankings included the Law Center's Trial Advocacy program, 15th, Environmental Law, 21st, Tax Law, 37th, and Dispute Resolution, 44th. Overall, the Law Center ranked 59th among the nation's 199 law schools accredited by the American Bar Association.

The Law Center also received high marks from three other publications. preLaw magazine cited the school 14 times over the past year, more awards than any other law school. The national publication, which serves as a guide to undergraduates considering a career in the law, recognized the Law Center in a wide range of categories from "Best" in Criminal Law, Health Law and Practical Training to "Most Diverse" and "Best Value."

The Law Center placed 29th on Law.com's 2019 "Go-To" law school list, a jump of 14 spots from its ranking of 43 in 2018. Law.com reported that 16.37 percent of the Law Center's 2018 graduating class secured associate jobs in "Big Law" — the top 100 law firms that are considered to be among the largest and most prestigious in the country.

Corporate Counsel magazine ranked the Law Center's LL.M. Tax program 3rd in the nation.

"While rankings are important and serve as a useful scorecard, they are just part of what goes into defining the educational quality and reputation of a law school," said Dean Leonard M. Baynes. "We are an excellent law school with an outstanding faculty, high caliber students, and thousands of successful alumni."

UH LAW CENTER 3L JOHN FIELDS SERVING ON UH BOARD OF REGENTS

In addition to his responsibilities as a 3L at the University of Houston Law Center, John Fields will also be working as a student regent.

Fields was selected to the University of Houston System Board of Regents by Gov. Greg Abbott on May 23 and started his position in June. During his one-year term, Fields said he is eager to achieve a better understanding of UH System students and to represent their thoughts and feelings earnestly to the board.

"I was interested in bringing my experiences as a former UH undergraduate student and a current graduate student together in order to have the opportunity to serve students across the University of Houston System," Fields said.

"My main goal is to learn the perspectives of students across the four universities within the system and bring those perspectives to the Board of Regents. The UH System has a vast array of students from all walks of life and I want to advocate well on behalf of those students."



John Fields, a 3L at the UH Law Center, serves as student regent.

UH LAW CENTER ALUM MCKAMIE '86 APPOINTED TO PORT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Capt. Reginald E. McKamie, a 1986 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, was recently confirmed as a member of the Board of Pilot Commissioners for Harris County Ports by Mayor Sylvester Turner and the Houston City Council.

"I am humbled and honored to be given the privilege to serve our region as a Pilot Board Commissioner," McKamie said. "I was a merchant marine ship's officer when I came to Houston to attend the University of Houston Law Center with the simple dream of becoming a lawyer.

"I must admit as a young law student I really did not truly appreciate the vast opportunities the Law Center provides its graduates. I now realize the University of Houston Law Center provides great opportunities to its graduates because of its great faculty and staff and because of it being situated in such a dynamic city."

The pilot board has exclusive jurisdiction over the piloting of vessels in Harris County Ports, including intermediate stops and landing places for vessels on navigable streams wholly or partially located in the board's jurisdiction.

Harris County Ports include the 52-mile long Houston Ship Channel, the largest port on the Gulf coast. The economic value to the Gulf coast region is valued at \$118 Billion. More than 212 million tons of cargo move through the ship channel annually.

"The Ship Channel is one of the main drivers that make our dynamic city and our area such an economic force for our region," McKamie said. "This appointment will allow me to use the maritime skills I learned at the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy and legal skills learned at the Law Center to give back to the city and region that has allowed me to live my dream of being both a lawyer and a mariner."

Since 1989, McKamie has owned the Law Office of Reginald E. McKamie, Sr. P.C. in Houston. His primary areas of practice are maritime law and cases that involve collisions and personal injury. He said his favorite part of being an attorney is trial work.

"It's a challenge to see whether I can advocate my client's position," McKamie said. "Whether it's a maritime case, commercial case or criminal case. Trying to get the story across about what happened and my client's perspective on it."

Prior to attending law school and earning an MBA from the University of Southern California, McKamie completed his

undergraduate education at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1975. He returned to sea after earning his J.D. as captain of the S/S Exxon North Slope, S/S/ Exxon Philadelphia and the S/S Exxon Bencia. The ships he commanded carried more than 1 million barrels of oil from Alaska to the lower 48 states and Panama. The ships were more than 900 feet long, 135 feet wide, and when fully loaded sat 58 feet deep in the water. McKamie also served in the U. S. Navy as a commanding officer of active duty and reserve units and retired as a captain from the U. S. Navy.



Capt. Reginald E. McKamie '86

KENYAN SENATORS LEARN ABOUT ENERGY PRACTICES IN TEXAS DURING UH LAW CENTER VISIT

A delegation representing the Senate Standing Committee on Energy from the Republic of Kenya met with several individuals at the University of Houston Law Center last week to examine energy utilization, access, development and conservation in Texas.

The committee was greeted by Karen Jones, Executive Director of Global and Graduate Programs in the Albertus Room.

"It is always great to welcome delegates from other countries to the UH Law Center," Jones said. "We were particularly excited about hosting the Kenyan delegation knowing that they sought knowledge and expertise from our Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Law Center. Kenya is relatively new in the oil and gas production arena.

"It is important that they gain an understanding of strategy, compliance,

regulations and best practices that will successfully support oil and gas production in Kenya. The UH Law Center has the expertise that they need. It was a great visit and we hope the beginning of a continuing relationship."

The officials had discussions regarding the energy industry. Research Assistant Professor Julian Cardenas Garcia and Law Foundation Professor of Law Bret Wells, and UH visiting faculty Thomas Mitro also gave them an overview of the Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center at the Law Center..

The group's visit concluded with a tour of the Law Center.

UH LAW CENTER 1LS SPEAK WITH BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES AT CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE'S MEET THE OCI EMPLOYERS TABLE TALK EVENT



University of Houston Law Center students filled the Commons for the Career Development Office's networking event.

First-year University of Houston Law Center students networked with well-known companies, law firms and state agencies during the "Meet the OCI Employers" gathering in December.

Attending organizations have all recruited UH Law Center students during the On-Campus Interview Program (OCI) hosted by the Career Development Office. The 1L students discussed opportunities for summer clerkship positions with 38 different employers.

"Now that the final exam period is officially complete, the Meet the OCI Employers table talk, allows 1L students to turn their attention to recruiting efforts for the spring semester," said Kourtney James, director of Employer Relations and Development. "Meeting with prospective employers at the table talk allows 1L students to learn more about the organizations and develop an outreach plan for the spring recruiting season."

"Both employers and students have shared extremely positive feedback that this event provides a wonderful way to introduce our 1L class to the legal community in a warm and welcoming environment," added

Assistant Dean for Career Development Tiffany J. Tucker. "The event helps our students learn more about the individual practice areas, attorneys, and "personalities" of the employers."

Meeting these employers will help students navigate the Career Development Office's upcoming spring recruiting events.

"Events like this really help our students get a leg up in the job market," said Dean Leonard M. Baynes. "Many of our big firm alumni have asked me how they can gain access to our students earlier in the job search process."

"Holding this event for first year students is pure genius. It is strategically placed right after the end of final exams and before first semester grades come out. The students end up being their authentic selves and the employers are able to engage with a wide variety of students who they otherwise might not meet but for grade requirements. I am confident that it opens more doors for UHLC students at the big Houston law firms."

LAWYERS AIM FOR THE MOON AND RAISE NEARLY \$600,000

With a theme of “Fly Me to the Moon,” the University of Houston Law Center’s 43rd Annual Law Gala & Auction was out of this world, beginning with a countdown to a spectacular rocket launch video and ending with a Frank Sinatra impersonator. About \$579,000 was raised along the way for scholarships and other programs.

“The gala was a terrific night!” said Dean Leonard M. Baynes. “It was a rare opportunity for the UHLC community — alumni, faculty, staff and friends to come together and celebrate the Law Center’s success. It also is an important fundraiser to support the activities of the Law Center to keep it a top tier law school. Many thanks go to the gala chairs, Bob Sergesketter and Denise Castillo-Rhodes, who did an outstanding job in envisioning the theme and securing donations. Also many thanks go to Hope Young and her team for flawless execution.”

More than 600 alumni, faculty, judges, lawyers, and friends of the Law Center filled the ballroom at the Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston. A “Lunar Bar” welcomed guests and set the stage for the night’s motif of moon and stars with “craters” on the floor to commemorate the 50th anniversary of man’s landing on the moon; an ice sculpture rendering of the proposed new Law Center building added a more earthbound touch to the décor.

After a luxury “wine pull” and dinner, guests with paddles in hand were ready for the live auction with items ranging from a bourbon tasting dinner for 10 with U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas Judge Jeff Brown ’95 to weeklong vacation getaways to Colorado and Montana. The finale, and highlight of the auction, was a Golden Retriever puppy named Olivia Benson (“Law & Order”), who won the hearts of the crowd and fetched more than \$12,000 for the Law Center.

Guests ended the evening with music and dancing at an after-Gala party in a lounge setting that might have featured Sinatra himself in his heyday.

“With attendance and revenue numbers the highest in over a decade, the 2019 Law Gala was a huge success, and the energy level was through the roof,” said Sergesketter ’95.

“Being asked to serve as gala chairs at a time when the law school is on the cusp of breaking ground for a new law building was a tremendous honor.

“We had a vision of where we wanted to take this gala, and we saw it come together. But none of this would have been possible without the generosity and hard work of our past gala chairs, the host committee, the law firms that sponsored the event, the alumni who donated and bid on the terrific auction prizes, and the full-time UH team who made it all happen. We hope people will remember this year’s gala for years to come; Denise and I certainly will.”

In a celebration of life and legacy before the auction and musical entertainment, Justice Brown, who was recently nominated for a federal judgeship, introduced a video tribute and announced a new scholarship fund in the name of Stephen Zamora, a former Law Center dean and longtime professor who passed away in July 2016.

Prior to the start of the gala, UH Law Alumni Association Award recipients were honored with a reception. Honorees introduced by Baynes, Association President Cynthia Mabry ’10 and board members are: Tom M. Kirkendall ’79, Alumnus of the Year; Gordon J. Quan, Honorary Alumnus Award; Greg. R. Vetter, Faculty Distinction Award; James M. Roach ’82, Law Fund Volunteer Award; Thomas F.A. Hetherington ’98, Law Gala & Auction Award; Raj Sharma ’03, Corporate Sector Achievement Award; Alison L. Chen ’03, Private Practice Achievement Award; Sen. Royce West ’79, Public/Non-Profit Sector Achievement Award; Clayton Forswall ’11, Rising Star Award; Mia Breaux Lorick ’14, Rising Star Award; Yvonne Ho ’06, Diversity and Inclusion Award; Ernie Aliseda ’91, Pro Bono/Community Service & Leadership Award; King Family Foundation, Dean’s Award; and Susan L. Bickley ’84, President’s Award.



Fly Me to the Moon

43RD ANNUAL LAW GALA & AUCTION

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING

PHOTO GALLERY

43rd Law Gala & Auction



PHOTO GALLERY

ANNUAL HOLIDAY COFFEE





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 Rachel Wardzinski, Associate Director of Development, at rlwardzi@Central.UH.EDU or 713-743-4546.

BRIEF MENTIONS

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | LAW CENTER

DIVERSITY OF POSSIBILITIES FOR A LL.M. DEGREE

- Health Law and Intellectual Property & Information Law programs ranked in the TOP TEN according to U.S. News & World Report
- Energy Law and Health Law programs ranked in the TOP TEN on LLMGUIDE.com
- Tax Law program is ranked #3 as determined by Corporate Counsel's "Best of 2019"

EARN YOUR MASTER OF LAW DEGREE IN ONE OF UH LAW CENTER'S SIX SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

- U.S. Law
- Tax Law
- Health Law
- International Law
- Energy, Environment and Natural Resources
- Intellectual Property & Information Law

For more information, contact llm@uh.edu or visit law.uh.edu/llm

ALUMNI-STUDENT CONNECTIONS

Law Center students are always thrilled to connect with our illustrious alumni! The Career Development Office (CDO) 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 volunteer opportunities, contact the CDO at lawcareer@uh.edu.

HIRE HOUSTON FIRST

The Law Center encourages all alumni to strongly consider Law Center students, recent graduates, and alumni first for your hiring needs. We are confident that once you witness first-hand the exceptional talent continuously generated by your alma mater, you will be proud to recruit Law Center candidates for your internship and post-graduate positions. The CDO assists employers in their recruitment efforts by providing a hassle-free experience to gain direct access to talented candidates, through initiatives such as the Recent Graduate Resume Book, Job Bank (for year-round job postings), On-Campus Interviews, Small & Midsize Firm Open House, Alternative Legal Career Table Talk, Government and Public Interest Table Talk, Apprentice Program, and the upcoming In-House Internship & Graduate Program. The message is simple: **Contact the CDO FIRST at lawcareer@uh.edu for all of your hiring needs to recruit the top talent that Houston has to offer!**

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 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 for more information.

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



SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020
SAVE THE DATE

The Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston
1600 West Loop South

Benefitting the University of Houston Law Center
Yvonne Ho '06 & Allen Rice, Gala Chairs

Black Tie & Mask
Mask Yourself and Wear It Well So No One Can Tell

713.743.2201 • lawgala@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 make a recurring gift, or if you have any questions about the Law Fund, please contact:

Stephanie Johnson, Director of Development, 713.743.3839 or sejohns9@central.uh.edu.

To give safely and securely online, visit law.uh.edu/giving.

2020 EVENTS

Feb 3: Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Lectureship Jurist in Residence Lecture

Featuring **Judge Jeffrey Sutton**,
United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

Feb. 6: Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Oral Arguments

Feb. 13: Black History Month Presentation

Featuring **Devon Carbado**,
The Honorable Harry Pregerson Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law,
Former Associate Vice Chancellor of BruinX for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

March 3: Yale L. Rosenberg Memorial Lecture

Featuring **Nelson Tebbe**, Professor of Law Cornell Law School

For more information or to see additional events, please visit
law.uh.edu/alumni or contact the Office of Law Alumni Relations at
lawalumni@uh.edu or 713.743.2201.

UH Law Building Constructions Begins 2020

Support of alumni, friends, the Texas Legislature and the University of Houston System have helped us top \$90 million for the new facility.

Be a part of this campaign and help us make a final push for a world-class building.

Join our Capstone Campaign at law.uh.edu/building.

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STAY CONNECTED

We are committed to keeping alumni and friends engaged and informed. Update your contact information at <https://uh.edu/giving/update-info/>



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Submit your nominations today for the 2019 Law Alumni Association Awards

All nominations are due no later than January 24, 2020.

The awards will be presented at the 44th Annual Law Auction and Gala on March 28, 2020 at the Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston and will include the following:

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
RISING STAR AWARD
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD
CORPORATE SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
PRIVATE PRACTICE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
PUBLIC/NON-PROFIT SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD
FACULTY DISTINCTION AWARD
LAW GALA & AUCTION AWARD
LAW FUND VOLUNTEER AWARD
PRO BONO/COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP AWARD

For more information on each award and nomination form, visit <http://www.law.uh.edu/alumni/awards/nominations.asp>

Questions?

Please contact Hope M. Young in the Office of Law Alumni Relations at hyoung@central.uh.edu or call 713-743-5099.

CLE PROGRAMS FOR UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER ALUMNI

Are you looking for a convenient way
to meet your CLE requirements?

University of Houston Law Center
alumni can take advantage of our CLE
Programs.

For more information on upcoming
programs, visit www.law.uh.edu/CLE
or
Contact Tanisha Green at
lawalumni@uh.edu.