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DEAN'S NOTE

The University of Houston Law Center continues to grow in stature with successful new programs at home and abroad. In the past year, we have launched academic and research initiatives with our neighbors to the north and south and started an energy scholars program that will bring up-and-coming educators, lawyers, and energy-related professionals here to teach and conduct research. Our faculty members are in demand to lecture at conferences, teach, and advise law schools around the world and many of our graduates find their place in careers overseas. Our image is enhanced globally as foreign-trained attorneys return home with their LL.M. and praise for the professors and fellow students at the Law Center. I am proud of this international outreach and firmly believe it pays dividends in several ways: it lends stature to the school and makes it better overall; it enhances the value of a University of Houston Law Center degree; and it helps graduates in getting jobs and building a career. The influence of our alumni in Houston and internationally attest to that success.

Our achievements at the Law Center are hardly limited to international law, however. This edition of Briefcase spotlights research being done by just a few of our faculty members as well as success stories of our alums. It also highlights activities at the school -- lectures by newsmakers and legal experts, symposia, and some events just for fun.

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

Dean Raymond T. Nimmer,

Dean and Leonard H. Childs Professor of Law

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State Bar Creates “Richard Alderman” Award

The Consumer and Commercial Law Section of the State Bar of Texas has established the “Richard Alderman Award,” named in honor of University of Houston Law Center Associate Dean **Richard Alderman**. Known as the “People’s Lawyer,” Alderman serves as director of the Center for Consumer Law and holds the Dwight Olds Chair in Law. “The council took this action in recognition of Richard Alderman’s three decades of service to the section, and his unwavering commitment to consumer education, and continuing legal education in Texas,” said **Chad Baruch**, chair of the Consumer and Commercial Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. “We felt there was no better way to honor him than with a continuing award related to consumer education.” The award will be presented annually and will be given to the speaker who receives the highest rating from attendees at the Advanced Consumer & Commercial Law course. It will also be part of the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting awards, which are published in the Texas Bar Journal.



Evans Speaks at Genomic Medicine Symposium

University of Houston Law Center Professor **Barbara Evans** joined a panel of distinguished scientists and biotechnology industry leaders to discuss the future of genomic medicine at the Chemical Heritage Foundation’s annual T. T. Chao Symposium held in October. The symposium topic, “From Base Pairs to Bedside: What Happens When Genomics-Based Therapies Enter Our Clinics,” examined personalized medicine, from its promise for future health care to its social ramifications and the ethical questions it raises. Evans, the co-director of the Health Law and Policy Institute at the Law Center, discussed ownership of medical and genetic information and biospecimens, the tension between privacy and data access, and legal barriers to the commercialization of genomics-based therapies. Additional speakers included **James D. Watson**, who shared the Nobel Prize in 1962 for proposing the double helical structure for DNA, and **Hans Sauer**, deputy general counsel for intellectual property, Biotechnology Industry Organization.

Janicke Honored at IPIL/Houston Conference

University of Houston Law Center Professor **Paul M. Janicke** was honored recently for his 20 years of service to IPIL/Houston, the school’s Intellectual Property and Information Law program, which hosted its 28th annual conference in Galveston. Each year’s Institute on Intellectual Property Law is planned and led by Janicke, HIPLA Professor of Law, and an annually elected chair from the Houston IP community. The conference regularly draws several hundred participants —regional, national, and international. The tribute lead by Janicke’s IPIL/HOUSTON co-director, Professor **Craig Joyce**, concluded the conference held in October.



Professor Paul M. Janicke, left, and Chief Judge James Smith of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s Board of Patent Appeals

Rankings and Best Value

The University of Houston Law Center retained its high standing among the nation’s top law schools this year, ranking 57th overall with two specialty programs maintaining their position in the Top 10, according to an annual report released by U.S. News & World Report. The Law Center’s Intellectual Property and Information Law Institute rose two spots to 4th and the Health Law and Policy Institute stood at 8th among the nation’s 195 ABA accredited law schools. The Law Center’s part-time program ranked 11th. The latest rankings follow solid ratings in scholastic and career categories. In February, the Houston Law Review was ranked in the top 2.5 percent, 42nd out of more than 1,600 law journals worldwide, according to an annual report by Washington & Lee Law School. The National Law Journal recently ranked the Law Center 32nd on its list of “Go-To” law schools based on the percent of graduates hired by the nation’s top 250 law firms. The National Jurist also gave the University of Houston Law Center high marks, a solid “A-” in its annual survey of “Best Value” law schools in the nation.



Former editors of the Houston Law Review

Houston Law Review Turns 50

More than 500 members of the Houston legal community turned out to toast the Houston Law Review on 50 years of publication. Attendees at the Nov. 30 event included judges, law students, attorneys, law professors, past and present members of Law Review, and UH System Regent **Jarvis Hollingsworth**. "Fifty years ago the Law Review started as a fledgling publication," University of Houston Law Center Dean **Raymond T. Nimmer** said. "Through a lot of hard work and with excellence in legal scholarship, it is clear that we have come a long way and have a lot to celebrate. Today the Houston Law Review is ranked in the top 2.5 percent of legal publications worldwide." **Robert J. Sergesketter**, chair of the Houston Law Review board, credited the journals' success to the nearly 1,700 law students who have served on the Review over the past half-century. The editor-in-chief for Board 33, he noted that current and former members have published 234 issues and 5 legal books, for a total of more than 60,000 pages. Professor **Craig Joyce** and **Matthew Hoffman**, former editor-in-chief for Board 49, will write a five-part series of essays that chronicle the entire 50-year history of the Houston Law Review. Each essay will cover one decade of the Review, and one essay will be published in each of the five issues of Volume 50 of the Review. In total, it will be a 150-page history.

UHLC student crowned Miss Houston

First-year UH law student **Zoe Cadore** is the reigning Miss Houston 2013. Not surprisingly as a future, fast-on-her-feet lawyer, Zoe also was named Best Overall Interview in the November competition that is a preliminary pageant in the Miss America System. Cadore didn't have much time to savor her pageant victory, as she traded her evening gown for school clothes and headed straight for the library to finish a memo due the next day. A former intern for Congresswoman **Sheila Jackson Lee**, Cadore is a graduate of Spelman College. She is a member of the Christian Legal Society and the mock trial team, and serves as the 1L representative for the Black Law Student Association. Cadore will go on to compete in the Miss Texas Pageant in July 2013.



Law Center Debuts Promo Video

The Law Center turned the spotlight on itself and the city of Houston with a slick, nine-minute promotional video, "A Case for Excellence," which premiered to an enthusiastic audience at the annual Law Gala and Auction. The video presents a broad overview of the Law Center from its extensive curriculum and internationally recognized faculty, to its top-ranked specialty programs, renowned research centers and institutes, nationally known clinics and new global initiatives. Law Center professors, distinguished alumni, and staff lent their voice to the project. Didn't catch the debut? Go to the Law Center's homepage at law.uh.edu and watch it now as a featured video.

5th Circuit returns to UHLC

A panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals convened at the Law Center and heard oral arguments in eight cases over two days in March. The arguments in Krost Hall gave students a rare opportunity to observe appellate lawyers and federal judges in action. The panel consisted of Judge **Catharina Haynes**, Judge **Thomas M. Reavley**, and Judge **Jennifer Walker Elrod**. The last time a 5th Circuit Court panel convened at the Law Center was in October 1999.



Fun Day

On a beautiful Saturday in March, Law Center students put aside their books, left their stress in the library, and had a ball with family, faculty, and friends at the "Student Family Activity Day." Kids of all ages enjoyed games, contests, face painting, kite flying, prizes, food, and live music. The event was so successful that it shows signs of becoming an annual tradition with the next family fun day already planned for March 2, 2013.



FACULTY FOCUS



Jim Hawkins

Law Center Professor Jim Hawkins uses a somewhat uncommon form of legal research to analyze industries that are targets for regulation, but not very well understood. He doesn't follow the traditional law review practice of citing case law, statutes, and precedents, but rather takes an empirical approach using social science tools to evaluate how laws and courts work. The format is gaining ground, he said, and there is even a professional association, the Society for Empirical Legal Studies, that holds an annual conference. Hawkins employed his numbers crunching research recently to take a look at two major industries – credit cards and fertility clinics.

For his credit card research, Hawkins surveyed more than 500 students and examined 300 agreements between issuers and colleges and alumni associations over the past two years. His study offered the

first empirical assessment of the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure (CARD) Act of 2009, and found it largely ineffective. The CARD Act was designed to prevent student over-indebtedness, to end aggressive marketing to college students, and to reveal and change avaricious agreements between credit card issuers and colleges. "Based on this survey and study, I found that many of the CARD Act's student and young consumer provisions have not affected credit markets in the ways the act's proponents had hoped," Hawkins said. His research, published in the Washington and Lee Law Review, sparked widespread media coverage and congressional interest from the offices of U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-NY, and U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-NY, who are working on the issue.

Hawkins' empirical study of the largely unregulated \$3 billion a year fertility industry examined 372 websites to see how clinics marketed themselves on the Internet – what they emphasized and what they left

unsaid. He found just over half mentioned success rates or cost, relying more on emotive selling points like pictures of beautiful babies and words like "dream" and "miracle." He also found that advertising was heavily geared toward white couples and noted that minority doctors were virtually non-existent on websites. "These findings are obviously troubling, and they might help explain why some racial minorities seek help from fertility doctors at lower rates than whites," Hawkins said. His study is scheduled for publication in the Indiana Law Review.

He is currently working on a survey of auto title lending customers with two economists from Vanderbilt University. "We are surveying 500 customers to understand their demographics, their decision making processes, and their understanding of the loan they are entering with the title lender. No one has done a study like this one, so I hope it will inform policymakers as they try to craft optimal title lending regulations."

Jessica L. Roberts

Methodist Hospital System recently announced it would no longer hire nicotine users as of January 2013. Methodist is the second major Texas employer to ban hiring nicotine users in the past year. Tobacco bans and other employment-related decisions based on unhealthy conduct form the foundation of Professor Jessica L. Roberts' current research.

Roberts first became interested in employment discrimination on the basis of unhealthy conduct in the fall of 2011 when she was asked by Houston Public Radio to comment on Baylor Health Care System's nicotine ban. Delving deeper into the topic, Roberts discovered that several employers were taking action to regulate the health of their employees. She believes the looming implementation of the Affordable Care Act in its entirety in 2014 might be what is prompting employers, who often pro-

vide health insurance to their employees, to take a closer look at their employees' health-related conduct.

Baylor and Methodist are far from the first employers to attempt to regulate the health of their employees. Employers across the country have been adopting similar policies since the late 80s and early 90s. As a result, several states have prohibited "lifestyle discrimination" in employment, thus restricting an employer's ability to make decisions based on legal—yet stigmatized—activities such as using tobacco or drinking alcohol. Texas is not one of them. However, Roberts suspects Texas legislators might at some point consider similar legislation if more and more Texas employers continue to ban hiring nicotine users.

Roberts' work on health-status discrimination, or "healthism" as she calls it,

has already earned her significant attention in the legal academic community. Her work-in-progress on the subject, entitled *Healthism and The Law of Employment Discrimination*, was selected for presentation at the As-

sociation of American Law Schools' Annual Conference in New Orleans in January. She also has been invited to present the paper at law schools around the country. In addition to her interview on KUHF, Roberts also appeared on CCTV in conjunction with her research. As full implementation of the Affordable Care Act draws nearer, she expects even more interest in this important and timely area for potential legal regulation.





Jacqueline D. Lipton

The Internet is her domain, and Professor Jacqueline D. Lipton is heavily involved in exploring the legal ramifications of its rapid expansion.

Baker Botts Professor of Law and co-director of

the Institute for Intellectual Property and Information Law, Lipton has written several articles and presented her research at many national and international conferences about the ongoing process of adding new generic Top Level Domains to the Internet system. Currently, there are only 22 gTLDs available, including the ever-popular ".com," as well as ".net," ".org," ".edu," ".name," and ".biz." The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

(ICANN), a non-profit organization which administers the domain name system, began accepting applications for new gTLDs in January of 2012. Now, private entities with \$185,000 in their pockets for the initial application fee – and much more at auction -- may be approved by ICANN to operate registries with names such as ".shop," ".store," ".lawyer," ".movie," and ".cat."

"The new gTLD process is unique in legal and political terms in several respects," Lipton said. "It is the first time ever that words and phrases have been auctioned off to those with the financial wherewithal to pay large sums for them." Problems may arise, she noted, with applications for potentially sensitive cultural, geographical, and religious terms, including ".bible," ".catholic," ".church," ".halal," ".islam," and ".gay." Saudi Arabia, for example, has filed objections to dozens of names, most relating to sex, alcohol, gambling, Christian-

ity, and Islam. Legal issues are likely to arise globally over freedom of expression, trademark violations, and the right to operate registries under geographically significant or culturally sensitive words and phrases in the domain space," the professor said.

A timetable for the expansion and the number of new domains likely to come out of the new system are undetermined, but it is likely that at least some of the newly applied for gTLDs will come online sometime in 2013. Lipton is certain this next phase of the domain name system will have a major impact on global communications. She expects challenges will arise from the fact that there is no single entity with the power to regulate all the legal and constitutional issues likely to arise under the new system. "This new system will be a significant test for the development of new and innovative systems of global governance in the areas of commerce and free speech," she concluded.

Michael A. Olivas

Law Center Professor Michael A. Olivas turns his attention to two very different periods of American law in upcoming books – his 14th and 15th – scheduled for release in 2013. In *Suing Alma Mater: Higher Education and the Courts*, he tracks more than 120 cases as they made their way to the U.S. Supreme Court during the past 50 years to determine what sort of case law and litigation patterns emerged in the lower courts. He delves more deeply into six cases that did not make it to the high court.

Higher education litigation has proliferated in recent years over freedom of speech issues, race- and religion-based admissions policies and other constitutional challenges. Olivas examines the key issues and processes involved in the litigation and also looks at the "purposive organizations" -- the American Civil Liberties Union and the Alliance Defense Fund -- that support much of the litigation.

In his second book, Olivas edited and wrote the introduction and a chapter for a compilation of essays dealing with the work of Alonso S. Perales, a Mexican-American

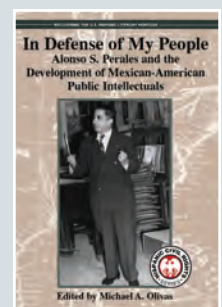
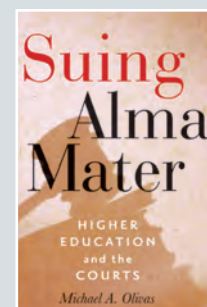
legal trailblazer, civil rights activist, and co-founder in 1929 of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Scholars from the U.S. and Mexico contributed to *In Defense of My People: Alonso S. Perales and the Development of Mexican-American Public Intellectuals*.

"These two books cover two different 50-year eras," Olivas said. "They do not overlap in time, but they do show the rise of early civil rights for Mexican-Americans and others, pre- and post- WWII, and the rise of conservative and religious purposive groups that dominate the college law polity today.

"The early trails were blazed by Perales, Thurgood Marshall, and the other courageous educators and lawyers who framed the legal discourse of resistance to segregation and prejudice. Today we see groups that have appropriated the language and argot of the civil rights struggle, even in a situation where they are in the majority. Therefore, there is more convergence than is clearly evident, but there is a convergence nonetheless. My sense of fair play

and irony are tested more when I evaluate the arguments of today's groups, and my sense of gratitude derives from the earlier work."

Suing Alma Mater: Higher Education and the Courts will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press. *In Defense of My People: Alonso S. Perales and the Development of Mexican-American Public Intellectuals* will be published by Arte Público Press, the University of Houston.



Global Influence

FROM HOUSTON TO

The city of Houston has long been a gateway to the world, an international city that attracts outstanding people from foreign countries and sends many of its best and brightest abroad. The University of Houston Law Center has provided countless graduates with a passport to opportunities beyond Houston and the United States by teaching them the skills they need to thrive in the global marketplace. The law school also reaches beyond its corner of campus by encouraging professors to share their expertise abroad and by offering advanced degrees over the years to foreign-trained attorneys from more than 74 countries. The city and UH Law Center are closely attuned in this international connection, even to the extent of a long-time faculty member serving as chairman of a regional business organization which advocates and assists area companies in expanding their foreign initiatives.

"To be a significant U.S. law school, part of the plan has to be the idea of globalization of law," said UH Law Center Dean Raymond T. Nimmer. "U.S. lawyers need to understand international laws – technology is a driving force behind the change. Law firms and companies deal with international issues and work with foreign clients more and more, even the small firms."

Anthony R. Chase, UH Law Center associate professor, successful businessman, and 2012 board chairman of the Greater Houston Partnership, couldn't agree more. "The businesses in Houston today have global reach, not just local or regional reach, and it's in that context that the Law Center sits and operates and provides talent to the leading firms in town.

"Houston distinguishes itself in a number of ways," said the man with feet planted firmly in both the worlds of business and academia. "It's the energy capital of the world, has the largest medical center in the world, second largest port in the world. And it clearly makes a difference here and abroad as an intellectual capital," Chase said.

"For the Law Center," the dean said, "the point is to be a more effective modern law school with connections internationally and to build on the presence of being in Houston, the nation's fourth largest city with increasing international ties."

To that end, UH Law Center has embarked on several recent initiatives in addition to its longstanding programs to give the school a more global presence. This year alone, the Law Center launched a dual degree program in energy law with the University of Calgary law school, founded the Center for



Professor Craig Joyce is known as "祝體仁" or "Benevolent Presence" by students at Beihang University Law School, Beijing, where he serves as a visiting professor.



"In my present work, I am always immediately grateful that the very legal questions I was trained to analyze and respond to in my courses at the University of Houston Law Center are the questions that clients often present. And even where my job now involves both the mining and power industries, I still find that I am able to robustly research, analyze and respond to client needs in a manner that is testament to the teaching approach at the Law Center -- that is to train and equip lawyers that are both legally intelligent and who can contextualize their advice to be commercially relevant."

-EYRAM ADADEVOH, LL.M. 2012, Bentsi-Enchill, Letsa & Ankomah, Accra, Ghana

TO THE WORLD



U.S. and Mexican Law, and instituted the Andrews Kurth Energy Law Scholars program, which brings promising scholars and teachers in energy law from around the world to teach and conduct research at the Law Center.

The International Energy Lawyers Program, which enrolled its first student from Canada this fall, allows students to spend two years at each school and obtain dual J.D.s in four years. Graduates will be able to sit for the bar in both countries and practice law on both sides of the border. "Our two countries' futures are intertwined economically, and one of the most important issues facing both countries is energy security," Ian Holloway, dean of The University of Calgary Law School, said when the program was announced in March. "Training the next generation of lawyers who are leaders in energy and natural resources law will help us in our quest for a sustainable, rational, continental energy policy."

The Center for U.S. and Mexican Law is the nation's first independent research center for the study of Mexican law and the legal relationship between the two countries. Underscoring the weight given to its potential, its kickoff in June featured addresses by Mexico's ambassador to the U.S., and by a justice of the Mexican Supreme Court. Under the direction of Law Center Profes-

sor Stephen Zamora, the bi-national think tank will examine issues affecting both countries. "We are working to bolster the bridge between the U.S. and Mexico," he said, "using Houston's strategic location and strong ties to Mexico to reinforce cooperation between our two countries." Its first project will address problems associated with the potentially conflicting national regulation of oil and gas exploration and production in the Gulf of Mexico, a common resource for both countries. The second project addresses the licensing and regulation of cross-border legal services involving Mexican and U.S. lawyers and the services they provide to parties on both sides of the border.

The Energy Law Scholars program, underwritten by the Houston law firm of Andrews Kurth, is a residency program designed to encourage scholarship and academic interest in energy law.



Professor Stephen Zamora, left, Patricia Pedra '10 and Pedro Costa Braga '96 in Rio

BARRETT SCHITKA

Barrett Schitka has a pipeline to study in two North American energy capitals and to earn two law degrees. He is the first law student in the new International Energy Lawyers Program (IELP), a dual program sponsored by the University of Houston Law Center and the University of Calgary Faculty of Law. IELP allows graduates to earn American and Canadian law degrees and to sit for bar exams in both countries.

"As soon as I heard about the program, I jumped at the opportunity to study at UH Law Center, a Tier 1 law school," Schitka said. "IELP is really unique because students get to experience the contrast between the two legal systems first-hand. Both countries have the same English common law backgrounds, but it's seeing things from a slightly different perspective."

A second-year student, Schitka came to the University of Houston Law Center this fall. He will complete an academic year in Houston and then return to Calgary with plans to come back to the Law Center for the final year of the four-year program. He hopes to obtain dual J.D.s by 2015.

"The experience is not for the faint of heart," Schitka said. "It's more competitive, more intense, and it requires an extra year and more money. It's not easy. No one hands you a degree, but in the end I think it will be worth it."

After he graduates from law school, Schitka has his sights set on developing an energy practice. "I'm interested in a transactional-based practice or a litigation-based practice," he said. "I definitely want to have some sort of international aspect to it, whether it be domestic clients with international interests, or international clients."

Schitka is a student editor with the Alberta Law Review and the Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy. He is a member of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators Student Club and a member of the Law Center's moot court team. He has been selected to participate in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, one of the most prestigious moot court competitions in the world.

Prior to attending law school, Barrett received a Bachelor of Applied Science in Chemical Engineering with Management Sciences Option and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, both from the University of Waterloo.



BARRETT SCHITKA



Justice Swatanter Kumar of the Supreme Court of India speaks at a Law Center gathering after an introduction by Dean Raymond T. Nimmer.

"The Law Center's commitment to energy and environmental law is longstanding and recognized at home and around the world," Nimmer said in September when the initiative was announced. "The Andrews Kurth Energy Law Scholar's program takes that commitment to the next level, and we are very pleased to have their ongoing support." During the next three years, the program will bring five accomplished individuals to the Law Center where they will teach one class and devote most of their time to research, writing, and other scholarly pursuits. The energy scholars come from a diversity of backgrounds, spanning the country from Boston to San Francisco and internationally from Venezuela to Liberia, with careers and academic experiences ranging from corporate counsel to professors.

UH Law Center's international outreach extends to J.D. candidates seeking insight and experience in foreign legal systems. "In the last six years we have worked on more than 10 agreements with law schools outside of the United

States," Nimmer said, "in addition to continuing the North American Consortium on Legal Education that Steve Zamora has set up for Law Center students to spend a semester at either Canadian or Mexican schools." The Law Center currently has formal exchange agreements with schools in Lisbon, South Korea, Rio de Janeiro, and Istanbul. Students also may apply to semester abroad programs offered by any ABA-approved law school worldwide or create their own, independent study abroad plan.

A mainstay of the Law Center's foreign outreach is the LL.M. program which has grown from a handful of foreign-trained lawyers to more than 40 each year in addition to an equal number of U.S. attorneys.

"Since 1985, lawyers from 74 countries have earned their LL.M. degrees at the University of Houston Law Center," said Peggy Fortner, program director. "With the term 'globalization' assuming greater importance, our J.D. and U.S. LL.M. students have had a unique and important opportunity to connect with lawyers from around the world. The foreign lawyers return to their home country with a better understanding of U.S. law and our students are enriched and challenged to think beyond U.S. borders."

"We also are providing programs to several major companies with an international presence for their attorneys to

come here for training, especially through the LL.M. program," the dean noted. "We are also talking with the Indian Law Institute to send their lawyers here for training. Furthermore, we are negotiating agreements with schools in Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal and Brazil that will be a combination of student and faculty exchanges and joint research projects tailored to meet the needs of both institutions. The LL.M. program is the vehicle for a lot of the advanced exchange."

To help these far-flung graduates keep in touch with the Law Center and each other, the school recently launched the Global Law Alumni Network with news, updates, and soon, a directory of alumni living and working abroad. In addition, for more than 35 years, Law Center students have published the Houston Journal of International Law which is distributed to subscribers on six continents three times a year.

Why is it important for the University of Houston Law Center to have an increasing presence in China or Brazil or Azerbaijan? "It provides increased stature for the law students," Nimmer said. "It does help grads in getting jobs and overall it also helps the Law Center to get better. Law schools in the modern era must not only focus on U.S. law students, but also on bringing in those from other countries. It helps with job placement and the success of our students. And that is already well documented."



"For anyone interested in studying energy law, especially oil and gas, Houston is the natural venue. The ability to take MBA classes at the Bauer College of Business as part of the LL.M. program at UH Law Center was quite appealing to me. Most of my professors had vast professional experience in the oil and gas industry, which added a practical aspect to their teaching. The program provided valuable knowledge of the legal (especially contractual), economic and even historic aspects of the oil and gas industry."

-NICOLAS BERGER, LL.M. 2009, LITASCO SA. Geneva, Switzerland



'12 grads told degree comes with responsibility

"Legacy" and "integrity" were the watchwords as 340 members of the Class of 2012 received their degrees on May 12. Commencement speaker **Alan R. Crain**, senior vice president and general counsel of Baker Hughes Inc., charged the new lawyers with the duty to preserve and enhance the legacy of the legal profession and to protect the rule of law – a "national treasure" that ensures a free society in the United States. He told the graduates they have the knowledge and training to live up to the legal legacy framed by the Constitution and the responsibility to improve upon it for generations yet to come. Despite legal gains over the years in civil and women's rights, Crain said there is much still to do. He urged class members to get involved in civic affairs to improve their community and the nation. Despite the ups and downs of success and failure in their professional and personal lives, he told them they must always maintain their integrity. "Character, personal integrity, is the rock that survives," he said. Proud graduates, family, and friends adjourned to the Law Center for refreshments after the formal ceremony in Hofheinz Pavilion.

Thompson named to Mayor's crime lab board

Sandra Guerra Thompson, Law Foundation Professor of Law and director of the Criminal Justice Institute, was appointed by Houston Mayor **Annise Parker** in May to serve on the governing board of the Houston Forensic Science Local Government Corporation. The newly created entity will oversee operation of an independent center designed to provide the city and area communities with accurate and timely analysis of forensic evidence and related services. "The many cases of wrongful convictions have demonstrated that it is important for scientific and medical assessment in forensic investigations be separate from law enforcement efforts," Thompson said at the time of her appointment. "It's time for a change." Thompson is a national expert on criminal law and criminal procedure and editor of *American Justice in the Age of Innocence*.



Immigration Clinic Wins Pro Bono Award

The Law Center's Immigration Clinic was recognized in February with a national pro bono award from the Washington, D.C.-based Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC) for its years of tireless effort on behalf of undocumented immigrants. CLINIC singled out the immigration clinic's work in winning a precedent-setting decision in May 2011 that enhanced the rights of thousands of mentally impaired immigrants in deportation proceedings. Immigration Clinic Director **Geoffrey A. Hoffman** and Clinical Assistant Professor **Janet B. Beck** accepted the award in May at the organization's convention in Austin on behalf of all the law students who have worked in the clinic.



EENR Hosts Mock Supreme Court

The Center for Environment, Energy & Natural Resources at the Law Center sponsored a mock Supreme Court hearing in January to give law students a taste of what they might face some day in federal court. The bench included Baylor University President **Ken Starr**, retired Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice **Tom Phillips**, and **John Cruden**, president of the Environmental Law Institute. **David Axelrad**, a partner at Horvitz & Levy, and **Richard Faulk**, chairman of Gardere Wynne Sewell's Litigation Section, presented arguments for the plaintiff and respondent respectively. The case, previously dismissed and appealed, involved a tiny Alaskan village suing for flood damages caused by climate change. An appeals court panel later refused to reinstate the case.

ALUMNI PROFILES



Jorge Cicero Fernández in the European Parliament in Brussels.

Jorge Cicero Fernández, LL.M. '91

As Mexico's assistant director general for global affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jorge Cicero Fernández is occupied with crucial issues such as worldwide security, cyber security, asylum, and international migration.

"My current responsibilities have heightened my awareness of the increasing need to combat cybercrime within a framework of international cooperation with due respect for the protection of personal data and privacy safeguards," Cicero said. "I believe this is an area in which all nations including Mexico and the U.S., interested parties and sectors should continue to exchange best practices and to strengthen confidence building within the framework of international law."

Cicero has devoted his legal career to promoting Mexican interests and to the pursuit of international justice through diplomacy. Born and raised in Mexico City, he

has been actively involved in foreign affairs and legal issues affecting Mexican nationals for more than two decades.

Cicero joined the Mexican Foreign Service in 1987 after earning his law degree at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Shortly after, he was selected by Mexico's Foreign Ministry to receive a scholarship to earn a Master of Laws degree through the Mutual Cooperation Agreement between the Foreign Ministry and the University of Houston Law Center.

"My experience at the Law Center was extremely beneficial," Cicero said. "My time in Houston reinforced my belief that the rule of law, democratic institutions and respect for fundamental rights are truly a common heritage of all mankind regardless of national origin, ethnicity, religious or ideological beliefs."

Cicero has held various positions during his career with the Mexican Foreign Ser-

vices, including legal assistance consul of Mexico in Houston, and international litigation director at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. As a staunch advocate for human rights, he served as legal and human rights counselor while posted in Mexico's OAS Permanent Mission. He also served as deputy and interim head of Mexico's European Union Mission, as deputy head of mission in the Mexican Embassy in Canada, and as deputy and interim head of mission in the Mexican Embassy in Peru.

Cicero holds a S.J.D. from George Washington University, which he earned while working at the Mexican Mission to the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C.

Branko Milosevic, LL.M. '06

How does a Serbian from Belgrade become corporate counsel to a Houston-based casino and entertainment company listed on the New York Stock Exchange? For Branko Milosevic '06 the road went through the University of Houston Law Center.

After earning his law degree at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law, Milosevic came to Houston where he served as a legal intern with the contracts division of the city of Houston Legal Department. He decided to continue his legal education in 2005 by enrolling in the LL.M. program at the Law Center.

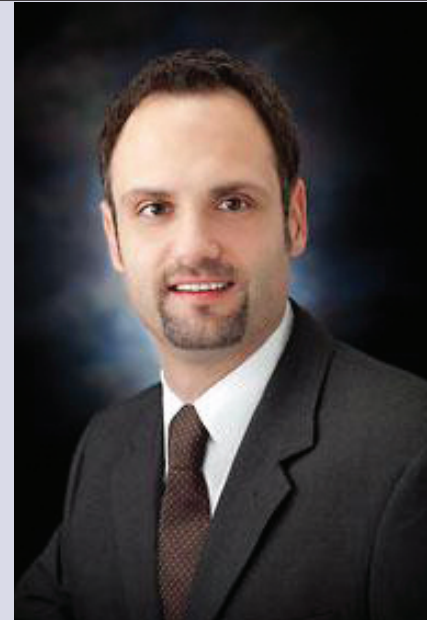
"The Foreign Scholar LL.M. program has been a unique opportunity to be directly exposed to the sophisticated structure of U.S. law and also has allowed me to meet and exchange experiences and ideas with legal scholars from around the world," Milosevic said.

After earning his LL.M. degree in 2006, Milosevic joined Houston-based Nevada

Gold & Casinos, Inc., becoming corporate counsel in 2007. Recently appointed general counsel, he has capitalized on the skills he learned at UH Law Center.

"Spearheading a single-person legal department which oversees 11 multi-jurisdictional operating units with over 1,400 employees couldn't be possible without training received at the University of Houston Law Center," Milosevic said. "Classes such as Legal Research & Writing, Business Organizations, and Mergers & Acquisitions have equipped me with invaluable skills I utilize in my practice on a daily basis. I must say that, at times, I miss the good old days at the O'Quinn Library."

Milosevic has also played an active role in bridging cultural boundaries between Serbia and the United States. He is one of the founding members of the Serbian-American Chamber of Commerce of Houston, a non-profit organization aimed at promoting and developing economic and cultural relations



between Serbia and the U.S. SACCH has hosted numerous speakers on topics such as energy, modern medicine, and real estate. SACCH also has sponsored the Medical Student Advancement Program, which was established by the Texas Heart Institute and the Medical School in Belgrade. Milosevic serves as director and secretary of SACCH.

Rebecca Bresnik, LL.M. '08

Drawing on more than 10 years of experience in international law, Rebecca Bresnik '08 is using her University of Houston Law Center LL.M. to explore the new frontiers of space law. As assistant chief counsel for international matters at NASA, she works closely with global partners negotiating international agreements related to space exploration.

"It is an exciting time to practice international law and to work for NASA," Bresnik said during a presentation on space law at the Law Center. "We are seeing commercialization of the space industry. As lawyers, we

will have to navigate through the challenges of the changing industry."

Bresnik says UH Law Center equipped her with important skills needed to meet the challenges of working in the rapidly evolving field of space law. She earned an LL.M. degree in International Law in 2008.

"The LL.M. program was an invaluable and enriching experience," Bresnik said. "It allowed me to focus exclusively on the area of international law and to connect with very talented and diverse colleagues and professors."

Bresnik earned a B.A. at the University

of Delaware in international affairs and Asian Studies and a M.A. degree in Asian Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She earned her Juris Doctorate from Rutgers School of Law.

Prior to joining NASA, Bresnik worked at the Pentagon in 2000 as associate general counsel for the Office of the General Counsel of the Air Force. She worked on a number of high-profile international armaments cooperation agreements involving interoperability for coalition warfare.

Throughout the years, Bresnik has been recognized for her achievements in the legal community as well as for her exceptional efforts in advancing U.S. interests as a civil servant. She has been awarded the NASA Legal Group Award (2012), NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal (2011), Johnson Space Center Group Achievement Award (2008, 2011, 2012), Johnson Space Center Director's Commendation Award (2008), Superior Accomplishment Award, NASA (2007), Special Service Award for Exceptional Performance, Department of the Air Force (2003), and an Exemplary Civilian Service Award for Distinguished Performance from the Department of the Air Force (2002).

Her husband, Randolph Bresnik, performed two spacewalks as a shuttle astronaut.



NEW FACES

Faculty

Kafah Bachari Manna **Director of Transactional Clinic**



Kafah Bachari Manna is a writer and attorney. Manna graduated cum laude from the University of Houston Law Center and practiced corporate law at Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP, AIG Investments, Inc., and Schlumberger Technology Corporation before taking time off to pursue a writing career. She looks forward to facilitating the development of the practical skills necessary for student attorneys to become ethical, intelligent, and effective transactional attorneys. Manna is active in the Houston community and sits on the Advisory Board of the Center for Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Rice University. She is at work on her first novel and a collection of short stories, some of which have been published in literary journals.

Julián Cárdenas García **Andrews Kurth Energy Scholar**



Julián Cárdenas García's research focuses on international investment law in Latin America, comparative international law and transnational petroleum law. He is a Venezuelan attorney and recent doctoral fellow at the Research Center on Investment and International Trade Law at the University of Bourgogne, Dijon, France. Previously, he served as a career diplomat at the Venezuelan Ministry of Foreign Affairs for nearly six years, working on sovereign boundary issues and multilateral affairs related to the Organization of American States and the United Nations. He has played violin for different symphony orchestras in Venezuela and France, and he is currently a violinist at the Texas Medical Center Symphony Orchestra in Houston.

Jacqueline Lipton **Baker Botts Professor of Law** **Co-Director, Institute for Intellectual Property and Information Law**



Jacqueline Lipton's scholarship focuses on law and digital technology, as well as law and the creative arts. Lipton joined UH Law Center faculty after holding faculty positions at Case Western Reserve University, the University of Nottingham, and Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. She also held visiting faculty positions at the University of Florida and the University of Melbourne. Prior to her academic work, she practiced as an attorney in the banking and finance area in several Australian commercial law firms. She has held a number of academic administrative positions, including three years as research dean at Case Western Reserve University, and has served as co-director of the Banking Law Center at Monash University and the Law, Technology, and the Arts Center at Case Western Reserve University. She was also associate director of the Frederick K. Cox Center for International Law at Case Western Reserve University.

Susan D. Maples **Andrews Kurth Energy Scholar**



Susan Maples, core research interests center on comparative analysis of oil, gas, and mining laws and contracts. Maples has served as a natural resource governance fellow in the Office of the Legal Adviser to the President of Liberia, H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. Prior to this position, she was a post-doctoral research fellow at Columbia Law School, first at the Human Rights Institute and then at the Vale Columbia Center for Sustainable International Investment. Maples received her J.D. from Columbia Law School as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and received the Parker School Foreign and Comparative Law Achievement Award. She graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Georgia, earning a B.A. in philosophy, a minor in English and a certificate in global studies.

Susan L. Sakmar **Andrews Kurth Energy Scholar**



Susan L. Sakmar, scholarly activities are focused on global natural gas markets with a particular focus on liquefied natural gas (LNG) and global shale gas development. Sakmar has more than 20 years experience working in a variety of legal, corporate, nonprofit, and academic environments. She started her professional career as an accountant for Chevron Corporation in San Francisco, and left to pursue a career in law. Prior to teaching, she was an attorney in the commercial litigation department of the San Francisco law firm of Bronson, Bronson & McKinnon. After leaving practice, she taught international trade law under the WTO as an adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Allison Winnike **Research Assistant Professor,** **Health Law & Policy Institute**



Allison Winnike earned her B.A. in political science and policy studies from Rice University and her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. While at Georgetown, she trained at the Federal Legislation Clinic where she focused on the ADA Restoration Act of 2007. She has worked as a health legislative aide to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, M.D. She was also a staffer for Frist on the Subcommittee on Public Health, and she expanded her responsibilities in the office of the majority leader. In the Senate, she worked on a wide variety of health policy issues and legislation.

Staff

Kellen Zale **Assistant Professor of Law**



Kellen Zale writes and teaches in the areas of property, real estate, land use and municipal law. Zale graduated from Princeton University with an A.B. from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and received her J.D., magna cum laude, from Duke University. At Duke, she served as a staff editor on the Duke Law Journal and was elected to Order of the Coif. She was an associate in the Los Angeles office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, where her practice focused on commercial real estate transactions and land use. Prior to joining the Law Center faculty, she taught at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law as a Westerfield Fellow.

Allen Emerson **Facilities Manager**



Allen Emerson received a degree in journalism from Texas State University. As a undergraduate, he worked as a tennis instructor at a variety of tennis clinics in Texas. He began his journalism career with Hartman Newspapers in his hometown of Richmond, Texas. His interest in construction and renovation projects lead him to homebuilding. Prior to joining the Law Center, he built and renovated homes throughout Houston.

Anna Julia **Program Coordinator, Office of Career Development**



Anna Julia graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in English literature. Before joining the Career Development Office, she worked in arts education, coordinating programs for high school and college students.

Nathan Neely **Associate Director, Office of Admissions**



Nathan Neely holds a B.S. from Texas Christian University and a J.D. from South Texas College of Law. Prior to joining the UHLC staff, he was director of admissions for the Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In his free time, Nathan has made the 22-mile climb to the top of Mt. Whitney and is active in the art community.

Kourtney James Perry **Assistant Director, Office of Career Development**



Kourtney James Perry is a graduate of Harvard University with a B.A. in history of science. She earned her J.D. from Stanford University Law School. Prior to joining the Career Development Office, she practiced corporate transactional law at a large Houston firm. While in law school, she coordinated the school's annual Black Law Students Association conference.

Lisa Raynor-Keck **LL.M. Program Coordinator**



Lisa Raynor-Keck graduated from the University of Central Florida with a B.A. in Journalism. She has worked for newspapers in Michigan and Tennessee and also as a freelance writer, political campaign ad designer and public relations professional. She also worked in Middle Tennessee State University's Information Technology Division as editorial assistant and wrote, edited and designed the division's newsletters, web content and collateral material. She is currently working toward a M.A. in corporate communication at Austin Peay State University.

Bhavika Shah **Career Counselor, Office of Career Development**



Prior to joining the Career Development Office, Bhavika Shah practiced in the areas of civil litigation and workers' compensation in Illinois. She graduated with a B.A. in political science from the University of Illinois — Urbana, Champaign and earned her J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law. During law school, she worked for a variety of legal employers, including public interest, government, and in-house.

Katy Stein **Law Reference/Research Librarian**



Katy Stein joined the Law Center after serving as faculty services librarian at St. Mary's University School of Law. Aside from providing research support to faculty and students, she has also lectured and written on numerous legal research topics, especially cost-effective legal research. She earned her B.A. in history from the University of Texas at Austin, her J.D. from Southern Methodist University, and her M.A. in library science from the University of Arizona.

Tiffany J. Tucker **Career Counselor, Office of Career Development**



Tiffany J. Tucker joined the Career Development Office after practicing transactional intellectual property and general corporate law at a large New York law firm. She earned a B.A. in both Psychology and Sociology from Grambling State University, a M.Ed. in Counselor Education from Florida A&M University, and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law. A native Texan, she is a former mental health counselor and professional development specialist.

NEW FACES

Carolyn Taylor

Director of Donor Relations & Stewardship, Office of External Affairs



Carolyn Taylor collaborates with the Law Center fundraising team to ensure that donors and alumni are appropriately recognized, and stewarded during their philanthropic relationship with the college. Prior to coming to the UH Law Center,

she was a development research coordinator in the University of Houston's Advancement Division charged with gathering, analyzing, and delivering philanthropic research on donors and university alumni. She holds a B.A. in philosophy from the University of Houston, and a B.A. in theology from Friends International Christian University.

Thomas Troegel

Director of Major Gifts, Office of External Affairs



Tom Troegel joined the Office of External Affairs after nearly twenty years of non-profit management for Houston area business associations. A graduate of the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, he has worked as the executive director

of the Galleria Chamber of Commerce, the Heights Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Houston. More recently, he consulted on the Alumni Attitude Study, a cooperative effort among university advancement and alumni directors to better understand and measure key components of the alumni-university relationship. Troegel will be working with UHLC alumni, faculty, and the business community to increase the capabilities of the Law Center through endowments and increased financial resources for clinics, centers and institutes.

LAW ALUMNI NEWS

FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Maynard '73	Beirne, Maynard & Parsons, LLP
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Willie Wood '84	Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP
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Larry Pirtile '66	Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP
Leonard Rosenberg '53	Retired - Thompson Knight
Alvin Zimmerman '67	Zimmerman, Axelrad, Meyer, Stern & Wise, P.C.

The UHLAA would like to extend a warm welcome to its newest Foundation Board members Bob Schick '81, Randy Wilhite '79, and Brad Tucker '79.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO LAW CENTER ALUMNI?

This spring the University of Houston Law Center is conducting an alumni survey as part of the highly regarded Alumni Attitude Study. Dean Raymond T. Nimmer has asked the Law Alumni Association Board to work with consultants to help refine the survey questionnaire for the Law Center. As Bill Jackson '92, UHLAA Board President notes, "Better understanding of the values and preferences of alumni across age ranges will help us build a strong set of programs and activities as well as communicate more effectively." Benefits from participating in the Study include the ability to compare UHLC alumni responses to a group of similar law school survey respondents. Other benefits include in-depth survey analytics and insights on how other institutions have responded to similar findings.

Look on-line and in the mail for your UHLC alumni survey this spring. Your opinion is very important to us as we develop future programs and events for both alumni and students. We know you have an opinion and now is the time for you to share it with us.

For more information contact Tom Troegel in the UHLC Office External Affairs at 713-743-2207.

ALUMNI, VOLUNTEERS SPRUCE UP UHLC

More than 120 people braved the cold and rolled up their sleeves in February to help replace trees at the University of Houston Law Center that did not survive 2011's drought. Most of the volunteers attending the event were Law Center supporters, alumni and their families. The UH Law Alumni Association worked with non-profit, volunteer organization Trees for Houston to make the event possible.

"The Law Alumni Association wanted to do this to help improve Houston's green canopy and to begin replacing the impacts of this devastating drought," said Hope Young, director of alumni relations at the Law Center. Title sponsors included CH2M Hill, Jackson Gilmour & Dobbs, PC, Lighthouse Document Solutions, and Union Pacific. Weatherford also contributed to the event.

STAY CONNECTED

Have some news? Moved? New job? Tell us about it! Stay connected to the University of Houston Law Center by emailing lawalumni@uh.edu.

ETHICS REVIEW

Need ethics MCLE credit? Earn three hours of ethics credit with the Law Center's Ethics Review. The course is available online at law.uh.edu/the-ethics-revue/homepage.

PLANT A TREE IN 2013

UHLAA is supporting the Houston Bar Association's Arbor Day Tree Planting. Lead by UHLC alumna Laura Gibson '85, the event aims to raise funds and plant 1000 trees at the Houston arboretum, which lost about 50% of its tree canopy due to the recent drought. It will be held Jan. 26. Please donate or sign up to volunteer at hba.org.



LAW ALUMNI NEWS

UHLAA Reunion Weekend and Golf Classic a Success

Thank you to everyone who participated!





Legal Excellence Lecture Series

The University of Houston Law Center has partnered with The Greater Houston Partnership and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center to present a series of lectures to the Houston business community. University of Houston Law Center Professor and 2012 Chairman of the Greater Houston Partnership **Tony Chase** kicked off the lecture series in October with his presentation, "Powerful Partnership: Houston as a Business Center Today and the Role of Higher Education in its Future." "Houston has a brilliant future – provided that we have an educated workforce to sustain our economic growth," Chase said. "The University of Houston Law Center understands the needs of the Houston region and is working to meet those needs. In turn, Houston's business community is working with the Law Center to further educate its future workforce." The series, with four additional lectures featuring Law Center experts, will resume in January.

Frankel Focuses on Bankruptcy

With several states in dire financial straits, the 17th Annual Frankel Lecture hosted in November by the Houston Law Review examined the issue of whether Chapter 9 bankruptcy should be extended to assist states in trouble as it currently does municipalities. The keynote speaker, **David Skeel**, a professor of corporate law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and two academic colleagues, agreed that excessive debt has proved ruinous to states such as California and Illinois, but differed on whether bankruptcy protection is the solution to their problems. Skeel argued that Chapter 9 filing would allow a more ordered and equalized restructuring with the added benefits that the threat of bankruptcy might lead to more negotiations and also might rein in lawmakers unconcerned about future debt. But, the two commentators expressed concerns about how bankruptcy might affect the bond market and said it would not automatically ensure equality and justice for public employees who are historically hardest hit by Chapter 9 filings. They said they remained skeptical because of the possibility of numerous "unintended consequences."



Olivas Rocks On

Professor **Michael A. Olivas** entertained and informed a CLE crowd in February with a tutorial on the legal world of rock and roll as well as his encyclopedic knowledge of the music industry and its stars. A lifelong fan, the legal scholar was clearly in his element regaling the audience with equal parts music law and lore to the accompaniment of a slide show with soundtrack. "Because of the way music is delivered these days, the law simply can't keep up," Olivas said, adding the old system of tracking royalties through radio station playlists, juke box tallies, trust and honor codes that was relied on for 50 years has broken down. The key now, as always, he said, is for the artist to protect his or her rights. The professor touched on a number of common legal issues ranging from noise ordinances to copyright infringement and concluded with a brief description of celebrity lawsuits. He did not sing. The appreciative audience gave him a rousing round of applause.

Cyber hate

The question of what constitutes hate speech and who should regulate content on the Internet was the subject of the annual panel discussion hosted by the Law Center and the Anti-Defamation League in October. It is an enormous and somewhat subjective task that can have repercussions locally and around the world, panelists said during the presentation – "Racists, Bigots and the Law on the Internet." They agreed deadly demonstrations and acts of violence sparked from postings on the internet attest to its influence over people. Yet, the Internet is largely self-regulated with intermediaries deciding what

is and isn't appropriate. "Lawyers, and Google, and YouTube, and Facebook, and Twitter have more power over who can speak and who can be heard than any president, judge or monarch," said **Jeffrey Rosen**, law professor at George Washington University. Additional panelists included **Christopher Wolf**, attorney and founder and chairman of the ADL Cyberhate Response Task Force, **Judson Hoffman**, global policy manager for Facebook, and **Peter Molnar**, a senior research fellow at the Central European University Center for Media and Communication Studies in Budapest. The event was moderated by Marvin Nathan '66.



Hoffman Attends White House Briefing

University of Houston Law Center Clinical Associate Professor **Geoffrey Hoffman**, left, met with community leaders from across the country and various Obama Administration officials in June to discuss immigration reform. The White House Immigration Community Leaders Briefing, held at the White House complex in Washington, D.C., was an all-day event that consisted of multiple briefings and group discussions on the administration's new deferred action policy. It could allow some undocumented students who qualify to obtain a two-year deferment from deportation and to receive work authorization.



Bush Brown Belt

Professor **Darren Bush** is a rising martial arts expert. In October, he earned his brown belt with stripe

after a three-day, ten-hour rank test. In order to achieve the rank, Bush had to demonstrate his proficiency in his current belt's techniques, including basic moves, weapons, sparring and forms. He has been training in Northern Shaolin/Northern Praying Mantis Kung Fu at Wang's Martial Arts for more than two years. He will test for his black belt in April.



Blakely Among Best

The University of Houston Law Center's Blakely Advocacy Institute Moot Court Program was ranked 13th in the nation in preLaw Magazine's Fall 2012 edition. Continuing the tradition of excellence, the Law Center's Interscholastic Moot Court Team dominated at the John R. Brown Admiralty Competition, bringing home the National Championship Award, Best Speaker Award, and Best Brief Award. The Blakely Advocacy Institute has also created, and now hosts, two national competitions: the Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship and the Jeffry S. Abrams National Mediator Competition which continue to grow and gain national prestige for the Law Center.



Tops in blogosphere

A blog which focuses on child-related news and analysis produced by Law Center students ranks in the top 1.0 percent of the blogosphere, according to

Technorati, a tracking website. The site is written and maintained by Irene Merker Rosenberg Scholars working in the Center for Children, Law & Policy. Subjects vary widely, ranging from the juvenile justice system and child welfare to alternative educational concepts and sports. "The site is aimed at anyone interested in children's issues, but particularly lawyers, policy makers, and educators," said **Ellen Marrus**, director of the center and George Butler Research Professor of Law. The site recorded nearly 10,000 visits and 31,951 page views in the past year.

BRIEFLYNOTEDBRIEFLYNOTED

Class of '15: Arias to Zumba

The 214 members of the Class of '15 are a diverse group, speaking more than 26 languages, with interests beyond the law ranging from martial arts to opera. The class includes graduates with 54 majors from 70 different schools. Twenty-eight of the lawyers-to-be hold graduate degrees, including three Ph.Ds. The group includes several NCAA athletes and numerous members of the military, representing the Army, Navy, and Air Force. In addition, there are several marathon runners, one professional golfer, a professional bowler, one professional ballroom dancer, a Zumba instructor, a massage therapist, five Eagle Scouts, three volunteers of the American Red Cross and a HPD officer. The Foreign LL.M. Class of 2012 consists of 43 foreign-trained attorneys, speaking 14 different languages from 21 countries.

Faculty Research and Student Scholarship Giving

A key component in competing with other top law schools is the financial support for students and faculty that comes only through alumni and the community. Scholarships such as those provided by **Carol and Jim Roach '82** allow the University of Houston Law Center to attract outstanding student scholars in a highly competitive market. Generous funding of the innovative Andrews Kurth Energy Law Scholars underwrites faculty research and programs that add significantly to the reputation and capabilities of the Law Center. Need-based scholarships have been added as well, such as the endowment recently provided by **Helena Hippard** in memory of her late husband, **Claude Hippard '83**.

The groundwork has been laid, and now is the time to build upon our successes. We invite you to join in the success of Houston's finest law school as we meet the opportunities ahead. For more information, contact **Kathy Brannon**, Assistant Dean and Sr. Director of External Affairs, at kabranno@central.uh.edu.

Bates Law Courtyard: View



UH Law Center Courtyard Project

Expect a very different and vibrant experience walking through the entry courtyards for Bates and TU II by Fall 2013. "We will brighten the courtyards by adding alternating colors on each of the three walls," said UHLC facilities manager **Allen Emerson**. "We will also add multi-level deck areas around the courtyard with tables and chairs covered by canopies to create another outdoor space for students to interact with faculty, study, or just hang out in between classes."

"The improvements will create a much more pleasant introduction to the Law Center for guests and prospective students," said Dean **Raymond T. Nimmer**.

The refurbishment of the courtyards is next in a series of plans to enhance the student and faculty experience. Most recently, the second level breezeway above the Bates courtyard has been renovated as outdoor study and informal meeting areas thanks to the generous support of Finkelstein Partners, Ltd. in honor of **Philip Donisi**. For information on how you might contribute to improving Law Center facilities, contact **Tom Troegel**, UHLC director of major gifts, at 713-743-2207.

LAW FUND

The Law Fund is the UH Law Center's annual giving program. Gifts are unrestricted and are allocated to the highest budget priorities. These funds:

- **RECRUIT** and retain outstanding faculty members
- **ATTRACT** the best students by increasing financial support
- **BOOST** student and career development services
- **SUPPORT** clinical and advocacy programs
- **UPDATE** computer technology and library materials
- **INCREASE** alumni outreach

EXCELLENCE in higher education never happens by accident. Your support is critical in helping educate the next generation of lawyers and crafting and improving legal policy. Please give.

To give online, please visit <https://giving.uh.edu/law/>. If you would like to make a recurring gift, please contact Leah Nusynowitz Gross '87 at 713.743.2203 or lgross@central.uh.edu.



Cowabunga! Gala a crashing success

Decked out in black tie and pearls, alumni and friends of the University of Houston Law Center “Caught the Wave” for a night of fun, fundraising, and rock-and-roll, all with an aquatic theme, at the 36th Annual Law Gala and Auction held in March.

A Calypso steel drum band greeted more than 500 revelers as they arrived at the “docks” of the Legends Ballroom at the Intercontinental Hotel. The room was aglow with shades of blue, teal and silver to create a beautiful ocean atmosphere complete with three-dimensional waves. Guests browsed the silent auction offerings and weighed their bids before enjoying the Captain’s Dinner. After the live auction, guests were invited to the Discovery Ballroom for a dessert extravaganza served by “sailors” and overseen by a live mermaid on her throne. Calories were danced away to the tunes of Infinite Groove.

“Even after so many years at this Law School, I continue to be amazed and delighted by the level of enthusiasm and support we receive,” said Dean Raymond T. Nimmer. “I’d like to give special thanks to Shelley and Bob Schick ‘81, who chaired this most successful Gala and helped create such a unique evening, and to Shannon Smith and the rest of the External Affairs office for putting it all together.”

“This event always serves as a great opportunity for our alumni and friends of the Law Center to reconnect while enjoying a fun-filled evening,” said Kathy Brannon, Assistant Dean of External Affairs.

While friendships were renewed and contacts made, the evening generated more than \$450,000 for the Law Center. The top live auction item was a trip to Costa Rica, and the silent auction favorite was the ever-popular “Instant Wine Cellar” with an assortment of more than 100 bottles.



Holiday Coffee



2013 UPCOMING EVENTS

University of Houston Law Center and Law Alumni Association

January 5

New Orleans Alumni and Friends Reception (held in conjunction with AALS)
For more information contact: lawalumni@uh.edu

January 23-26

Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship
For more information contact: mcnc@uh.edu

January 24

Blakely Advocacy Institute's Symposium
Stranger Owned Life Insurance (STOLI): Wagering on Life and Death?
For more information contact: mcnc@uh.edu

January 29

Legal Excellence Speaker Series
"Latest Tax Issues for Small Business Owners"
For more information contact: briefcase@uh.edu

January 31

UHLAA Wine Tasting
For more information contact: lawalumni@uh.edu

February 21

Professor John Mixon Retirement Party
For more information contact: lawalumni@uh.edu

February 27

Legal Excellence Speaker Series
"Affordable Care Act: What it Means for Texas"
For more information contact: briefcase@uh.edu

March 21

Legal Excellence Speaker Series
"Shaping Houston's Future: Energy & Environment Law and its Effect on Houston's Business Opportunities"
For more information contact: briefcase@uh.edu

March 23

37th Annual Law Gala & Auction, "Passport Around the World"
For more information contact: lawalumni@uh.edu

April 6

Center for Consumer Law's The People's Law School
For more information visit: law.uh.edu/peopleslaw

April 25

Legal Excellence Speaker Series
"International Trade, NAFTA, Pipelines and the I-69 Corridor"
For more information contact: briefcase@uh.edu

To stay in the know go to: law.uh.edu

Global Law Alumni Network

The University of Houston Law Center is launching the Global Law Alumni Network. It is designed to bring overseas graduates together and strengthen their connection to the Law Center and home. Additional goals are to enable the Law Center to maintain an up-to-date database of alumni contact information, feature mini-profiles on alumni abroad, circulate alumni news and opportunities, and sponsor occasional Global Law Alumni gatherings. Visit the Global Law Alumni Network at law.uh.edu/alumni/global/.

Stay connected to UHLC

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

- On Twitter, you can follow UHLC at www.twitter.com/uhlaw.
- On Facebook, you can become a fan at www.facebook.com/uhlawcenter.
- On LinkedIn, look for the UHLC group.
- On YouTube, you can watch our videos at www.youtube.com/user/TheUHLawCenter.

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**The University of Houston Law Center in cooperation
with Thomson Reuters West LegalEdcenter is pleased
to present our gift to UH Law Center alumni for 2013.**



The University of Houston Law Center has aligned with Thomson Reuters West LegalEdcenter to provide our alumni a valuable resource – unlimited access to the nation's largest web based CLE and professional development service.

The program will provide features such as:

- Access to more than 6,000 continuing legal education programs, including substantive law and practice skills programs from 50+ leading CLE providers, including the American Bar Association
- Unlimited access to programs and toll-free technical support available 24 x 7
- Programs provided directly to you from any location with an Internet connection, including an iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad
- Monthly alerts regarding programs tailored to your practice area and state of admission

An \$840 value, the accredited legal intelligence and education program will be offered complimentary by UH Law Center in 2013.

Visit law.uh.edu/alumni/ for more details.