



UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON
LAW CENTER

DEAN'S REPORT

Decade of Distinction:
A Celebration of Ten Years
of Accomplishments

Please direct correspondence to:

Carrie Anna Criado, EDITOR

University of Houston Law Center

4170 Martin Luther King Blvd, Houston, TX 77204-6060

cacriado@central.uh.edu | 713.743.2184

Assistant Editor Rhamel "Mel" Miranda
Writer Bonnie Buffaloe
Photographers Rhamel "Mel" Miranda, Dayna Hudson
Sr Designer Dayna Hudson
Editorial Assistant Jaymie Turner
Printing UH Copy, Print and Delivery Services

UH Law Center Administration

**Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen
Distinguished Chair, and Professor of Law**

Leonard M. Baynes

**Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,
HIPLA College Professor of Law**

Greg R. Vetter

Associate Dean of Alumni and Community Relations

Sondra R. Tennessee

Assistant Dean of Communications and Marketing

Carrie Anna Criado '95

**Assistant Dean for Faculty Development,
Baker Botts L.L.P. Professor of Law**

David Fagundes

Assistant Dean for Admissions

Pilar Mensah

Assistant Dean for Career Development

Tiffany J. Tucker

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Monica E. Mensah

Senior Director of Development

Brena Baumann-Gonzalez '90

Director of Law Information Technology

Tommy Abraham

**Assistant Dean for Opportunities and Community Engagement
Alumnae College Professor of Law**

Meredith J. Duncan

**Director, Outcomes and Assessments, Professor of Law and the Larry
and Joanne Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics**

Renee N. Knake Jefferson

Executive Director of Global and Graduate Programs

Karen L. Jones

Executive Director of Business Operations

Jessica Claiborne Haynes

Director of the UH Law Library and Assistant Professor of Law

Amanda Watson



University of Houston Law Center — School Centers, Institutes and Select Programs

A.A. White Dispute Resolution Institute

Executive Director, Jim Lawrence '07

Blakely Advocacy Institute

Executive Director, Jim Lawrence '07

Center for Children, Law & Policy

Ellen Marrus, Professor of Law, Emerita

Center for U.S. and Mexican Law

Director, Julian Cardenas, Research Assistant Professor

Criminal Justice Institute

Director, David Kwok, Associate Professor, George A. Butler Research Professor

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Center

Co-Director, Tracy Hester, Instructional Associate Professor of Law

*Co-Director, Gina S. Warren, A.L. O'Quinn Chair in Environmental Studies and
Professor of Law*

Health Law & Policy Institute

*Director, Jessica L. Roberts, Professor of Law,
and Leonard H. Childs Chair in Law*

*Co-Director, Jessica L. Mantel, Associate Professor of Law, and George A. Butler
Research Professor*

Co-Director, Valerie Gutmann Koch, Assistant Professor of Law

Program on Law and Computation

Seth Chandler, Law Foundation Professor of Law

Initiative on Global Law and Policy for the Americas

Director, Elizabeth Trujillo, Mary Ann & Lawrence E. Faust Professor of Law

Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law

*Director, Greg R. Vetter, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and HIPLA
College Professor of Law*

Texas Innocence Network

*Director, David R. Dow, Cullen Professor of Law
Co-Director, Cassandra Jeu*



2023-2025 UH Law Alumni Association Board

Kris Thomas '83 | **President**
Kate Blaine '03 | **President Elect**
Michelle Gray '11 | **Vice President**
Staci Wilson '09 | **Secretary**
Alex Roberts '06 | **Immediate Past-President/Ex-Officio**

Directors

Rehan Alimohammad '01	Robert J. Sergesketter '95
Jeff Andrews '05	Mishell Parreno Taylor '03
Scott D. Ellis '06	Shannon Terry '18
Fermeen Fazal '00	Harve Truskett '08
Weston O'Black '08	Richard Whiteley '99
Shannon Quadros '10	Victor Wright '98
Judge Ravi K. Sandill '01	
Peter Scaff '00	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Dean's Message
5	Students
7	Class Credentials
8	Bar Pass Rates
10	Graduate Employment
13	Rankings
17	Faculty
23	Building a Legacy
29	Notable Events
33	Alumni
37	Community

DEAN'S MESSAGE



It is hard to believe that I started my deanship in 2014, almost 10 years ago. I'm now tied as the second longest law dean in UH Law Center's history, I'm the 20th longest serving law dean in the U.S., and I am currently the longest serving law dean in the State of Texas.

Who would think that this New Yorker would serve successfully as UH Law dean for this length of time. I believe that it shows the welcoming attitude of the residents of Houston and the state of Texas as well as the sincerity of the UH Law Center community of faculty, students, staff and alumni.

During my deanship, I underscored the Power of Legal Education and its transformative ability. It has been a great honor to witness the many transformations at UH Law Center over the past decade under my administration and highlighted within the pages of this "Decade of Distinction: A Celebration of Ten Years of Accomplishments" booklet.

Over the past ten years, the academic credentials as well as the range of backgrounds of our entering classes have risen steadily, a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence in legal pedagogy and representation. We have hired well credentialed faculty members who are outstanding scholars and teachers whose passion for education and legal acumen have propelled our institution to new heights. Ten of UH Law's specialty programs have ranked in the top 50 by *U.S. News & World Report* and three UH Law specialty programs (intellectual property, health law, and part-time) consistently rank in the top 10. Other key ranking surveys also consistently and highly rank UH Law in the areas of quality, cost and employment. For 8 years in a row, we have received the Higher Education Excellence Award



("HEED") from *Insight into Diversity Magazine*.

In 2021, we were the only law school to be recognized as a "Diversity Champion" by the same magazine. We have broadened our community and global outreach and launched new programs and initiatives including the Pre-Law Pipeline Program, Community Service Day, and Briefcase Radio and TV. We have also expanded our pro bono efforts through our Law Clinics to reach those most in need of pro bono legal assistance at an estimated value of \$3M annually.

We have also increased alumni engagement and philanthropy through our "More than Bricks" and "Fuel the Future" Initiatives. As part of the "More than Bricks" campaign, our alumni, the bedrock of our legacy, led efforts to raise funds for the new \$93 million world-class and ultramodern John M. O'Quinn Law Building. More than 400 donors, representing the geographical, gender, and racial/ethnic representation of our alumni, contributed funds for this campaign. Additional monies came from a state appropriation and funding from the University of Houston. Our "Fuel the Future" initiative remains ongoing with the goal to increase student scholarships.

In 2022, we celebrated UH Law Center's 75th Anniversary and reached a monumental milestone with the formal opening of the John M. O'Quinn Law Building, which is the newest law school building in the state of Texas. The Law Building, named after renowned trial attorney and philanthropist,

the late John M. O'Quinn (J.D. '67), reflects the Law Center's prominence and modernity. This state-of-the-art facility stands as not only a beacon of innovation but also as a testament to our dedication to provide an exceptional learning environment conducive to research and collaboration.

I may also have been the Dean who traveled the most to visit alumni and hold events for them across the nation and internationally including Atlanta, Austin, Calgary, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, St. Louis, Washington, D.C., as well as other locations. We also have revved up outreach and have also held alumni events for our African American, Latinx, Asian American, LGBTQ+, and women alumni.

As we reflect on the past ten years, we do so with gratitude for the unwavering support of our community. Together, we have reached greatness and, together we will continue to shape the future of legal education and the legal profession.

Sincerely,

Leonard M. Baynes

Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen
Distinguished Chair, and Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

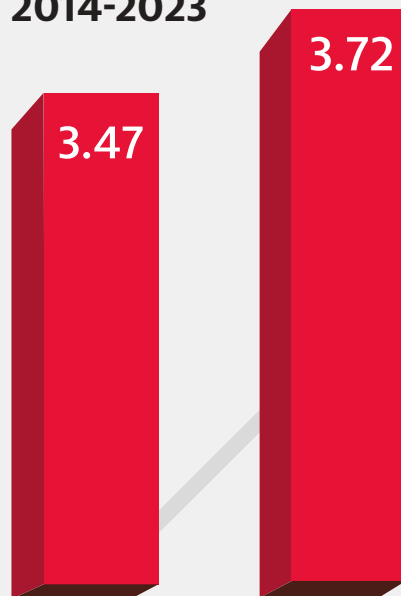


The University of Houston Law Center is dedicated to delivering a top-tier legal education to all students, equipping them for successful careers in law. With a wide range of programs, including Pre-Law Pipeline Programs, J.D., part-time J.D., and LL.M. specialty degrees, the Law Center provides exceptional value in legal education. In addition to all this, the class credentials have improved as well, reaching the highest median LSAT and undergraduate GPA in the Law Center's history.

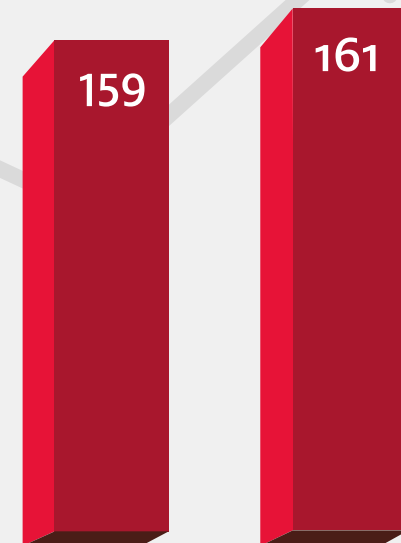


STUDENTS

GPA Statistics 2014-2023



LSAT Score Statistics 2014-2023



Racial/ Ethnic Representation of Incoming Classes



**TOP 25
LAW SCHOOL
FOR HISPANICS**

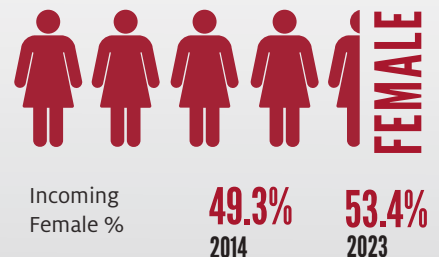
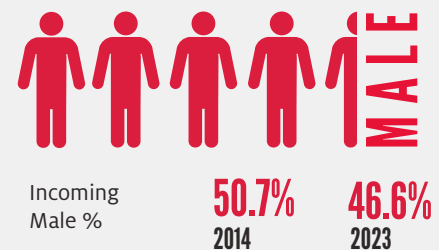
RECOGNIZED BY HISPANIC OUTLOOK
MAGAZINE 2014-2023



**BEST
LAW SCHOOL
FOR ASIANS**

RECOGNIZED BY PRELAW MAGAZINE
2022

Gender Representation of Incoming Class



CLASS CREDENTIALS



The academic qualifications of entering students have increased steadily over the past 10 years. Since 2014, the overall entering J.D. class median LSAT has increased to 161, the highest LSAT median in the Law Center's history. The median undergraduate GPA has also increased to 3.72, which is the highest undergraduate GPA in the Law Center's recorded history for both the full-time and part-time programs.

At the same time, the breadth of backgrounds of each first-year class has also increased, and female students became the majority in 2018. Of the recent 2023 incoming class, women constituted 53.4%. The first-year entering class is comprised of 44.3% who are members of underrepresented minority groups including African Americans (6.9%), American Indians

(0.8%), Asian Americans (16.8%), Hispanics/Latinx (19.1%) and Native Hawaiian (0.8%). For the second time, incoming students were surveyed about their sexual identity and almost 15% voluntarily identified as LGBTQ+.



BAR PASS RATES

At the University of Houston Law Center, we believe it is imperative for students to receive the support they need to pass the bar exam. Which is why we have made it a priority to provide students with resources throughout every stage of law school. In addition to core bar classes like Contracts, Criminal Law and Torts, the Law Center also offers bar skills electives in legal analysis and professional writing skills as well as academic support.

Since 2014, five Law Center students have the distinction of being among the top three highest bar exam test takers in Texas. Law Center graduates have consistently outperformed the overall bar passage rate of first-time test-takers from all Texas law schools.

Texas Bar Exam Pass Rate – 1st Time Examinees 2018-2022 Weighted Average

≈85%



For the July 2023 exam, the Law Center's overall pass rate for first-time examinees was almost 90% This was UHLC's highest first-time examinee pass rate since February 2013.



TOP BAR EXAM RESULTS IN TEXAS



David Rusk '14
3rd Highest Score
2014 July Exam



Christina White '16
2nd Highest Score
2016 February Exam



Emily Seaman Hoy '20
2nd Highest Score
2021 February Exam



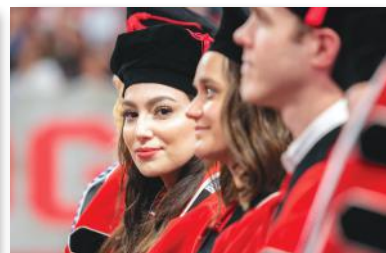
Nicholas Kacal '20
3rd Highest Score
2021 February Exam



Julie Le '20
2nd Highest Score
2021 March Exam

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

In recent years, approximately **92%** of the Law Center's recent graduates have secured jobs within 10 months after graduation. The success of our graduates is attributed to the hard work, dedication and innovation of the Law Center's Career Development Office (CDO).



CDO expanded or launched several new career-oriented initiatives over the past few years with great success.

- ▶ **UHLC 3L Hiring Initiative:** This initiative focuses on increasing at-graduation employment for our recent students. It encourages employers to identify, interview, and extend employment to 3L law students prior to graduation.
- ▶ **Small & Midsize Firm Open House:** Law firms with 50 or fewer attorneys meet with students and recent graduates on campus to fill law clerk, summer associate, and permanent attorney positions.
- ▶ **Alternative Legal Career Table Talk:** Nontraditional, law-related employers discuss opportunities for law students and recent graduates interested in J.D. Advantage positions,

those where a J.D. has a demonstrable advantage, but a bar license is not required.

- ▶ **Transactional Lunch & Learn:** This event brings together Houston-area attorneys working the various transactional law practice specialties to expand students' awareness of the different ways an attorney can work in a transactional law.
- ▶ **Solo Incubator Program:** This program helps recent graduates build solo law practices by providing funding, law practice resource guides and coaching.
- ▶ **Recent Graduate Career Advising:** Alumni career advisors offer personalized guidance for recent grads to secure and excel in their first jobs.

STUDENTS

UHLC graduates are highly sought after by every type of legal employer. Under Dean Baynes's leadership, UHLC recent graduate employment rates have been 92% or higher for the last five years. Legal employers from every sector seek out UHLC graduates and the CDO maintains great relationships among legal employers and alumni.



STUDENT EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY 10 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION 2014-2022



GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT TYPES 2014-2022



1275
LAW FIRMS



297
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY



161
GOVERNMENT



51
PUBLIC INTEREST



56
CLERKSHIPS



27
EDUCATION

PRE-LAW PIPELINE PROGRAMS

**Over \$11.1M in Law School Scholarships
Awarded to Pipeline Alums.**

UH Law Center's award-winning PreLaw Pipeline Programs are race-neutral designed to grow the pipeline of law students. More than **140** Pre-Law Pipeline participants have been accepted into law schools across the country. For the past nine years, the Pre-Law Pipeline Programs have made a profound difference in the lives of its participating students, offering a range of resources including LSAT preparation, introductory law school classes, internships, and professional development sessions.

40

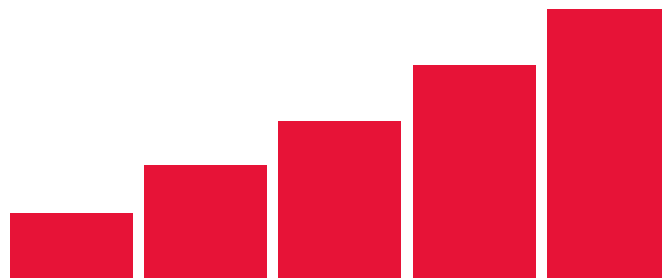
**Pipeline Scholars Accepted to
UHLC**

140

**Pipeline Scholars Accepted to
Law School**

405

Program Participants



Median LSAT Score Increase: 6-14

Median GPA: 3.65





RANKINGS

The University of Houston Law Center has consistently emerged as a top-tier institution, earning accolades from highly regarded legal and academic publications.

Among the noteworthy rankings, UH Law Center has three specialty programs annually securing spots in the Top 10 nationally and 10 programs in the Top 50. These highly regarded programs include Intellectual Property Law, Health Care Law, and the Part-Time law degree program.

The UH Law Center has established itself as a leader in Texas, topping the charts in various legal disciplines. According to the *U.S. News & World Report*, the Law Center claims the **No. 1 spot in Texas for Intellectual Property Law, Health Law, Legal Writing, Environmental Law, and Part-Time Program.**

The UH Law Center also secured its position as a “**Go-to**” law school, **ranking at No. 32** by Law.com. The annual ranking rates the number of graduates hired as associates by the largest 100 law firms in the country. This recognition underlines the Law Center’s success in sending its students and recent graduates to top firms in big law.

The LL.M. program has garnered international recognition in the *LLM Guide*, ranking as a **top 10 program globally for Energy, Global Law, Health Law and Intellectual Property Law.** The LL.M. program is also recognized nationally as an LL.M. Honor Roll program in *National Jurist* for Environmental & Energy, Health Law, Intellectual Property and Tax Law.

U.S. NEWS RANKINGS



- ▶ **Part-Time Program**
- ▶ **Intellectual Property Law**
- ▶ **Health Law**



- ▶ **Part-Time Program**
- ▶ **Intellectual Property Law**
- ▶ **Health Law**
- ▶ **Legal Writing**
- ▶ **Environmental Law**

LLM GUIDE RANKINGS



- ▶ **Intellectual Property Law**
- ▶ **Health and Medical Law**
- ▶ **Energy Law**
- ▶ **Global Law**



- ▶ **Best Value**

MORE THAN A SCHOOL | WE ARE A LAW CENTER

We are an outstanding law school and that's only the beginning. More than 11 centers, institutes, and programs fuel our educational mission and we are recognized nationally in numerous areas of specialization.



2021-2023



2019-2023



2019-2023



2019-2023



2018;
2021-2023



2018-2019;
2021-2023



2022-2023



2018-2019;
2021-2023



2018-2019;
2021-2023



2018-2019;
2021-2023



2022-2023



2019: 2022

INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY

The UH Law Center has been honored with the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award for eight consecutive years, from 2016 to 2023. In addition to this remarkable achievement, in 2021, the UH Law Center earned the title of Diversity Champion. Notably, the UH Law Center was the only law school to have received the designation of Diversity Champion in 2021.



HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL



The UH Law Center was recognized in the Outstanding Diverse Organizations category in the *Houston Business Journal's* Diversity in Business Awards in 2022 and 2023.



FACULTY

The University of Houston Law Center's prominent faculty are internationally and nationally renowned in their fields. Faculty provide expert commentary and analysis on the latest legal issues with publications in the Top 30 Law Reviews and interviews in top-tier media outlets. Their reach goes beyond Texas with many serving as Fulbright Scholars abroad in places such as Canada, Australia, and France.

FACULTY HIRES SINCE 2014

The faculty has expanded to include additional individuals with excellent credentials who are passionate teachers and renowned scholars. Since the beginning of Dean Baynes's tenure, UHLC has revamped the non-tenure track (NTT) faculty, hiring a number of outstanding candidates after rigorous national searches. The faculty also implemented a comprehensively revised NTT faculty policy that provides improved job security for the NTT faculty members and integrates them more fully into the UHLC community.

Faculty Statistics 2014-2024



55,000

Media mentions



19

Active Law Center faculty are
members of the American
Law Institute



16

Faculty have been honored with
the UH Teaching Excellence
Award



15

Faculty published in Top 30
Law Reviews



18

Tenured or tenure-track
faculty hired



17

Non-tenure faculty hired

SELECTED LAW FACULTY TOP JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS



Emily Berman
Boston College Law Review
**Weaponizing the Office of
Legal Counsel**



Dave Fagundes
Cornell Law Review
**The City's Second
Amendment**
(with Darrell Miller)



Leah Fowler
Stanford Law Review
Femtechnodystopia
(with Michael Ulrich)



Jim Hawkins
Emory Law Journal
Advertising Injustices
(with Tiffany Penner)



Douglas K. Moll
U.C. Davis Law Review
**Against Contractual Formalism
in Shareholder Oppression Law**
(with Ben Means)



James Nelson
Virginia Law Review
**Second-Order Decisions
in Rights Conflicts**
(with Micah Schwartzman)



Laura Portuondo
Duke Law Journal
**Effecting Free Exercise and
Equal Protection**



Jessica Roberts
Columbia Law Review
**Genetic Race? DNA Ancestry
Tests, Racial Identity, & the
Law**
(with Trina Jones)



Lonny Hoffman
William & Mary Law Review
Pereira's Aftershocks



Renee Knake Jefferson
Fordham Law Review
**Mentored: On
Leaders, Legacies, and
Legal Ethics**



Valerie Gutmann Koch
Fordham Law Review
**Medical Harm Without
Negligence**



Peter Salib
Northwestern University Law
Review
Big Data Affirmative Action



Gina Warren
Boston University Law Review
**Hotboxing the Polar Bear: The
Energy and Climate Impacts of
Indoor Marijuana Cultivation**



Kellen Zale
University of Pennsylvania Law
Review
The Anti-Tenancy Doctrine
(with Sarah Shindler)

UH TEACHING AWARDS



The University of Houston Law Center faculty has always distinguished itself with excellent teaching. Over the last decade, 16 members of the Law Center faculty have been recognized with UH Teaching Excellence Awards.

Most recently, seven law center faculty members were recognized at the 2023 UH Faculty and Staff Awards including: Dave Fagundes with the **Teaching Excellence Award** and the **Lawyering Skills and Strategy team for the Group Teaching Award**. **UHLc group members included:** Katherine Brem, Alissa Ruben Gomez, Whitney Heard, Hilary Reed, Lauren Simpson, and Kenneth Swift.

INTERNATIONAL FACULTY RECOGNITION

During the last ten years several members of the Law Center faculty have been competitively selected to participate in the Fulbright Scholars Program, spending semesters abroad, conducting research, writing, and lecturing in their areas of expertise.



Leonard M. Baynes, UH Law Center Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair, and Professor of Law along with **Thomas Oldham**, the John H. Freeman Professor of Law, were recommended for the Fulbright Specialist Roster 2016-21. Specialists are chosen for their knowledge, skills, and ability to contribute to projects at their host institutions abroad. Oldham was previously selected as a Fulbright Senior Scholar to visit the University of Sydney and Australia National University in the fall of 2015.



Renee Knake Jefferson, the Joanne and Larry Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics and Director of Outcomes and Assessments, was awarded the 2019 Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia.



Karen Jones, the University of Houston Law Center's Executive Director of Global and Graduate Programs, has spent part of the 2022-2023 academic year in France after being selected as a recipient of the Fulbright International Education Administrators award.



Kellen Zale, Associate Professor of Law and George Butler Research Professorship, was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Comparative Canada-U.S. Studies. Selected by the Foundation for Educational Exchange between Canada and the United States, Zale taught and conducted research at Trent University in Ontario in 2023, collaborating with Canadian scholars and practitioners in her field.

BUILDING A LEGAL LEGACY

The Law Center's new home is a striking icon. At approximately 180,000 square feet, the five-story cantilevered John M. O'Quinn Law Building reflects the Law Center's caliber and standing.

The More than Bricks campaign raised almost \$93 million to make this world-class building possible and is named after UH Law Center alumnus the late John M. O'Quinn (J.D. '67), an accomplished attorney, philanthropist, and one of the university's most enthusiastic supporters.

Opened in August 2022, it is one of the newest law school buildings in the country. Designed by the women-owned architecture firm, Shepley Bulfinch, the facility has dedicated spaces for instruction, research, legal clinics, and events.

Key amenities include a two-story library, a meditation room, a dividable courtroom, commuter showers, a rooftop lounge with stunning views of the city's skyline, student lounges, an advocacy skills lab, and a convenience store. This ultramodern building, located at 4170 Martin Luther King Boulevard, marks a new era in legal education for the Law Center, which continues to empower generations of legal minds.



JOHN M. O'QUINN LAW BUILDING



BUILDING A LEGACY



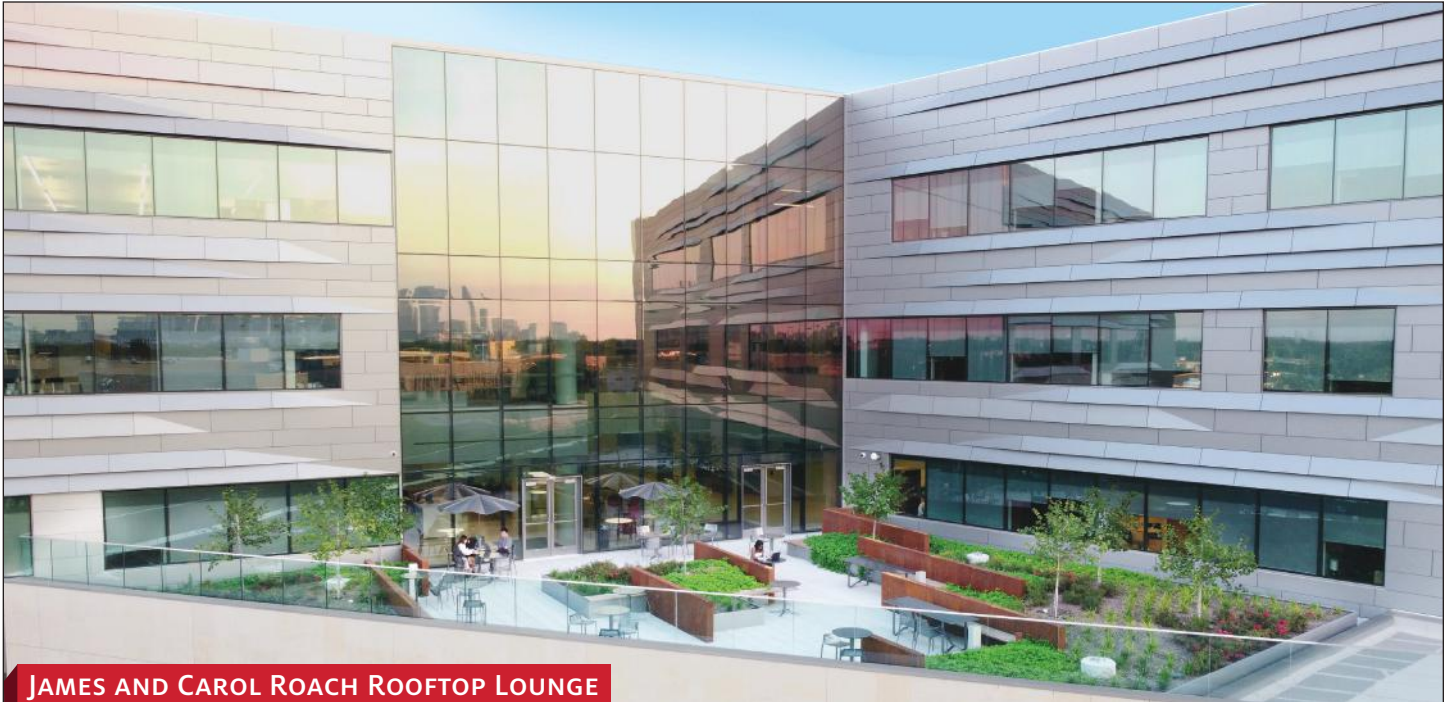
BILL SWENSON FAMILY LOBBY

The University of Houston Law Center's John M. O'Quinn Law Building has received national recognition for being an environmentally friendly structure. The U.S. Green Building Council awarded the Law Center with a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification, receiving 55 points.

The John M. O'Quinn Law Building recently received the Higher Education Award of Merit at the 2023 International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Southwest Chapter Design Awards ceremony on April 20. The new Law Building has also been recognized as "best building" by Pre-Law Magazine.



2022 LAW BUILDING RIBBON CUTTING



JAMES AND CAROL ROACH ROOFTOP LOUNGE



**DANNY M. SHEENA COURTROOM
DANNY M. SHEENA CLASSROOM A AND MEGAN D. SHEENA CLASSROOM B**



Royce and Carol West African American Law Heritage Wall of Honor

State Sen. Royce West (J.D. '79) and his wife Carol West dedicated the heritage wall to recognize the achievements and contributions of UH Law Center African American alumni and faculty. The Royce and Carol West African American Law Heritage Wall of Honor is located on the 2nd floor of the John M. O'Quinn Law Building.



Ezequiel Reyna Jr. and Livia Reyna Hispanic Law Heritage Wall of Honor

Ezequiel Reyna Jr. (J.D. '80) and his wife Livia Reyna (M.Ed. '79) designated the heritage wall to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions of Hispanic alumni and faculty at the University of Houston Law Center. The Ezequiel Reyna Jr. and Livia Reyna Hispanic Law Heritage Wall of Honor is located on the 2nd floor of the John M. O'Quinn Law Building..



NOTABLE EVENTS

Alumni Events & Notable Lectures

Over the past decade, UH Law Center has hosted various annual lecture series and featured several remarkable and notable speakers. These thought-provoking presentations have not only enriched our academic environment but also fostered a deeper understanding of the legal landscape.

Some annual lectures include:

- **Black History Month Lecture:** The annual event explores the contributions of African Americans in the United States and delves into contemporary legal

issues impacting the Black community. Past speakers include award-winning author, poet and lawyer **Reginald Dwayne Betts**; Georgetown Law Professor **Paul Butler**, Harvard Law School Professor **Annette Gordon-Reed**, and filmmaker **Andrea Young**.

- **Frankel Lecture-** A *Houston Law Review* program that creates dialogue among legal academics on complicated legal issues. Past speakers include NYU Professor and author **Melissa Murray**.

NOTABLE EVENTS



CORNELL WILLIAM BROOKS,
THEN NAACP PRESIDENT & CEO



ANITA HILL



DEAN BAYNES WITH
TANYA KATERÍ HERNÁNDEZ

- **Justice Ruby Kless Sondock** Lectureship in Legal Ethics program: The program brings sitting jurists to campus for a day of interaction with students, faculty, and the Houston legal community. Past speakers have included former U.S. District Court Judge **Vanessa Gilmore '81** and Judge **Jeffrey S. Sutton** of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

- **Yale L. Rosenberg Memorial Lecture:** The Rosenberg Lecture is named in honor of Rice University alumnus and University of Houston Law Center professor and award-winning scholar, Yale L. Rosenberg. Past speakers include then NAACP President and CEO **Cornell William Brooks**, Harvard scholar **Tomiko Brown-Nagin**, Professor **Gabriel “Jack” Chin** of the UC Davis School of Law, and President and Director-Counsel of the Legal

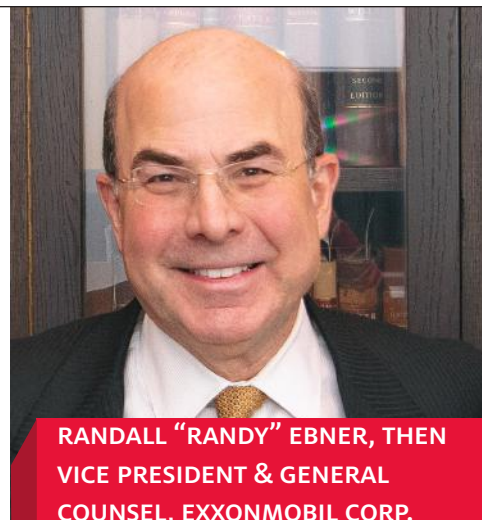
Defense Fund **Janai S. Nelson**. Professor **Tanya Katerí Hernández**, the Archibald R. Murray Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law, spoke during the 2019 Lecture. **Renee Knake Jefferson** pays tribute to shortlisted women Supreme Court nominees in 2017.

- **Joseph A. Vail Asylum Law Workshop:** This annual workshop is named after former federal immigration judge, lawyer, and UH Law Center professor Joseph A. Vail. Past speakers include Retired Immigration Judge **Jimmie L. Benton**, Director of the ABA’s Children’s Immigration Law Academy **Dalia Castillo-Granados**, former Board of Immigration Appeals member **Lory Rosenberg** and former Board of Immigration Appeals Chairman **Paul W. Schmidt**.

NOTABLE EVENTS



TEXAS SUPREME COURT



RANDALL "RANDY" EBNER, THEN VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL COUNSEL, EXXONMOBIL CORP.

Other Notable Events:

- U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit held oral arguments at the Law Center in February 2020.
- Brandeis University Professor and civil rights activist **Anita Hill** spoke at the Law Center in 2019.
- UHLC Dean **Leonard M. Baynes** spoke with **Cathy Hughes**, Founder and Chairperson of Urban One, Inc., the largest African American-owned and operated media company in the nation, in 2022.
- Supreme Court Justice **Sonia Sotomayor** visited the Law Center for a fireside chat in 2018 encouraging students to participate in pro-bono work.
- **Star Jones** '86, attorney, journalist, TV personality, author and businesswoman delivered the UH Law Center commencement address to the Class of 2018.
- The Texas Supreme Court held oral arguments at the Law Center in 2017.
- ExxonMobil Vice President and General Counsel **Randall M. Ebner** offered career advice to law students and met with alumni and friends as the inaugural guest of the 2019 Dean's Distinguished Speaker series.
- **Alamdar Hamdani** '99 visited the Law Center for a fireside chat in 2023 and spoke about the importance of connections and pivotal moments in his journey to becoming a U.S. Attorney
- **Erwin Chemerinsky**, President of the Association of American Law Schools, Dean and the Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor at UC Berkeley School of Law was the luncheon speaker during the University of Houston Law Center's new John M. O'Quinn Law Building and Dedication Conference in 2023.





The UH Law Center has a growing network of more than 17,000 alumni worldwide. During the last 10 years outreach to alumni not only in Texas but across the nation and internationally has been re-energized. Alumni engagement has increased through More than Bricks campaign, leading efforts to raise funds for a new \$93 million world-class law building. Alumni Relations also networked with lawyers, judges, students and other legal professionals through UHLC events and CLE presentations.

The University of Houston Law Center and the University of Houston Law Center Alumni Association hosted the Annual Law Gala & Auction.

The Gala celebrates the achievements of the UH Law Alumni Association, and the auctions raise money for scholarships and UH Law Center initiatives.

Funds raised at the Gala support UH Law Center's Fuel the Future Initiative which moves the Law Center forward through two primary avenues, student scholarships for economically challenged and high-caliber students of all backgrounds and through the Law Fund.

Proceeds from the Annual Law Gala and Auction will fund scholarships, advocacy programs, faculty research, student organizations, library acquisitions, technology advances, student recruitments, and student activities that enrich life at the Law Center.

ALUMNI



2023 ANNUAL LAW GALA



NEW YORK ALUMNI AND FIRM NETWORKING
MARCH 2023



2023 WEST COAST ALUMNI NETWORKING
LOS ANGELES, CA

ALUMNI



2015 DC ALUMNI VISIT



2017 MEXICO CITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



2019 LAS VEGAS ALUMNI VISIT



2019 AALS NEW ORLEANS ALUMNI VISIT



2017 MEXICO CITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



2016 RIO GRANDE VALLEY
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



2022 ST. LOUIS
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



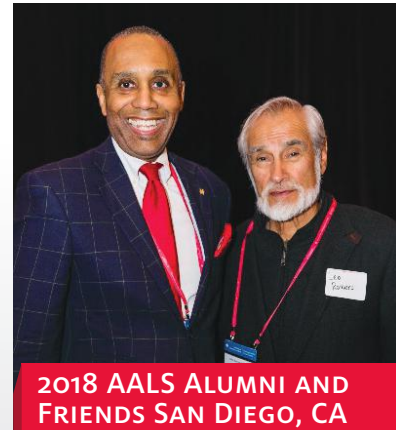
2018 AALS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SAN DIEGO, CA



2017 DC ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



2017 ATLANTA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



2018 AALS ALUMNI AND
FRIENDS SAN DIEGO, CA



The University of Houston Law Center is dedicated to community and global engagement, exemplified by initiatives like the Pre-Law Pipeline Programs. This race-neutral effort aims to increase the representation of law students from low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented backgrounds.

UHLC also expanded its educational outreach through platforms like Briefcase Radio and TV, sharing legal insights with a broader audience beyond traditional classrooms. The Global and Graduate Programs has broadened the global footprint by engaging with universities, firms, governments, organizations, corporations, and practitioners around the world.

Dean Baynes initiated Community Service Day in 2014, promoting community service among 1L students. This annual event encourages group activities that benefit the Houston community.

UHLC's commitment to pro bono services, valued at nearly \$3 million annually, is facilitated by extensive clinical programs and workshops, providing hands-on experience for students while addressing community legal needs.

BRIEFCASE RADIO & TV



In September 2016, the University of Houston Law Center and KUHF joined forces to introduce “Briefcase,” a weekly radio broadcast that delves into a wide range of legal topics, aiming to inform and engage the public. Hosted by Dean Leonard M. Baynes, this program features one-minute segments involving various experts, including Law Center faculty, students, alumni, and legal professionals. Over the years, Briefcase has addressed pressing issues such as national security, public health emergencies, freedom of speech, and challenges facing crime labs.

The pilot episode of Briefcase tackled the concerning practice of credit card companies targeting college students. <https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/shows/briefcase/>

Expanding its reach, the UH Law Center introduced a complementary video series hosted by Dean Baynes, focusing on the Bill of Rights. This educational effort aims to help the public understand the significance of these constitutional amendments in today’s changing legal landscape. The video series starts by exploring the First Amendment, covering freedom of religion, speech, press, peaceful assembly, and the right to petition the government. <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDyIXpMnu7fmgEwucYEr1gxOlyw2XtWfY&si=TUAMIF7BzZRVkZ4z>

In a time when legal awareness is crucial, UH Law Center’s Briefcase program, both in radio and video formats, shares legal expertise with the broader Houston community.

COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY



NATIVE PLANT SEED SORTING

Before beginning their first year of law school, 1L students participate in several community service projects across Houston. The initiative was established in 2014 to teach students entering the legal profession the importance of providing support for their communities.

In past Community Service Days, students received an introduction to immigration law by volunteering at naturalization workshops, prepared meal packages at the Houston Food Bank, took to the outdoors with gardening projects at Beauty's Community Garden in Independence Heights, Hermann Park – Japanese Garden and Native Seed Packing, and assisted veterans at the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Veterans Clinic.



JAPANESE GARDENS



HOUSTON FOOD BANK



VETERANS AFFAIRS

CLINIC PROGRAMS



CLINIC PROGRAM STUDENTS

The University of Houston Law Center's Clinical Program has a dual mission of helping facilitate student success through experiential service learning and providing first-rate pro-bono legal representation to clients. Through the legal clinics, law students gain hands-on, practical experience in the legal profession while still in law school. Under the guidance and supervision of clinical faculty, our law students handle all aspects of client representation, from interviewing to legal drafting, to conducting trials in court.

In August 2022, the University of Houston Law Center moved into its new home — the John M. O'Quinn Law Building. The building boasts an impressive 10,200-square-foot clinical suite designed specifically for our Clinical Program. Clients and potential clients have reserved parking

and can easily locate the clinics on the first floor next to the building's main entrance. The suite contains a reception area, six conference rooms, 17 offices for clinic faculty and staff, multiple copy and break rooms, and an expansive student work area and collaboration space.

During the past ten years, several law clinics were established, such as the Appellate Civil Rights Clinic, Criminal Defense Clinic, and the Entertainment Law Clinic, providing students with a wide range of different doctrinal areas to choose from. Also, over the past ten years, two other clinics were renamed. The Transactional Clinic became the Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic, and the Consumer Law Clinic became the Civil Justice Clinic, providing students with a slightly broader focus than what was previously offered.



Law Center Clinics

1. Appellate Civil Rights Clinic
2. Civil Justice Clinic
3. Criminal Defense Clinic
4. Death Penalty & Criminal Appeals Clinic
5. Entertainment Law Clinic
6. Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic
7. Immigration Clinic
8. Innocence Investigations
9. Mediation Clinic
10. Military Justice Clinic

GLOBAL OUTREACH

Located in one of the most internationally diverse cities in the United States, the University of Houston is a full-scale Carnegie R1 international research university. The UH Law Center is a top tier law school and has greatly expanded its global outreach in several areas with the goal of raising the school's standing abroad and enhancing the educational experience here at home.

Global and Graduate Programs

Global and Graduate Programs empowers the legal community to make a positive impact on the world. UH Law Center offers dozens of classes, seminars, CLEs, programs and collaborations covering a wide range of international and global fields. Global and Graduate Programs expands the global footprint of the UH Law Center by offering world class LL.M. programs and training opportunities to our foreign lawyers (U.S. Law LL.M.) and our domestic lawyers (International Law and related fields), and by engaging the global community in mutually beneficial collaborations between the UH Law Center and universities, firms, governments, organizations, corporations, and practitioners around the world.

UHLC has international academic partnerships with the following institutions:

- University of Ljubljana, Slovenia;
- McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada;
- Universidad Anahuac, Mexico;
- Universidad de LaSalle, Mexico;
- Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU), Saudi Arabia;
- University of Bologna, Italy;
- University of Calgary, Canada;
- The Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, Portugal.

Center for U.S. and Mexican Law

The Center for U.S. and Mexican Law, established in 2012, is the first independent research center in the United States dedicated to the study of Mexican law and legal aspects of U.S. – Mexico relations. In 2022, Research Assistant Professor Julian Cardenas was appointed as the new Director of the Center. Based in Houston, a gateway between the two countries, the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law collaborates with multiple prestigious Mexican institutions including the National Hydrocarbons Commission and PEMEX. One of the Law Center's longest partnerships is a unique 30-year relationship with the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The UH Law Center provides scholarships each year toward LL.M. degrees for Mexican Foreign Ministry Scholars and in turn UH Law Center students serve as summer interns at the Office of the Legal Adviser in México City.

Global Law and Policy for the Americas

The Initiative on Global Law and Policy for the Americas (GLPA) was launched in 2020. GLPA is aimed at uniting academics, practitioners and policy makers to develop research, coursework and collaboration in the areas of international and comparative law. Elizabeth Trujillo, founding director and Mary Ann & Lawrence E. Faust Professor of Law, says the mission is to provide a platform to examine how domestic law and policy in the Americas shapes global law and policy and vice versa.



CLE: MEXICO SUES THE U.S. GUN INDUSTRY



FIRST THREE JOINT JD GRADUATES FROM UH LAW CENTER AND UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY



PROFESSOR CARDENAS HOSTS UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE NUEVO LEÓN (UANL) STUDENTS IN SUMMER PROGRAM



MEXICO CITY



MEXICO CITY



KENYAN DELEGATION VISIT

DEVELOPMENT



ALUMNI AND FRIENDS AT THE JOHN M. O'QUINN LAW BUILDING RIBBON CUTTING

Donations have increased over the past 10 years. Most significantly, are the more than 400 donors, representing the geographical, gender, and racial/ethnic representation of the alumni, who contributed funds to help raise \$93 million for the John M. O'Quinn Law Building. There are many ways to support the UH Law Center. Many alumni and friends of the Center participate in the philanthropic opportunities: 100% Challenge, Dean's Society, Albertus Magnus Society, Endowed Scholarships, and Cornerstone Club Donors.

Through our Fuel the Future campaign alumni and friends of the Law Center are investing in students. This scholarship support grows not only an individual's prosperity, but a robust legal community representing people of all backgrounds, and ultimately grows a philanthropic community to continue to give back for generations to come. The initiative goal is to triple our annual philanthropic scholarship support and raise \$10 million by 2026.





MANY THANKS TO THE CORNERSTONE CLUB DONORS

The John M. O'Quinn Foundation

Stanley (J.D. '67) and Linda Blend, and the Blend Family Foundation

Chamberlain Hrdlicka

Thomas (J.D. '98) and Eyvette Hetherington

William J. (J.D. '92) and Shawn Jackson

Gregory C. (J.D. '85) and Leigh Ann (J.D. '85) King,
and Gregory C. King Jr. (J.D. '16)

Stephen P. (J.D. '92) and Aimée Mosher (M.A. '91) Koch

Charles W. Matthews (J.D. '70)

William L. Maynard ('70, J.D. '73)

Reginald E. McKamie (J.D. '86)

Jim M. Perdue Jr. (J.D. '93) and Nicole Perdue

Porter Hedges

Livia R. Reyna (M.Ed '79) and Ezequiel Reyna Jr. (J.D.'80)

James (J.D. '82) and Carol Roach

Danny M. ('87, J.D. '95) and Shannon ('03, M.A. '06) Sheena

Bill (J.D. '87) and Sandy Swenson

Brad (J.D. '79) and Stephanie Tucker

University of Houston Law Foundation Board

Andy Waters (J.D. '86)

Honorable Royce (J.D. '79) and Carol West

William "Willie" D. Wood (J.D. '84)

Honorable Alvin L. (J.D. '67) and Susie Zimmerman

“MORE THAN BRICKS”

ALUMNI GIVING STATS 2014 – 2023

DONOR DEMOGRAPHICS

55%

live in the **Houston area**

17%

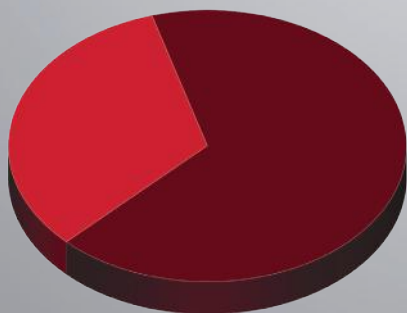
live outside of **Texas**

36%

live in **Texas** outside of
Houston

42%

Women



58%
Men





4170 Martun Luther King Blvd
Houston, TX 77204-6060

STAY CONNECTED

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



/uhlawcentralumni



search for UHLC group



@uhlaw



/TheUHLawCenter

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university and an EEO/AA institution.

