

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

*Richard M. Alderman*



One of my goals as Interim Dean is to expand lines of communication among all those in the Law Center community. Part of that effort is this Annual Report, showing our alumni, the lifeblood of this institution, exactly where our money came from and where it went in Fiscal 2013. As you will see, the Law Center is currently on firm financial footing, in large part because of the strong support of its alums. But we cannot become complacent, and we must continue to increase our donor base and total contributions. All law schools today face intense competition from both other law schools and other professions. To maintain our position within the academic community and continue to attract the best students, we will need to increase the resources available for scholarships and other student support. As you read this report, please consider increasing your support to the Law Center in Fiscal 2014.

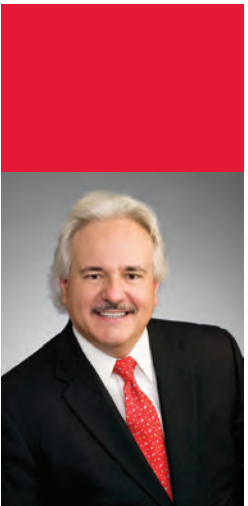
I hope this report will become a recurring exercise in “transparency,” so you will understand the importance of your contribution to the Law Center. I encourage your continued support and because communication is a two-way street, please let me hear from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Alderman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Richard M. Alderman  
Interim Dean  
Dwight Olds Chair in Law

## MESSAGE FROM UH LAW FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

*Jeff C. Dodd*



This is the first in what I hope to be several communications about our shared alma mater, the University of Houston Law Center. We have much to be proud of – rankings that continue to rise; a growing prominence within academia, the legal industry and media; enhanced curriculum and programs; development of mentoring and other programs to equip our graduates for the demands of the practice; and an ability to attract terrific faculty and students. Our Law Center also has the undeniable and important benefit of being the best law school in Houston, one of the most dynamic cities, and 4th largest, in the U.S.

However, our Law Center also faces significant challenges. We all know them. Chief among them, of course, is the need to secure non-state sources of funding in order to maintain the school’s trajectory of increasing prominence and recognition, even as levels of state funding continue to decrease. Moreover, the fundamental and permanent changes in the legal marketplace buffet it and its graduates, no less than other law schools. Also, the Law Center is competing with other schools in searching for a permanent dean who will be equal to her or his immediate predecessors.

The Law Foundation recently reorganized its structure to provide greater support for the Law Center and its dean in addressing some of these challenges. We now have committees focused not only on the essential and traditional foundation functions of overseeing investment and expenditure of foundation funds, but also on assisting in building bridges between the Law Center and the legal and business communities in which our alumni participate, identifying and supporting with the Alumni Association specific initiatives, including fundraising, and advocating the interests of our Law Center.

We will be communicating with all of you about the initiatives that we pursue, but we also want to hear from you. To that end, and recognizing that you are key to our continued success, we commissioned an Alumni Attitude Study to canvass our alumni about issues that were of concern and interest. We share a summary of those findings in this issue on pages 4-5. I think you’ll find it as interesting as I do. That is just the beginning. Let me hear from you about what you would like to do to build the reputation and reach of our Law Center.

Jeff C. Dodd (JD, 1979; BA, 1976)  
President, UH Law Foundation

# BILL MAYNARD '73

## 40 YEARS OF SUCCESS AND SUPPORT FOR THE LAW CENTER

Although Bill Maynard recently completed his term as chairman of the board of the University of Houston Law Foundation, he has no intention of distancing himself from the Law Center. In fact, he says now more than ever is the time when he and fellow alumni should be actively involved.

“We’re in transition. We’re facing cuts in state funding, searching for a new dean, and we need a new facility,” he says. “And, we have three programs ranked in the top 20, and we’re in the fourth largest legal market. People like to go with the winners.”

As the law school looks ahead in its search for a dean, Maynard hopes that person will be, “dynamic and charismatic.” “That person needs to be able to wear several hats, including a public relations hat, so that he or she can motivate the greater Houston community to support the Law Center,” he says.

“We are not a law school, but a law

center,” says Maynard, which was reflected in the short video, “A Case for Excellence,” he spearheaded during his term as foundation president. Long active in the Law Center, Maynard was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 2005, and has taught courses offered by the Blakely Advocacy Institute.

Maynard first arrived on the UH campus as an undergraduate in 1968, following a tour in Vietnam with the U.S. Air Force. He majored in psychology, thinking it would be an ideal background for any career path he chose. A Pine Bluff, Arkansas, native, Maynard completed his undergraduate degree – at in-state tuition of \$50 per semester – within 24 months.

He immediately enrolled at the law school and won the moot court competition in his freshman year, sealing his career path in law. He earned his J.D. summa cum laude in 1973. His legal career began in



1972, the first year Houston law firms came to campus to recruit students, when Maynard accepted an offer from Baker Botts to work as a summer clerk.

After graduation, he joined Fulbright, Crooker & Jaworski, where the central docket included 250 cases each week. He founded Beirne Maynard & Parsons in 1979 with colleagues from Fulbright. The firm evolved into Beirne, Maynard & Parsons and grew to become one of the largest litigation firms in the country with more than 100 trial lawyers experienced in every aspect of civil litigation. Maynard specialized in aviation litigation, representing corporate clients in major cases involving aviation accidents.

While Maynard recently retired, he maintains an office and a secretary at the firm’s Post Oak Boulevard office. He also volunteers with the Veterans Legal Services Clinic, which he helped establish, works and fishes at his ranch in Liberty, TX, and spends time with his children and grandchildren.

“UH gave me a great education,” Maynard said. “Now is the time to give back to the school that taught me what I needed to succeed.”



*Bill Maynard spends a good deal of time on his ranch in Liberty where he raises 500 head of cattle. He also has an agreement with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to improve wildlife habitat on his 5,000-acre property where he must log at least 100 hours a month working the wetlands with his heavy equipment.*

In order to better serve Law Center alumni and students, the University of Houston Law Foundation and UH Law Alumni Association, conducted the first alumni survey to compare results with benchmarks and comparable results from other law schools. The survey asked what alums consider most important in forming their opinion of how the school is doing; what role they should play for their alma mater and vice versa; how they rate their law school experience; their attitude toward giving; and how they are using their degree.



Responses from 700 alums allowed a comparison with a group of comparable law schools to see how opinions are similar and different, and to help gauge performance. “Our 9.8 percent electronic survey response rate is on par with other law school alumni and helps provide a comfortable level of confidence in our survey results, even as findings are analyzed for specific alumni age groups and segments,” said Tom Troegel, director of major gifts. The Law Center survey compared results from the University of Southern California, Cornell, Drake, Emory, George Washington, Indiana, Santa Clara, and Tulane.

### OVERALL

Alumni expressed an underlying theme of “value and respect for the UHLC degree” in formulating their overall opinion of the Law Center. Of highest importance were “rankings,” such as those compiled by U.S. News & World Report and other publications and organizations, followed closely by “accomplishments of alumni, faculty, and students.” “Law school building and equipment” ranked fifth in importance of the 13 issues most often used by alumni as they form their opinion of their law school alma mater.

### ALUMNI RELATIONS

Respondents across all age groups indicated the most important role they and the school’s support services could provide is “finding jobs for graduating students.” The Law Center’s performance in this area was rated higher than that given by alumni of the other law schools.

The second most important issue was “serving as ambassadors promoting UHLC to others,” followed closely by “helping alumni find jobs.” Ranked fourth, “mentoring students” is receiving strong programming support from the Law Alumni Association and Law Center. “Providing financial support” for the Law Center was next in importance and, unlike alumni at other law schools, our alumni felt the Law Center could do more to improve fund development.

Of the 13 issues alumni were asked to consider, two of the top seven involved opportunities for alumni to become involved with the Law Center in a meaningful way. “Providing leadership by serving on boards, committees, etc.,” ranked seventh in importance, preceded by “networking with other alumni.”

### STUDENT EXPERIENCE

When compared to alumni from other law schools, UHLC alumni were more likely to recommend the Law Center to others 23 percent to 16 percent. Despite this sign of support, Law Center alumni rated their “experience as a student” lower than graduates of the other schools. Slightly more than 80 percent of Law Center alumni rated their student experience as “good” or “excellent” compared to 87 percent of comparable alumni.

Looking back to their time as a student, the top two issues were “academics and classes” and “quality of faculty.” Next in importance were acquiring the requisite “skills and training” to begin their careers followed closely by being “treated with respect.”

When asked about the Law Center’s performance in these and other areas, alumni showed a clear preference for additional emphasis on “skills and training for career” and “quality of Law Center facilities.” Not surprisingly, younger alumni are most concerned about the condition of Law Center facilities.

Overall, alumni described a common set of values when evaluating their student experience. These values would form a “supportive community and culture” that:

- Offers quality academics provided by high-caliber faculty
- Provides the requisite skills and training students need to begin their careers
- Assists students in finding jobs
- Values and respects all students

### GIVING

Alumni indicated the Law Center’s rankings would most influence their decision to support the school financially.

### CAREER

Finally, the survey found approximately 64 percent of Law Center alumni are practicing law, with almost 40 percent of them employed by firms with fewer than 10 employees, including sole practitioners. The remaining alumni are fairly evenly divided among firms with 10 to 100 attorneys, firms with more than 100 attorneys, the public sector, and inside counsel.

For more information on the alumni survey, contact Tom Troegel, Director of Major Gifts, at [TFTroegel@uh.edu](mailto:TFTroegel@uh.edu) or 713.743.2207.

# ANDREWS KURTH RENEWS THREE-YEAR SPONSORSHIP OF BLAKELY INSTITUTE'S MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The University of Houston Law Center received a ringing endorsement from one of Houston's largest law firms in January 2014 when Andrews Kurth LLP pledged continuing sponsorship of the Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship for another three years. Now in its sixth year, the competition – hosted by the Blakely Advocacy Institute – is growing in stature as law students from across the nation vie for an invitation to compete for the national title, scholarships, and recognition – and possibly a job offer.

“Moot court competition, and advocacy programs overall, give students the experience that recruiters are often looking for,” said Jim Lawrence, director of the Blakely Advocacy Institute. “The true to life courtroom setting complete with opposing counsel, real judges, and winners and losers is an experience that everyone remembers. Thanks to Andrews Kurth’s support and involvement, this competition is top quality and on the rise both in Houston and nationally.”

The law firm views the competition and its sponsorship as a commitment to future generations of lawyers. “Lawyers practice advocacy every day. Our support of this competition is our way of helping to train better lawyers,” said John Shely, partner at Andrews Kurth

who earned his J.D. from the Law Center in 1986. “We gain a close-up look at some of the top trial talent available for future recruitment.”

Based on their rankings in regional interscholastic moot court competitions, the top 16 moot court teams are invited to Houston each January to present oral arguments on an emerging legal issue to members of the practicing bar and judiciary. The competition begins with a symposium featuring speakers and experts on the competition topic. This year’s topic was hydraulic fracturing.

On a personal level, Shely enjoys engaging members of the Houston legal community in the competition and helping to bring national attention to the Law Center and its advocacy programs. “Andrews Kurth wholeheartedly believes in giving back to and connecting with the communities in which we practice,” said Shely. “Our involvement, which we consider more as a partnership than a sponsorship, is part of our culture and a win-win for all involved.”

*For more information on the Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship, visit [law.uh.edu/blakely/MCNC/homepage.asp](http://law.uh.edu/blakely/MCNC/homepage.asp) or contact Blakely Advocacy Institute Director Jim Lawrence at [jelawren@central.uh.edu](mailto:jelawren@central.uh.edu).*



The moot court team from the University of Georgia School of Law won the 2014 Andrews Kurth national championship. Judges and winners of the competition were Texas Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey Boyd, left, Texas Supreme Court Justice John Devine, Georgia Law team member Maggy Randels, 5th Circuit Judge James Graves, Jr., 5th Circuit Judge Jennifer Elrod, team member Utrophia Robinson, Texas Supreme Court Justice Jeff Brown, and former Texas Supreme Court Justice Scott Brister.

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 John E. Norris '02  
 Norton Rose Fulbright  
 Kazumi I. Oka '04  
 Bruce I. Schimmel '78  
 Nina B. Skinner '01  
 Malcolm H. Skolnick '86 and Lois Skolnick  
 Charles E. Soffar '72 and Rosalyn Soffar  
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 H. Suzanne Thomas '78  
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David Paine

\*Please report any discrepancies to Kathy Brannon,  
 Assistant Dean for External Affairs, at 713.743.2089  
 or kabranno@central.uh.edu.

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Thank you to all of our donors and  
 volunteers who participated in the fiscal  
 year 2013 Law Fund program. Your  
 commitment ensures the continued  
 success of UH Law Center in providing  
 excellence in legal education.

**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE  
 ALBERTUS MAGNUS SOCIETY**

One of the many ways to participate in assisting the Law Center is through planned giving. The Albertus Magnus Society offers membership to those committed to a planned gift, including:

- Naming UH Law Center as a beneficiary of your will or living trust;
- Naming UH Law Center as a beneficiary of your retirement plan (IRA, 401(k) or 403(b));
- Establishing a charitable gift annuity, a charitable remainder trust, or a charitable lead trust;
- Naming UH Law Center as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy; and
- Donating real estate or personal property.

Each gift option offers unique tax, financial, and estate planning benefits and can be designated for a specific purpose, including: UH Law Center programs, centers, competitions, and clinics; student scholarships; faculty chairs, professorships, and fellowships; operations and administration; and capital improvement projects.

Informed Law Center staffers are available to meet with you and your financial advisers to explore all planned giving options, as well as your desires for recognition, with utmost discretion.

When you make a planned gift, you become a member of the Law Center's Albertus Magnus Society and the University's 1927 Society. These memberships include invitations to campus-wide events that recognize your support and to an annual private reception with the dean of the UH Law Center.

I encourage you to consider affirming your commitment to the Law Center by contacting Assistant Dean of Development Russ Gibbs, at 713.743.1454, or Tom Troegel, director of Major Gifts, at 713.743.2207.

LAWRENCE J. PIRTLE, '66

PRESIDENT EMERITUS, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW FOUNDATION

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# FACULTY GIVING

## OLIVAS' BOOK ROYALTIES FUND 15TH SCHOLARSHIP



University of Houston Law Center Professor Michael A. Olivas and his wife and fellow UH professor, Augustina Reyes, have established their 15th scholarship to serve as a legacy of their commitment to the law school and university. The most recent scholarship will be funded by royalties from a book Olivas edited about Alonso S. Perales, a ground-breaking Mexican-American attorney and founder of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

**“The real margin of excellence (for the Law Center) is going to be the many small acts of generosity, not likely the one big donor of old.”**

The first scholarship will be awarded at the 2014 Dean’s Awards Ceremony to “a member in good standing of the UH Law Center’s Hispanic Law Student Association who has academic merit and a record of involvement in the Houston Latino community.” Olivas is faculty adviser to the HLSA.

“If senior employees of an organization believe strongly in that organization’s mission and purpose, they should enthusiastically support it financially,” said Olivas, William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law and director of the Institute of Higher Education Law & Governance

at the Law Center. “The real margin of excellence (for the Law Center) is going to be the many small acts of generosity, not likely the one big donor of old.”

The book, “In Defense of My People: Alonso S. Perales and the Development of Mexican-American Public Intellectuals,” was published in 2013 by Arte Público Press. It includes essays written by U.S. and Mexican scholars on Perales’ defense of Mexican-Americans’ civil rights as well as education, religion, race, Texas politics and law.

A graduate of George Washington University School of Law, Perales was one of the earliest Mexican-American attorneys to practice law in Texas. “Alonso Perales came from a very poor family, and prospered not so much financially as personally and professionally. He was an extraordinary leader in difficult times, an exceptional lawyer for his people, and a public intellectual when it was hard to practice that profession,” Olivas said.

“I am struck by how I benefited from others’ gifts, including people I did not know, and am grateful to be in a position to give back, as did the others before me,” Olivas added.

Olivas and Reyes, a professor in the College of Education, also included the Law Center and the University of Houston in their wills, becoming members of The Albertus Magnus Society and The 1927 Society.