

Class Notes
Submitted February 2006 – April 2006

1964

David M. Carmichael was elected to Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation's Board of Directors.

Irwin H. Steinhorn, a partner in the Oklahoma City office of Conner & Winters, has begun his 26th year as an adjunct professor of law at Oklahoma City University School of Law. During the spring semester of 2006, he is teaching "Agency, Partnership and Limited Liability Company Law."

1965

Norman W. Darwin was recognized by The Allied Pilots Association and the chairman of the DFW domicile on Feb. 16, 2006 for his successful defense of one of the union's members, Captain Thomas B. Crews, from August 2001 to November 2005.

Stephen D. Susman of Susman Godfrey was named the leading commercial litigator in the world at the 2006 Who's Who Legal Awards. He received more recommendations than any other practitioner in the awards committee's research.

1967

R. Kinnan Golemon, partner in the Environmental, Utilities and Telecommunications Law Section at Brown McCarroll in Austin, was nominated by his peers as one of the world's leading practitioners in environmental law for 2006. Golemon serves as General Counsel for the Texas Chemical Council. Since August 2004, Mr. Golemon has served as the Chair of the ABA's Standing Committee on Environmental Law. Golemon also was appointed Chair of the Planning Committee for the Environmental Track at the September 16-17, 2006 *Rule of Law Symposium*.

Ben H. Welmaker Jr., a member of Thompson & Knight's Oil and Gas Practice Group in Houston, was named partner. Welmaker represents oil and gas companies in the acquisition and disposition of oil and gas exploration and production rights abroad and in arbitrating international oil and gas related contract disputes. Recently, he worked on the acquisition and farmout of production sharing contracts in West Africa. In addition to West Africa, his experience covers energy-related transactions in Latin America, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and the Middle East.

1969

Charles F. Wetherbee moved his law practice to Beorne, TX.

1970

Walter W. Driver, Jr. joined Goldman, Sachs & Co as chairman of the southeast division in Atlanta.

Mack Ray Hernandez was appointed as a Master to the Robert W. Calvert Chapter of the American Inns of Court. Hernandez, who has his own practice in Austin, continues to serve on the advisory boards of both Laredo National Bank and Treaty Oak Bank.

1971

Chris G. Paliare, who practices in Toronto, was the 12th active Canadian trial lawyer inducted as Fellow in the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

The Honorable E. Ashley Smith was named executive vice president, general counsel and chief legal officer of Stewart Information Services Corp. Smith recently served as vice chancellor for governmental relations and policy for the University of Texas System.

1972

Dallas Parker was elected to serve on Thompson & Knight's 2006 Management Team. Parker is practice leader of the firm's International Practice Group, is also a member of the firm's Corporate and Securities Group, and is resident in the Firm's Houston office.

1975

Scott J. Atlas, formerly of Vinson & Elkins in Houston, joined Weil, Gotshal & Manges, as a partner in the Houston office.

Jeff Civins recently wrote and spoke on issues relating to EPA's new "all appropriate inquiries" rules, which will affect how environmental due diligence is conducted. Civins co-authored two articles entitled: "All Appropriate Inquiries – Are They Appropriate?" which appeared in BNA's Environmental Due Diligence Reporter (Jan. 2006) and "Transactional Environmental Due Diligence: What Diligence is Due," which appeared in the American Bar Association's Natural Resources & Environment Quarterly (Winter 2006). Civins wrote related articles that appeared in Real Estate Business Online and the Austin Business Journal. Civins also gave an interview on this topic that appeared in the Feb. 16, 2006 BNA Environmental Due Diligence Guide and was one of three participants in a BNA-sponsored national audio conference on the new rules, which was held on Feb. 21, 2006.

Katy Civins joined the UT Law School staff as associate director for Development. Civins will focus on correspondence and stewardship.

1976

Sylvia A. de Leon was named one of the 20 most influential Hispanic women in the United States by *Hispanic Business Magazine*. De Leon, a partner at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld in Washington, D.C., currently serves on the UT Law School's dean search committee and is raising funds for the Center for Women in Law. De Leon serves as a member of the Law School Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The Honorable Wilford “Wil” Flowers, Travis County Criminal District Judge, served on a judge’s panel for the Color of Justice program, which introduces minority students to a diverse group of minority judges, lawyers and law students whose stories show them the many career options available in the law and judiciary. The panel discussion, which took place on Apr. 10, 2006 at UT Law School, was part of an effort to bring this program to 20 minority students from Akins High School.

1977

Robert “Bud” Ellis was appointed to chef of the criminal division in the U.S. Attorney’s office.

Robert B. Holland III was appointed as a non-executive director of Max Petroleum.

1980

Kathi S. Child was named senior vice president of Human Resources at Family Dollar Stores, Inc. Child formerly served as senior vice president, director of Human Resources at J.C. Penny.

James O. Thoma, formerly a partner with Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, joined Greenberg Traurig as a shareholder in its corporate practice. Thoma has more than 15 years of experience in commercial transactions, security interests and asset securitizations as well as financings for motion pictures, television programming and computer/electronic games.

1981

Michael J. Gibbens was chosen as a member of the 2006 Executive Committee of Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma.

1982

David W. Powell, a partner in the Groom Law Group in Washington, D.C., gave a presentation on Pension Fiduciaries and their Duties under U.S. Law to the Working Party on Private Pensions of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris on Nov. 29, 2005. Powell was also listed in *Best Lawyers in America* for Employee Benefits Law in Washington, D.C.

Chris Reynolds became a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers during the 2006 Spring Meeting. Reynolds is a partner at Gibbs & Bruns, and has been practicing in Houston for 23 years.

Berry D. Spears, formerly with Winstead Sechrest & Minick, joined Fulbright & Jaworski’s Austin office as a bankruptcy partner.

1983

Correction: It was incorrectly stated in the previous edition of the UTLAW e-newsletter that Charles C. Bailey serves as district attorney for the 26th district in Texas. He actually serves for the 76th district.

Rogge Dunn, a name partner in Clouse Dunn Hirsch, was named a 2005 Multi-Concept Purveyor of the Year at Outback Steakhouse's annual partner's conference in Washington, D.C.

1984

Martha Hardwick Hofmeister received the 2005 Distinguished Honorary Alumni Award from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law. Hofmeister was also elected to the American Law Institute (ALI). She was also selected as a 2005 Texas Super Lawyer in *Texas Monthly*.

1985

Craig S. Glick, a partner at Kosmos Energy, was appointed to the Board of Directors of Westside Energy Corporation. Glick will be a member of the Compensation, and Nominating Committees, and serve as chair of the Audit Committee.

Jeffrey A. Zlotky was elected to serve on Thompson & Knight's 2006 Management Team. Zlotky is a member of the firm's Corporate and Securities Group in the Dallas office.

1986

Michael Diehl joined Susman Godfrey as of counsel in the firm's Seattle office.

Colonel Gary L. Halbert was appointed as general counsel for the National Transportation Safety Board.

Tracy McCormack, director of Trial Advocacy Program at UT Law, served on a panel of mixed legal professionals for the Color of Justice program, which introduces minority students to a diverse group of minority judges, lawyers and law students whose stories show them the many career options available in the law and judiciary. The panel discussion, which took place on April 10, 2006 at UT Law School, was part of an effort to bring this program to 20 minority students from Akins High School.

Stephen C. Rasch was elected to serve on Thompson & Knight's 2006 Management Team. Rasch is a member of the firm's Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice Group in the Dallas office.

1987

Sharon Reuler of SettlePou in Dallas is the spokesperson for the proposed Texas Uniform Planned Community Act, an initiative of the Texas College of Real Estate Attorneys. Reuler was on the faculty of the ALI-ABA Course on *Drafting Documents for Condominiums, Planned Communities, and New Urbanism Developments* on March 2-4, 2006, in San Antonio. Reuler also presented *Drafting Documents to Create Planned Communities with Owners Associations* at the State Bar's Advanced Real Estate Drafting Course on March 9, 2006. Reuler is a resource person on the UCIOA Drafting Committee of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, which is updating the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act.

Monica Leiter Samuels co-authored *Comeback Moms: How to Leave Work, Raise Children, and Jumpstart Your Career EVEN IF You Haven't Had a Job in Years* with J.C. Conklin, a former reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*.

1988

The Honorable Geoffrey Connor, former Texas Secretary of State, spoke on “Economic Partnership between Japan and Texas” at The Japan-America Society of Great Austin (JASGA) March Professional Networking Speaker Series. The event was held on March 23, 2006.

The Honorable Wallace Jefferson, Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice, served on a judge’s panel for the Color of Justice program, which introduces minority students to a diverse group of minority judges, lawyers and law students whose stories show them the many career options available in the law and judiciary. The panel discussion, which took place on April 10 at the UT Law School, was part of an effort to bring this program to 20 minority students from Akins High School.

Andrew L. Siegel joined Shackelford, Melton & McKinley as a partner in Dallas. Siegel has been in private practice for 18 years, the last two at a firm he founded.

1989

Russell L. Reid, Jr., formerly with Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld in Dallas, joined Heller Ehrman as a shareholder in the New York office. Reid’s practice focuses on creditors’ rights, bankruptcy, and corporate reorganization and refinance.

1990

Kurt A. Schwarz, a partner in the litigation section of Jackson Walker, was selected as a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. Schwarz represents businesses in complex commercial disputes and has an active docket of pro bono and court-appointed cases, and serves on the Criminal Justice Act Voluntary Panel and the Civil Rights Voluntary Panel for the representation of indigent litigants in the Northern District of Texas.

1991

Jennifer Henry was appointed chair of the Aviation and Space Law Committee of the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC). Henry is a partner in the Trial Department of Thompson & Knight’s Fort Worth office and the vice chair of the firm’s Aviation Practice Specialty Group.

Alissa Adkins Jackson joined the Nueces County Attorney’s office in the civil litigation and appellate section.

Laura Lee Prather, a partner in the Austin office of Jackson Walker, was elected treasurer of The Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, a nonprofit First Amendment organization that educates, protects and advances the rights and responsibilities of the public access to government information and meetings. Prather is a partner in the Litigation, Appellate and Intellectual Property sections and is a member of the Media, Technology, and Entertainment and Sports Law Practice Groups of Jackson Walker.

1992

Keith A. Rowley was tenured and promoted to Professor of Law at UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law. At the January 2006 annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools, he was elected to the Executive Committee of the Contracts Section and re-elected to the Executive Committee of the Commercial and Related Consumer Law Section. Rowley also serves as co-chair of the American Bar Association Business Law Section's Sale of Goods subcommittee and contributes to the Section's annual UCC survey. During the 2005 legislative session, he advised the Nevada Senate Judiciary Committee regarding bills seeking to amend Nevada's Uniform Commercial Code.

Patrick Woodson, a partner in Puls, Taylor and Woodson in Fort Worth, was selected by his peers as one of Tarrant County's Top Attorneys for the years 2001 through 2005 in the Plaintiff Personal Injury Section. He was also named a Texas Super Lawyer in Plaintiff's Personal Injury by *Texas Monthly* for 2005.

1993

Ramon Bissmeyer, with Cox Smith Matthews in San Antonio, was named to *Texas Monthly's* 2006 *Texas Rising Stars* list.

Adrienne C. Nelson, formerly the attorney in charge of the Student Legal and Mediation Service at Portland State University, was appointed to the Multnomah County Circuit Court in Oregon.

Tobin Olson, with Cox Smith Matthews in San Antonio, was named to *Texas Monthly's* 2006 *Texas Rising Stars* list.

Lutz Zimmer was named partner by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. Zimmer works in the firm's Munich office and focuses on corporate transactions.

1994

Rob Crain, formerly a name partner of Crain & Montes, joined Baron & Budd in Dallas as of counsel.

JoAnn Dalrymple joined Jackson Walker's Austin office as senior counsel in the Litigation Section. Dalrymple was previously with Strasburger & Price in Austin.

Madeleine Kadas (nee Boyer) is managing director of the recently-opened Austin office of Beveridge & Diamond, P.C., a national environmental law firm based in Washington, D.C. Kadas and her husband, Chris, are the proud parents of Dylan (3) and Nora (1).

Catherine Salinas joined Carlton Fields as an associate in the firm's Atlanta office. Previously, Salinas was served as a law clerk for Willis B. Hunt, Jr. in the United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia.

1995

Aaron Gelb was named shareholder at Vedder, Price, Kaulfman & Kammholz in Chicago.

William "Bill" Hopkins, of Thompson & Knight in Austin, received the Austin Under 40 Award. AU40 honors the achievements of men and women under 40 years of age who have made substantial contributions in their professional fields as well as community service.

Michael Newman, a partner with Gardere Wynne Sewell in Dallas, was named one of "The Best Lawyers Under 40 in Dallas" by *D Magazine*.

Minh-Hien Nguyen, of Cox Smith Matthews in Austin, was named to *Texas Monthly's* 2006 *Texas Rising Stars* list.

David H. O. Roth, of Cox Smith Matthews in San Antonio, was named to *Texas Monthly's* 2006 *Texas Rising Stars* list.

1996

Asim Bhansali was named partner at Keker & Van Nest in San Francisco. Bhansali specializes in intellectual property, antitrust, securities and other complex litigation matters.

Jason K. Fagelman was named a partner at Fulbright & Jaworski in the Dallas office. His practice concentrates on litigation matters and he has experience in prosecuting and defending employment disputes involving trade secrets and non-compete/non-solicitation agreements.

Edwin S. Flores, managing partner at Chalker Flores in Dallas, was appointed to the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council.

1997

Frederick Ross Fischer, an ethics attorney for the State Bar of Texas in the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, was reappointed to the Texas Ethics Commission. Fischer's term will expire November 19, 2009.

Joel Z. Montgomery, formerly of Baker Botts, is a partner in the newly formed Shipley Snell Montgomery.

Michael S. Perez, an associate with McKool Smith in Austin, was named principal. Perez handles commercial litigation for clients with a special focus on complex technical matters involving patent infringement litigation.

Andrew Price was named a partner at Fulbright & Jaworski in the Houston office. His practice focuses on commercial litigation, including the areas of technology, trade secrets, securities and professional liability.

Joe W. Tomaselli, Jr. was named partner at Fulbright & Jaworski in the Dallas office. His practice focuses on pharmaceutical products liability litigation, commercial and business litigation and professional liability litigation, such as accounting malpractice.

1998

John Caverlee, a partner with Gardere Wynne Sewell in Dallas, was named one of “The Best Lawyers Under 40 in Dallas” by *D Magazine*.

Marvin “Chip” Lunde III joined Jordan Burt as of counsel in Washington, D.C. Lunde focuses on matters pertaining to variable insurance products and investment company securities.

Mark Vane was named partner at Gardere Wynn Sewell in the Austin office. Vane’s practice concentrates on legislative and regulatory affairs.

1999

Leslie Cummings, a member of the Thompson & Knight’s Tax Practice Group in Dallas, was elected partner. Cummings counsels clients on the organization, operation, and termination of nonprofit corporations and trusts and obtaining and maintaining exemptions from federal income tax, state franchise, sales and use, and local ad valorem taxes.

Morgan Matson joined Major, Lindsey & Africa as managing director of the firm’s Associate Practice Group in Austin where he will focus on associate and corporate placements.

Sarah McLean, a member of the Thompson & Knight’s Corporate and Securities Practice Group in Houston, was elected partner. McLean’s practice focuses on the corporate and commercial arena with an emphasis on equity and debt investments.

Kari Potts, a member of Thompson & Knight’s Corporate and Securities Practice Group in Austin, was named partner. Potts’ practice focuses on public and private equity and debt offerings, including initial public offerings and venture capital financings; mergers, acquisitions, and disposition of businesses; and SEC reporting and general securities compliance.

Erin Taylor, who was married in November, is currently working in communications and state affairs at the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

Brad Westmoreland was named an income partner of Stacy & Conder in Dallas. Westmoreland works in a variety of areas of litigation, but focuses mainly on insurance litigation. He and his wife, Anne, have two children.

2000

Erin Dickinson joined Michael Best & Friedrich as a litigation associate in Milwaukee. Dickinson serves on the Boards of the American Lung Association and Travis County Women Lawyer's Association and is a member of the Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association.

Shaarik "Rik" H. Zafar, formerly the special counsel for Post 9/11 National Origin Discrimination at the U.S. Department of Justice, joined the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as a senior policy adviser in the Office for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties.

2001

Ramon Molina, an attorney with Cox Smith Matthews in San Antonio, was named to *Texas Monthly's* 2006 *Texas Rising Stars* list.

Bryan Taylor, an associate with Bradley, Arant, Rose & White in Birmingham, is taking a leave of absence to serve as aide to the Governor of Alabama, Bob Riley.

Jill M. Williamson joined Alston & Bird as an associate in the Litigation and Trial Group in the Washington, D.C. office.

2002

Adam Ambrogi serves as special assistant and counsel to Commissioner Ray Martinez of a new federal agency, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), which gives out funds and guidance to states on how to improve federal elections.

Carl R. Barry and **Adam Loewy, '03**, formed Barry & Loewy in Austin and San Antonio. The firm handles commercial litigation and serious personal injury/wrongful death cases. Loewy previously owned and operated the Loewy Law Firm in Austin and has extensive experience in commercial litigation and real estate law.

Bradley D. Coburn, formerly of Hughes & Luce, joined Fish & Richardson in Dallas. Coburn will work in the Dallas office for three months before moving to the Austin office permanently.

Luke Ellis, an associate in the Litigation Section of Jackson Walker's Austin office, was named to the Austin Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors. Ellis' practice focuses primarily on complex commercial litigation, with an emphasis on eminent domain and land use, class actions and consumer-related issues.

Erik Ericksen was named associate partner with Thorpe North & Western in Sandy, UT. His practice focuses on the preparation and prosecution of U.S. and foreign patents in the chemical sciences.

Desiree Killen, an associate with Jackson Walker in Houston, was elected to the Board of Directors for the Houston Chapter of the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce.

Roxanna Olvera joined Winstead Sechrest & Minick as an associate in the Dallas office.

Robert “Barry” Sharpe was named executive director of the John R. Hall center for Academic Excellence at Marshall University.

2003

Thomas P. Bingman III joined Winstead Sechrest & Minick as an associate in the Dallas office.

Adam Loewy and **Carl R. Barry, '02**, formed Barry & Loewy in Austin and San Antonio. The firm handles commercial litigation and serious personal injury/wrongful death cases. Loewy previously owned and operated the Loewy Law Firm in Austin and has extensive experience in commercial litigation and real estate law.

Brad Wyly joined Komie & Melendez in Austin, where he represents injured clients. Wyly was recently named to *Texas Monthly's* 2006 *Texas Rising Stars* list.

2004

Alexander L. Kaplan joined Susman Godfrey as an associate in the firm's Houston office. Previously, Kaplan was a law clerk to the Honorable Jerry E. Smith, United States Court of appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

2005

Sergio Moreno, law clerk at the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and a newly licensed attorney, served on a panel of mixed legal professionals for the Color of Justice program, which introduces minority students to a diverse group of minority judges, lawyers and law students whose stories show them the many career options available in the law and judiciary. The panel discussion, which took place on April 10 at the UT Law School, was part of an effort to bring this program to 20 minority students from Akins High School.