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Spring 2023

### Gold & Blue Law Edition, Spring 2023

St. Mary's University- San Antonio, Texas

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ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

# GOLD & BLUE

LAW EDITION

SPRING 2023



*Culture of*  
**CHAMPIONS**

Nationally ranked Advocacy Program  
prepares court-ready lawyers





## St. Mary's Law welcomes Online J.D. students from South Texas and beyond

The St. Mary's University School of Law's inaugural cohort of its Online J.D. Program includes students from Texas and across the nation.

Five South Texans, pictured from left to right, Lance Strand, of McAllen; State Rep. Armando Martinez, of Weslaco; Jacqueline Gurley, of Del Rio; Helena Fischer, of San Antonio; and Jaime Bernes, of Brownsville, met at an on-campus orientation in August 2022. The cohort of 27 students is the nation's first to begin a fully online J.D. program accredited by the American Bar Association.





The program aims to support access to the profession for those typically underrepresented. St. Mary's Law has gained significant expertise in offering online legal education since launching an online version of its Master of Jurisprudence program in 2016. In addition to the faculty with experience in virtual teaching in the master's program, all St. Mary's Law full-time faculty obtained their online teaching certification by completing a demanding course in instructional design to prepare for virtual teaching during the pandemic.



Scan the QR code to hear students discuss their Online J.D. journey.

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY  
**GOLD & BLUE**  
LAW EDITION

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*(Denotes degree from St. Mary's University)*

Gold & Blue Law Edition is produced for law alumni and friends by the Office of University Communications.

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[law.stmarytx.edu/law-magazine](http://law.stmarytx.edu/law-magazine)

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**MISSION**

St. Mary's University, as a Catholic Marianist University, fosters the formation of people in faith and educates leaders for the common good through community, integrated liberal arts and professional education, and academic excellence.

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**ON THE COVER:** The St. Mary's University School of Law's Advocacy Program continues to gain recognition and new audiences as they place in tournaments and participate in an immersive, 12-episode podcast. In 2022, the Advocacy Program won two national championships — one by the National Trial Team and the other by the National Moot Court Team — and placed in several other competitions. Seen on the cover is the trophy earned at the National Trial League Competition in January 2022. Read more about how the program trains students on Page 12. Photo by Robin Jerstad.

# Seeing hope in the future at St. Mary's

by Patricia Roberts, J.D., St. Mary's University School of Law Dean

As the Dean of St. Mary's University's School of Law, I am excited to share the inaugural, fully law-focused edition of our University magazine, *Gold & Blue*. With so many things happening at the University and the School of Law, we wanted a way to amplify our updates to you.

This magazine includes news about our incredible students, our devoted faculty and staff, and the impressive alumni who exemplify service for the public good. It is the first of two you will receive each year, and we encourage you to share your feedback and suggestions to continue making this a valuable resource for you. I am grateful for the team who put this together and for the opportunity to highlight more of our good news.

The start of a new year is filled with hope and optimism. Before we look ahead, I encourage us all to look back and reflect on what we have been through and what we have accomplished.

By working together and supporting one another, we survived a global pandemic while still providing

an exceptional legal education, engaged in new ways of learning, and continued to serve our clients and communities.

It has been challenging but rewarding. The St. Mary's family spirit and focus on adaptation and change are evident in all we do. We have come out stronger and more grateful as a result.

We have witnessed threats to our democracy, attacks on already marginalized groups, more mass shootings — including one very close to home — and wars raging across the world. Justice remains elusive for the most vulnerable. Civil discourse is almost nonexistent. And there is a pervasive lack of faith. Despite these challenges, I remain hopeful and optimistic looking forward.

Maintaining hope is possible because I see the leaders of tomorrow in our students. They are smart and kind enough to help solve seemingly insurmountable issues. I see the enthusiasm and dedication of our faculty and staff in training those future leaders, ensuring they are armed with the knowledge, skills and compassion they will need. I see the passion and extraordinary commitment of our alumni and friends as they zealously represent their clients' interests and devise solutions to systemic problems.

Most importantly, I see the St. Mary's community as one of faith, grounded and reassured in knowing that, with God, all things are possible. ■



Photo by Robin Jerstad

## Dean's Circle

Annual gifts of \$1,000 or more qualify donors to be part of the Dean's Circle. The gifts listed were received between June 1, 2021, and May 31, 2022.

### \$100,000 - \$249,999

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Javier Espinoza and The Honorable Angelica Jimenez-Espinoza (J.D. '10)  
Ferrari & Associates, PC

Continued on Page 20





## CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF RED MASS

In a joint effort between St. Mary's University School of Law, the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Catholic Lawyers' Guild of San Antonio, Red Mass celebrated its 70th year of bringing the legal community together. Seen, from left to right, is School of Law Board of Visitors Member Harold McCall (J.D. '07), the Hon. Beth Watkins (J.D. '02), the Hon. Lori Valenzuela (J.D. '98), the Hon. Cynthia Chapa (B.A. '02, J.D. '06) and the Hon. Alfredo Ximenez (J.D. '02). Watkins, a former member of the School of Law's Advocacy Program, helped secure the school's first ever national championship. Read more about the program on Page 12. More photos of Red Mass can be found at [bit.ly/RedMassPhotos2022](https://bit.ly/RedMassPhotos2022).

### St. Mary's Law Associate Dean speaks on preventing gun violence

As part of St. Mary's University's commitment to stand with our Uvalde neighbors, panelists from educational and public safety organizations in San Antonio and Bexar Country met at the Crossroads Symposium in October 2022 to share the



Ramona L. Lampley

work happening to prevent gun violence and discuss the challenges moving forward.

Ramona L. Lampley, J.D., Associate Dean for Research and Faculty

Development, along with The Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio; Javier Salazar, Bexar County Sheriff; and Johnny Reyes Jr., Chief of Police for the San Antonio Independent School District, spoke to the audience and answered questions. The symposium is one of the cornerstones of the Center for Catholic Studies.

### Law Alumni Association honors distinguished graduates

The St. Mary's University Law Alumni Association honored nine graduates at its Distinguished Law Graduate Dinner in October 2022, recognizing honorees for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The event funds scholarships and student services. Honorees were as follows:

#### 2020

- The Hon. Dean Rucker (J.D. '80), presiding judge of the Seventh Administrative Judicial Region of Texas
- Jodi Goodwin (J.D. '95), attorney at the Law Office of Jodi Goodwin
- Fátima Menéndez (B.A. '08, J.D. '13), legislative staff attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

#### 2021

- The Hon. Julie Kocurek (J.D. '90), district judge of the 390th Judicial Court of Travis County
- Sara E. Dysart (B.A. '74, J.D. '81), attorney at law with Dysart Law and a University Trustee
- Alicia Grant (J.D. '16), senior associate at Norton Rose Fulbright

#### 2022

- The Hon. Sid Harle (J.D. '80), presiding judge of the Fourth Administrative Judicial Region of Texas
- Claude Ducloux (J.D. '76), attorney at the Law Office of Claude E. Ducloux
- Daniel Koeneke (J.D. '12), attorney at Ellis, Koeneke & Ramirez

### Dean reimagines legal education podcast

St. Mary's University School of Law Dean Patricia Roberts, J.D., is hosting a new podcast, *Aspen Leading Edge*, a venture with Aspen Publishing, that started in January.

As host of the new show, which replaces

## BY THE NUMBERS

The stats are in. The students who enrolled at the St. Mary's University School of Law in Fall 2022 encompass a unique group, including the first cohort in the nation to pursue a fully online J.D. accredited by the American Bar Association. St. Mary's Law ranks in the top 10 most diverse law schools in the country.

### FIRST-YEAR J.D. STUDENT STATS

<b>2,366</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>3.36</b>
Total Applicants	Total J.D. Students	Online J.D. Students	Median LSAT	Median GPA

### FALL 2022 NEW GRADUATE LAW ENROLLMENT



Students in the M.Jur. program

Students in the LL.M. programs

Roberts' previous podcast *EdUp Legal*, she will interview authors and thought leaders in legal education during weekly episodes. The podcast can be found at [bit.ly/aspendedge](http://bit.ly/aspendedge).

## School of Law welcomes new hires

The St. Mary's University School of Law proudly announced new hires this academic year who bring national expertise and diverse experiences. They are:

- Rishi Batra, J.D., Professor of Law, who teaches contracts, property, intellectual property and negotiations
- Matthew "Match" Dawson (J.D. '13), Faculty in Residence and principal at Dawson Law, who teaches asset protection, property, wills, trusts and estates
- Alexandra Klein, J.D., Assistant Professor of Law, who teaches criminal law, criminal procedure and death penalty law
- Alyssa Leffall, J.D., Assistant Dean for Law Student Affairs, who has experience in supporting student well-being, student leadership development, diversity, equity and inclusion



Rishi Batra



Matthew "Match" Dawson



Alexandra Klein



Alyssa Leffall

- Jennifer Stevenson, J.D., Assistant Dean for International Programs and Service Professor of Law, who has more than a decade of experience teaching and mentoring international students
- Jaime Aleman (J.D. '20), Law Success Instructor, who has experience as an associate attorney in an insurance defense firm and with Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
- Amanda Stephens, J.D., Ph.D., Law Success Instructor, who has experience in general civil litigation and insurance litigation defense
- Wendi Wilson, J.D., Law Success Instructor, who previously worked as an assistant district attorney for Bexar County



Jennifer Stevenson

## Faculty make the news

The St. Mary's University School of Law's faculty and staff have shared their expertise with the media nearly 150 times in the past six months. Here are a few who contributed their knowledge through interviews or opinion pieces.

- Vincent Johnson, J.D., LL.M., LL.D., wrote for the San Antonio Express-News about the positive effect Watergate had on legal ethics and was included in a Dallas Morning News editorial on how the Texas State Bar brings justice to the wrongfully convicted.

- Al Kauffman, J.D., wrote on the topics of voting rights and on the U.S. Supreme Court for the San Antonio Express-News; and was quoted in the Dallas Morning News article, *Amid growing 'Robin Hood' payments, property-rich Texas schools want state relief*.
- Alexandra Klein, J.D., was quoted in *The Nation's* article, *The Supreme Court is Poised to Make it Even Harder to Challenge Wrongful Convictions*.
- Dorie Klein, J.D., was quoted in Slate's article, *When Can the Government Forcibly Medicate a Defendant?*
- Gerald Reamey, J.D., LL.M., was quoted in the Houston Chronicle article, *Bodycam videos during Uvalde school shooting show disastrous police response*.
- Patricia Roberts, J.D., was quoted in the Reuters' article, *First-of-its-kind online law school draws big applicant pool*.
- Erica Schommer, J.D., was quoted in the Houston Chronicle's article, *'Remain in Mexico' ruling could slow Texas, other states from thwarting immigration policy*.
- Stephen Sheppard, J.D., LL.M., J.S.D., was quoted in USA Today's article, *Judge temporarily blocks Texas child-abuse investigations into transgender care*.
- Angela Walch, J.D., was quoted in *The Atlantic's* article, *Crypto's Core Values Are Running Headfirst into Reality*.

## DIVERSITY AMONG THE NEWEST J.D. COHORTS

45%

Hispanic or Latino

4%

Asian American

3%

Black or African American


55%

Female

45%

Male

 **More than 30%**  
from South Texas or rural areas of the state

 **67**  
First-generation students

 **Representing 21 states**



# THE CONSCIENTIOUS LAWYER

## Professor elucidates ethics in the legal field

by Nathaniel Miller

Legal ethics expert Michael S. Ariens continuously strives to be the type of author he wants to read. Writing five books about various aspects of the law and the legal profession, Ariens, J.D., LL.M., hopes to be that author who writes the book on the niche topic his readers need most. He also teaches courses in legal ethics, American legal history and constitutional law at the St. Mary's University School of Law.

“  
The School of Law goes above and beyond to remind our students about the importance of caring for both their clients and the community they serve.  
”

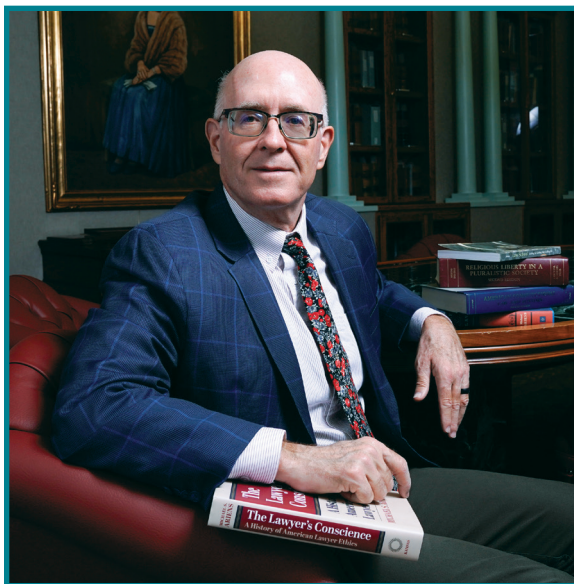


Photo by Robin Jerstad

Michael Ariens, J.D., LL.M., sits in the Rare Book Room with copies of his five books, including his latest publication, *The Lawyer's Conscience: A History of American Lawyer Ethics*.

With every topic he explores, he said writing and researching continue to bring him joy and a sense of accomplishment. His latest book, *The Lawyer's Conscience: A History of American Lawyer Ethics*, published by the University Press of Kansas in November 2022, explores the legal profession through the eyes of moral dilemmas and the power attorneys wield in American politics.

The pride he feels regarding his latest book is the same as his first one in 1996.

“It's always exciting because you put in a lot of work,” said Ariens, who is the Aloysius A. Leopold Professor of Law. “Seeing the first advance copies and having them in your hands is really something.”

Ariens hopes the book will attract both law professionals and casual readers because he feels it is important to know attorneys do more than give flashy press conferences when accepting high-profile cases.

The book advises that attorneys should weigh their actions against their conscience. Helping shape the United States through casework and legal argument, attorneys must also represent their clients to the best of their abilities, even when what's ethical isn't popular with the general public.

Using the Red Scare of the 1950s as an example — when then-U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy led rampant accusations of communism — Ariens said one of the struggles attorneys at that time faced was representing those accused of communism-related crimes.

Everyone under the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution has the right to a public trial and a lawyer. Ariens said those who took on communism-related cases at that time were criticized personally and professionally for sidelining their personal beliefs to make sure those accused had legal representation.

“Those attorneys knew that it could have a deleterious effect on their ability to earn a living,” he said. “But for those folks who still did, it was just astonishing and impressive.”

When teaching his ethics course, Ariens said his class discusses how they, as future attorneys, will have their personal beliefs tested when practicing law. When that time comes, he added, their education at the School of Law should prepare them.

“The School of Law goes above and beyond to remind our students about the importance of caring for both their clients and the community they serve,” Ariens said. ■

# COURTING OPPORTUNITY

## Alumna uses her experience to create judicial clerkships

by Leticia Romero

When the Hon. Marina Garcia Marmolejo (M.A./J.D. '96) described her first time in a federal courtroom, it was to tell the story of taking her Oath of Allegiance to become a naturalized U.S. citizen.

Born in Mexico, Garcia Marmolejo, now a Laredo-based federal district judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, was in her second year of the St. Mary's University School of Law J.D. program when her paperwork finally came through.

Although the path to citizenship can take years, reaching the end of her journey was one of the happiest moments of her life, she said. Now a Jurist in Residence at the School of Law, Garcia Marmolejo helps students of her alma mater find opportunities, especially through judicial clerkships.

Nominated by former President Barack Obama, Garcia Marmolejo was judicially appointed by the U.S. Senate and received her commission on Oct. 4, 2011.

In a stroke of serendipity, Garcia Marmolejo also presides over the swearing-in of new U.S. citizens.

"One of the things that I get to do now as a federal district judge is to preside over those same ceremonies," Garcia Marmolejo said. "Things have come full circle."

### Helping aspiring lawyers

In 2022, Garcia Marmolejo approached St. Mary's Law Dean Patricia Roberts, J.D., about growing the clerkship program from her court. A clerkship is a postgraduate employment term during which a lawyer, usually a recent law graduate, works for a judge for a defined period, typically one to two years.

She stressed the importance of the program and how it benefits law students, especially first-generation students, with employment and experience after graduation.

"I didn't have any lawyers or judges or anybody in my own family who said, 'Why don't you apply for the federal vacancy?'" Garcia Marmolejo said. "Don't wait for someone to invite you to submit an application or to run for office because that invitation may never come."

Former clerk Eduardo Mendoza (J.D. '18) became a federal prosecutor in the U.S. District Court for the

The Hon. Marina Garcia Marmolejo (M.A./J.D. '96) sits in a federal courtroom in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas in Laredo.

**"The clerkship program is changing lives and putting the St. Mary's School of Law on the map."**

Western District of Texas and said his writing and oral skills improved drastically after his clerkship with Garcia Marmolejo.

"My year as a law clerk in the judge's chambers really prepared me for that experience," Mendoza said.

Assistant Dean of Career Services Robin Thorner, J.D., assists Garcia Marmolejo's efforts, which also compliment work done by South Texas Distinguished Professor of Law Vincent R. Johnson, J.D., LL.M, LL.D., and other faculty, in finding clerkship opportunities for law students. Thorner said that with a federal judge backing the program, students will likely get a boost in clerkship opportunities.

"Judge Garcia Marmolejo is putting her reputation on the line because she is affirmatively reaching out and recommending our students, which is a tremendous asset," Thorner said.

One law student already benefiting from Garcia Marmolejo's experience is Brianna Chapa. A third-year J.D. student, Chapa organized the Lawtina Network Summit, a national event, at St. Mary's Law over the summer for Latina law students, lawyers and prospective students, at which Garcia Marmolejo was a speaker. Chapa, who has secured a clerkship with the Hon. Cristina D. Silva, J.D., in the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada, said she is grateful for the confidence she had after receiving application support and interview guidance from Garcia Marmolejo.

"The clerkship program is changing lives and putting the St. Mary's School of Law on the map," Chapa said. ■



Photo by Delica Lopez





# From pipe dream to pipeline

## Making law school a reality for high school students

by Leticia Romero

**T**he Office of Pipeline Initiatives at the St. Mary's University School of Law has a simple goal: find ways to demystify law school for high school students and help make their law school dreams a reality.

Director of Pipeline Initiatives Alan Haynes, J.D., said he enjoys sharing his love of the law and legal education. He wants to reach overlooked students who have law school ambitions — particularly people of color or first-generation students. Since joining the law school in 2015, Haynes said he has strived to increase diversity in the legal field.

In 2022, the School of Law enrolled a class with 45% of students identifying as Hispanic or Latino, 4% Asian American and 3% Black or African American. Despite those numbers, a 2019 report by the American Bar Association stated 5% of lawyers identified as Black, 5% as Hispanic and 3% as Asian, even with population changes in the U.S.

1. Serena Cardona, a sophomore at Marshall Law and Medical Services High School, participates in a mock trial at the St. Mary's School of Law camp in August 2022.
2. From left, Marshall students Marcela Hernandez, Alyssa Homsy and Mayar Alquraishi, give opening statements during a mock trial at the law camp.
3. Alan Haynes, J.D., right, advises Nicholas Cervantes, a Marshall junior and a student judge in the mock trial at the law camp.

Photos by Robin Jerstad





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Years ago, Haynes recalls attending a Minnesota Supreme Court information session where former Minnesota Vikings football player turned Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Alan Page, J.D., spoke about how he guaranteed he wouldn't hire anyone who didn't apply.

Haynes said he believes one of the biggest roadblocks to law school for young people is that they "self-select out" by not applying.

Assistant Dean of Admissions Catherine Casiano (M.B.A./J.D. '07), started organizing a free, week-long day camp at St. Mary's for local high school students and found them to be successful — in addition to the First-Gen Bootcamp for first-generation, first-year law students.

The success of the programs confirmed the need for a dedicated office to nurture the student pipeline, which Haynes now oversees.

The two high schools in San Antonio that participated in summer camps in 2022 were Marshall Law and Medical Services High School and Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA).

The 46 YWLA attendees immersed themselves in sessions taught by St. Mary's Law faculty, toured the law school and heard from accomplished guest speakers, including the Hon. Myrna Pérez, J.D., who joined remotely from her chambers in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York.

Margaret Bray, principal of Marshall, said the summer camp students gained more than critical thinking and writing skills.

"Experiences that are immersive have the power to shape a student's future just by the nature of being exposed to it," Bray said.

Jennifer Delmer teaches Advanced Placement U.S. History and Advanced Placement Government at YWLA and said she enjoyed seeing her students engage with



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professors about ethics, work-life balance and the realities of being a lawyer.

Delmer believes students need to see themselves in the law classrooms, learning from law professors, before they can dream about attending law school.

"If they can experience it for themselves, then they can start to see it," Delmer said.

YWLA junior Sophia Pirruccello said her favorite part of the camp was a discussion on ethics and scenarios led by Mike Martinez, M.S.I.S. (J.D. '00), Director of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library and Service Professor of Law.

"I really liked the ethics conversation, where we debated different situations from a moral standpoint," Pirruccello said.

The 30 Marshall students, many of whom were incoming high school freshmen, participated in a mock trial at the end of their camp. Marshall sophomore Serena Cardona said she would love to attend St. Mary's Law.

"I would recommend it to all my friends," Cardona said. "I loved the environment, the people and the lectures." ■





# RUNNING DOWN A DREAM

## Law student finds nonprofit group for young runners

by Nathaniel Miller

**A**t 8 a.m. on a warm September Saturday at Woodlawn Lake Park, dozens of children’s hands were busy lacing up their running shoes for a run.

For his nonprofit Running Down a Dream, Shawn Barnett led a group of 14 school-aged children and their parents through warm-up stretches.

Before this group started its run, Barnett, a second-year J.D. student at the St. Mary’s University School of Law, gave a short pep talk.

“It’s really important to set your goals and try to achieve them,” Barnett said.

Barnett’s goal, besides completing law school, is to make the nonprofit he founded in 2021, Running Down a Dream, an organization that brings children together and encourages them to thrive through shared exercise — regardless of their background or ability. Weekly runs for school-aged children comprise just one aspect of the nonprofit.

There is no cost to sign up, but the organization accepts donations of new or gently used running shoes for those in need. Coaches provide mentorship and training for those who also want to run longer distances.

“These shoes allow someone to chase their dreams,” Barnett said.

Greg Zlotnick, J.D., Visiting Clinical

Assistant Professor and Supervising Attorney at the law school’s Center for Legal and Social Justice, recalled Barnett’s excitement about starting the nonprofit.



“Despite the rigors of the first year of law school, Shawn demonstrated initiative, vision and enthusiasm in launching this project,” said Zlotnick, who oversaw the law school’s Pro Bono Program for several years.

Originally from Austin, Barnett moved to San Antonio to attend law school after earning his undergraduate degree in Communications Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition to having a

great reputation, St. Mary’s allowed Barnett to remain in Texas while studying law close to home.

Running with a group in Austin growing up, Barnett found success through hard work and support, building endurance to eventually complete half and full marathons.

The work ethic that goes into running can also be applied to law school, Barnett said, adding both take focus and dedication and are greatly helped by a support group. Because some sports activities, like football and soccer, can have extra costs for equipment and fees, Barnett wanted to find a way to give children a chance to work together through running, which can be a lower-cost sport.

“That’s what our organization is about: giving kids the same opportunity I had growing up because my parents got me into running and being healthy at a young age,” Barnett said.

Lina Luque and her daughter, 7-year-old AnaSophia Everett, enjoy meeting with Running Down a Dream on weekends. Luque said the running group focuses on younger runners, which is great for their family because of the difficulty finding kid-friendly groups to join.

“It’s a very selfless thing to do,” Luque said of Barnett’s effort. “It takes a special person to think of others and do this.” ■





Nine members of the Dowd family have graduated from the St. Mary's University School of Law, including the Hon. Mark M. Dowd, who is not pictured. Shown, from left, Richard K. Dowd, the Hon. James M. Dowd, Lia Obata Dowd, Bernard P. McDonnell, Edward L. Dowd Jr., the Hon. David L. Dowd, the Hon. Robert G. Dowd Jr., the Hon. James R. Dowd and William T. Dowd stand in front of the Dowd Bennett practice in St. Louis, where Edward L. Dowd Jr. is a partner. While not a St. Mary's alumnus, James M. Dowd has also been a dedicated member of the law community alongside the rest of his family.

## School of Law graduates nine alumni from one family

by Nathaniel Miller

**T**he St. Mary's University School of Law graduates alumni from all over the world, but the Dowd family from St. Louis produces School of Law graduates en masse.

The Dowds — a prominent law family in Missouri — found their way to San Antonio after Edward L. Dowd Jr. (J.D. '77) and his brothers were looking to continue receiving a Marinast-based education after attending high school at Chaminade College Preparatory in St. Louis.

Along with several brothers, the Hon. James R. Dowd (J.D. '77); Richard K. Dowd (B.A. '78, J.D. '83) and William T. Dowd (J.D. '89); and even more cousins, the Hon. Robert G. Dowd Jr. (J.D. '77), Bernard P. McDonnell (J.D. '77), the Hon. Mark M. Dowd (J.D. '81) and the Hon. David L. Dowd (J.D. '83), each Dowd family member graduated from St. Mary's Law before going out to make their own marks on the legal profession.

The most recent to follow this path is Lia

Obata Dowd (J.D. '08), niece to Edward L. Dowd Jr. and an assistant county counselor in the St. Louis County Counselor's Office.

Edward L. Dowd Jr. said he has high praise for the School of Law. He went into private practice after serving as a federal prosecutor and as special counsel to the investigation into the 1993 raid of the Branch Davidians in Waco.

"I've always recommended St. Mary's to anybody who wants to go to law school," Edward L. Dowd Jr. said. "It's a great place."

The Hon. Robert G. Dowd Jr. retired in 2020 from his role as the chief judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District. At the time of his retirement, he was the longest-serving judge in Missouri. After first being elected as a magistrate judge in St. Louis in 1978, he served more than four decades on the bench.

When talking about his career success, Robert G. Dowd Jr. praises the School of Law's focus on educating students to be competent lawyers instead of teaching them

how just to pass the bar.

"I am extremely grateful for what St. Mary's did for me," Robert G. Dowd Jr. said. "I couldn't have done any of this without St. Mary's."

After her grandfather's funeral, Lia Obata Dowd remembered how many of his former legal clients came to pay their respects. Along with a quote from St. Francis of Assisi on the prayer card — "For it is in giving that we receive" — those two moments had a lasting impact on how she views the role of an attorney.

"Each client knows that their case is the most important one, and I enjoy ensuring they know I feel the same way," Lia Obata Dowd said.

*Are you a legacy family from the School of Law with multiple graduates? If you would like to be considered for possible inclusion in a future issue, contact Noel Vella at [nvella@stmarytx.edu](mailto:nvella@stmarytx.edu).* ■



# Culture of CHAMPIONS

## Nationally ranked Advocacy Program prepares court-ready lawyers

by Nathaniel Miller

Walking into the St. Mary's University School of Law's Raba Building, it's easy to get distracted by the numerous trophies demanding your attention as you make your way through the entrance.

Those awards, earned by the School of Law's Advocacy Program, represent tournament placements during the last 20 years — points of pride for a program that has produced national champions while simultaneously preparing law students for the rigors of trial.

Advocacy programs give law students real-world experience by allowing them to practice in a courtroom setting before mock judges and juries and in other aspects, such as negotiations.

"These are the real skills you need when you become a lawyer," said Sophia George (J.D. '18), whose team won a national championship at the American Bar Association's (ABA) National Appellate Advocacy Competition in 2017. "You can learn all the theory in the world, but that does not prepare you for getting in front of a judge and arguing your case."

What the trophies don't show are the sacrifices law students make to perform in competitions, both virtually and in-person, across the country while also juggling classes, work and other obligations. For the School of Law students who can make the time, advocacy competition is their sport.

And St. Mary's Law continuously shines.

According to U.S. News and World Report rankings, the St. Mary's Law Advocacy Program was ranked 14th in the nation in 2022, while the ABA ranked St. Mary's 11th overall in 2022.

The National Team includes the Moot Court Team, the Trial Team, the Dispute Resolution Team and the International Jessup Moot Court Team.

An integral part of the advocacy efforts is the Board of Advocates, consisting of 20 law students who help develop students' oral and written skills while overseeing all in-house advocacy competitions.

The National Team has earned numerous national championships, the most recent being the Trial Team's back-to-back wins at the National Trial League Competition in January 2023 and January 2022. The Moot Court Team recently saw victory at the November 2022 Chicago Bar Association Moot Court Competition.

A national audience also had the chance to follow the St. Mary's team when they participated in *Class Action*, a podcast hosted by MSNBC's Katie Phang, which highlighted three advocacy programs around the country over the course of a year.

A.J. Bellido de Luna, J.D., Assistant Dean for Advocacy Programs and Hardy Service Professor of Law, said the program's goal is to give real-world courtroom experience beneficial to a law career.

"If you're not afraid of going to trial, if you understand the mechanics of what is allowed in a courtroom, then it's going to help you in every other part of your career," Bellido de Luna said.

When going into competitions, Bellido de Luna said St. Mary's — despite rising in the rankings — is often perceived as an underdog. That only strengthens the students' resolve to perform well.

Photos by Robin Jerstad



“When we finally got to do advocacy, I realized that I love law school, and I love advocating. I want to be in a courtroom”

— Genesis Salinas

Even in defeat, St. Mary’s students walk away with more courtroom experience.

“I’ve never made the win a priority, and I never will,” Bellido de Luna said. “All of the coaches are teaching these students to be great advocates.”

## PUTTING IN THE WORK

Ricky Poole (J.D. ’90), one of the coaches for the moot court team, came back to the team as a coach after being asked to do so by the late Professor of Law L. Wayne Scott, J.D. Though Scott died in September 2022, his legacy lives on through the negotiations competition named after him and his wife, Maxine Scott. (Read the Fondest Farewell to L. Wayne Scott on Page 15.)

Poole echoed similar sentiments about performance, saying the fact that law students get to present arguments in front of real judges, such as the justices of the Texas Supreme Court, during one competition is beneficial to a future attorney.

“There are practical skills you take away from this program,” Poole said. “It’s really gratifying.”

The Hon. Beth Watkins (J.D. ’02), Justice on the Fourth Court of Appeals and Practicing Faculty at the School of Law, said coaches like Poole, who also put in long hours, make the Advocacy Program special. Watkins was on the moot court team that took home the ABA championship in 2002 — the first time St. Mary’s won the trophy — and she was recognized as the competition’s best speaker.

She said when students put in extra hours at the end of their day, coaches stay behind to help them strengthen their courtroom skills and arguments. That mentality continuously helps them win championships for St. Mary’s Law.

“I feel so proud to be a St. Mary’s School of Law and moot court alumna,” Watkins said. “I have tremendous gratitude for Ricky Poole and the time he and all the coaches have invested.”

## IN THE THICK OF IT

Genesis Salinas, a third-year J.D. student from Edinburg, came to St. Mary’s wanting to be an immigration lawyer. But to best serve her future clients, she knew she had to arm herself with more than just textbook knowledge.

Having spent her first year of law school online due to COVID-19, Salinas didn’t hesitate to try out for the Advocacy Program when she moved to San Antonio in 2021.

“I probably spent 12 to 15 hours a day, every day, reading during my first year,” Salinas said.

“When we finally got to do advocacy, I realized that I love law school, and I love advocating. I want to be in a courtroom.”

Since joining the team, Salinas has grown confident in her ability to prepare for cases quickly and to think on her feet. She has also become more accepting of criticism, a skill she knows will allow her to keep growing.

“Advocacy is definitely not for the faint of heart,” she said. “Law school is already challenging, but advocacy has been so rewarding.”

Raven Peña, a third-year J.D. student who helped cement the National Trial Team’s win at the National Trial League Competition in January 2022, said the Advocacy Program was the first time her classmates could interact in person after spending their first year of law school online.

Despite balancing the program, law school and her personal life, Peña said the relationship between her teammates became as close as family.

The Austin native said the Advocacy Program helped her examine cases for strengths and weaknesses and made her more open to new experiences.

“I’m not the most social person,” Peña said. “I’m introverted, and I like to keep to myself. It’s cool how much this program has helped me step out of my comfort zone.”

*Continued on next page*

Raven Peña





*Continued from Page 13*

As the first in his family to attend law school, Jayden Cool of Corpus Christi did not see himself as a trial lawyer. But with an undergraduate degree in Communications from the University of Texas at San Antonio, the second-year J.D. student, equipped with several years of speech and debate training, soon found himself thriving in the role.

Cool admitted he gives up any free time to school and the program, but said support from friends and family helps him as he continues to reach new heights.

“I’m giving up a lot of my time so I can be a great lawyer and help out the people who need it the most,” Cool said. “It’s a lot of work, but I couldn’t recommend this program enough.”

## MOOTING TO THE TOP

Kathryn Cantu and Haley Harvey, both third-year J.D. students, co-captains of the Moot Court team and participants in the win at the 2022 Chicago Bar Association Moot Court Competition, found themselves on different life paths before St. Mary’s.

Growing up in Edinburg, Cantu knew she wanted to be a lawyer and began participating in mock trial as early as high school before coming



**Jayden Cool**

to St. Mary’s Law and throwing herself into the Advocacy Program.

Harvey, of Austin, majored in Political Science and Psychology at Texas A&M University before being directed to St. Mary’s Law by staff at the law firm where she worked. Not aware of moot court until her first year of law school, Harvey is now one of the Advocacy Program’s biggest supporters.

“As much as rankings matter, there’s nothing that’s going to prepare you more for the legal field than the hands-on training you’re getting here,” Harvey said.

Describing Harvey as her closest friend, Cantu said the teammates have been able to identify each other’s strengths and weaknesses to improve their legal arguments.

Both said they hope their careers allow them to argue in appellate courts and become great attorneys.

“The reward in advocacy isn’t how you place in competition,” Cantu said. “It’s knowing you advocated for your client to the best of your abilities.”

## TRIAL BY FIRE

Thinking back to 2015, Sophia George had no desire to join the Advocacy Program when she first started law school.

As a single parent, working and attending classes was hard enough. The thought of adding another commitment — especially one so demanding — was not a priority.

Convinced to try out anyway, George and her teammates went on to win the national championship at the American Bar Association’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition in 2017.

Now an attorney at Husch Blackwell in Houston, George said championships look great on résumés, but the experience she gained helped her stand out when applying for jobs.

“The way you learn to analyze a problem, answer questions, formulate arguments, those are things that set you apart from the crowd,” George said.

Her accomplishments on the team became some of her proudest moments in law school, adding the program helps make students adaptable and ready for changes in opponents’ strategies.

“You learn to be flexible. That’s what makes a winner,” she said. “That’s why St. Mary’s has had so many championships.”

Robin Becker (J.D. ’21) is grateful for the Advocacy Program and its ability to prepare lawyers.



“As much as rankings matter, there’s nothing that’s going to prepare you more for the legal field than the hands-on training you’re getting here.”

— Haley Harvey

Less than a month into her job as an assistant district attorney with the Bexar County District Attorney’s Office, Becker became lead counsel on a case at the last minute due to an attorney’s absence.

Becker said some of the nervousness came from the defense attorney having more than 15 years of experience. Despite being a new attorney, Becker said she performed well due to her National Trial Team experience.

“It was trial by fire,” she said. “This was my first trial ever, and we were able to hold our own. Without the trial team, I wouldn’t have any idea what to do.”

Becker said learning to research and try a case is essential to being a lawyer, adding that advocacy coaches also focus on other aspects in court, such as approaching the bench and addressing opposing counsel.

The National Trial Team experience, Becker said, was one of the most integral parts of her legal

education. She encourages law students to take advantage of what the program offers.

“It’s going to be one of the best times of your life,” Becker advised future students. “You’re going to work hard, but you’re going to get much more out of law school because of it.” ■



Haley Harvey and Kathryn Cantu

## *Fondest Farewell*

### **Leonard Wayne Scott, J.D.**

St. Mary’s University School of Law Professor of Law and Director of Alternate Dispute Resolution Studies L. Wayne Scott died at the age of 83 on Sept. 14, 2022.

After earning his J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 1962, Scott was a partner from 1964 to 1971 in what is now the law firm of Sheehy, Lovelace and Mayfield P.C. in Waco. He tried dozens of cases for his practice focusing on personal injury, workers’ compensation and commercial litigation. He also worked as a briefing attorney for the Texas Court

of Criminal Appeals from 1962 to 1963 and the Supreme Court of Texas from 1963 to 1964.

He served for 50 years at the School of Law and was involved in alternative dispute resolution and created courses in negotiations and mediation. The Wayne and Maxine Scott Negotiations Competition is named in honor of Wayne Scott and his wife, Maxine Scott.

Gifts honoring Wayne Scott’s legacy can be designated to the Wayne and Maxine Scott Negotiations Competition Award online at [law.stmarytx.edu/give-now](http://law.stmarytx.edu/give-now).





# PSYCHOLOGY MEETS JURISPRUDENCE

## M.Jur. graduate combines forensic psychology with an understanding of the law

by Jennifer R. Lloyd (M.B.A. '16)

**T**he question that drives forensic psychologist John Delatorre is why an individual commits a crime.

In his work, Delatorre, Psy.D., (M.Jur. '22), applies psychology to consult on criminal, civil and family law cases.

Relocating from Arizona to his birth city, San Antonio, to create his private practice in 2021, he realized that he did not have a legal education to accompany his psychology work. He also wanted to join the St. Mary's University School of Law network that permeates the local legal community.

That's when he decided to pursue a Master of Jurisprudence (M.Jur.) with a Criminal Justice Concentration. The St. Mary's M.Jur. Program educates non-lawyers about legal concepts to enhance their professional lives when they intersect with the law.

"Very rarely do psychologists who practice forensic psychology have a background in the law, despite the practice being immersed in the law," said Delatorre, who wanted to be

able to view problems like a lawyer with the help of the M.Jur. Program. "It is easier for me to see the world through the lens of a lawyer."

Through his practice, Resolution Forensic and Consultation Services PLLC, Delatorre evaluates people for competency to stand trial, capacity to waive Miranda rights, psychological effects in personal injury cases and performs other types of evaluation.

"A lot of people want to know why this person committed the crime, and I find answering that question to be intellectually stimulating," said Delatorre, who can also be spotted providing expert commentary on Court TV and the Law & Crime network. "I enjoy helping people understand what might be going on in someone's mind as best as we can."

Delatorre said the flexibility of the M.Jur. Program, especially the asynchronous online classes, helped him balance his private practice and course work. His classes have also shown him ways to expand services into negotiation and mediation.

"John is a capable negotiator who recognizes the path to a win-win solution because bargaining is not always a straight route," said Practicing Faculty Michael Forrest, J.D. "In the simulated case problems in the M.Jur. Negotiations course, John capably navigated obstacles to get to a winning position."

Delatorre has helped strengthen and bring a new perspective to the community of M.Jur. students, noted Shannon Sevier (J.D. '07, M.P.A. '21), Assistant Dean for Graduate Law Programs, and Armando Prado Jr., Director of Graduate Law Admissions and Enrollment Management. Prado highlighted Delatorre for his role as vice president of the M.Jur. Dean's Leadership Council, which meets regularly to discuss and address student concerns, plan networking events for students and share student experience insights.

"While in my class, Dr. Delatorre brought a unique perspective to his colleagues and drew on his expertise as a forensic psychologist when we studied criminal law," Sevier said. "His doctrinal knowledge and experience make him a ready partner upon graduation to consult on curriculum development as we continue to evolve our course offerings by tailoring them to speak to multidiscipline practitioners in the fields of restorative justice and constitutional policing." ■



# ROLLING WITH THE BUNCHES

**Award-winning Texas winemaker remembers his St. Mary's Law roots**

by Frank Garza (M.P.A. '21)

It would be easy to whine about the winemaking process, but when growing grapes in the Texas Hill Country, you must prepare for shifting weather.

It's an annual process Ron Yates (J.D. '05) knows all too well.

In 2022, Yates called the weather "a tale of two vines," as the shift between unseasonably hot weather and heavy rainfalls played havoc with vine growth. Weather in 2021 also caused Yates to make adjustments to his plans.

"There are so many variables in Texas you have to worry about," said Yates, who owns Ron Yates Wines in Hye and Spicewood Vineyards in Spicewood. "California winemakers can set out a spreadsheet for the next 10 years, and for nine out of those 10 years, that's how it's going to go."

This unpredictability is not new to Yates. After being in the winemaking business for 16 years, he's learned to take success where it comes.

Yates fell in love with wine during a semester in Spain while he was an undergraduate student at the University of Texas at Austin. The son of his host family, a tempranillo grape grower in the Ribera del Duero wine region, introduced Yates to winemaking.

"It looked a lot like home with rolling hills, granite, limestone and clay soil. It was hot and the river ran through," Yates said. "Being the kid of many generations of ranching Texans, I said, 'One of these days, I'm going to plant some tempranillo.'"

But before he found his way to Spicewood Vineyards, Yates attended the St. Mary's University School of Law. At that time, he was also courting his first love: music.

By attending law school, Yates learned the contractual side of artist marketing and management. He and a friend started a record label while in law school, and he followed that passion for about four years.

Yates enjoyed studying criminal and administrative law with Professor of Law John W. Teeter Jr., J.D., and contracts with Professor of Law Mark W. Cochran, J.D., LL.M.

"Ron was a very bright, creative and friendly student with a genuine zest for life and an enviable head of hair," Teeter said. "I always knew that Ron would make us proud. I'm pleased but not surprised by his success."

Yates worked with a variety of musicians, including Grupo Fantasma, Glen Phillips of Toad the Wet Sprocket and many young indie rock artists.

But the memory of Spain never left him. After leaving the music business, Yates was ready to pursue winemaking. But before he came to own Spicewood Vineyards in 2007, the previous owners needed to make sure Yates was ready.

"That July and August, I spent every day with the owners out in the vineyard and in the winery," Yates said. "I am really glad they did that because, two to three weeks in, I thought, 'This is ridiculous, I'm so tired, and this is so tough. But I really love it.'"

The wineries' accomplishments include awards from prestigious international wine competitions, such as the Concours International de Lyon wine competition in Lyon, France, the San Francisco International Wine Competition and the TEXSOM International Wine Awards.

Though not a practicing lawyer, Yates finds himself applying the lessons he learned at St. Mary's Law daily.

"It's funny to look back and realize that the things I've learned, even though they're not being used for the purpose intended with law school, have still become things I use in my everyday life," Yates said. ■



Photo by JoMando Cruz





◀ (From left to right) In July 1995, Professor Marty Ginsburg, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and St. Mary’s University School of Law Professors Gerald S. Reamey and Vincent R. Johnson (standing) hike along the Panoramaweg, a trail high in the Alps above Innsbruck, Austria. The Ginsburgs taught in the St. Mary’s University School of Law’s program in Innsbruck that summer.

# To service, With Love

**A tribute to those who have given decades of their careers to the School of Law**

*by Leticia Romero*

This year marks a milestone for several beloved faculty members, many of whom will celebrate 40 years of dedicated service to the St. Mary’s University School of Law.

Sister Grace Walle, F.M.I., D.Min.; Vincent Johnson, J.D., LL.M., LL.D.; and Gerald Reamey, J.D., LL.M., started at the School of Law in August 1982. For four decades, they have given their all to law students through their extensive knowledge and professional experience — encouraging them through their studies and cultivating countless cohorts of new lawyers.

We are also bidding a bittersweet retirement farewell to André Hampton, J.D., who joined the School of Law in 1994. Reamey will be retiring at the end of the academic year as well.

These outstanding faculty members’ legacies are reflected throughout the legal community by the students they have educated and their commitment to Marianist values.

## **SISTER GRACE WALLE, F.M.I., D.MIN.**

Starting her St. Mary’s University career in 1982 as a campus minister, Walle, through her work with the law school, was named Law Chaplain in 1993. Walle would oversee the annual Red Mass for the next 30 years. During the school year, Walle serves staff and students from all faith backgrounds and offers personal guidance, spiritual support and opportunities for community prayer. She plans service and social events uplifting the University’s Catholic and Marianist mission.



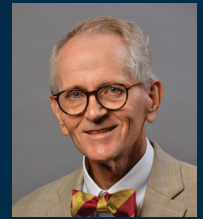
“Sister Grace is a very special example of God’s hands and feet here on earth. If she’s part of your life, count your blessings. If she asks for your help with one of her many ministries, say ‘Yes.’ Her faith, her work, her dedication and impact are simply remarkable.”

— Mary Brennan Stich (B.A. ’78, J.D. ’81), University Trustee, former vice president and deputy general counsel, Rackspace



## VINCENT JOHNSON, J.D., LL.M., LL.D.

Since joining the St. Mary's School of Law faculty, the South Texas Distinguished Professor of Law has had countless accomplishments benefiting the School of Law, including helping establish study abroad programs in Austria and China, and serving as a mentor of the *St. Mary's Law Journal*. Johnson teaches and writes in the areas of torts, professional responsibility, legal malpractice, government ethics, international law and comparative law. He served as Interim Dean and Charles E. Cantú Distinguished Professor of Law from 2019 to 2020.



“When I met Professor Johnson in 1983, he was a young kid — brand new on the St. Mary's faculty and already a brilliant, dynamic and engaging professor and a student favorite. In the four decades that followed, he accomplished too many things to list here. At the same time, he managed to publish nine textbooks and over 50 legal articles, hobnob with countless Supreme Court justices and earn an LL.M. at the London School of Economics. Most importantly, though, he has always been a friend and mentor to law students. Thank you, Vincent, my friend.”

— David S. Bright (J.D. '86), attorney, Sico Hoelscher & Harris LLP



## ANDRÉ HAMPTON, J.D.

Hired full time by the School of Law in 1994, Hampton was granted tenure in 2000. For the last two decades, he has served in various administrative and leadership roles, including Associate Dean for Administration at the School of Law and five years as president of the St. Mary's University Faculty Senate. He assumed the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs in February 2010 after serving as Interim Vice President since 2008, became the University's first Provost in September 2010 and returned to the School of Law faculty in 2015. In January, he was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award for the School of Law by the St. Mary's University Alumni Association.



“Professor Hampton is one of our best and brightest, and the School of Law will never be the same without him. He has served as an extraordinarily successful provost for the University and as an exceptionally valuable professor in the School of Law. And he has been (and will continue to be) my best friend. I, among many others, will miss him greatly.”

— David Dittfurth, J.D., LL.M., St. Mary's Professor of Law

## GERALD REAMEY, J.D., LL.M.

Having held many leadership titles at the School of Law, Reamey is a former Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and co-founder and frequent co-director of the St. Mary's Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria. Reamey is an award-winning author and the recipient of several teaching awards, including for his work in judicial education. Reamey has been awarded the Culture Medal of Honor by the City of Innsbruck. He teaches, writes, and consults in criminal law, criminal procedure and law enforcement issues and is a member of the Order of the Coif and the American Law Institute. Since 2021, Reamey has presided as Judge of the Municipal Court of Shavano Park.



“Few individuals have impacted my career from my days as a law student to my current position as a judge on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals as did Professor Reamey. I am honored to call him a lifelong mentor, but mostly a great friend. Congratulations on a wonderful career that has affected so many of us in the legal profession.”

— The Hon. Bert Richardson (J.D. '87), judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals





# DEAN'S CIRCLE

*Continued from Page 3*

Joe A. Gamez (J.D. '73) and Carmen Gamez  
Vincent R. Johnson and Jill Torbert (J.D. '87)  
Marguerite Sours Foundation  
Barbara H. Nellerhoe (J.D. '83)  
and John Nellerhoe  
PMBG  
Shamoun & Norman LLP  
Texas Bar Foundation

## \$1,000 - \$9,999

Anietie M. Akpan (J.D. '13)  
Nicole R. Alfonso  
Allstate Foundation  
Animal Legal Defense Fund  
Sue T. Bentch (J.D. '87) and Leonard Bentch  
Gerry W. Beyer and Margaret M. Beyer  
Charles H. Billings (J.D. '78)  
and Kathleen A. Billings  
Elizabeth C. Boddy (J.D. '00) and Cooper Boddy  
Margaret C. Boldrick (J.D. '84)  
Alison W. Boone  
Mary Brennan Stich (B.A. '78, J.D. '81)  
Amy E. Bresnen (J.D. '15) and Steve Bresnen  
Broadway Bank  
Burt Barr & Associates LLP  
Ana L. Canales (J.D. '88) and Ricardo Canales  
Laveta A. Casdorff (J.D. '99)  
and Thomas Casdorff  
Joseph Casseb (J.D. '77) and Elizabeth Casseb  
Allen T. Craddock (J.D. '97)  
Anthony B. Crosby Jr. and  
Mary Anne Crosby (J.D. '65)  
Ron D'Addario (J.D. '73)  
Sharon Daggett  
Megan L. David (J.D. '08)  
Michael W. Deeds (J.D. '84) and Patricia J. Deeds  
Al M. Dennis Jr. and Paula Dennis  
James V. Derrick Jr. and Carrin F. Patman  
Sue DeVillez  
Chris Dorbandt (J.D. '96)  
Ellis, Koeneke & Ramirez, L.L.P.  
Louise Epstein and John H. McDonald  
Nola Jan Fisher Greaves (J.D. '77)  
and J. R. Greaves  
Ronald R. Flake (J.D. '71)  
Richard E. Flint Ph.D. (M.A. '07)  
and Cheryl C. Flint  
Flores & Pelaez Prada, PLLC  
Justin F. Foley (LL.M. '17)

Charles S. Frigerio (B.A. '79, J.D. '82)  
and Annette A. Frigerio  
Mark P. Gainey (J.D. '75) and Cassandra Gainey  
Robert L. Galligan (J.D. '73)  
Carlos A. Garcia (J.D. '05)  
Carman M. Garufi (J.D. '83) and Elizabeth Garufi  
Rosa L. Gibson (J.D. '97) and Shaun Gibson  
Thomas R. Giltner (J.D. '86) and Teresa E. Giltner  
Kirk Glasby and Laura Glasby  
Stephen L. Golden (J.D. '78) and Libby Golden  
Goldstein & Orr  
Bebe M. Gonzalez (B.A. '11)  
Maria C. Gonzalez (J.D. '92)  
Albert M. Gutierrez Jr. (J.D. '94)  
and Christina H. Gutierrez (B.B.A. '92)  
Larry W. Harrison (J.D. '75)  
and Monique M. Harrison  
Richard D. Hayes (J.D. '78) and Helen W. Hayes  
Frank Herrera Jr. (B.A. '64, J.D. '67)  
and Cecilia Herrera  
Virginia C. Hill (J.D. '95)  
Ann Hollaway and John T. Hollaway  
Peter E. Hosey (J.D. '79) and Sheree Hosey  
William P. Jensen (J.D. '89) and Robin Jensen  
Charlene B. Kaiser M.D. and Richard J. Reher  
Kevin L. Kelley (J.D. '85) and Kathy Kelley  
David Kilgore (J.D. '13) and  
Susan C. Kilgore (LL.M. '13)  
LaHood Norton Law Group  
Law Offices of Pat Maloney, P.C.  
Thomas J. Lanphear (J.D. '70) and Lois Lanphear  
Joel A. Lauer and Becky M. Lauer  
Ruth D. Lew  
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson LLP  
Darin M. Lippoldt (B.B.A. '91, J.D. '95, M.A. '95)  
and M.A. Lippoldt (B.A. '89, M.A. '91)  
Chenglin Liu  
John F. Lubben III (J.D. '68)  
and Ann Logan-Lubben  
Pamela Ludlow and Ted Ludlow  
Margaret M. Maisel (B.A. '65, J.D. '71)  
The Hon. Sandee B. Marion (J.D. '80)  
and Homero R. Garza M.D.  
Mark E. Mershon Irrv Trust  
Burke C. Marold (J.D. '11, M.B.A. '11)  
and Meagan R. Marold (J.D. '13)  
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and Annabella Martinez  
Sylvester A. Mauro (J.D. '77)  
William P. McLean (J.D. '91)  
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and Patricia A. Noll  
Richard H. Noll (B.A. '72, J.D. '75)  
and Diane Abdo (B.A. '72)  
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# COVER NEW TERRITORY WITH A MASTER OF LAWS



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## Law alumna helps empower Latina students

Leah Wise (J.D. '16), a donor to the St. Mary's University School of Law and a personal injury lawyer known as @CrashGal on social media, talks with *Gold & Blue Law Edition* about her fondest law school memories, instructors and giving to help those in need.

**What was your defining moment at St. Mary's Law?** One that stands out most was the moment I decided to become a member of the National Moot Court team. It was a huge leap for me because I spent my entire life terrified of public speaking. That was the moment I decided to confront my fears head-on, and I am so grateful that I did.

**Which law professor made the biggest impact on you?** Civil rights expert and Professor of Law Al Kauffman, J.D., made a great impact on me and continues to do so. He is an amazing example of someone who has used their legal education to fight for social justice and civil rights. He continues to provide an excellent education to St. Mary's students.

**What motivated you to found the Leah Wise Latina Hardship Fund?** As Latinas, we face a lot of obstacles and I want to help Latina students feel empowered to overcome those obstacles. I am happy to be gifting a scholarship to a Latina law student each semester for the next five years. I want all Latinas at St. Mary's to know that there is a large network of Latina lawyers in Texas ready to support and encourage you.

**Is there a lesson from law school that still resonates in your personal or professional life?** The biggest lesson I took away from law school is that you don't need to be perfect in law school to be an amazing lawyer. I was never at the top of my class and feel that I have been able to give back to my community and serve my clients in a great way. You are capable of becoming an amazing lawyer no matter your circumstances.

*Wise's decision to donate to the School of Law allows us to celebrate her generosity and pass along assistance to those in need. To learn more about how your gift can be a benefit, contact Noel Vella at 210-436-3660 or [nvella@stmarytx.edu](mailto:nvella@stmarytx.edu).*



Courtesy photo



# Docket Call introduces law students to organizations

St. Mary's University School of Law students participated in Docket Call, hosted by the Student Bar Association, in the Law Commons and foyer of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library in Fall 2022. The annual event offered law students the opportunity to learn about the more than 40 registered student organizations that assist in their professional development, create new social outlets and support the mission of the University.

During the event, students had the opportunity to meet with various student organizations, such as the *St. Mary's Law Journal*, pictured top right, which allows its members to hone skills in legal writing, critical analysis, research and editing.

Faculty and staff were also on hand to meet with students. School of Law Dean Patricia Roberts, J.D., pictured right, chatted with members of the Advocacy Program's National Moot Court Team while eating a paleta — a Mexican frozen treat made with natural fruits.

Photos by Robin Jerstad

