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Fall 2008

## LawNotes, The St. Mary's University School of Law Newsletter

St. Mary's University School of Law

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# lawnotes

St. Mary's University | School of Law



## » CULTURE CHANGE

*St. Mary's Students Work to Change Justice System*

"Restorative justice is a process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in a specific offense and to collectively identify and address harms, needs, and obligations, in order to heal and put things as right as possible." — Howard Zehr, *The Little Book of Restorative Justice* » continued p. 1

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# » A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Fellow Graduates,

Once again, the fall semester is in full swing at your law school. Before we knew it, we had a new class of highly talented and motivated day and evening students embarking upon their journey to study the profession that you and I are so passionate about.

That passion and excitement for the legal profession is what keeps us engaged in the day-to-day labor of managing this law school. I meet students and alums at our many academic and social events, and their energy reminds me why we continue to elevate our law school to its highest reputation – as the lawyer’s law school. The Law Alumni Association Board, and especially this year’s president and leader Clem Lyons, and I are unified in this task. We are traveling across the country to re-engage our alumni in a vigorous alumni network which will not only keep the St. Mary’s spirit alive, but also connect our graduates with world-class positions around the country.

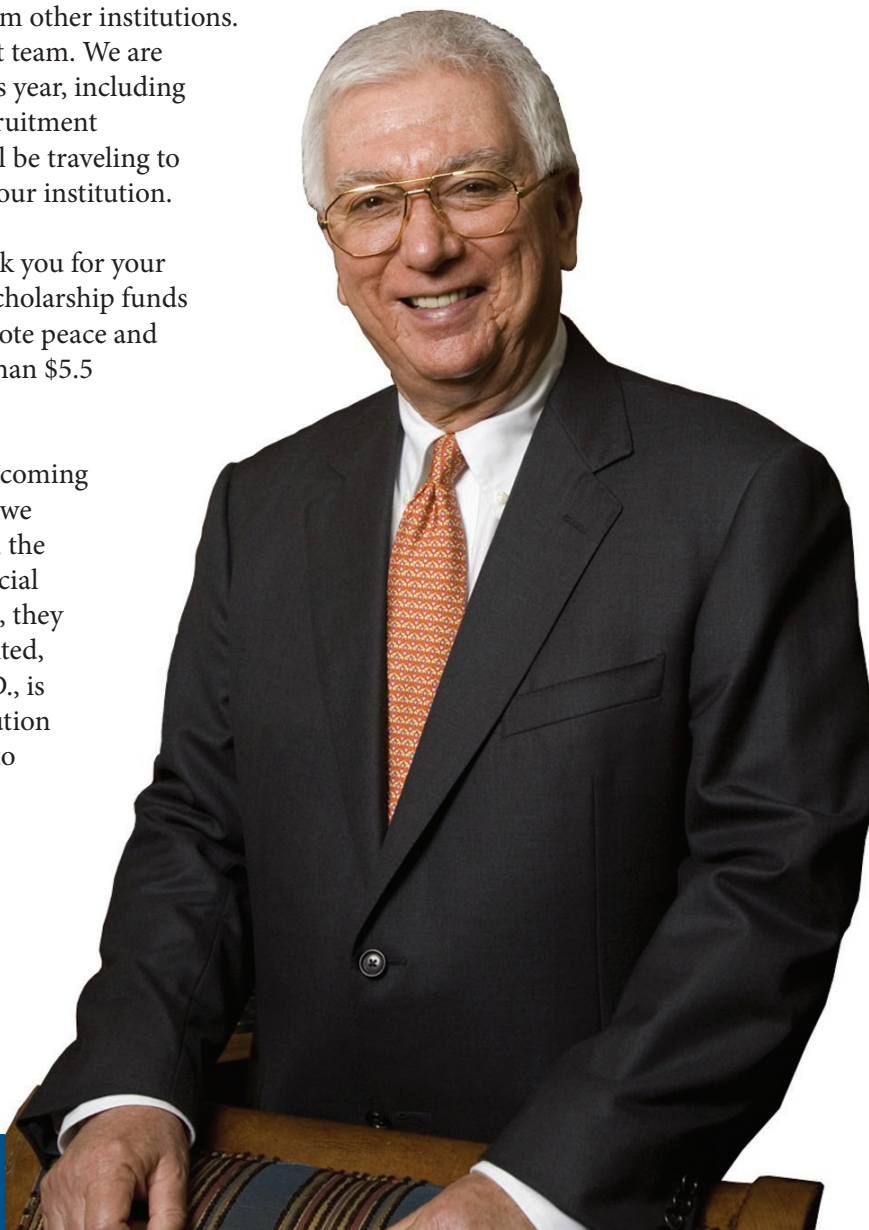
Some important academic developments have already begun to affect our students. Robust additions to our clinical staff have bolstered a vital piece of our faculty that speaks to the St. Mary’s mission. The clinic’s important work and the spirit of service it sparks in our students are what sets us apart from other institutions. I am excited that our two new fellows will strengthen that team. We are pleased to have notable visiting professors on campus this year, including a Fulbright Scholar from Romania. Also, the Faculty Recruitment Committee, which includes my associate deans, and I will be traveling to Washington, D.C., next month to recruit new faculty for our institution.

Speaking of the business of the law school, I want to thank you for your continued support. Your generous contributions to our scholarship funds provide students with the unrivaled opportunity to promote peace and justice in our community. To date, we have raised more than \$5.5 million, the lion’s share in scholarship money.

In the last issue of Law Notes, we informed you of our upcoming study and exchange program in China. Unfortunately, as we were finalizing plans to begin the program next summer, the partner school in Beijing rescinded their offer. As the official research arm and think tank for the Chinese government, they wanted to avoid any conflict of interest. We are disappointed, but see this as only a temporary setback. Robert Hu, Ph.D., is currently in the process of finding another partner institution and President Charles Cotrell, Ph.D., has encouraged us to continue in this venture.

Please enjoy this issue of Law Notes, come back to St. Mary’s as often as possible and keep up the good work in your lives and communities.

Sincerely,  
Charles E. Cantú  
*Dean and South Texas Professor of Law*





# St. Mary's Students Work to Change the Justice System



» continued from cover

A couple of years ago, a few St. Mary's University School of Law students became interested in the lofty ideal of restorative justice. Since then, the Restorative Justice Initiative (RJI) at St. Mary's has become a premier student organization whose members are deeply involved in community service and a goal to change the culture of the justice system.

The students first became actively involved in restorative justice by participating in the Bridges To Life Program at the Ney Unit, a state jail located in Hondo, Texas. Bridges To Life is a program whose mission is to reduce crime by reducing the recidivism rate of released inmates. In this program, volunteers work directly with inmates one night a week for 14 weeks, following a curriculum that moves both the victim and the offender through the grief and healing process.

*St. Mary's law students on the beat with community coordinators in Milwaukee, part of their established Restorative Justice Program.*



*St. Mary's students are pictured here with Milwaukee Assistant District Attorney Paul Dedinsky after one of their training sessions. Pictured (l to r): Colin Caleb, Ben Farish, Paul Dedinsky, Joan Marron, Maria Garcia and Jessi Sprague.*

It is a huge time commitment for law students; but to date, St. Mary's students have facilitated the program three times – each time with a different set of volunteers.

That level of interest and dedication caught the eye of law school administrators and other law students. This past year, the Restorative Justice Initiative was awarded the prestigious St. Thomas More Award for work which reflects the pursuit of social justice and a grant by the San Antonio Bar Foundation for community service. The program was also chosen as the Student Bar Association Organization of the Year by student peers. Randy Langford, a founding member of St. Mary's Restorative Justice Initiative, has been asked to join the planning committee for the 2009 National Restorative Justice Conference scheduled to be held in San Antonio next spring. And if you ask any of the Restorative Justice Initiative's students, this is only the beginning.

"I worked for a criminal defense attorney. I had never heard of restorative justice before, but I could see that no one benefited from the current process," said Langford. "People were still injured, and were run through the mill. I became interested when I started with the jail program and I saw the change before my very eyes."

Two groups of St. Mary's students traveled to Wisconsin this past summer to visit Marquette University School of Law, home to the premier restorative justice program in the country. At Marquette, theory has been put into action with the help of former Wisconsin Supreme Court

Justice Janine Geske. Under Geske's leadership, the Marquette program was not only put on the map, but it has also permeated society and become the preferred practice in Wisconsin. Throughout the state, the district attorneys' offices, courts, police and community work closely together to heal victims and resolve disputes through restorative justice tactics. One such tactic – called peacemaking circles – brings together victims, offenders and family members of both sides, who sit with law enforcement and mediators to work through the crime and its effect on all involved.

Restorative justice is victim-centered response to crime that focuses on the harm caused by offenders, as well as the need for healing of victims and community. By also requiring the offenders to take responsibility for their actions, restorative justice views criminal acts more comprehensively than the current judicial system because it recognizes how offenders harm victims, communities, and even themselves by their actions.

St. Mary's students returned from Marquette with a new spark and a deepened conviction that the restorative justice model can successfully be implemented in Texas.

Each student that studied at Marquette has been assigned a particular research area and will write a publishable paper on the subject. Once completed, the papers will be compiled into a manual to give to judges, administrators, faculty, police departments and the District Attorney's Office as a guide on implementing the process in San Antonio. The students hope this will be the catalyst to jump-start the program.

While inspired by the Marquette program and what they have done, St. Mary's students want to take it a couple steps further by designing a more structured program with more available resources.

"We want St. Mary's to become the hub in Texas and the Southwest. We could really gain some





*Kathryn Gray, Randy L. Langford, Mark Laneman, Kathy Oar and Jacqueline Rae pose outside of the Milwaukee Courthouse during their research trip this summer.*

notoriety and stand out from other law schools with a new way of thinking, and restoring justice speaks to St. Mary's mission," said Langford. "We need to recruit a superstar champion like Justice Geske in Wisconsin, who can really get this initiative off the ground in Texas."

"That's what happened at Marquette – solving local problems gave them notoriety worldwide," said Mark Laneman, an RJI student who learned a lot from the Marquette sessions.

"Restoring the victim to wholeness – healing the victim – is the underlying goal in this process. It just happens to have the same results on the offender," said Langford. "In the conventional punitive system, no one is satisfied."

"Texas is a weird place for social justice, in that it was one of the first states to implement the programs in specialty courts and drug treatment, but there is no central place to pull the efforts together and get organized. Lots of people are doing it here, but not enough people know what it is to really get behind it," said Laneman. "The idea in Texas seems to be the longer the lockup, the better. The irony is the punitive model produces more crime."

In the United States, close to 90 percent of juvenile offenders go on to prison. According to a 1994 Department of Justice recidivism study, it was estimated that within three years of their release, nearly 52 percent of prisoners were back in prison either because of a new crime or because of a parole violation. The existing penal system in the U.S. is not working.

"Today's offenders are yesterday's victims. We don't want to give them time off their sentences, we just want to change their mindset for when they are released," said Jessi Sprague, another RJI member.

Restorative justice techniques have had a great impact in the communities where they are used. The groups cite the "Boston Miracle", where no homicides occurred in a year after implementing restorative justice programs in the community. In Milwaukee, one gang was completely eliminated from the city.

St. Mary's students envision a restorative justice program at the law school's Center for Legal and Social Justice by adding a full time faculty member and a community justice coordinator.

Already the St. Mary's group has begun working with some local schools, facilitating peacemaking circles and dispute resolution, and they hope to begin doing the same thing in communities around the city. They have also been asked to lead some workshops for faculty at other schools to train teachers to be facilitators of victim-offender dialogue when school fights and disputes occur.

"I believe that everyone can change. A lot of people come to law school with lofty ideals of helping people and community service through justice, but those ideals get suppressed. This is the first thing I've been a part of since starting law school that gives me a feeling that I can make a difference," said Ben Farish, another member of the team.

"I've always wanted to help people. I've always wanted to be a defense attorney," said Sprague. "Through the Restorative Justice Initiative, I've developed the philosophy that by helping the offender, it in turn helps the victim, their family and the community – and that is something I want to be a part of."

# » CAMPUS BRIEFS



## 2008 Distinguished Law Graduates Celebrated

Fourth Court of Appeals Justice Sandee Bryan Marion and Paul R. Vahldiek Jr., a Houston lawyer, were honored by the St. Mary's University School of Law as the 2008 Distinguished Law Graduates at an award dinner Friday, Oct. 24. The award is given each year to two individuals with both outstanding achievements in the legal profession and dedicated service to St. Mary's School of Law.

Prior to being appointed to the Fourth Court of Appeals in January 2002, Justice Marion served as Judge of Bexar



*Justice Sandee Bryan Marion*



*Paul R. Vahldiek Jr.*

County Probate Court 2 for 10 years. She graduated with honors from the University of Texas at Austin and from St. Mary's University School of Law in 1980. She practiced law with Hollon & Marion in Boerne, Texas, before becoming a partner with the San Antonio law firm of Goode, Casseb, Jones, Riklin, Choate & Watson PC.

Justice Marion is an adjunct professor at St. Mary's University School of Law. She is a former director of the San Antonio Bar Association, past president of the St. Mary's Law Alumni Association and past president of the Rotary Club of San Antonio.

Paul R. Vahldiek Jr., an attorney in private practice in Houston, received his undergraduate degree from Trinity University and graduated from St. Mary's University School of Law in 1979. He serves on the St. Mary's Law Alumni Association Board of Directors and is a founding director of the St. Mary's Law Foundation.

The Distinguished Law Graduate Award Dinner was hosted by St. Mary's Law Alumni Association President Clem Lyons and Charles

Cantú, School of Law dean, and was attended by more than 500 alumni and friends.

## Former Texas Supreme Court Justice Honored

St. Mary's University School of Law Dean Charles Cantú and St. Mary's University President Charles Cotrell, Ph.D. unveiled a portrait of former Texas Supreme Court Justice Rose B. Spector in the Law Alumni Room's



*Rose B. Spector, former Texas Supreme Court Justice, and her husband, Dr. Morris Spector*

Wall of Honor on Sept. 23. Justice Spector was the first woman elected to the Texas Supreme Court, where she served from 1993 to 1998. Prior to her time on the State Supreme Court, she served as a judge for Bexar County Court at Law and a judge for the



131st Judicial District. She currently practices in Austin with the law firm of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP, and is an adjunct professor at University of Texas School of Law.

Justice Spector graduated magna cum laude from St. Mary's School of Law in 1965. She is licensed for the Supreme Court of Texas, Supreme Court of the United States and The United States District Court for the Western District of Texas. St. Mary's awarded her with the Rosewood Gavel Award for Outstanding Jurist in 1993 and as 1995's Distinguished Law Graduate. She has also been honored by the Corporate Fund for Children's "Tell It Like It Is" Award and with the Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Professional Excellence from the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism.

### Lyons Leading Law Alums

Clem Lyons, a San Antonio attorney, has been elected president of the St. Mary's Law Alumni Association for this year. He is preceded in the post by Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Barbara Hervey.

Lyons graduated from St. Mary's School of Law in 1962 and has since practiced as a personal injury attorney for more than 45 years. He specializes in medical malpractice with an emphasis on drug-related litigation. Before attending law school, he worked as a pharmacist. Lyons has been named a Texas Super Lawyer four times by a Texas Monthly survey of his peers. He has also been listed in The Best Lawyers in America and the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers.

Lyons is serving with Law Alumni Association officers Jeff Davis,

president-elect; Elizabeth Caples Rogers, vice president; Kristal M. Cordova, secretary; and David C. Courreges, treasurer. Hervey, the immediate past president, will serve as the Law Alumni Association's representative on the St. Mary's University Board of Trustees. A complete list of the Law Alumni Association Board of Directors, including presidents of alumni chapters, can be found on the LAA website.

### Cantú Appointed Dean

This past June, long-time faculty member Charles Cantú was named dean of the St. Mary's School of Law by St. Mary's University President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D. Cantú, who served as interim dean since June 1, 2007, is a graduate of the law school and has been a member of the faculty for 42 years.

Shortly after he was named interim dean, Cantú outlined four areas he hoped to quickly address: increasing alumni participation through giving, participation and mentoring; developing a renewed emphasis on academic quality; broadening the international learning opportunities available to students and faculty; and stressing in the law school the Catholic and Marianist tradition of St. Mary's.

### Clinic Faculty Bolstered by New Talent

This fall, the Center for Social and Legal Justice has added two new fellows and a visiting professor to its roster. Christopher Clapham, Clinical Fellow, earned his bachelor's degree

from The University of Texas at Austin and earned his law degree from St. Mary's School of Law. Genevieve Fajardo, Visiting Professor of Law, earned a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin and a law degree from Columbia Law School. She previously worked as an executive director and supervising attorney for Shelter Legal Services. Eric Tijerina, Clinical Fellow, earned a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin, a master's degree from Texas Christian University and a law degree from St. Mary's School of Law. He previously worked as a staff attorney for the Political Asylum Project of Austin, and as a strategic business consultant for Topps Company Inc. in New York.

### U.S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia Visits Law School



*U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia*

The Honorable Antonin Scalia, the second-most senior Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, visited with students and faculty at St. Mary's University School of Law last semester.

Justice Scalia addressed the law students from the bench of the



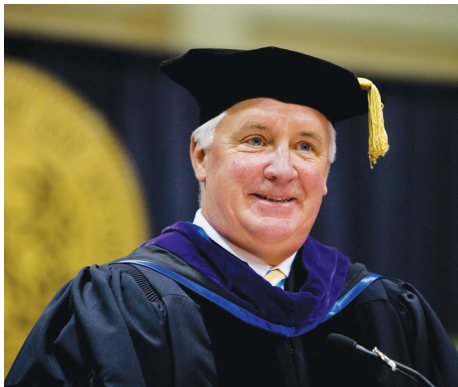
school's moot courtroom. He answered questions on the Court's work, his understanding of the Court's role in American society, democracy and other issues related to law.

St. Mary's School of Law has a rich history with the Supreme Court. Five justices, including Justice Scalia, have taught at St. Mary's Institute on World Legal Problems, which is held each summer in Innsbruck, Austria. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., taught in the program this year for the first time. Next summer, Justice Samuel Alito is scheduled to teach.

### Law School Graduates 240

St. Mary's University School of Law held its 74th commencement ceremony on May 17 during which Pennsylvania's Attorney General and St. Mary's alumnus Tom Corbett delivered the keynote address.

Corbett was awarded his juris doctorate from St. Mary's in 1975. He has privately practiced law as well as served as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania and filled several key roles in Gov. Tom Ridge's administration before becoming the state's 25th attorney general.



*Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett*

Two hundred and forty law students walked the stage, including seven earning joint master's degrees from the graduate school and 10 earning masters of law degrees.

During the ceremony, St. Mary's honored retired U.S. Congressman Eligio "Kika" de la Garza with the Lifetime Achievement Award. De la Garza graduated from the law school in 1952 and went on to serve the Rio Grande Valley in the U.S. House of Representatives for 32 years, 14 of them as chair of the House Committee on Agriculture. He has also received the Republic of Mexico's Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest award given to a non-resident, and he was named the 1979 Distinguished Law Graduate for St. Mary's.

The law school also presented two awards to those who have made exceptional contributions to the legal profession and education. Frank Höpfel, ad litem Judge of the International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia and University of Vienna Professor of Law, received the Rosewood Gavel Award; the award will be presented to him in person during this summer's Innsbruck Institute. The St. Thomas More Award was presented to Kent D. Lollis, executive director for Diversity Initiatives at the Law School Admission Council.

### St. Mary's Professor Teaches in Austria

Professor of Law Geary Reamey spent his sabbatical leave from St. Mary's in Europe teaching at both the University of Vienna and lectured at the University of Innsbruck. In Vienna, he served as Visiting Professor at the Institute for Criminal



*Geary Reamey teaching in Austria*

Law, teaching a course on comparative criminal procedure. The class, which considered and compared criminal procedure law across the world's major legal systems, was attended by Viennese law students and graduate students from China, South Korea, Turkey, Iceland, Lebanon, Romania, Poland and Sweden creating a rich classroom environment. This is the second time Reamey has been appointed Visiting Professor at the University of Vienna, the first in 1999.

While in Austria, Reamey was also invited to the University of Innsbruck to deliver a lecture on "The Confluence of Legal Traditions in the New World Order of Criminal Procedure." At St. Mary's, Reamey teaches criminal law and procedure.

### Rosas Advises Mexican Government

Roberto Rosas, an instructor of law at St. Mary's, was asked by the government of Mexico to participate in the First Parliament for Migrant Leaders in the United States (Primer Parlamento para Líderes Migrantes de los Estados Unidos) which took place in the Cámara de Diputados, the Mexican equivalent to the House of Representatives in Mexico City. One of the resolutions of the Board

of Directors of the multi-party commission, comprised of members from all Mexico's political parties, was to appoint Rosas as director of the Legal Committee of the Organizing Group of the Constituent Assembly of the Permanent Parliament, (Comité Jurídico del Grupo Organizador de la Asamblea Constitutiva del Parlamento Permanente).

This Committee, under Rosas' supervision, has initiated the study to constitute Permanent Parliament for Migrant Leaders, within the framework of the Mexican, American and International legal systems. Rosas has formed a team of international advisory experts to counsel the committee.



*Roberto Rosas in Mexico*

## 56th Annual Red Mass

The 56th annual Red Mass, celebrating the San Antonio legal community and inviting blessings on the judicial year, was held Oct. 30 at San Fernando Cathedral.

Archbishop José Gomez was the principal presider and the Rev. Warren Brown, O.M.I., Professor of Theology at Oblate Theological Seminary delivered the homily. Chief Justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals Alma Lopez offered reflections.



*Red Mass*

The tradition of Red Mass dates back to 1245. The name is derived from the scarlet robes worn by judges and red vestments worn by priests in honor of the Holy Spirit. Red Mass is celebrated throughout the country for the purpose of requesting God's blessings and guidance for the administrators of justice. This tradition is coordinated annually by St. Mary's University School of Law, the Catholic Lawyers Guild of San Antonio and representatives from San Antonio legal organizations, the judiciary and the State Legislature.

## Lone Star Classic held at St. Mary's

St. Mary's hosted the 2008 Lone Star Classic, an annual invitational mock trial tournament open to ABA-accredited law schools nationwide, Oct. 9-11.

The field consisted of 16 teams from the following schools: American University Washington College of Law; Baylor University Law School; Brooklyn Law School; Cumberland School of Law; Emory University School of Law; Florida State University College of Law; University of Houston Law Center; Louisiana State University Law Center; Michigan State University

College of Law; Pace University Law School; Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law; South Texas College of Law; Texas Wesleyan University School of Law; Tulane University School of Law; Villanova University School of Law; and Washington University School of Law.

The rounds were held at the Bexar County Courthouse and St. Mary's courtroom. The final round judges were Judge Xavier Rodriguez, Federal Public Defender Henry Bemporad and Richard Durbin of the United States Attorney's Office. The tournament was won by Villanova.

The law school's Board of Advocates assisted with many of the logistical challenges of the event, such as finding 90 lawyers to judge the preliminary and semi-final rounds and 50 students to serve as either bailiffs or marshals for each round. The San Antonio Young Lawyers' Association assisted in providing a registration website for potential judges.



# » IN MEMORIAM

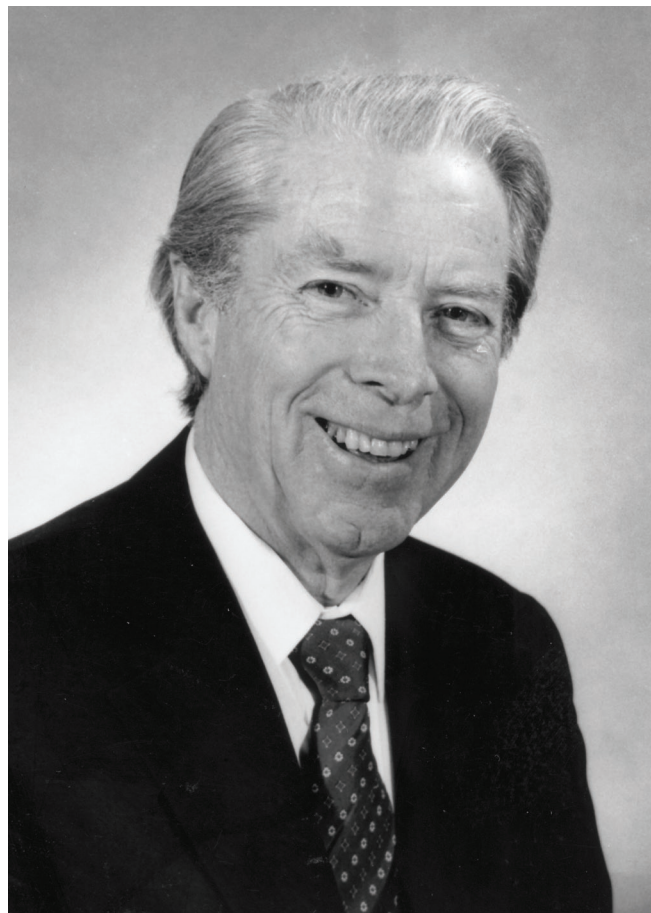
## James Castleberry Dean Emeritus

The St. Mary's School of Law family was saddened by the tragic death of visionary Dean Emeritus James Castleberry. "A 1952 graduate of the St. Mary's School of Law's original evening program, Jim dedicated a majority of his professional and personal life to the law school," said Charles Cantú, dean.

He joined the faculty in 1955, and served there until he became dean in 1978. In 1989, he transitioned from dean to dean emeritus, channeling his passion for St. Mary's into further developing the law school's endowment.

In his 11 years as dean, the School of Law saw several major milestones, including the completion of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library, which doubled the space available at the law school and the establishment of the St. Mary's Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria, a successful summer program that continues today.

"Jim and his late wife, Mary Ann, were a vibrant part of the social and civic fabric of our community. His contributions to legal education in South Texas were substantial and his loss will be deeply felt by St. Mary's University and the School of Law," said Cantú.



*Dean Emeritus James Castleberry*

### 1930s

**William B. Carsow Sr., J.D. '35,**  
Cedar Park, died March 26, 2008.

**James C. Laffin, B.S.C., J.D. '39,**  
St. Louis, Mo. died April 12, 2008.

### 1940s

**Dennis Derrick, L.L.B. '49,**  
Marble Falls, died June 27, 2008.

### 1950s

**James Castleberry, J.D. '52,**  
San Antonio, died June 24, 2008.

**Frank C. Rodgers, J.D. '56,**  
San Antonio, died April 1, 2008.

### 1960s

**Tuck R. Chapin, J.D. '60,**  
San Antonio, died March 26, 2008.

### 1970s

**Gus E. Wilcox, Jr., J.D. '70,**  
San Antonio, died March 8, 2008.

**Mallory G. Holloway, J.D. '72,**  
Amarillo, died May 15, 2008.

**Sidney Ordway, J.D. '75,**  
San Antonio, died Aug. 12, 2008.

**Karen Amos, J.D. '79,**  
Plainview, died June 15, 2008.

### 1980s

**James L. Brister, J.D. '81,**  
Universal City, died July 25, 2008.

**Michael Beck, J.D. '82,**  
San Antonio, died March 23, 2007.

**Kathryn L. (Kassel) Whipple,  
J.D. '88,** Dallas, died Aug. 14, 2007.

### 1990s

**Madhuri Vindhya Kumar, J.D. '98,**  
Fort Worth, died June 13, 2008

# » LEGAL TENDER

St. Mary's School of Law has received a wealth of gifts for endowed scholarships:

- Diann Bartek has given \$50,000 to the Keith E. Kaiser Excellence in Advocacy Law Scholarship, named after her deceased husband.
- Aldo and Betty Alegria have endowed the Dr. Aldo H. and Mrs. Betty Alegria Family Scholarship Fund with a gift of \$25,000.
- Rex Easley has endowed the Easley Family Scholarship with a gift of \$25,000.
- The Kittie Nelson Ferguson Foundation has made a \$25,000 gift to the Kittie West Hughes Law Scholarship.
- Rose-Walker LLP has made a \$25,000 gift to the Rose-Walker Law Scholarship endowment.
- Roy Barrera Sr. has given \$25,000 to endow the Roy R. Barrera Sr. Scholarship.
- Friends of Hal Walker have contributed another \$25,000 to the Hal Walker Memorial Law Scholarship.
- An anonymous gift of \$25,000 was made to the Law Scholarship Fund.
- An anonymous gift of \$52,300 was given to a scholarship for students from the Rio Grande Valley.

*Correction: In our last issue of Law Notes, we listed that Henry and Marie Ellert started a scholarship in memory of their daughter, Karen Ellert Pena. Instead, the scholarship was intended to honor Ms. Pena. We deeply regret the error.*





# » KUDOS & CLASS NOTES

## State Bar Honors Crump and Courreges for Public Service

St. Mary's graduates **Karin Crump (J.D. '97)** and **David Courreges (J.D. '05)** were honored for their exceptional service to the public and the legal profession at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting this summer at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

Crump received the *Nancy L. Garms Memorial Award* for outstanding contributions to law focused education. While Texas Young Lawyers Association president in 2006-2007, Crump created "They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement," a multimedia project about how students 50 years ago had a profound impact on shaping current civil rights laws. "They Had a Dream Too" assists educators, challenges and inspires students, and helps build future leaders. The project has won national awards and is now teaching thousands of students – not just in Texas but across the country – about their history and their duty to become leaders in their own community.

**Courreges** was honored with the *Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) President's Award*. A first year TYLA Director, Courreges assisted in planning and implementing the National Trial Competition finals, the statewide Bar Leaders Conference, editing and contributing articles to the TYLA eNews, and assisting with long range planning. He was instrumental in planning and coordinating TYLA's "They Had a Dream Too" rollout in Austin, where more than 350 students from high schools across the state converged on the Texas Capitol to participate in the civil rights program and legal education

activities. Ultimately, he helped involve more than 4,000 students in the program. Courreges was a key contributor to the content of TYLA's "You're Hired! Now What? Knowing Your Rights on Your First Job" video project, coordinated by TYLA's Law Focused Education Committee, and presented the program to the Austin Independent School District.

## Law Alums Make Top Lists

The 2008 "Texas Super Lawyers" list compiled by *Texas Monthly Magazine*, includes St. Mary's University School of Law alumni: **James Matthew Dow (J.D. '84)**, **Patrick B. Tobin (J.D. '81)**, **Lawrence A. Waks (J.D. '78)** and **Cynthia Hollingworth (J.D. '74)**. **Jason W. Fatheree (J.D. '00)** was selected as a Rising Star. Each year, only five percent of lawyers in Texas are named "Super Lawyers." Super Lawyers are nominated by their peers and then reviewed by a research team that evaluates the nominee based on professional accomplishments, peer recognition and community involvement. The Super Lawyer list appears in the October 2008 issue of *Texas Monthly* and Texas Super Lawyers, a publication co-produced by the publishers of *Texas Monthly* and Law & Politics Media Inc.

**Dow** is a partner in the Austin office of Jackson Walker and specializes in commercial, employment and intellectual property litigation. **Tobin** is managing partner of the San Antonio office of Jackson Walker. **Waks**, a partner with Jackson Walker in Austin, represents a broad range of domestic and international clients in the entertainment, media, publishing, advertising, communication, high tech, biotech, and energy industries. **Hollingworth** is an appellate lawyer with Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

in Dallas. **Fatheree** is a partner at Crouch & Ramey LLP in Dallas.

**Norma Hand Brill (J.D. '81)** was named a Florida Super Lawyer for 2008, for the second consecutive year, by *Florida Super Lawyers* magazine, published by Law & Politics. Only five percent of the total lawyers in Florida make the list. She is Board Certified in Elder Law by the Florida Bar and by the National Elder Law Foundation.

**Tobin** also made the cut for *Scene in SA Monthly's* San Antonio's "Best Lawyers" published in their August issue. Attorneys included in the rankings were nominated by their peers in a citywide survey of lawyers who have practiced in San Antonio for at least five years. The list includes St. Mary's University School of Law alumnus **Peter E. Hosey (J.D. '79)**, also a partner in the San Antonio office of Jackson Walker.

Published since 1983, *The Best Lawyers in America* is widely regarded as one of the preeminent referral guides to the legal profession in the U.S. The *Best Lawyers* lists, representing 78 specialties in all 50 states and Washington, D.C., are compiled through an exhaustive peer-review survey in which tens of thousands of the top attorneys in the U.S. and other major legal communities confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The current edition is based on more than two million detailed evaluations of attorneys by other attorneys. **Michael McCrum (J.D. '85)** of Thompson & Knight's San Antonio office was honored in the area of Non-White-Collar Criminal Defense and White-Collar Criminal Defense. **John Mark Vaught (J.D. '77)** with the law firm of Wheeler Trigg Kennedy in Denver was selected as a 2008 member of

*Best Lawyers in America* and recently recognized by *5280* magazine as one of the Top 50 Lawyers in Colorado.

## Alums Lead San Antonio Bar Association

**Victor Negron (J.D. '78)**  
President, Kerr & Negron, P.C.

**Robin Teague (J.D. '73)**  
President Elect, Law Office of Carl Robin Teague

**The Hon. Phyllis Speedlin (J.D. '83)**  
Vice President, Fourth Court of Appeals

**Gary Hutton (J.D. '78)**  
Secretary, Civil District Courts Administrator, Bexar County

**Krystal Cordova (J.D. '02)**  
Director, Wilson & Pennypacker, LLP

**Beth Squires (J.D. '02)**  
Director, Law Office of Beth Squires

**George Taylor (J.D. '74)**  
Director, Law Office of George Taylor

**'60**  
**Edward V. Dylla, L.L.B.**, San Antonio, was elected to a fifth term in the Texas Silver Haired Legislature, an organization that provides senior citizens an opportunity to become directly involved in the legislative process.

**'77**  
**Tony L. Chauveaux, J.D.**, Simi Valley, Calif., completed his service as deputy director of the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., and accepted the position as deputy director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

**'78**  
**Becky Gregory, J.D.**, Tyler, a longtime federal prosecutor and former Dallas County District Court Judge was unanimously approved by the U.S. Senate in April to become the U.S. Attorney

for the Eastern District of Texas, the top federal prosecutor for a 43-county district stretching from Collin and Denton counties east to Texarkana, and southeast to Beaumont. She now supervises more than 50 other prosecutors working a variety of federal cases ranging from terrorism to bank robbery.

**Antonio Mendoza, J.D.**, Malibu, Calif., has been granted the rank of Professor Emeritus of Law after having taught at Pepperdine School of Law in California since 1989. He and his wife, Maria, B.B.A. '74, will be relocating to South Texas.

**'81**  
**Steven Porter, J.D.**, Alexandria, Va., following 25 years in private practice in Austin, he accepted a career appointment to the federal government's Senior Executive Service. He will serve as Assistant General Counsel for Electricity and Power Marketing for the Department of Energy.

**'87**  
**Joan Kelley Fowler Fiorino, J.D.**, San Antonio, now known as Joan Kelley Fowler Gluys, is a name partner in The Law Offices of Dulske & Gluys PC.

**Nelda Florentine Williams, J.D.**, Caldwell, retired as senior appellate attorney from the El Paso District Attorney's Office in July 2008.

**'90**  
**J. Keith Brown, J.D.**, Garland, is senior contract negotiator for Affiliated Computer Services, Inc. in Dallas.

**Martin August Hubert, J.D.**, Austin, the Deputy Comptroller of Public Accounts won the 2008 Administrator of the Year Award presented by the Texas State Agency Business Administrators' Association. He received recognition for his innovative ideas, administrative skills and impact of accomplishments in fair tax case processes, transparency and business intelligence. The association's highest award, this recognition encourages growth, development and distinctive leadership.

**'91**  
**Bryan Louis Kost, J.D.**, San Antonio has joined The Law Offices of Dulske & Gluys PC, which focuses its practice on federal government contracts and civil business litigation.

**'92**  
**Kelly M. Cross, J.D.**, San Antonio, became a Master Guardian, one of only four in the State of Texas certified by the National Guardianship Certification Board.

**'94**  
**Sharon N. Humble, J.D.**, Berwyn, Pa., managing partner of the communications and marketing department at the Austin headquarters of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson LLP, was honored in March with the Philadelphia Women Making a Difference Award, sponsored by Philadelphia City Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, in celebration of Women's History Month.

**'95**  
**Barry Edward Swartz, J.D.**, Fair Oaks Ranch, retired from the practice of plastic surgery has joined the firm of Maloney & Campolo for the practice of medical malpractice.

**Suzanne H. Wooten, J.D.**, McKinney, will begin serving her term as 380<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge of Collin County on Jan. 1, 2009.

**'96**  
**Rebecca Armendariz Klein, J.D.**, San Antonio, was named Lower Colorado River Authority Board Chairman by Gov. Rick Perry. The board sets policy for and oversees the operations of LCRA, which provides energy, water and community services to more than 1.1 million people in central and southeast Texas.

**'97**  
**Paul Wendland III, J.D.**, San Antonio, is assistant city attorney for the City of San Antonio.

**'98**  
**Roland Gutierrez, J.D.**, a former San Antonio City Councilman took the oath



of office in May to become a member of the Texas House of Representatives.

**Robert “Sean” McCleskey, J.D.**, San Antonio, a special agent for the U.S. Secret Service, is assigned as group leader for the South Texas Regional Task Force comprised of local and federal law enforcement officers that investigate major financial crimes.

**Fred Travis Van Soelen, J.D.**, Clovis, N.M., was re-elected in March 2008 to his second term as a Clovis City Commissioner, and is a Deputy District Attorney for the Ninth Judicial District Attorney’s office.

### ’99

**Lauretta Drake, J.D.**, Houston, is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Appellate Division.

### ’00

**Rosendo Almaraz Jr., J.D.**, McAllen, is a partner in the law firm of Brunkenhoefer, Almaraz & Solis PLLC with offices in Corpus Christi, McAllen, Weslaco and Laredo.

**Polly A. McCann, J.D.**, Corpus Christi, has joined Branscomb PC as a member of both the Labor & Employment and the Litigation Groups.

### ’01

**Jason E. Bunn, J.D.**, San Antonio, is an assistant criminal attorney in the Office of the Bexar County District Attorney.

**Jason P. Darling, J.D.**, Hewitt, is an associate attorney in the Law Office of Moody and Crow in Waco.

**Kevin Henrichson, J.D.**, Austin, is a partner with Byrd Davis Furman, LLP.

**Gabriel P. Soto, J.D.**, Austin, received his Master of Laws in June 2008 from Pepperdine University Law School with a concentration in international dispute resolution.

### ’02

**Joe Will Ross, J.D.**, Dallas, an associate with Jackson Walker, was selected to participate in the Texas AgriLife Extension’s Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) program. Ross is a member of the TALL XI class.

### ’03

**Matthew M. Boyle, J.D.**, Fairfield, is an assistant attorney for the Freestone County Attorney’s Office.

**Jenee Margo Gonzales Garza, J.D.**, San Antonio, was promoted to the position of committee director for the Texas Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations by Sen. Leticia Van de Putte.

**Colin Murchison, J.D.**, Fort Worth, an associate with Jackson Walker has been honored as one of the Fort Worth Business Press’ “40 under 40.”

**Clarence “Tom” Tolly III, J.D.**, opened Tolly Law Firm LLC in Charleston, S.C.

### ’04

**Ross Brooks, J.D.**, San Antonio, has opened his own law practice with offices in both Austin and San Antonio.

### ’05

**Karina Cantú, J.D.**, San Antonio, a new associate in the San Antonio office of Jackson Walker, focuses her practice on estate planning, probate, estate and trust administration, as well as trust, estate and fiduciary litigation.

**Rhodes W. Hamilton, J.D., and Clifton A. Squibb, J.D.**, have formed Hamilton & Squibb LLP in Dallas, focusing on oil, gas and real estate matters.

### ’06

**Cynthia M. Chapa, J.D.**, San Antonio, is a self-employed attorney in the Law Offices of Arellano & Chapa.

### ’07

**Luke Hoffman Alsobrook, J.D.**, Austin, is assistant criminal district attorney with the Caldwell County District Attorney’s Office.

**Steven P. Fraley, J.D.**, San Antonio, is senior contract manager with AT&T Services Inc.

**James B. Hamilton, J.D.**, Plano, has joined the Litigation Section of the Dallas-based technology law firm Munck Carter PC where he focuses on commercial litigation and large-loss subrogation.

**Nathan Leavitt, J.D.**, is an associate attorney focusing primarily on cross-border asset-based financing, leasing

and acquisitions of commercial aircraft in the Structured Finance Group of the San Francisco office of Holland & Knight LLP.

**Chris R. Marrou, J.D.**, San Antonio, is a founding partner in the law firm of Ramirez, Marrou & Martinez de Vara PLLC.

**Arturo Martinez de Vara, J.D.**, mayor-elect of Von Ormy, will be working with current St. Mary’s law students to draft municipal codes and ordinances. He is also a founding partner in the law firm of Ramirez, Marrou & Martinez de Vara PLLC.

**Ivan Ramirez, J.D.**, San Antonio, is a founding partner in the law firm of Ramirez, Marrou & Martinez de Vara PLLC.

**Phil Austin Stauffer, J.D.**, Euless, is an attorney with Dunham & Rogers in Fort Worth.

**Chuck Wedin, J.D.**, San Antonio, is of counsel to the law firm of Ramirez, Marrou & Martinez de Vara PLLC.

# » CALENDAR

Fall 2008

**November 6**

D.C. Metro Chapter Fall Reception

**November 13**

Victoria Area Alumni Chapter Event

**November 21**

St. Louis Chapter Chili Dinner

**January 5**

Roy Barrerra, Sr. Portrait Unveiling

**January 30**

The Scholar's Women and the Law Symposium

**February 20**

St. Mary's Law Journal 8th Annual Symposium - Legal Malpractice & Professional Responsibility

*For more information on these or other events, please check our Web site at [www.stmarytx.edu/law](http://www.stmarytx.edu/law)*

*For alumni event information, please contact Al Hartman at [ahartman@stmarytx.edu](mailto:ahartman@stmarytx.edu)*

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE



FOLD ON GUIDE

## lawnotes

St. Mary's University  
School of Law Newsletter

*President*

Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D. (B.A. '62, M.A. '64)

*School of Law Dean*

Charles E. Cantú (J.D. '64)

*Editor*

Beth Barbee



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Help keep us up-to-date on your accomplishments by dropping us a note. You can also submit your information to [ebarbee@stmarytx.edu](mailto:ebarbee@stmarytx.edu) or by fax at (210) 431-4388.

*Personal Information*

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Name

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Class year

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Home address

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Phone

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E-mail

*Employment info*

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Employer/firm name

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Business address

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Job title

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Type of business

Class Notes information:

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ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



School of Law

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