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# BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW COMMENCEMENT

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Saturday, February 6  
Two Thousand Twenty One  
Ten O'Clock in the Morning  
First Baptist Church of Waco  
Waco, Texas



# Commencement Program

## Baylor University School of Law

Saturday, February 6, 2021 — Ten O’Clock in the Morning

First Baptist Church of Waco  
Waco, Texas

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### Processional

Emily Monk  
*Cellist*  
*Master of Music Student,*  
*Baylor University School of Music*

### Welcome

Bradley J.B. Toben  
*Dean and M.C. &*  
*Mattie Caston Chair of Law*

### Invocation

Austin Clay Byrom  
*Member of the Commencement Class*

### Introductions

Dean Toben

### Student Remarks

Ryan Katherine Golden  
*Highest Ranking Student*  
*in the Commencement Class*

### Address

Matthew Cordon  
*Professor of Law and*  
*Director of the Legal Writing Center*

### Remarks

Linda A. Livingstone, Ph.D.  
*President, Baylor University*

### Presentation of Class

Dean Toben

### Degree Conferral

President Livingstone

### Presentation of Diplomas

President Livingstone

Dean Toben

Leah W. Teague  
*Associate Dean and Professor of Law*

### Hooding of Graduates

Luke Meier  
*Professor of Law*

Greg White  
*Legal Writing Lecturer*

### Recessional

Ms. Monk

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# JURIS DOCTOR DEGREES

## Conferred February 6, 2021

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Robert Eldon Ammons	Zachary Harrison Ellis	Jordan Lee Pender
Omar Mohammed Azam	Ryan Katherine Golden	Zoe C. Phelps
James Koury Balagia, Jr.	Amber Brianna Hernandez	Riley Susan Rogers
Sarah Elyse Biemer	Tristan DeLapp Kaisharis	Jessenia Andrea Ruiz
Austin Clay Byrom	Mariah Jill Karigan	Monica Danielle Smith
Matthew Griffith Cloud	Hanna Kathryn Lee	Caitlyn Rose Tellez
Kathleen Rebecca Coffey	Eric Robert Mauro	Taylor Ann Volesky
Conner Littrell Dyer	Ryder William McCool	Amanda Redfoot Wayne
Andrew Bernard Eberlein	Ashley Michelle Meier	Tylor Steven Williams

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### HONORS\*

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————— **Highest Ranking Student** —————

Ryan Katherine Golden

————— ***summa cum laude*** —————

Ryan Katherine Golden

Mariah Jill Karigan

————— ***cum laude*** —————

Austin Clay Byrom

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### SPECIAL DISTINCTIONS

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<b><i>Business Planning</i></b> <sup>♦</sup>	<b><i>Criminal Practice</i></b> <sup>°</sup>	<b><i>Estate Planning</i></b> <sup>◊</sup>	<b><i>Litigation</i></b> <sup>□</sup>
Tristan DeLapp Kaisharis	Kathleen Rebecca Coffey	Eric Robert Mauro	Amber Brianna Hernandez

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### FELLOWS

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***Public Interest Fellow***<sup>■</sup>

Taylor Ann Volesky

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### DUAL DEGREE CANDIDATES

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***Master of Business Administration Degree***

James Koury Balagia, Jr.  
Amber Brianna Hernandez

\*Highest ranking student for the commencement ceremony is based upon grades earned through the previous quarter. Final determination of academic honors, rankings, fellows, and special distinctions are made after all grades are recorded for the student's final quarter of enrollment. A student who meets the requirements for an honors designation, a fellow, or a special distinction shall receive that designation only if the faculty determines that the student has made meaningful contributions to the Law School program and that the student is worthy of such distinction in accordance with the traditions, expectations, and mission of Baylor Law.

♦The Business Planning Special Distinction is awarded to students who have completed the course requirements, including the Business Planning capstone, participation on a Transactional Law team, or completion of an equivalent course approved by the Baylor Law faculty. The student must also meet a minimum grade point average requirement.

°The Criminal Practice Special Distinction is awarded to students who have completed the Criminal Practice Professional Track, have been selected for and completed the Criminal Practice capstone, and completed at least ten additional credit hours from a list of courses designated by the Baylor Law Faculty. The student must also meet a minimum grade point average requirement.

◊The Estate Planning Special Distinction is awarded to students who have completed the course requirements, including completion of both the Administration of Estates and Wealth Transfers Capstones. Students must also meet a minimum grade point average requirement.

□The Special Distinction in Litigation is awarded to students who have completed a Litigation Professional Track, have been selected for and completed a Litigation Capstone (participation after completion of Practice Court on a national-level mock trial team), and completed at least five additional credit hours from a list of courses designated by the Baylor Law Faculty. The student must also meet a minimum grade point average requirement.

■Public Interest Fellows have earned the designation by completing the *pro bono* and public service aspirational goals set by the Baylor Law Faculty. These goals include completion of over 225 hours of *pro bono* and public service while enrolled in Baylor Law and completion of at least ten hours of courses that have a public interest focus.

# PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

LINDA A. LIVINGSTONE, PH.D.

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Dr. Linda A. Livingstone is the 15th president of Baylor University. She previously served as dean and professor of management at The George Washington University School of Business, as dean and professor of management at Pepperdine University's Graziadio School of Business and Management, and as a tenured faculty member and associate dean of graduate programs at Baylor's Hankamer School of Business.

As Baylor's president, Dr. Livingstone has overseen the development of Baylor's academic strategic plan, Illuminate, which details Baylor's pursuit of becoming a preeminent Christian research university, and the \$1.1 billion comprehensive campaign that undergirds Illuminate, called Give Light.

A strong voice for the role of faith-based institutions in American higher education, Dr. Livingstone has established herself as a scholar in organizational behavior, leadership, creativity, and university accreditation. She has been extensively published and cited in academic and professional outlets, including *American Business Review*, *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, *Journal of High Technology Management Research*, and the book *Business and Corporate Integrity: Sustaining Organizational Compliance, Ethics and Trust*. She serves on the Board of Directors of CSW Industrials, Inc., the Board of Trustees for Baylor College of Medicine, the AGB Council of Presidents, and the Board of Directors for Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, Inc. In addition, she was recently elected as Treasurer of the executive committee of the Big 12 Conference Board of Directors and as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the American Council on Education.

Dr. Livingstone was inducted into Oklahoma State's Hall of Fame in 2019. She also is a member of the Spears School of Business Hall of Fame and was the first recipient of the Outstanding Ph.D. Alumnus Award. She was recognized in 2015 with the OSU Distinguished Alumni Award.

A native of Perkins, Oklahoma, Dr. Livingstone played varsity basketball at Oklahoma State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in economics and management, a Master of Business Administration, and a Doctor of Philosophy in management and organizational behavior. Her husband, Brad, a high school history teacher, also played basketball at Oklahoma State. They have one daughter, Shelby, a current student at Baylor's George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

Professor Matthew Cordon serves as the director of the Legal Writing Center and a professor of law at Baylor Law. He has earned several honors, including a national award for outstanding article from the American Association of Law Libraries. He has twice earned faculty awards from Baylor University, including Outstanding Professor for Scholarship among all university tenure-track faculty members in 2004 and Outstanding Professor for Teaching among tenured faculty in 2019. He has additionally won young alumnus awards from both Central Methodist University (2006) and the College of Information at the University of North Texas (2009).

Professor Cordon has been active as a university faculty leader and is currently serving for the second time as chair of the Faculty Senate. He also served for ten years as the chair of the University Committee on Committees and has been a member of more than a dozen campus-wide committees and work groups. He served for many years as the chair of the Law School's Student Relations Committee.

As an instructor, he is principally responsible for teaching introductory writing courses in the Legal Analysis, Research, and Communications (LARC) program. He also teaches courses as well as independent studies focusing on litigation drafting. Moreover, he developed the Advanced Legal Research course offered at Baylor Law since 2001.

During his career, he has produced a significant quantity of publications. Along with Professor Brandon Quarles, he is the coauthor of *Researching Texas Law (4th ed. 2019)* and *Specialized Topics in Texas Legal Research (2005)*, both published by William S. Hein & Co., Inc. *Researching Texas Law* serves as the principal research textbook in all of the research classes at Baylor. Professors Cordon and Quarles have also coauthored book chapters on Texas practice materials as well as historical Texas legal information.

Professor Cordon frequently contributes to a variety of other sources. His articles have appeared in such publications as *Law Library Journal*, *Baylor Law Review*, and *The Second Draft*. He has served as principal author of more than 3,700 essays for *West's Encyclopedia of American Law*, *Gale Encyclopedia of Everyday Law*, *American Law Yearbook*, *Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court of the United States*, *Gale Encyclopedia of Senior Health*, and the *International Directory of Business Biographies*. He also regularly serves on editorial review and advisory boards.

Professor Cordon played tennis and football at Central Methodist College (now University) in Missouri and later became a sportswriter and sports information director. He and his wife, Jennifer, still support the Dallas Cowboys, but these are trying times. He is active in martial arts, earning a black belt in taekwondo and a brown belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu. He won a gold medal in point sparring at the 2011 Amateur Athletic Union National Taekwondo Championships, five gold medals at international opens sponsored by the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation, and four championship belts at tournaments sponsored by the North American Grappling Association.

Dean Brad Toben looks upon his position as dean of Baylor Law—indeed he looks upon the profession of law—as a way to help individuals, his community, and our larger society.

Dean Toben completed his B.A., with honors, in political science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. As the result of AP credit, heavy course loads, summer school work, and a skipped grade in elementary school, he was just beyond his 20th birthday when he graduated in two-and-a-half-years from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

He enrolled in Baylor Law, sight unseen, because he could start law school at mid-year, owing to the school's quarter system. He arrived the day before classes started and went on to graduate from Baylor Law with a J.D. with honors in 1977, thereafter being admitted to the bar in Texas and Missouri at age 22. Following three-and-a-half years of practice with a St. Louis firm that subsequently merged into the current Husch Blackwell, Dean Toben returned to law studies at Harvard Law School in 1980, from which he received the LL.M. degree in 1981.

After Harvard, he taught at Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis. In 1983, Dean Toben jumped at an opportunity to join the Baylor Law faculty, returning to a place he had come to regard as a sort of professional home. In 1991, when he was 36, he was named dean of the Law School. He is currently the longest serving law school dean in the nation among the 203 ABA accredited law schools.

His academic interests during his faculty career at Baylor have focused in the areas of commercial law and the relationship of debtors and creditors under state and federal law, although he also has maintained active interests in constitutional law and public policy studies. On occasion, Dean Toben has also partnered with a minister to teach a seminar course on “Law, Public Policy, and Scripture,” inspired by his lifelong interest in theology, and its intersection with his work in the law.

Dean Toben is an elected member of the American Law Institute and has served by appointment of the governor of Texas as a Commissioner to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. He has been recognized as an Outstanding Young Alumnus of Baylor University. He also has been recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis and has received the University of Missouri-St. Louis Distinguished Alumni Political Science Award.

Dean Toben has been recognized by the Texas Trial Lawyers Association at a reception in his honor, for “exemplary service and commitment as a guiding light in legal scholarship and the pursuit of justice.”

Additionally, Dean Toben has participated regularly in accreditation and membership inspections of law schools for the American Bar Association and Association of American Law Schools and has been active in the State Bar of Texas, especially in the bankruptcy specialization certification program. He also was previously of counsel to the firm of Dawson & Sodd in Texas. He is a Master of the Bench in the Judge Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation.

## BRADLEY J.B. TOBEN (CONTINUED)

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Dean Toben has been active in numerous civic and charitable activities and has served as an elder, trustee, deacon, and chair of the board of Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). For many years, he also has taught an adult Sunday School class at Central Christian.

His wife, Beth, is a longtime child and adult sexual abuse and assault prosecutor. The Tobens have two children: John, a graduate of Oklahoma State University; and Sarah Beth, a graduate of Baylor University, former Lady Bear softball player, and Baylor Law graduate. The members of the Toben family are animal lovers, and Dean Toben once had aspirations to be a veterinarian. His home is outside of Waco in a semi-rural area, and the family menagerie includes several rescues.

Dean Toben enjoys any activity that involves being with his family and had for many years been deeply involved in Sarah Beth's softball endeavors. Dean Toben also enjoys reading, especially biography, history, science, and theology.

## LEAH W. TEAGUE

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Associate Dean Leah W. Teague's 29-year tenure as an associate dean is unique in law school academe, especially at the same law school. When asked why and how she has been able to stay in this position when the average tenure at most other law schools is three to six years, her reply is, "I love Baylor Law and I believe in our mission. Baylor Law is a very special place. Baylor is rich in the tradition of faculty, staff, and even deans loving what they do here and choosing to stay long term. Dean Toben and I are in our 29th year working together for the law school and we have an incredible faculty who are just as committed as we are to our first priority—teaching and training the next generation of Baylor Lawyers. We have a great working relationship among the faculty and staff and we have talented and hard-working students. I am truly blessed to be part of the Baylor Law team."

Dean Teague comes from a three-generation Baylor Law family. She followed in her father's and brother's footsteps and attended Baylor University (1983, B.B.A., *summa cum laude*). She never looked at another law school, even though she was fairly certain at the time she entered Baylor Law that she was not likely to want to be a trial lawyer. She recalls that she was surprised to find that she "enjoyed" the Practice Court experience, as much as one can, and she recognizes the valuable training and professional development gained through the experience which has served her well. After earning her J.D. *cum laude* in 1985, she entered private practice with the Waco law firm of Naman Howell Smith & Lee, where she practiced for four years in the firm's business section. Her primary interest and focus was tax planning.

In addition to her administrative duties she has taught a variety of tax and transactional classes. She currently co-teaches the Leadership Engagement and Development course, which is part of Baylor Law's unique Leadership Development Program. She also served as the chair of the university's Illuminate Steering Committee, a university faculty committee charged with assisting with the university academic strategic plan.



Dean Teague recognizes that being a lawyer is a privilege that requires her to give back to society. She is a co-founder and immediate past chair of the American Association of Law Schools Section on Leadership. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Texas Federal Tax Institute and the board of directors of Waco Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Collaborative, Inc. She was a member of the American Council on Education's Women's Network Executive Council and past chair for Texas Women in Higher Education. She is an elected member of the Texas Bar Foundation and a past president of the Waco-McLennan County Bar Association and Midway Education Foundation. She is an alumna of the Leadership Texas and Leadership America programs. She has been recognized as an Outstanding Alumnus for Leadership Waco and a Woman of Distinction by the Bluebonnet Council of Girl Scouts. Having participated in two Oxford Round Tables on the topic of the status of women leaders in society, she is highly involved in leadership development efforts. She writes and speaks on tax, business, nonprofit, and leadership topics.

Dean Teague and her husband Ted are very active in the Waco community. Dean Teague's two daughters and son-in-law are graduates of Baylor University. One of her daughters is also a graduate of Baylor Law.

#### LUKE MEIER

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Professor Luke Meier joined the Baylor faculty after stints at the University of Nebraska College of Law and the Drake University Law School. An innate educator, Meier has been voted professor-of-the-year three times in his young academic career.

"Teaching is something that I enjoy doing. The process of thinking through material and organizing it for clarity, and then presenting it to students, is something I find very fulfilling," he said. "I also have found that this process facilitates good research."

Professor Meier's primary research interests relate to the jurisdiction of federal courts, and he has been published extensively in that area.

"We are excited to have such a promising young scholar on our faculty," said Baylor Law Dean Brad Toben. "Luke has demonstrated the ability in his research to tackle difficult issues and to analyze them from a different perspective. Good scholarship requires those traits, and Luke comes by them naturally."

Professor Meier graduated with high honors from the University of Texas School of Law. During law school, he was named to the prestigious Chancellors honorary society and also served as Managing Editor of the *Texas Law Review*. He also worked as a research assistant to both Charles Alan Wright and William Powers, Jr. Following law school, he clerked on the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit for Judge Michael Murphy. After his judicial clerkship, Meier worked as a civil litigator for both Vinson & Elkins and also for the State of Texas as an Assistant Attorney General.

Luke and his wife Kelly have three children.

## GREG WHITE

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Greg White joined Baylor Law in February 2016 as a full-time faculty member specializing in legal writing and teaching courses in the Law School's Legal Writing Center. He previously served for over ten years as a member of Baylor Law's adjunct faculty.

Professor White earned his *juris doctor* from Baylor Law in 1982. He is board-certified in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and as a practicing attorney, has handled appeals in State and Federal Courts for over 30 years. He has been lead counsel in over 50 reported cases, including a number from the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit—where he argued a case *en banc*—and the Supreme Court of Texas. His cases involved business disputes, civil rights, election laws, personal injury, intellectual property, criminal law, and real property. He was appointed counsel on two death penalty cases, both of which received substantial media attention.

For many years, Professor White has taught the Frank Wilson Sunday School Class at Columbus Avenue Baptist Church. The class was created in 1938 by Judge Frank Wilson, who served as a professor and the director of Baylor Law's Practice Court Program from 1947-1971.

Professor White is married to Ellen White—former head coach of the Baylor Equestrian Team, and has two daughters, both practicing lawyers.



## The History of Baylor University School of Law

*The teaching of law at Baylor University began in 1849. The School of Law was formally organized in 1857 with a course of study leading to the bachelor of laws degree. The Law School had among its early teachers several eminent lawyers and jurists in the early history of Texas, among them R.E.B. Baylor, Abner S. Lipscomb, John Sayles, and Royal T. Wheeler, the first dean of the Law School. The Law School was closed in 1883, and its modern history stems from its reorganization and reopening in 1920 under the leadership of Dean Allen G. Flowers, who served as its dean from 1920-35.*

*The Law School has operated continuously since that date, except for the period 1943-46, when World War II interrupted its operation. It was led in the pre-war and post-war periods by Deans Thomas E. McDonald (1935-39), Abner E. Lipscomb (1940-41), and Leslie Jackson (1941-48).*

*Abner V. McCall was dean of the Law School from 1948 to 1959, and served as President of the University from 1961-1981. William J. Boswell followed McCall as dean, serving from 1959-65. Dean Angus S. McSwain joined the faculty in 1949 and served as dean from 1965-84. Dean McSwain then returned to full-time teaching and was succeeded by Charles W. Barrow, who was a Justice on the Texas Supreme Court at the time of his selection as dean. Dean Barrow served as dean from 1984 to 1991. Brad Toben has been dean since 1991.*

*The achievements of our alumni are the best evidence of a law school that, over the many decades, is making a profound and demonstrable impact upon our communities, our state, and our nation, in all manner of service capacities and venues. Our alumni, serving in their practice settings and in many venues beyond, are our proudest achievement at Baylor Law. The following is only a brief example of Baylor Lawyers' service in the public sector and in bar associations and professional organizations.*

*Two presidents of the American Bar Association have been Baylor Law graduates—the late Morris Harrell and the distinguished Watergate Special Prosecutor, the late Leon Jaworski. In 2008-09 and 2009-10, two Baylor Lawyers (Harper Estes and Roland K. Johnson) served back-to-back as the president of the State Bar of Texas, the second largest organized bar in the nation. A total of eleven Baylor Lawyers have served as president of the State Bar of Texas, and one has served as the president of the New Mexico Bar Association. Two Baylor Lawyers (Craig Lewis and Lewis Sifford) served as the national president of the American Board of Trial Advocates, respectively in 2007 and 2010. Eight Baylor Lawyers have led the Texas Trial Lawyers Association: George Chandler in 2003, John Eddie Williams in 2004, Nelson Roach in 2009, George “Tex” Quesada in 2010, Steve Harrison in 2012, Bryan Blevins in 2015, John Lin McCraw in 2017, and Glenn Cunningham in 2018.*

*Twice, Baylor Lawyers have served as the Governor of the State of Texas, twice as the Attorney General of Texas and once as the Governor of Guam. Baylor Lawyers have served as the Lt. Governor of Texas and in other statewide offices. Many Baylor Law alumni/ae serve and have served in the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representatives. Baylor Lawyers have served in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. Baylor Lawyers have twice led the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Baylor Lawyers have served as the United States Ambassador to El Salvador, to Mexico, and as the United States Ambassador – Chief of Protocol.*



Baylor University

# *Sentiments of the Winter 2020-2021 Graduating Class*

Thank you to my parents, Rob and Chris Ammons, who have always put me in the best position for success.

**Robert Eldon Ammons**  
**B.A., Harvard University**  
**Hometown – Houston, Texas**

I'd like to thank God, my wife, my parents, my brothers, sister, & their families. Thank you to Prof. Rory Ryan & Dean Toben for their support. "And remember Him, as He has guided you, for indeed, you were before that among those astray."

**Omar Mohammed Azam**  
**B.A., Texas A&M University**  
**Hometown – Fort Worth, Texas**

**James Koury Balagia, Jr.**  
**B.A., University of Texas**  
**Hometown – Austin, Texas**

Thank you to my friends and family who have supported me throughout my law school journey. I wouldn't be here without your love and encouragement!

**Sarah Elyse Biemer**  
**B.A., Texas A&M University**  
**Hometown – Austin, Texas**

Thank you to my family, friends, and faculty for guiding and supporting me over the last three years. May the rest of my life exemplify this verse: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God?"

**Austin Clay Byrom**  
**B.A., Grand Canyon University**  
**Hometown – Litchfield Park, Arizona**

I praise and thank God for making this day possible. He was faithful even in the toughest days. I also need to thank my parents Randy and Deanna Cloud. I would not be graduating without your constant love and support over the years. I love y'all!

**Matthew Griffith Cloud**  
**B.A., Baylor University**  
**Hometown – Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Thanks to God, who opened impossible doors; my incredible self-sacrificing parents, who cared for my children during advocacy practices, Practice Court, and a pandemic; and my remarkable children, who loved and encouraged me through every final. I appreciate my professors, coaches, mentors, and friends who helped through this extraordinary experience!

**Kathleen Rebecca Coffey**  
**B.A., Baylor University**  
**Hometown – Woodway, Texas**

I want to thank my family, my fiancé, and my friends for dealing with me these past couple of years. I couldn't have done it without y'all! May I never have to go to school again.

**Conner Littrell Dyer**

**B.A., Texas Tech University**

**Hometown – Mesquite, Texas**

I am grateful for the support that I have received from my friends and family. I am especially thankful for my wonderful supportive parents, and for my kind and talented PC Partner, Zoe Phelps. Veni Vidi Vici

**Andrew Bernard Eberlein**

**B.A., Baylor University**

**Hometown – Gatesville, Texas**

Thank you to Mom & Dad

**Zachary Harrison Ellis**

**B.S., Texas A&M University**

**Hometown – Dallas, Texas**

Thank you to my parents, for loving me and making it possible for me to be where I am today; my friends, for being patient and forgiving my absence over the last three years; and Zach, for always being my rock.

**Ryan Katherine Golden**

**B.A., Texas A&M University**

**Hometown – Waco, Texas**

Thank you to Mom, Nana, Jake, Stacy, Nina, Nino, without y'all this would've never been possible, this degree is just as much yours as mine; to Autumn & my true friends for supporting, believing & dealing with me daily these past 4yrs & to Zoe I couldn't've survived #unwell alone.

**Amber Brianna Hernandez**

**B.B.A., Baylor University**

**Hometown – San Diego, California**

Strive to be the person that your dog thinks that you are. Thank you to my family for their love and support, my friends for their humor and willingness to grab a beer whenever we needed one, and most of all to my best friend and Labrador, Dallas.

**Tristan DeLapp Kaisharis**

**B.A., University of Alabama**

**Hometown – University Park, Texas**

Thank you to my parents, for your constant support throughout the years and always encouraging me to chase my dreams. Thank you to the professors who believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. And thank you to my friends—law school wouldn't have been the same without y'all.

**Mariah Jill Karigan**

**B.A., University of Alabama**

**Hometown – Carrollton, Texas**

Kim is my lawyer.

**Hanna Kathryn Lee**

**B.A., Texas A&M University**

**Hometown – Mount Pleasant, Texas**

I hereby devise my entire estate, which I may own at the time of my death, including both real and personal property, if she survives me, to Tootsie.

**Eric Robert Mauro**

**B.S., Texas Woman's University**

**Hometown – Arlington, Texas**

Thank you to my parents, grandparents, sister, and friends. I would not be here today without your love, encouragement, and support. I would also not be here without Golf, the pool, and Scruffy Murphy's.

Sic 'Em Bears - Isaiah 41:10

**Ryder William McCool**

**B.A., Baylor University**

**Hometown – San Antonio, Texas**

Thank you to Mom, Dad, Meme, Papa, and my whole family. Without your encouragement, and food, I couldn't have made it this far. God is good!

**Ashley Michelle Meier**

**B.A., Tarleton State University**

**Hometown – Waco, Texas**

Friends and family, thank you for carrying me this far. I wouldn't be here without your support.

To my Brownskin, Butterscotch Queen, thank you for all your wisdom and love. Proverbs 18:22,24 Luke 12:48 Isaiah 1:17 Ganbarimasu!!!

**Jordan Lee Pender**

**B.A., Baylor University**

**Hometown – Temple, Texas**

Thank you, Mom, Dad, Mya, Austin, Ruthie & Amber for always encouraging me - I couldn't have done this without you. Thank you, Andrew, my PC partner, for all your hard work. Thank you, Brandon, for your endless love, adventure, and inspiration. Thank you all for believing in me.

**Zoe C. Phelps**

**B.A., Texas A&M University**

**Hometown – College Station, Texas**

This journey was a group effort. I would not be the person I am today nor would I have made it to where I am today without the love, support, and encouragement from my family, my friends, and Baylor's amazing professors.

**Riley Susan Rogers**

**B.A., University of Oklahoma**

**Hometown – Texarkana, Texas**

God is so faithful. My mother deserves a special thank you for being so selfless, supporting and incredible in this journey - my inspiration. Thank you Bighead, Ernesto, Daddy, Tabby and everyone else who supported me along the way. I love you all.

**Jessenia Andrea Ruiz**

**B.A., Baylor University**

**Hometown – Waco, Texas**

This was an experience I would not trade for anything, but you could not pay me to do again.

To my parents, I could not have done it without you both on my team. Your love and support are the greatest blessings a daughter can have.

**Monica Danielle Smith**

**B.S., University of Texas**

**Hometown – Victoria, Texas**

Thank you to my family, especially my mom, Melissa, and husband, Alvaro. The endless support and love that you two have given me throughout the years has made all the difference. I will never be able to thank you both enough!

**Caitlyn Rose Tellez**

**B.A., Arizona State University**

**Hometown – Corpus Christi, Texas**

Thank you to all my family and friends who have supported me through everything! "Reading is the key that opens doors to many good things in life. Reading shaped my dreams, and more reading helped me make my dreams come true." – Ruth Bader Ginsburg

**Taylor Ann Volesky**

**B.A., University of North Texas**

**Hometown – Plano, Texas**

I want to thank my husband, Andrew, and my parents, Angela and Randy Redfoot, for their continued love and support. I want to thank my brother, sister-in-law, and nieces for every care package and every message of encouragement. I am also grateful for my in-laws who have supported me throughout this journey.

**Amanda Redfoot Wayne**

**B.A., Auburn University**

**Hometown – Mobile, Alabama**

Thank you to Mom & Dad (my heroes), Tanner, and Amy for the constant love and support these last few years! I would not have made it without you guys. I love you all more than words and cannot thank you enough for everything.

**Tylor Steven Williams**

**B.A., University of West Florida**

**Hometown – Charleston, West Virginia**