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Houston Business & Tax Law Journal Alumni Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 2

BOARD 17



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NOTE FROM THE EIC

The Journal has had a busy and eventful Fall semester, but I'm very proud with how much we've accomplished. With the strength that Board 18 has shown, I'm confident this trend will continue into the Spring.

What Has HBTLJ Been Up To?

Alumni Happy Hour

➤ The Alumni Happy Hour at 8th Wonder Brewery (pictured left) in September was a great success! There were over 20 current and former HBTLJ members in attendance to network and exchange their favorite law school stories with IntellectualE and Dome Faux'm in hand.



HBTLJ 2016 DAY OF SERVICE

➤ HBTLJ participated in its annual community service event at the **Houston Food Bank** again this year. On an early Saturday morning in September, HBTLJ current editors and provisional members teamed up to help the Food Bank provide meals for over 500 underprivileged individuals.

ISSUE 17.1

- The Journal is proud to announce another successful publication, with Issue 17.1 going to print in December. This Issue features the following articles written by 3 students and 2 professionals:
- ✓ “Entity Exits: Rights, Remedies and Bounded Rationality” by **Professor Mark Anderson**
 - ✓ “‘Make Whole’: The Need for Gross-Ups in Employment Discrimination Cases” by **Shawn Johnson & Thomas Roney**
 - ✓ “An Examination of The Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act: How JOBS Act Exemptions May Help Startups and Hurt Investors” by **Ben Hamel** (HBTLJ – Board 17)
 - ✓ “Safe Harboring the Cloud on an Evolving Digital Platform” by **Samie S. Leigh** (HBTLJ – Board 17)
 - ✓ “Territorial Jurisdiction Reach of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act as Applied to the Anti-bribery Provision” by **Bianca Ybarra** (HBTLJ – Board 17)



Calhoun's Rooftop – New Member Happy Hour

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Ryan J. Dove



Q: Where did you get your undergraduate degree?
What did you get your degree in?

A: I received a BS in electrical engineering from The Ohio State University. I worked in the petrochemical industry for a few years as an electrical engineer. The engineering job is what brought me to Houston. I decided I wanted to do something different and started law school at UHLC in the fall of 2005.

Q: What years were you on the Journal?

A: 2006 – 2008.

Q: What's your favorite memory of the Journal?

A: The networking with other students was invaluable. I would regularly receive advice from or give advice to other students on the journal about certain professors, classes, job openings, internships, etc. Even just commiserating about a hard class or exam in the journal offices was helpful at times.

Q: What firm are you currently practicing with?

A: My boss retired in November of 2014 and sold his firm. I took the opportunity to start my own firm, Dove Law Firm, PLLC, and have been running my firm since then.

Q: What type of law do you practice?

A: Primarily consumer and small business bankruptcy. I also defend debt lawsuits and occasionally do debt settlement work.

Q: In what ways did being a part of the Journal help you early in your legal career?

A: By the time I started on the journal I had already interned for a bankruptcy judge and for a law firm that practiced bankruptcy. The journal helped me to refine my legal research and writing skills as well as editing skills. Knowing how to quickly research a legal issue and to write a quick but informative memo is very helpful when you're the new associate at a law firm.

Q: We know you and your wife are big into breweries, what's your favorite brewery you've been to in Texas?

A: The coolest is probably B-52 in Conroe. Taking into account the overall atmosphere as well as the beer they brew, it is a unique experience. The brewery is actually in the middle of a heavily wooded area and when you visit you sit out among the trees.

Q: What are some of your other hobbies?

A: I'm an avid sports fan, including the Texans, the Ohio State Buckeyes, Houston Cougars and of course the other Houston sports teams. We go to all of the Texans home games every year and have a tailgate that we run with some friends. I've even been included in some of the Texans' television commercials over the years.

Q: Any advice for current 2Ls and 3Ls on the Journal who might want to get into bankruptcy law?

A: My advice (which could apply to any area of law) would be to dip your toes into the bankruptcy community while you're in law school. Try to intern for a bankruptcy judge or a bankruptcy law firm. Contact a state or local group for the practice area and see if any lawyers would be willing to meet you for coffee or lunch to discuss what it means to work in that practice area. Learn about the area of law so you can determine if the practice area meshes with your personality and to potentially secure a job after upon graduation.

What's Upcoming?

Annual Symposium

We are excited to announce that HBTLJ's Annual Symposium will be held at ExxonMobil's state-of-the-art campus in Spring, Texas again this year.

The Symposium will feature a panel of speakers comprising of established Professors and Attorneys from the Houston area who will discuss hot topics in Oil and Gas, Tax, and other emerging areas of the law. The Symposium is set for Friday, February 10, 2017 (specific time to be announced at a later date).

Spring Articles – 17.2

The next issue will include the following articles, among others:

- ❖ “Updates Ready to Install: How California’s Electronic Communications Privacy Act Provides a Better Framework for Federal Privacy Laws” by **Jeremiah Clark** (HBTLJ – Board 17)
- ❖ “Dissecting Texas’s Utility Lending Rules” by **Professor Matt Crockett**
- ❖ “Financing the Clean Power Plan: How the MLP Parity Act Can Help Electricity Generators Finance Air Quality” by **Oliver Fankhauser** (HBTLJ – Board 17)
- ❖ “A Power of Enormous Consequence: The Presumption of Correctness in State Taxation” by **Professors John Gamino & Christina Betanzos**
- ❖ “The Saddle Ridge Gold Coin Discovery: How the IRS Should Tax U.S. Currency Under the Treasure Trove Regulation” by **Professors Marc Morris, Christine Cheng & D. Larry Crumbley**

Corporate & Tax Law Society / HBTLJ Business Law Week

HBTLJ and CTLS are teaming up to bring UHLC its very first “Business Law Week.”

For 4 straight days in the spring, we are bringing attorneys from the Houston area to the law center to speak to students about their respective practice areas. There will be one day designated to each of the following areas of the law: Real Estate, Banking & Bankruptcy, M&A/Securities/Corporate, and Tax. If you are interested in serving on a panel for one of these topics, please reach out to our Executive Editor, Josh Gonzales at jmgonz30@central.uh.edu.



Halloween 2016

In the spirit of Halloween, the Journal decided to decorate the office with spooky spiders, Jack-O-lanterns, and of course, all of our favorite candy.

STATE OF THE JOURNAL

By: Oliver Fankhauser, Managing Editor - Board 17

As the fall 2016 semester winds down, I can happily report that the state of the Journal is strong. Thanks to a sharp Board 17 management team and a dedicated Board 18 support team, I'm proud of the progress we have made so far this year. Perhaps the Journal's proudest accomplishment is the Articles Department's successful preparation of five articles that will be published in December's Issue 17.1.

Next semester, we look forward to the Articles Department's preparation of seven articles for publication in Issue 17.2, which include pieces about treasure troves, MLP equity investor issues, electronic privacy, Texas lending rules, taxation and evidence, and our Compliance Database.

Meanwhile, the Notes and Comments Department and our freshly initiated Board 18 are working diligently to shape future publications. We look forward to receiving 18 student-authored casenotes and comments in the spring. We think Board 18 will deliver one of the most diverse sets of student submissions the Journal has ever seen, and we are excited to have such a deep pool of superior articles to choose from when shaping Volume 18.

While the publications departments achieve their goals, the Compliance Department is hard at work rejuvenating our Compliance Database. After numerous administrative changes last year, the Compliance Department is ready to take the database to new heights by adding new user features and up-to-date information in the first quarter of 2017. Check future newsletters for updates!

Finally, the Executive Department had a busy fall semester full of student events and a successful alumni event at 8th Wonder Brewery. At the moment, the Executive Department is finalizing the Journal's annual banquet to be held on March 30, 2017. Even if you can't make it to the banquet, we encourage all alumni to stay tuned for other Spring alumni events in the works. In addition, the Journal plans to launch a new subscription drive in January, in which it will target law schools and firms with a variety of subscription plans. Be sure to check your email for information about future alumni events and business development initiatives.

In closing, our diverse initiatives show that the Journal is a living organ of the successes and lessons passed down by previous boards. Whether you served on Board 1 or are currently serving on Board 18, your influence remains important to the Journal, and for that we thank you.

✚ Please email hbtlj@hbtlj.org to update the Journal on what you've been up to and for a chance to get featured in the next alumni newsletter.

✚ Also make sure to visit <http://www.hbtlj.org> for the latest news regarding the Journal and information on how to give back to HBTLJ.

Thank you!