



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Texas A&M School of Law Hires 11 New Faculty & Expands Programs

June 11, 2015, Fort Worth, TX – Texas A&M University School of Law (A&M Law) is quickly distinguishing itself as an institution to watch. At a time when most schools are cutting back, A&M has hired 11 new faculty members for its Fort Worth law campus, bringing the total number of new hires to an even 12 with the addition of new university president Michael Young.

“Since Young began his academic career as a law professor,” Law Dean Andrew Morriss said, “that gives us a dozen new faculty members hired this year alone, more than any other law school in the United States.”

Five of the new faculty focus on intellectual property issues, adding strength to the Center for Law and Intellectual Property and building on A&M’s strong reputation in science and engineering. These hires cover all aspects of intellectual property, including patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets. Together with two existing scholars in the field, A&M Law is now in contention to have one of the country’s top intellectual property law programs.

“This extensive concentration of intellectual property faculty offers students comprehensive coverage, allowing them to develop specialized training based on their individual interests and career paths,” said intellectual property expert and incoming Texas A&M law professor Peter Yu. “Our newly expanded program offers an unparalleled focus and makes A&M Law immediately stand out in the intellectual property field.”

Among A&M Law’s six additional hires are leading experts in international law, business, and legal ethics. These thought leaders bring strong backgrounds in legal ethics, commercial law, legal writing, law and economics, and tax. They include Glynn Lunney, a 1984 graduate of Texas A&M, who is returning to A&M from Tulane.

“I am very excited to be returning home to Texas A&M University,” Lunney said. “It’s been said that you can never really go home again, but it sure feels like coming home to me – same welcoming atmosphere, same can-do attitude.”

In many cases, these hires have left chairs and professorships at top schools to help build A&M’s programs.

“The breadth and depth of IP expertise among my new colleagues is greater than I could have imagined for the start of my academic career,” said Saurabh Vishnubhakat, formerly a faculty fellow at Duke Law School and policy advisor at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

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“As someone who studies and teaches patent law and litigation, I am always working to make my research relevant to the real world, such as turning my latest paper into an *amicus* brief for the Supreme Court’s recent *Commil v. Cisco* case,” Vishnubhakat explained.

“Now I can turn to Megan Carpenter and Irene Calboli for trademark implications, Glynn Lunney for economic expertise, Brian Holland for cyberlaw angles, Peter Yu and Sri Raghavan for international perspectives, and Dennis Kelly for a patent prosecutor’s view. It’s a recipe for showing our students just how rich and interconnected IP law can be.”

The new faculty will also actively contribute to the Texas economy and the Texas State Bar.

“As not only a top tier, public research university, but also a land grant institution, we have a special obligation to bring the academy to the public, and these folks are going to help us expand our efforts to do that,” Morriss said. “We’re particularly excited to have long time bar leaders like legal ethicist Susan Fortney, former Uniform Law Commission Executive Director Bill Henning, and former American Society of International Law Executive Director Charlotte Ku joining us.”

The incoming faculty joins the school’s existing academic team, now 55 members strong and punctuated by an ethos of market-disruptive thinking and scholarship.

In the first and second quarters of 2015 alone, A&M Law faculty have gained national attention for policy papers and commentary on topics including the intersection of water and energy law, developments in intellectual property, law reform in the Middle East, and the changing face of the death penalty.

And in an era when many law schools are cutting staff and faculty as enrollments fall nationally, A&M law is facing these issues head-on.

One such example is a \$370,000 grant awarded to the School of Law from the Access Group. With the grant, A&M Law’s Milan Markovic will serve as principal investigator of the Texas Lawyers Study, examining professional satisfaction and income levels of nearly 88,000 members of the State Bar of Texas. This study will generate an extraordinary amount of data on the economics of the legal profession and the working lives of lawyers that can inform the decision-making of prospective law students and lawyers.

“We’re particularly excited about partnering with the Access Group and collaborating with the State Bar of Texas,” Morriss said. “It is important for students to be well-informed about the decision to go to law school and this will be a huge step forward in providing them that information.”

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