Two gifts totaling $4 million will enable the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University to launch the Robert B. Rowling Center this fall.

The center bears Rowling's name at the request of an anonymous donor who bestowed $3 million. In addition, the Dedman Foundation contributed $1 million.

A Dedman graduate, Rowling founded and is chairman of TRT Holdings Inc., which owns Omni Hotels and Resorts and Gold's Gym. The billionaire philanthropist serves as board chair of Southwestern Medical Foundation and has held other civic roles.

"Bob Rowling is the perfect example of the combined skills that will be the focus of the new center," said SMU president R. Gerald Turner. "Today's law students will be navigating careers that we cannot even imagine at the moment. They need training in ethical leadership, business analytics and entrepreneurship to develop the skills they will need to be successful."

SMU plans to hire a director and support staff for the center, which will be housed within the law school. It will collaborate with the University's Cox School of Business to offer new courses and host seminars and conferences to advance business law and policy.

The Rowling Center joins the Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation and the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center as Dedman's third academic center.