

# CORPORATE DIRECTORS' INSTITUTE

*Addresses Issues of Corporate Governance Impacting Directors of Publicly Traded Companies*



*Left to Right: ALAN D. FELD '60, Trustee, American Beacon Mutual Funds, Partner, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP, JEFFREY E. CURTISS, Chairman of the Audit Committee & Director, KBR, Inc., MARC I. STEINBERG, Senior Associate Dean for Research and Rupert and Lillian Radford Professor of Law, SMU Dedman School of Law, ROSE L. ROMERO, SEC Regional Director, Fort Worth Regional Office, H. STEPHEN GRACE, JR., PH.D., President, H.S. Grace & Company, Inc.*

CONFERENCES & SPEAKERS

In light of the current corporate environment, directors of both privately-held and publicly-held companies and their legal counsel need to understand complex legal, fiduciary, and ethical oversight responsibilities. Now more than ever, being an informed and educated director is a necessity. On March 24, 2011, the SMU Law Review Association hosted executives, directors, attorneys, and in-house counsel from across the state for its annual Corporate Directors' Institute, designed to address issues of corporate governance currently impacting directors and executives. The event, which was held on campus in Karcher Auditorium, provided attendees with an opportunity to learn from a distinguished speaker panel about recent SEC developments and other current trends impacting corporate governance.

SMU Dedman Law Professor Marc I. Steinberg, who founded the Institute and was instrumental in its development, moderated the featured panel discussion, "Corporate Governance: Dilemmas and Challenges." Speakers included Alan D. Feld '60, Jeffrey E. Curtiss, Rose L.

Romero '87, and Dr. Stephen Grace, Jr.

Mr. Feld, a graduate of SMU Dedman School of Law (1960) and a partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, opened the conversation by discussing the role of the lead director. Mr. Curtiss, who currently serves as the Chairman of the Audit Committee at KBR, Inc., a global engineering, construction, and services company, addressed the role of the audit chair.

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Ms. Romero, who is also a graduate of the SMU Dedman School of Law (1987), discussed her position as the SEC's Regional Director for its Fort Worth regional office and focused her presentation on the SEC's enforcement

and examination procedures. Dr. Grace, the president of H.S. Grace & Company, Inc. and an experienced manager, consultant, and professor, concluded the more structured component of the discussion by addressing other modern developments affecting corporate governance. Following Dr. Grace's presentation, Professor Steinberg opened the floor to questions from the audience.

At the conclusion of an extensive Q&A session, guests were invited to continue the dialogue at the Institute's cocktail reception. Attendees took advantage of this opportunity to meet the speakers, to converse with their peers, and to resolve any unanswered questions.

The Institute's success has participants excited for the next SMU Law Review sponsored event, the Corporate Counsel Symposium, which will be held at the Hilton Dallas/Park Cities on October 14, 2011. For more information regarding the upcoming Symposium or for questions regarding the Institute, please contact Ms. Donnaise Baldwin at [dbaldwin@smu.edu](mailto:dbaldwin@smu.edu) or (214) 768-2594. ■