

# FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## CHRISTOPHER H. HANNA

*Appointed New Senior Policy Advisor on Tax Reform for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee*

SMU Dedman School of Law Professor Christopher H. Hanna has spent the past few months on a new project that could impact every person living in the United States and significantly improve the economy. He is the new Senior Policy Advisor on Tax Reform for Republican leaders on the U.S. Senate Finance Committee.

Professor Hanna was contacted early in 2011 about working with Republican senators and staff on efforts to reform the U.S. tax code, which is also a priority for President Obama.

“There’s been a lot of talk about tax reform, but the last time it was done was 1986,” said Professor Hanna, who is the Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law. “Senator Hatch, the ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, has made it clear that the goals of tax reform are simplicity, fairness, and economic growth.”

Professor Hanna said that he officially started his work with the Senate Finance Committee on May 16. He spent five days a week during the summer in Washington, D.C., and is there three days a week now that classes have started back at SMU Dedman Law. He said most of the work at this point has been research and “a lot of listening regarding what makes sense.”

Widely regarded as one of the leading experts on tax law in the United States, Professor Hanna is a favorite of the students. He has received the Dr. Don M. Smart Teaching Award for excellence in teaching, which is given annually by the graduating class to one member of the SMU Dedman Law faculty, a record eight times.

Prior to SMU, Professor Hanna was a tax attorney with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Steptoe & Johnson.

## WILLIAM V. DORSANEO III

*Honored by LexisNexis for 100th Release of Texas Litigation Guide*

In 1977, the editors at Matthew Bender legal publishers met a bright young law professor from Dallas named Bill Dorsaneo who proposed publishing a book on litigation that was far different from any others on the market.

“There were encyclopedias of the law and treatises. But they were lengthy and dense and painful to read and not very helpful when it came to practicing law,” said Serena Wellen, Director of Content Development at LexisNexis, which now owns Matthew Bender. “Professor Dorsaneo’s idea was quite novel: to provide in-depth analysis of the law with the busy practicing lawyer in mind.”

“Success was not a foregone conclusion,” said Ms. Wellen. “Professor Dorsaneo was pretty young and unknown at the time. And it is pretty difficult to convince people to buy something different. We took a risk and it is a good thing we did. For the past thirty years, the *Texas Litigation Guide* has been one of our top sellers. It is frequently cited by the courts.”

In February 2011, officials at LexisNexis and SMU Dedman School of Law commemorated the 100th release of the prominent civil procedure professor’s groundbreaking book, which is considered the Bible of the civil litigation practice in Texas.



“We are here today to celebrate a thirty-four year marriage between a legendary professor at SMU Dedman Law School and perhaps the major innovator in legal publishing,” Dean John B. Attanasio said at the ceremony. “It is truly a monumental work.”

The backbone of the *Texas Litigation Guide* is the legal background section within each chapter. It’s practical and useful. Every section and every subsection is written in inverse pyramid style: the most important topic is first, followed by lesser important subjects.

"My work on the multiple volumes of the *Texas Litigation Guide* over the past thirty-five to forty years matches much of the same work that I and many others have done in the process of drafting and revising the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure and many parts of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Texas Supreme Court, and of many other committees appointed to perform this work," said Professor Dorsaneo, who is the Chief Justice John and Lena Hickman Distinguished Faculty Fellow at SMU Dedman School of Law.

Added Ms. Wellen from LexisNexis, "The *Texas Litigation Guide* is the jewel in our crown. What does the future hold? Maybe video commentary from Professor Dorsaneo."



## LINDA S. EADS

### *Named Associate Provost at SMU*

Linda Eads, Associate Professor at SMU Dedman School of Law, was recently named Associate Provost for SMU, where she will oversee academic affairs in the Provost's Office and serve as Director of the Hunt Leadership Scholars Program.

Four-time winner of the Dr. Don M. Smart Award, Professor Eads has been named to the American Law Institute

and is recognized as one of Texas' top lawyers. Eads is the immediate past president of the Faculty Senate for the University.

"Professor Eads is an outstanding scholar, an award-winning teacher, and during this past year she has exhibited remarkable leadership as President of the Faculty Senate," said SMU Provost Paul Ludden when announcing the appointment.

Following graduation from law school, Eads worked for the U.S. Department of Justice, where she received the Outstanding Attorney Award. She also served as Deputy Attorney General for Texas. She has taught in the areas of professional responsibility, evidence, trial advocacy, constitutional law, criminal tax fraud, and women and the law.

She earned a B.A. in International Studies from American University and a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law. Eads is a frequent presenter and speaker, and the co-author of *Questions & Answers: Constitutional Law* (2nd Edition, LexisNexis, 2007), along with many articles and papers.

"While I will miss my day-to-day interactions with law students and my colleagues on the law faculty, I am excited about my new position as Associate Provost for Faculty and Administrative Affairs. In this position, I will be able to work on university-wide issues that affect the well-being of the faculty throughout our academic community. I also will work directly with the senior administration of the University in helping them guide SMU in this period of significant growth," said Professor Eads.

## JEFFREY KAHN

### *Receives Dr. Don M. Smart Award*

2011 was a good year for SMU Dedman Law Associate Professor of Law Jeffrey Kahn.



First, he learned that his colleagues on the law school faculty recommended that he be given a promotion and granted tenure. And then he found out that another tough crowd had given him the thumbs up.

The Class of 2011 presented Professor Kahn with the Dr. Don M. Smart Teaching Award for excellence in teaching during the May hooding ceremony. The honor, created in 1965, is the graduating students' way of recognizing specific faculty members for their tremendous abilities in the classroom.

"I was delighted to receive this award, which comes from the most important group in the Law School: our students," said Professor Kahn, who teaches Counterterrorism, American Constitutional Law, and Russian Law.

Students said Professor Kahn effectively uses narrative storytelling to make scholarly subjects easier to digest. They said his ability to show, not just tell, helps them better understand how complicated matters of law are applied.

"Professor Kahn has made his mark on the law school and its students as an outstanding teacher and a prominent scholar," said Dean John Attanasio. "His works in national security and Russian law have gained him international recognition as one of the leading experts in his field."