



Honorary Paw Degree

From the moment Baylor Law School Associate Professor of Law **Jeremy Counsellor** laid his eyes on Skeeter Jones three years ago, he knew he'd be trouble. "I could tell just by looking at him that he was one of those students all law professors are familiar with," Counsellor asserts. "Sure, he'll show up to class. But he's never going to read the material and make an effort to be prepared."

Indeed, Skeeter proceeded for the next three years to disrupt class, often rolling his eyes during lectures. On a particularly sleepy day, Skeeter interrupted one of Counsellor's lectures with a loud yawn. "After the yawn incident, he became the hero of the entire class," Counsellor quips. Despite Skeeter's hijinks, he managed to finish law school in November.

Skeeter, a six-year-old Labrador retriever service dog, also became the first dog to earn an honorary juris "dog"tor degree from Baylor. In addition to receiving his juris "dog"tor degree, Skeeter received a purple collar and a pin, and was even hooded. (He received a bone, too, of course.) "Skeeter attended class every day," Amy Jones proudly says of her service dog. "He's been such a blessing to me that I am thankful the legal community is willing to recognize the addition he's made at Baylor, and we look forward to being a similarly dynamic duo as we join the profession."

Skeeter came into Amy's life four years ago. While



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL

Baylor Law Professor Gerald Powell presents Skeeter, faithful companion and service dog to Baylor Law School graduate Amy Jones, with an honorary juris "dog"tor degree.

Amy was an undergraduate at California State University, Chico, in 2002, she was paralyzed in a downhill skiing accident. Since 2004, Skeeter has assisted Amy, who uses a wheelchair. Resolute in her intent to finish school, Amy graduated from Chico State in 2005 with a degree in construction management. She hopes to work in the construction law field. "I was determined to return to school in August for the Fall 2002 semester in opposition to my mom's insistence that I wait until January of 2003," Amy says. "I knew my only chance to live independently financially and/or physically was to get as educated as possible."

Amy, who is currently studying for the patent bar exam and the Texas bar exam, says Skeeter was a joy to have in the classroom. Often, Skeeter provided Amy and

her classmates — and sometimes professors — with respite from three grueling years of law school. "I think he provided more moral support and stress relief than any psychologist could give a group of students," Amy says, adding that Skeeter was often "the relief in the room."

Though Counsellor jokes about Skeeter's antics ("He's got a problem with authority, spends too much time socializing, and he still doesn't know squat about the forum state defendant rule."), he is quite serious when it comes to Amy. "She is a real inspiration, very talented, and she's going to make us proud." ✪





Roy Mersky "rides into the future" for the cover of the 1990 fall/winter issue of *Townes Hall Notes*.
PHOTO BY DANNA BYROM

A Lasting Legacy

As the longtime director of the University of Texas Tarlton Law Library, **Roy M. Mersky** left an indelible mark at the school. Mersky, who died in May at age 82, developed the library into one of the foremost legal research facilities in the nation in his more than 40 years there. He also mentored numerous law librarians and was an innovator in his field.

Fittingly, the University of Texas School of Law is honoring Mersky in several ways, not least of which is the naming of the library's Special Collections Center and Rare Books Room in his honor.

"He was fiercely determined to enlarge the idea of a fine library to include lectures, conferences, and exhibitions of erudite bibliography and history," said Law School Dean Larry Sager of Mersky.

To further ensure Mersky's legacy, a memorial fund has been created in his name to be used to complete a major renovation and update of the special collections facilities, as well as to support the rare book lecture series Mersky started and to acquire additional rare books for the collection. Contributions can be

made to the Law School Foundation, 727 E. Dean Keeton St., Austin 78705 (please designate the gift for the Roy M. Mersky Memorial Fund) or online at tarlton.law.utexas.edu.

The Tarlton Law Library also recently published an extensive oral history interview of Mersky, the ninth in the library's series. The interview, conducted by William J. Chriss, executive director of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism, covers not only Mersky's career at UT, but also his service in World War II, his involvement in the civil rights movement, and his experiences at Yale, the Washington State Law Library, and the University of Colorado.

To purchase a copy of the interview, email tarltonbooks@law.utexas.edu, call (512)471-7735, or write Publications Coordinator, Tarlton Law Library, Jamail Center for Legal Research, The University of Texas, 727 E. Dean Keeton St., Austin 78705. The interview also is available in video format — both at full length (more than three hours) or as a short highlight reel — which can be downloaded from the law library website. ❖

TEXAS PEOPLE

William Barber, managing partner in the Austin firm of Pirkey Barber, L.L.P., was elected president of the American Intellectual Property Law Association. Barber recently served as second vice president and as secretary of the association.



Ashley L. Belleau, a Texas-licensed partner in Montgomery, Barnett, Brown, Read, Hammond & Mintz, L.L.P. in New Orleans, La., was sworn in as national treasurer of the Federal Bar Association. Belleau's official duties began Oct. 1.



Richard A. Bonner, a partner in Kemp Smith, L.L.P. in El Paso, was selected to serve as vice president of the Texas Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates for 2009.



The Dallas Bar Association and the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism honored **George C. Chapman**, senior counsel to Thompson & Knight, L.L.P. in Dallas, with its 2008 Morris Harrell Professionalism Award.

