

GENERATION XYZ

We learn from those around us—colleagues, friends, teachers, neighbors, and relatives. As we mark the 75th anniversary of the State Bar of Texas, we want to acknowledge the attorneys who inspired others in their families to practice law. Perhaps the encouragement came from a grandfather, mother, sibling, aunt, or cousin. We know that without their wisdom, support, connections, and integrity, our paths may have gone in a different direction. And while there are too many to include all here (there are enough Texas family trees with law roots to make up the Sam Houston National Forest), we want to share three family stories worth celebrating.



Siblings Patricia, David, and Linda Chew

The Chews

Honoring and Growing a Legal Legacy

BY LINDSAY STAFFORD MADER

In 1895, a young man from Guangzhou, China arrived in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. While Antonio Yee Chew—along with thousands of other Chinese men—ideally would have moved to the United States, Mexico was his next-best option. The Chinese Exclusion Act made it difficult for the majority of Chinese immigrants to enter the northern country due to a variety of tensions ranging from ethnic discrimination to the Chinese laborers' willingness to accept lower wages than American workers.

Antonio and his wife, Herlinda Wong Chew, had eight kids. The fourth-born, Wellington Yee Chew, was named after V.K. Wellington Koo, a Chinese lawyer and judge who was an ambassador to England, France, and the United States. Wellington Chew would someday achieve a similar destiny.

The Chews eventually moved to the United States due to an exception in the Chinese Exclusion Act that permitted entrance for merchants. Though they had to immigrate to the U.S. in Calexico, Calif., they ended up less than 10 blocks from their Ciudad Juárez home in the neighboring border town of El Paso, where they opened several Chinese grocery stores.

Wellington graduated from El Paso High School and then went on to Texas A&M University. During World War II, he was drafted into the Army and fought as an infantryman at Normandy, in the



Wellington Yee

Battle for Paris, and the Battle of the Bulge. According to his son David Wellington Chew, Wellington was naturalized under a special provision of the Nationality Act, which allowed military service to serve as a qualifier for citizenship. "Although it very well may have been a questionable interpretation because the Chinese Exclusion Act was not repealed until another three months," said David. "There's a good chance he was one of the very first naturalized Chinese-Americans."

Upon returning home from the war, Wellington quickly decided not to pursue engineering school and instead chose to focus on becoming a lawyer. "I think the war changed his perspective of what he needed to do going forward," said David. "Like many veterans, he never really talked about the war. But it was a life changing experience—both good and bad."

Under the GI Bill, Wellington received his degree from Southern Methodist University law school in Dallas and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1951. He is currently thought to be the first Chinese-American licensed by the bar. Wellington returned to El Paso and worked as a solo practitioner in the areas of criminal and immigration law.

"He was a well-regarded attorney," said David. "He broke a lot of ground and did much for the community. There's a senior citizen center named after him. He was active in the Democratic Party. He was a very good lawyer."

Wellington's children worked in their father's law office during the summer, and at home they were invited to participate in conversations about the death penalty and legal representation of alleged criminals. Their mother, Patricia Mary Chew, also was a role model, having obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees when her oldest child was in high school and having gone on to become one of the first woman principals in El Paso County. The Chew children grew up surrounded by familiarity with the life of an attorney and with intellectual and educational encouragement.

"I remember my father saying to me that if I wanted to be a teacher, that would be good, but that I needed to prepare and train myself to be the superintendent," said Linda Yee Chew, the second oldest child in the family. "And if I wanted to be a lawyer, that was great, but I needed to prepare and train myself to be the judge. And I think all of us have that sense—you don't just reach a goal and then that's it. You always have one more goal that you have to set."

David, Linda, and Patricia B. Chew—three of Wellington's four children—had successful careers before all found themselves

on a similar path as their father. David was the first, having realized that his naval career was not the best fit. Like his father, he entered SMU on the GI Bill. But when David was in his second year at law school, his father died of cancer at the age of 55.

"I didn't make it home in time to practice with him," said David. "But, it was expected that I would carry on. Judges continued my father's cases because they knew I was coming to El Paso and could take them over."

In 1979, David joined his father's old practice with partner Paul Douglass. Not long after that, Linda was at a crossroads. She had been an elementary school teacher for several years, had obtained her master's degree in education, and was trying to decide whether to get her doctorate or to go to law school. "And I decided that I should go to law school—that it had a lot more prospects for me coming back to El Paso," said Linda. "David was here, and it made sense to come back and practice with my brother."

She joined David at Douglass, Chew & Chew in 1986. Soon, David and Linda's younger sister,

Patricia, was experiencing a turning point in her own career. She was in Houston playing volleyball for the women's nationals team when the coaches told her she would have to quit college to train for the Olympics. "My choice was to leave the team to continue my education because it was just engrained in us that education was the most important thing," said Patricia.

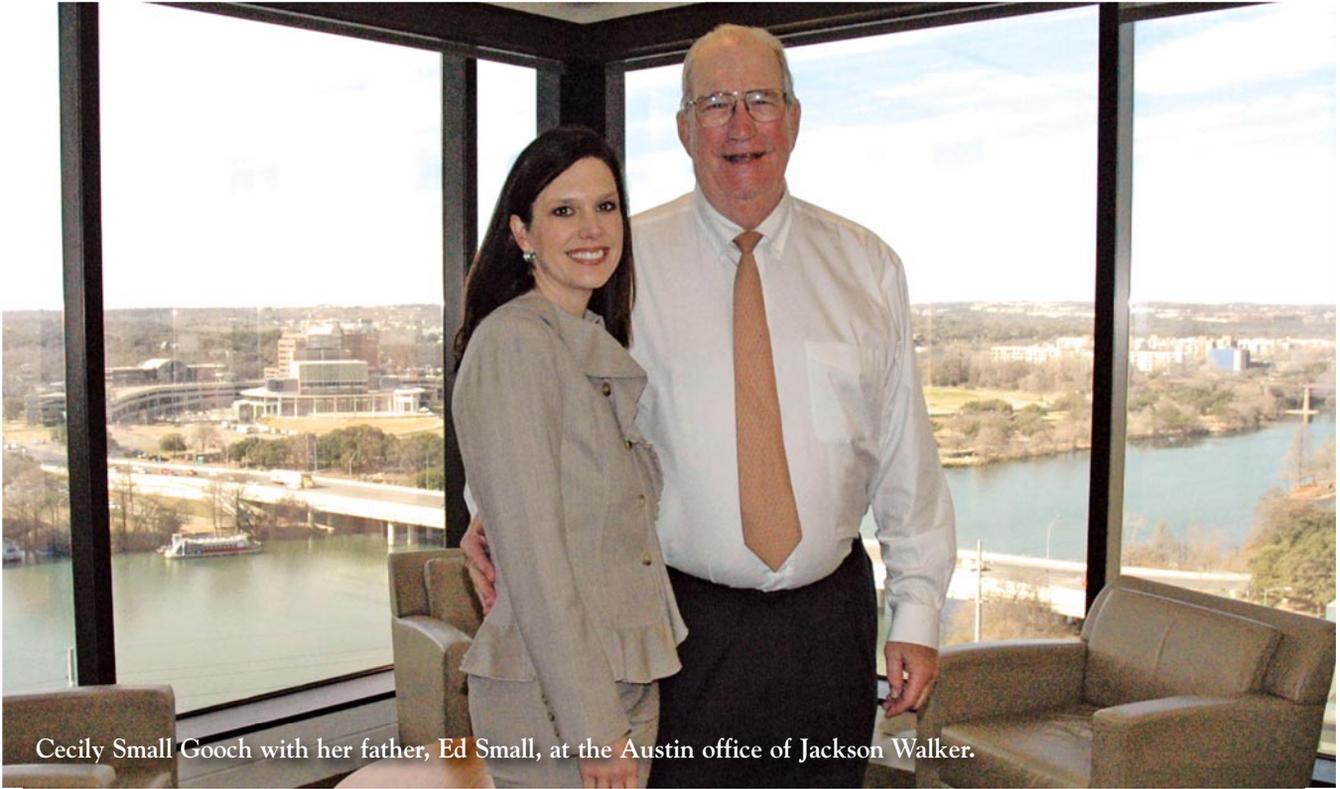
Patricia graduated from Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law and practiced for a short period at a Houston firm. When David was elected to the 8th Court of Appeals in 1994, Patricia joined her sister in El Paso. In 2002, Linda was elected judge of the 327th District Court, at which point Patricia took over the practice. Then in 2010, Patricia was elected judge of the El Paso County Probate Court No. 1.

Now that the three oldest Chews are judges, the siblings focus on supporting each other and sharing advice on how to deal with difficult courtroom situations without discussing case specifics. One of their most important guiding lights is the legacy established by their parents.

"We feel a real obligation to make sure that we never defile the work of our parents," said Linda. "That's our obligation to their memory. That's a real big deal to us. It's a big factor in how we conduct ourselves and what we do in the community. We just can't let our parents down."



Wellington Yee Chew



The Smalls

Four Generations of Law and Helping Others

BY LINDSAY STAFFORD MADER

On a brisk winter morning on the 11th floor of 100 Congress Avenue in Austin, Edward Clinton Small and Cecily Small Gooch spoke with the *Texas Bar Journal* about their four-generation family of Texas lawyers. Ed Small is a partner in the firm of Jackson Walker and has more than 30 years of experience in agricultural law and lobbying, while his daughter, Cecily, is special counsel for restructuring at Energy Future Holdings Corp. in Dallas. Ed's father, Charles Clinton Small Jr., practiced law in Austin for 66 years and served as president of the State Bar of Texas, and his grandfather, Charles Clinton Small Sr.—the family's first attorney—was a Texas senator for areas of the Panhandle.

Floor-to-ceiling windows of a conference room named after Small Jr. afforded a view of cranes building high-rises into the sky of the rapidly changing city that the Small family has been a prominent part of for almost nine decades. The father's and daughter's stories, passed down orally through the generations, amount to a lively primer on Texas history.

Small Sr. was born in Collinsville, Ala., on May 22, 1888, and moved west with his family when he was about three years old.

"He actually came to Texas as a baby and lived in a tent in

what is now Collingsworth County, Wellington, Texas," said Ed. "He was in the class of 1911 at the University of Texas law school, which was the first class to graduate from the dedicated law building."

With his law degree, Small Sr. returned to Wellington and practiced as county and city attorney, county judge, and district judge for a short time before being elected state senator in the late 1920s. As a lawmaker for 12 years, he sponsored the Small Bill that ensured public access to navigable streams and riverbeds, helped pass the State Bar Act, and wrote significant oil and gas regulation during the Texas oil boom of the 1930s. During this time, he often brought along Small Jr., who was in high school, on legal adventures.

"My father and Pop flew—imagine this—over to East Texas for a hot oil situation, and they were picked up by the captain of



Charles Clinton Small Sr.

the Texas Rangers, Lone Wolf Gonzauillas,” said Ed. “He carried two pearl-handled pistols. They got in his car, and there was a Thompson submachine gun right in front of Daddy!”

Perhaps it was the excitement of these errands or his genetic destiny that led Small Jr. to pursue his degree from the University of Texas School of Law and join his father at Small, Small & Craig (later Small, Craig & Werkenthin)—which the elder had established after retiring from the Senate and moving permanently to Austin. The father and son pair worked together on many cases, including their representation of Coke Stevenson, the former Texas governor whose lost bid against Lyndon Baines Johnson for U.S. Senate caused allegations of voter fraud.

“They flew down to Duval County with the Texas Rangers—they flew around a lot with Texas Rangers—and they had the ballot box and they opened the box,” said Ed. “The last of 25 voters in that box that day all voted in alphabetical order. And they all signed with the same pen and it sure did look like the same person’s signature. That box disappeared the next day.”

Small Jr. served more than 35 years as general counsel to the Texas Savings and Loan League, was on the Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees, and served as State Bar of Texas president in 1965. To honor his legacy of improving education, AISD named a middle school after Small Jr. in 2009.

As for Ed, his legal life became set in stone when he was still a UT undergraduate and Longhorn football player under Darrell Royal.

“The dean of the law school called me and said, ‘Ed, when you’re in law school next year, we need to talk about a few things.’ And I said, ‘What are you talking about? I have another season of football.’ And he said, ‘Well the big boy [Small Jr.] called and said the kid is ready for law school.’ And I was. So I played football and went to law school. What I remember about my grandfather is what people thought of him. And the aura of

my father had a lot of impact on me. He received all the awards for top students in law school—he was smart.”

Ed became licensed by the State Bar in 1970 and went on to join Small, Craig & Werkenthin, earning a reputation as a straight-shooting litigator and effective lobbyist for a variety of clients including the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers

Association and the Lower Colorado River Authority. (In 1999, their firm merged with Jackson Walker’s Austin office.) Ed also served on the AISD board in the 1980s, helping implement the district-wide busing initiative to integrate the city’s schools.

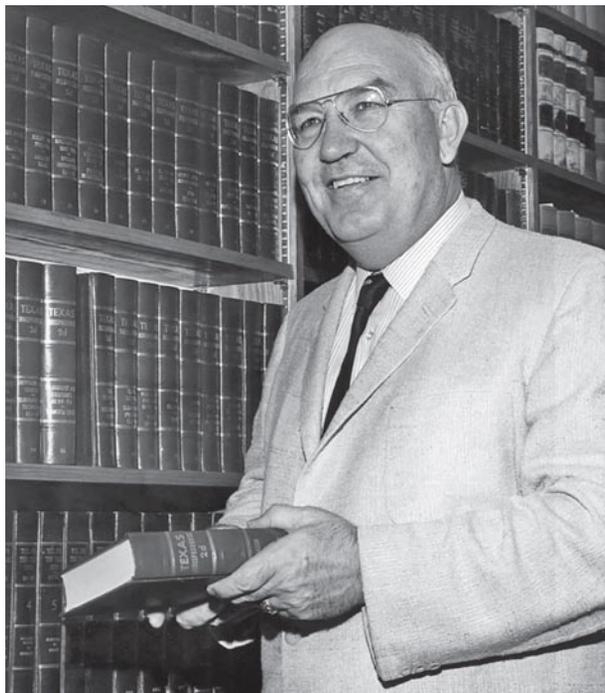
Like her father and grandfather, Cecily Small Gooch grew up around attorneys and politicians. Still, she tossed around the idea that she would become a doctor—which was the only career other than being an attorney that she could think of.

“I loved politics and policy, but I had really big shoes to fill,” said Cecily. “So I thought about helping people in a different way. But then by my junior year of college, I changed—maybe organic chemistry had something to do with that. But really, I was meant to go into the law.”

Once she entered law school, also at UT, Cecily got internships with Kay Bailey Hutchison and then-Gov. George W. Bush. Her first post-degree job was at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. She moved to Dallas in 1998 when her husband was offered a career-changing position and worked with Hunton & Williams before starting a seven-year stint as general counsel to TXU Energy. In Dallas, Cecily continues the

family tradition of helping others, having co-founded United Way’s Women of Tocqueville.

“Growing up,” she said, “I saw my dad and grandfather as being very respected for helping others. And that’s why I wanted to go into the law. I did not realize that there was any kind of negative stigma to any part of the legal field probably until I was a third-year law student and started hearing lawyer jokes. But that’s not the way I look at it. My family has felt great pride in helping others through our legal careers.”



Charles Clinton Small Jr. in his official picture as president of the State Bar of Texas.



Cecily with her father, Ed, and grandfather, Clint, at her UT Law Sunflower Graduation Ceremony.



Daughter and father Lizzie Fletcher and Bill Pannill have kept law in the family.

The Pannills

Passing Down Legal Knowledge, Encouragement, and Books

BY HANNAH KIDDOO

A weathered handbook sits on Elizabeth “Lizzie” Fletcher’s desk in the Houston law firm of Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing. Dating back to 1911, the book offers perspective into the practice of law in the early 20th century. But for Lizzie, it is also a connection to her family’s past.

Lizzie’s father, William “Bill” Pannill, gave her the book in 2006 when she graduated from William & Mary Law School. It was passed down to Bill by his father, Hastings Pannill, who had received it from his father, Judge Will Pannill.

As a fourth-generation Texas lawyer, Lizzie’s office has other reminders of family—a leather sofa she would nap on when visiting her father’s office as a child and a photograph of a judge’s chair that had hung where he worked. “You can’t come here without having a sense of all the great things I’ve gotten from my dad,” said Lizzie.

But mostly, there are books. According to Bill, the most important ones a lawyer should have are the King James Bible and the

works of Shakespeare. Of course, form books and law books don’t hurt, either.

The Pannills are ardent readers. Bill says that Will became the family’s first lawyer by studying law books at night after working at the post office in Chatfield, a tiny town in northeastern Navarro County. Will’s father, who had emigrated from Virginia to Texas as a teenager during the Civil War, was unable to afford the costs to send his son to law school. Still, Will eventually became chief justice of 11th Court of Appeals in Eastland.

Will married Mattie Cherry, who he always described as “the most beautiful girl he had ever seen.” Seven children later, he



Judge Will Pannill

moved his family to Fort Worth after resigning from the appellate court. Bill explained that throughout the 1930s, Will took part in private practice and represented oil companies, ultimately as counsel to the Ohio Oil Company in Houston. A family man, Will hired his sons, Hastings and William C., as well as his son-in-law Judge John L. Camp, to join him at the Ohio. He died in 1948, when his grandson Bill was just eight years old.

After serving as a staff lawyer with the Ohio for a few years in Houston and Marshall, Ill., Will's son Hastings entered the U. S. Navy in 1943 and served on the Pacific coast as a gunnery officer aboard an oil tanker. Military moves bounced the family from Coronado and Long Beach, Calif., back to Houston at the end of World War II. Bill noted that in 1946, Hastings became a civilian lawyer with the firm of Price, Smallwood & Wheat and later joined the Amerada Petroleum Company in Midland, followed by the firm of Stubbenman, McRae & Sealy in 1949, remaining there until 1975. In the 1960s, he argued a redistricting case in the U.S. Supreme Court, which Bill traveled to Washington, D.C., to watch. Hastings practiced in Houston and Huntsville until 1993 and died in 2000.

Bill recalls spending time in the law offices of both his father and 'Papa' as a child, finding mischief among the office supplies and hearing countless stories of law school antics and terrific trials. But by the time he was ready to choose a career of his own, Bill was not interested in anything law-related.

"I was determined not to be a lawyer because everybody in the family was a lawyer. There were lawyers everywhere," said Bill, noting that there now have been 10 Texas lawyers descended from Will and Will's younger brother Carter, and there are also lawyers on his mother's side of the family. "I just thought, *that's too many lawyers.*"

Instead, Bill went into journalism, working a few years in the news industry before entering law school in 1968. He expected to stay only a year, figuring it would at least allow him to be bet-

ter at reporting on the courts. Soon enough, he realized he actually liked it. After graduating from the University of Texas School of Law in 1970, he joined Vinson, Elkins, Searls, & Connally before leaving to establish his own practice. Bill now handles some appellate work and spends time on pro bono cases.



Hastings Pannill served in the Navy during WWII.



Will Pannill holds his grandson Bill.

Lizzie says she found herself in a similar situation years later, not fully satisfied with her marketing career in New York but unsure of what she wanted to do next. She knew that she enjoyed history and public policy—and it was her father who encouraged her to give law a chance. "My dad always told me I would make a good lawyer," said Lizzie. "I think because I used to argue with him a lot and occasionally win, and he found that charming."

"I was the first to recognize it," said Bill. "She would come in the door, and sometimes she would sit her bag down and sometimes she wouldn't, but she would argue with me for about an hour on whatever topic happened to be crossing her mind. I said, 'Lizzie, you've definitely got the legal gene. You should be a lawyer.'"

It was seeing her father practice that made Lizzie take the plunge. "He was so satisfied with his profession. He loved what he did. He got excited about it," said Lizzie. "That was very inspiring to me."

Lizzie notes that her father has helped her prepare for some big cases. "I will frequently ask my dad questions to this day," she said. "Last summer I did my first oral argument in the court of appeals on a case that I had tried, and my dad helped me get ready."

As for the future of the Pannills in law? Lizzie says her 11-year-old niece Anna visits Ahmad Zavitsanos Anaipakos Alavi & Mensing to sell Girl Scout cookies and has stated that she wants to be a lawyer when she gets older.

"No pressure," said Lizzie. "She can do whatever she wants, but she's expressed a lot of interest."

No doubt, she'd have her family's support—and maybe a few hand-me-down books, too. **TBJ**