



Kathleen McCabe and **Eric Greig** tied as high scorers on the July 2010 bar examination. Pictured, left to right, are Board of Law Examiners (BLE) Executive Director Julia Vaughan; Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson; McCabe; Greig; Justice Dale Wainwright; and BLE member Lee Parsley. Greig, an attorney with Latham & Watkins, L.L.P., in Washington, D.C., and McCabe, an attorney with Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati in Austin, are graduates of the University of Texas School of Law.

Pride, Joy, and Excitement

BY ERIC GREIG AND KATHLEEN MCCABE

Eric Greig: I would like to thank Chief Justice Jefferson, the justices and judges, fellow members of the Texas bar, and the family members and friends present, for taking the time to commemorate this very special day. Today is a celebration of years of hard work, hours of library time, and countless frustrations along the way. I sincerely hope you all agree with me — looking back on those years and considering the accomplishment of today — when I say that it was all worth it.

When I received a call from an esteemed justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, he first congratulated me, and then informed me that I would have to give a “short” speech on an “appropriate” topic at the swearing-in ceremony in Austin. Well, if my law professors taught me anything, they taught me that the practice of law is more about creativity than actually following the edicts of the court. Therefore, in light of my instructions from the Supreme

Included here are the remarks from Eric Greig and Kathleen McCabe, who tied as high scorers on the July 2010 Bar exam, delivered to the attorneys inducted into the State Bar of Texas on Nov. 22, 2010. For a complete list of those who passed the July Bar exam, visit www.ble.state.tx.us.

Court, I’m going to take the next couple of hours explaining exactly what went wrong this year with the Texas Longhorns and how I think Mack Brown can turn it all around.

Before I get into the numerous, numerous slides I’ve prepared, I would like to thank some people in my life without whom I would not be standing here today. I’d like to thank my parents for teaching me how to truly enjoy working on whatever task was put in front of me and to always strive to accomplish my best; for their grudging acceptance when I decided law school in Texas was a better fit than medical school in Ohio; and for their love and support once they finally realized that this law thing was not a passing fad.

I would like to thank Michael Lerner, an attorney in Mentor, Ohio, who gave me the opportunity to work in his office so that I could see whether I really wanted to be a lawyer when I

grew up. The first day he took me in, sat me down in front of a computer, and said, "This is Lexis-Nexis. Why don't you poke around for a couple minutes and see if you can find the statute of limitations on this case." I don't think I ever found that answer for him, but as I'm sworn in today, I can certainly say that I found an answer for myself. Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Laura, who is also being sworn in today. She kept me focused when I wanted to quit, sane when I needed a break, and explained family law to me when I didn't have a clue. In a year filled with accomplishments — graduating from law school, passing the bar, and moving to a new city to start our jobs — my proudest

moment came when you agreed to stand beside me in good times and bad. And we've had a lot of good since then.

I am truly honored to stand before all of you today, and I do not in any way wish to diminish this tradition of the State Bar, but it seems somewhat strange for me to have the opportunity to address this crowd. Today, of all the days of the past few years, is a day when the score truly does not matter. From 675 to 1,000, every person taking part in this ceremony will leave this room as equals. For us, there are no more class ranks or forced curves — only colleagues in a necessary and well-respected profession, each striving to do the right thing for our future clients. That fact fills me with pride, joy, and excitement. I hope the feeling is mutual. Thank you.

Kathleen McCabe: Thank you, Chief Justice Jefferson, justices, judges, members of the bar, family, and friends for being here with us on this special day. I am honored to be here today with my fellow new lawyers. I would like to begin by taking a brief moment to recognize those who helped us get here. In particular, I would like to thank my family members who are here with me today: my husband, parents, and nana. Without your love

JULY 2010 BAR EXAM PASS RATE INFORMATION

The table below shows the number of graduates from each Texas law school that took the bar exam for the first time in July, the number that passed the exam, and the percentage that passed.

LAW SCHOOL	TESTED	PASSED	PASS RATE
Baylor	112	106	95%
St. Mary's	195	155	79%
South Texas	255	227	89%
S.M.U.	200	166	83%
Texas Tech	174	150	86%
Texas Southern	99	75	76%
Texas Wesleyan	174	139	80%
U. of Houston	229	207	90%
U. of Texas	264	245	93%
TOTAL	1,702	1,470	86%

and support, I would not be here. I would also like to thank all of the friends and family who are joining us today. Without your love and support, my friends and future colleagues would not be here.

Like many of you, becoming a lawyer is a goal that I have worked toward for years. Today, that goal is reality, and I am proud to be able to call myself a lawyer. My choice of career may be surprising considering I still vividly remember many years ago overhearing my grandmother say, "There's a special place in hell for lawyers."

Although I know she was kidding, as a young aspiring lawyer, I was a bit shocked. But I now understand that her comment was not based on an experience with an actual lawyer.

Instead, it was based on the stereotype of lawyers who work only for their own benefit. What you and I know, however, is that the motivation for becoming a lawyer is to help promote justice and improve the lives of other people.

For years, we have been around hundreds of lawyers. They have been our teachers, our employers, and now, our colleagues. We see everyday the kindness and dedication of the members of the bar. It is easy to forget that for many people, you will be the only lawyer they know. And, your actions will shape the image of a lawyer in their minds. This may sound a little intimidating, but it is actually an opportunity. Throughout law school, I often admired how smart, caring, and talented my classmates were. Now, I am very excited that it is those same classmates, and others like them, who are the newest faces of the State Bar of Texas.

I encourage you to take the time to get out of the office and share your talents, not only in the legal community, but also in the community in which you live.

By reaching out and becoming involved with others, you will allow people to see how smart, caring, and talented lawyers really are. Who knows? Maybe, just maybe, it could even cause someone to say that there is a special place in heaven for lawyers. ✪

STATE BAR of TEXAS MEMBER DISCOUNTS

A new way for Texas lawyers to shop!

The State Bar of Texas Member Discount Program features everything from computers and financial services to office supplies and insurance plans to vacations, tickets, and more. Access the program by logging onto texasbar.beneplace.com and start saving today!