



Danish agricultural lawyers visited Cadillac Ranch, where the cars were painted with Danish flags, during their trip to Amarillo.

~ VELKOMMEN, Y'ALL ~

In May, a group of attorneys from Denmark and Amarillo came together to answer a question that has been plaguing the legal profession for ages: Was Hamlet, of Shakespeare's famous tragedy, guilty of murder? After deliberation in a district court, the fictional Danish prince — who pleaded insanity, naturally — was found not guilty.

The mock trial was one of many events that the delegation of Danish lawyers participated in during their visit to the Texas Panhandle. From April 30–May 7, more than 35 agricultural attorneys from Denmark got the full Amarillo experience as they explored Danish-Texas business investments and learned about the U.S. legal system. At the invitation of their hosts — Underwood, Wilson, Berry, Stein & Johnson, P.C. — the Danish attorneys shopped at Cavendar's Boot City, toured a working dairy farm, visited an oil and gas field, explored a ranch, learned to two-step, and saw Amarillo's famous Cadillac Ranch, where the cars had been painted with Danish flags in honor of the occasion. "The Danish lawyers were really given the red carpet treatment in Amarillo," Underwood shareholder **James Wester** says. "The Texas hospitality made a big impression on them."

The firm first developed a relationship with the Danish agricultural lawyers — or "Danske Landbrugsadvokater" — about nine or 10 years ago when **Alan Rhodes**, a shareholder in the firm, began to work with Danish dairy farmers con-

sidering relocating to the Texas Panhandle. Eventually, the Danish lawyers took Rhodes up on his invitation to visit Amarillo. Jennifer Volmer, Underwood's marketing director and recruiting coordinator, became close to the Danish delegation over the course of planning their visit. "It was a tremendous experience for us," she says. "It's really expanded our horizons."

Both Volmer and Wester say that they enjoyed seeing Amarillo through the eyes of their guests. "They were amazed at how huge and vast our state is," Wester says. One Danish lawyer noted that there are practically as many cows in one Panhandle feedlot as in the entire country of Denmark. Another was surprised to learn that Rocky Mountain Oysters aren't really oysters at all.

"They weren't used to our giant cars and were surprised that we drive two blocks instead of walking," Volmer says. Wester adds that the Danish lawyers eat meals very differently than we do. "We're always eating our meals so fast, in cars or in front of the television. For Danes, meals take time. It's about enjoying the food and the company."

The lawyers of the Underwood Firm will have a chance to experience Danish meals for themselves in December. The Danish delegation has invited the Amarillo attorneys to Denmark, where the main event will have a little Amarillo flavor: a Texas tailgate party in Copenhagen. ❖



A MAGICAL J.D.

Kim Gordy remembers her first trip to Walt Disney World at age three. It was the moment she decided that she wanted to be a part of the Disney Magic. And, every July and December, for a very short while, she gets to live that dream as a seasonal cast member with Walt Disney World Entertainment.

A 2010 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center who has been published in the *Fordham* and *Yale* legal journals, Gordy is currently in a doctoral program at the University of Texas Medical Branch. She is also a performer at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

Gordy first discovered her “alter ego” while interning with Disney as an undergraduate at Texas A&M University, where she studied recreation and tourism resource management. Earning the opportunity to be a performer for Disney was competitive — she was one of about 100 applicants chosen from several thousand students who applied. The internship began with an intensive training period to ensure character integrity. Even signature styles and physical movements must be identical. The training has complemented her legal career, she says. “Being a Disney performer has served as a terrific training ground for my career as a lawyer,” Gordy says. “Understanding the importance of client/guest service, dedication, loyalty, and an ability to work long, long



PHOTO BY OLIVER PUZON

Kim Gordy, a graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, is a seasonal cast member at Walt Disney World in Florida.

hours with good humor are just a few of the ways my two jobs complement each other.”

Gordy’s favorite interactions at Walt Disney World are with the *Give Kids the World* families, one of her favorite charities. The *Give Kids the World Resort* hosts every Make-A-Wish family, facilitating their Orlando experience. She also enjoys being able to do things she wouldn’t do outside of Disney. In one instance, Gordy noticed a dad who kept checking his BlackBerry. He didn’t realize he was about to miss his family photo. Her alter ego stole his BlackBerry away, to the delight of his children. “As a performer, you can get away with a lot,” she laughs. She also loves entertaining little ones during the long lines, and generally “sharing the magic” with Disney guests.

While Gordy says her childhood dance classes and other theatrical skills helped her land a position with Disney, her ability to interact with Disney guests is her most important skill. “What really matters is how well you are able to relate to your guests,” she says. “You know you have done your job right when the adults have more fun than their children.”

This month, Gordy will once again divide her time between two worlds. She will be entertaining at Walt Disney World over the Fourth of July holiday before heading to Seattle to present an abstract at the seventh annual Pediatric Bioethics Conference. ✪

TEXAS PEOPLE



Jerry K. Clements

Chair, *Locke, Lord, Bissell & Liddell, L.L.P.*; Austin

Elected to a three-year term on the Baylor University Board of Regents. Clements is also president of the Baylor Law Alumni Association and delivered the keynote address to the graduating class last fall.



Rene M. Pena

District Attorney for *Atascosa, Frio, LaSalle, Karnes, and Wilson counties*; Floresville

Appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas Violent Gang Task Force for a term to expire at the pleasure of the governor. The task force works with law enforcement agencies.



Carolyn Raines

Shareholder, *Godwin Ronquillo, P.C.*; Dallas

Elected president of Executive Women of Dallas, a nonprofit organization of women executives, professionals, entrepreneurs, and elected and appointed government officials in the greater Dallas-Fort Worth area.



Neeraj “Neil” Verma

Associate, *Greenberg Traurig, L.L.P.*; Houston

Received the 2011 Cornerstone Award from the North American South Asian Bar Association (NASABA). The award is given to those who, through their legal work, best exemplify the objectives of NASABA.