



Judge Jack Pope 1913-2017

The passing of ACU icon Chief Justice Jack Pope is of course the lead story for this April's newsletter. Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Pope was one of the most well-respected jurists in Texas history, and his death made national news—we have included the obituary from the Austin American-Statesman below. Our department will always be grateful for his tremendous example of legal scholarship and leadership for our alum who go on to legal careers. We are also so appreciative of his starting the Jack Pope Fellows Program here at ACU, which trains and awards scholarships to outstanding ACU students who intend to pursue careers in public service. Memorials can be made in Justice Pope's memory and honor to the Pope Fellows Program.

Jack Pope, an indefatigable legal legend who spent 38 years as a Texas judge — including a politics-defying two-year stint as the Texas Supreme Court's Chief Justice — died February 25 at age 103 in Austin.

Pope served on the state's highest civil court from 1964-85, making a lasting impression on the law by pushing for an enforceable code of ethics for judges, simplifying and streamlining trials, and requiring formal judicial education for state judges

“Chief Justice Jack Pope was a judicial icon, His hard work, scholarship, common sense, humor and integrity are legendary,” said the court's current chief justice, Nathan Hecht. “He was my mentor, role model, counselor and, most especially, my friend. Texas has lost a great, great man.”

Pope received his law degree from the University of Texas in 1938 and practiced law in Corpus Christi, where he became a district court judge in 1946. Five years later, he was elected to the San Antonio Court of Appeals, where he served for 14 years before his election to the Supreme Court.

A Democrat, Pope was appointed chief justice by Republican Gov. Bill Clements, who was unable to fill the vacant position after Democratic senators vowed to oppose his choice so Gov.-elect Mark White, a Democrat, could fill the seat. When White threw his support behind Pope, Clements tapped him for the job despite knowing that Pope had voted for his Democratic opponent, said Osler McCarthy, spokesman for the court.

Pope declined to seek re-election two years later because he would have turned 75, the mandatory retirement age, in mid-term .

In 2013, the Texas Legislature passed the Chief Justice Jack Pope Act, which dramatically increased spending for basic legal services for low-income Texans — a cause Pope long championed.

“He devoted his life not only to the efficient administration of justice, but also to ensuring that justice is available to all,” former Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson said. “Jack Pope will be remembered as second to none in the annals of Texas law.”

Pope is survived by two sons, Andrew Jackson Pope III and Walter Allen Pope, and three grandchildren. His wife of 66 years, Allene Nichols Pope, died in 2004.



Jack Pope Fellows Program

The Jack Pope Fellows interviewed candidates for the Jack Pope Fellows Program on March 8. Congratulations to the following for their selection for the 2017-2018 school year:

Madeline Dayton	Shannon Que
Sarah Dillinger	Lexi Ritchie
Keila Gabel	Anthony Rodriguez
Rachel Jones	Louis Sanchez

Diego Zometa

Congratulations to **Conrad Hester**, a Jack Pope Fellow (2005), for being named as a Rising Star Super Lawyer for 2017 as reported in *Texas Monthly* magazine. Mr. Hester is a top rated business litigation attorney with Thompson and Knight LLP in Fort Worth, Texas. He is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law (2008).

Student News

Congratulations to Chanel Brown, selected by the Faculty Senate as University Scholar for the Department.

Angelique Lee will intern this summer in the office of Rep. Ted Poe in Washington, D.C.

On March 7, the department hosted students from Eula and Wylie High Schools for the annual Citizens Bee for high school students studying civics.

Faculty News

Robert McKelvain, professor in the ACU Psychology Department, is an adjunct professor for the Criminal Justice major and is teaching Mental Health and Policing this semester. He spoke in the Adams Center on Feb. 15, giving a report on his fall sabbatical in Portland, Oregon. He spoke on "Police and the Mentally Ill: A Report from the Street".

Neal Coates was the Featured Speaker for the Aqaba International School Model United Nations Conference, Aqaba, Jordan on March 21.

Congratulations to Mel Hailey for receiving the Dean's Award at this years ACU College of Arts and Sciences Annual Banquet.

Alumni News

Lynn Kelly ('86) has been named Associate Judge of Probate Court No. 2 in Tarrant County.

Parker Gordon ('14) has been admitted into the PhD program in English Lit. at St. Andrews University.

Guest Speakers

Chris Riley's class, Congress & Legislative Process has had two guest speakers:

Chris Perkins, ACU graduate and polling guru, spoke to the Congress & Legislative Process class Feb. 7.

Representative Mike Conaway spoke to the Congress on February 21.

Thanks to Dr. Karin Brown at HSU and Dr. Platt for facilitating a Criminal Justice Career Fair on April 5. Here is a list of agencies that came and talked to our students: FBI, Homeland Security Investigations, Border Patrol, DPS, TPW (Game Wardens), TDCJ, Ft. Worth PD, Abilene PD, Arlington PD, Dallas PD, Garland PD, Abilene Fire Marshal, and Taylor County Courts.

ACU students and Dr. Coates have heard from and asked questions from several speakers in Oxford this spring. For Example:

On Feb. 20, they heard the Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Alexander Downer, speak on “The Changing Asian Order-How Should the West Engage?” at the University of Oxford’s China Centre.

On Feb. 22, they heard Rt. Hon. David Miliband, President and CEO of International Rescue Committee, speak on “The Global Refugee Crisis and What to Do About It” at the historic Sheldonian Theatre. Pictured third row up, L-R are Jessica Price, Kayla Mosley (POLS), Liberty Grace Bland (POLS), Bethany Dor and Olivia Hewitt.



Wildcats in Italy! This group had a wonderful opportunity to visit four cities this semester during their two week tour. The cities were Rome, Sienna, Florence, and Milan.