



IT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY
THE CHARTER CLASS

It seems like yesterday when the charter class graduated from the J. Reuben Clark Law School. But 20 years have slipped by since those students donned their caps and gowns, then put into practice what they'd learned from the prestigious faculty the school had assembled from across the country. In the following profiles, we follow the careers and heartfelt memories of several of these extraordinary graduates of the school's early days. They fondly recall

LOOKS BACK the converted elementary school that housed

by Jonathan Brett Kalstrom the Law School its first two years and the close

Portraits, John Snyder · Hands, Brad Slade friendships they developed. They also remi-

nisce about such faculty members as Bruce Hafen, Dale Whitman, and

founding dean Rex Lee, whose closeness to students, remarkable recruiting

skills, and infectious vision were so crucial in establishing the Law School.

Lew Cramer wanted to be a lawyer from a young age: he liked words, enjoyed trying to resolve disputes, and later completed an English degree at BYU. Now, as vice president of government relations for u.s. West, Inc., in Washington, D.C., he uses those legal skills every day, because much of his work resides in telephone regulations. "Law skills are absolutely critical to what I do today," says Cramer, noting various contracts perched on his desk. He has worked for u.s. West since 1989 in a role he finds enjoyable. "We're bringing telephones to parts of the world that have never seen them," he says.



Lew W. Cramer

u.s. West currently conducts business in 20 overseas countries, installing local telephone networks and serving as local operator. Among his duties, Cramer is involved in negotiations to open up the telecommunications market in such countries as India, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Russia. "I spend a lot of my time working on Russia, which doesn't have a whole lot of phones," he says. u.s. West is the largest Western phone company in Russia, where it is established in 10 differ-

ent regions. One project he devotes much time to is setting up wireless communications in that country.

Before joining u.s. West, Cramer worked in government, starting in 1984, when he was named a White House Fellow, following a highly competitive, nonpolitical merit selection process. In that role, he worked directly for five cabinet officers.

"Following that, I decided I wanted to stay in government," explains Cramer, who then served in various posts in the u.s. Commerce Department from 1986 to 1989, including director general of the u.s. and Foreign Commercial Service and assistant secretary of commerce. As direc-

tor general, Cramer directed a commercial staff of about 1,200 people at u.s. Embassies around the world, helping the United States to improve its export performance. He traveled extensively in a position that enabled him to use his proficiency in German and his legal, organizational, and political skills. Serving as assistant secretary of commerce simultaneously, Cramer had a dual role and would be involved in matters such as negotiations with Japan on telecommunications regulations. Before working in government, Cramer was a partner with the Los

Angeles law firm of Argue, Pearson, Harbison and Myers, working in international, corporate, and tax matters.

"I think we all have wonderful memories of the close friendships and camaraderie we had among the charter class," says Cramer, who recalls that instead of study carrels in the old law school building, tables were divided into four, with tape running down the middle, at which the students studied. "There were some wonderful friendships developed because we didn't have the privacy of a study carrel."



Rex Lee was fun, approachable, full of enthusiasm, and dynamic," Cramer says. "He made it exciting to look forward to being a lawyer—you figured every day was going to be like being with Rex Lee—

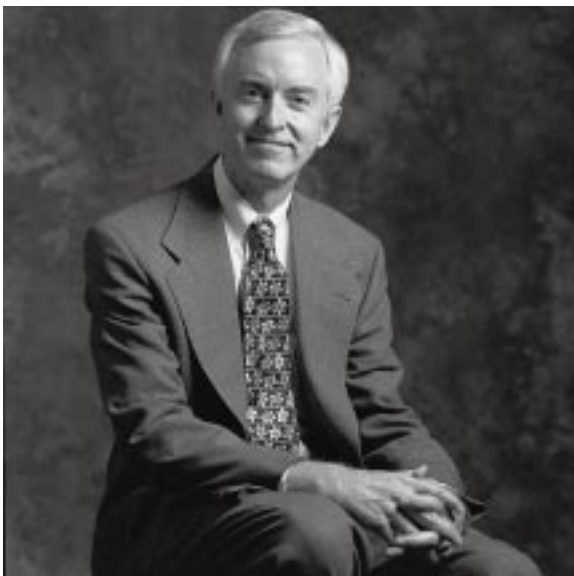
which, of course, it wasn't, because there was only one Rex Lee." Lee was extremely close to the students, acknowledges Cramer, who served as a teaching assistant to Lee and as editor-in-chief of *Brigham Young University Journal of Legal Studies*. For instance, at the end of the first semester,

he remembers, Lee invited the law students over to his house one evening to go through issues in preparation for finals. "It was wonderful."

He also recalls that in his first year, Assistant Dean Bruce Hafen talked about the lawyer's role as a healer of society. That speech made a big impression on Cramer, whose mother was a nurse and brother is a doctor. "The whole goal of trying to heal society," he notes, "was brought home to us, and Bruce often reminded us of that."

R. Bruce Duffield's desire to practice law gelled in high school, in part because he found enjoyment and fulfillment in speech, debate, and English. "It seemed like attorneys were in a position somewhat like the director of a play, where they could bring this cast together, choreograph the movements of the production, and have this little moment on stage directing other actors and presenting themselves in a competitive theatrical setting," he says.

One of Duffield's relatives was an attorney who had a certain persona that impressed him. Duffield's internship with the administrative assistant to u.s. Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger during the summer of 1973, before he entered law school, also had a profound impact on him. "It gave me the vision of the



majesty of the law, and what a great profession [it is] to be in," Duffield says. It also was an exciting time: he had an office in the Supreme Court, watched the high court deliver its opinions, and had occasions to meet with the justices. Sometimes he'd stroll across the street from the Supreme Court to listen to the Watergate hearings.

Today, Duffield is a trial lawyer with the law firm of Lord, Bissell & Brook in Chicago, where he has practiced law since graduation. He represents a wide variety of industrial manufacturers from England, Germany, Japan, the United States, and Sweden, defending them against products liability actions. It is an interesting practice area for him, because each case that comes along involves a new product. "Each [product has] its own little body of learning that it carries with it, and I like that a lot," he says.

The practice area blending manufacturing and products liability evolved for Duffield. After his second year of law school, he worked as a summer associate at Lord, Bissell & Brook, whose program involved rotating second-year law students through different areas of the law. Duffield spent time working in real estate, corporate tax, and insurance law. "But



degree in English that fall semester. But that plan was not to happen until later. He went to the Law School, which had not yet opened its doors, to see if he could get a library or clerical job to support himself through his last semester of undergraduate work. After discussing his background, it was suggested that he meet with Dean Rex Lee.

He was ushered into Lee's office, and Lee said, "We'll give you a job, if you'll come to school here next year, after you graduate and get your English degree," Duffield recalls. But he declined the offer, saying that he wanted to return to the east coast, where he'd just been working, and attend school there. "Well, Rex was a very charismatic, dynamic person, and he began to describe the school to me, and the faculty that they had pulled together from around the country, and the quality of the students they had amassed for that first class," he says. "Those facts, plus just his dynamic personality, helped me see the vision of this school that Rex had, and it was infectious."

Lee then offered him a deal that he couldn't refuse: "If you could start law school now, right now, and then finish your English degree between your first and second years of law school, would you join this charter class?" Classes at the

R. Bruce Duffield

then I did the medical malpractice defense rotation and a products liability rotation, and I loved them," he says. When Duffield graduated and returned to the law firm, he again went through a rotation period, but he always gravitated toward litigation and trial work.

Duffield became involved with the J. Reuben Clark Law School after his four-month internship at the U.S. Supreme Court, when he returned to BYU to finish his undergraduate

Law School were going to start in three days, and Duffield was already registered to complete his English degree. After discussing it with various people, he decided to enroll. "It was a completely unexpected, spontaneous move that has changed my whole life in a profound way," Duffield says, "because Rex Lee then became a very dear mentor."

LINDA GOOLD

"I tell people that my primary function in life is to keep the world safe for the mortgage interest deduction," says Linda Goold, tax counsel and lobbyist for the National Association of Realtors in Washington, D.C., the largest trade association in the world, with about 725,000 members. "Investment in real estate, and the property rights that go with it, are a primary value in American life."

Since graduating with the charter class, Goold has spent 20 years working in tax policy and representing the interests of various clients and organizations in Congress. She first worked for a senior member of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, Senator Hansen, of Wyoming. "While I worked for him, I worked on the two major tax bills of the '70s," says Goold, who left the Hill in 1979 after Hansen retired, and went to work for the international accounting firm of Arthur Anderson, in Washington, D.C. There, Goold worked with the firm's senior tax partner, and they began developing a legislative practice for the firm's clients all over the world to represent their interests in various tax bills. She joined the National Association of Realtors in 1988.

Goold was raised in Washington, D.C., and did not intend to stay in the West after law school. "I came back to Washington because I knew that if there was any place in America where there would be opportunities for women in the mid-'70s, it would be in Washington. In fact, that's the way it played out," Goold says. "I never would have chosen tax, but the opportunity came my way, and I took it and ran, and it's been



wonderful." In her career, Goold has visited the White House for bill signings and has met numerous dignitaries and powerful figures, including President Clinton.

Part of what Goold finds fascinating about her work is the intrigue of the legislative process and the great demand it places upon her for creative strategy.



"The other thing that is remarkable, having built a career on tax policy, is how many forms the same idea can take year after year and how many versions of the same ideas—some good and some bad—show up.

You never throw away any files if you work in the legislative arena," says Goold, who joined the charter class after a talk with Rex Lee.

During a 1973 summer vacation to Utah, she visited Lee, who'd been Goold's Sunday School teacher during her senior year in high school. "Rex and I had stayed in touch because he was a very important person in my life. He had such a strong, positive influence on me when I was in high school." Goold also wanted Lee to write a recommendation for her, because she'd taken the LSAT and planned on applying to several east-coast law schools, then attend one of

Linda Goold

them a year from that time. However, at one point Lee asked if she'd like to start law school in three weeks.

"I said, 'Are you saying that I can come to BYU, without applying or making any arrangements?'" she recalls. "He said, 'Yes, that's what I'm telling you.'" Goold then told Lee that she'd call her father to discuss it and that she'd come back the next day. "Rex was someone I trusted completely, and when he gave

me the opportunity to come, I said, 'I'll come,'" Goold says. "It was because of my complete confidence in him as a person with the most exciting intellect I had ever encountered."

BRUCE REESE Bruce Reese enjoys his work. "The broadcasting industry is fun: every day there's something new and exhilarating facing you," says Reese, president of Bonneville International Corporation in Salt Lake City, Utah. "It's an opportunity to make a difference and to influence people for the better."

In 1984 Reese became the first inside counsel at Bonneville, owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and among the 10 largest radio broadcasting companies in America. He was general counsel of Bonneville until 1991, when he moved into management and became executive vice president of the company that owns 20 radio stations in the major U.S. markets of America, as well as KSL Television in Salt Lake City. In June 1996, he was named president of Bonneville.

Reese started out his career with the antitrust division at the Justice Department, in Washington, D.C., in a position Rex Lee helped him obtain. In fact, after taking a class Lee taught, Reese decided that he wanted to be an antitrust lawyer. "It seemed to me it was sort of like constitutional law and economics combined," says Reese, who decided in high school he wanted to become a lawyer. He later practiced antitrust law at firms in Washington, D.C., and Denver.

Among Reese's law school memories is the small scale of the old law school building—previously the St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School—which housed the Law School before construction on its new building was completed in 1975. He recalls the long tables where students set up camp and studied. The school, situated a few blocks from campus, had several small classrooms, study rooms, and a lecture hall, which was the old gymnasium. The back of the gymnasium, with its nine-inch-square floor tiles, housed the law library stacks. "It was very intimate—there wasn't much room to hide in the building," Reese reminisces. "We got to know each other very well."



Bruce Reese



BRENT ROMNEY

Before the Law School opened, he recalls being part of a group that went to visit Rex Lee about attending the new school. Lee sat with his feet propped up at a green metal desk in his office at the elementary school. "When we walked out, he had convinced all of us to go to BYU. Lee was a remarkable recruiter," Reese recalls. "And he didn't sell us a bill of goods. He told us the truth and still made it sound just as exciting as possible." Reese has never regretted the decision: "It was a great experience."

Brent Romney didn't plan on being a prosecutor. In fact, after taking Professor Dale Whitman's course on real property during his first year of law school, he thought he might enter that field, because Whitman had made the subject sound so interesting. So between his second and third years of law school, Romney arranged interviews for summer clerkships with several civil firms in Orange County. As an afterthought, Romney contacted Oretta Sears, a prominent Orange County deputy district attorney. He had met Sears through her husband, Don Sears, who served as chair of the faculty council at California State University at Fullerton when Romney served as its student body president.

Romney interviewed with Oretta Sears and a month later received a summer job offer from her—as well as from two law firms. "I decided I would rather try out as a summer law clerk at the district attorney's office, because she made it sound so exciting," Romney says. Within two to three weeks at the district attorney's office, he recalls, "It was so clear to me that this fit my strengths as a person and as a lawyer that I decided this is what I wanted to do." At summer's end, he returned to law school and upon graduation immediately went back to the Orange County district attorney's office, where he's been working ever since. In an office employing more than 200 attorneys,

it is one of the largest district attorney offices in the nation, and Romney is one of four assistant district attorneys working under the district attorney and the chief assistant.

Romney started as a misdemeanor deputy and from about 1979 to 1986 was a felony prosecutor, at times prosecuting homicides. From that point, he served as a supervisor in the homicide unit, until being promoted to an assistant district attorney in 1990. On occasion, he still gets into the courtroom. "I'm in the courtroom right now on a big felony trial, but the more you get into management, the less you have a chance to get into court," he says.

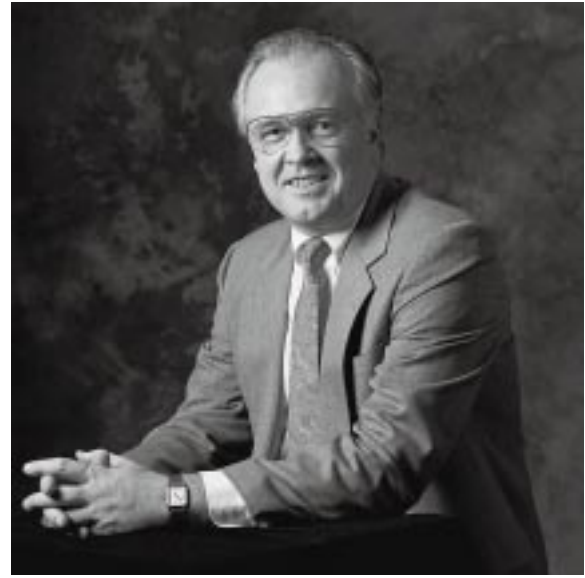
In his position, Romney supervises misdemeanor prosecutions as well as felonies filed in the municipal courts. He is also assigned to handle personnel matters relating to attorneys: he heads up hiring, rotations, promotions, and discipline and trains new attorneys so they can eventually move into felony prosecution. "We want them to cut their teeth on misdemeanor jury trials," Romney says.

He enjoys great job satisfaction as a prosecutor, expressing that the profession is more than making a living—it is trying to make society, in a small way, a better place to live. "That may sound corny, but I think that's the common thread that most prosecutors have," he says.

Romney recalls developing close relationships with his law school classmates, many of which friendships have continued. For example, when he graduated, one of his two best law school friends, Kim Purbaugh, joined the prosecutor's office in Riverside, California. "So for the last 20-odd years, he and I have basically risen through the ranks, and we're still close friends," he says. Among Romney's

memories of his law school days is the old law school building. He recalls the gymnasium, where the large-section classes were held and where the original organ pipes for the Tabernacle Choir were stored under the stage.

When considering law schools, Romney attended a meeting conducted by



Brent Romney

Bruce Hafen the winter before BYU opened its law school. "He shared with me that the university and the Church were 100 per cent committed to making the BYU Law School one of the outstanding law schools in the country, and that they were committed to gaining provisional accreditation, but it would take a little bit of faith on the part of the first-year incoming students," Romney says. "That was one of the great challenges of the first-year students: they had to take that little bit of a leap of faith. And [Hafen] was so impressive, so candid, and so open and honest about it, that I thought, 'If people like him are committing themselves, I'm willing to commit myself.'"

Jonathan Kalstrom is a freelance writer from Minneapolis, Minnesota, who specializes in writing for law school alumni publications.

