

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



**J. Rogers  
Pope, Jr.**

**Distinguished Alumni Award** is the highest honor bestowed on a graduate of the SW Graduate School of Banking. This award is reserved for those individuals who have served the financial services industry in a way that elevates them above their peers, allows them to make a meaningful contribution to the world of banking, and draws honor to their organization and the School. The contributions they make to their profession raise them to a leadership position that gives them a unique opportunity to guide, instruct, and build on our banking legacy.

**R**ogers Pope, Jr. is Vice Chairman and CEO of Texas Bank and Trust Company in Longview, Texas. In that capacity, Mr. Pope assists with the overall management of the bank and its holding companies. An attorney specializing in banking law, prior to joining Texas Bank and Trust, Mr. Pope was employed in the financial institutions practice group of the Dallas law firm of Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP.

Mr. Pope received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Baylor University and his Juris Doctor degree from Baylor Law School. Mr. Pope is a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the Texas Association of Bank Counsel. In 2001, he completed his studies at the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking where he graduated with distinction and was named Valedictorian of Class XLII. He is also a graduate of the American Bankers Association National Commercial Lending School at SMU, the American Bankers Association National Graduate Trust School at Northwestern University, and has received the designation of Certified Trust and Financial Advisor from the Institute of Certified Bankers.

Mr. Pope currently serves as Chairman of TIB, N.A., on the bankers advisory board for the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, and on the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking (SWGSB) Foundation board. He has previously served as Chairman of the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) and as Chairman of the SWGSB Foundation board, as well as on boards and committees for the Independent Community Bankers of America, the Texas Bankers Association, the Texas Association of Bank Counsel, and the State Bar of Texas. In 2019, Mr. Pope, along with his father, was recognized on the IBAT Wall of Heroes and Legends, and, in 2021, was honored with the IBAT Chairman's Award.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE



**Robert L.  
Clarke**

**Distinguished Service Award** is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the SW Graduate School of Banking, its educational mission and the industry at large. Past recipients have shown through their dedication and leadership a unique commitment to the School's objectives, ideals, and principles. This recognition is reserved for those who excel through leadership, initiative, and esprit de corps. They provide a worthy and noble example of what it means to serve and to educate.

**R**obert (Bob) Clarke is the founder of Bracewell's global financial services practice and continues as a retired partner to serve as of counsel to the firm. Mr. Clarke's principal areas of practice include assisting banks in matters involving state and federal banking laws, regulations and compliance with requirements of supervisory agencies, including the management of regulatory risk in day-to-day operations, mergers, acquisitions and strategic planning. He also provides independent counsel to boards of directors, advice on new financial services products and litigation support as an expert witness.

Mr. Clarke was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as United States Comptroller of the Currency and was reappointed to the position by President George H. W. Bush. He served as comptroller from December 1985 through February 1992, supervising approximately 5,000 nationally chartered commercial banks which accounted for approximately two-thirds of the assets of the U.S. commercial banking system.

Following his government service, Mr. Clarke returned to Bracewell. Among his practice activities, he advised the governments of Hungary, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Latvia, Romania, Kazakhstan, and Hong Kong on bank supervisory operations. He also served as a consultant to the World Bank and as senior adviser to the President of the National Bank of Poland. From 2004 until December 31, 2015, Mr. Clarke served as a member of the board of directors of the Dubai Financial Services Authority, overseeing operations of financial services providers licensed and operating in the Dubai International Financial Centre.