

Attention All New Members of

NSCS

National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Induction Convocation Ceremony
will take place

Monday, November 6th from 4:00 - 6:00 PM
In Rudder Auditorium
Check In begins at 3:30 PM

For More Information, Contact us at
nscs_tamu@yahoo.com

If you are a current member and would like to get involved, please contact us at the above address for information on meeting times.

Millionaire faces life in prison for arranging death of ex-wife

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A millionaire convicted of arranging the slaying of his ex-wife in a brutal attack that left two of her children crawling in her blood should receive life imprisonment, the victim's widower says.

Allen Blackthorne faces sentencing today before U.S. District Judge Edward C. Prado for his conviction this summer of interstate conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire and interstate domestic violence. Ex-wife Sheila Bellush's throat was slit, and she was shot in her Sarasota, Fla., home.

"Judge Prado, please put Mr. Blackthorne in a cage for the rest of his life," Jamie Bellush wrote in a letter to the jurist. "He is a vicious and dangerous animal. Cages are where animals like him belong."

Two of Mrs. Bellush's toddler quadruplets from her second marriage were found crawling in her blood following the 1997 murder-for-hire. Blackthorne, the last of four men to be convicted or plead guilty in the mother's death, faces a mandatory life prison term.

The quadruplets — Timmy, Joey, Courtney and Frankie, now almost six — sometimes ask if their father is still bleeding in heaven, their father wrote in a 15 letter.

Bellush described in Wednesday's editions of the Antonio Express-News how one teen-age stepdaughter recently wept over her mother's gravesite and another daughter requires counseling because the memory of her mother's body on a bloody kitchen floor is "burning in her brain."

Blackthorne's attorneys are seeking a new trial. The government's main witness, Blackthorne's friend and accomplice, Daniel A. Rocha, recanted his earlier testimony.

Except in unusual cases, a conviction for plotting a meditated murder carries no less than life imprisonment under federal sentencing guidelines, said Nora Deming, St. Mary's University law professor.

Partners in law firm back new company

HOUSTON (AP) — Taking a page from Silicon Valley lawyers, a group of Texas' largest law firms are investing in start-up venture capital funds, according to a published report.

For example, about 250 partners in Dallas-based Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld have put up \$10,000 and \$40,000 each to form a \$5 million investment fund.

"It shows our commitment to start-up companies," Eliot Rubin, a partner at Akin Gump, told the Texas Journal of The Wall Street Journal in Wednesday's edition. "It has helped us overcome the bias of a 1,000-lawyer firm isn't interested in the start-up guys."

The fund, started last May, has invested about half its money in nine companies, including a provider of high-speed Internet access, a German market and a website that links consumers and health professionals who believe in natural health.

Seed money for clients of Dallas-based Haynes & Boone has been provided since 1999. David Combs, a partner, said the firm's investment fund is expected to invest \$2 million next year.

The firm spreads its investments around, keeping them in the \$500,000 range to avoid ethical dilemmas that could arise if it had a material interest in a client company, McCombs said.

At Houston-based Fulbright & Jaworski, lawyers are setting up a fund that will invest between \$3 million and \$5 million, according to technology partner Bob Gray.

He said clients are the driving force behind the fund. "They tell us, 'We want to be on your side. We want to have a stake with us,'" said Gray.

Some recipients of funds are identified by an outside investment adviser. Each company has received as much as \$250,000 from the fund as part of a larger round of institutional investment that ranged from \$2 million to \$50 million, according to the newspaper.

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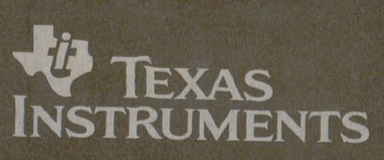
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