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### TOMMY OVERTON GIVES BACK TO THE UH LAW CENTER COMMUNITY



Many UH Law Center grads have taken advantage of Shell Oil's well-known matching gifts program. What makes Tommy Overton's gift so special is that he's still a student. A December 2002 graduate, Overton donated \$2500 to the Law Center—which Shell matched in full—before he even finished his degree.

Overton graduated from Louisiana State University in 1989 with a civil engineering degree and jumped straight into the pipeline business. After years of working with Shell Pipeline Corp., he decided to switch to the business sector. He interviewed and was hired for a business associate position with Shell Capital, Inc. It was then that his supervisor asked him if he'd consider going to law school.

He moved to Equilon Enterprises, LLC, in 1999, when friends offered him the chance to work on developing a \$250 million joint venture with Williams Energy as a senior business associate. "I told them, 'I have a great job where I am,' but they convinced me," Overton said.

It was a good move—Equilon is now sponsoring his entire legal education. The experience has reinforced his belief that everyone has a responsibility to give something back to the community, especially the academic community. "The UH Law Center is going to continue turning out a great group of leaders," he said. "I feel like everyone has to follow through and do their part—I've just promised to continue supporting the UH Law Center community and the future leaders it will produce."

Overton will join that long list of leaders when he graduates in December. Former Managing Editor of the *Houston Business and Tax Law Journal*, Overton's interests are firmly grounded in the business sector, but his career path is still undecided. He is considering moving to Shell's legal department next spring, but hasn't ruled out working in a law firm or another Fortune 500 company.

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“Basically, I have a lot to contemplate. I’m just going to take my time and think things through.”

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