

DOCKET CALL

ARTISTS



MANY PATHS



CHOSEN

ADVOCATES



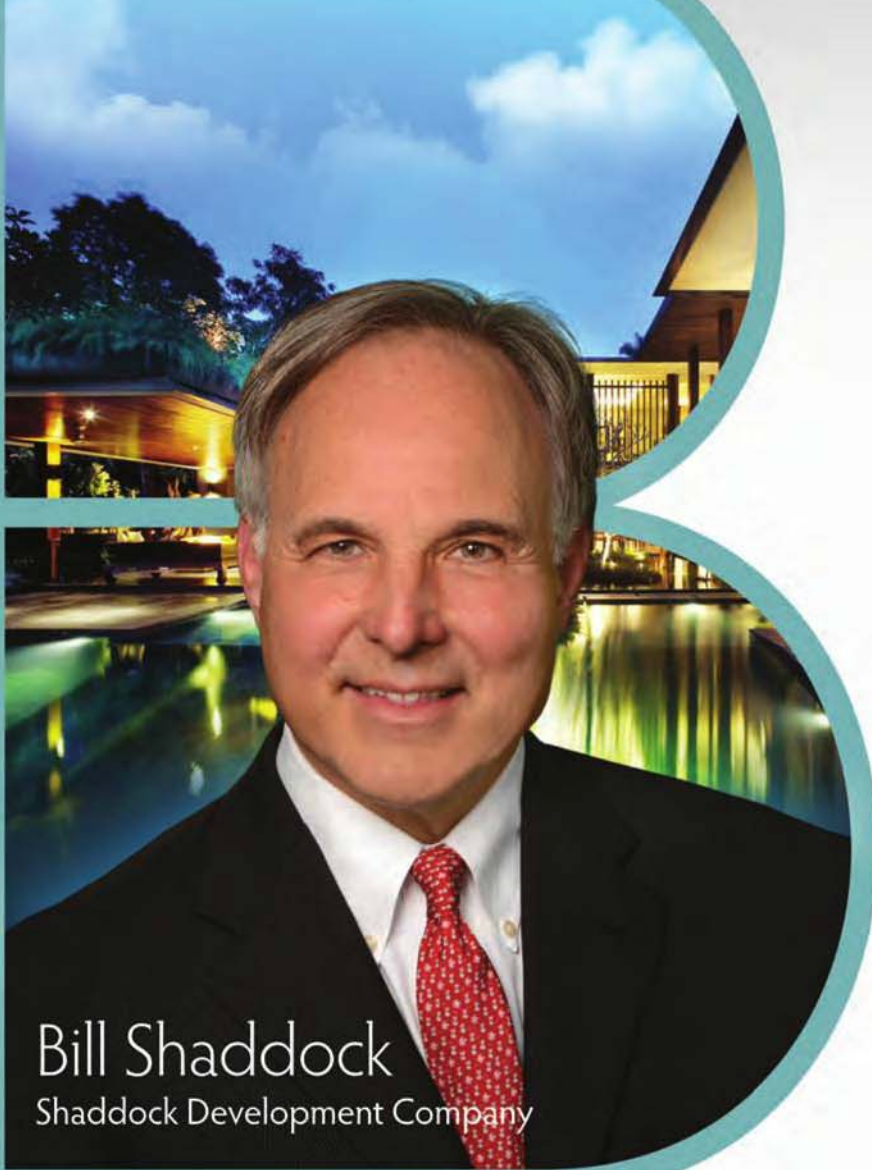
Building careers
outside the
legal realm

BUSINESS



WITH

"THE GODFATHER" ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
+ BILL BRIAN: 2014 BAYLOR LAWYER OF THE YEAR



Bill Shaddock
Shaddock Development Company

IKE KRUSE AND ALLISON, ALUMNUS BILL SHADDOCK (JD '77) ALSO SAW THE VALUE OF PRACTICING LAW

before embarking on a business career. In Shaddock's case, he chose real estate.

"I had an MBA in real estate from (Southern Methodist University) before I went to law school," he said. "I learned the concepts of the law and how to practice law at Baylor. However, it was important for me to actually practice, because I saw the way deals were structured and I met people who were actively engaged in business."

During the mid-1980s, when Shaddock was practicing for a firm in Dallas, real estate became an excellent business to enter. In fact, many of Shaddock's friends had made the switch from law to real estate.

"I was a good lawyer, but the environment at that time had changed. I was working a tremendous amount of hours, and I felt that ultimately I could use my law degree in other ways. I didn't just have to practice to use the degree I worked so hard to get. I made the fundamental decision that I like to make deals rather than document other people's deals," he said.

In 1984, he opened the Shaddock Development Company, which is responsible for the acquisition and development of a wide range of residential subdivisions in the greater Dallas-Fort Worth area. That was followed by the formation of the Willow Bend Mortgage Company, Capital Title of Texas, and First National Title Insurance Company.

"My company, Capital Title of Texas, is the largest independent title company in Texas with 50 offices. We do thousands of transactions a month. My law firm, the Shaddock Law Firm, does closing documents for over a 1,000 closings a month. I still directly use my law degree by preparing the legal documents for closing on those or in drafting my own contracts. There are certain legal documents that I produce every day that are related to my own business," Shaddock said.

Baylor Law also taught Shaddock about hard work and discipline, two traits needed for starting his own business. But in the end, he believes the critical thinking he learned at Baylor Law School might be the most important skill.

"A law degree is so versatile," he said. "There are increasingly a large number of lawyers who should consider making the transition to an alternative career like business. They have the skills and abilities that are needed for a successful career. Private practice of law is just one option for a Baylor Law graduate. There are significant opportunities in the business world for those with a law degree. People should be mindful of these opportunities that may be available. Don't just think of yourself as a private attorney. You should think of yourself as a person with the skills and abilities to succeed in a variety of career options."