

## **James H. “Blackie” Holmes, III, January 1953 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award**

Although Blackie Holmes was born in Birmingham he moved to Dallas when he was just one year old. He attended University Park Elementary School, and graduated from Highland Park High School in January of 1953. While at HP he was the Vice President of his class, Hi-Y Treasurer, and a member of the student council. After graduating from HP, he attended SMU where he was a member of the Southwest Conference championship swimming team and a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Following graduation from the SMU School of Law in 1959 and a stint in the US Air Force, he joined the law firm of Burford & Ryburn where he continues to practice today.

Blackie has had a very distinguished law career and has been recognized as Texas Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2004, Texas Super Lawyer from 2003-2010, and as a Distinguished Alumnus of the Dedman School of Law at SMU, and as a Distinguished Alumnus of SMU in 2012. In 2013 he was named a Trial Legend by the Tort and Insurance Section of the Dallas Bar Association

Perhaps even more than his remarkable career as an attorney, Blackie is known and admired for his service to the community. He has served as a member of the University Park Community League, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, UP City Council and as Mayor of the City of University Park for 6 years. During his tenure a number of significant city enhancements were made or approved including the renovation of City Hall, the construction of the Peek Center Emergency Operations Center, and the zoning for the George W. Bush Presidential Center. In recognition of his wise and even-handed leadership, the University Park Aquatic Center was named in his honor.

Blackie is an active and involved member of the Salesmanship Club and many other organizations. He and his wife of 50 years, Judy, have three children; Jimmy, Randell and Tucker.