



Elona Cole

Class of 1961

Elona was born on September 10, 1943 in Rugby, North Dakota. She was the eldest of five daughters whose grandparents immigrated to the United States from Sweden to North Dakota.

She graduated from Bismarck High School in 1961, attended North Dakota State for 2 years, and graduated from University of Maryland after her family moved to the Washington DC area. She majored in Fashion Design and Commercial Art.

In 1966 she was crowned Miss Maryland and was a finalist in the Miss USA contest.

After moving to New York City she became a successful model signing with the prestigious Wilhelmina Modeling Agency. She was featured in the prominent newspapers, magazines and print media of the era. After her modeling career she moved to Los Angeles becoming a successful fashion designer. Her junior dress line called “Cashews by Elona” was one of the most successful in the industry.

The last 30 years of her life was dedicated to her painting. As a beginning watercolor media artist, her painting “Spanish Red” was accepted in the National Water Color Society’s 71st Anniversary show, winning “Best of Show”, something no other first-time entrant has ever done. It hangs in the Society’s permanent museum collection. Elona is a signature member of the National Watercolor, Southwest Watercolor and Georgia Watercolor Societies.

In 2007, Elona was diagnosed with stage IV ovarian cancer and given 2 years to live. Through perseverance and determination she continued to paint for the next 15 years. During that time, her boundless creativity and love for life allowed her to travel to 50 countries and complete more than 40 new works of art.

She taught us the power of Love, and how to overcome adversity with honor, grace, and strength.

Iris Torvik

Class of 1974

Iris is a member of the BHS class of 1974. She is a Bismarck Junior College and University of North Dakota, graduate. She holds a BS and MS in Nursing and is Board-Certified Nurse Executive Advanced.

Her resume includes leadership roles at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital, Baylor University Medical Center and Healthlinx Healthcare Consulting. Iris has over 30 years of professional medical experience and is currently the Executive Director of Women and Children's Services at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center.

Notably, Iris:

- Was a key member of the team that developed and initiated the St. Alexis Hospital Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) transport team. She was the first RN named to the transport team.
- Initiated couplet and kangaroo care at several hospitals in Oklahoma, Texas, & Idaho.
- Was the first Perinatal RN appointed to the Texas HHSC Perinatal Advisory Council.
- Leadership of Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Women and Children Services contributed to it being recognized as one of "America's Best 10 Hospitals" in the US to have a baby by SELF Magazine.
- Was an integral member of the multidisciplinary team to start fetal surgery at Baylor University Medical Center
- Spearheaded the education/training for EIRMC (Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center) working with a multidisciplinary team to establish an adult/pediatric burn unit.
- Leadership of ERMIC Women and Children Services led to the recognition of one of the "50 Top Maternity Hospitals 2021 & 2022" by Newsweek magazine.
- Started the first "STAR" Simulation Training & Research Center within a hospital at Baylor University Medical Center.

While there are numerous instances of Iris's work saving lives, one event stands out. Flying from Idaho Falls to Texas, she noticed a passenger had stopped breathing. She began chest compressions and continued until the man regained a light pulse and stable. Thanks to Iris's response, the passenger's life was saved.

Iris is a proud BHS graduate and is deeply touched by this honor.





Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr.

Class of 1978

Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr., a partner in the Los Angeles office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP and a member of the firm's Executive and Management Committees.

As The New York Times has noted, Mr. Boutrous has “a long history of pushing the courts and the public to see the bigger picture on heated issues.” The American Lawyer named Mr. Boutrous the 2019 “Litigator of the Year, Grand Prize Winner” and the Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journals in 2021 named him a “Top Lawyer of the Decade.” According to The National Law Journal, which in 2013 named him one of the “100 Most Influential Lawyers in America,” he “is known for his wise, strategic advice to clients in crisis and is a media law star.”

Mr. Boutrous has represented clients in the federal and state appellate courts throughout the nation in a wide spectrum of cases. He has argued more than 170 appeals, including before the Supreme Court of the United States, in complex civil, constitutional and criminal matters. As both a crisis management strategist and a seasoned appellate and media lawyer, Mr. Boutrous has extensive experience handling high-profile litigation, media relations and media legal issues. He routinely advises clients in planning how to respond, and in responding, to crises and other especially significant legal problems that attract the media spotlight.

Mr. Boutrous received his law degree, summa cum laude, from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1987, where he was Valedictorian and Editor-in-Chief of the San Diego Law Review.