Please attribute to Glenn Smith, spokesman for Dean Sager:

The Texas Attorney General's assertion that Dean Larry Sager in any way "authorized" compensation for himself is grossly inaccurate and not based upon any of the findings or interviews contained in the study by the UT general counsel. The deferred compensation was authorized and approved by the Executive Committee of the independent University of Texas Law School Foundation and supported by written documents prepared by the Foundation’s outside legal counsel.  It was done in accordance with the law and with the Foundation's historical practices. The Attorney General invented this assertion, and it should be immediately and publicly withdrawn.

In addition, Dean Sager made no attempt whatsoever "to avoid oversight by more senior University officials" as the Attorney General's letter asserts. Dean Sager had good reason to believe that the Foundation had consulted with President Powers before authorizing his deferred compensation agreement, and his clear understanding that the University knew and approved of the agreement  was confirmed by the inclusion of the first year's payout from that agreement in a compensation report by the University to the U.T. System.

Larry Sager became Dean of the UT School of Law at a time when the school was suffering from a number of faculty losses and a serious threat to its momentum as an elite educational institution.  With the support of the Law School Foundation's deferred compensation agreements (begun in 2003 before Dean Sager was even hired by UT) Dean Sager was able to hire sixteen new faculty and retain faculty members who were at great risk of being hired away from UT.  This singular success is acknowledged in the General Counsel's report.