CHRISTINE POWERS LEATHERBERRY

SMU Dedman School of Law, P.O. Box 750116, Dallas, TX 75275-0116
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EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

Board Certified, Texas Board of Legal Specialization: Family Law 2018
Juris Doctor – SMU Dedman School of Law, *cum laude* 2006
Bachelor of Journalism – The University of Texas at Austin, *high honors* 2003

LICENSES

State Bar of Texas November 2006
U.S. District Courts: Northern, Eastern, Western, and Southern Districts of Texas

SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Dean for Administration and Chief of Staff August 2022-present
Adjunct Professor, Family Law (taught five semesters, scheduled to teach Spring 2024) 2020-present
VanSickle Family Law Clinic, Guest Lecturer for Trial Skills Class 2021-present
Co-Advisor of SMU Dedman Women in Law student group 2022-present
Director of Alumni Relations January 2020-August 2022
Director of the Jennifer M. Collins Women's Leadership Initiative 2021-2022

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Partner/Attorney – Aubrey M. Connatser, P.L.L.C. d/b/a Connatser Family Law 2013-2019
Attorney – Kane Russell Coleman & Logan, PC 2013
Attorney – Hiersche, Hayward, Drakeley & Urbach, P.C. 2006-2012
Law Clerk – Hill Gilstrap, P.C. Summer 2005
Law Clerk – Dodge, Anderson, Jones, Bezney & Gillman, P.C. August 2004-January 2005
Research Assistant – Professor William V. Dorsaneo, III June 2004-November 2004

PROFESSIONAL HONORS

The Best Lawyers in America 2018-2024
Distinguished Faculty Member Award, selected by SMU Dedman Women in Law 2021
Dallas Magazine – Best Lawyers Under 40 2020
Texas Monthly/Super Lawyers – Top 100 Up-and-Coming Lawyers in Texas 2018-2020
Texas Monthly/Super Lawyers – Top 50 Up-and-Coming Women Lawyers in Texas 2017-2020
Texas Monthly/Super Lawyers – Texas Rising Stars 2014-2020

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists
T. Boone Pickens Leadership Institute class
Moms in Law (joint special interest group of Dallas Bar Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, and Dallas Women Lawyers Association) – Founder and Chair
Archer Center Trust – The University of Texas System, Trustee
Archer Fellow Alumni Association, Founder (2003), Past President (2010-2011)
William "Mac" Taylor Inn of Court, Leadership and Membership Committees, Bencher
Texas Bar Foundation (honor reserved for top ⅓ of 1% of Texas attorneys), Fellow
Dallas Bar Foundation, Fellow
State Bar of Texas, Family Law Section
Dallas Bar Association, Family Law Section

Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, Member
Dallas Women Lawyers Association, Member

FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

Internship, The Honorable Jay Patterson, 101st District Court, Dallas, Texas	2004
White House Internship, Office of the First Lady, Mrs. Bush's Projects and Policy Office and one project with the Office of the President of the United States, Chief of Staff's Office	2001
Archer Fellowship, The University of Texas System	2001

ACADEMIC HONORS AND INVOLVEMENT

Board of Advocates Executive Board: Executive Board Member of the Year	SMU
Board of Advocates Executive Board: Chair of Intrascholastic Competitions	SMU
SMU White Collar Crime Mock Trial Team	SMU
Chief Justice for Moot Court Tournament	SMU
Criminal Defense Clinic	SMU
Beta Alpha Rho Pre-law Fraternity: President, PR Director, Events Director	UT Austin
Beta Alpha Rho Pre-law Fraternity: Outstanding Achievement Award	UT Austin

SCHOLARSHIPS

Frank and Debbie Branson Trial Advocacy	SMU
Headliners	UT Austin
Gallup Leadership	UT Austin
Ralph E. Frede Public Relations Foundation of Texas	UT Austin

PUBLICATIONS

SMU Annual Texas Survey Law Journal: Family Law (Volume 9), co-authored with Professor Joanna Grossman, expected publication in 2023

SMU Annual Texas Survey Law Journal: Family Law (Volume 8), co-authored with Professor Joanna Grossman, 2022

The Growing Relevance of Online Impersonation in Texas Family Law, Texas Lawyer	January 2019
Millennials Have Their Own Unique Way to Avoid Divorce, *Texas Lawyer, Law.com*	January 2019

CLE AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS

SMU Law Orientation, Speaker	2022-2023
Rising Scholars Program, Moderator	2022-2023
The Recent DACA and LGBTQ Supreme Court Decisions: What's Next?, Moderator	July 2020
Presentation on Parental Leave Initiative, DAYL Board of Directors, Speaker	April 2020
Women's Guide to Building and Protecting Wealth, Speaker on Family Law Issues	November 2019
Presentation on Pro Bono Adoptions, DBA Board of Directors, Speaker	September 2019
Mentoring Through Ages and Stages of Life, Dallas Area Paralegal Association, Speaker	August 2019
How Men Can Be Better Allies to Working Lawyer Moms, Chair, Organizer	June 2019
How to Prepare for a Temporary Orders Hearing, DVAP, Speaker	July 2018
Divorce with Contested Property Issues, Dallas Area Paralegal Association, Speaker	June 2018
How to Make the Legal Profession More Mom-Friendly, Chair, Organizer	May 2018
Presentation and Communication Skills, UNT Dallas Law School, Guest Lecturer	March 2018
Is There Such a Thing as Work-Life Balance as a Mom in Law?, Chair, Moderator	April 2017
Divorce with Contested Property Issues, Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, Speaker	July 2016
Handling Your First Jury Trial, Texas Law Center, Speaker	December 2011
Experience on 9/11, Speaker (rotary clubs and schools)	

MEDIA

The Mom Guilt Is Real, Super Lawyers Magazine March 2020
'Moms in Law' Unites Female Lawyers in North Texas, Dallas Innovates November 2018
In a Divorce, Who Gets Custody of Electronic Data? The Lawyers, The New York Times October 31, 2016
How to Talk to Children About Divorce (Live On-Air Interview), WFAA TV September 2014
How Texas Views Measles Vaccinations When Divorced Parents Disagree, KRLD Radio March 2015
Premarital Agreements, KLIF Radio May 2014

SMU COMMITTEES

American Bar Association Assessment Faculty Committee (ex officio)
Institutional Effectiveness Faculty Committee (ex officio)
American Council on Education Internationalization Steering Committee
American Council on Education International Student Recruitment and Support Subcommittee

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Pro bono attorney through SMU Law and Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program for various pro bono cases in Dallas County and Tarrant County (adoptions, suits affecting parent-child relationship, divorces, terminations) (2008-present)
- Mustang Exchange lawyer mentor to law students (2019-present)
- Feed My Starving Children (2023)
- Lower School Division Chair of the Volunteer Leadership Committee – The Hockaday School (2022-2023)
- Silent Auction Faculty Offerings Captain – Hockaday Parents Association (2022)
- New Family Outreach Volunteer – The Hockaday School (2022-present)
- Class Representative (2021-2022), Leadership Giving Volunteer (2022) – The Hockaday School
- North Texas Food Bank (2021)
- Spearheaded organizing the *Parental Leave Initiative*, a joint DBA/DAYL/Moms in Law project that surveyed the largest Dallas-area law firms' parental leave policies, which was reported in *The Dallas Morning News* (2019-2020)
- Volunteer Voter Protection Attorney in the 2020 and 2008 General Presidential Elections
- Alumni Chair (2019-2020), Teacher Appreciation Chair (2018-2019) – The da Vinci School
- Centennial Archives Chair (2021-2022), Centennial Committee (2018-2022), Grants for Innovative Teaching Committee (2014-2018), Education Committee (2013-2014) – Junior League of Dallas
- Chair (2014), Big Sister (2005-2016) – Big Brothers Big Sisters Dallas Junior Board
- Dallas Texas Exes Mentorship Program (2010-2014)
- Methodist Dallas Medical Center NICU (2012-2013)
- Ronald McDonald House of Dallas (2011-2012)
- Education is Freedom (2010-2011)
- Conducted mock interviews of students at SMU Law
- Volunteered at high school, undergraduate, and law school mock trial, moot court, and debate tournaments
- Hurricane Katrina victim assistance (2005)
- Salvation Army
- Capital Area Food Bank