

# Chanté Brantley

## CURRICULUM VITAE

SMU Dedman School of Law

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Chanté Brantley is a Clinical Professor of Law and the founding Director of the VanSickle Family Law Clinic at SMU Dedman School of Law. She is an accomplished attorney, mediator, educator with extensive experience serving individuals, families, and organizations across Texas. Before joining SMU in 2015, she founded and served as managing attorney and mediator at Barnes Prox Law PLLC, a boutique family law firm.

### Education

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#### *Doctor of Jurisprudence*

The University of Texas at Austin, School of Law, Austin, Texas

May 2006

#### *Master of Science in Social Work, Child Welfare Concentration*

University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas

August 1998

#### *Bachelor of Science, Sociology/Social Work*

Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas

May 1991

### Academic Appointments

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2022 - Present

*Clinical Professor of Law*, Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law  
Founding Director, VanSickle Family Law Clinic  
Courses: Family Law Clinic Deputy (Performance) and Family Law Clinic (EL)

Teach and supervise students in the Family Law Clinic, a live-client, in-house litigation clinic focusing on family law matters, including divorces, child custody, visitation disputes, modifications, alternative dispute resolution, and trial and pre-trial matters.

Supervise students in all aspects of clinic work and litigation before Family District Courts and in limited-scope representation matters (brief services). The scope of supervision includes, but is not limited to, coaching and mentoring students who are primarily responsible for client matters, weekly tutorials, reviewing and editing written work, assessing student performance, and providing feedback. Teaching includes a weekly seminar on lawyering skills, values, substantive law, simulations, and case-round facilitation.

2019 - 2022

*Associate Clinical Professor*, Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law  
Founding Director, VanSickle Family Law Clinic  
Courses: Family Law Clinic Deputy (Performance) and Family Law Clinic (EL)

2018 - 2019

*Assistant Clinical Professor*, Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law  
Founding Director, VanSickle Family Law Clinic  
Family Law Clinic Deputy (Performance) and Family Law Clinic (EL)

2017

Created and launched pro se "Self-Help Desk" at George L. Allen Sr. courthouse, in partnership with Dallas County Law Library, judiciary, Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP) and Dallas Bar Association, to support self-represented family law litigants

2015-2018	<i>Founding Director, VanSickle Family Law Clinic and Lecturer in Law, Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law</i>
	Designed the clinic course, including content, course proposal, methods for teaching, clinical syllabus, and supervision framework; developed an in-house law practice, policies and procedures of the clinic, orientation boot camp, client intake application process, and launched the clinic in Spring 2016 with six students
2008	<i>Adjunct Professor, Dallas Christian College, Dallas, Texas</i> National and State Government Course

## Professional Experience

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2008 - 2015	<i>Founder, Managing Attorney &amp; Mediator, Barnes Prox Law, PLLC, Arlington, Texas</i>
2010 – 2015	<i>Teen Court Judge, City of Arlington, Arlington, Texas</i>
2006 - 2008	<i>Associate, Fleming &amp; Johnson, PLLC, Dallas, Texas</i>
1998 - 2003	<i>Legislative Aide, State Senator Royce West, Dallas &amp; Austin, Texas</i>
1991 - 1998	<i>Legal Liaison &amp; Child Protective Services Specialist IV</i> Texas Department of Protective & Family Services, Dallas, Texas

## Media

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Quoted in “Extensive criminal history is enough to terminate parental rights, Texas Supreme Court rules,” KERA, June 13, 2025. <https://www.keranews.org/texas-news/2025-06-13/parental-rights-texas-department-of-family-protective-services-child-protective-services-texas-supreme-court-brazoria-county-child-custody>

Provided legal consultation to producer of Dr. Phil Primetime (Merit TV) on child custody issues, June 2025

DVAP’s Finest, *Dallas Bar Association| Headnotes*, Volume 48, pg.20, August 2023

Guest Panelist, “Understanding Conservatorship and Guardianship In Texas.” *The Source Radio*, July 2021.

Interviewed for upcoming documentary film, “Unreleased,” produced by SMU Alums, 2021.

“A Child’s Best Interest: What Does It Mean, Really?” *Dallas Bar Association Headnotes*, September 2019.  
<https://www.smu.edu/-/media/Site/Law/faculty/Publications/C-Brantley-Headnotes-Sept-2019.pdf?la=en>.

Featured in “A New SMU Law Clinic Lets Students Into the Courtroom.” *D Magazine*, January 12, 2018.  
<https://www.dmagazine.com/publications/d-magazine/2018/january/smu-vansickle-family-law-clinic-school/>.

Interviewed on “The Work of the Clinic and Student Experiences.” *KRLD/Texas State Networks*, January 8, 2018.

Featured in “SMU Law Clinic Gives Fresh Start To Families In Distress,” *SMU Magazine*, February 16, 2017.  
<https://blog.smu.edu/smumagazine/2017/02/smu-law-clinic-gives-fresh-start-to-families-in-distress/>.

Quoted in “SMU’s VanSickle Family Law Clinic Is Set to Open next Month.” *The Preston Hollow Lifestyle*, December 1, 2015. <https://prestonhollow.advocatemag.com/2015/12/01/smus-vansickle-family-law-clinic-set-open-next-month/>.

“Child Support Matters with Chanté Prox.” *DeDe In The Mornings*. K104 Radio, 2015, 2014.

Quoted in “Costs of Caring: Poor Texans Struggling to Raise Grandchildren Will Get Some Assistance from Government Grants,” *Dallas Morning News*, June 20, 1999.

## **Grants**

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- 2017 Texas Bar Foundation (\$25,000): To support clinic launch and initial operating expenses.
- 2015 Dallas Bar Foundation (\$25,000): To launch *Pro Se Project* with a “self-help desk” at the George L. Allen Sr. courthouse to assist self-represented family law litigants, create self-help videos and support litigation costs such as mediation.

## **Honors, Awards, and Special Recognition**

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- 2023 Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP)’s Finest recognition
- 2022 Featured as a Superb Woman in Texas Metro News
- 2021 *Lois Bacon Special Services Award* presented by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), for leadership, mentoring student associates in the practice of law, the clinic’s pro bono work, and its partnership with DVAP
- 2021 SMU family law program received “A” ranking from Pre-Law Magazine and recognized the family law clinic’s work in the community with self-represented litigants
- 2020 VanSickle Clinic received "Top Schools for Family Law" recognition in National Jurist
- 2006 Recognized by the Texas Senate in SR1022, for outstanding work as a legislative aide in the office of Senator Royce West, <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/78R/billtext/html/SR01022F.htm>
- 2006 Appointed and commissioned as Chair of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services by Governor Royce West during his “Governor of the Day” inaugural celebration on November 18, 2006
- 2002 Yvonne Ewell Emerging Black Women Leaders Award, African-American Museum, Dallas, TX
- 1988 Selected as Coretta Scott King’s special escort when she visited TWU in 1988 to receive the Woman of Achievement Award

## **Presentations and Speaking Engagements (selected)**

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- 2025 Presenter, “Unpacking the Process: What to Expect in a No-Kids Divorce,” Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), Continuing Legal Education (CLE) training for attorneys, July 2025
- 2024 Co-Leader/Facilitator - Family Law Working Group, 2024 AALS CLE Conference
- 2024 Panelist Moderator, The NEW Roundtable 3rd Annual Conference “Level Gound: Started from the Bottom, Inspiring Stories from NEW Members Creating Their Own Firms”
- 2023 Speaker at DBA Community Service Fund Board Meeting, “My perspective on pro bono work and how it influences my why and teaching”
- 2023 Speaker at Network of Empowered Women (NEW) Roundtable, “Law Talk for Real Life”

- 2023 Panelist at Dallas County Clerk and Coordinator seminar on “Resources for Dealing with Self-Represented Parties”
- 2021 Panelist at AALS 2021 Conference on Clinical Legal Education “What I Wish I Had Known When I Was Starting Out: A Candid Conversation about Clinical Teaching for New Clinicians of Color”
- 2021 Speaker at AALS 2021 Conference on Clinical Legal Education in session on “Racism, Racial Trauma, and Clinics: Reimagining Clinical Work Through a Racial Justice Lens”
- 2020 Panelist at UT Law School, Thurgood Marshall Legal Society (BLSA) Academia Panel - “Law Student to Law Professor”
- 2020 Facilitator of Noel Inn of Court: “Community Fellows' Guide to Surviving and Thriving Your First Year of Law School During COVID-19”
- 2020 Participant at Family Law Society “Fast Food with the Firms” program
- 2020 Presenter, “Impact of Legal Clinics,” SMU Development, External Affairs (DEA) retreat
- 2020 Co-Facilitator at Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) New Clinician Conference small group
- 2020 Panelist at AALS/CLEA Virtual Conference Webinar: “What I Wish I Had Known When I Was Starting Out: A Candid Conversation about Clinical Teaching for New Clinicians of Color”
- 2020 Panelist at Law School Diversity orientation
- 2019 Presenter, “Pro Bono Opportunities, Dallas Bar Association Entrepreneurs in Community Lawyering Boot Camp
- 2019 Panelist at Dallas County Clerk and Coordinator seminar on “Resources for Dealing with Self-Represented Parties”
- 2018 Facilitator, Dallas Dinner Table, led dialogues to foster understanding and improve race relations
- 2018 Presenter at Wilmer-Hutchins High School Career and College Day
- 2017 Participant, Family Law Society “Fast Food with the Firms” program
- 2017 Panelist, Law school’s diversity program for high school students
- 2016 Presenter, “Kinship Legal Custody Program” CLE, SMU’s WW Caruth Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic & Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP)
- 2015 Presenter, “Kinship Legal Custody Program” CLE, SMU’s WW Caruth Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic & Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP)
- 2014 Presenter, “Starting your own law practice” CLE, Dallas Bar Association
- 2012 Keynote Speaker. Mystic Tie Grand Masonic Lodge & Rose of Sharon Grand Chapter (Order of the Eastern Star), 3rd Annual Grand Session
- 2007 Keynote Speaker, George Washington Carver Empowerment Center, Inc. 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet, Ennis, TX

#### **SMU University and Dedman School of Law Service (*selected*)**

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2025 – 2026

- Law School, Teaching Committee
- Law School Career Services Committee
- Law School, Family Law Association, Advisor

2024 – 2025

- President’s Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)
- Subcommittee member on Faculty Workloads and Service, PCSW
- Law School, Teaching Committee, Chair
- Law School Career Services Committee

- Law School, Family Law Association, Advisor

#### 2023 – 2024

- President's Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)
- Subcommittee member on Faculty Workloads and Service, PCSW
- Law School, Ad Hoc Search Committee for Full-Time Director (Small Business & Trademark Clinic)
- Law School, Non-Tenure Track Promotion Procedure Committee
- Law School, Teaching Committee
- Law School, Family Law Association, Advisor

#### 2022 – 2023

- President's Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)
- Subcommittee member on Faculty Workloads and Service, PCSW
- Law School, Ad Hoc Search Committee for Full-Time Director (Small Business & Trademark Clinic)
- Law School, Non-Tenure Track Promotion Procedure Committee
- Law School, Teaching Committee
- Law School, Family Law Association, Advisor

#### 2021 – 2022

- President's Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)
- Law School Public Service Committee
- Law School Diversity Committee
- Presented at clinical program's faculty information session during recruitment season
- Maintained law school's legal clinics social media with content on clinical legal education, students' lawyering experiences, faculty achievements, etc.
- Collaborated w/clinical colleagues to present at a Council of Academic Leadership meeting
- Provided new clinician support to colleague

#### 2020 – 2021

- Law School Public Service Committee
- Law School Diversity Committee
- Presented at clinical program's faculty information session during recruitment season
- Collaborated with clinical faculty on presentation to Provost Lobo during her visit to the law school
- Attended Black Lawyers Matter conference, hosted by SMU Dedman School of Law and other partners
- Maintained law school's legal clinics social media with content on clinical legal education, students' lawyering experiences, faculty achievements, etc.
- Donated and participated in Association of Public Interest Law (APIL) auction
- Civil Rights Pilgrimage Planning Committee member with colleagues across campus; planned *Civil Rights Pilgrimage: An Unfinished Revolution* Live Webinar with keynote speaker, Bree Newsome

#### 2019 - 2020

- Law School Public Service Committee
- Law School Diversity Committee
- Participated in book club event with law students
- Managed Law School Legal Clinics social media with content
- Helped create Legal Clinics pandemic protocols
- Created legal clinic faculty back to school video
- Noel Inn of Court faculty mentor

- Participant, “Together We Dine” facilitators’ training
- Participant, Telling Our Stories: Women of Color and the Power of Narratives Research Cluster

2018 - 2019

- Law School Public Service Committee
- Law School Diversity Committee
- Participant, Telling Our Stories: Women of Color and the Power of Narratives Research Cluster
- In collaboration with clinic students, produced bi-lingual self-help videos with a grant from Dallas Bar Foundation
- Organized and lead a student advocacy trip to Texas Capitol for Student Attorneys “Advocacy Day”
- Participant, “Meet the Clinics” recruitment event
- Hosted Black law students and Black faculty dinner
- Participated in Telling Our Stories: Women of Color and the Power of Narratives Research Cluster

2017 - 2018

- Law School Public Service Committee
- Hurricane Harvey volunteer at Dallas convention center with SMU law students
- Meeting participate with African delegation of Judges hosted by SMU law school
- Hosted Black law students and Black faculty dinner
- Donated to Association for Public Interest Law (APIL) auction
- Mentor to law students

2016 - 2017

- Law School Admissions Committee and Financial Aid Committee
- SMU Faculty Trip Advisor for Alternative Winter Break trip to Selma, Alabama with 10 undergraduate students for *Legacies of Civil Rights: Our Gap in Early Education* project
- SMU MLK Day of Service at “We Over Me Farm”
- Judge, National Trial Competition hosted by SMU law school

### **Professional Development** (*selected*)

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2025

- ABA Family Law Section, Fall CLE Conference
- Advanced Family Law Texas Bar, Family Law Section CLE
- AALS, Clinical Legal Education Conference

2024

- Mentor, DBA/DYLA STEER Mentoring Program
- AALS, Clinical Legal Education Conference
- DBA Family Law Section Bench Bar Conference

2023

- Mental Health First Aid Certification Training
- Participant in SMU Center for Teaching Excellence “Dialogic Classroom Training” (2 days)
- Participant in Legal Clinics training on ABA standard 303 (3) on bias, cross-cultural competency, and racism
- AALS, Clinical Legal Education Conference
- Hosted a New Clinicians dinner at AALS, Clinical Legal Education Conference
- Dallas Bar Association, Family Law Section, Bench Bar Conference
- Texas Bar Association, Family Law Section, Advanced Family Law CLE

- 2nd Annual Network of Empowered Women (NEW) Roundtable, Inc. Conference
- Dallas Black Women Association Sparkler event

2022

- Participant, CLEA Clinician Crews: Facilitated Peer Groups for Extraordinary Times
- Attended AALS, Clinical Legal Education Virtual Conference
- Attended CLEA's Teaching Justice Series, "Teaching Justice through Critical Race Theory"
- Attended AALS Virtual Annual Meeting, "Freedom, Equity, and the Common Good"
- SMU Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) workshop "Teaching with Videos: How to Get Started and Be Successful"

2021

- Attended AALS, Clinical Legal Education Virtual Conference, "Reckoning with our Past & Building for the Future"
- Participant, CLEA Clinician Crews: Facilitated Peer Groups for Extraordinary Times
- Collaborated with 3L research fellow to create instructional videos to enhance students' experiential learning
- Attended SMU's Hidden Scripts Cultural Intelligence training
- Attended "Truth to Power: Barbara Lee Speaks for Me" hosted by SMU Dedman School of Law, Office of Diversity, and Inclusion

### **Community Service and Engagement (*selected*)**

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- Arlington Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC), Commissioner
- Women Inspiring Philanthropy, Member
- Arlington Tomorrow Foundation, Citizens Advisory Committee, Chair (2022-2024)
- Head Start of Greater Dallas, Board of Directors, 2019-2022
- Girls on the Run DFW, Board of Directors, 2017-2020
- City of Arlington Teen Court, Judge, 2010-2015
- City of Arlington Teen Court Advisory Committee, 2013-2016
- AISD Financial Futures Committee. 2011
- Dallas County Local Workforce Development Board, Director, 1999-2003
- Urban Rehabilitation Standards Board, City of Dallas, 2002-2003

### **Professional Memberships and Committees**

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2022-Present	Member, Clinical Legal Education (CLEA), New Clinician Committee
2020 - Present	American Bar Association
2020 - 2021	Appointed to State Bar of Texas Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters Committee
2020	AALS Clinicians of Color Workshop Planning Committee
2019 - 2022	Member, CLEA Communication Committee
2017- 2018	Dallas Bar Association, Courthouse Pro Se Committee
2016 - Present	Clinical Legal Education Association
2016 - Present	Association of America Law Schools
2015 - 2016	Higginbotham American Inn of Court, Barrister
2014 - Present	Network of Empowered Women (NEW) Roundtable, Inc.
2012 - 2015	Tarrant County Bar Association
2012 - 2015	Tarrant County Family Law Bar Association
2012 - 2015	National Association of Counsel for Children
2009 - 2011	Eldon B. Mahon Inn of Court, Associate
2007 - Present	State Bar of Texas (Family Law Section)

2007 - Present      Dallas Bar Association (Family Law Section)  
2007 - Present      J. L. Turner Legal Association

### **Certifications**

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2023      Adult Mental Health First Aid Certification, National Council for Mental Wellbeing  
2013      Texas Bar Certification “Representing Texas Parents in Abuse and Neglect Cases  
2012      Texas CPS Mediation Certificate, Hays County Dispute Resolution Center  
2011      Advanced Family Law and Mediation, University of Texas at Arlington (UTA)  
2011      Basic Mediation Certificate, University of Texas at Arlington (UTA)  
2008      Attorney Ad Litem Certification for Guardianship Proceedings