

CHRISTINE POWERS LEATHERBERRY

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

Juris Doctor – SMU Dedman School of Law, *cum laude* 2006
Bachelor of Journalism – The University of Texas at Austin, *high honors* 2003

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Texas State Bar November 2006
U.S. District Courts: admitted to Northern, Eastern, Western, and Southern Districts of Texas
Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists 2019
Board Certified, Texas Board of Legal Specialization: Family Law 2018

ACADEMIC AND MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

SMU Dedman School of Law

Assistant Dean for Administration and Chief of Staff August 2022-present
Director of Alumni Relations January 2020-August 2022
Director of the Jennifer M. Collins Women’s Leadership Initiative February 2020-October 2022

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

SMU Law Adjunct Professor, Family Law May 2020-present
SMU Law Family Law Clinic, Guest Lecturer for a Trial Skills Class 2021-present

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

Selected by peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2018-2022
Distinguished Faculty Member Award, selected by SMU Dedman Women in Law 2021
Dallas Magazine – Best Lawyers Under 40 2020
Super Lawyers – Top 100 Up-and-Coming Lawyers in Texas 2018-2020
Super Lawyers – Top 50 Up-and-Coming Women Lawyers in Texas 2017-2020
Super Lawyers – Texas Rising Stars 2014-2020

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

T. Boone Pickens Leadership Institute class (2022-2023)
Founder and Chair of Moms in Law (joint special interest group of Dallas Bar Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, and Dallas Women Lawyers Association) (2016-present)
Trustee, Archer Center Trust – The University of Texas System
Founder (2003), Past President (2010-2011) – Archer Fellow Alumni Association
Leadership and Membership Committees, Bencher – William “Mac” Taylor Inn of Court
Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation (honor reserved for top 1/3 of 1% of Texas attorneys)
Fellow, Dallas Bar Foundation

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

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 project with the Office of the President of the United States, Chief of Staff's Office 2001
Congressman Bill Archer Fellowship through UT 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 Headliners SMU
Gallup Leadership UT Austin
Ralph E. Frede Public Relations Foundation of Texas UT Austin

PUBLICATIONS

SMU Annual Texas Survey Law Journal: Family Law (Volume 8), co-authored with Professor Joanna Grossman, expected publication in 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* January 2019

CLE AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Presentation on Parental Leave Initiative, DAYL Board of Directors, Speaker April 2020
Women's Guide to Building and Protecting Wealth, Speaker (Family Law) 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

MEDIA

'The Mom Guilt Is Real' in Super Lawyers Magazine March 2020
'Moms in Law' Unites Female Lawyers in North Texas in Dallas Innovates November 2018
In a Divorce, Who Gets Custody of Electronic Data? *The Lawyers* in The New York Times Oct. 31, 2016
How to Talk to Children About Divorce (Live On-Air Interview) on WFAA TV September 2014

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Lower School Division Chair of the Volunteer Leadership Committee – The Hockaday School (2022-present)
- Silent Auction Faculty Offerings Captain – Hockaday Parents Association (2022)
- New Family Outreach Volunteer – The Hockaday School (2022-present)
- Pro bono attorney through SMU Law and Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program for various pro bono cases in Dallas County (adoption, suits affecting parent-child relationship, divorce) (2008-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
- Mustang Exchange lawyer mentor to law students (2019-present)
- 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)
- Conduct mock interviews of students at SMU Law
- Volunteer at high school, undergraduate, and law school debate and mock trial tournaments
- Hurricane Katrina victim assistance, volunteer notary (2005)
- Salvation Army
- Capital Area Food Bank