

Chanté Barnes Brantley

CURRICULUM VITAE

SMU Dedman School of Law

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Associate Professor and founding Director of SMU's VanSickle Family Law Clinic, Chanté Brantley is an accomplished seasoned professional with vast experience assisting individuals, Texas families, and entities achieve their goals. Prior to joining SMU in 2015, Chanté was managing attorney and mediator at Barnes Prox Law PLLC, a law firm she established in 2008.

Education

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

Teaching Experience

2019 - Present

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)

Teach and supervise students in the Family Law Clinic, a live-client, in-house clinic focusing on family law matters, including divorces, child custody and visitation disputes, modifications, and pre-trial matters. In the clinic, supervise students in all aspects of clinic work and litigation before Dallas County Family District Courts and in limited-scope representation matters (brief services). The scope of supervision includes, but 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, substantive law, simulations, and facilitation of case-rounds.

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)

2015-2018

Founding Director, VanSickle Family Law Clinic and *Lecturer in Law*, Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law

Designed the clinic course, including content, course proposal, methods for teaching, clinical syllabus, supervision framework, developed policies and procedures of the clinic, orientation boot camp, community intake application process and launched the clinic in Spring 2016 with 6 students

2008

Adjunct Professor, Dallas Christian College, Dallas, Texas
National and State Government Course

Professional Experience

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

Media

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

- 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

- 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 Received the Yvonne Ewell Emerging Black Women Leaders Award
- 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

- 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 at SMU Development, External Affairs (DEA) retreat on the "Impact of Legal Clinics"
- 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 at Dallas Bar Association Entrepreneurs in Community Lawyering Boot Camp on "Pro Bono Opportunities"
- 2019 Panelist at Dallas County Clerk and Coordinator Seminar on "Resources for Dealing with Self-Represented Parties"
- 2018 Facilitator of a Dallas Dinner Table to help improve race relations
- 2017 Participant at Family Law Society "Fast Food with the Firms" program
- 2017 Panelist at law school's diversity program for high school students
- 2016 Presenter at SMU's WW Caruth Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic & Dallas Volunteer Attorney "Kinship Legal Custody Program" CLE

- 2015 Presenter at SMU's WW Caruth Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic & Dallas Volunteer Attorney "Kinship Legal Custody Program" CLE
- 2014 Presenter at Dallas Bar Association CLE on "Starting your own law practice"
- 2012 Keynote Speaker at Mystic Tie Grand Masonic Lodge & Rose of Sharon Grand Chapter (Order of the Eastern Star), 3rd Annual Grand Session

SMU University and Dedman School of Law Service

President's Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), 2021

Law School Diversity Committee, 2019 - Present

Law School Public Service Committee, 2017 - Present

Law School Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, 2016 - 2017

2020 – 2021

- 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

- 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
- Participated in "Together We Dine" facilitators' training
- Participated in Telling Our Stories: Women of Color and the Power of Narratives Research Cluster

2018 - 2019

- In collaboration with clinic students, produced bi-lingual self-help videos with a grant from Dallas Bar Foundation
- Took students on trip to Texas Capitol for Student Attorneys "Advocacy Day"
- Talked to interested students about the clinic at "Meet the Clinics" 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

- Hurricane Harvey volunteer at Dallas convention center with law students
- Meeting with African delegation of Judges hosted by law school
- Hosted Black law students and Black faculty dinner
- Donated to APIL
- Mentor to law students

2016 - 2017

- 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 for National Trial Competition hosted by law school

Professional Development

2021 - 2022

- Participant in CLEA Clinician Crews: Facilitated Peer Groups for Extraordinary Times

2021

- 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
- Attended various virtual webinars on teaching, community engagement, and the practice of law such as: “Trauma Informed Teaching & Lawyering,” “SALT Social Justice Webinar,” SMU CTE’s “Mid-Semester Feedback Overview,” DVAP’s “Required Disclosures & Your Firm”

Community Service and Engagement

2021 Arlington Tomorrow Foundation, Citizens Advisory Committee

2020 Partnered with International Rescue Committee (IRC) – Dallas, to work on *Unaccompanied Minors* cases

2018 Presenter at Wilmer-Hutchins High School Career and College Day

2018 Participated in Dallas Bar Association Day of Service at Bonton Farms

2017 Created and established pro se “*Self-Help Desk*” at George L. Allen Sr. courthouse, in collaboration with Dallas County Law Library, Judges, Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP) and Dallas Bar Association to assist self-represented family law litigants; since its inception in 2017, this innovative program has assisted approximately 1300 pro se litigants access justice

Professional Memberships and Committees

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, Clinical Legal Education Association (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

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