

DEBRA NORRIS

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW, Austin, TX. 1998

Doctor of Jurisprudence. Member, Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities; *Texas Environmental Law Journal*; Founder and Chair, Employment and Labor Law Society; Recipient, **Dean's Achievement Award in Evidence**, A+ (top student award).

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY, Ruston, LA. 1984

Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering. Graduated *magna cum laude*.

CENTENARY COLLEGE of Louisiana, Shreveport, LA. 1984

Bachelor of Arts, Physics. Graduated *cum laude*.

**LEGAL
EXPERIENCE**

DEBRA B. NORRIS, P.C., Houston, TX. 2004 to present

As **Director** of my own firm, I represent individual and corporate clients in a variety of legal matters, with special focus on construction law and commercial litigation. I represent owners, contractors, suppliers, and design professionals in the construction industry.

GOLDSTEIN & FAUCETT, L.L.P., Houston, TX. 2002 to 2003

An intellectual property boutique with 7 lawyers. As an **Associate** in the firm, I assisted independent inventors and small companies to license their patents or litigate against patent infringers on a contingency-fee basis. I provided client counseling, rendered opinions, and participated in the pre-trial claim construction process. For a personal client, I collaborated with Mark R. Wisner of Wisner & Associates to prepare a patent application entitled "Methods and Apparatus for Production of Hydrocarbons."

DRY & TASSIN, L.L.P., Houston, TX. 2001 to 2002

An intellectual property litigation firm with 2 lawyers. As an **Associate** in the firm, I researched legal issues, prepared pleadings and discovery, and attended hearings and depositions. My cases involved patent, copyright, Lanham Act, and unfair competition claims. I prepared complaints, motions to compel discovery, and motions to dismiss on jurisdictional issues. I assisted Alan H. Gordon, Of Counsel, in a declaratory judgment action against ExxonMobil Corporation and Chevron Chemical Company.

THE BENNETT LAW FIRM, Houston, TX. 1999 to 2000

A plaintiffs' products liability practice with 4 lawyers. As an **Attorney** in the firm, I was responsible for a docket of 5 personal injury cases involving three-wheeled all-terrain vehicles manufactured by Honda Motor Company. I managed a staff of 2 paralegals to provide litigation support in these large products liability cases. I drafted witness outlines and participated in a 6 week trial in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

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PROFESSOR RUSSELL WEINTRAUB, Austin, TX. 1997 to 1998
John B. Connally Chair in Civil Jurisprudence, University of Texas School of Law. *Research Assistant*. Areas of research: Contracts, International Law, and Conflicts of Law.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, Houston, TX. 1997
Department of Justice, Southern District of Texas. *Summer Intern*.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, Austin, TX. 1997
State of Texas, Environmental Crimes Section. *Intern*.

EXPERIENCE

NALCO CHEMICAL COMPANY, Sugar Land, TX. 1990 to 1994
A specialty chemical plant with 18 batch reactors making 720 different chemicals per year. As the first **Instrument/Electrical Project Engineer** in the plant engineering group, I designed and oversaw field construction projects and automated manual tasks in the plant, such as batch reactor monitoring and chemical container cleaning. Many of my projects were necessitated by environmental laws, including a \$10 million wastewater treatment plant and a plant-wide hazardous waste incinerator control system.

ARKLA, INC., Shreveport, LA. 1984 to 1989
5 state (LA, TX, AR, KS and OK) gas transmission corporation (now a division of CenterPoint Energy). As the only **Electrical Engineer** in the corporate engineering design group, I designed electrical power and control systems for grass-roots compressor stations and automated existing cross-country natural gas compressor stations.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Faculty, "Construction Law," Summer 2005, 2007, 2009, 2013-16
University of Houston, Cullen College of Engineering,
Masters in Civil and Environmental Engineering program, Houston, TX

Lecturer, "Construction Law and Ethics," Fall and Spring 2005 to 2010
University of Houston, College of Technology,
Construction Management program, Houston, TX

Lecturer, "Legal Aspects of Surveying," Fall 2006 to 2010
University of Houston, College of Technology
Surveying Engineering Technology program, Houston, TX

MEMBER

College of the State Bar; State Bar of TX, Litigation and Construction Law Sections; American Bar Association, Construction Industry Forum and Dispute Resolution Section; Associated Builders & Contractors, Legal Issues and Contractor Committees; American Subcontractors Association, Government Affairs Committee; Associated General Contractors, Government Affairs Committee; and Houston Contractors Association, PAC.

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PAST MEMBER Defense Research Institute, Construction Law Committee; National Association of Women in Construction, Houston board of directors, 2013-2014; Independent Electrical Contractors, Government Affairs Committee; Society of Women Engineers-Houston, president, 1990-91, and representative, Engineers' Week Committee; and Outstanding Young Women of America, 1985.

RECOGNITIONS Listed, Houston's Top Lawyers in construction law, 2012-2016
"H Texas" magazine

Featured, CNN's "America's Premier Lawyers Series," April 2009
CNN Airport TV Network