

Ellen Marrus
University of Houston Law Center
Houston, TX 77204-6371
(713) 743-0894
emarrus@uh.edu

EDUCATION:

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.

Master of Laws in Advocacy, May 1992

Teaching Fellowship recipient

University of San Francisco School of Law, San Francisco, CA

Juris Doctor, May 1990

Law Review Member, Fall 1988

Best Oral Argument - Moot Court, Spring 1988

Charles R. Lawrence III Scholarship, Spring, 1990

Kean College, Union, N.J.

B.A., Elementary Education, 1973

Dean's List

SCHOLARSHIP:

Gault, 40 Years Later: Are We There Yet?, __ CRIM. L. BULL. __ (forthcoming 2008).

Can I Talk Now?: Why Miranda Does Not Offer Adolescents Adequate Protections, 79 TEMP. L. REV. 515(2006).

Roper v. Simmons and Strickland v. Washington: Dancing With Death, 42 CRIM. L. BULL. 153 (2006) (co-author Irene Merker Rosenberg).

After Roper v. Simmons: Keeping Kids Out of Adult Criminal Court, 42 S.D.L.REV. 1151 (2005) (co-author Irene Merker Rosenberg).

Fostering Family Ties: The State As Maker and Breaker of Kinship Relationships, 2004 U. CHI. LEG. FORUM 315 (2004).

Fifth Circuit Survey: Criminal Procedure, 35 Tex. Tech. L. Rev. 683 (2004) (co-author Sandra Guerra-Thompson).

"That Isn't Fair Judge:" The Costs of Using Prior Juvenile Delinquency Adjudications in Criminal Court Sentencing, 40 U. Hous. L. Rev.1323 (2004).

Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Wonderland of "Kiddie Court" – Why The Queen of Hearts Trumps Strickland, 39 CRIM. L. BULL. 393 (2003).

Best Interests Equals Zealous Advocacy: A Not So Radical View of Holistic Representation For Children Accused Of Crime, 62 MD. L. REV. 288 (2003).

How Gault Plays in Texas, 9 JUVENILE JUSTICE UPDATE 10 (2003).

Crack Babies and the Constitution: Ruminations About Addicted Pregnant Women After Ferguson v. City of Charleston, 47 VILL. L. REV. 299 (2002).

Over The Hills And Through The Woods To Grandparents' House We Go: Or Do We, Post - Troxel?, 43 ARIZ. L. REV. 751 (2001).

Selling Justice Short: Juvenile Indigent Defense In Texas, (with co - authors) (Applesseed Foundation, Oct. 2000).

Where Have You Been Fran? The Right of Siblings to Seek Court Access to Override Parental Denial of Visitation, 66 TENN. L. REV. 977 (1999).

Please Keep My Secret: Child Abuse Reporting Statutes, Confidentiality and Juvenile Delinquency, 11 GEO. J. OF LEGAL ETHICS 509 (1998).

BOOKS:

CHILDREN, LAW AND DISASTERS: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM THE HURRICANES OF 2005, (American Bar Association) (Howard Davidson, Ellen Marrus, & Laura Oren co-editors) (forthcoming 2008).

CHILDREN AND JUVENILE JUSTICE, Carolina Academic Press, (co-author Irene Merker Rosenberg) (2007).

BOOK CHAPTERS:

Holistic Lawyering, in NACC CHILDREN'S LAW MANUAL SERIES ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN 403 (Colene F. Robinson ed., 2003).

OTHER WORKS:

Survey of Arizona Juvenile Detention Issues, (Southwest Regional Juvenile Defender Center, forthcoming).

Juvenile Practice Is Not Child's Play, (with co-authors) (Southwest Regional Juvenile Defender Center, Applesseed Foundation, Hogg Foundation, 2002) (revised 2004).

Navigating the Juvenile Justice System, (with co-authors) (Southwest Regional Juvenile Defender Center, Applesseed Foundation, Hogg Foundation, 2002) (revised 2004).

Justice by the People (National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law, 1992).

United States v. David Jones (D.C. Street Law Project, Spring 1992).

Chris M. v. Newcal Public Schools (D.C. Street Law Project, Spring 1991).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

George Butler Research Professor of Law (September 2005 - Present)

Professor of Law (September 2004 - Present)

Associate Professor (August 1995 - August 2004)

University of Houston Law Center, Houston, TX

Courses Taught: *Children and the Law; Client Interviewing and Counseling; Criminal Procedure; Holistic Lawyering; Juvenile Justice Seminar; Juvenile Law; Practice Skills (first year elective); and Clinical Courses - Civil Clinic, Criminal Defense Clinic, Criminal Prosecution Clinic, Externships, Judicial Internships, Juvenile Defense Clinic, and Mediation Clinic.*

I developed almost all of the clinical courses at the Law Center and added a comprehensive academic component for all clinics, including substantive law, lawyering skills, and values and ethics.

I developed and teach a course entitled Children and the Law. This course examines the following categories in relation to children: abuse and neglect, custody, school law, tort law, health law, mental health issues, employment law issues, and constitutional rights.

I developed and co-taught a course entitled Holistic Lawyering. This multidisciplinary course encourages students to explore various ways the legal system affects every aspect of individuals' daily lives, while examining topics not covered in other law school classes.

Co-Director, Center for Children, Law & Policy

University of Houston Law Center, Houston, TX

September 2006 - Present

Founded the Center for Children, Law & Policy at the University of Houston Law Center. The Center advances children's interests through scholarship, advocacy and teaching. I have been involved in developing symposia including Children and the Law After the Katrina Disaster: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Young Evacuees, Gault: A 40-Year Retrospective, and The Aftermath of Roper v. Simmons. In addition the Center has provided CLE courses for attorneys including the only 2 day conference in the Southwest region devoted to juvenile defenders.

Director, Clinical Legal Education

University of Houston Law Center, Houston, TX

August 1995 - May 2005

I expanded the number of clinical offerings beyond the single Civil Clinic course available at the time I became Director. During my tenure I developed and added the following clinics: Immigration, Mediation, Criminal Prosecution, Criminal Defense, Consumer, Transactional, Health Law, and Environmental Law clinics and extensive Externship and Judicial Internship placements. I hired staff attorneys for several of the clinics and gained approval to make three of these positions clinical faculty. The student enrollment increased from an average of 10 students per semester to approximately 75 students per semester, with summer enrollment reaching over 100. I increased revenues for clinical programs by over \$750,000 through grants, donations and collection of attorney fees.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

Director

Southwest Regional Juvenile Defender Center, Houston, TX

April 2000 - Present

This is a separate non-profit, high profile organization that provides assistance and resources for juvenile defenders in the Southwest region: Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. The Center also conducts regional studies regarding juvenile representation and confinement, and assists with the development of juvenile justice policy. It was through my efforts that the Center is located at the Law School. The Center conducts frequent conferences relating to children in the legal system.

Deputy Conflict Public Defender

Solano County Conflict Public Defender Office, Fairfield, CA

August 1992 - June 1995

I had a caseload of approximately 130 clients, representing children in delinquency and dependency proceedings. I trained and provided resources for other juvenile attorneys, judges, social workers, probation departments and foster parents. In addition, I provided information for criminal attorneys regarding developments in juvenile law and their effect on adult criminal proceedings.

Law Clerk

Legal Services for Children, San Francisco, CA

January 1990 - June 1990

I provided legal services to children in a variety of areas including dependency, delinquency, status offenses, guardianships, emancipations, school discipline, and immigration cases.

Law Clerk

Child Care Law Center, San Francisco, CA
Summer, 1988

I assisted staff attorneys with litigation, and I investigated and organized research for a legal handbook regarding liability issues for child resource and referral agencies.

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE:

Clinical Fellow, Georgetown University Law Center, D.C. Street Law Project,
Washington, D.C., August 1990 - August 1992

I supervised law students in a clinical program designed to improve their lawyering skills by teaching the law to high school students in D.C. Public Schools. I also researched and wrote mock trials for clinic competitions.

Co-Advisor, Georgetown University Law Center, Center for Applied Legal
Studies, Washington, D.C., December 1991 - May 1992

I supervised law students in an advocacy clinic as they represented clients in social security and consumer protection cases.

Teaching Assistant, USF Law School, Academic Support Program, San Francisco, CA,
September 1988 - May 1990

I instructed first year students in Torts and Civil Procedure. I prepared exams, developed course materials and evaluated students' written exams.

Coordinator, USF Law School/Street Law Program, San Francisco, CA, March 1988 -
May 1990

I observed and evaluated law school students teaching Street Law in Bay Area high schools. I also taught and developed the curriculum for the Alameda County Juvenile Court Street Law Program.

Instructor, Chabot Community College, Hayward, CA 1985-90

I developed curriculum and taught courses in various areas of early childhood education including child care and the law, employment, supervision, parent relations, and fund-raising.

Director, Vesper Children's Services, San Leandro, CA 1982-87

I established programs for children and families, provided technical assistance and classes for providers, community agencies and businesses. I researched and prepared written and oral presentations for government and private agencies.

Director, A Safe Place, Oakland, CA 1980-82

I directed a shelter for battered women and their children. I prepared temporary restraining orders and custody orders in conjunction with the legal clinic, and I wrote successful funding proposals.

PRESENTATIONS:

“Adolescence in American Law: The Boundary Between Childhood and Adulthood,” moderator for first panel presentation by the AALS Section on Children and the Law, New York, N.Y., January 2008.

“*Gault*, 40 Years Later: Are We There Yet?,” Symposium sponsored by the Center for Children, Law & Policy, University of Houston Law Center, November 2008.

“Sealing Juvenile Records,” Houston Bar Association, October 2005.

“Strategies for Representing Juveniles in Delinquency Proceedings.” Dallas, TX, October 2005.

“Juvenile Practice Is Not Child’s Play,” Midland, TX, November 2004.

“Strategies for Litigating Systemic Indigent Defense Issues,” National Juvenile Defender Summit, Nashville, TN, October 2004.

“Ten Tips For Representing Juveniles,” Juvenile Law Section, Houston Bar Association, Houston, TX, October 2004.

“Representing Juveniles in Delinquency Proceedings From A to Z,” Starr County Juvenile Defense Bar, Starr, TX, October 2004.

“Teens and the Juvenile Justice System,” People’s Law School, Houston, TX, October 2004.

“Allegations of Abuse and the Operation of the Texas Juvenile Detention Centers.” Testimony before the Texas House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues , Houston, TX, September 2004.

“Effective Assistance of Counsel for Juveniles,” Southwest Juvenile Defender Center Regional Conference, Houston, TX, May 2004.

“Back to the Basics,” small group facilitator, Associate of American Law Schools, Clinical Section, San Diego, CA, May 2004.

“Juvenile Justice System, Teens, and School,” People’s Law School, Houston, TX, April 2004.

“Compatible and Sometimes Conflicting Duties of Clinicians,” Rocky Mountain Regional Clinical Conference, Houston, TX, November 2003.

“Fostering Family Ties,” University of Chicago Law School Legal Forum Symposium: The Public and Private Faces of Family Law, October 2003.

“Assessment of Juvenile Defense Representation and Policy Recommendations for Improvement,” National Association of Counsel for Children, National Children’s Law Conference, New Orleans, LA, August 2003.

“A Holistic Approach to Representing Children in Delinquency Proceedings,” National Association of Counsel for Children, National Children’s Law Conference, New Orleans, LA, August 2003.

“Ethical Considerations for Attorneys Representing Children in Delinquency Proceedings,” Southwest Regional Juvenile Defender Center, Regional Conference, Houston, TX, June 2003.

“Teaching Lawyering Skills through Family and Child Advocacy Clinics,” Rocky Mountain Regional Clinical Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 2002.

“The Role of A Juvenile Defense Attorney,” Southwest Regional Juvenile Defender Center, Regional Conference, Houston, TX, June 2002.

“Testifying As An Expert Witness At Trial,” University of Houston, Graduate School of Social Work, April 2002.

“Social Workers and Lawyers: Working Hand in Hand,” University of Houston, Graduate School of Social Work, April 2002.

“Children’s Rights in the United States and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,” University of Houston, Graduate School of Social Work, February 2002.

“Where Are We Now? Where Are We Going?,” Rocky Mountain Regional Clinical Conference, Estes, Colorado, October 2001.

“Over The Hills And Through The Woods To Grandparents’ House We Go: Or Do We, Post - *Troxel?*,” Southeast Association of American Law Schools, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, July 2001.

“Increasing the Age of a Person Eligible for the Death Penalty in Texas From 17 to 18,” Testimony before the Texas House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence on a Austin, TX, Spring 2001.

“Clinical Collaborations With The Equal Justice Community.” Association of American Law Schools Equal Justice Colloquium, Austin, TX, Spring 2001.

“Support of Legislation Strengthening Presumption Against Perpetrator of Domestic Violence Getting Joint or Sole Child Custody.” Testimony before the Texas Senate Jurisprudence Committee, Austin, TX, Spring 2001 (Legislation passed, effective 9/1/2001).

“Challenging Juvenile Defenders to Address Diversity and Cultural Competency.” National Juvenile Defender Summit, Houston, TX, October 2000.

“Enforcement of Child Support and Visitation in Texas.” Testimony before the Texas Senate Jurisprudence Committee, Houston, TX, Spring 2000.

“Child Visitation Enforcement in Texas.” Testimony before the Texas Senate Jurisprudence Committee, San Antonio, TX, Spring 2000.

“The Ethical Responsibilities of Attorneys Representing Children,” Families in Crisis, Tenneco Symposium, University of Houston, January 2000.

“Domestic Violence and Legal Education,” Conference sponsored by the State Bar of Texas and the University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX, Spring 1999.

“Children Behind Bars: The Juvenile Detention System in the U.S.,” Amnesty International, University of Houston Chapter, Spring 1999.

“Scenes From A Clinic Redux: Diversity in Hiring for Clinical Programs,” Association of American Law Schools, Washington, DC, Winter, 1999.

“Domestic Violence and Family Law,” Association of Women in the Law, University of Houston Law Center, Fall 1998.

“Representing Girls Across Systems: Multidisciplinary and Cross-Systems Strategies,” The National Juvenile Defender Leadership Summit, Chicago, IL, Fall 1998.

“Lawyers + Doctors + Social Workers + Therapists + Educators . . . An Holistic Approach to Representing Juveniles,” The Juvenile Justice Counter - Reformation: Children and Adolescents as Adult Criminals, Quinnipiac College School of Law, Connecticut, Fall 1998.

“The Juvenile Justice System: Is It New and Improved?,” University of Houston, Graduate School of Social Work, Spring 1998.

“Children and the Law: Changes in the 1997 Juvenile and Education Codes,” Presenter, University of Houston, Alumni Organization and the Social Sciences Alumni Association, October, 1997.

“Family Law Practice and Domestic Violence,” Houston Area Women’s Center, Fall 1997.

“The Legal System’s Response to Family Violence,” University of Houston, Graduate School of Social Work, Spring 1997.

“Time Management for Law School,” University of Houston Law Center, Black Law Student Association Orientation, Fall 1996.

“Race and the Criminal Justice System - Panel Discussion,” Moderator, University of Houston Law Center, Black Law Student Association Program, Spring 1996.

“Running a General Civil In-House Clinic,” Small group discussion leader, Association of American Law Schools, Clinical Conference, Miami, FL, May 1996.

“Organizing and Supervising the Field Experience in Clinical Programs,” Washington, DC, Association of American Law Schools, January 1992: Pre-Conference Session - Law Related Education Programs.

“An Overview of the Jury System in the United States,” Washington, DC, Summer 1991, National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law.

“Conflict Resolution Styles and Their Use in Mediation,” Summer 1991, University of Maine, School of Law.

“Supervising and Evaluating Law Students.” Washington, DC, Association of American Law Schools, January 1991, Law School Project Directors Conference.

MEDIA PRESENTATIONS:

Bruce Nichols & Paul S. Howell, *Houston boy killed his father, but why? Family was torn long before 10-year-old fired fatal shot in August*, 11/1/2004.

Tony Freemantle, *10-year-old’s Murder Charge Rare*, Houston Chronicle, A1, 10/4/2004.

Morning News Show, *Ten Year Old Charged With Murder*, KTRH Radio, Houston, TX, 9/30/04.

Investigative Report, *Defenders Uncover Shocking Allegations of Child Abuse*, KHOU, Channel 11, Houston, TX, 3/4/2004.

Lisa Teachey, *Youth, Gender Don’t Always Mean Leniency: Two Teenage Girls Charged*

In Gresome Deaths, Houston Chronicle, A33, 11/2/2002.

Ellen Marrus, *Executed Texan Lived and Died in Wrong State*, Houston Chronicle, A45, 5/31/2002.

Newsmakers, discussion on juvenile death penalty, Channel 2, Houston, TX, 8/2001.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

State Bar of California.

American Bar Association.

Houston Bar Association.

A.A. White American Inns of Court.

Association of American Law Schools - Clinical Education Section, Family and Juvenile Law Section, and Women In the Law Section.

Association of American Law Schools, Section on Children and the Law, Chair, 2007-2008.

Association of American Law Schools, Committee on Clinical Legal Education, 2002 - 2007.

Co-Chair Program Committee, Clinical Education Section, Association of American Law Schools, 1999.

Clinical Legal Education Association, Board Member 2005-2008.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Director and Board Member, Southwest Regional Juvenile Justice Center, 2000 to present.

Grant Reviewer, Hogg Foundation, 2003 to present.

Advisory Board Member, National Juvenile Justice Center, 2000 to present.

Texas Appleseed Foundation, Interviewer for study on indigent juvenile defense in Texas, Summer 2000.

Board Member - Gulf Coast Legal Foundation, 1995 - 2004.

President - Gulf Coast Legal Foundation - 2000 - 01.

Vice-President and Board Member - Crossroads: Community Partnership for Youth, 1995-1997.

Board Member - Crossroads: Community Partnership for Youth, 1998.

AWARDS:

Outstanding Faculty Award, UH Alumni Organization, Fall 2000.

Outstanding Faculty Support, Public Interest Law Organization, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2004.

Most Supportive Faculty Member, Black Law Student Association, 2000.

Outstanding Service to Black Law Student Association, 1996 and 1997.

National Certificate of Recognition for Child Advocacy from the American Bar

Association's Young Lawyers Division, 1998.
Certificate of Service, Harris County Juvenile Probation, 1996 and 1997.
Outstanding Young Women of America, 1983.
Key to the City of East Orange, NJ, 1980.

LAW CENTER SERVICE:

Executive Committee, Chair - 2007.
Honor Code Revision Committee, Chair, 2003 to present.
Appointments Committee - 2003.
Curriculum Committee, 1999 - 2003, 2004 to present, Chair 2007-08.
Admissions Committee, 2001 - 2003.
Facilities Committee, 1999 - 2000.
Hiring Committee for Trial Advocacy Director, 1999 - 2000.
Professionalism Committee, 1995 - 99.
Chair, Student Services Committee, 1998.
Student Services Committee, 1997 -98.
Faculty Mentor for First Year Students, 1995 - 99, 2000 to present.
Faculty Advisor for Public Interest Law Organization, 1997 to present.
Co-Faculty Advisor for Black Law Student Association, 1997 to present.
Co-Faculty Advisor for Houston Association of Counsel for Children, 2003 to present.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

University Student Fee Advisory Committee 2002 - 2004

My interactions with various colleges in the University of Houston:

Involve other colleges in various seminars and symposiums on topics concerning children in society.

Work with the Graduate School of Social Work to train its students to give expert testimony in court.

I assisted the Business School's Small Business Center by providing legal services through the Law Center's Transactional Clinic.

I invited students studying foreign languages at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to translate legal documents in and out of court for the clinics, and to act as interpreters in court.