

Alissa Rubin Gomez
University of Houston Law Center
Phone: (713) 743-6782
Email: argomez3@central.uh.edu

EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW, J.D., 2002

- Chancellor-at-Large (Top 16 student)
- Order of the Coif
- Recipient of Ellen Waters Olson Endowed Presidential Scholarship (full merit-based scholarship)
- Teaching assistant to Dean William Powers
- Dean's Achievement Award, highest achievement in International Human Rights Law and Contracts

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, B.A. Sociology, 1998

- Graduate with Highest Honors
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Distinguished University Scholar
- Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honor Society
- National Merit Scholar

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

- Clinical Associate Professor (2020 – present)
- Pro Bono Facilitator (2020 – present)
- Clinical Assistant Professor (2018 – 2020)
- Lecturer (2017 – 2018)

Courses Taught:

- Lawyering Skills & Strategies (1L legal research and writing)
- Evidence
- Seminar: Feminist Legal Theory
- Legal Methods

Service:

- Appointed by the Dean as Pro Bono Facilitator for the Law Center, bringing various external pro bono opportunities to students, faculty, and staff, including Pro Bono Spring Break, Texas Free Legal Answers, and Pro Bono "Pop Up," and other volunteer opportunities.
- Member of the Executive Committee (beginning Fall 2023)
- Represent the Law Center alongside the Dean on the Texas Access to Justice Commission Advisory Committee (2022 – present)
- Member of Diversity & Inclusion Committee and Ad-Hoc Committee for Diversity in Hiring (2021 – present)

- Member of Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Student Affairs Committee, and Appointments Committee (2018-2021)
- Editorial Board Member, *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute* (four-year term beginning August 2024)
- Co-Chair of the Diversity Committee for the AALS Section of Legal Writing, Reasoning, & Research (2023)
- Member of the Program Committee for the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, & Research (2020)
- Peer Reviewer for *Journal of Legal Communication & Rhetoric: JALWD* (2021)
- UHLC Pre-Law Pipeline Program Faculty (2018-2020)

LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

HOUSTON VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM, Executive Director (December 2011 – October 2017)

- Oversaw all aspects of legal aid non-profit with an annual operating budget of \$2.5 million. Supervised 30 employees, designed and directed legal aid programming and communications to serve over 12,000 Houston residents each year, managed over a dozen federal, state, and private grants, responsible for fundraising, setting and managing agency budget, reported to an independent board of directors, presided over annual financial audit and all other aspects of the 501(c)(3).
 - Streamlined client intake and screening processes, using analytics to set goals and reduce client wait time from one-year to less than 50 days
 - Achieved and maintained pro bono case placement rate of 98 percent, overhauling law firm participation program to encourage collaboration with other legal aid providers across Houston
 - Launched first-of-its-kind Volunteer Portal to synch with internal case management system and provides interested volunteers with the ability to search, filter, review, and accept pro bono cases online
 - Developed first medical-legal partnership in Houston with Texas Children’s Hospital, winning the State Bar of Texas Outstanding Partnership Award (2013)
 - Received Pro Bono Award from the State Bar of Texas (2014)
 - Tied for third place in ABA National Pro Bono Week campaign competition (2015)
 - Coordinated citywide legal response to immigration travel ban and acted as one of five co-creators of a statewide Immigrant Rights Hotline (2017)
- Member of the founding Executive Committee of the Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative
- Member of the Rules & Legislation Committee of the Texas Access to Justice Commission
- Regularly called upon to assist peer organizations and philanthropy with thought leadership for new projects
- Regularly presented continuing legal education to law firms and corporate legal departments and at courses for the State Bar of Texas

KING & SPALDING, L.L.P. (Houston Office), *Partner* (2011), *Associate* (2002 – 2010), *Summer Associate* (2001)

- Represented both plaintiffs and defendants in a broad range of complex commercial litigation in both state and federal courts, arbitration panels, and before the EEOC. Practice included matters involving trade secrets and other sensitive business information, employee non-competes and employment discrimination, healthcare, breach of contract and commercial torts, oil and gas, and franchise/distributor relationships. Extensive experience obtaining and defending temporary restraining orders and temporary injunctions.
 - Served as lead counsel for employment discrimination lawsuits throughout Texas on behalf of Coca-Cola
 - Served as lead counsel in various lawsuits on behalf of hospitals, physicians, hospital operating companies, and healthcare providers involving the False Claims Act, HIPAA, and peer review processes
 - Served as second chair in two-week jury trial and two-day temporary injunction hearing involving alleged theft of trade secrets by major drill bit manufacturer
 - Served as second chair in multi-day bench trial representing real estate investment trust on breach of contract, fraud, and breach of fiduciary duty claims brought against its former CEO
 - Served as second chair in AAA arbitration defending oil and gas lease dispute valued at \$1 billion, and obtained full and final award in client’s favor
 - Regularly represented employers in non-compete disputes with former employees and in litigation involving misappropriation of trade secrets and confidential information
- First woman elected partner from the Houston office
- Recipient of firm-wide Pro Bono Service Award in 2006, 2007, and 2008, for successful representation of immigrant juvenile in deportation proceedings and other pro bono matters
- Hiring Committee Member (2010 – 2011), Lawyer Development Committee Member (2011), Co-Chair of Houston Associates’ Committee (2008), Summer Associate Work Coordinator (2007), Summer Associate Education Coordinator (2005-06)

GIBBS & BRUNS, L.L.P., *Summer Associate* (2000 and 2001)

LEGAL AID OF CENTRAL TEXAS, *Summer Associate* (2001)

TEXAS THIRD COURT OF APPEALS, *Intern to Justice Bea Ann Smith* (Fall 2000)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, *Intern to Judge Sim Lake* (2000)

MONTAGE LEGAL GROUP, *Freelance Attorney* (2022 – present)

CONNECTIVE, serve as outside general counsel for non-profit that provides innovative solutions for streamlining disaster recovery and other similar services for other Houston-area non-profits (2019 – present)

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

- *The Feminist-Neutrality Paradox*, 127 Dick. L. Rev. 673 (2023), invited symposium contribution
- *Demand-Side Justice*, 28 Geo. J. on Poverty L. & Pol'y 411 (2021)
- *The Mismeasure of Success*, 94 St. John's L. Rev. 927 (2021)
- *The Power of Words*, micro-essay, AALS LWRR Newsletter (Summer 2020)
- *Learning to Love Pro Bono: A Recipe for Engaging Law Students*, The Second Draft (Fall 2019)
- Upstream Legal Literacy as an Eviction Prevention Mechanism: Co-Principal Investigator with the Harvard Access to Justice Lab, conducting empirical research using randomized control trials to test the effect of Know Your Rights information on the prevention of formal and informal evictions in Houston (grant for pilot study received from [J-Pal](#) in May 2023; funded full study expected in Q3 2024)

PRESENTATIONS & MEDIA MENTIONS

- *Upstream Legal Literacy: Educating the Public to Avoid Eviction*, SALT Teaching Conference, co-presented with Renee Lynn Danser, Associate Director of Research and Strategic Partnerships, A2J Lab at Harvard Law School (September 2024)
- *Bye, Bye, Birdie: What is Wrong with These Kids? A Discussion of Techniques for Helping Students Transfer Their Learning*, Lone Star Legal Writing Conference (April 2024), co-presented with Alyson Drake
- *Assessing LRW Skills In-class and Through Exams in Light of AI and the NextGen Bar Exam*, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference (March 2024), co-presented with Maikieta Brantley, Megan Davis, and Hilary Reed
- *The Trouble with Grammar*, LWI One-Day Conference (December 2021)
- *Demand-Side Justice*, State Bar of Texas Poverty Law Conference (September 2021)
- *Demand-Side Justice*, AALS Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities Section (March 2021)
- *Demand-Side Justice*, AALS Conference, New Voices in Poverty Law (January 2021)
- *Briefcase Magazine*, "UHLC's Gomez Leads Efforts as COVID-19 Highlights Greater Need for Pro Bono Work," Vol. 38, Issue No. 1 (December 2020)
- *The Mismeasure of Success*, St. John's Law Review 2020 Symposium, *Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment* (October 2020)
- *Demand-Side Justice*, accepted for presentation at Poverty Law Conference, Berkeley Law (April 2020), to be co-presented with Renee Lynn Danser, Associate Director of Research and Strategic Partnerships, A2J Lab at Harvard Law School (cancelled due to COVID)
- *Learning to Love Pro Bono: Bringing the Real World to the LRW Classroom*, LWI One-Day Workshop, University of California Irvine (December 2019)
- *Reaching Them Early: Teaching Gen Z Legal Analysis & Writing in Pipeline Programs*, LWI One-Day Workshop, Chapman University Fowler School of Law (November 2018)
- *Distributing Justice in the Digital Age: The Effect of Technology on Pro Bono Service, and What Law Schools Can Do About It*, Society of Law Teachers (SALT) Teaching Conference, Penn State Law (October 2018)

- *After the Storm: Caring for Students During and After a Natural Disaster*, 18th Annual Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, University of Denver Sturm College of Law (March 2018)
- *Integrating a Culture of Pro Bono into the Classroom*, LWI One-Day Workshop, University of Houston (December 2017)
- Guest on *Briefcase Radio* discussing “Legal Literacy and Demand-Side Justice” (aired October 12, 2019)
- Guest on *Briefcase Radio* discussing “Pro Bono for Civil Cases” (aired October 4, 2017)

Presenter on pro bono related topics at:

- UHLC Pro Bono Breakfast CLE entitled “Pro Bono From Your Laptop” (2019)
- UHLC Alumni Weekend: CLE entitled “Food for Thought” (2019)
- Center for Migration Studies Conference: Mobilizing Coherent Community Responses to Changing Immigration Policies (2017)
- State Bar of Texas Advanced Family Law (co-presenter with Houston Court of Appeals Chief Justice Kem Frost) (2016)
- State Bar of Texas Poverty Law (2015)
- State Bar of Texas Advanced Civil Trial (2013)
- State Bar of Texas Minority Attorney Program (2013)
- Houston Volunteer Lawyers Annual Family Law Seminar (2011 – 2017)
- “Ethics & Pro Bono” presentation featured as the free class on TexasBarCLE.com in September and October 2013, viewed by 4,138 Texas attorneys.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Recipient of the University of Houston Law Center’s Ethel M. Baker Award in recognition of faculty activities that promote interchange between the UH Law Center and the greater community to encourage a relationship of mutual benefit (2021)
- Recipient of “Premier Woman in Law” award from the Association of Women Attorneys (2017)
- Elected to the Council of the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas to serve for two three-year terms (2017-present); Chair of the Pro Bono & Grants Committee (2019-20)
- Named “Texas Rising Star” by *Texas Monthly* Magazine in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010
- Named “Future Star” by *Benchmark Litigation* in 2009
- Named a “Lawyer on the Fast Track” by *H Texas* Magazine in 2006, 2007, and 2009
- Texas Bar Foundation Fellow
- Garland R. Walker Inn of Court, Master