

# Meijken Westenskow

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## Experience

MARCH 2018 – PRESENT

### **Professor of Practice and Assistant Director of Academic Success and Bar Readiness / UNT Dallas College of Law, Dallas, Texas**

#### ***Teaching***

- Lawyering Fundamentals, Legal Methods, Academic Success Assistant Program, Legal Skills & Analysis, MPT Special Topics, Bar Exam Skills & Strategies, and Conflict of Laws.
- Oversaw the Lawyering Fundamentals course, a 2-week pre-semester course for all incoming 1L students. Updated and revised curricular content, trained faculty, and oversaw logistics for the course and the College of Law Orientation.
- Directed the Academic Success Assistant Program, in which upper-level students led small-group workshops for 1L students that focused on legal analysis, critical reading, legal writing, etc. Prepared exercises for the workshops and trained teaching assistants to work with 1L students.
- Received excellent student and faculty evaluations and an “Excellence in Teaching” award from the UNT Dallas Faculty Senate.

#### ***Assistant Director of Academic Success and Bar Readiness***

- Served as Interim Director of the Academic Success and Bar Readiness program, which included 3 faculty members. Oversaw curricular development, student interventions, and programming.
- Provide one-on-one and small group support to students preparing for the bar exam and seeking to advance their study strategies.
- Collaborate with faculty to advance student learning and promote academic success strategies across the curriculum. Present to faculty regarding student performance and bar exam data.
- Lead bar-readiness workshops for students preparing to take the bar exam.
- Created extensive study manuals that review and summarize the most frequently tested principles Texas Bar Examinations and the Uniform Bar Examination.
- Served on the Academic Standards Committee, Scholarship Committee, Appointments Committee, and Admissions Committee.
- Designed curriculum for a pipeline program funded by AccessLex. Participants at Paul Quinn College and UNT Dallas complete a course designed to promote readiness for law school.

MARCH 2022 – SEPTEMBER 2024

### **Attorney Instructor / Law Tutors**

- Tutor individual students to promote academic success and/or bar readiness.
- Provide small-group and individual support to students in SEO Law, a program designed to support historically excluded law students during their 1L year.
- Led small group tutoring sessions for Contracts and Property students at Washington University Law School.

SUMMER 2020-SUMMER 2022

### **Grader and Coach / BARBRI & Helix**

- Scored and provided MEE and MPT feedback for examinees preparing for the bar exam.
- Served as a coach in BARBRI's MyBarbri Connect program, which included small group coaching for the July 2022 bar exam.

FEBRUARY 2009 – MARCH 2018

### **Legal Program Director / Mosaic Family Services, Dallas, Texas**

#### ***Legal Program Director***

- Recruited, trained and managed attorneys, BIA Accredited Representatives, and Legal Assistants. The Legal Program consisted of 4-6 staff.
- Screened over 200 client referrals each year to assess eligibility and assign cases to attorneys.
- Managed and trained 5-12-pro bono volunteers and 6-14 law student interns annually.
- Assessed and created program policies and represented the Legal Program within the agency, among local advocacy coalitions, and within task force organizations.
- Drafted 4-6 grant proposals annually and prepared reports for local, state, and federal grantors.
- Conducted 2-5 outreach and training events each year. Organized and oversaw pro bono clinics. Prepared outreach and training materials for pro bono attorneys and legal interns.

#### ***Staff Attorney***

- Provided 50-70 legal consultations each year to counsel victims of domestic violence and human trafficking regarding legal options, strategies, and safety plans.
- Maintain a caseload of 180-200 cases and represent clients in proceedings before EOIR and USCIS (VAWA, U Nonimmigrant, T Nonimmigrant, Removal of Conditions, DACA, SIJS, Adjustment of Status, Naturalization, consular processing, and removal defense) and in family law proceedings in Dallas, Collin and Tarrant Counties (divorce, conservatorship, child support, protective orders, annulment, declaratory judgments and UCCJEA concerns).
- Recipient of the 2017 Wiseman Award from the Individuals Rights & Responsibilities Section of the State Bar of Texas, awarded to one Texas lawyer each year for outstanding contributions to the civil rights and liberties of Texans.

SEPTEMBER 2006 – FEBRUARY 2009

### **Contract Attorney / Orbitz Worldwide, Special Counsel, and Counsel on Call, Chicago, Illinois and Dallas, Texas**

- Managed a team of four attorneys in a review of the Orbitz Worldwide contract database to complete the assignment or replication of over 300 contracts after Orbitz's initial public offering.
- Aided in contract negotiations and provided legal counsel to Orbitz managers and salespeople.
- Created advertising guides, contract templates, and records retention resources for over 900 Orbitz Worldwide employees in the United States and abroad.

NOVEMBER 2005 – AUGUST 2006

### **Associate Counsel / Board of Veterans Appeals, Washington, D.C.**

- Reviewed submitted evidence related to veterans' previously denied claims for Veterans Administration benefits and drafted de novo legal decisions on behalf of a Veterans Law Judge.

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## Education

MAY 2005

### **Juris Doctorate / Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.**

- Legal Research and Writing Law Fellow, August 2004-May 2005
- Clinic Participant, International Human Rights for Women, September-December 2003
- 2005 Georgetown Public Service Award for work with the Equal Justice Foundation

DECEMBER 2001

### **Bachelor of Arts / Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah**

- Major in International Development, Minors in Near Eastern Studies and Arabic
- Teaching Assistant, Religion and Near Eastern Studies
- Editor, CultureGrams
- Study Abroad in Jerusalem and Damascus, Syria

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## Bar Admissions

Texas, Colorado, Virginia (inactive)

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## Written Work

- *Risks and Vulnerabilities for Trafficking Survivors Within Court Systems*, Accessible Law, UNT Dallas College of Law, Fall 2021
- UBE FREQUENCY CHARTS, UNT Dallas College of Law
- THE TEXAS ESSAY EXAM FINAL STUDY GUIDE, UNT Dallas College of Law
- PROCEDURE AND EVIDENCE STUDY MANUAL, UNT Dallas College of Law
- *Immigration Bans – Where Are We Now?* State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting, June 2018
- PRO BONO TRAINING MANUAL, Mosaic Family Services

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## Presentations and Recognitions

- Recipient, 2021-2022 “Excellence in Teaching,” UNT Dallas Faculty Senate Award.
- Recipient, 2017 Wiseman Award, Individuals Rights & Responsibilities Section, State Bar of Texas
- *Team Based Learning in an Online Bar Skills Course*, Association of Academic Support Educators Conference, Boise, Idaho, May 2024
- *Assembling the Pieces: A Hands-On Approach to Critical Law School Skills*, Association of Academic Support Educators Conference, Santa Clara, California, May 2023
- *It Takes a Village: Establishing Working Relationships with Doctrinal Faculty*, Southwest Consortium of Academic Success Professionals Conference, Lubbock, Texas, March 2020
- *Scrapbooking for Law Students: A Hands-On Approach to Rule Synthesis and Application*, Association of Academic Support Educators Conference, Seattle, Washington, May 2019
- *ASSESS YOURSELF! Collaborating with 1Ls on Effective Self-Evaluation*, Southwest Consortium of Academic Success Professionals Conference, San Antonio, Texas, March 2019
- *Immigration Bans - Where Are We Now?* State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, June 2018
- *Labor Trafficking in Texas*, North Texas Anti-Trafficking Task Force, Dallas, Texas, December 2017
- *Trafficking Issues in Texas*, Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable, Office for Access to Justice,

Department of Justice, Washington, DC, October 2017

- Keynote speaker, SABA Dallas Benefit Gala, Dallas, Texas, October 2017
- *Domestic Issues Facing Cultural Populations*, Lawyers Against Domestic Violence Committee, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, Dallas Bar Association, Dallas, Texas, October 2017 [panelist]
- *Changes to the I-918 Supplement B Certification Form*, Arlington Police Department, Arlington, Texas, June 2017
- *Case Study: U.S. v. Murra*, North Texas Anti-Trafficking Task Force, Ft. Worth, Texas, December 2016
- *Immigration Options for Victims of Crime: Focus on Trafficking Panel*, Conference on Crimes Against Women, April 2016 [panelist]
- *Women as Catalyst for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development*, Hunt Institute, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, April 2015
- *Plugged Into DFW: Mosaic Family Services*, CBS Dallas Local News, Dallas, Texas, March 2015
- *Working with Law Enforcement: Perspectives from a Social Services Agency*, 2011 Freedom Network Conference, Washington, DC, March 2011
- Career panel presentations at Southern Methodist University, Texas A&M, and University of North Texas Dallas (January 2016, April 2016, November 2016, April 2017, April 2018)
- Pro bono training presentations: In-house, September 2015 and November 2016; Holland & Knight, June 2016 and April 2017; Bank of America, October 2017; Kane, Russell, Coleman & Logan, November 2017; Baker & Botts, December 2017; Dallas Bar Association Corporate Counsel Section, May 2016; Sabre, October 2016 and September 2014; Capital One, September 2014