

# JESSICA DIXON WEAVER

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## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW**, Dallas, Texas

*Vinson & Elkins Faculty Fellow*, 2024 – present

*Professor of Law*, 2021 – present

*Associate Professor of Law*, promoted with tenure 2015 - 2021

*Assistant Professor of Law*, 2009 - 2015

*Senior Lecturer in Law & Director, W. W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic*, 2002-2009

*Appointments:*            *Associate Dean for Research*, 2022-2025  
                                  *Chair, University-wide Task Force on Social Justice and Equity*,  
                                  2021-2023

**EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, Atlanta, Georgia

*Visiting Scholar*, Feminist Legal Theory Project and Vulnerability and Human Condition Initiative, Fall 2012

**DREXEL UNIVERSITY KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Scholar-in-Residence, Center on Law, Policy and Social Action (CLPSA), Spring 2024

**Current Courses:** Family Law, Children and the Law, Professional Responsibility, Advanced Family Law Seminar (edited writing course).

**Research Areas:** Family Law Regulation and Public Policy; Race, Gender, and Family Law; Intergenerational Caregiving and Multigenerational Families; Children's Rights

## EDUCATION

**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW**

Juris Doctorate, 1995

**Honors:**            • Virginia Law Review  
                          • Virginia Law Review, Notes Development Editor

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, College of Arts & Sciences**

Bachelor of Arts - History, 1992

**Honors:**            • Arthur Fauset Award, Outstanding Intellectual and Community Service  
                          • Sphinx Honor Society

## RESEARCH AWARDS

- 2020-21 Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellowship, SMU Dedman Law
- 2019 Gerald J. Ford Senior Research Fellowship, SMU
- 2019-20 Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellowship, SMU Dedman Law

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- CONTEMPORARY FAMILY LAW, 6<sup>TH</sup> ED., (with Douglas E. Abrams, Naomi R. Cahn, Linda C. McClain, Catherine J. Ross, and Kaiponanea T. Matsumura) (WEST ACADEMIC, 2023).
- FAMILY LAW SIMULATIONS: BRIDGE TO PRACTICE (with Jamie R. Abrams) (WEST ACADEMIC, 2021).

### Law Review Articles & Essays

- *Racial Myopia in [Family] Law*, 132 YALE L.J. FORUM 1086 (2023).
- *A Critical Race Theory Approach to Children's Rights*, 71 AM. U. L. REV. 1855-1897 (2022) (invited symposium article).
- *The Ties that Bind: What Pauli Murray Teaches Us About Race, Family, Slavery and Inequality*, 55 FAM. L.Q. 293-309 (2022).
- *The Perfect Storm: Coronavirus and the Elder Catch*, 96 TUL. L. REV. 59-129 (2021).
- *The Changing Tides of Adoption: Why Marriage, Race and Identity Still Matter*, 71 SMU L. REV. 159-176 (2018).
- *Beyond Child Welfare: Theories on Child Homelessness*, 21 WASH. & LEE J. CIV. RTS. & SOC. JUST. 16-53 (2014).
- *Overstepping Ethical Boundaries? Limitations on State Efforts to Provide Access to Justice in Family Courts*, 82 FORDHAM L. REV. 2705-2760 (2014).
- *Grandma in the White House: Legal Support for Intergenerational Caregiving*, 43 SETON HALL L. REV. 1-74 (2013) (lead article) (cited in D. KELLY WEISBERG & SUSAN F. APPLETON, MODERN FAMILY LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS 385 (5<sup>th</sup> ed., 2016) and excerpted in NINA A. KOHN, ELDER LAW: CASES, PROBLEMS & EXERCISES 595-96, 597 (2014)).
- *The First Father: Perspectives on the President's Fatherhood Initiative*, 50 FAM. CT. REV. 297-309 (2012) (cited in CLARE HUNTINGTON, FAILURE TO FLOURISH: HOW LAW UNDERMINES FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS 41 (2014)).
- *African-American Grandmothers: Does the Gender Entrapment Theory Apply? Essay Response to Professor Beth Richie*, 37 WASH. U. J.L. & POL'Y 153-181 (2011).

- *The Principle of Subsidiarity Applied: Reforming the Legal Framework To Capture the Psychological Abuse of Children*, 18 VA. J. SOC. POL'Y & L. 247-318 (2011) (cited in *McClanahan v. Washington Cty. Dep't of Soc. Servs.*, 445 Md. 691, footnote 17, 129 A.3d 293, 302 (2015) and excerpted in KATHERINE HUNT FEDERLE, *CHILDREN AND THE LAW: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH WITH CASES, MATERIALS AND COMMENTS*, 553-54 (Oxford University Press 2012).
- *The Texas Mis-step: Why the Largest Child Removal in Modern U.S. History Failed*, 16 WM. & MARY J. WOMEN & L. 449-535 (2010) (lead article).
- *The African-American Child Welfare Act: A Legal Redress for African-American Disproportionality in Child Protection Cases*, 10 BERKELEY J. AFR.-AM. L. & POL'Y 109-145 (2008).

### **Book Chapters & Shorter Works**

- *Elusive Freedom: African American Families in the Reconstruction Era: CENTERING FAMILIES OF COLOR: IDENTIFYING SYSTEMIC INEQUALITIES AND SOCIAL CHANGE LEADERSHIP* (Nancy Dowd and Robin Lenhardt, eds., forthcoming 2025).
- *The Elder Catch: Engineering the Future of Caregiving in RE-CONCEIVING EQUALITY AND FREEDOM: VULNERABILITY, DEPENDENCY, AND THE RESPONSIVE STATE* (Martha Fineman and Laura Spitz, eds., 2023).
- *Tribute to Family Law Scholars Who Helped Us Find Our Path: Dorothy E. Roberts*, 55 FAM. L.Q. 381-386 (2022).
- *Intersectionality and Children's Rights in THE OXFORD HANDBOOK ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS* 181-202 (Jonathan Todres and Shani King, eds. 2020).
- *DeShaney v. Winnebago County Department of Social Services*, 489 U.S. 189 (1989) in *FEMINIST JUDGMENTS: FAMILY LAW OPINIONS REWRITTEN* 224 -242 (Rachel Rebouche, ed. 2020).
- *Legislative Solutions to Address Disproportionality in RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITY AND DISPARITIES IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM* 413-438 (A.J. Dettlaff, ed., 2020).

### **WORKS-IN-PROGRESS**

#### **Articles**

- *Uncovering Race in Family Law*
- *The Fluid Family Theory*

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**Books**

- SLAVERY AND THE ORIGINS OF FAMILY LAW
- THE LIFE AND TIMES OF BASIL CAMPBELL

**LEADERSHIP  
& SERVICE  
AWARDS**

- 2025 ACC Academic Leaders Network, Inaugural SMU Cohort Member (1 of 5)
- 2021 Tom Tunks Distinguished University Citizenship Award, SMU
- 2020-21 Inaugural Member of the Stagen Leadership Academy Social Impact Leadership Program, Audre Lorde Class
- 2020 Fellow, Texas State Bar Foundation
- 2017 Dallas Public Voices Thought Leader, selected by The OpEd Project and The Boone Family Foundation to increase public impact of the nation's top and most diverse thinkers
- 2016 V. Alyce Foster Trailblazer Award Recipient, South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc.
- 2015 Faculty Appreciation Award from Women in Law Association at SMU Dedman School of Law
- 2014 SMU Year of the Faculty, selected by Dean and Office of Public Affairs as faculty member who has been a newsmaker through achievements
- 2009 *Texas Lawyer* Extraordinary Minority in Texas Law
- 2006 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Equal Justice Award, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, Inc. (as W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic Director)

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

*The Fluid Family Theory*

- 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, Duke University School of Law (June 29, 2024)
- Invited Panelist, The Future of Families and Family Law, Brigham Young University School of Law (October 10, 2014)

*Slavery and the Origins of Family Law*

- Scholar-in-Residence Lecture, Drexel University Kline School of Law (April 4, 2024)

- Randall Parks Speaker Series, University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, (March 26, 2024)
- Slavery Past Present and Future: 7<sup>th</sup> Global Meeting, Webster University, Accra, Ghana (July 4, 2023)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, Penn State Dickinson School of Law (June 24, 2023)
- Competitively Selected Panelist, *The Political Economy of Motherhood*, Yale Law and Political Economy Project Conference, Yale Law School (March 17, 2021)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, University of Wisconsin School of Law (June 27, 2014)
- Emerging Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, University of Minnesota Law School (May 28, 2014)

### ***Uncovering Race in Family Law***

- Advanced Family Law Seminar Guest Presenter, Ohio State University Moritz College of Law (February 13, 2024)
- Member Presentation, Family, Kinship and Relatedness Research Cluster, SMU Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute (September 30, 2021)
- The Southeastern Association of Schools Conference, Amelia Island (August 1, 2021)
- Invited Speaker, Temple Law Faculty Colloquium (February 24, 2021)
- Capital City Family Law Scholars Workshop (October 23, 2020)
- New York Area Family Law Scholars Workshop (October 9, 2020)
- Invited Speaker, Seton Hall Faculty Colloquium, (October 7, 2020)
- Invited Panelist, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, AALS Section on Family and Juvenile Law, Panel Presentation, “Alternative Approaches to Teaching Family Law” (January 4, 2019)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Law (June 29, 2013)
- Emerging Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, Brooklyn Law School (June 5, 2013)

***Preserving Siblings: In the Best Interest of the Family***

- Invited Participant, Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal Symposium - Are Parental Rights Always in the Best Interest of Children?, University of Connecticut School of Law (March 31, 2023)

***A Critical Race Theory Approach to Children's Rights***

- Invited Participant, Children and the Law Workshop, University of Connecticut School of Law (April 1, 2022)
- Invited Panelist, Rutgers Race & the Law Review Symposium – “Family Matters” honoring Professor Twila Perry, Panel Presentation, *Critical Race Approached to the Well-Being and Welfare of Children of Color* (April 12, 2022)
- Invited Panelist, American University Washington College of Law, Symposium – “The Impact of Race on Youth [in]Justice: A Closer Look at Young People of Color and the Legal System” (February 4, 2022)

***The Elder Catch: Engineering the Future of Caregiving***

- Virtual Workshop, Emory University School of Law, “Re-Conceiving Equality and Freedom: Vulnerability, Dependency, and the Responsive State,” The Vulnerability and Human Condition Initiative (January 29, 2022)

***#VoteForOurLives: Children and the Right to Vote***

- Invited Panelist, “The Rights of Children in America: Do We Need a Constitutional Amendment?,” Capita Think Tank Webinar (August, 31, 2021)
- Selected Plenary Panelist, Mandela and the Law Conference, University of the Western Cape School of Law, Cape Town, South Africa (October 27, 2018)

***The Perfect Storm: Coronavirus and the Elder Catch***

- Invited Panelist, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, AALS Section on Family and Juvenile Law, Panel Presentation, *Family Law for the Long Hall* (January 5, 2022)
- Member Presentation, Family, Kinship and Relatedness Research Cluster, SMU Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute (October 2, 2020)

***Family Law Simulations: A Bridge to Practice***

- Invited Panelist, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, AALS Section on Family and Juvenile Law, Pedagogy Panel Presentation, (January 4, 2020)

- 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, Penn State University Law School, University Park (June 22, 2019)
- Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, Howard University School of Law (May 29, 2019)

***The Elder Catch: Caregiving Vulnerability and the State-Market Response***

- Invited Panelist, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, AALS Section on Aging and the Law, Panel Presentation, (January 5, 2019)

***The African American Child Welfare Act Redux (now Legislative Solutions to Address Disproportionality in RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITY AND DISPARITIES IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM***

- 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, SMU Dedman School of Law (July 14, 2018)

***DeShaney v. Winnebago County Department of Social Services, 489 U.S. 189 (1989) in FEMINIST JUDGMENTS: FAMILY LAW OPINIONS REWRITTEN***

- Invited Panelist, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting: Family Law and Feminist Opinions (June 10, 2018)

***The Ties that Bind: What Pauli Murray Teaches Us About Race, Family, Slavery and Inequality***

- Howard University School of Law, Symposium - “Singing of a New American: Pauli Murray’s Legacy and Justice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” (September 15, 2017)

***Close Encounters: A Feminist Legal Theory Analysis of the State Treatment of Female Child Sexual Abuse Victims***

- Selected panelist, 2017 World Congress on Family Law and Children’s Rights, Dublin, Ireland (June 5, 2017)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, University of Michigan College of Law (July 7, 2017)

***The Black Parenting Experience: Intergenerational Effects on Children’s Exposure to Violence***

- Panel organizer and presenter, The Present and Future of Civil Rights Movements: Race and Reform in 21st Century America, Duke Law School (November 21, 2015)

***Dismantling Resistant Assets: Toward a New Theory for Intergenerational Caregiving (formerly entitled Vulnerability, Resistant Assets, and Reciprocal Exchange)***

- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, University of Iowa School of Law (July 9, 2016)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, Vanderbilt University School of Law (July 11, 2015)
- 2015 AALS Midyear Meeting, “Workshop on Shifting Foundations: Family Law’s Response to Changing Families,” Orlando, Florida (June 24, 2015)
- Emerging Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, Florida A&M College of Law (June 22, 2015)
- Invited Panelist, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting: Aging and Inequalities (May 30, 2015)
- Selected Panelist, A Workshop on Theorizing the State: The Resources of Vulnerability, Emory University School of Law (December 6, 2014)

***30 Year Anniversary of the Feminism and Legal Theory Project Roundtable***

- Invited Panelist, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting: Law and Inequalities: Global and Local (May 30, 2014)

***The Impact of Slavery on Private Family Law***

- Competitively Selected Presenter, 2014 Critical Race Theory Conference, “Re-Envisioning Race in a ‘Post-Racial’ Era: New Approaches in Critical Race Theory, Yale Law School (April 5, 2014)
- Selected Panelist, Mid-Atlantic People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference 2014, University of Baltimore School of Law, (January 24, 2014)

***Beyond Child Welfare: Theories on Child Homelessness***

- Invited Panelist, Symposium 2014: Emerging Issues in Child Welfare, Washington and Lee University School of Law (February 28, 2014)

***Overstepping Ethical Boundaries? Limitations on State Efforts to Provide Access to Justice in Family Courts***

- Invited Participant, 2013 Stein Ethics Center Colloquium, Legal Monopoly of Lawyers, Fordham Law School (October 18, 2013)



***Child Sexual Victimization: When Abused Children Become Neglectful Mothers***

- 2013 Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Children in the Law Discussion Group (August 4, 2013)
- Brown Bag Lunch Visiting Scholar Presentation, Emory University School of Law (November 8, 2012), available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlZ0gzKxrZ0>
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, Suffolk University Law School (June 30, 2012)
- Sustaining Families: Global and Local Perspectives, Mid-West Family Law Consortium and International Society of Family Law, University of Iowa School of Law (June 14, 2012)
- Emerging Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, Fordham Law School (May 22, 2012)

***Grandma in the White House: Legal Support for Intergenerational Caregiving***

- Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, AALS Section on Children and the Law, Panel Presentation, “Evolving Responsibilities: The Impact of Recent Trends on Children and Families” (January 5, 2013)
- Faculty Development Brown Bag Workshop, Georgia State University School of Law (November 6, 2012)
- Faculty Enrichment Workshop, University of Florida Levin College of Law (November 2, 2012)
- Sustaining Families: Global and Local Perspectives, Mid-West Family Law Consortium and International Society of Family Law, University of Iowa School of Law (June 16, 2012)
- SMU Faculty Forum, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law (April 12, 2012)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law (June 18, 2011)
- Feminism and Legal Theory / Vulnerability and the Human Condition Projects Workshop, Emory University School of Law (January 22, 2011)
- Junior Faculty Legal Scholarship Workshop, SMU Dedman School of Law (January 14, 2011)

***Family and Race in Post-Obama America***

- Emerging Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, Brooklyn Law School (June 5, 2013)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, Suffolk University Law School (June 29, 2012)
- National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, Seton Hall University School of Law (September 10, 2010)
- Emerging Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law (June 3, 2010)

***The First Father: Perspectives on the President's Fatherhood Initiative***

- 2011 Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, "The Future of Fatherhood," San Francisco (June 4, 2011)
- Emerging Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, University of California Hastings College of Law (June 1, 2011)

***African-American Grandmothers: Does the Gender Entrapment Theory Apply?***

- Art, Life & Law – "Sharing ideas, experiences, and solutions: a conversation surrounding kinship care within the African American family," South Dallas Cultural Center (June 22, 2012)
- Invited Commentator for Keynote Speaker Professor Beth E. Richie, Access to Justice Symposium, Washington University School of Law, Saint Louis (March 28, 2011)

***The Principle of Subsidiarity Applied: Reforming the Legal Framework to Capture the Psychological Abuse of Children***

- Invited Speaker, Blue Ribbon Task Force, San Antonio, Texas (June 18, 2012)
- Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, Poster Presentation (January 7, 2011)

***Capturing the Psychological Abuse of Children***

- Feminism and Legal Theory / Vulnerability and the Human Condition Projects Workshop, Emory University School of Law (March 20, 2010)

***FLDS Reconsidered: Establishing Substantial Psychological Abuse as Part of the Legal Standard for Emergency Child Removal***

- Children and the Law Junior Faculty Workshop, Washington and Lee University School of Law (July 16, 2009)

***The African-American Child Welfare Act: A Legal Redress for African-American Disproportionality in Child Protection Cases***

- “Setting the Agenda: Examining Critical Legal Issues Facing African-Americans and Minority Communities in the 2008 Election,” Berkeley Journal of African-American of Law and Policy Symposium (November 9, 2007)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Eleventh Annual Promoting Diversity in Law School Leadership Workshop, Seattle University School of Law (September 16-17, 2022)
- Competitively Selected Member, Inaugural Social Impact Leadership Program, Audre Lorde Class, Stagen Leadership Academy (April 2020 – April 2021)
- Invited Speaker, *Ethics for Leaders*, 2020 Leaders and Candidates Training, Dallas, Texas (January 11, 2020)
- AALS Section on Family and Juvenile Law Pedagogy Panel Creator & Organizer, 2020 AALS Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (January 4, 2020)
- Invited Moderator, *Turning Passion into Pay*, 2019 Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, Penn State Law, University Park (June 20, 2019)
- 2019 Faculty Success Program Scholarship Recipient, National Center for Faculty Diversity and Development
- AALS Section on Family and Juvenile Law Pedagogy Panel Creator and Organizer, 2019 AALS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Invited Plenary Speaker, *Success Stories: Now That I Have Tenure, What Are My Accomplishments and Triumphs as a Law Professor*, 2018 AALS Annual Meeting, San Diego, California (January 6, 2018)
- AALS Section on Minority Groups Panel Organizer and Moderator, *Strategies and Support for Persons of Color in New Law Teaching*, 2018 AALS Annual Meeting, San Diego, California (January 4, 2018)

- AALS Section on Family and Juvenile Law Joint Program Creator & Organizer, *Keeping Up with the Changing Face of the American Family*, 2018 AALS Annual Meeting, San Diego, California (January 5, 2018)
- Invited Panelist & Moderator, *Creating Your Academic Business Plan*, 2017 Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, University of Michigan College of Law (July 8, 2017)
- SMU Dean’s Council Presentation, National Center for Faculty Diversity and Development, February 9, 2017 (resulting in institutional membership)
- Invited Teaching Plenary Panelist “The Real Family Law Practitioners of Philadelphia County,” 2016 Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law (June 1, 2016)
- Invited Plenary Panelist “Making Criticism Constructive at all Phases,” 2016 Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, University of Iowa College of Law (July 9, 2016)
- Invited Panel Moderator, “On Being Black and Female in the Classroom,” 2015 Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, Vanderbilt University School of Law (July 11, 2015)
- Invited Plenary Panel Moderator, “Preparing Family Law for the Future,” 2015 AALS Midyear Meeting, “Workshop on Shifting Foundations: Family Law’s Response to Changing Families,” Orlando, Florida (June 24, 2015)
- Invited Participant, Emerging Leaders Seminar Series, Southern Methodist University, (Spring 2015)
- Invited Respondent Speaker, *Can Feminism Be Resurrected?*, The Federalist Society, (September 8, 2014)
- Invited Panelist, Teaching Cultural Competence, Teaching Effectiveness Symposium, Center for Teaching Excellence, Southern Methodist University (August 21, 2014)
- Participant, Best Law Teacher’s Conference 2014, Northwestern University School of Law (June 26-27, 2014)
- Invited Panel Moderator, Section on Civil Rights – “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964: Examining its Future (Part I),” American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, New York, New York (January 3, 2014)
- Panel Moderator, Section on Children and the Law – “Children and the Media,” American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (January 6, 2012)

- Panel Facilitator, Making Choices & Keeping Doors Open, Eighth Annual LatCrit-SALT Junior Faculty Development Workshop, University of Denver Sturm School of Law (October 8, 2010)

## **CONFERENCES & SEMINARS ORGANIZED & CHAIRED**

- Host and Co-chair, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutie A. Lytle Annual Black Women Law Professors Workshop and Writing Retreat, SMU Dedman School of Law (July 11 -18, 2018)
- Co-chair, Emerging Family Law Scholars and Teachers Annual Conference, Florida A&M College of Law (June 22, 2015)
- *Family-Focused Collaborative Project: CPS Training For Collaboratively Trained Professionals*, W.W. Caruth, Jr, Child Advocacy Clinic and CPS Collaborative Project (August 14, 2009)
- *Interdisciplinary Training for Children's Attorneys: FLDS Cases*, W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic and State Bar of Texas (May 10, 2008)
- *Preparing for Court Testimony: A Primer for Social Workers & Attorneys*, W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic and Department of Family and Protective Services (December 7, 2007)
- *Dallas Youth at Risk Roundtable*, American Bar Association President's Office and SMU Dedman School of Law (May 23, 2007)
- *The Legal and Social Impact of Disproportionality in Child Protection Cases*, SMU Child Welfare Symposium (November 16-17, 2006)
- *Relapse to Recovery: Making Home Safe for Children*, The American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law and W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic (November 4, 2005)
- *How to be a Zealous Advocate for Your Child Client*, Southwest Juvenile Defender Center, Texas Appleseed and W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic (October 17, 2005)
- *Abused Children in State Care: Are Their Best Interest Being Served?* SMU Child Welfare Symposium (October 15, 2004)

## **OPINION EDITORIALS**

- "Juneteeth shows why Black freedom remains elusive," WASHINGTON POST, Made By History - Perspective (June 19, 2020), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/06/19/juneteenth-shows-that-black-freedom-remains-elusive/>.

- “What the Cosby and Sandusky Cases teach us about reporting sexual assault,” Garnett News, June 22, 2017.
- “Why Convicting Dr. Huxtable is so Hard,” Garnett News, June 21, 2017.
- “Police Training Should Start with a History on Slavery Laws,” The Root, June 10, 2017.

## **MEDIA INTERVIEWS & APPEARANCES**

- Interview, “DeSoto parents of newborn fight to remove baby from foster care,” Dallas Morning News, April 13, 2023.
- Podcast Interview, *The Perfect Storm: Coronavirus and the Elder Catch*, Voices in Vulnerability, February 23, 2022.
- Radio Interview, “Lawyers, Law Students Officially File Grievances Seeking To Disbar Senator Ted Cruz,” KERA, January 28, 2021, <https://www.keranews.org/news/2021-01-28/lawyers-law-students-officially-file-grievances-seeking-to-disbar-senator-ted-cruz>.
- Radio Interview, The Mildred Gaddis Show, AM 1200 WCHB in Detroit, Michigan, June 14, 2017 re Opinion Editorial, “Police Training Should Start with a History on Slavery Laws.”
- Radio Interview, “The Supreme Court’s Texas Decisions,” KNON, KERA 90.1FM, Think! Radio show, June 23, 2016, <http://www.kera.org/2016/06/23/the-supreme-courts-texas-decisions/>.
- Interview, *Women wed in Texas’ first same sex marriage, but union contested*, Dallas Morning News, February 19, 2015.
- Live Television Interview, Same-Sex Marriage Ruling, Fox 4 News, Good Day, October 7, 2014, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xM8MxD\\_ATYo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xM8MxD_ATYo).
- Interview, *Mother arrested at D/FW Airport after returning to U.S. with son*, Dallas Morning News, July 10, 2014.
- Interview, *Texas Inmates encounter a hitch in their wedding plans*, Dallas Morning News, February 23, 2014.
- Video Interview, *Deadly Affection: Part 2 – ‘Better tools, better education,’* Dallas Morning News, February 2, 2014, [http://res.dallasnews.com/interactives/2014\\_deadlyaffection/part2/index.html](http://res.dallasnews.com/interactives/2014_deadlyaffection/part2/index.html).

- Radio Interview, CBS Radio (Dallas, KLIF FM), December 18, 2013, <http://www.smu.edu/News/2013/jessica-weaver-ap-18dec2013> (regarding Affluenza case involving teen accused of drunk driving and manslaughter).
- Interview, *Texas Prosecutor seeks to put 'affluenza' teen behind bars*, REUTERS, December 18, 2013.
- Interview, *For Those Who Drink, Drive and Kill, "Affluenza" Outcome Isn't Uncommon, Especially if They Have Money*, Dallas Observer, December 17, 2013, [http://blogs.dallasobserver.com/unfairpark/2013/12/for\\_those\\_who\\_drink\\_drive\\_and.php](http://blogs.dallasobserver.com/unfairpark/2013/12/for_those_who_drink_drive_and.php).
- *Prosecutors: No Appeal Options in Texas Wreck Case*, Associated Press, December 16, 2013.
- Live Television Interview, Supreme Court Ruling on Same-Sex Marriage, WFAA News Channel 8, Good Morning Texas, June 26, 2013, [https://www.smu.edu/News/2013/supreme-court-marriage-ruling-26june2013?c=hpHeadlineNews\\_Professor-Jessica-Weaver-provides-commentary-on-U-](https://www.smu.edu/News/2013/supreme-court-marriage-ruling-26june2013?c=hpHeadlineNews_Professor-Jessica-Weaver-provides-commentary-on-U-)
- Television Interview, Same-Sex Marriage Supreme Court Rulings, CW News Channel 33, June 26, 2013, [https://www.smu.edu/News/2013/supreme-court-marriage-ruling-26june2013?c=hpHeadlineNews\\_Professor-Jessica-Weaver-provides-commentary-on-U-](https://www.smu.edu/News/2013/supreme-court-marriage-ruling-26june2013?c=hpHeadlineNews_Professor-Jessica-Weaver-provides-commentary-on-U-)
- Video Interview, *The Intersection of Practice & Theory: Affecting Family and Children's Law & Policy Through Scholarship*, Emory University Visiting Scholar Interview Exchange Project, November 16, 2012, <http://web.gs.emory.edu/vulnerability/visiting%20scholars/interviewexchange/2012interviews.htm>.
- Video presentation, *Child Sexual Victimization: When Abused Children Become Neglectful Mothers*, Emory University Brown Bag Lunch Visiting Scholar Presentation, November 8, 2012, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlZ0gzKxrZ0>.
- Television Interview, "Deion Sanders divorce drama: Conflict of interest?," WFAA News Channel 8, April 26, 2012.
- Ayen Bior, *Students, faculty rally in protest of Trayvon Martin's death*, The Daily Campus, March 26, 2012.
- David Crawford, *Campus News Blog: SMU Law Professor Praised by Texas Lawyers*, The Daily Campus, October 8, 2009.
- *Extraordinary Minorities in Texas Law*, Texas Lawyer, Vol. 25, No. 26, Section 2, September 28, 2009.

- Interview, *CPS actions in polygamist sect case puzzle some child welfare experts*, Dallas Morning News, June 18, 2008.
- Television Interview, “High Court upholds polygamist sect case decision,” NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, May 29, 2008.
- Live Television Interview, “Polygamy Ruling Raises Legal Debate on State Power,” News Hour with Jim Lehrer, May 22, 2008.
- Interview, *Sweep of Polygamists’ Kids Raise Legal Questions*, Associated Press, April 25, 2008.
- Television Interview, “Mothers Tell Their Side of the Story,” NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, April 16, 2008.
- Radio Interview, “Child Advocacy and Options after Foster Care,” KNON, KERA 90.1FM, Think! Radio show, November 20, 2006.

## **LAW SCHOOL SERVICE**

- Chair, Endowed Lectures and Faculty Forum Committee (2022-25)
- 1L Inns of Court Advisor (2021-22)
- Member, Appointments Committee, 2014-16, 2021-22
- Member, Honor Code Revision Committee, 2021-22
- Member, Law School Executive Committee, 2017-19
- Appointed Law School Representative, Faculty Senate, 2015-16, 2017-18
- Member, Diversity Issues Committee, 2007-08, 2017-18, 2020-22
- Chair, Diversity Issues Committee, 2015-16, 2018-19
- Law School Faculty Liaison, Women’s & Gender Studies Certificate Program, 2014-16
- Member, Innovation Task Force Committee, 2015
- Member, Curriculum Committee, 2013-14, 2020
- Faculty Liaison, The Forensic Group, 2010-16
- Faculty Supervisor, Various Externships, 2012-16
- Faculty Advisor, Family Law Association, 2009-16
- Member, Public Service Committee, 2007-15, 2019
- Faculty Advisor, Black Law Students Association, 2003-16, 2017-18, 2020-23
- Member, Endowed Lecturers Committee, 2009-13
- Guest Speaker, Minority Pre-Law Symposium, 2003-10, 2013, 2015-16, 2018
- Faculty Secretary, Spring 2011
- Junior Faculty Workshop Organizer, 2009-10
- Judge, Law Related Education Program, 2005-08
- Judge, Regional Black Law Students Association Moot Court Competition, 2005
- Member, Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee, 2003-04, 2017-18



## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- Inaugural Member, ACC Academic Leaders Network, 2025
- Chair, Task Force on Social Justice and Equity, 2021-23
- Faculty Representative, Black Unity Forum, 2020-22
- Faculty Trainer, Hidden Scripts, Campus Cultural Intelligence Initiative, 2019-20
- Faculty Author, Campus Cultural Intelligence Initiative, 2016-18
- Appointed Law School Representative, President's Commission on the Status of Racial Minorities, 2015-16, 2017-18
- Invited member, Faculty Cultural Intelligence Innovation Work Group, 2015-16
- Invited member, Diversity and Wellness Curriculum Committee, 2015-16

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Editorial Board Member, Family Law Quarterly (American Bar Association), 2017-24
- Invited Member, Family Law Subcommittee, American Academy of Arts and Sciences Project, Making Justice Accessible: Designing Legal Services for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 2019-21
- Association of American Law Schools
  - Section on Family and Juvenile Law
    - Chair, 2018-19
    - Chair-Elect, 2017-18
    - Secretary, 2016-17
    - Member, 2015 Midyear Workshop Planning Committee
    - Executive Committee, 2010-25
  - Section on Children and the Law
    - Executive Committee, 2013-19, 2021-25
    - Chair, 2012
    - Chair-Elect, 2011
    - Secretary and Treasurer, 2010
  - Section on Aging and the Law, Executive Committee, 2019-22
  - Section on Minority Groups and the Law, Executive Committee, 2015-17
- Family Legal Scholars and Teachers Conference (formerly Emerging Family Legal Scholars and Teachers Conference)
  - Planning Committee, 2016-17
  - Planning Committee Co-chair, 2015
- Lutie A. Lytle Annual Black Women Law Faculty Workshop and Writing Retreat
  - 2021 Planning Committee, Howard University School of Law
  - 2018 Host & Workshop Co-chair, SMU Dedman School of Law
  - 2017 Planning Committee, University of Michigan Law School
  - 2016 Planning Committee, University of Iowa School of Law
  - 2015 Planning Committee, Vanderbilt University School of Law

- Society of American Law Teachers
  - SALT/LatCrit Faculty Development Workshop Planning Committee, 2010
- National Association of Counsel for Children
  - 2009-2010 Texas Advisory Board
- Children's Commission, Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families, Legal Representation Study Workgroup & CPS Bench Book Workgroup, 2009-10
- State of Texas Disproportionality Steering Committee, 2006-08
- Tex Protects Public Policy Committee, 2005-07, 2010-11
  - Drafted White Paper that resulted in changes to Texas Family Code §107.004 – Additional Duties of Attorney Ad Litem for Child

**LEGAL  
EXPERIENCE**

**THE LAW OFFICE OF JESSICA R. DIXON**

*Solo Practitioner*, Dallas, Texas, 1997-2002

Practice Areas: Labor and Employment Law, Small Business Law, Family Law, Child Welfare Law, and Juvenile Delinquency Law.

**THE MILESTONE GROUP, L.L.C.**

*Managing Partner*, Dallas, Texas, 1999-2001

Company Service: Employment Law and Human Resources Advisement for small to mid-size businesses, Employee Policy Manuals, Labor Audits, Management and Employee Training on Employment Policies & Sexual Harassment.

**SMITH & POLEWSKI**

*Associate*, Dallas, Texas, 1996-1997

Practice Areas: General Civil and Commercial Litigation

**LITTLER MENDELSON**

*Associate*, Dallas, Texas, 1995-1996

Practice Area: Labor and Employment Law

**BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS**

- Texas, 1996
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, 1997

**BAR SERVICE**

- State Bar of Texas, Family Law Council, 2010-25

- Appointed Faculty Member of Family Law Council & Appellate Committee, 2010-24
  - Invited Speaker, *The Little Voice: Recognizing Child Abuse and Your Duty to Report It – A Legal Responsibility*, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, March 31, 2011.
  - American Bar Association
    - Youth at Risk Roundtable, 2007-08
  - Dallas Bar Association
    - 2006 Vice-Chair, Juvenile Justice Committee
    - 2007 Co-Chair, Juvenile Justice Committee
  - J.L. Turner Legal Association – African-American Bar Association
    - 2006 Co-Chair, Mentor Committee
    - 2005 Chair, Mentor Committee
    - 2005 Parliamentarian
- Honors:**
- 2005 Outstanding Committee Chair – Mentor Committee
  - 2006 President’s Award

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

- Capita Think Tank, Board of Directors, 2021-25
- Lutie Legacy Society, Board of Directors, 2020-25
- Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Dallas Chapter, Beautillion Scholarship Chair, 2018-19; Beautillion Programming Co-Chair, 2021; Dallas Chapter, Historian (2021-23)
- Dallas Public Voices, Leadership and Advisory Committee, 2018-19
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alpha Xi Omega Chapter, 2017-21, 2024-25
- Advisory Board Member, Harmony Community Development Corporation, 2015-20
- Governance Chair, Harmony Community Development Corporation, 2013-14
- Founding Board Member, Harmony Community Development Corporation, 2007-14
- Appointed Board Member, Dallas County Child Welfare Board, 2008-12, Interim Chair (2011)
- South Dallas Fair Park Trust Fund, Chair 2006-08