

Brandy Wingate Voss
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Board Certified—Civil Appellate Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization

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Associate

MELISSA G. THRAILKILL

EXPERIENCE

Law Offices of Brandy Wingate Voss, PLLC, McAllen, Texas. Associate attorney January 2019-Present; Of Counsel May 2018-January 2019. Drafting briefs for clients before the Texas Supreme Court, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, and intermediate courts of appeals. Assisting in providing trial support, including drafting and responding to dispositive pretrial and post-verdict motions, researching and drafting jury charges, and researching and drafting memorandum on legal theories, case law, and statutory interpretation and application.

Texas Legal Services Center, Austin, Texas. Staff attorney June 2018-July 2019. Provided legal advice and counsel to underserved Texans seeking assistance through the texaslawhelp.org live legal chat services. Assisted pro se litigants in drafting and filing pleadings in trial courts throughout all regions of Texas. Developed and led remote legal clinics in three rural Texas counties allowing low-income Texans to access personal one-on-one legal counsel and pro se assistance. Provided support and mentorship to new attorneys in the areas of family and landlord-tenant law.

Law Office of Melissa G. Thraikill, Dallas, Texas. Solo practitioner September 2012-June 2018. Managed a client-oriented office focused on family, probate, guardianship, and intellectual property matters. Served as a court appointed attorney for parties in child support enforcement proceedings, as well as parents and children in child protective services matters. Represented clients in contested litigation and mediations, as well as assisted clients in obtaining successful results outside of litigation. Obtained federal trademark protections for small business owners. Organized and prepared legal workshops which assisted more than 150 immigrant families complete necessary legal documents for the care of their children in case of immigration and deportation proceedings. Trained lawyers and nonprofit advocates in family law and child-caregiver rights.

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc., Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Staff attorney August 2006-December 2007, March 2009-April 2012. Represented clients at trial and in mediations in the areas of family, guardianship, and private landlord-tenant and federal housing laws. Authored winning appellate brief overturning a trial court's injunction. Mentored private attorneys for the Cameron County Community Justice Program. Managed high-volume client intakes and determined placement within the organization or provided detailed letters counseling Texans of their legal rights and remedies.

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By appointment only

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Center for Biological Diversity, San Francisco, California. Staff attorney December 2007-March 2009.

Researched and authored comments concerning potential climate-change impacts of federal land-management plans and proposed federal leases for oil-shale development. Wrote press releases and acted as spokesperson for the organization on climate change related matters. Submitted and managed Freedom of Information Act requests and documents from numerous federal agencies. Collaborated with national and local environmental groups in developing litigation and media strategies concerning climate-change litigation and rulemaking.

Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, San Francisco, California. Law clerk 2005. Investigated methods of institutional reform designed to combat discriminatory policies and practices in public schools. Researched and drafted memoranda related to rights and laws affecting homeless persons. Interviewed and assisted clients involved in the small business pro bono project.

EDUCATION

University of California – Berkeley, School of Law, J.D., May 2006

Activities: Books and Research Editor, Ecology Law Quarterly 2005-2006; Executive Editor 2004-2005.

University of Texas at Austin, B.A., History, with honors, 2002

B.A. with honors in History, 2002; Minor: Journalism – Reporter/Editor – *The Daily Texan* newspaper

Activities: Reporter and Editor, The Daily Texan, 2000-2002

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

State Bar of Texas, admitted 2006

State Bar of California, admitted 2008

Southern District of Texas, admitted 2007

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND LEADERSHIP

State Bar of Texas Poverty Law Section: Chair 2019-Present; Secretary 2017-2019

State Bar of Texas Entertainment and Sports Law Section: Chair: 2020; Treasurer: 2018-2020

PUBLICATIONS

Melissa G. Thrailkill, *Hollywood Hacked: How Cyber Terrorism Helped Launch an Attack on Hollywood Sexism*, Texas Entertainment and Sports Law Journal, Vol. 25 No. 1 (Spring 2016)