Elissa Underwood Marek

Assistant Professor of Business Law
Department of Finance & Economics, Texas State University
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EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin Austin, TX
Ph.D. in American Studies, 2017
- Portfolio in Women's and Gender Studies

Boston College Law School Newton, MA
J.D., 2004

Bryn Mawr College Bryn Mawr, PA
B.A. in The Growth & Structure of Cities, 2001(Magna Cum Laude)
- Study Abroad, Bartlett School for Architecture and Planning, UCL

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Research: Critical Carceral Studies, Food Justice, Sustainability Law, Social Entrepreneurship
Teaching: Business Law, Environmental/Sustainability Law

SCHOLARSHIP

- *Preventing Disaster Through Corporate-Community Agreements*. El Jourbagy, J., Marek, E.U., & Todd, J. 103 OREGON L. REV. 429 (2025).
- *Establishing a Right to Food for "Justice"-Impacted People: An Abolitionist Strategy to Build Community, Sustainability, and Small Business in the U.S.*, 52 FORDHAM URBAN L. J. (2024).
- *"Let Us Work, Man": Asserting Rights to Employment for Individuals With Conviction Histories*, 51 FORDHAM URBAN L. J. 1065 (2024).
- *Recipes for Resistance and Abolition: Crafting a Culinary Discourse While Incarcerated.* Food and Foodways, Special Issue – Food and Carcerality: From Confinement to Abolition, 30: 1-2, 82-102 (2022).
- *The Post-Incarceration Kitchen: Food-Based Community Organizing and Employment After Imprisonment*. American Studies, 57(3): 57-79 (2018).
- *Sport, Spectacle and Carceral Othering: The Angola Prison Rodeo and the Prison View Golf Course.* The Palgrave Handbook of Prison Tourism. Eds. Sarah Forrest, Justin Piché, Kevin Walby, and Jacqueline Wilson. Palgrave Macmillan, 2017: 1011-1028 (2017).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas State University, Department of Finance & Economics San Marcos, TX
Assistant Professor of Business Law (2022-present)
- Courses: Legal Environment of Business, Sustainable Development & Law

The University of Texas at Austin, Department of American Studies Austin, TX
Assistant Instructor (2012-2013, 2015-2016)
- Courses: Fundamentals for Teaching Assistants, Introduction to American Studies, Prisons and Punishment in American Culture

The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Mechanical Engineering Austin, TX
Assistant Instructor (2011-2012)

- Courses: Engineering Communication

Southwestern University, Department of Communication Studies Georgetown, TX
Part-time Instructor (2013-2014)

- Courses: Race, Ethnicity, Communication; Rhetorics of Incarceration; Communication, Culture, Social Justice

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, 2019-2022 Austin, TX
Research Attorney for Hon. Bert Richardson

- Drafted opinions
- Reviewed and analyzed petitions for discretionary review, post-conviction writs and various motions relating to capital cases

City of Georgetown, Texas, 2018-2019 Georgetown, TX
Assistant City Attorney

- Drafted municipal ordinances, contracts, and policies
- Researched and analyzed case law, statutes, and attorney general opinions

Almanza, Blackburn, Dickie, & Mitchell, 2011-2017 Austin, TX
Contract Attorney

- Researched and analyzed case law, statutes, and legislative history
- Drafted pretrial motions, prepared appellate briefs, and argued appeals

Rick Wetzel, Criminal Appeals Lawyer, 2011-2012 Austin, TX
Contract Attorney

- Researched, analyzed case law, and drafted appellate briefs

Locke Lord LLP, 2005-2009 Austin, TX
Associate Attorney

- Researched, drafted motions and briefs, argued cases in state district and appellate courts, and achieved re-sentencing in federal appeal
- Drafted and negotiated agreements in economic development transactions
- Drafted, monitored, and analyzed legislation during the 80th Regular Session

Supreme Court of Texas, Chambers of Hon. Nathan Hecht, 2004-2005 Austin, TX
Judicial Clerk

- Researched and analyzed case law, statutes, and petitions for review
- Prepared study memoranda for presentation to the Court

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURES & MEMBERSHIPS

Law Licensure: *Texas* - Admitted November 2004
Memberships: Academy of Legal Studies in Business (Chair, Environmental & Sustainability Section), American Studies Association, Association for the Study of Food and Society