

Jayla Jay Wilkerson

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, PA | JD 05/2014

Award: Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award (120+ hours)

Publication: *Disappearing Together? Social Contract Theory and American Federalism*, 17 U. Pa. J. Const. L. 569 (2014)

Activities: *Journal of Constitutional Law*—Executive Editor; Class Officer; Student Member of Three School Committees; Pro Bono Research Volunteer & High School Moot Court Coach; Mock Trial Competitor & Alumni Relations Chair; Morris Fellow (Mentor); Y'allSA President

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA | MS-Criminology 05/2014

Thesis: *Alcohol Outlet Density and Gun Violence in Washington, D.C.*

University of North Texas, Denton, TX | BA-Social Sciences, *summa cum laude* 05/2011

Honors Thesis: *Evolution of Religious Jurisprudence*

Publication: Fuhrmann, C.J. and J. Wilkerson. "Punishment and Penalties, Greece and Rome." *Encyclopedia of Ancient History* Wiley-Blackwell (2012).

Honors: UNT Honors College—Distinguished Honors Scholar; David B. Kesterson Award for Outstanding Honors College Student; Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society—Chapter President

EXPERIENCE (additional experience available upon request)

Law Office of Jayla Wilkerson, PLLC—Owner/Attorney | 07/2021–Present

Operator of my solo law firm specializing in Environmental Law, Criminal Defense, and Family Law matters.

Texas A&M University – Commerce—Adjunct Instructor | 10/2021–Present

Instructor for Competency-Based Education program in Criminal Justice and co-developer of a course in Environmental Law.

U.S. Small Business Administration—Attorney Advisor (GS-11) | 05/2020–07/2021

Temporary position assisting with the unprecedented number of disaster-relief loans submitted from small businesses all over the nation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dallas City Attorney's Office—Senior Assistant City Attorney II | 11/2018–03/2020

Achievements—Temporary Restraining Orders; Agreed, Contested, and Default Temporary and Permanent Injunctions; Civil Penalties Awards; and Administrative Appeals (details available upon request)

Community Prosecution—Team-based, community-focused civil enforcement of municipal codes with an emphasis on environmental protection. I worked with a multi-departmental team to identify and eliminate violations of Dallas city ordinances. This process involved both field work and civil litigation in state district courts, and often involved cooperation with agencies outside the City such as TCEQ and EPA. I conducted legal and other research, drafted motions and other documents, argued hearings, negotiated agreements, and worked with inspectors, business operators, and property owners to ensure continued compliance.

Dallas County District Attorney's Office—Assistant District Attorney | 07/2015–11/2018

Jury Trials—*Felony*: (4) Leads & (5) Third Chair (fraud cases) | *Misdemeanor*: Approx. (8) Leads & (13) Jury Selections

Specialized Crimes Division—Prosecution of White Collar (Fraud) and Environmental Crimes, including intake; working and training with law enforcement and other government agencies; grand jury presentations;

gathering and analysis of evidence; plea negotiations; motion litigation and hearings; and trials by court or jury. Environmental cases involved pollution of land, water, and air. Fraud cases involved employee theft/embezzlement; complex retail theft; identity-theft-related crimes; illegal sales of copyrighted and patented items (improper labeling); forgery and tampering with documents/licenses; and fraud against agencies such as Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Texas Department of Public Safety, and others

Misdemeanor Division—Litigation of misdemeanor criminal cases including hearings such as on motions to suppress evidence; plea negotiations; victim communication; and trials by court or jury. I worked in general misdemeanor courts and family-violence court (Chief Prosecutor).

Appellate Division—Though not assigned to the Appellate Division, I had the opportunity to write two appellate briefs for cases in the Court of Appeals for the Fifth District of Texas at Dallas, one of which was a complex appeal of five cases involving misapplication of fiduciary property and investment/securities fraud. I also handled the Class C Misdemeanor appeals docket for approximately one year in addition to my other duties.

University of Texas at Arlington—Adjunct Lecturer | 08/2016–12/2016

Developed curriculum and taught evening undergraduate course in the Criminal Justice Department: American Judicial Systems

Dallas County District Attorney's Office—Post-Graduate Legal Intern | 04/2014–12/2014

Specialized Crimes Division—Assisted prosecutors with trial prep for white-collar felonies including witness interviews; discovery compliance; data collection, synthesis, and analysis; organizing and analyzing evidence; consultation on trial strategy; research and memos

Family Violence Division—Assisted prosecutors in all aspects of trial prep for capital murder and other first-degree felonies, including voir dire, live witness interviews and transcriptions of statements, organization and analysis of evidence, and research and analysis of case law

Office of the Attorney General of Texas—Law Clerk | 05/2013–08/2013

Office of the Solicitor General—Conducted legal research and drafted memos regarding criminal and civil legal matters to which the State of Texas was a party on appeal

Criminal Appeals Division—Researched and drafted memos regarding federal habeas corpus writs in death penalty cases.

University of Pennsylvania Law School—Research Assistant | 05/2012–08/2012

Researched legal matters and drafted memoranda under the direction of then-Professor (now Dean) Theodore Ruger primarily in matters of Health Care Law and Employment Law.

University of Pennsylvania—Summer Mentorship Program Coordinator | 05/2012–07/2012

Developed a curriculum and taught local high school students about legal issues and law school generally.

Jay W Services—Owner | 10/2003–07/2015

Started an air conditioning and refrigeration business specializing in commercial service and new construction; I handled all aspects of business including taxation, employment, consumer affairs/client satisfaction, and legal compliance.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

American Bar Association; Texas Bar College; State Bar of Texas— Section Member in LGBT Law and Environmental Law; Dallas Bar Association;

American Constitution Society—DFW Lawyers Chapter Board Member

2019 Recipient Dallas LGBT Bar Association Justice Award