

DEBRA NORRIS

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW, Austin, TX. 1998
Doctor of Jurisprudence. Member, Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities; *Texas Environmental Law Journal*; Founder and Chair, Employment and Labor Law Society; Recipient, **Dean's Achievement Award in Evidence, A+** (top student award).

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY, Ruston, LA. 1984
Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering. Graduated magna cum laude.

CENTENARY COLLEGE of Louisiana, Shreveport, LA. 1984
Bachelor of Arts, Physics. Graduated cum laude.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

DEBRA B. NORRIS, P.C., Houston, TX. 2004 to present
As **Director** of my own firm, I represent individual and corporate clients in a variety of legal matters, with special focus on construction law and commercial litigation. I represent owners, contractors, suppliers, and design professionals in the construction industry. My firm was also local counsel for the CEO of NASDAQ in a bankruptcy adversary proceeding. I employ a lawyer/geologist, law clerk/architect, and other consultants as needed. With a ten-year background as an engineer, I am available as an arbitrator in a variety of technical disputes.

GOLDSTEIN & FAUCETT, L.L.P., Houston, TX. 2002 to 2003
An intellectual property boutique with 7 lawyers. As an **Associate** in the firm, I assisted independent inventors and small companies to license their patents or litigate against patent infringers on a contingency-fee basis. I provided client counseling, rendered opinions, and participated in the pre-trial claim construction process. For a personal client, I collaborated with Mark R. Wisner of Wisner & Associates to prepare a patent application entitled "Methods and Apparatus for Production of Hydrocarbons."

DRY & TASSIN, L.L.P., Houston, TX. 2001 to 2002
An intellectual property litigation firm with 2 lawyers. As an **Associate** in the firm, I researched legal issues, prepared pleadings and discovery, and attended hearings and depositions. My cases involved patent, copyright, Lanham Act, and unfair competition claims. I prepared complaints, motions to compel discovery, and motions to dismiss on jurisdictional issues. I assisted Alan H. Gordon, Of Counsel, in a declaratory judgment action against ExxonMobil Corporation and Chevron Chemical Company.

THE BENNETT LAW FIRM, Houston, TX. 1999 to 2000
A plaintiffs' products liability practice with 4 lawyers. As an **Attorney** in the firm, I was responsible for a docket of 5 personal injury cases involving three-wheeled all-terrain vehicles manufactured by Honda Motor Company. I

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managed a staff of 2 paralegals to provide litigation support in these large products liability cases. I drafted witness outlines and participated in a 6 week trial in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

PROFESSOR RUSSELL WEINTRAUB, Austin, TX. 1997 to 1998
John B. Connally Chair in Civil Jurisprudence, University of Texas School of Law. *Research Assistant*. Areas of research: Contracts, International Law, and Conflicts of Law.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, Houston, TX. 1997
Department of Justice, Southern District of Texas. *Summer Intern*.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, Austin, TX. 1997
State of Texas, Environmental Crimes Section. *Intern*.

EXPERIENCE

NALCO CHEMICAL COMPANY, Sugar Land, TX. 1990 to 1994
A specialty chemical plant with 18 batch reactors making 720 different chemicals per year. As the first **Instrument/Electrical Project Engineer** in the plant engineering group, I designed and oversaw field construction projects and automated manual tasks in the plant, such as batch reactor monitoring and chemical container cleaning. Many of my projects were necessitated by environmental laws, including a \$10 million wastewater treatment plant and a plant-wide hazardous waste incinerator control system.

ARKLA, INC., Shreveport, LA. 1984 to 1989
5 state (LA, TX, AR, KS and OK) gas transmission corporation (now a division of CenterPoint Energy). As the only **Electrical Engineer** in the corporate engineering design group, I designed electrical power and control systems for grass-roots compressor stations and automated existing cross-country natural gas compressor stations.

MEMBER

College of the State Bar; State Bar of TX, Litigation and Construction Law Sections; Houston Bar Association, Litigation, Construction Law, and Real Estate Law Sections; American Bar Association, Construction Industry Forum and Dispute Resolution Section; UH Professional Writing and Construction Management Advisory Boards; Defense Research Institute, Construction Law Committee; and Outstanding Young Women of America, 1985.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Society of Women Engineers-Houston, president, 1990-91, and representative, 2005-07 Engineers' Week Committee; Associated Builders & Contractors, Legal Issues, PAC, and Commercial Committees; Independent Electrical Contractors, Governmental Affairs Committee; and National Association of Women in Construction.

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- RECENT
CONFERENCES** ABA Arbitration Training Institute, February 18-21, 2009
American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section, San Francisco, CA
- Construction Law and Litigation, September 7 & 8, 2006
The University of Texas School of Law, Houston, TX
- ABC National Legislative Conference, June 5-7, 2006
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc., Washington DC
- NITA Trial Skills Training, January 2-8, 2006
National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Los Angeles, CA
- 17th, 18th, 21st & 22nd Construction Law Conferences,
2004-05, 2008, & February 26-27, 2009
State Bar of Texas Construction Law Section, Houston & San Antonio, TX
- Construction Law Seminar, September 2005 & 2007
Defense Research Institute, Las Vegas, NV & Scottsdale, AZ
- Residential Real Estate Construction Law, 2008
State Bar of Texas, Houston, TX
- NITA Taking and Defending Depositions, February 18-21, 2005
National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Houston, TX
- Construction Law Conference, October 21 & 22, 2004
The University of Texas School of Law, Houston, TX
- The Basic Course in Texas Construction Law, October 14 & 15, 2004
State Bar of Texas Construction Law Section, San Antonio, TX
- CURRENT
PRESENTATIONS** “The Professional Liability of Architects and Engineers,” October 27, 2004
The Engineering Leadership Forum, 2004-2005 Leadership Series - Session III,
ASCE, ASME, HESS, SAME, SWE and TSPE, Houston, TX
- “An Engineer’s Duty to Protect the Public,” December 1, 2004
Engineering Ethics program, University of Houston, Houston, TX
- “Ethical Considerations for Architects and Lawyers” and
“The Professional Liability of Architects,” January 18, 2005 & January 25, 2006
American Institute of Architects (AIA), Houston, TX.
- “Engineering Ethics,” June 11, 2005 & Career Guidance Panel, March 31, 2007
SWE Professional Development Conference, Houston, TX

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Lecturer, Construction Law and Ethics, 2005 -present
University of Houston, College of Technology,
Construction Management program, Houston, TX

Adjunct Professor, Contracts and Construction Law, Summer 2005 -present
University of Houston, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering,
Masters in Project and Construction Management program, Houston, TX

“Legal Aspects of Surveying,” November 18, 2005
Sinopec delegation from China, Houston, TX

“Engineering Errors,” July 11, 2006
National Association of Women in Construction, July 11, 2006

“Contract Language & Negotiations,” 2006, 2007, & 2008
Associated Builders & Contractors Legal Seminar, Houston, TX

“Civil Engineering Liability,” July 19, 2007
Legal Issues for Texas Civil Engineers, Houston, TX

“Rights and Remedies Involving Inspections,
Including Third Party Inspections,” October 12, 2007
University of Texas Construction Law Conference, Dallas, TX

“The Do’s and Don’ts of Construction Contracts,” November 14-15, 2007, and
“Payment Clauses,” April 8-9, 2009
Construction Expo, Houston, TX

“Product Manufacturers’ Liability in a Construction Case,” November 29, 2007
Texas Product Liability Law for Engineers, Houston, TX

“Contingent Payment Clauses,” May 22, 2008
Legal Issues in Texas State and Federal Construction Projects, Houston, TX

“Understanding Texas Liability Law,” July 24, 2008
Minimizing Engineering Liability Exposure, Houston, TX

“Engineering Professional Liability and Ethics,” January 29, 2009
Engineering Professional Development, Houston, TX

**RECENT
PUBLICATIONS**

“Management Training for Engineers Leads to Greater Versatility,”
Houston Business Journal, February 11-17, 2005

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“Preserving Electronic Data in Construction Litigation,”
Construction News, April 2007

“Can You Rely on Your Building Permit?”
Construction News, May 2007

“Risks of Construction Loans,”
Construction News, June 2007

“Indemnity versus Release,”
Construction News, July 2007