

Christine Henry Andresen, Attorney-at-Law

Managing Attorney • CHA Law Group, PC

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Bar Affiliations

Member of the State Bar of Texas • Licensed November 3, 2006 • State Bar Number 24054623

Areas of Practice

- **REPRODUCTIVE LAW:** Gestational and Traditional Surrogacy Agreements and Orders; Known Sperm Donor Agreements; Other Assisted Reproductive Technology Legal Issues Including International Sub-Issues
- **ADOPTION LAW:** Relative Adoptions; Same-Sex Second-Parent Adoptions; Step-Parent Adoptions; Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Terminations; Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) cases; Child Protective Services (CPS) cases; Agency and Non-Agency/Independent; Contested Adoptions
- **LGBTQ+ LEGAL ISSUES** (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer+)
- **TRADITIONAL FAMILY LAW:** Divorce; Child Conservatorship Including Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA); Complex Parentage Issues
- **CHILD WELFARE LAW:** Representation of Children, Parents, Relatives, and Foster Parents in CPS Cases
- **WILLS & ESTATE PLANNING**

Professional Awards & Scholarships

- Texas Super Lawyers 2019–2020
- Austin Monthly's Best of ATX: Top Attorneys 2019–2020
- Travis County Women Lawyers Association Pathfinders Award 2018
- Austin Under 40 • Attorney Finalist 2017
- Austin Bar Association Family Law Section Scholarship for 2007 Advanced Family Law Course
- Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Award for Excellence in Representation of Domestic Violence Victims 2007

Speaking Engagements

- “Genomics and DNA in the Law: Legal Implications of 23andMe, Ancestry.com & Other Uses of DNA” • Robert W. Calvert American Inn of Court (Barrister & Team Captain) • October 13, 2020
- “LGBTQ+ Legal Issues 101: Current Issues in Family Law” • Austin Bar Association CLE • September 22, 2020
- “Navigating LGBTQ+ Family Law—Obergefell & Beyond” • LGBT Legal Issues in Changing Times: What Every Texas Practitioner Needs to Know • State Bar of Texas • December 5, 2019
- “Transgender Parents and Children in Custody Proceedings” • National LGBT Bar's Lavender Law Conference • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • August 8, 2019
- “Consensual Non-Monogamy, Polyamory, and Poly-parenting” • National LGBT Bar's Lavender Law Conference • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • August 8, 2019
- “Social and Legal Perspectives on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Workplace and Beyond” • Federal Judicial Center • Washington, DC • August 5, 2019
- “Running a Firm” • Austin Inns of Court Larry York Mentoring Lunch • November 16, 2018
- Pathfinders Award Speech • Travis County Women Lawyers Association Pathfinders • January 25, 2018
- “Ethics of Pronouns: LGBTQ Style Sheet” • LGBT Legal Issues in Changing Times: What Every Texas Practitioner Needs to Know • State Bar of Texas • December 13, 2017
- “Ethics of Pronouns: LGBTQ Style Sheet” • Austin LGBT Bar Association CLE • September 29, 2017
- “LGBTQ Issues in Travis County” • Austin Bar Association Family Law Section Spring CLE • April 7, 2017
- “Modern Families, Timeless Challenges: The Realities of Same Sex Parenting” • LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas • November 1, 2016

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Speaking Engagements (CONTINUED)

- “Transgender Legal Issues” • Travis County District Judges and Staff Attorneys CLE • September 29, 2016
- “Informal Marriage for Same Sex Couples in Texas” • Austin LGBT Bar Association CLE • April 29, 2016
- “LBGT Family Law Update” • Bench/Bar CLE • Austin Bar Association • April 15, 2016
- “Assisted Reproductive Technology” • The Impact of Marriage Equality on Texas Law CLE • State Bar of Texas • December 2015
- “LGBT Legal Issues” • Bench/Bar CLE • Austin Bar Association • April 2015
- “Life After Marriage” • Texas Journal on Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Panel Discussion • University of Texas Law School • February 2015
- “LGBT Family Law Issues After 2013 Supreme Court Cases” • Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Meeting • September 2013
- “LGBT Legal Issues” • Solo/Small Firm Section CLE, Austin Bar Association • April 2013
- “Wills and Legal Issues” • Workshop for Creatives • August and November 2012
- “Gestational Agreements” • Travis County District Judges and Staff Attorneys CLE • September 2012
- “How Babies Are Made” • Austin LGBT Bar Association CLE • February 2012
- “LGBT Legal Issues” • OUTLaw Queer Lunch Guest Speaker • University of Texas Law School • May 2012
- “Termination of Parental Rights” • 126th District Court of Travis County: CPS Brown Bag Series • May 2011
- “LGBT Family Law” • OUTLaw Legal Advocacy Conference • University of Texas Law School • April 2011
- “Assisted Reproductive Technologies” • University of Texas Law School • October 2010
- “Best Interest of the Child: Parenting Policies” • Equality Texas: State of the State • April 2010
- “LGBT Legal Issues” • Capitol Area Paralegal Association Luncheon • July 2009
- “LGBT Legal Issues” • Queer Texas Conference • University of Texas • April 2008

Professional Legal Experience

CHA LAW GROUP, PC • MANAGING ATTORNEY • Austin, Texas • November 2006–present

- *PRIVATE CLIENTS* • 2006–present
 - Represent children, parents, grandparents, relatives, and foster parents in contested hearings in Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bell, Bastrop, Caldwell, and Guadalupe counties
 - Assist clients in alternative dispute resolution and collaborative law
 - Represent reproductive law and adoption clients in hearings statewide
 - Prepare Gestational and Traditional Surrogacy Agreements; Egg Donation and Known Sperm Donor Agreements
 - Prepare wills and ancillary estate planning documents
- *TRAVIS COUNTY CPS AND CIVIL APPOINTMENT LIST* • 2007–present
 - Represent homeless children, indigent parents, foster parents, and relatives in CPS parental termination cases, including jury trials
 - Represent indigent obligor parents in child support enforcement cases
 - Appear in court for 262 Hearings, Status and Permanency Hearings, Hearings on Motions for Further Orders, Contempt Hearings; Appear with clients at Mediations
- *TEXAS RIOGRANDE LEGAL AID PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT CASES* • 2006–2009; 2015
 - Represented domestic violence victims in divorce and related family law cases
- *YEARNING FOR ZION RANCH CPS CASE* • 2008
 - Volunteer Attorney ad Litem for two FLDS children from YFZ Ranch, Schleicher County, Texas

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Professional Organizations

- Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Fellow of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAAA)
- Family Law Institute of the LGBT Bar of the American Bar Association
- Mother Attorney Mentoring Association (MAMAs) of Austin (board member)
- Robert W. Calvert American Inn of Court (Barrister and Team Captain)
- Austin LGBT Bar Association (Former Vice President)
- Court Appointed Family Attorneys Section of the Austin Bar Association (Former Chair)
- Austin Bar Association: Family Law Section Member; Solo/Small Firm Section Member
- State Bar of Texas: Family Law Section; Solo & Small Firm Section; LGBT Law Section; Women & the Law

Publications

- LEGAL PUBLICATIONS
 - *Navigating LGBTQ+ Family Law—Obergefell & Beyond*, TEXAS STATE BAR CLE: LGBT LEGAL ISSUES IN CHANGING TIMES: WHAT EVERY TEXAS PRACTITIONER NEEDS TO KNOW, available at <http://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/OLHome.asp> (December 5, 2019) (co-authored with Karri Bertrand)
 - *Speaking of, Writing About, Advocating For: Style Issues and the LGBTQ Client*, TEXAS STATE BAR CLE: LGBT LEGAL ISSUES IN CHANGING TIMES: WHAT EVERY TEXAS PRACTITIONER NEEDS TO KNOW, available at <http://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/OLHome.asp> (December 13, 2017) (co-authored with Anne Derrig)
 - *Beware Sperm: P.S. Case Out of Fort Worth*, CHABLOG, available at <http://chalaw.com/beware-sperm-p-s-case-fort-worth> (November 7, 2016) (contributor: Scott A. Thompson)
 - *Assisted Reproductive Technology in Texas Pre- and Post-Obergefell*, TEXAS STATE BAR CLE: IMPACT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY ON TEXAS LAW, available at <http://chalaw.com/assisted-reproductive-technology> (December 1, 2015)
- NON-LEGAL PUBLICATIONS
 - *Agenda: News, Reviews, People, Places, Events*, SPACE 8, Fall 2001, at 13–17
 - *A Women's Comic Book*, JANE, October 1998, at 21
 - *A Fine Mess*, CHICAGO READER, July 26, 1996, § 1, at 29

Former Legal Experience: Clerkships and Volunteer Positions

TEXAS RIOGRANDE LEGAL AID • Austin, Texas • August–October 2006

- Represented indigent clients in family law and consumer protection cases
- Planned two-day CLE Conference: *Consumer Law For the Indigent: Debtors, Mobile Homes, Cars, and Ethics*

BOSTON UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL • Boston, Massachusetts • August–November 2005

- Wrote research memoranda on educational, real estate, international, employment, and damages issues
- Transactional: Drafted liability release and advised client on contractual rights; Critiqued proposed contracts

TEXAS OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, GENERAL LITIGATION DIVISION • Austin, Texas • June–August 2005

- Wrote court documents including a trial brief, a plea to the jurisdiction, and several motions
- Wrote research memoranda on constitutional, evidentiary, procedural, and employment issues
- Prepared affidavits
- Attended deposition workshop

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Former Legal Experience: Clerkships and Volunteer Positions (CONTINUED)

SHELTER LEGAL SERVICES • Boston, Massachusetts • February 2004–May 2005

— Represented indigent clients in divorce and adult guardianship cases

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION • Boston, Massachusetts • June–August 2004

— Investigated discrimination cases for the state: Researched legal and factual issues, wrote disposition memoranda

Other Work Experience

JOHN BROWN PUBLISHING • New York, New York • *PUBLISHING COORDINATOR* • August 2000–January 2002

— Wrote, researched, and fact-checked for magazines

— Human Resources Management (Reported to CEO): Created and managed benefits package, negotiated salaries

— Office Management / Operations (Reported to CEO)

THE KITCHEN NIGHTCLUB • Dublin, Ireland • *CLOAK ROOM MANAGER* • December 1999–May 2000

— Owned by Bono (Yes, I met him)

Education

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, JD, 2006 • GPA 3.44

— *HONORS*

• Edward F. Hennessey Scholar: Top 25% of Class, based on Third-Year GPA (3.70)

• *Public Interest Law Journal* Articles Editor

• Litigation & Dispute Resolution Concentration, with Honors

• Finalist in Spring 2006 Client Counseling Competition

— *ACTIVITIES*

• Moot Court Participant in Spring 2004 Esdaile Program and Fall 2004 Stone Competition

• Founder and President of Labor & Employment Law Society

• Volunteer Tax Preparer for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign

• OutLaw Member

— *COMPETITIVE GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT*

• 2005 BU Women Graduates' Club Scholarship for \$2,000

• Summer 2004 Public Interest Project Grant for \$4,000

VASSAR COLLEGE, AB, 1999 • GPA 3.30 • Major in Theater, Minors in Spanish and Linguistics

— *ACTIVITIES*

• Founder's Day Music Chair: Organized \$10,000, fifteen-hour music element of Spring festival

• Fencing: Varsity Starter in Epée

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (Economics Courses 2002)

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (Summer Course 1997)

Language Skills

Proficient in Spanish • Undergraduate Minor; Study abroad semester in Santiago de Compostela & Madrid, Spain; Spanish for Lawyers Course