

Brook Bell
Texas A&M School of Law
Fort Worth, Texas
sbrookbell@tamu.edu

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M University School of Law, Fort Worth, Texas
Adjunct Professor, January 2017

- Courses Taught: Wills and Estates Clinic
- Wills and Estates – 2021

Director of Medical Legal Partnership, August 2022

- Cook Children’s Hospital Medical Legal Partnership
- Department of Justice Medical Legal Partnership
CLEAR (Civil Legal Empowerment, Access and Retry) developed by the Department of Justice and Access to Justice in partnership with Texas A&M School of Law and Texas A&M Institute for Healthcare Access

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Attorney, The Bell Firm, PLLC, Feb. 2020

- Develop and implement estate planning strategies, including simple and complex wills, revocable and irrevocable trusts, family settlement agreements, and business formations
- Assist clients in all phases of probate, heirship, and trust administration proceedings
- Handle probate, guardianship, and fiduciary litigation matters

Associate Attorney, Harris, Finley & Bogle, Oct. 2018 – Feb. 2020

- Associate in the Estate Planning and Probate section
- Assisted clients in all aspects of estate planning
- Handled probate, heirship, trust administration, and guardianship proceedings, including probate and guardianship litigation matters

Public Probate Administrator, Tarrant County Probate Courts, Nov. 2016 – Oct. 2018

- The first and only full-time PPA in the State of Texas
- Administered estates of deceased persons with small estates lacking known or suitable heirs
- Filed emergency interventions to pay funeral expenses
- Distributed funds to heirs, protect interests of minors by holding funds in court registry
- Recovered state-held funds from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
- Advised and consulted with state lawmakers on amendments to the Texas Estates Code

Law Clerk for the Honorable Pat Ferchill, Tarrant County Probate Court No. 2, Jan. – Nov. 2016

- Drafted and reviewed applications, hearing documents, and orders for court-initiated and private guardianship filings; including, transfers, modifications, and restorations
- Analyzed proposed guardianship code changes for the 2017 Legislation Session, advocating for placing emphasis on the specific needs of the individual and making email proper notice.

Basic Energy Services, Fort Worth, TX

Legal & Risk-Management Intern, May 2014 – May 2016

- Evaluated risk to negotiate contract terms in over 650 Master Service Agreements between oil companies and service contractors; focusing on indemnification and insurance requirements

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

- Brook Bell, *In re: Oil Spill by the Oil Rig “Deepwater Horizon” in the Gulf of Mexico, on April 20, 2010*, (November 2014), http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/environment_energy_resources/committees_dch/water_resources/oil_spill_deepwater.authcheckdam.pdf
- *Supported Decision-Making in Texas: Embracing an Efficient Alternative to Guardianship Regimes*, (November 2024)
- *When Courts Collide: Continuing Exclusive Jurisdiction Awareness in Family and Probate Courts*, (September 2016)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- North Texas Community Foundation Board of Directors, 2021-2022
- Elder Law Committee, Tarrant County Bar Association, 2017-2018
- Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association, 2017
- American Cancer Society, Relay for Life – Committee Member 2009 - 2014
- Founder of “Who Are You?”, Character Education program implemented in Texas schools, 1999-2003

PRESENTATIONS

- *Safeguard your Legacy and Protect your Beneficiaries*
Fort Worth Business and Estate Council, Nov. 2024
- *When Courts Collide: Continuing Exclusive Jurisdiction in Family and Probate Courts*
Texas Guardianship Association 2021 Conference, June 2021
- *Accountings, Distributions, and Closing the Estate: Best Practices for Guardian of the Estate*
Texas Guardianship Association 2020 Conference, June 2020
- *Preventing Probate Issues*
Society of Financial Service Professionals, Fort Worth Chapter, Feb. 2020
- *Guardianships: Legal Route and Alternatives*
Aging and Disability Resource Center, Feb. 2018
- *Evidentiary Standards in Guardianships, Less Restrictive Alternatives & Supports & Services*
Primer to Guardianship & Alternatives, Volunteer Attorney Services, Nov. 2017
- *Probating Small Estates*
Second Saturday Forum, Fort Worth Republican Women, Oct. 2017
- *Transferring Property after Death*
Guest Presenter, Texas A&M School of Law, Sept. 2017
- *Protection of Property and the Probate Court*
Senior Fraud & Scam Seminar, Chisholm Trail Crime Prevention Assoc., Mar. 2017

EDUCATION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, *Juris Doctor*, May 2016, Fort Worth, TX

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY, *Bachelor of Arts*, December 2003, Waco, TX