

CHRISTINA L. THOMAS
Curriculum Vitae

PROFESSIONAL ADDRESS

Beering Hall (BRNG)
College of Liberal Arts
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Limited Term Lecturer, 2021 - Present

Constitutional Law I, Fall 2021

This course serves as a survey of selected areas of constitutional law, considering the political and social influences as well as the doctrinal forces that have produced these policies and interpretations.

EDUCATION

Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law

Juris Doctor; May 2018

Advocacy Skills Graduate Certificate; May 2018

Criminal Law Graduate Certificate; May 2018

Honors: Resident Merit Scholarship
Harold W. Starr Scholarship
2017 Fellow, Program on Law and State Government
Highest Grade, Legal Research, Analysis and Communication I (A+)
Highest Grade, Remedies (Model Exam Essay)

Law Review: *Indiana Law Review*, Volume 50, Symposium Editor, Executive Board
Indiana Law Review, Volume 49, Note Candidate

Moot Court: Order of the Barristers
Advocate, 2017 National Health Law Moot Court Competition
Advocate, 2016 National Health Law Moot Court Competition
Associate Justice, Staton Intramural Moot Court Competition Board

Experience: Certified Legal Intern, Appellate Clinic
Research Assistant, Comparative Law

Activities: Survival Series Director, Dean's Tutorial Society Executive Board
Property Law Fellow, Dean's Tutorial Society
Class Representative, Dean's Student Advisory Board
SBA Student Representative, IU McKinney Curriculum Committee
Justice, Phi Alpha Delta, Law Fraternity, International, Hamill Chapter
Member, Phi Delta Phi, International Legal Honor Society
Mentor, Student Bar Association's Mentor-Mentee Program
IU McKinney Student Ambassador

Indiana Wesleyan University

Bachelor of Science in Political Science; December 2002

Honors: Academic Honors Scholarship
National Deans List
Indiana Wesleyan Deans List
Indiana State House, Legislative Intern
Keynote Speaker at the dedication of a Habitat for Humanity Home
Residence Hall Assistant (educational programs and social activities)
Completed substantial coursework in education and passed the PRAXIS

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Tippecanoe County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

Attorney, Lafayette, IN, 09/20-Present

- Advise the CASA Program, advocates and volunteers on all case-related legal issues
- Ensure the constitutional and legal rights, and best interests of children are protected
- Conduct legal trainings and prepare seminar materials for distribution
- Conduct case investigations including interviews and discovery
- Draft briefs, memorandums, motions, and pleadings
- Manage client communications and expectations
- Represent and advocate for the CASA at hearings and trials by handling pretrial matters; giving opening statements; examining and cross-examine witnesses; making arguments, motions, objections, and responding to the same; and giving opening and closing remarks
- Promoted from part-time to full-time attorney

Christina Thomas Law, LLC

Attorney, Lafayette, IN, 09/19-Present

- Private Practice
- Guardian *Ad Litem*
- Child and family law
- Estate planning and wills
- Representation in mediations
- <https://christinalynnthomas.com>

Stuart & Branigin LLP

Associate Attorney, Lafayette, IN 04/18-09/20

- Conduct extensive, complex legal research
- Civil litigation experience in federal and state court
- Experience in trial and appellate level motions practice
- Draft legal memorandums, briefs, pleadings, and motions
- Perform depositions, discovery, and hearings and assist in mediations

Court of Appeals of Indiana

Administrative Assistant to Judge Elaine B. Brown, Indianapolis, IN, 11/16–05/17

- Drafted memoranda of opinions for judicial approval
- Conducted legal research, draft bench briefs and case synopses
- Proofread, prepare and publish finished opinions for public circulation
- Develop familiarity with civil and criminal appeals, and constitutional issues
- Effectively functioned in a dual role: administrative assistant and judicial law clerk

Indiana State Bar Association

Director of Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

Indianapolis, IN

01/12–11/16

- Directed CLE programming for over 100 programs annually for around 13,000 members
- Managed the Certification of the Family Law and Probate Specialists Committees
- Spearheaded the development of the new ISBA website, inbar.org, launched 09/14
- Responsible for accounting, financial reporting and budgeting for the CLE department
- Analyzed statistical data on the historic make-up of Indiana appellate courts and compiled a report submitted to the Governor encouraging merit-based selection
- Managed Mentor Match, a state-wide lawyer mentoring program, (2012 ABA E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award Winner); this now serves as a model for all states
- Managed the development of a state-wide Judicial Internship Program with the Diversity Committee that pairs law school students with Indiana Judges for internships
- Attended law school while working full-time and received three (3) promotions; from Administrative Assistant, to Coordinator of CLE & Special Projects, to Director of CLE

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Tippecanoe County Court Appointed Special Advocate, Co-Presenter with Shawn Rountree, “*Legal Aspects of Child in Need of Services (CHINS) and Policies and Procedures,*” October 14, 2021

Purdue University West Lafayette, Panel Discussion, Member and Moderator, “*Exploring the Legal Profession and Careers in Law,*” October 7, 2021

Tippecanoe County Court Appointed Special Advocate, Co-Presenter with Shawn Rountree “*Indiana Child in Need of Services (CHINS) Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Trials,*” August 19, 2021

Tippecanoe County Court Appointed Special Advocate, “*Indiana Child in Need of Services (CHINS) Parties to a CHINS Case,*” July 21, 2021

Tippecanoe County Court Appointed Special Advocate, “*Indiana Child in Need of Services (CHINS) Codes and Laws,*” June 23, 2020

Tippecanoe County Court Appointed Special Advocate, “*Child in Need of Services (CHINS) Legal Training,*” November 18, 2019

Tippecanoe County Court Appointed Special Advocate, “*Child in Need of Services (CHINS) Legal Update*,” December 6, 2019

IU McKinney, State Governments' Role in Bridging the Urban/Rural Divide, “*Improving Rural Access to Justice: Fitting the Solution to the Problem*,” October 27, 2017

IU McKinney, State Governments' Role in Bridging the Urban/Rural Divide, Panel Discussion, Moderator, “*State Governments’ Role in Bridging the Urban/Rural Divide*,” October 27, 2017

WFYI, No Limits, John Krull, “*Improving Rural Access to Justice: Fitting the Solution to the Problem*,” October 17, 2017

IU McKinney, New Student Orientation, Panel Discussion, Member, “*Family and Friends of Law Students*,” August 19, 2017 and August 20, 2016

IU McKinney, *Indiana Law Review* Symposium, Chair, “*Implementing Gideon’s Promise: The Right to Counsel in the Nation and Indiana*,” April 7, 2017

IU McKinney, Counter-Terrorism and Intelligence Law, “*The United States-Indonesia Strategic Partnership*,” July 13, 2016

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

The Leadership Legacy of Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard, in Leadership and Law Seminar, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, Indianapolis (2018)

Fatigue and Legal Capacity: How Fatigue May Render an Individual Incompetent to Create an Enforceable Contract, in Neuroscience and the Law Seminar, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, Indianapolis (2018)

Improving Access to Rural Legal Services Fitting the Solution to the Problem, in Program on Law and State Government Fellowship Symposium, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, Indianapolis (2017)

Could the United States Get Paid Parental Leave?, STUART & BRANIGIN NEWS & CASES (Sept. 8, 2017), <https://stuartlaw.com/us-get-paid-parental-leave>

Third Party Consent to Warrantless Searches of Containers in the Home: Joint Access or Control as the Foundation of Apparent Authority, in Law Review Candidacy II, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, Indianapolis (2016)

A Study of Infinity: Alpha to Aristotle, in History and Social Science Seminar, Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion (2014)

CERTIFICATIONS

- Guardian *Ad Litem*
- Advanced Legal Research Certification, *casetext*
- Legal Research Certification, *LexisNexis*
- Professional Research Certification, *LexisNexis*
- WestlawNext Certification, *Thomas Reuters Westlaw*

BAR ADMISSIONS

- State of Indiana (2018)
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana (2018)
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana (2018)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association
- Indiana State Bar Association
- Tippecanoe County Bar Association
- National Association of Counsel for Children