CHRIS NICKELSON

GORANSON, BAIN, AUSLEY, PLLC
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Fort Worth, Texas 76102
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EDUCATION
J.D., Texas Tech University School of Law, 1999
B.A., University of Texas at Austin, 1996

EMPLOYMENT
Partner with Goranson, Bain, Ausley, L.L.P., 2023-present
Associate, Law Office of Gary L. Nickelson, 2008-2022
Partner with Shannon, Gracey, Ratliff & Miller, L.L.P., 2005-2007
Associate with Shannon, Gracey, Ratliff & Miller, L.L.P., 2001-2004
Staff Attorney to Justice David Chew of the El Paso Court of Appeals, 2000
Law Clerk to Justice Ann McClure of the El Paso Court of Appeals, 1999-2000

OFFICES HELD
Director, District 7, State Bar of Texas, 2024-2027
Immediate Past Chair, Family Law Section, State Bar of Texas, 2020-2021
Chair, Family Law Section, State Bar of Texas, 2019-2020
Chair-Elect, Family Law Section, State Bar of Texas, 2018-2019
Vice Chair, Family Law Section, State Bar of Texas, 2017-2018
Treasurer, Family Law Section, State Bar of Texas, 2016-2017
Secretary, Family Law Section, State Bar of Texas, 2015-2016
Member, Family Law Council, State Bar of Texas, 2010-2015
Director, Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists, 2023 to 2025
Member, Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists, 2022 to present
Chair, Committee on Pattern Jury Charges, Family & Probate Volume, 2020 to 2024
Member, Committee on Pattern Jury Charges, Family & Probate Volume, 2017-2020, 2024 to present
Chair, District 7 Grievance Committee, 2017-2019
Member, District 7 Grievance Committee, 2013-2019
Member, Texas Commission to Expand Civil Legal Services, 2015-2016
Secretary, Eldon B. Mahon Inn of Court, 2012-2013
Director, Tarrant County Bar Association Board of Directors, 2008-2009
Chair of the Tarrant County Bar Association Appellate Section, 2008-2009

HONORS RECEIVED
Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, 2006-present
Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, 2021-present
State Bar of Texas, Family Law Section, Chair's Award, 2024
State Bar of Texas, Family Law Section, Dan R. Price Award in 2013
State Bar of Texas, Franklin Jones, Jr., CLE Award in 2012
Joseph W. McKnight Best Family Law CLE Article Award in 2011 and 2015
Super Lawyer, Top 100, Texas Monthly Magazine 2025
Super Lawyer, Texas Monthly Magazine 2014-present
Rising Star, Texas Monthly Magazine 2004-2013
Top Attorney, Fort Worth Magazine, 2007-present

CLE ACTIVITIES
- Author and Presenter of *"What do You Mean? The Benefits and Detriments of Ambiguity in Contracts"* Advanced Family Law Drafting Course, December 2025, San Antonio.

- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *"Trust and Traitors: Holding Spouses Accountable for Fraud on the Community"* New Frontiers in Marital Property Law Course, October 2025, Memphis.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *"Hitting the Nail on the Head: A Deep Dive into Goodwill in the Texas Divorce Context"* Advanced Family Law Course, August 2025, San Antonio.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *"(You) Preserve, (You) Protect & (We) Defend" Undertaking the Challenge of Making an Epic Record for Appeal"* Advanced Trial Skills for Family Lawyers Course, December 2024, New Orleans.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *"Tell Me How to Value This!" "…No, You Tell Me!": Navigating Complex Issues at the Intersection of Business Valuation Theory and Texas Marital Property Law*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2024, San Antonio.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *Preserving Error*, Advanced Evidence & Discovery Course, May 2024, San Antonio.
- Author and Presenter of *Drafting for an Appeal*, Advanced Family Law Drafting Course, December 2023, Fort Worth.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *Use of Opinion and Expert Testimony in Property Cases*, New Frontiers in Marital Property Law, October 2023, Charleston.
- Author and Presenter of *Issue Spotting & Preservation of Error*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2023, San Antonio.
- Presenter of *Marital Property Agreements—Pitfalls of Prenups and Postnups*, Marriage Dissolution Course, April 2023, Austin.
- Co-Presenter, Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists, Trial Institute, February 2023, New Orleans.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *The Weight of the World: Posturing the Property Case for Appeal*, New Frontiers in Marital Property Law, October 2022, Lake Tahoe.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *A Deep Dive: Statutory and Common Law Reimbursement,* Advanced Family Law Course, August 2022, San Antonio.
- Author and Presenter of *Make the World Go Away: Finding the Right Appellate Tool*, Marriage Dissolution Course, April 2022, Fort Worth.
- Author and Presenter of *Are You Sure You Want to File That? Summary Judgment Motions*, Advanced Family Law Drafting Course, December 2021, San Antonio.
- Author and Presenter of *Preserving Your Record*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2021, San Antonio.
- Co-Presenter of *Education and Other Related Rights*, Marriage Dissolution Course, April 2021.
- Author and Presenter of *Protecting Your Record at Trial*, Advanced Trial Skills for Family Lawyers Course, December 2020.
- Author and Presenter of *I Fought the Law: Mandamus for the Trial Lawyer*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2020.
- Co-Presenter, Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists, Trial Institute, February 2020, Annapolis.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of, *Entities and Marital Property Law--Interrelated Claims and Issues*, New Frontiers in Marital Property Law, October 2019, Savannah.
- Author and Presenter of *Declaratory Actions, MSJ's, and Other Weird and Effective Family Law Tools*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2019, San Antonio.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *Stay in Your Lane: The Proper Role of Financial Experts*, Marriage Dissolution Course, April 2019, Galveston.
- Author and Presenter of *Don't Lose your Appeal at Trial*, Advanced Trial Skills for Family Lawyers Course, December 2018, New Orleans.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of Marital Agreements, New Frontiers in Marital Property Law, October 2018, San Diego.
- Author and Presenter of *Character of Debts*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2018, San Antonio.
- Author and Presenter of *Temporary Orders During Appeal*, Marriage Dissolution, April 2018, Dallas.
- Co-Course Director, Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists, Trial Institute, February 2018, Las Vegas.
- Co-Author and Presenter of *Wildlings and Other Things Beyond the Wall—The Impact of Character Beyond Dividing the Community Estate*, New Frontiers in Marital Property Law, October 2017, Las Vegas.
- Author and Presenter of *Appellate Issues Affecting Your Family Law Practice*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2017, San Antonio.
- Course Director, Marriage Dissolution, April 2017, Austin.
- Co-Author and Presenter of *Technology Case Law Update*, Family Law & Technology, December 2016, Austin.

- Co-Course Director, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2016, San Antonio.
- Author and Presenter of *Procedural Tricks and Traps*, Marriage Dissolution, April 2016, Galveston.
- Co-Presenter, Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists, Trial Institute, January 2016, Charleston.
- Author and Presenter of *Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, What You're Supposed to Write and How it Will Help You*, Advanced Family Law Drafting Course, December 2015, Dallas.
- Author and Presenter of *Who Made This Mess? The Messy Process of Enforcing the Property Division*, New Frontiers in Marital Property Law, October 2015, Denver.
- Author and Presenter of *Jurisdictional Issues*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2015, San Antonio.
- Author and Presenter of *Evidentiary Predicates*, Marriage Dissolution Course, April 2015, Dallas.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *I love You, You're Perfect, Now Change: PDF Document Management—How to Create, Save, e-File, Markup and Collaborate with Clients and Opposing Counsel from Within the Software*, Family Law Technology 360, December 2014, Austin.
- Author and Presenter of *Recovering Attorney's Fee's*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2014, San Antonio.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *Post-Trial/Appeal*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2014, San Antonio.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *Appellate Concerns Before, During, and After Trial*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2014, San Antonio.
- Author and Presenter of *Pleadings, Motions, and Orders, Relating to Summary, Declaratory, and Default Judgments*, Advanced Family Law Drafting Course, December 2013, Dallas.
- Author and Presenter of *Post-Trial Motions*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2013, San Antonio.
- Co-Author and Presenter of *Predicates*, Marriage Dissolution Course, April 2013, Houston.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *Dealing with Foreign Jurisdictional Property Issues*, New Frontiers in Marital Property Law, October 2012, New Orleans.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *Appellate Practice—From Every Angle*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2012, Houston.
- Co-Author and Presenter of *Electronic Discovery—How to Get It*, Marriage Dissolution Course, April 2012, Dallas.
- Author and Presenter of *Post-Trial Drafting Issues*, Advanced Drafting Course, December 2011, Dallas.
- Author and Presenter of *Trying a Case with Appeal in Mind*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2011, San Antonio.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *Appellate Practice—From Every Angle*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2011, San Antonio.
- Author and Presenter of *Running a Law Office for Fun And Profit*, Soaking Up Some CLE Seminar, 2011, South Padre.
- Author and Presenter of *Appellate CYA*, Marriage Dissolution Course, April 2011, Austin.
- Author and Presenter of *The Basics: Procedural Concerns*, Parent-Child Relationships Seminar, UT CLE, January 2011, Houston.
- Author and Co-Presenter of *Strategies for Proving Best Interest*, Parent-Child Relationships Seminar, UT CLE, January 2011, Houston.
- Co-Author and Presenter of *Using Summary Judgment Procedure in Family Law Cases*, Advanced Family Law Drafting Course, December 2010, Houston.
- Co-Author and Co-Presenter of *Appellate Practice from Every Angle*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2010, San Antonio.
- Co-Author and Presenter of *Proving Separate Property: An Argument for More Use of Summary Judgment Practice in Family Law Cases*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2010.
- Author*, Impacts at Trial: Saving Your Trial from Mistakes*, 10th Annual Family Law on the Front Lines, UT CLE, July 2010, San Antonio.
- Author *of Finalizing the Deal: Rule 11 Agreements, Mediated Settlement Agreements, and Why Its So Important to Get Orders Timely Signed*, Marriage Dissolution Course, April 2010, San Antonio.
- Co-Author and Presenter of *Preservation of Error (Including Making and Meeting Objections)*, 2009 Trial of Breach of Fiduciary Duty Litigation Cases, Fredericksburg, Texas.
- Author and Presenter of *Equitable Remedies: Getting Out of Traps, Messes, and Other Problems to which You or Your Client May Have Unintentionally Agreed*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2009.
- Course Director for the 2009 Boot Camp prior to the State Bar of Texas Advanced Family Law Course.
- Author and Presenter of, *Appealing Your Family Law Case*, 23rd Annual Family Law Conference, South Texas College of Law, March 2009, Houston.

- Course Director of Family Law Essentials Seminar, October 2008, San Angelo.
- Co-Author of *Professionalism*, August 2008, Advanced Family Law Course, San Antonio.
- Author of *Maintaining the Chain of Electronic Evidence and Spoliation of Electronic Evidence*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2008.
- Author and Presenter of *Brief Writing that Appeals to Your Audience*, Marriage Dissolution Course, April 2008.
- Course Director for 2008 Brown Bag Seminar for Tarrant County Bar Association titled *"When Reasonable Minds Cannot Disagree: Summary Judgment Practice in Texas."*
- Co-Author and Presenter of *Extraordinary Writs: When Ordinary Relief Just Won't Do* Marriage Dissolution Course, April 2007, El Paso.
- Co-Author of *Appellate Advocacy: From the Judge's Perspective*; Advanced Family Law Course, August 2005.
- Co-Author and Presenter of *Like Skeet and Sporting Clay: Direct and Collateral Attacks on Judgments*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2005.
- Co-Author of *Preservation of Error for Discovery Issues*, 2005 Brown Bag Seminar for Tarrant County Bar Association, Appellate Section
- Co-Author of *Appellate Advocate - Substantive Court of Appeals Update*, for The Appellate Advocate, 2001-2005.
- Author of *Relief is Just an Appeal Away: Drafting With Appeal*, Advanced Family Law Course, August 2003.
- Author of *Puttin' on the Writs: Mandamus, Prohibition and Habeas Corpus,* Advanced Family Law Course, August 2002.

REPORTED CASES

Z.S. v. L.S., 02-22000479-CV, 676 S.W.3d 845, (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2023, no pet.).

Litman v. Litman, 402 S.W.3d 280 (Tex.App.—Dallas 2013, pet. denied).

In re C.F.M., 360 S.W.3d 654 (Tex.App.—Dallas 2012, no pet.).

In re McCray, 324 S.W.3d 685 (Tex.App.—Dallas 2010, orig. proceeding).

Johnson v. State Farm Lloyds, 204 S.W.3d 897 (Tex.App.—Dallas 2006), *aff'd*, 290 S.W.3d 886 (Tex. 2009).

In re Vesta Ins. Group, Inc., 192 S.W.3d 759 (Tex. 2006).

Etheredge v. Hidden Valley Airpark Ass'n, 169 S.W.3d 378 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2005, pet. denied).

Citizens Nat'l Bank v. Allen Rae Investments, Inc., 142 S.W.3d 459 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2004, no pet.).

Loaiza v. Loaiza, 130 S.W.3d 894 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2004, no pet.).

Boyd v. Boyd, 131 S.W.3d 605 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2004, no pet.).

U.S. Restaurant Properties Operating L.P. v. Motel Enterp. Inc., 104 S.W.3d 284 (Tex.App.—Beaumont 2003, pet. denied).

Old American Cty. Mut. Fire Ins. Co. v. Michael D. Renfrow, et al, 90 S.W.3d 810 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2002), *rev'd by*, 130 S.W.3d 70 (Tex. 2004).

UNREPORTED CASES

In re C.T.H. and H.V.H., 05-22-01202-CV, 2024 WL 5232862 (Tex.App.—Dallas, November 25, 2025, n.p.h.), opinion on rehearing, 2025 WL 3285467.

In the Matter of the Marriage of Thatcher, No. 07-25-00011-CV, 2025 WL 2396576 (Tex.App.—Amarillo, August 18, 2025, no pet.).

In re P.A., No. 05-22-01048-CV, 2024 WL 1652352 (Tex.App.—Dallas, Apr. 17, 2024, pet. denied).

In re Debra McLeod, 14-24-00177-CV (Tex.App.—Houston [14th Dist.], March 13, 2024, orig. proceeding).

In re Debra McLeod, 14-23-00812-CV (Tex.App.—Houston [14th Dist.], October 31, 2023, orig. proceeding).

In re Debra McLeod, 14-23-00641-CV (Tex.App.—Houston [14th Dist.], September 1, 2023, orig. proceeding).

S.T. v. H.K., 02-21-00408-CV, 02-21-00420-CV, 02-22-00010-CV, 2023 WL 2607751 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth, March 23, 2023, pet. denied).

In re Lisa Miller, 22-0542 (Tex. 2022).

In re Anna Spohn Welch Marsh, 02-21-00015-CV (Tex.App.—Fort Worth, March 2, 2021, orig. proceeding).

Daryl Greg Smith, et al. v. Karen Annette Smith, 02-20-00064-CV (Tex.App.—Fort Worth, November 5, 2020, pet. denied).

In re Caddoa Creek Ranch, LLC, 20-0514 (Tex. 2020).

In re Daryl Greg Smith, 20-0300 (Tex. 2020).

In re Caddoa Creek Ranch, LLC, 02-20-00151-CV (Tex.App.—Fort Worth, June 2, 2020, orig. proceeding).

In re Daryl Greg Smith, 02-20-00053-CV (Tex.App.—Fort Worth, March 13, 2020, orig. proceeding).

Daryl Greg Smith, et al. v. Karen Annette Smith, 02-18-00366-CV (Tex.App.—Fort Worth, May 1, 2019, no pet.).

In re K.K.W., No 05-16-00795-CV, 2018 WL 3968475, (Tex.App.—Dallas, August 20, 2018, pet. denied).

In re C.F.M., No. 05-17-00141-CV, 2018 WL 2276351, at *1 (Tex.App.—Dallas, May 18, 2018, no pet.).

In re Darren Keith Reed, et al, 02-18-00088-CV (Tex.App.—Fort Worth, April 26, 2018, orig. proceeding).

In re C.F.M. and B.C.M., 05-16-00285-CV (Tex.App.—Dallas, April 9, 2018, no pet.).

In re K.K.W., No 05-16-00795-CV, 2018 WL 1477533 (Tex.App.—Dallas, March 27, 2018, no pet.).

In re Farahmand, 05-15-00861-CV, 2015 WL 5099468 (Tex.App.—Dallas 2015, orig. proceeding).

In re A.K., 02-14-00344-CV, 2014 WL 7272544 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2014, orig. proceeding).

In re Casanova, 05-14-01166-CV, 2014 WL 6486127, (Tex.App.—Dallas 2014, orig. proceeding).

In re D.A., 02-14-00198-CV, 2014 WL 3953645 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2014, orig. proceeding).

Tome v. Tome, 02-14-00037-CV, 2014 WL 3953638 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2014, orig. proceeding).

In re Cole, 03-14-00458-CV, 2014 WL 3893055 (Tex.App.—Austin 2014, orig. proceeding).

In re Alvarez-Rivas, 02-14-00055-CV, 2014 WL 775402 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2014, orig. proceeding).

Clack v. Wollschlager, 2014 WL 2109384 (Tex.App.—Eastland 2014, pet. denied).

In re McCray, 2013 WL 5969581 (Tex.App.—Dallas 2013, orig. proceeding).

In re James M. Fisher II, 2013 WL 5299178 (Tex.App.—Dallas 2013, orig. proceeding).

In re A.P.M., 2012 WL 2088007 (Tex.App.—Dallas 2012, no pet.).

Prentiss v. Prentiss, 2012 WL 858592, Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2012, no pet.).

In re McCray, 2011 WL 6152191 (Tex.App.—Dallas 2011, orig. proceeding).

In re Pemmaraju, 2011 WL 1601234 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2011, orig. proceeding).

Game Systems, Inc. v. Forbes Hutton Leasing, Inc., 2011 WL 2119672 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth 2011, no pet.).

Betti v. Betti, 2010 WL 3788056 (Tex.App.—Dallas 2010, no pet.).

Holloway v. Land, 2010 WL 2555238 Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2010, no pet).

Barnard v. Western Strategic Advisors, LLC, 2008 WL 281549 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2008, no pet.).

In re Desa Heating, L.L.C., 2006 WL 1713489 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2006, orig. proceeding).

In re Richardson, 2006 WL 1494638 (Tex.App.—Fort Worth 2006, orig. proceeding).

A-1 Systems, Inc. v. Seay, 2002 WL 32341843 (Tex. App.—Eastland 2002, pet. denied).