

## REGINA L. HILLMAN

4328 Lucy Road, Millington, TN 38053  
(865) 679-3483 • Regina.L.Hillman@memphis.edu

### CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

---

**CECIL C. HUMPHREYS SCHOOL OF LAW**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS**

**Memphis, TN**

*Assistant Professor of Law*, 8/22-Present

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Law*, 6/17-8/22

*Legal Methods Coordinator*, 8/20-8/22

**Courses:** Legal Methods I & II; Gender & the Law/LGBTQ+ Rights; Advanced Constitutional Law – Individual Rights; Professional Responsibility & Legal Ethics; Upper-Level Writing

**Selected University Service:**

- Herff Search Committee, 2024-2025
- Admissions Committee, 2024-2025
- Honors & Awards Committee, 2019-2020; 2023-2024; 2024-2025 (Elected Position)
- Dean's Advisory Committee, 2019-2020 & 2020-2021; 2024-2025 (Elected Position)
- Faculty Advisor to the Memphis Law Review, 2024-Present
- Faculty Advisor to OUTLaw, 2019-Present
- Law Review Note Advisor, 2017-Present
- Faculty Recruiting Committee, 2023-2024
- Chair, Outcomes & Assessment Committee I, 2021-2024
- Faculty Advisor to Student Bar Association, 2018-2024
- Co-Chair, University of Memphis Pride & Equity Alliance, 2021-2023
- Memphis Professional Development Program Mentor, 2019-2022
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee, 2018-2022
- At-Risk Student Advisor, 2018

### PRIOR ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

---

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF LAW**

**Knoxville, TN**

*Adjunct Professor of Law*, 1/10-5/17

Legal Process I (Fall 2012-Fall 2016); Legal Process II (Spring 2010-Spring 2017)

**TUSCULUM UNIVERSITY**

**Knoxville, TN**

*Adjunct Professor of Business Law*, 5/03-2/17

Business Law & Ethics (Undergraduate & MBA); Employment Law (Undergraduate & MBA)

### EDUCATION

---

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF LAW:** J.D., 5/01, *summa cum laude*

*Tennessee Law Review:* Editor-in-Chief, 2000-2001, 2L Staff. 1999-2000

**Honors:** *Order of the Coif*, Dean's Citation for Extraordinary Contributions, W.H.H. Southern Memorial Scholarship, Phi Kappa Phi, Legal Process II Best Appellate Brief, Highest Section Grade in 13 classes

**UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS:** B.A., English, 5/97, *summa cum laude*

**Honors:** Adult Academic Scholarship, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, Golden Key National Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

---

***Legislating Fear: Political Attacks on the LGBTQ+ Community*** (in progress). This article addresses the political use of disinformation and misinformation to generate fear, sow panic, deceive the public, and distort the truth about LGBTQ+ Americans and how that leads to and supports harmful legislative measures. First, it addresses the historical use of fear and lies to attack gays and lesbians, focusing on the Lavender Scare of the mid-1900s. Second, the article explores modern-day political fear in action by examining the tsunami of political attacks on the transgender community, highlighting legislative bans outlawing life-saving gender-affirming medical care for transgender youth under the guise of protecting children. This part dissects the myths and rationale behind the bans, the medical and science-based support for the care, the dangers the bans present, and the ongoing litigation over their constitutionality. Finally, the article considers measures to combat the current weaponization of fear to harm the LGBTQ community.

***303 Creative & the Supreme Court’s “Expressive Free Speech” License to Discriminate*** (in progress). This article examines the Supreme Court’s 2023 ruling in *303 Creative, LLC v. Elenis* which addressed the intersection of state anti-discrimination laws in public accommodations and businesses that want to discriminate based on religious values. The decision, in effect, created an exception under the First Amendment free speech provision for businesses engaged in expressive conduct to legally disregard public accommodations laws and openly discriminate when a business disagrees with the message – here, same-sex marriage. The article addresses the consequences of the decision and focuses on the rationale behind the Court’s majority and dissenting opinions.

***Deviant to Dignified: Lavender Scare to Lawfully Married*** (publication upcoming in *Northern Kentucky Law Review* (2025)). This article analyzes the events that took place in just over six decades to transform the mid-twentieth century perception of gays and lesbians as “deviant” sex perverts banned from federal government employment into “dignified” human beings worthy of the same constitutional marital rights as their cisgender peers. It examines the social and legal history of gays and lesbians during the Lavender Scare through the 2016 *Obergefell* decision, including an analysis of the impact of societal views on court decisions, why those views changed over time, and lessons available from this drastic transformation.

***Boosted By Bostock: LGBTQ Title IX Protections*** (publication upcoming in *Indiana Law Review*, 2025). This article analyzes the ongoing battle over the reach of the Supreme Court’s 2020 Title VII decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia* in which the Court found that Title VII’s workplace sex discrimination protections apply to LGBTQ employees because “it is impossible to discriminate against a person for being [gay] or transgender without discriminating against that individual based on sex.” The article first reviews historical efforts by the Department of Education to provide Title IX discrimination protections to LGBTQ students and its response to Biden’s direction to apply *Bostock* broadly to Title IX, including an analysis of the new 2024 Title IX rule and the resulting mass litigation challenging its implementation. Second, the article examines federal appellate court application of Title IX to LGBTQ student challenges pre-*Bostock* and analyzes the circuit split created post-*Bostock*. Third, the article

explains why the Court should grant certiorari and resolve this growing area of judicial conflict, including a widening circuit split, current congressional gridlock, and growing jurisdictional inconsistencies. Finally, the article examines likely battles ahead should the Court fail to intervene.

***The Battle Over Bostock: Dueling Presidential Administrations & the Need for Consistent & Reliable LGBT Rights***, 32:1 Am. U. J. Gender Soc. Pol'y & L. 1 (2023).

***Title VII Discrimination Protections & LGBT Employees: The Need for Consistency, Certainty & Equality Post-Obergefell***, 6:2 Belm. L. Rev. 1 (2019).

***Deviant to Dignified: From Campbell v. Sundquist to Tanco v. Haslam – The History & Progression of LGBT Rights & Marital Equality in Tennessee***, 83:2 Tenn. L. Rev. 371 (2016) (with Abby Rubenfeld).

***Modern Legal History 2015: The Road to Obergefell***, 3:9 Belm. L. Rev. 165 (2016).

#### **SELECTED BAR JOURNAL ARTICLES**

---

- ***Legal Writing Tips –A Swan Song***, DICTA, KBA Magazine, 12/13.
- ***Legal/Life [Writing] Tips***, DICTA, KBA Magazine, 5/13.
- ***Utilizing “Bad” Case Law to Strengthen Your Argument***, DICTA, KBA Magazine, 10/12.
- ***Polishing Up Your Persuasive Writing***, DICTA, KBA Magazine, 5/12.
- ***How the Internet Can Improve Your Legal Writing***, DICTA, KBA Magazine, 12/10.

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

---

**TENNESSEE MARRIAGE EQUALITY LEGAL TEAM:** **Knoxville, TN**

***Tanco v. Haslam/Obergefell v. Hodges***, 576 U.S. 644 (2015), 7/13-8/15

Represent plaintiffs challenging TN constitutional & statutory anti-recognition law in all aspects of litigation from organizing legal team through the Supreme Court decision.

Status: June 26, 2015, U.S. Supreme Court held 5-4 in favor of Sixth Circuit plaintiffs.

**WAGNER, MYERS & SANGER** **Knoxville, TN**

***Contract Counsel***, 2/13-12/13

Represent clients in transactional & litigation matters on a contract basis.

**RITCHIE, FELS, DILLARD & DAVIES** **Knoxville, TN**

***Contract Counsel***, 3/09-9/09

Represent clients in litigation matters on a contract basis.

**STANFILL DEVELOPMENT GROUP** **Knoxville, TN**

***Contract Counsel***, 4/04-12/14

Assist firm with contract & business development matters on an as-needed basis.

**HUNTON & WILLIAMS** **Knoxville, TN**

***Associate Attorney***, 3/03-4/04

Represent clients in commercial litigation matters, including business litigation, product liability, commercial contract disputes, environmental claims, and employment law.

**BASS, BERRY & SIMS** **Knoxville, TN**

*Associate Attorney*, 9/01-3/03

Represent clients in commercial litigation matters focused on healthcare and business litigation, commercial contract disputes, product liability, and employment issues.

*Healthcare Paralegal*, 11/97-8/98

Assist firm in extensive litigation defense discovery and trial preparation.

**KNOXVILLE CITY LAW DEPARTMENT** **Knoxville, TN**

*Legal Intern*, 5/99-5/00

Conduct research and write memoranda related to various municipal law issues.

**PROF. RICHARD WIRTZ, University of Tennessee College of Law** **Knoxville, TN**

*Research/Teaching Assistant*, Summer 1999

Research & evaluate teaching materials for Fulbright Scholarship position in Slovenia.

**HON. JAMES H. JARVIS, U.S. District Court** **Knoxville, TN**

*Judicial Intern*, Summer 1999

Conduct legal research and draft legal opinions.

**BAPTIST MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS** **Memphis, TN**

**HARRIS, SHELTON, DUNLAP & COBB**

*Healthcare Paralegal*, 9/88-9/97

Risk management litigation support with BMHCS (5/94-9/97) and law firm (9/88-5/94).

#### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS/PANELS:**

- ***Legislating Fear: Political Attacks on the LGBTQ Community*** – Present work-in-progress at *Voices on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues*, AALS Annual Meeting, Section on Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity. 1/8/25.
- ***Myths, Disinformation & Misinformation: Politicizing Fear Against the LGBTQ+ Community*** – Present at Memphis Bar Association LGBT Section CLE Program, *Against All Odds: Fighting Against Misinformation & Laws Targeting the LGBTQ+ Community*, 12/11/24.
- ***Stonewall Tigers Gender & Sexuality Alliance Presents: Politics With Pizza*** – Panelist discussing current obstacles to LGBTQ+ rights, including recent legislation and litigation, 11/18/24.
- ***When LGBTQ+ Public Accommodation Rights & Religious Rights Collide: The Supreme Court's "Expressive Free Speech" License to Discriminate***, Present at the PPE Society 2024 Annual Meeting addressing the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling in *303 Creative, LLC v. Elenis* that, in effect, created an exception under the First Amendment's free speech provision that permits businesses engaged in expressive activities to legally disregard public accommodation laws and openly discriminate when the company disagrees with the message, 11/16/24.
- ***The History & Progression of LGBTQ+ Rights*** – Present at Memphis Bar Association LGBT Section Program, *State of the Queer Union* on the progression of LGBTQ+ rights from Eisenhower's executive order preventing gays and lesbians from serving in the federal government to the current fight for full citizenship. 9/27/24

- ***Gender & the Law: Teaching the Progression of LGBTQ+ Rights & Current Challenges in a Legal Writing Seminar*** – Present at SALT Teaching Conference, The Continued Fight for Transformative Legal Education addressing incorporating LGBTQ Supreme Court history from the Lavender Scare through *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, in a legal writing seminar. 9/20/24
- ***Educating for Equality: A Symposium on Combatting Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation; The Fight in Public: Legal Challenges and Scholarship Against Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation*** – Invited Speaker at the University of Tennessee College of Law, Tennessee Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice, addressing nationwide anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, including bills that target the areas of education and healthcare, deny resources and medical care to the LGBTQ+ population, and cause personal and professional harm. 3/21/24
- ***Supreme Court Case Update: 2022-2023 Term*** – Panelist at FedEx Free CLE Day addressing major cases from the Supreme Court’s 2022-2023 Term (with FedEx Managing Dir. of Employment Litigation, Terrence Reed, Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge Jeffrey Usman, and Tennessee Law Professor Teri Baxter). 11/9/23
- ***The Battle for Pride: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow*** – Stonewall Lecturer/Keynote Speaker at Seventh Annual Stonewall Lecture Series, Roger Williams Univ. School of Law. 11/2/23
- ***Celebrating Pride: 50 Years of Progress*** – Invited Speaker for Sherrod & Roe Pride Month Event – Addressed Tennessee’s Anti-LGBT Bills, Title IX & *Bostock*’s Reach. 6/29/23
- ***Transgender/Queer Rights & Challenges*** – Present at Tennessee Bar Association’s Annual LGBTQ+ Law Forum addressing state and national attacks on the transgender community, including bans on life-saving gender-affirming care, drag bans, and the anticipated impact of forthcoming Department of Education Title IX regulations. 6/23/23
- ***Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Program – Diversity Panel*** – Panel member for TBA Leadership Law Program discussing diversity in the legal profession. 5/26/23
- ***Act Like an Adult: A Drag Show Dilemma*** – Memphis Law Podcast Guest Contributor addressing recent Tennessee legislation banning drag shows, the federal court ruling finding the Act unconstitutional, and the ripple effect of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation as well as the history of the LGBTQ+ community’s fight for equality. 6/9/23
- ***Addressing the Criminalization of Gender-Affirming Care for Transgender Youth***, American Bar Assoc. Criminal Justice Section Spring Meeting 2023 – Panelist addressing the current wave of state laws banning and/or criminalizing gender-affirming care for transgender youth, the constitutionality of such laws, and their effect on trans youth. 4/21/23
- ***LGBTQ+ Discrimination, Harassment & Transgender Challenges in the Workplace*** – Present at SHRM’s Annual Legal Conference: The Snares & Legal Landmines for Today’s HR Professionals. 4/18/23
- ***Gender & the Law: Combining my Scholarship Focus on the Progression of LGBTQ+ Legal Rights with my Academic Focus on Legal Writing*** – Present at LWI One-Day Workshop on Teaching Social Justice & Legal Change in Legal Writing. 12/1/22
- ***Obergefell v. Hodges: Overview, Implications & Challenges*** – Memphis Bar Association CLE presentation addressing LGBTQ+ rights pre- and post-*Bostock*, Justice Thomas’s comments in *Dobbs*, the problem with executive orders & the Major Questions Doctrine’s potential implications on administrative agency power. Oct. 19, 2022
- ***Tennessee Bar Association - Supreme Court Roundtable*** – CLE presentation discussing *Dobbs v. Jackson*, *West Virginia v. EPA*, and *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District* (with UT Law Professor Terri Baxter & Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge Jeffrey Usman). 9/9/22

- **Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Program** – Diversity panel member representing LGBTQ+ attorneys. 8/26/22
- **Love Wins** – Serve as moderator and panelist at Memphis Law presentation with Jim Obergefell & Al Gerhardstein exploring the marriage equality litigation, civil rights work, and experiences as a named plaintiff in the Supreme Court *Obergefell* case. 4/21/22
- **Pride & Equity Alliance Inaugural Speaker Series: The Road to Obergefell** – Moderate discussion with Jim Obergefell and his attorney, Al Gerhardstein, regarding the road to marriage equality and the behind-the-scenes experiences of the named plaintiff and his attorney in the Supreme Court marriage equality litigation. 4/21/22
- **A Moment for Marriage: Behind the Scenes of Obergefell v. Hodges** – Memphis Law Podcast Guest Contributor – Discuss experiences from the Supreme Court case that resulted in marriage equality nationwide. 4/13/22
- **Pandemic Employment Law & LGBTQ+ Rights: What's the Latest?** – Present to SHRM Legal Conference with Maureen Holland on the current status of LGBTQ+ Rights. 3/4/22
- **Rolling with the Changes: Digging In & Being Present to Prioritize Student Learning in a Remote Classroom Environment** – ALWD Innovative Teaching Workshop. 6/11/21
- **Memphis Law Diversity Week** – Conduct mock class regarding crucial LGBTQ+ cases primarily focusing on *Bostock* & the Biden administration. 2/22/21
- **Memphis Law Street Law Advocacy Camp** – Present on LGBTQ+ student rights. 2/13/21
- **Learning to Paint the Picture in Persuasive Writing with In-Class Exercises** – Co-Present (with Professor Anna Vescovo, Memphis Law) at KIMEP Kazakhstan University School of Law's Legal Writing Institute Virtual One-Day Conference. 12/4/20
- **Behind the Scenes of Obergefell v. Hodges** – Present at remote OUTLaw Speaker Series event regarding Supreme Court marriage equality case events including case formation, district court filing, Sixth Circuit oral argument, and Supreme Court decision. 10/1/20
- **Looking Back & Looking Ahead: Five Years Post-Tanco/Obergefell** – Co-produce/present at Tennessee Bar Association LGBTQ+ Annual Forum regarding the state of LGBTQ+ rights & progress five years post-*Obergefell*, including recent *Bostock v. Clayton Co.* Supreme Court decision holding Title VII applies to sexual orientation and gender identity. 6/26/20
- **Legal Communication Pitfalls (in the Age of Twitter)** – Co-Present (with Memphis Law Professors Mary Morris & Carrie Kerley) to Federal Bar Association regarding potential ethical issues of online communication. 10/25/19
- **Tennessee Bar Association – LGBTQ+ Section CLE** – Present regarding state of LGBTQ+ rights, Title VII workplace protections, and Supreme Court pending cases. 6/21/19
- **Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Program – Diversity Panel** – Panel member for TBA Leadership Law Program discussing diversity in the legal profession. 4/16/19
- **Title VII Discrimination Protections & LGBT Employees: The Need for Consistency, Certainty & Equality Post-Obergefell** – Present at Belmont Law Employment Law Symposium addressing Title VII discrimination protections, including a general overview of my law review article to be published in Spring 2019 Belmont Law Review. 10/5/18
- **Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Program – Diversity Panel**, Panel member for TBA Leadership Law Program discussing diversity in the legal profession. 5/15/18
- **#MeToo Movement & the Law**, Panel member at Association for Women Attorneys event regarding gender bias & discrimination. 2/27/18
- **Legal Communication Pitfalls (in the Age of Twitter)** – Co-Present (with Memphis Law Professors Mary Morris & Carrie Kerley) to Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inns of Court regarding potential ethical issues of online communication. 9/12/17

- ***LGBTQ+ Law Annual Forum 2016*** – Produce TBA annual CLE addressing updates in legislation & case law affecting the LGBTQ+ community as well as best practices in civil rights & religious freedom cases. 9/22/16
- ***Ethics & Professionalism: Exploring Bias*** – Present at CLE seminar hosted by *Tennessee Journal of Race, Gender & Social Justice* & co-sponsored by UT College of Law & *Tennessee Law Review* regarding legal implications of *Tanco/Obergefell*, including discussion of MPC Rule 1.4 – Client Communication. 2/26/16
- ***Tanco v. Haslam – Experiences in Modern Legal History*** – Co-Panelist at Belmont Law for Belmont Law Review’s Modern Legal History Series addressing experiences from pre-filing of the *Tanco v. Haslam/Obergefell v. Hodges* case to Supreme Court win (with Abby Rubenfeld) (Transcript published in Belmont Law Review, Vol. III, 2015), 11/20/15
- ***The Early Impact of Marriage Equality in Tennessee*** – Present at Lincoln Memorial University, Duncan School of Law, regarding Tennessee marriage equality litigation’s history and early impact. 9/10/15
- ***Lessons Learned from the Supreme Court Marriage Equality Litigation*** – Present via Zoom to students/fellows in Istanbul, Turkey regarding U.S. Supreme Court litigation & immediate impact of nationwide marriage equality. 7/13/15
- ***Marriage Equality in Tennessee – Tanco v. Haslam*** – Co-Present (with Bill Harbison & Abby Rubenfeld) at Tennessee Bar Association live CLE webinar regarding recent Supreme Court decision & the immediate impact of marriage equality in Tennessee. 7/2/15
- ***Freedom to Marry & Campaign for Southern Equality Town Hall Presentation at UT Law*** – Co-Panelist (with Evan Wolfson & Abby Rubenfeld) regarding upcoming Supreme Court oral arguments in *Tanco v. Haslam/Obergefell v. Hodges*. 4/13/15
- ***We’re Going to Washington! – The Supreme Court Grants Certiorari to Tanco v. Haslam*** – Co-Present (with Bill Harbison, Val Tanco & Sophy Jesty) to UT College of Law faculty regarding the certiorari grant & anticipated arguments. 1/29/15
- ***The Circuit Split Needed for Supreme Court Review? Addressing the Sixth Circuit’s Opinion in Tanco v. Haslam*** – Present at UT College of Law regarding recent Sixth Circuit opinion reversing district court decisions in TN, MI, OH & KY, the certiorari petitions, and the possibility of Supreme Court review. 11/19/14
- ***Coming Out on the Right Side of History: Equality in Tennessee & the U.S.*** – Keynote Speaker at UT National Coming Out Week event addressing the federal lawsuit challenging TN’s constitution and DOMA statute and the public shift favoring LGBTQ+ rights. 10/8/14

#### **MEDIA INTERVIEWS RE LGBTQ+ ISSUES INCLUDING TANCO/OBERGEFELL**

- ***State Laws Targeting LGBTQ Rights Have a New Foe: Federal Judges***, NBC News, 7/9/23
- ***Judge Finds Tennessee Law Aimed at Restricting Drag Shows Unconstitutional***, The New York Times, 6/3/23
- ***Federal Judge Tosses Tennessee’s Controversial Anti-Drag Law, Declares it Unconstitutional***, The Commercial Appeal & The Tennessean, 6/3/23
- ***Drag Bans: A Violation of the First Amendment?***, Close Up Washington D.C., 4/26/23
- ***Tennessee Gov. Signs First of its Kind Bill Restricting Drag Shows***, NBC News, 3/2/23
- ***Tennessee legislator files amendment to anti-LGBT marriage bill amid age limit backlash***, The Tennessean, 4/7/22
- **"Equal dignity in the eyes of the law" | Saturday marks 6 years since U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing gay marriage**, WBIR, 6/26/21
- ***5 Years of Same-Sex Marriage: Knoxville Couple Key in Landmark Case***, WBIR, 6/26/20

- ***Knoxville couple in same-sex ruling quietly celebrates year later***, The Tennessean, 6/25/16
- ***Gay Marriage in Tennessee***, Dialogue, WUOT 91.9 FM, 9/23/15
- ***Tenn. Judge Refuses to Grant Straight Couple a Divorce Because . . . Gay Marriage***, Wash. Post, 9/4/15
- ***On June Twenty-Sixth***, TORCHBEARER, the magazine of the University of Tennessee, <https://torchbearer.utk.edu/2015/08/on-june-twenty-sixth/>, 8/28/16
- ***Tanco, Jesty rejoice in same-sex decision they played part in***, USA Today, 6/26/15.
- ***Tenn. plaintiffs overjoyed to be part of marriage ruling***, USA Today, 6/26/15
- ***Supreme Court Gay Marriage 2015: Advocates Confident of Their Chances Ahead Of Critical Oral Arguments***, Int'l Bus. Times, 4/28/15
- ***Meet The Accidental Activists of the Supreme Court's Same-Sex-Marriage Case***, NPR, Nina Totenberg, 4/20/15
- ***Gay marriage: TN plaintiffs proud of court's decision***, The Tennessean, 6/27/15
- ***All Things Considered – Views on Marriage Equality in Tennessee***, NPR, 6/26/15
- ***How Knoxville is at the Center of the Supreme Court's Same-Sex Marriage Case, Tanco v. Haslam***, Knoxville Mercury, 6/17/15
- ***Gay marriage plaintiff: 'Emilia will always have 2 moms,'*** The Tennessean, 4/25/15
- ***Gay marriage issue complicates immigration, motherhood***, Wash. Times, 4/16/15
- ***Lawyers in TN gay marriage case prep for SCOTUS***, WBIR Knoxville, 4/4/15
- ***Meet couples who will be part of history in same-sex marriage battle***, Wash. Post, 1/16/15
- ***Inevitable***, UT College of Law Magazine, <https://law.utk.edu/2014/12/01/inevitable/>, 12/1/14
- ***Valeria Tanco and Sophy Jesty, Tennessee Lesbian Moms, Become A Legal First For Gay Marriage***, Huffington Post, 6/9/14
- ***Two moms, a baby, and a legal first for U.S. gay marriage***, Reuters, 6/9/14
- ***TN same-sex marriages invalidated by federal appeals court***, Assoc. Press, 4/28/14
- ***Same-Sex Marriages in Tenn. Case Again Invalid***, New York Times, 4/28/14

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

---

- American Inns of Court, Leo Bearman, Sr. Inn of Court - 2024
- American Bar Association, 2020-Present
- Memphis Bar Association, 2017-Present
  - LGBTQ+ Section, 2023-Present
  - Diversity Section, 2024-Present
- Tennessee Bar Association, 2001-Present
  - Producer, 2015-2017, 2020
- Association of Legal Writing Directors, 2017-Present
  - Diversity Committee, 2018-2020; 2021-2022
- Legal Writing Institute, 2017-Present
- *Order of the Coif*, 2001-Present

## **LEADERSHIP/BOARD/SERVICE POSITIONS**

---

- Memphis Bar Association, Bd. of Directors, Memphis Law Representative, 2023-Present
- Association of Legal Writing Directors, Leadership Law Academy, 2023
- Memphis Law Mock Trial Competition, Final Round Judge, 2020
- Tennessee Bar Association, LGBT Section Chair, 2016
- Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law (TBALL), 2015

- Tennessee Bar Association, Inaugural LGBT Section, Vice Chair, 2015
- Jenkins Trial Court Competition Judge, Univ. of Tennessee College of Law, 2010-2015
- Knoxville Bar Association, DICTA Monthly Column, Legal Writing Tips, 2003-2013
- Knoxville Bar Association, Publications Committee, Executive Editor, 2008-2013
- Advocates' Prize Judge, University of Tennessee College of Law, 2012, 2015
- Board Member, Knoxville Girls on the Run, 2007-2010
- Komen Grant Review Committee Member, 2005-2008
- Board Member/Sponsor/Fundraiser, Knoxville Links for the Cure, 2003-2008
- Knoxville Bar Association, Section Chair, Law Week, 2002-2004
- Knoxville Bar Association, DICTA Editor: "Worth Your Time," 2001-2004

## **PROFESSIONAL HONORS/AWARDS**

---

2023 Stonewall Lecturer

2023 MLK Faculty Service Award

2022 University of Memphis Graduate Student Organization Mentor Award

2021 Memphis Law – Patricia & Dan Murrell Ethics & Professionalism Award

2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015 & 2014 Attorney for Justice Award (TN Supreme Court Pro Bono Award)

2015 ACLU-TN Bill of Rights Award

2015 Larry Dean Wilks Leadership Award – Tennessee Bar Association – Leadership Law

2015 Attorney for Justice Award – National Center for Lesbian Rights

2014 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award – University of Tennessee College of Law

2014 Adjunct of the Year Award – Tusculum College

2013 Knoxville Bar Association President's Award

2003 Knoxville Bar Association DICTA Writing Award

## **PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS**

---

Tennessee Bar, November 2001, #021567

United States Supreme Court

United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee

United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee