



# DEBORAH M. HENSON

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## EDUCATION:

**University of California  
Boalt Hall School of Law**  
Berkeley, California  
**LL.M.** - December 1993

**Loyola University School of Law**  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
**J.D. (Civil Law), *cum laude*** - May 1991  
Cumulative G.P.A. - 3.541; Class Rank - 8 of 225  
Loyola Law Review; Moot Court Staff Member  
Semi-Finalist, Moot Court Competition  
Highest Exam Paper - Admin. of Crim. Justice  
Highest Seminar Papers - Law & Poverty; Family Law Sem.

**Tulane University School of Social Work**  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
**Master of Social Work** - December 1977 (Mental Health track)

**University of Kansas**  
Lawrence, Kansas  
**Bachelor of Arts**, Speech Communications & Human Relations,  
Speech & Drama - May 1975  
Cumulative G.P.A. - 3.80  
Phi Beta Kappa

## LEGAL

### EMPLOYMENT:

**Law Office of Deborah M. Henson, LLC**, 6/2000 - present  
Mental Health Defense and Consultation in licensing board  
matters/grievances and high-risk clinical cases; Attorney Disciplinary  
Representation/Ethics; Risk Prevention for Clinicians and Attorneys;  
Appellate Research/Writing; Adoptions (Louisiana only)  
Denver, Colorado  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Contract Appellate Attorney and Litigation Support**, 10/05-6/08  
Trey L. Dolezal, Esquire  
Austin, Texas

**Appellate Brief Writer**, 9/03 to 10/05 (City closed - Hurricane Katrina)  
Office of the City Attorney for the City of New Orleans  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Judicial Law Clerk**, 1/03 to 9/03  
Judge Edwin A. Lombard  
Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal

**Private Law Practice**, 5/99 to 12/02  
Attorney Disciplinary Investigations/Ethics; Adoption; Mediation  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Staff Attorney**, 5/99 to 8/00  
Stanley & Flanagan, L.L.C.,  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Board Staff Attorney**, 2/98 to 5/99  
Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board

**Judicial Law Clerk**, 8/96 to 2/98  
Associate Justice Harry T. Lemmon (now retired)  
Louisiana Supreme Court

**Legal Analysis and Writing Instructor**, 7/94-6/96  
University of Pittsburgh School of Law  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Judicial Law Clerk**, 8/91-7/92  
Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. (now retired)  
Louisiana Supreme Court  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Summer Associate** 7/90-8/90; **Law Clerk**, 8/90-4/91  
Stone, Pigman, Walther, Wittman & Hutchinson  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Summer Associate**, 5/90-6/90  
Gordon, Arata, McCollam & Duplantis  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**United States Eastern District Court Externship**, 8/89-5/90  
Magistrate (now Judge) Ivan L.R. Lemelle  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Law Clerk**, 5/88-8/89  
Steven Scheckman, Mark S. Goldstein, Ron Purcell  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Research Assistant**, 1/89-5/91  
Revising and updating text: Louisiana Successions and Donations, Material and Cases; Kathryn V.Lorio, Professor, Loyola Law School

**SOCIAL WORK  
EMPLOYMENT:**

**Licensed Clinical Social Worker, 1981 to present**  
**Private practice of psychotherapy, supervision, consultation, and training (clinical and ethics issues)**

New Orleans, Louisiana

Austin, Texas (3 years following Hurricane Katrina)

Conduct psychotherapy with individuals, couples, families and groups - adults, adolescents and children; provide evaluations and recommendations for court or probation offices; supervise clinical social workers for licensure; consult re: clinical and business aspects of social work practice; train mental health practitioners in clinical/legal issues.

**Licensed Clinical Social Worker, 2015 to 2019**

**Private practice of psychotherapy, supervision, consultation, and training (clinical and ethics issues)**

Denver, Colorado

Psychotherapy with adults and couples.

**Adjunct Faculty, March 2017 – December 2017**

**University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work**

Taught "Integrated Social Work Practice for Social Justice"

**Adjunct Professor, 1984-87**

**Tulane University School of Social Work**

Taught "Family Violence: Theory and Therapy" and "Clinical Work with Children" in Masters (MSW) program.

[for additional Clinical Social Work positions/experience, see web site – [www.deborahmhenson.com](http://www.deborahmhenson.com) ]

**PUBLICATIONS:**

*Mental Health Newsletters* to Louisiana and Colorado clinicians  
June 2016 to present (approximately monthly; posted on my website)

*Tips of the Trade in Appellate Practice* in  
Louisiana Bar Journal March 2010

*Preventing Grievances* in Texas Bar Journal, September 2007

*Common Ethical Violations That Can be Easily Avoided* in The Practice Manager, an online publication of the Law Practice Management Program of the Texas State Bar, March 12, 2007.

*Will Same-Sex Marriages be Recognized in Sister States: Full Faith and Credit and Due Process Limitations on States' Choice of Law regarding the Status and Incidents of Homosexual Marriages following Hawaii's Baehr v. Lewin*, 32 J. Fam. L. 551 (1994). [LL.M. thesis at UC Berkeley, Boalt Hall]  
*A Comparative Analysis of Same-Sex Partnership Protections: Recommendations for American Reform*, 7 Int'l J. of L & Fam. 282 (1993).

Note, *Equal Protection Analysis of Louisiana's Unemployment Law Balances Economic Security for Both Unemployed Individuals and Employers: Pierre v. Administrator*, 36 Loy. L. Rev. 195 (1990).

*Therapy with Battered Women* in Women, Power and Change. National Association of Social Workers, Inc. (Ann Weick and Susan Vandiver, eds. 1982).

**COMMUNITY  
SERVICE:**

**Downtown Northampton Association Board of Directors**

Northampton, Massachusetts

Member, February 2019 – October 2023

Treasurer, October 2023 - present

**Ward 3 Neighborhood Association Board**

Northampton, Massachusetts

Board member – October 2018 to October 2019

President - October 2019 – May 2021

**Street's Hope – Services for Sexually Exploited Adults**

Denver, Colorado

Agency Legal Consultant (high risk clinical cases and legal risk prevention)

January 2016 – present

Clinical Staff training – half day January 25, 2018

**Denver PFLAG Board of Directors**

Member, October 2016 – August 2017

**Colorado NASW/CSCSW Practice Standards Committee**

Member, November 2015 – present

**Louisiana State Bar Association – Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

Member – assisting impaired lawyers and judges find resources

July 2014 - present

**Arbitrator – LSBA Fee Dispute Program**

Volunteer Arbitrator – decide fee disputes between lawyer and client

March 2009 - present

**Trinity Training & Counseling Center**

Consultant – Legal & Ethical Issues in Clinical Practice  
Oct. 10 and 17, 2008 (half day staff trainings)

**Loyola Professionalism Orientation**

Panelist – LSBA group session for new law students - August 9, 2008

**NASW Austin, Texas Branch Steering Committee**

Member and Program Committee Co-Chair; May 2007- present

**New Orleans Pro Bono Project B**

**Child in Need of Care (CINC) Program**

Volunteer attorney for children in State custody  
February 2000 to August 2005 (Katrina)

**AIDSLaw of Louisiana, Inc. - Board of Directors, New Orleans**

June 2001 to June 2004

**Louisiana Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers  
(LAPRL) 1999 to 2005**

**American Civil Liberties Union**

Board member of Greater Pittsburgh Board of Directors 1994-96;  
Vice-President of Greater Pittsburgh Chapter Board - 1995-96

**Louisiana Committee for Social Work Vendorship**

President - 1986-89; Litigation Chair – 1989

**Chartres Mental Health Center Advisory Board, New Orleans**

Vice-President - 1987; Treasurer - 1983-86

**National Association of Social Workers**

**Private Practice Special Interest Group, New Orleans**

President - 1984-85; Program Committee Chair - 1982-84

**Crescent House Shelter for Battered Women, New Orleans**

Clinical Consultant for Adult & Children's Counseling Programs -1979-85

**RECENT  
PRESENTATIONS:**

***Ethical Management of Boundaries in the Age of Social Media:  
Necessities (“the Rules”) and Suggestions for Increasing Wellbeing of  
Clinicians and Their Clients***

(Beyond Ethics, LLC – clinician training business)

February 23 and June 7, 2024 for LA & CO clinicians (Zoom)

***Ethical Challenges with Divorced Parents:  
Clinical and Legal Conundrums***

(Beyond Ethics, LLC – clinician training business)  
March 8 and May 10, 2024 for LA & CO clinicians (Zoom)

***Ethical Management of Business Sticky Wickets  
in Clinical Practice: Documenting, Avoiding Complaints, Disciplinary  
Processes, and Handling Subpoenas***

(Beyond Ethics, LLC – clinician training business)  
May 12, June 30, and November 3, 2023 for LA & CO clinicians (Zoom)

***Divorcing Couples with Children: Ethical, Self-Protective Management of  
High-Risk Cases and Legal Involvement***

(Beyond Ethics, LLC – clinician training business)  
April 1, June 10, November 4, 2022 for LA & CO clinicians (Zoom)

***Self-Protective, Ethical Management of High-Risk Clinical Cases and  
Legal Involvement: Situations That Wake You Up at Night and Other  
Sticky Wickets***

Southern University School of Social Work (Zoom)  
March 22, 2022

***Self-Protective Handling of Ethical Dilemmas That Arise Around  
Imminent Risk Cases in Social Work***

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Social Work School (Zoom)  
March 11, 2022

***Ethical Management of High-Risk Clinical Situations  
& Handling Lawyers!!***

AAMFT Colorado Team Train & Gain webinar (Zoom)  
February 17, 2022

***Self-Protective Management of High-Risk Clinical Cases And  
Legal Involvement: Situations That Wake You Up at Night And Other  
Sticky Wickets***

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Social Work School (Zoom)  
May 21, 2021

***Advance Ethical Planning for Therapist's Unexpected Departure:  
The Professional Will***

(Beyond Ethics, LLC – clinician training business)  
June 4, September 24, November 12, 2021 for LA & CO clinicians

**Walking the Clinical High Wire with Couples, Families and Lawyers:  
Ethical Management of Risk**

(Beyond Ethics, LLC – clinician training business)

August 7 and October 23, 2020 (Zoom webinar) for LA & CO clinicians

**Ethical Managing of High-Risk Situations in Clinical Practice: Nightmare  
Cases!** (Beyond Ethics, LLC – clinician training business)

May 31 and November 8, 2019 – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Ethical Management of Legal Involvement: Authentic Use of the  
Therapist's Self** (Beyond Ethics, LLC – clinician training business)

July 12, 2019 – Denver, Colorado

**Ethical Management of Legal Involvement: Authentic Use of the  
Therapist's Self** (Beyond Ethics, LLC – clinician training business)

June 8 and November 2, 2018 – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Self-Protective Practices for High-Risk Clinical Cases**

(Beyond Ethics, LLC – clinician training business)

May 11, 2018 – Denver, Colorado

**Self-Protective, Ethical Practices with High-Stress Clients/Situations:  
Walking the High Wire in Stressful Clinical Situations and Legal  
Involvement**

Beyond Ethics, LLC held at SunGate Kids

August 28, 2017 – Denver, Colorado

**Self-Protective, Ethical Practices for Clinicians to Handle High-Risk Clients  
and Legal Involvement**

Sungate Kids – Colorado Child Advocacy and Abuse Services

April 17, 2017 – Denver, Colorado

**Ethical, Clinical Practice in an Electronic Age**

Beyond Ethics, LLC

February 17, June 2, and November 3, 2017 – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Self-Protective, Clinical Practice with High-Risk Clients**

Colorado Society for Clinical Social Work – Salon

October 20, 2016 – Denver, Colorado

**Ethical, Clinical Challenges: Dual Relationships and Other Sticky Wickets**

Beyond Ethics, LLC

May 13, 2016 – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Self-Protective, Ethical Practices with Couples and Families:  
Walking the High Wire in Stressful Clinical Situations and Legal  
Involvement**

Beyond Ethics, LLC

April 10, May 29, and November 6, 2015 - New Orleans, Louisiana

**School Counselors Ethics Training**

Kipp – New Orleans School Counselors

January 5, 2015 – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Ethics for Clinicians in a Litigious Society**

Beyond Ethics, LLC

March 28 and May 30, 2014 - New Orleans, Louisiana

**Self-Protective, Ethical Practice for Clinicians to Handle  
High-Risk Clients and Legal Involvement**

Beyond Ethics, LLC

April 12, June 14, Sept. 20 and Dec. 6, 2013 – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Ethical, Self-Protective Management of High-Risk Clinical Situations**

Beyond Ethics, LLC

June 29 and Dec. 7, 2012 – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Current Issues in Ethics: 2012**

Gilsbar, Inc. Ethics Seminars: Loss Prevention Office

June 15, 2012 – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Law & Ethics in Pediatric Mental Health:**

**The ABCs of Ethical Clinical Practice When Lawyers Come Calling**

Burrell Mental Health Center Annual Pediatric Conference

May 11, 2012 – Springfield, Missouri

**Ethical Management of Clinical Practices**

Jewish Family Service and Professional Development Network

April 20, 2012 – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Current Issues in Ethics: 2011**

**Divorce, Depression & Substance in the Legal Profession**

Beyond Ethics, LLC

December 9 and 16, 2011 – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Current Issues in Ethics: 2011**

Gilsbar, Inc. Ethics Seminars: Loss Prevention Office

September 13, 2011 – Lafayette, Louisiana

September 23, 2011 – New Orleans, Louisiana



**Managing High-Risk Clinical Situations: Ethically & Self-Protectively**  
Department of Energy – Oak Ridge National Laboratory: May 5, 2011  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

**Current Issues in Ethics: 2010**

Last Chance CLE: December 17, 2010  
Courtyard Marriott at 2 Galleria Boulevard, Metairie, Louisiana

**Tips from the Bench & Bar for Incisive Appellate Practice**

Louisiana State Bar Association's all day seminar: Oct. 15, 2010  
Appeals! Appeals! Appeals! Experts of the Bench & Bar  
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel

**Avoid Ethics Complaints and Malpractice Lawsuits – PESI, LLC**

New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Louisiana – May 2012  
Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, Florida – March 2012  
Tinley Park, Arlington Heights, Chicago, Illinois – February 2012  
Austin, Houston, San Antonio, Texas – January 2012  
St. Louis, Missouri & Springfield, Illinois – Nov./Dec. 2011  
Macon, Norcross, Atlanta, Georgia – September 2011  
Roanoke, Richmond, Norfolk, Virginia – April 2011  
Towson, College Park, MD & Fairfax, Virginia – Oct. 2010  
Princeton, Edison and Parsippany, NJ – Sept. 2010  
Palm Spring and San Diego, California – July 2010  
Macon, Norcross and Atlanta, Georgia – March 10-12, 2010  
Richmond, Norfolk, Virginia – Jan. 20-22, 2010  
Des Moines, Omaha, Kansas City, Wichita – Dec. 1-4, 2009  
Indianapolis, IN – Nov. 4-6, 2009  
Minneapolis, MN, October 1-3, 2009  
Philadelphia and Harrisburg, PA & Cherry Hill, NJ - July 13-15, 2009

**Legal and Ethical Issues in Mental Health Practice: Protecting Yourself and Your Clients** (half-day seminar)

Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers  
June 19, 2009 – Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Legal & Ethical Issues in Clinical Practice: Litigation Involvement and Preventing Disciplinary Complaints** – Master Session (half day)

National Association of Social Workers-Louisiana Annual Conference, April 1, 2009 – Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Loyola Law School Professionalism Orientation**

Sponsored by Loyola School of Law and the Louisiana State Bar Association – Panelist for 3-hour group for incoming law students  
August 9, 2008 – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Legal & Ethical Issues in Mental Health Practice: Protecting Yourself and Your Clients** – 6-hour CEUs through Cross Country Education, Inc. January 29-31, 2008 (Nashville, Knoxville, and Asheville).  
December 17-19, 2007 (Cleveland, Erie and Pittsburgh).

**Exploring The Grey Areas Of Social Work Practice: An Interactive Workshop Applying Ethics Rules to Challenging Clinical Situations**  
Sponsored by the University of Texas Professional Development Office  
CEU ethics training for mental health professionals –  
July 20, 2007 and November 30, 2007 (full day) – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Ethics & Litigation: A Survival Guide**  
Sponsored by St. Edward's University Professional Education Office  
CEU ethics training for mental health professionals –  
August 10 and November 9, 2007 (half day) – Austin, Texas

**Appellate Writing: Tips of the Trade**  
Prime Time CLE Institute, May 15, 2005 – New Orleans, Louisiana

**Common Ethical Dilemmas in Law Practice**  
CLE for New Orleans City Attorney's Office - March 25, 2004  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**How to Be Effective in Courtroom for Mental Health Professionals**  
CEU for Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers – Sept.12, 2003  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Keeping the Wolves and Disciplinary Counsel from the Office Door**  
All day seminar on risk prevention and common ethical dilemmas in solo law practice. Sponsored by Prime Time CLE Institute, January 24, 2002  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Structure and Procedures of the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board and Avoiding Common Client Complaints**  
Lecture for Tulane Law School's CLE by the Hour - December 27, 2001  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**The New Ethical Standards: Compliance with the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act**  
Lecture for Tulane School of Social Work  
Center for Lifelong Learning, Summer Updates, June 1, 2001  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Issues in Ethics and Professionalism**  
Lecture for Prime Time CLE Institute, March 7, 2001- New Orleans, LA

**Comparison and Contrast of the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary System  
with the Social Work Board of Examiners Disciplinary System**

National Association of Social Workers Florida Parishes Regional Meeting,  
October 20, 1998 – Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Utilizing the Mental Health Professional as Deponent**

All day workshop through Prime Time CLE Institute - October 16, 1998  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Social Work and the Law: Understanding Your Rights**

National Association of Social Workers-Louisiana Annual Conference,  
March 11, 1998 – Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**BAR**

**ADMISSIONS:**

State Bar of Colorado – February 27, 2015 (#48182)

State Bar of Louisiana – October 19, 1991 (#20858)

State Bar of Texas – August 10, 2006 (*emeritus*)

United States Supreme Court – April 19, 2004

**CLINICAL**

**LICENSES:**

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Louisiana – 1980 (#1232)

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Texas – 2006 (inactive)

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Colorado – 2014-2019