

Suzanne Penn

Experience

**University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law
Delta Divorce Clinic
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Director and Supervising Attorney (2015-present)

Created and designed a new clinic at the law school to provide community education and in person intake events about divorce and custody in the Arkansas Delta as well as representation in divorce and custody cases for intake applicants selected for direct services. Trained law students on divorce, domestic abuse, Rule 4 service of process methods, and Rule 72 In Forma Pauperis requirements and then supervised the students as they prepared educational materials and instruction for the public on these topics. Traveled with law students for education and intake events in the following 14 eastern Arkansas counties and 20 towns: Arkansas - Stuttgart; Ashley - Crossett and Hamburg; Bradley - Warren; Chicot - Dermott, Eudora, and Lake Village; Desha - Dumas and McGehee; Drew - Monticello; Jackson - Newport; Lawrence - Walnut Ridge; Lee - Marianna; Lincoln - Star City; Lonoke - England and Lonoke; Monroe - Clarendon; White - Bald Knob and Searcy; and Woodruff - Augusta. Taught students how to draft divorce complaints, summonses, and divorce decrees, obtain and prove service, and prep witnesses for testimony and conduct final divorce hearings.

Supervising Attorney in the Family Juvenile Litigation Clinic (1996-2015)

Taught and developed class materials from my real cases for law school litigation clinic classes covering such topics as interviewing, counseling, negotiation, fact investigation, and discovery. Facilitated weekly case status review meetings with students in which I monitored, assisted, analyzed, and critiqued the preparation and performance of third year law students. Appeared with students at client and witness interviews and at hearings where the students represent clients in divorce, custody, child support, domestic abuse, parent and grandparent visitation, adoption, guardianship, and juvenile delinquency cases.

Honors and Awards

**2025 Faculty Excellence University Level Winner for Social Justice Award
2022 Faculty Excellence School of Law Level Winner for Public Service Award
2017 Faculty Excellence University Level Winner for Public Service Award
2015 Michael Hunter Schwartz Dean Paula Casey Service Award**

**Central Arkansas Legal Services (Center for Arkansas Legal Services)
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Staff Attorney (1990 -1995)

Maintained an average active caseload of 75 cases primarily in the area of family and juvenile law but also covering housing and consumer law. Performed an average of five initial client intake interviews on a weekly basis. Prepared complaints, answers, and discovery. Filed and responded to motions, and drafted or approved final orders. Argued cases in Chancery, Circuit and Municipal Courts on a weekly basis. Won many contested cases primarily involving child custody but also including Medicaid, housing inspections, and property in divorce.

**Office of Chief Counsel - Arkansas Department of Human Services
Monticello, Arkansas**

Attorney (1989-1990)

Litigated child support and child welfare cases for the Department of Human Services. Reduced the caseload in Chicot County from 266 to 177 in the first seven months on the job. Appeared before the Chancery Court extensively. Prepared complaints, motions, and orders. Worked with child support investigators and child welfare caseworkers.

**Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
Little Rock, AR**

Program Coordinator (1988-1989) (Part-Time)

Monitored the implementation of seventy-eight recommendations insuring that the policies and procedures of and the delivery of services by the Arkansas Department of Human Services were consistent with the goals of Public Law 96-272 (The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980). Tracked legislation affecting children during the 1989 General Assembly and prepared a legislative update for members of Arkansas Advocates.

**Arkansas Governor's School
Conway, Arkansas**

Instructor (Summers 1989, 1988, 1987, 1986)

Taught classes in the social sciences to gifted and talented high school students. Prepared discussions on the following topics: First Amendment Rights, Criminal Law, Prejudice (racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia), Social Psychology (conformity and altruism), and Social Issues.

**Arkansas Land Stewardship Project
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Intern (1986-1987)

Appeared on radio shows and gave speeches to civic clubs and high school classes on conservation and the 1985 Farm Bill. Prepared newsletter for high school students.

**Quiggle & Thompson, P.A.
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Attorney (1986)

Drafted complaints, motions, interrogatories, and orders. Interviewed potential clients, composed affidavits, and questioned and prepared witnesses for trial. Took depositions. Gained experience in civil rights law.

**Arkansas Attorney General's Office
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Consumer Educator (1984-1985)

Taught senior citizens about con artist schemes, insurance, and mail order fraud, as well as their legal rights and responsibilities regarding wills and contracts. Gave over 150 speeches and traveled throughout Arkansas. Spoke to a variety of groups including people attending senior citizen centers, Retired Teachers, American Association of Retired Persons, and Kiwanis Club members.

**Migrant Farm Law Project
New Orleans, Louisiana**

Law Clerk (Winter 1984)

Researched landlord tenant law. Met with sugar cane workers.

**National Senior Citizens Law Center
Washington, D.C.**

Law Clerk (Summer 1983)

Researched cases on Supplemental Security Insurance. Compiled a list of laws regulating the nursing home industry.

EDUCATION

**Tulane University School of Law
New Orleans, LA**

Juris Doctor Degree - May 1984

Activities:

President - Tulane Public Interest Law Foundation; co-founded the Tulane Public Interest Law Foundation, drafted the Foundation's constitution; organized a fund-raising drive which collected money to provide summer salaries for Tulane students working in public interest law.

Honors:

The General Maurice Hirsh Award, an award presented annually to the student the Faculty feels has contributed the most to the law school and community.

James W. Hopkins Scholarship, an academic scholarship received during the first year of law school.

Hendrix College

Conway, AR

Bachelor of Arts Degree (with Honors) - June 1981

Academic Standing: overall GPA - 3.9/4.0

Major: psychology- GPA in major - 4.0/4.0

Minor: political science (32 hours)

Honors:

Graduated With Honors based upon GPA, graduate record exam scores in major, oral interviews covering the humanities, social and natural sciences, and a major paper, "The Legislative History of Community Mental Health Centers."

Margaret E. Fitch Award - awarded to the graduating senior with the best record in psychology.

American University

Washington, D.C.

(Spring 1980)

Participated in the Washington Semester program. Attended seminars on all phases of national government.

Interned for the Senate Special Committee on Aging and read reports on the mental health problems affecting the elderly.

LICENSE

Admitted to the Arkansas Bar 1985

CONFERENCES

AALS Southern Clinical Conference University of Memphis School of Law, Memphis, Tennessee Presenter October 22-24, 2015.

AALS Southern Clinical Conference University of Alabama School of Law, Tuscaloosa, Alabama Presenter May 12-13, 2011.

“UALR Service Learning Academy” Little Rock, Arkansas June 2009

“First Annual Georgetown Summer Institute on Clinical Teaching” , Georgetown University School of Law, Washington, D.C. June 2008

“Conference on Clinical Legal Education” AALS New Orleans, Louisiana May 2007

“Active Teaching and Learning”, Gonzaga University Spokane, Washington Presenter July 9-10, 2004.

“Fresh Looks at Teaching and Learning Law”, Gonzaga University Spokane, Washington Presenter June 11-12, 1999.

National Association of Counsel for Children, Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 10-13, 1998.

“Second Annual Rocky Mountain Child Advocacy Training Institute 1997” Denver, Colorado. May 18-20, 1997

“Conference on Clinical Legal Education” AALS, Miami, Florida May 18-22, 1996.

“Expanded Advocacy Teacher Training” NITA, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California November 30 -December 3, 1995.

“Workshop on Clinical Legal Education” AALS, St. Louis, Missouri May 3-6, 1995.

Community Service

Member of Board of Directors of Center for Arkansas Legal Services 2023 to 2026

Member of Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Civil Practice 2021 to 2025

Member of Board of Directors of Arkansas Affiliate of American Civil Liberties Union (1998-1996)

Member of Board of Directors of Mainstream Living

University Service

Scholarship Committee - Chair 2026- present

Member 2025 -2026

US News Law School Ranking Committee - Member 2019, 2022

Admissions Committee - 2014-2015

Delta Project Committee - Chair 2014 -2015

Scholarship Committee 2008-2010

Honor Council Faculty Advisor - 1996-2001