

# Darren Christopher Bertin

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

**Attorney** with extensive experience in government administration, all phases of litigation (including discovery, motion practice and pretrial litigation), criminal law and procedure, statutory construction and regulatory standards, contract formation and administration, issue spotting and research/evidence gathering. Excellent skills using a variety of software platforms to maximize and conduct effective research and trial preparation. Strong interpersonal relations with clients, office staff, administration, elected officials and all individuals with an interest in a particular situation, including adverse counsel. Sound exercise of discretionary judgment coupled with precise analytical reasoning skills. Exceptional communication skills, both oral and written, with numerous high-profile public presentations on behalf of self and others.

### Demonstrated strengths:

- **Criminal law, procedure and evidence**
- **Pretrial litigation and strategy**
- **Dealing with adverse parties/counsel**
- **Diversory courts and procedures**
- **Litigation (discovery, motion practice, trial) expertise**
- **Research/evidence gathering**
- **Sound analytical judgment skills**
- **Legal writing and memoranda of law**
- **Written and oral communication skills**

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Dunham & Jones, P.C.

2019-present

#### Managing Attorney (Waco and Killeen)

Responsibilities include managing all facets of two offices, including personnel and decision making processes; potential client interviews and intake; representing clients across a wide-array of criminal issues over an 11 county footprint in district courts, county courts at law and justice courts.

### Coryell County, Texas; Gatesville, Texas

2016-present

#### Assistant District Attorney – 52<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District

Responsibilities include intake, investigating, filing felony charges; prosecuting cases up to and through verdict; drafting and/or responding to motions. Was responsible for crimes against persons, drug offenses and property crimes that rise to the level of felony in Coryell County, Texas.

- Handled all phases of an active case load of approximately 215 cases per month.
- Innumerable adverse hearings from hearings on motions, probation revocations and jury trials to verdict.
- Able to effectuate unique solutions in order resolve long-standing cases.

**Galveston County, Texas; Galveston, Texas****2015-present****Director – Galveston County Justice Center**

Responsibilities include managing personnel and budget while insuring compliance with all state and federal rules and regulations for jail population, personal bond office, collections improvement program, and law library.

- Built and installed new collections program and software that brought county from 8% compliance with state regulations into full compliance.
- Initiated procedures for collecting \$56M in outstanding debt accumulated over many years resulting in the active and ongoing collection of these debts in just eight months.
- Researched, presented and initiating transition to a direct file system designed to reduced jail population for pretrial detainees, saving county \$4.5 - \$5M per year.
- Increased research options while reducing expenses by \$105K per year in the county law library.
- Designed and implemented software that tracks daily inmate population statistics on multiple levels in order to facilitate faster dockets in both district and county courts at law.
- Increased services and improved procedures in all areas of responsibility while reducing budget expenditures for each program.

**Lamar State College – Port Arthur; Port Arthur, Texas****2012 - 2015****Director of Testing/Prof. of Philosophy**

Responsibilities included managing testing center and personnel; budget, writing and implementing testing center policies and procedures, troubleshooting testing software applications.

- Increased testing center and college profit margins by identifying and contracting with third party testing companies.
- Implemented and installed campus-wide testing procedures in compliance with applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- Researched and performed statistical analysis for departmental cohort resulting in improved student scores and more efficient teaching methods.

**The Law Offices of Darren C. Bertin, P.L.L.C.; Nacogdoches, Texas****2005 - 2011****Owner**

Solely responsible for representing firm's clients from intake to judgment; managed day to day operations of the business, including income and expenses, profit/loss, salaries and compensation, personnel decisions, capital outlay, physical plant operations and general business environment.

- Firm specialized in general litigation, both civil and criminal, with an emphasis on plaintiff's trial law.
- Concentrated practice to areas of personal injury trial law, criminal law, construction injury and liability, business litigation and breach of contract, financial services litigation, first-party insurance litigation, employment and labor law, and civil rights.
- Personal successes include:

\$2,400,000.00 – Construction injury (Liberty Co., Texas) – settlement  
\$1,250,000.00 – Nursing home neglect (Rusk Co., Texas) – trial settlement  
\$475,000.00 – On the job heavy equipment injury (Houston Co., Texas) – settlement

**Rankin \* Bertin, P.L.L.C.,** Nacogdoches, Texas

**2000 - 2005**

**Owner**

Co-owner responsible for community outreach and bi-annual management of firm, including all phases of client representation from intake to judgment.

- Oversaw business development and representation, and creation of corporate policies.
- Represented clients through all phases of litigation.
- Concentrated practice in areas of all facets of plaintiff's trial law, business litigation and breach of contract, first-party insurance litigation, employment and labor law, and civil rights.
- Firm and personal successes include:
  - \$5,500,000.00 – Logging accident (Shelby Co., Texas) - jury verdict
  - \$3,250,000.00 – Nursing home neglect (Rusk Co., Texas) – trial settlement
  - \$1,500,000.00 - Breach of Contract (Smith Co., Texas) – bench verdict

**Jim Garrett & Associates, L.L.P.,** Nacogdoches, Texas

**1998 - 2000**

**Associate**

Associate with small plaintiff's firm. Responsibilities included client interview/intake, responding to and drafting discovery, responding to and drafting motions, making sure clients were contacted and updated on their case.

**ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Martin, L.P.,** Houston, Texas

**1997**

Summer Associate/Associate responsibilities included corporate acquisitions and mergers and Litigation; researching and advising clients on assets, liabilities, profit-loss statements of potential corporate acquisitions; policy and procedure research to help reduce client's potential tort liabilities, advise, negotiate and create contracts for venture capital clients.

## EDUCATION

### **Mercer University-Walter F. George School of Law; Macon, Georgia Juris Doctoris, 1998**

#### Awards/Honors/Activities:

- AmJur Award (highest class average) – Evidence, Law and Religion, Legal Ethics, Pretrial Advocacy, Trial Practice, Legal Writing II
- Assoc. Justice - Honor Court

### **Duke University-The Divinity School; Durham, North Carolina Masters of Theological Studies, 1995**

Thesis: “Why Christians Should Not Have an Epistemology” (unpublished)

Dir. – Dr. Stanley Hauerwas; Gilbert T. Rowe Prof. of Theological Ethics

#### Awards/Honors/Activities:

- Concentrated studies in Christian Ethics, Philosophical Theology, Wittgenstein
- St. Thomas Aquinas Award for best thesis, 1995
- Student chaplain at North Carolina State MH/MR Facility, Butner, NC, 1993-1994
- Summer ministerial intern at Oceanview United Methodist Church, Yaupon Beach, NC

### **Louisiana State University; Baton Rouge, Louisiana Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, 1998**

#### Awards/Honors/Activities:

- Cum Laude
- Dean’s List, 1992-1993
- Chief Justice – Honor Court, College of Arts & Sciences

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT and AFFILIATIONS

- Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Stephen F. Austin State University, 2006-2009
- Keynote Address, SFA Lecture Series in the Department of Political Science, 2005
- Member, Nacogdoches Economic Development Corporation, 2007-2010
- Board of Trustees, Duke University-The Divinity School (The Baptist House), 2006-2008
- Board of Directors, Health Horizons of East Texas, Inc., 2003-2004
- Church Trustee, Austin Heights Baptist Church, 2003-2010
- Interviewed and appeared in the Danish documentary "Eye for an Eye"
- Presentation before the Board of Directors for the State Bar of Texas, January, 2014
- Numerous speaking engagements to churches, civic groups and governmental entities
- Numerous presentations at CLE seminars and State Bar workshops throughout Texas, including the *Garland R. Walker American Inn of Court*
- Interviewed and appeared in "Courage, Hope, Help: TLAP is There", produced by The State Bar of Texas
- Author, "Not Your Typical Addict", *Texas Bar Journal*, Vol. 78, No. 6 (June, 2015), p. 456-457.
- Recipient of the 2016 State Bar of Texas President's Award
- President's Opinion, "Heroes", *Texas Bar Journal*, Vol. 79, No. 8 (September, 2016), p. 598.
- Current Vice-Chairman, Texas Lawyers Assistant Program Steering Committee for the State Bar of Texas.