

## **HELEN GAEBLER**

William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law  
The University of Texas School of Law  
727 E. Dean Keeton Street, Austin TX 78705  
Tel. (512) 232-5439  
[hgaebler@law.utexas.edu](mailto:hgaebler@law.utexas.edu)

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### **EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL**, Madison, Wisconsin

J.D. *cum laude*, 1992

Order of the Coif

Joseph E. Davies Scholar, Outstanding Member of the Second Year Class

Wisconsin Law Review (Articles Editor, published)

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON**, Madison, Wisconsin

B.A. with distinction, Sociology/Criminal Justice, 1986

Postgraduate studies in Sociology of Law, Spring 1989

**MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE**, South Hadley, Massachusetts

### **CLERKSHIP**

**HON. NATHAN HEFFERNAN, CHIEF JUSTICE WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT**, Madison, Wisconsin, 1992-1993

### **BAR MEMBERSHIPS**

Texas (2010); Arizona (2002; inactive); District of Columbia (1993; inactive); Minnesota (1993; retired 2001); Wisconsin (1992; inactive)

### **RESEARCH AND TEACHING FOCUS**

My work currently focuses on criminal legal system reform, with particular interests in parole and reentry. I teach an upper-level course in the School of Law on Topics in Reentry, which is cross-listed with the LBJ School of Public Affairs and attracts graduate students from across campus. The course is structured around a service-learning component for which the students complete law and policy projects on behalf of local reentry organizations and other system stakeholders.

I also direct the law school's Pro Bono Parole Project, which recruits law students to represent parole eligible women incarcerated in Texas. Now in its fourth year, the Parole Project has more than 50 volunteer student attorneys working with 19 women who will be parole eligible this academic year. I recently secured private funding to hire a two-year post-graduate fellow to assist with the Parole Project and to survey available reentry resources in Texas and to help facilitate a statewide conversation on reentry and ideas for strengthening collaboration between directly impacted individuals and their families, communities, and institutional entities.

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

### Current:

**The University of Texas School of Law**, Austin, Texas

**William Wayne Center for Public Interest Law**

Lecturer, September 2014 – Present

Senior Research Attorney, March 2010 – Present

### Previous:

**The University of Arizona**, Tucson, Arizona

**Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth and Families**

Assistant Director for Community Engagement, 2008 – 2009

Lecturer, Legal Issues Affecting the Children, 2008-2009

**The University of Queensland**, Australia

Visiting Research Fellow (John Western, Sociology), Fall 1987

**Manchester College Oxford**, England

Visiting Scholar (Comparative Legal Systems), Spring 1987

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

**Office of the Arizona Attorney General**, Tucson, Arizona

**Child and Family Protection Division**

Assistant Attorney General, 2003 – 2008

**The University of Arizona**, Tucson, Arizona

**Office of University Counsel**

Legal Consultant, 2001-2002

**United States Department of Justice**, Washington D.C.

**Civil Division, Civil Fraud Section**

Trial Attorney, 1997– 2001

**Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering**, Washington D.C.

Litigation Associate, 1993-1997

**Bredhoff & Kaiser**, Washington D.C.

Summer Associate, 1992

**Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge**, Washington D.C.

Summer Associate, 1991

**Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Herb Kohl**, Washington D.C.

Robert M. LaFollette Legal Fellow, 1990

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (Select)

### University:

#### **UT Criminal Legal System Research Interest Group**

Member, 2021 – Present

*This research collaborative creates opportunities for sharing expertise about data and methods to investigate important research questions about the CLS. The RIG seeks to create an on-going platform to facilitate data access, data sharing, as well as to identify key substantive and methodological themes in order to leverage campus and community resources to advance research in this area.*

#### **UT Opportunity Forum**

Co-Founder and Steering Committee Member, 2011 – 2021

*Through applied research, educational forums, and experiential learning opportunities, this interdisciplinary collaboration worked to engage University and community leaders to develop inclusive strategies that would expand opportunities and foster stronger and more equitable communities.*

### Community:

#### **Shiver Center on Poverty Law, Partnership for Just Housing Alliance Network**

Member, 2018 – Present

*The Partnership is a collaborative of advocates working to end housing discrimination against justice-involved individuals.*

#### **Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable, Austin, Texas**

Planning Council Member, 2013 - Present; Executive Committee (2015-2019)

*The Reentry Roundtable is a community collaborative working to promote safe and healthy communities through effective reentry and reintegration of formerly incarcerated persons and individuals with criminal histories.*

#### **Texas Supreme Court Children's Commission, Austin, Texas**

Parent Resources Work Group Member, 2012 to Present

*The Parent Resource Workgroup works to ensure that parents, including parents who are incarcerated, understand their rights, role, and responsibilities in a Child Protective Services case and the rights, roles, and responsibilities of others involved in the case.*

## POLICY WORK (Select)

### Legislative Testimony

Texas House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence, Interim Hearing, October 7, 2014.  
Invited testimony to address expunction and non-disclosure of Texas criminal records.

Texas Senate Committee on State Affairs, Interim Hearing, September 16, 2014.  
Invited testimony to address the bulk sale and dissemination of Texas criminal records.

## **Administrative Comments**

Comments submitted by the Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable in response to the Austin Housing Authority's Proposed Changes to the Housing Choice Voucher Program Administrative Plan. (November 26, 2021)

Comments submitted by the Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable on the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs' Staff Draft of 10 TAC, Chapter 11, 2021 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP). (October 9, 2020)

## **Reports, Guides, and White Papers**

### **Best Practices to Expand and Strengthen Texas Parole**

William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law and The University of Texas Civil Rights Clinic (Co-Authored with Ranjana Natarajan) (Forthcoming 2022)

### **2020 Reentry Progress Report & Recommendations**

Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable (Co-Author, 2020)

<https://app.box.com/s/t9affltb3jainygmj4mi3bv8os76vp53>

### **Texas Criminal Background Screening Guide for Rental Housing Providers**

Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable (Lead Author, 2018)

[https://www.reentryroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Austin-Criminal-Background-Screening-Guidebook.final\\_.pdf](https://www.reentryroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Austin-Criminal-Background-Screening-Guidebook.final_.pdf)

### **Housing Applicant Criminal Background Screening Template**

Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable (Co-Author, 2018)

[https://www.reentryroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ATCRRT.Criminal-Background-Template.final\\_-1.pdf](https://www.reentryroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ATCRRT.Criminal-Background-Template.final_-1.pdf)

### **Locked Out: Criminal History Barriers to Affordable Rental Housing in Austin & Travis County, Texas**

Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable (Co-Author, 2016)

[https://www.reentryroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Criminal-Background-White-Paper.final\\_.pdf](https://www.reentryroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Criminal-Background-White-Paper.final_.pdf)

### **Criminal Records in the Digital Age: A Review of Current Practices and Recommendations for Reform in Texas**

William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law (Author, 2013)

[https://www.reentryroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/criminalrecords\\_report1.pdf](https://www.reentryroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/criminalrecords_report1.pdf)

## **PRESENTATIONS (Select)**

Moderator, Webinar on Building Networks without Barriers: Connecting the Formerly Incarcerated to Social Programs, Sponsored by Aunt Bertha, June 3, 2021

Presenter, Fair Chance Employment and Reentry (Webinar training for Austin Regional Manufacturers Association (ARMA))  
Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable, February 26, 2019

Presenter, Reentry and Fair Housing: Expanding Access for People with Criminal Records  
City of Austin Fair Housing Conference, April 4, 2018

Presenter, Returning Citizens and Fair Housing: Housing Needs & Barriers for Formerly Incarcerated Persons (Webinar training for Legal Aid Attorneys)  
The University of Texas School of Law, April 3, 2018

Moderator, Criminal Records as Barriers to Employment  
The University of Texas School of Law, November 11, 2014

Presenter, Criminal Records and Employment Barriers  
Travis County Sheriff Vision Summit, November 6, 2014

## **CONVENINGS (Select)**

Conversation on Policies and Practices Relating to Driver License Suspensions and Holds, and Their Impacts on Low-income Texans  
William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law, May 11, 2018

Invited Stakeholder Conversation: Reentry & Housing (Austin, Travis County)  
William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law, April 2, 2018

Conversation on the Role of Courts and Class C Misdemeanor Debt  
William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law, May 20, 2016

Conversation on Criminal Debt Collection  
William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law, February 10, 2016