

Jessica Macklin Milligan
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Professional Admissions

Texas Bar; Colorado Bar
Western District of Texas (formerly)
Southern District of Texas (formerly)

Work Experience

Milligan Law, PLLC
Founding Attorney

September 2020 – Present

- Criminal Defense: private and appointed attorney for all types and levels of criminal cases
- Appointed counsel for mental health dockets in Fort Bend County
- Consultant on animal cruelty or animal law related cases for both prosecution and defense
- Special Prosecutor for animal cruelty investigations/cases as appointed
- Animal Law Attorney for seizure defense; dog attack litigation and consultation on other animal law issues
- Frequent speaker and trainer regarding animal cruelty and animal related legal issues with State and National audiences including defense bars, law schools, state agencies, District Attorney's Offices, law enforcement agencies, bar associations, animal control enforcement, law enforcement, and animal humane/legislative organizations.
- Certified Mediator in Civil Mediation and Advanced Family Law Disputes

South Texas College of Law
Adjunct Professor

2025 - Present

- Teaching and facilitating the Animal Law Clinic for South Texas School of Law students.

Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies
Arbitrator Out-of-Network Payment Arbitration Program

2020-Present

- Handle dispute resolution/arbitrations and review evidentiary submissions from providers or facilities versus insurance companies regarding disputed out-of-network payments.

Harris County District Attorney's Office
Assistant District Attorney

June 2006 – September 2020

- 2009 – September 2020 – Animal Cruelty Section Chief and Animal Cruelty Specialist o Investigated and litigated thousands of animal cruelty cases. Performed 24-hour intake for all animal related investigations around Harris County.

- o Provided legal training to animal control officers, law enforcement, law students, animal rescue groups, legislative organizations, and the general community.
 - o Legislative initiatives relating to animal law. Helped draft and pass the Texas 2017 laws penalizing sexual assault against animals and increasing the punishment range for violent offenses against animals.
 - o Organized special initiatives involving animal dumping and animal cruelty. o Created the Responsible Pet Ownership Program for the Harris County Probation Department. o HOPE Program (Helping Our Pets through Education) Founder and Instructor (since Sept. 2014).
 - o Won several awards for legislative and litigation efforts in animal cruelty prosecution from organizations such as PETA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Was also honored by local organizations such as Friends for Life for animal cruelty education and prosecution.
- 2014 – 2020 - Veteran's Court Prosecutor o Assisted in Veteran's Court process by staffing meetings and negotiating cases referred to the Harris County specialty Veteran's Court. 2008 – 2016 - Assistant District Attorney, General Litigation Division
 - o Litigated civil cases on behalf of Harris County District Attorney, prosecutors, investigators, and staff in their individual capacities. Advised various District Attorneys regarding legal issues and employment questions. Responded to Public Information and Subpoena requests as custodian of records. Represented assistant district attorneys in State Bar complaints. Negotiated fugitive dockets for extradition proceedings, including writ hearings and bond hearings. Advocated during expunction proceedings. Taught police officers code of criminal procedure and penal code at HPD Academy.
 - 2008 – 2016 - Internship Coordinator o Recruited, interviewed, and supervised hundreds of volunteer and academic interns. Participated in panel discussions regarding interviewing and career preparation.
 - 2006 – 2008 – Assistant District Attorney, Trial Bureau Division o Felony Prosecutor; Juvenile Prosecutor; Misdemeanor Prosecutor; Justice of the Peace Prosecutor; Intake Prosecutor; Environmental Crimes Prosecutor. Trial Experience includes felony and misdemeanor jury trials, juvenile trials, Justice of the Peace jury trials, bench trials, punishment hearings, motions to revoke probation and deferred adjudication, suppression hearings, and motions for new trial.

Lang & Kustoff, L.L.P.

August 2004 – May 2006

Associate Attorney

- Litigated employment, construction, consumer, and insurance cases, including trials in state, federal, and justice of the peace courts. Conducted extensive legal research. Drafted motions and briefs including motions to compel, briefs of law for arbitration proceedings, and appellate motions and responses. Drafted discovery pleadings and petitions. Presented and defended depositions. Advocated at mediations, hearings, and settlement conferences. Interviewed potential clients and analyzed case value. Drafted correspondence to clients.

WestLaw – West Group

August 2002 – May 2004

Student Representative

- Performed legal research and taught students to use WestLaw for legal research. Created web-based tutorial programs for professors. Marketed WestLaw program.

Adami, Goldman and Shuffield, Inc.

Summer 2003

Law Clerk

- Conducted extensive legal research. Drafted dispositive motions including no-evidence and traditional summary judgments. Drafted discovery requests and responses and motions to compel. Attended depositions, mediations, hearings, negotiations, and arbitrations.

United States Attorney's Office, District of Colorado

Summer 2003, 2002, 2000

Paralegal Specialist and Office Automation Clerk

- Drafted motions, briefs and responses. Prepared criminal discovery and exhibits for cases involving violent crime, embezzlement, and drugs. Assisted in the negotiation of monthly misdemeanor docket. Prepared search and arrest warrants, jury instructions and voir dire. Coordinated victim/witness logistics and addressed concerns for Grand Jury and trial.

United States Attorney's Office, District of New Mexico

Sept. 2000 – July 2001

Student Clerk

- Prepared criminal discovery and exhibits for cases involving illegal immigration and drugs. Drafted prosecutorial memorandums. Attended trial to operate exhibit visualizer and assist with exhibits.

Education**St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, Texas**

Juris Doctor, May 2004

Advocacy Honors: National Order of Barristers; 2004 Patricia Scott Outstanding Advocate of the Year; 2002-2004 Member, St. Mary's External Advocacy Mock Trial Team; 2004 National Regional Mock Trial Tournament; 2003 Lone Star National Mock Trial Tournament (1st Place Team, Best Speaker of Championship Round, 2nd Best Overall Advocate of Tournament); 2003 National Regional Mock Trial Tournament; 2003 ATLA National Mock Trial Tournament (2nd Place Team); 2002 Lone Star National Mock Trial Tournament (3rd Place Team, 2nd Best Overall Advocate of Tournament)

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Bachelor of Business Administration, May 2001, 3.856 GPA

Honors: Outstanding Senior Graduate in Marketing; Dean's List; Crimson Scholar; Alpha-Chi National Honor Society (graduated top 1% of the university student body); Golden Key National Honor Society

Volunteer Activities/Membership/Other

State Bar of Texas Animal Law Section, Board Member; Council Member

Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association, Member

Fort Bend County Bar Association, Member

Fulshear Chargers Select Baseball, Board Member and Secretary

Brazos High School Athletic Booster Club, Member

Brazos High School Band Booster Club, Member 2023-2025

Leaman Junior High PTO, Former Sports Committee Chair and Board Member

National Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Former Member and Speaker

Houston Bar Association, Former Member and Speaker's Bureau

HBA Animal Law Section, Former Member; Former Chair, Former Secretary, Former Treasurer and Former Vice-Chair

JA Instructor – 2015

I.T.T. Technical Advisory Board, Former Member

HBA Lawyer for Literacy Program, Tutor, B.C. Elmore Elementary School, 2009 - 2010

HYLA Teen Court Committee, Co-Chair, 2007 – 2008

Fulshear Sports Association – Founder and Co-Commissioner – 2020 – 2024

One Sports Nation - Fulshear League – Owner and Co-Commissioner – 2019 - 2020