

# RESUME

## WILLIAM P. ALLISON

### CAREER SUMMARY

For thirty-two years, Bill Allison has practiced and taught law in Austin, Texas. He began his career as a lawyer with the Community Legal Services Program, a law office sponsored by The University Of Texas School Of Law. When the program was absorbed by the Travis County Legal Aid and Defender Society in 1972, he became a Legal Aid lawyer. In both these positions he supervised law students in one of the Law School's earliest "clinical" programs, what today is called an externship.

In 1975, Mr. Allison was recruited to be a full time Lecturer at the UT School Of Law, teaching and supervising students in the newly formed Criminal Defense Clinic (CDC). The CDC was the Law School's first true clinic with an academic component. In 1977, Mr. Allison and a student attorney appealed one of the Clinic's early cases, a free speech case, to the United States Supreme Court and won. Also in 1977, Mr. Allison opened his first private practice in Austin, concentrating on federal and state criminal defense, while remaining on the faculty half-time as a Lecturer to continue teaching and supervising CDC students. He began teaching trial advocacy for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy in 1978 and has taught more than fifty, one- to three-week trial advocacy courses for lawyers and for law students at various venues around the nation. In Fall 1995, Mr. Allison was invited to teach a seminar entitled, "Franz Kafka and the Systems of Punishment" in the Plan II Honors program at UT. He taught that course through the fall semester of 2002, then turned the course over to the Hon. Robert Pitman, a UT Law School and CDC graduate, and now a United States Magistrate for the Western District of Texas. Mr. Allison retired from the law school faculty after the summer semester, 2002, and has devoted himself to his private practice. In January 2004, Mr. Allison returned to teaching full time as a Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Criminal Defense Clinic.

From 1993 to 1999, Mr. Allison served as Editor-in-Chief of *Voice for the Defense*, the monthly magazine of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He is recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*. In June, 2001, he was named "Best Defense Lawyer of the Year" for 2000-2001, by the Criminal Justice Section of the State Bar of Texas. In November 2003, *Texas Monthly Magazine* named him one of the "Super Lawyers of Texas" (a peer reviewed award) and one of the top fifty (50) lawyers for Central and West Texas. He has been listed in *Woodward & White's Best Lawyers in America* since 1996, and has been "A/V" rated by Martindale-Hubble for over twenty years.

In recent years, Mr. Allison has worked to obtain the exoneration of innocent individuals who have been wrongfully convicted, cases of actual innocence. He and a team of lawyers recently won the release of a young man who had spent more than 12 years in prison for a murder he did not commit. Mr. Allison also won the exoneration for another innocent man who had spent 16 years in prison for a sexual assault he did not commit. Recently, he was part of the team that won a \$5.3 million civil rights settlement for one of these exonerated individuals. He has just achieved the commutation of a death penalty case in Texas for a mentally retarded man. This was a court appointed case on which he worked for over six years.

In the Fall of 2003, along with David Sheppard and Prof. Robert Dawson, Mr. Allison incorporated the Texas Center for Actual Innocence as a Section 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt, non-

profit corporation to find and assist actually innocent inmates who are serving long-term or death penalty sentences. Through the generous cooperation of the UT School Of Law and the Austin law firm of Graves Daugherty Hearon and Moody, the Center has prepared a syllabus, written a manual, recruited an initial class of ten students out of fifty applicants, and screened the first inmate requests. This hybrid class is privately funded, with little or no cost to the law school.

## **CURRENT**

Principal, Law Office of William P. Allison, Austin, Texas.  
President, Texas Center for Actual Innocence

## **PROFESSIONAL LICENSES AND MEMBERSHIPS**

State of Texas, admitted 1971  
Fifth Circuit, admitted 1972  
Western District of Texas, admitted 1973  
United States Supreme Court, admitted 1976  
Eastern District of Texas, admitted 1984  
Southern District of Texas, admitted 1984, re-admitted 2001.  
Northern District of Texas, admitted 1989  
Board Certified in Criminal Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization, State Bar of Texas, 1980.  
American Bar Association  
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association  
Austin Criminal Defense Lawyers Association  
Texas Bar Foundation  
College of the State Bar of Texas

## **EDUCATION**

Law School: University of Texas  
J.D., 1971

College: University of the South  
Sewanee, Tennessee  
B.A., History, 1967

## **LEGAL PRACTICE**

2000 - Present: Private Practice, Law Office of William P. Allison, Austin, Texas.

1999 - 2000: Private practice, Allison & Bassett, L.L.P., Austin, Texas.

1992 - 1999: Private practice, Allison, Yeager & Bassett, L.L.P., Austin, Texas.

1991 - 1992: Private practice, White, Allison & Yeager, L.L.P., Austin, Texas.

1984 - 1991: Private practice, White and Allison, P.C., Austin, Texas.

1982 - 1984: Private practice, Lynch, Zimmerman, White and Allison, Austin, Texas.

- 1981 - 1982: Private practice, Lynch, Zimmerman and White, Austin, Texas.
- 1977 - 1981: Private sole practitioner, Austin, Texas.
- 1975 - 1977: Full-time Lecturer-in-Law, University of Texas School of Law, Austin, Texas.
- 1971 - 1975: VISTA lawyer, Staff Attorney, Acting Director, Community Legal Services and Travis County Legal Aid and Defender Society, Austin, Texas. (Supervising attorney for the Legal Aid Clinic, directed by Prof. Jack Sampson at the University Of Texas School Of Law.)

### **UNIVERSITY TEACHING**

- 1995 - 2002: Lecturer, Plan II Undergraduate Honors Program, teaching junior seminar entitled *aFranz Kafka and the System of Punishment.* (Fall Semester only)
- 1975 - 2002: Lecturer-in-Law, University of Texas School of Law, teaching the Criminal Defense Clinic.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- “Witness Preparation from the Criminal Defense Perspective”, 30 TEX. TECH L. R. 1333 (1999).
- Black’s Law* (Book Review), TRIAL, JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL LAWYERS OF AMERICA, at 89 (May 1999).
- “Tell Your Story Through Opening Statement”, TRIAL, JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL LAWYERS OF AMERICA, at 77 (Sept. 1998).
- “I’m Outta’ Here” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Jun 1999).
- “Storytelling” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Mar 1999).
- “To Kill A Dog” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Dec 1998).
- “Law and Literature” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Oct 1998).
- “It’s Not About You” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Sept 1998).
- “Addicted to Prison” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Jul/Aug 1998).
- “Kerr-Age” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Apr 1998).
- “Litigation as Education” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Mar 1998).
- “The Wannabes Are Winning” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Jan/Feb 1998).
- “Changes” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Nov 1997).

“Do You Like the Death Penalty” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Oct 1997).

“Us Against Them” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (May 1997).

“Becoming a Trial Warrior” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Mar 1997).

“Victimology” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Nov 1996).

“Legal Beagles” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Oct 1996).

“Reinventing the Practice of Law” (editorial). VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (May 1996). [This editorial was reprinted at 2 TEXAS PARALEGAL JOURNAL, No.2].

“The Winning Beginning” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Apr 1996).

“A Good Learning Tool” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Jan/Feb 1996).

“What’s Good for the Goose. . .” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Nov 1995).

“The TCDLA Electronic Bulletin Board” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Oct 1995).

“Jack-Booted Government Thugs Maybe” (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Jun 1995).

Comment (editorial), VOICE FOR THE DEFENSE (Dec 1994).

Contributing Author, Master Advocates' Handbook, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, 1986.

Book Review, 5 AM. J. CRIM. LAW 388 (1977).

## **TRIAL ADVOCACY TEACHING**

### ***NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR TRIAL ADVOCACY (NITA)***

1992: NITA National Course, University of Colorado School of Law, Boulder, Colorado.

1991: NITA Southern Regional Course, Southern Methodist University School of Law, Dallas, Texas.

1988-1990: NITA National Course, University of Colorado School of Law, Boulder, Colorado.

1988: NITA Mid-America Regional, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

1987: NITA Advanced National Course, University of Colorado School of Law, Boulder Colorado.

- 1986: NITA National Course, University of Colorado School of Law, Boulder, Colorado.
- 1984: NITA Southern Regional Course, Southern Methodist School of Law, Dallas, Texas.
- 1979: NITA Northeast Regional Course, Hofstra University School of Law, Hempstead, New York
- 1978: NITA Northeast Regional Course, Cornell University School of Law, Ithaca, New York.

***EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW***

- 1983-1990: Intensive Trial Advocacy Course, Team Leader.
- 1982: Intensive Trial Advocacy Course.

***HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW***

- 1984: Intensive Trial Advocacy Course.
- 1981: Intensive Trial Advocacy Course.
- 1979: Intensive Trial Advocacy Course.

***BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW, YESHIVA UNIVERSITY***

- 1997-2003: Intensive Trial Advocacy Program
- 1995: Intensive Trial Advocacy Program.
- 1987-1992: Intensive Trial Advocacy Program.

***TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION***

- 2002: Criminal Trial Advocacy Institute, Sam Houston State University School of Criminal Justice, Huntsville, Texas.
- 1995-2000: Criminal Trial Advocacy Institute, Sam Houston State University School of Criminal Justice, Huntsville, Texas.
- 1992: Criminal Trial Advocacy Institute, Sam Houston State University School of Criminal Justice, Huntsville, Texas.
- 1989-1990: Criminal Trial Advocacy Institute, Co-Director, Sam Houston State University School of Criminal Justice, Huntsville, Texas.
- 1987: Criminal Trial Advocacy Institute, Co-Director, Sam Houston State

University School of Criminal Justice, Huntsville, Texas.

1984-1985: Criminal Trial Advocacy Institute, Co-Director, Sam Houston State University School of Criminal Justice, Huntsville, Texas.

1983: Criminal Trial Advocacy Institute, Director, Sam Houston State University School of Criminal Justice, Huntsville, Texas.

1980-1982: Criminal Trial Advocacy Institute, Sam Houston State University School of Criminal Justice, Huntsville, Texas

### ***GEORGIA BAR ASSOCIATION***

1982: Georgia Bar Association Trial Advocacy Course, Co-Director, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia.

### ***BAKER & BOTTS***

1988: Nine Day Intensive Trial Advocacy Course for twenty-four Associates of

### ***UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW***

1994: Intensive Trial Advocacy Program.

### ***TEACHING OTHER THAN TRIAL ADVOCACY***

2002: Presented paper on Innocence Litigation to the Austin Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

2002: Presented paper entitled “The Strange Journey of Actual Innocence in Texas”, for the American Journal of Criminal Law.

2001: Presented paper entitled “Contempt – An Ethical Guide: What It Is; How To Avoid It and How To Get Out of It” for the Austin Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

2001: Presented paper on “Advanced Basic Cross-Examination” for the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

2000: “The Future of DNA”, Travis County District Attorneys Office and the Austin Police Department, spoke on AInnocence Initiatives in Texas,@ Austin, Texas.

1998-1999: Rusty Duncan Annual Short Course, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers’ Association. Presented paper and demonstration on AOffice Technology and the Internet,@ San Antonio, Texas

- 1999: Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association's President's Retreat, Presented paper on AStorytelling in Opening Statement,@ Ixtapa, Mexico.
- 1999: Texas Tech University Law Review Symposium, Presented Paper on AWitness Preparation From the Criminal Defense Perspective,@ Lubbock, Texas
- 1998: American Trial Lawyers' Association Annual Convention, Presented paper on AStorytelling in Opening Statement,@ Washington, D.C.
- 1999: Travis County Bar Association, Criminal Law and Procedure Section, Weekend Retreat, Directed session on AEthics in Local Courts,@ Hunt, Texas.
- 1990: Advanced Criminal Law Course, State Bar of Texas. Presented paper on AFederal Forfeiture,@ Fort Worth, Texas.
- 1988-1990: Faculty for Travis County Women Lawyers and Federal Bar Association on sentencing, emphasizing the new federal Sentencing Guidelines, Austin, Texas.
- 1988: Bexar County Bar Association Criminal Law Symposium. Presented paper on charge to the jury in state and federal practice, San Antonio, Texas.
- 1987: Faculty for Travis County Women Lawyers and Federal Bar Association course entitled "A Day in Federal Court." Presented paper on pretrial hearings, Austin, Texas.
- 1986: Advance Criminal Law Course, State Bar of Texas. Presented paper on charge to the jury in state and federal practice, Houston, Texas.
- 1985: Advanced Criminal Law Course, State Bar of Texas. Presented paper on charge to the jury in state and federal practice, Fort Worth, Texas.
- 1985: Bexar County Bar Association Criminal Law Symposium. Presented paper on indictments and informations, San Antonio, Texas.

Other lectures on various topics related to criminal law, criminal procedure and the practice of criminal law for the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers' Association, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers' Project, the Texas District and County Attorneys' Association, the Travis County Bar Association and the Austin Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

### **MILITARY SERVICE**

United States Navy Officer Candidate School, Newport, Rhode Island, 1969  
 Officer, United States Navy, River Patrol Forces, Republic South Vietnam 1969-1970  
 Released from active duty, 1970, Rank: Lieutenant, j.g.  
 Honorable Discharge from United States Navy, 1978, Rank: Lieutenant.

