

## **Megan LaVoie, J.D.**

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### **Attorney with Ten Plus Years in Communications and Government Affairs**

Senior-level Government Affairs and Communications attorney with a successful track record in all three branches of government as well as the private sector. Multi-session government affairs experience with the Texas Office of Court Administration, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Texas Senate and Texas Governor's Office. Former TV Reporter with strong writing, public speaking and advocacy skills.

### **Professional Experience**

#### **Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council – Austin, TX**

*July 2016 – Present*

*Director of Public Affairs & Special Counsel*

*October 2013 – July 2015*

- Draft and monitor legislation, serve as liaison for legislative members, staff and media, manage the completion of agency legislative fiscal notes, produce written testimony to legislative committees and supervise one government relations attorney.
- Designed and managed a statewide campaign to educate more than 90,000 attorneys about an 80+ million dollar technology project.
- Steer agency strategic planning and annual report development for the Judicial Branch.
- Serve as legal counsel for branch commissions and lead staff for Judicial Council Committees on Mental Health and Guardianship, Criminal Justice and Public Trust and Confidence.

#### **National Multiple Sclerosis Society**

*July 2015 – July 2016*

*Senior Director of Advocacy*

- Managed policy and government affairs teams in five states -TX, LA, NM, AR, OK.
- Active member of federal advocacy team and advocated on Capitol Hill.
- Passed legislation in Louisiana to reform the state's insurance step-therapy protocols.
- Member of national strategic planning team chairing workgroups on telemedicine and media advocacy.
- Led State Action days in 5 states and managed policy and logistics for hundreds of activists.

#### **Texas State Senator, Robert Duncan – Austin, TX**

*November 2010 – October 2013*

*General Counsel/Communications Director*

- Managed Criminal Justice, Civil Justice and Veterans and Military Affairs policy and budget related to the Senator's legislative agenda.
- Co-drafter of high-profile, bipartisan legislation "The Michael Morton Act" that reformed Texas' criminal discovery statute.
- Briefed, researched and recommended votes on more than 600 pieces of legislation.
- Accountable for the Senator's messaging and engagement with state and national media.
- Crafted press releases and staff briefing documents for major legislation.
- Produced and published opinion pieces, newsletters and website content.

#### **Office of the Governor of Texas, General Counsel's Office – Austin, TX**

*May 2010 – July 2010*

*Law Clerk*

- Assisted General Counsel with legal research and public information requests.
- Drafted a report on social media policies in the legislature.
- Aided in compiling and writing capital punishment briefs for the governor.

**KJTV Fox 34 News – Lubbock, TX**

*January 2006 – August 2009*

*Anchor/Senior Reporter*

- Award winning managing editor/writer/producer/reporter/anchor.
- Enterprising courts and crime beat reporter who also covered city and county politics.
- Inaugural morning reporter responsible for 7 daily live shots/breaking news coverage.
- Represented station at Meals on Wheels, CASA, and United Way philanthropy events.

### **Education and Licensure**

**Saint Mary's University School of Law – San Antonio, TX**

*August 2009 – May 2012*

*Juris Doctor*

**Licensed as an attorney and counselor of law by the Supreme Court of Texas**

- President's Scholarship, EAP Moot Court Team, Quarter-Finalist at the Linda and David Schlueter Moot Court Competition and attended the St. Mary's Institute on World Legal Problems at the University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria.

**Texas Tech University – Lubbock, TX**

*August 2002 – May 2006*

*Double Major, BA Journalism and BA History*

- Dean's List, Texas Tech Student Senate – University Life Chairman, Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society and member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority – Assistant Philanthropy Chairman.

### **Recent Publications**

- **The 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, Texas Bar Journal, September 2017, pg 17**  
[https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Past\\_Issues&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=37741](https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Past_Issues&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=37741)
- **Paperless Courts, Texas Bar Journal, January 2014**  
[http://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Texas\\_Bar\\_Journal2&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=24756](http://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Texas_Bar_Journal2&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=24756)
- **More Veterans Courts would Help Texas, San Antonio Express News, November 2013**  
<http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/commentary/article/More-veterans-courts-would-help-Texas-4986273.php>
- **Inside Texas Tech, KTTZ TV, March 2013**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpo\\_t6Yw90A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpo_t6Yw90A)