

# STEVEN ALAN CHILDRESS

*Conrad Meyer III Professorship in Civil Procedure  
and Professor of Law*

**Tulane University Law School**

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New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

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**Bar admissions** (active): California, District of Columbia, and United States Supreme Court  
**Notarial commission:** Louisiana, 2019

## ***EDUCATION***

**Graduate:** *Ph.D.*, in Jurisprudence and Social Policy, 1995  
*M.A.*, 1986  
University of California at Berkeley, Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program,  
1984-1987  
Regents Fellowship, 1985-86  
Outstanding Graduate Instructor, 1986  
Dissertation: "Appeal and Error in First Amendment Adjudication"

**Legal:** *J.D.*, 1982, Harvard Law School  
Member, HARVARD INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL, 1980-82  
La Alianza (organization supporting Latino interests): Vice-President, 1981-82,  
Moot Court Chair, 1980-81, and Advisor, 1980-82,  
Editor, newsletter RAZA REVIEW, 1980-82  
Third-year Paper: "The Quasifundamental Right to Education"

**Undergraduate:** *B.A. summa cum laude* in International Relations, 1979,  
University of Alabama  
Phi Beta Kappa, 1978 (second year)  
Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship, 1978  
Top Pre-law Student Award, Brownell Scholar and AATSP Medal, 1979  
Certificate in Latin American Studies, 1979

## **LAW EMPLOYMENT**

### **Tulane University Law School, New Orleans, LA**

Conrad Meyer III Professorship in Civil Procedure, since 2007.

Professor of Law, since 1996. Associate Professor of Law, 1988-1996 (tenured 1994).

**Courses taught:** Torts; Legal Profession (Professional Responsibility); Evidence; Advanced Legal Profession Seminar; Comparative Legal Professions; Introduction to Law and Legal Process; Advanced Torts Seminar; Admiralty II; and First Amendment.  
For Tulane School of Professional Advancement: Louisiana Notary Law.

**Service/Activities:** Faculty Appointments Committee (chair), 2005-06  
Tenure and Promotions Committee, 2002-05  
University Graduate Council, 2014-22  
Admissions Committee, 2016-20, 2021-22; chair: 2017-20  
Readmission Comm., many years; chair: 01-03, 08-10, 11-17, 20-21, 23-24  
Judicial Clerkships Committee (chair), 1989-1992, 1995-1997  
President, Advisory Board, Newcomb Children's Center, 1994-95  
University Judicial Officer, Student Discipline Hearings, 2000-05  
University Senate Committee on Student Programs and Affairs, 1992-94  
Academic Affairs Comm., 1998-99; Legal Writing Comm., 1998-2000  
Clinics Committee, 1996-98, 2014-15, and Library Committee, 1988-89  
Technology and Computers Committee, 1995-97, 1999-2000, 2001-02  
Search Committees for various fellows/administrators, 1995, 2002, 2004  
Selection Committee, Diversity Summer Job Program, 1989-96, 2000-01  
Organized/chaired program on Fed. Civil Justice Reform Act, Sep. 1992  
Moderated programs, Tort Reform & Litigation, Oct. 1995, Mar. 2004  
Presented/chaired panels for Law & Society Ass'n, 1998, 1999, 2000  
Presented at Federal Fifth Circuit Appellate Procedure Seminar (SMU/  
Tulane/Loyola): 1986, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1996, 2001, 2005  
Presented at Georgetown/Tulane Conf. on European Torts: Feb. 2005  
Presented at Southern Political Science Association Conf., Jan. 2014  
Recent CLE presentations: Dec. 2024, Dec. 2019, Feb. 2014, Mar. 2012

### **George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC**

Visiting Professor of Law, 2006-07. **Courses:** Professional Responsibility; Evidence.

### **Loyola Law School, New Orleans, LA**

Visiting Professor of Law, Fall 1999 and Fall 2002. **Course:** Evidence.

### **Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison, San Francisco, CA**

Associate Attorney, 1986-88 (mass torts, litigation and appeals).

### **University of California, Berkeley, CA**

Graduate Instructor, 1985-86. **Courses:** Criminal Justice; Sociology of Defamation & Privacy.

### **Golden Gate University School of Law, San Francisco, CA**

Adjunct Lecturer on Law, 1984-86. **Courses:** Torts; Advanced Torts; Education Law.

### **Morrison & Foerster, San Francisco, CA**

Associate Attorney, 1983-84 (litigation).

***Legal Employment, cont.***

**Judge Henry A. Politz**, late Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit  
Judicial Law Clerk, 1982-83.

**Gray, Cary, Ames & Frye**, San Diego, CA  
Summer Associate, summer 1981.

**Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr.**, late Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit  
Judicial Intern, summer 1980.

***PUBLICATIONS***

**Books and Supplements**

FEDERAL STANDARDS OF REVIEW, FIFTH EDITION, 2024 (published Dec. 26, 2024)  
Matthew Bender/LEXIS-NEXIS Publishing Co.

Volume 1: Civil

Volume 2: Criminal

Volume 3: Administrative

LOUISIANA NOTARY AND LEGAL FORMS WITH EXPLANATIONS: 2024 EDITION  
Quid Pro, 376 pp., 2024 (with Michele Childress) (published June 7, 2024)

LOUISIANA NOTARY EXAM SIDEPiece TO THE 2025 STUDY GUIDE  
Quid Pro, 138 pp., 2024 (new edition after years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024)

LOUISIANA NOTARY EXAM SAMPLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 2025  
Quid Pro, 124 pp., 2024 (new edition after years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024)

BECOME A NOTARY PUBLIC IN LOUISIANA, 2025  
Quid Pro, 60 pp., 2023 (new edition updating original 2021 edition and 2023-24 update)

HOT TOPICS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION – 2017 (editor and foreword)  
Quid Pro, 196 pp.

HOT TOPICS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION – 2012 (editor and foreword)  
Quid Pro, 244 pp.

HOT TOPICS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION – 2010 (editor and foreword)  
Quid Pro, 124 pp.

FEDERAL STANDARDS OF REVIEW, FOURTH EDITION, 2010  
Matthew Bender/LEXIS-NEXIS Publishing Co., 1730 pp.  
Volume 1: Civil Cases and General Review Principles  
Volume 2: Criminal Cases and Habeas Appeals (with Martha S. Davis)  
Volume 3: Administrative Appeals (with Martha S. Davis)

THE ANNOTATED COMMON LAW, 2010 (annotated edition of book by O.W. Holmes, Jr.)  
Quid Pro, 440 pp.

FEDERAL STANDARDS OF REVIEW, THIRD EDITION, 1999  
Matthew Bender/LEXIS-NEXIS Publishing Co., 1460 pp.  
Volume 1: Civil Cases and General Review Principles  
Volume 2: Criminal Cases and Administrative Appeals (by Martha S. Davis)

APPEAL AND ERROR IN FIRST AMENDMENT ADJUDICATION, 1995  
Doctoral Dissertation for University of California at Berkeley, 576 pp.  
UMI Dissertation Services, Inc., Microform No. 9602509

FEDERAL STANDARDS OF REVIEW, SECOND EDITION, 1992  
Butterworth/Michie Legal Publishing, 1570 pp.  
Volume 1: Civil Cases and General Review Principles  
Volume 2: Criminal Cases and Administrative Appeals (by Martha S. Davis)

STANDARDS OF REVIEW, 1986  
John Wiley & Sons Law Books, 865 pp.  
Volume 1: Federal Civil Cases and Review Process  
Volume 2: Federal Criminal Cases and Administrative Appeals (with Davis)

FEDERAL STANDARDS OF REVIEW, ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT. Years 2000-2008, and 2011-2023.  
LEXIS Publishing, up to 391 pp., in two volumes (with Davis, 2008-2011)

FEDERAL STANDARDS OF REVIEW, ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT. Years 1993-1998.  
The Michie Company, up to 279 pp., in two volumes (with Davis, all years)

*Series Editor:*

“Classics of the Social Sciences” Series: Republications, with introductory editor notes, of:  
J. Thorsten Sellin, *Slavery and the Penal System* (2016)  
Karl N. Llewellyn, *The Common Law Tradition: Deciding Appeals* (2015)  
Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life* (2012)  
Emile Durkheim, *Professional Ethics and Civic Morals* (2012)  
Talcott Parsons, *The Social System* (2012)  
Philip Selznick, *TVA and the Grass Roots* (2011)  
Neil J. Smelser, *Theory of Collective Behavior* (2011)  
Neil J. Smelser, *Sociological Theory: A Contemporary View* (2011)

**Encyclopedia Contribution**

*Lawyers and the Legal Profession*, in THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LAW AND SOCIETY: AMERICAN AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES, VOL. 2 (David Clark, ed., June 2007), Sage Publishing Co.

## Articles and Essays

*No (Physical) Harm, No Foul?: Trusting Workable Limiting Principles to Emotional Distress Torts*, 49 TEXAS TECH L. REV. 703-720 (Spr. 2017)

*A Primer on Standards of Review in Federal Civil Appeals*, 293 FEDERAL RULES DECISIONS 156-223 (West Publ. Co., Jan. 2014)

*Revolving Trapdoors: Preserving Sufficiency Review of the Civil Jury After Unitherm and Amended Rule 50*, 26 REVIEW OF LITIGATION 239-264 (Univ. of Texas, Spr. 2007)

*Mentoring Up and Down*, 80 TULANE L. REV. 1581-1583 (2006) (In Memoriam)

*Taking Jury Verdicts Seriously*, 54 SMU L. REV. 1739-1747 (2001) (Commentary, in reply to David Crump and William Dorsaneo)

*Jury Verdicts: The Whole Greater Than Pieces*, 53 SMU L. REV. 1539-1545 (2000) (Commentary, in reply to William Dorsaneo)

*The “Soft Science” of Discretion: A Reply to Ghosh’s “Search for Scientific Validity in Evidence Law,”* 8 THE DIGEST 31-36 (2000) (Response to Shubha Ghosh)

*The Empty Concept of Self-Censorship*, 70 TULANE L. REV. 1969-1977 (1996) (Essay)

*Constitutional Fact and Process: A First Amendment Model of Censorial Discretion*, 70 TULANE L. REV. 1229-1358 (1996)

*Jury Review in Diversity Cases: An Erie Update*, 4 THE DIGEST 39-72 (1996)

*A 1995 Primer on Standards of Review in Federal Civil Appeals*, 161 FEDERAL RULES DECISIONS 123-47 (West, 1995)

*Judicial Review and Diversity Jurisdiction: Solving an Irrepressible Erie Mystery?*, 47 SMU L. REV. 271-327 (1994)

*Pornography, “Serious Rape,” and Statistics: A Reply to Dr. Kutchinsky*, 26 LAW & SOCIETY REV. 457-61 (1992) (Response to Berl Kutchinsky)

*Reel “Rape Speech”: Violent Pornography and the Politics of Harm*, 25 LAW & SOCIETY REV. 177-214 (1991) (Review Essay)

*Sanctions on Appeal: An Outline of Rules and Recent Cases*, 10 FIFTH CIRCUIT REPORTER 687-708 (West, June 1993) (with Terry E. Allbritton)

*Federal Summary Judgments on Appeal: Review and Jurisdiction*, 9 FIFTH CIRCUIT REPORTER 513-25 (West, Feb. 1992)

*Historicizing Law Schools: An Alternative to the Socratic Tunnel Vision?*, 38 BUFFALO L. REV. 315-24 (1990) (Book Review) (review of Robert Stevens, LAW SCHOOL, and others)

*A Standards of Review Primer: Federal Civil Appeals*, 125 FEDERAL RULES DECISIONS 319-47 (West, 1989)

*A New Era for Summary Judgments: Recent Shifts at the Supreme Court*, 116 FEDERAL RULES DECISIONS 183-94 (West, 1987)

*"Clearly Erroneous": Judicial Review Over District Courts in the Eighth Circuit and Beyond*, 51 MISSOURI L. REV. 93-189 (1986)

*Standards of Review in Criminal Appeals: Fifth Circuit Illustration and Analysis*, 60 TULANE L. REV. 461-561 (1986) (with Martha S. Davis)

*Standards of Review in Eleventh Circuit Civil Appeals*, 9 NOVA L.J. 257-330 (1985)

*The Hazards of Computer-Assisted Research to the Legal Profession*, 55 OKLA. B.J. 1531-36 (Aug. 1984)

*The Baby and the Bathwater: Developing a Positive Socratic Method*, 18 LAW TEACHER 95-109 (U.K., Sweet & Maxwell, 1984)

*Standards of Review in Federal Civil Appeals: Fifth Circuit Illustration and Analysis*, 29 LOYOLA L. REV. 851-923 (1983)

*Executive Authority: Revocation of Executive Order Requiring Notification of Export of Hazardous Substances*, 22 HARVARD INT'L L.J. 683-88 (1981) (student Recent Development)

### **Survey Articles and Legal Newspapers/Reporters**

*Appellate Jurisdiction, Procedure and Standards of Review*, 16 FIFTH CIRCUIT REPORTER 105-110 (West Publ. Co., Dec. 1998) (with Deborah A. Pearce-Reggio)

*Appellate Jurisdiction, Procedure and Standards of Review*, 15 FIFTH CIRCUIT REPORTER 459-466 (West, June 1998) (with Pearce-Reggio)

*Appellate Jurisdiction, Procedure and Standards of Review*, 15 FIFTH CIRCUIT REPORTER 331-338 (West, Apr. 1998) (with Pearce-Reggio)

*Appellate Jurisdiction, Procedure and Standards of Review*, 15 FIFTH CIRCUIT REPORTER 107-115 (West, Dec. 1997) (with Pearce-Reggio)

*The First Amendment: Fifth Circuit Symposium*, 20 TEX. TECH L. REV. 477-93 (1989)

*The First Amendment: Fifth Circuit Symposium*, 19 TEX. TECH L. REV. 693-705 (1988)

*The First Amendment: Fifth Circuit Symposium*, 18 TEX. TECH L. REV. 587-603 (1987)

*The First Amendment: Fifth Circuit Symposium*, 17 TEX. TECH L. REV. 615-36 (1986)

*Jury Verdicts: Reviewing the Whole Record?*, 1 FIFTH CIR. CIV. NEWS 1, 18 (No. 12, Mar. 2001)

*Supreme Court Clarifies Review of Civil Jury Verdicts*, 11 THE ADVOCATE (FEDERAL BAR ASS'N) 2-3 (No. 3, Fall 2000)

*Federal Standards of Review—Negligence and Causation in Tort and Admiralty*, 4 MARITIME LAW REPORTER 84-87 (1993) (with Martha S. Davis)

*Federal Standards of Review—FELA and Jones Act Cases*, 4 MARITIME LAW REPORTER 88-91 (1993) (with Martha S. Davis)

### **Nonlegal Academic Article**

*Supernatural Influence upon Hector and Astyanax in Seneca's TROADES*, 57 CLASSICAL BULLETIN 73-76 (1981)

### **Blog and Facebook Activity**

*The Legal Profession Blog*, about ethics, the profession, bar discipline, and teaching professional responsibility; part of 'Law Professor Blogs Network' (founded with Michael Frisch of Georgetown and Jeffrey Lipshaw of Suffolk): [http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/legal\\_profession](http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/legal_profession). Named to *ABA Journal's* Top 100 Law Blogs: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012. Added to Honor Roll of top ten all-time, 2012.

*Louisiana Notary Exam Study Group*: sole administrator of leading Facebook group on notary law and exam prep, with 3,500+ members