



**James M. Whitton**

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**Practices**

School Law

Real Estate

Employment

**Education**

**J.D.** University of  
Houston Law Center,  
1979

**B.A.** University of  
Texas, 1976

**Bar Admissions**

State of Texas, 1979

U.S. Court of Appeals,  
Fifth Circuit

U.S. District Court,  
Northern District of  
Texas

**Jim Whitton** has practiced school law for over 40 years, representing boards of numerous independent school districts and private and independent schools throughout North and West Texas. He advises public and private educational entities in all aspects of school and public law, including employment, student discipline, competitive purchasing, real estate, policy development, elections and open government. He has experience defending educational entities before the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and other state and federal agencies. He is also a frequent speaker at the Annual School Law Conference conducted by the University of Texas School of Law, at the Annual Conventions of the Texas Association of School Administrators and the Texas Association of School Boards, at the Annual Retreat of the School Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, and he regularly provides training for school boards, school administrators, and school staff.

Mr. Whitton is rated AV Preeminent by *Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review*, signifying the highest level of professional excellence and adherence to the highest ethical standards – a distinction achieved by fewer than 5% of attorneys nationwide.

**Professional Recognition**

2024 Recipient of the Tarrant County Bar Association

**Memberships**

State Bar of Texas

School Law Section,  
State Bar of Texas

Tarrant County Bar  
Association

Texas Association of  
School Boards Council  
of School Attorneys

National School  
Attorneys Association

15 Year Fellow of the  
Texas Bar College

Lifetime Sustaining  
Fellow of the Texas Bar  
Foundation

Sustaining Life Fellow  
of the Tarrant County  
Bar Foundation

Professionalism Award

Chair, Board of Directors of the Texas Association of  
School Boards' Council of School Attorneys (2020-2021)

Super Lawyer in Schools and Education Law by Thomson  
Reuters, *Texas Monthly* (2005-2014)

List of Top Attorneys for School and Education Law in *Fort  
Worth, Texas Magazine, 360 West Magazine, and 76107  
Magazine.* (2017-2024)

Executive Council, School Law Section, State Bar of Texas  
(2008-2010)

**Publications**

“Can You Hear Them Now? Tips for When The Cell Tower  
Companies Come Calling,” *Inquiry and Analysis* (June  
2009)

“Unanswered Questions About School Vouchers,” *Fort  
Worth Business Press* (October 2002)

**Presentations**

“*Lessons Learned From years of Practice*”, School Law  
Section of the State Board of Texas Annual School Law  
Retreat, July 2024.

“*School Law Legislative Update*” (September 14, 2023)

“*Managing Generational Differences: The Mentorship of  
Young Attorneys*” The University of Texas School of Law  
37<sup>th</sup> Annual School Law Conference (February 17, 2022)

“*Uncivil Discourse: Managing Disruptive Comments and  
Complaints in a Time of Unrest*”, Texas Association of  
School Administrators Midwinter Conference (January 31,

2022)

*“Uncivil Discourse: Managing Disruptive Comments and Complaints in a Time of Unrest”* Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Boards Joint Annual Convention (September 25, 2021)

*“Can They Really Say That About Me?”* Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Boards Joint Annual Convention (October 1, 2020)

*“Can They Really Say That About Me?”* The University of Texas School of Law 35<sup>th</sup> Annual School Law Conference (February 21, 2020)

*“School Law Legislative Update”*; Client Workshop, Fort Worth, Texas (October 18, 2019)

*“Handling Employee and Parent Grievances”*, (November 14, 2018) Everman ISD

*“Fair and Effective Documentation for Administrators”*, (November 14, 2018) Everman ISD

TASB Legal Panel *“Ask the Attorneys”*, (November 13, 2018) Region 14 Education Service Center, Abilene

TASB Legal Panel *“Ask the Attorneys”*, (November 6, 2018) Texas A&M Commerce

*Legislative Update* – March 22, 2018, Education Law Association, Fort Worth Conference

*“The Real Shark Tank: Questions and Answers on How to Survive and Succeed”*, TASA Midwinter Conference, January 30, 2018

*“Sexual Harassment in the K-12 Environment”*, All Saints Episcopal Scholl, January 3, 2017

*“Counselor legal Issues”*, Crowley ISD, October 5, 2016

*“The Dynamic Duo – Fighting for the Truth, Justice, and the ISD Way”*, TASA MidWinter Convention, January 26, 2016; Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Boards Joint Annual Convention, Houston, TX September 23, 2016.

*2015 School Law Post-Legislative Seminar*, School District Administrator Workshop

*Have Gun, Will? School Safety in a Post-Sandy Hook World*, Education Law Association DFW Regional Conference, 2014

*2013 Legislative Update*, School District Administrator Workshop

*Are You Sure Your Independent Contractors Are NOT Your Employees?* Texas Association of School Administrators Midwinter Convention and the UNT Higher Ed Law Conference

*Can You Hear Them Now? Tips For When The Cell Tower Companies Come Calling*, Region XI Superintendent's Program

*Complying With the Public Information Act*, Superintendents' Study Group, ESC Region XI

*Conducting Meaningful Grievance Hearings*, Superintendents' Study Group, ESC Region XI

*CPS and Custody Issues*, Education Law Association, DFW Regional Conference

*Ethical Issues Relating to Reporting Requirements*, State Bar of Texas School Law Section Annual Retreat

*Keeping Schools Safe When Parents Are The Problem*,

Region XI and Superintendents' Study Group, ESC Region XI

*Off The Record: Answers to Questions We All Want to Know*, State Bar of Texas School Law Section Annual Retreat

*Open Meetings and Grievances*, Region XI Principal Preparation Program

*Stump the Lawyer*, University of Texas at Arlington Superintendents' Academy

*TASB Legal Update*, Region XIV Spring Workshop

*Who's Your Daddy? Complying With New Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code*, University of Texas School of Law Annual School Law Conference

### **Community**

Board of Directors, The Center for Transforming Lives, Fort Worth, Texas (2017-Present)

Board of Directors, Trinity Terrace Continuing Care Community, Fort Worth, Texas (2002-Present)

Chair of the Church Council, First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth (2017-2019)

Chair of the Board of Trustees, First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth (2013-2015)

President, Rotary Club of Fort Worth (1995-1996)

William B. Todd Service Above Self Award, Rotary Club of Fort Worth (2008)

Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary Club of Fort Worth (1994)

Distinguished Service Award, 2001-2002, American Heart Association

Chairman of the Board, Fort Worth Region of the American Heart Association (1997)

Vice Chairman of the Board, United Way of Metropolitan Tarrant County (1994)

Leadership Fort Worth