

# Everyone has a story

## Why I'm a Lawyer...

### Profiles of the TCBA Board of Directors

## Daniel Gomez



My journey to becoming a lawyer is somewhat untraditional. I have no lawyers in my family and knew no lawyers growing up. My first real exposure to legal studies was antitrust topics and general business law as an undergraduate economics major. I then elected to take a civil

rights course where we studied Supreme Court decisions on topics of free speech, free exercise, criminal procedure, and other interpretations of the Bill of Rights. These topics sparked my intellectual curiosity. I was intrigued by the detailed and sometimes difficult analysis of complex legal

issues addressed in Supreme Court decisions, and was interested in the role the courts have played in shaping our history. After discussion with my undergraduate professors, I determined that law school was where I wanted to be after graduation.

Ultimately, what I enjoy most as a lawyer is being part of a profession as opposed to simply a career. I'm fortunate that I can help paying clients in addressing important issues that affect their business or governmental operations, and can also help those in need through pro bono services. My most rewarding experiences have been pro bono cases, including a first amendment free exercise case and an immigration asylum appeal for a family hoping to remain safely in our country after fleeing a devastating situation. The breadth of possibilities and the opportunity to make a difference is what drives me as a lawyer.

Raised in small town, Lindsay, Oklahoma, I knew at a young age I wanted to be a lawyer. My stepfather ("Dad") adopted me when I was 10 years old; and I remember the magnificence of the courtroom and thinking how important the lawyers and judges must be. The judge was an older gentleman who was very kind to my parents and me. The way he treated us always stuck with me. My Dad was an oil field truck driver, and he came to court in his work clothes and dirty boots. At first, I was worried that we looked out of place, but soon the embarrassment turned to pride and then became the drive for me to get an education (the first in my family to do so).

Sometimes life gets in the way; and my educational and career path is not that of a traditional student. After graduating near the top of my high school class in 1982, I attended Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. After completing two semesters at NSU, I moved to Ponca City, got married and raised two daughters. When my children were in middle school, I began attending night classes at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, Oklahoma, while working a fulltime job.

## Tamera A. Childers

After obtaining my Associates Degree from NOC, I commuted to Stillwater and graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Finally able to fulfill my lifelong dream, I graduated with honors from the University of Tulsa College of Law in 2003.



My dad was a simple man without any formal education, but was the smartest, most honest and hard-working person I've ever known. He taught me the value of a strong work ethic and integrity. He told me on the day of my law school graduation to never forget where I came from and not to get too big for my britches. I always keep that in mind and strive to be the kind of professional my dad would be proud of.