



# Deandra Grant Law

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NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED DWI LAW FIRM

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Growing up in Plano, Texas, Deandra Grant never pictured herself as managing partner of a major law firm. “I really wanted to be a vet but didn’t think I could handle seeing animals hurt,” says Grant. Fast forward 30+ years and she found a way to channel her love for animals into a VP role at Living the Doxie Dream Rescue & Sanctuary in Royse City. At home she has 5 rescue dogs—Ariel, Rocket, Groot, Drax, and Gamora. “I wear a lot of hats: running the law firm, raising money for the dog rescue, pulling dogs out of shelters, taking care of my family. My life is never boring.”

Grant graduated from Plano Senior High School in 1986. She attended Trinity University in San Antonio where she obtained a business degree. She came back to Dallas to attend law school at SMU. “My first class in law school was Criminal Law. I was hooked. Made the highest grade in the class. I knew what I wanted to do,” says Grant.

She started an internship at the Dallas District Attorney’s Office, which turned into a job as an Assistant District Attorney. Grant left the DA’s Office at the end of 1994. “I liked working as a prosecutor but once I switched to criminal defense there was no going back for me. I knew I’d found my calling.”

In 1994 Grant opened the Law Offices of Deandra M. Grant, a criminal defense firm handling cases throughout the DFW Metroplex. In the mid-2000s Grant started focusing more on the defense of intoxication-related crimes. That involved traveling the country taking courses in breath and blood alcohol analysis and field sobriety tests. The more success she had in defending DWI cases, the more other attorneys wanted to learn from her. “I was asked to present on breath alcohol testing at a legal seminar in 2007 and that opened up a whole new world for me. Suddenly I was being asked to speak all over the country on DWI law, science and trial skills,” says Grant. By 2019 she was presenting at an average of 13 legal seminars per year.

The year 2011 brought a new challenge. Grant was invited to help re-write “The Texas DWI Manual,” which had been out of print for several years after the death of the original author. She and attorney Kimberly Griffin Tucker spent three years completely re-writing the book for James Publishing. The first edition was released in 2013 and it is updated annually. It is considered the go-to guide for lawyers defending DWI cases in Texas. “The book was the biggest challenge of my career. It is really hard to write a book. You never think it’s ready. Updating it each year is definitely a labor of love.”

After years of studying, writing and lecturing in the field of intoxication, Grant decided to make it official and go back to school. She was accepted into both the University of Florida’s College of Pharmacy and the College of Veterinary Medicine and in 2016 she graduated with a Masters in Pharmaceutical Science with a concentration in forensic science and a Graduate Certificate in Forensic Toxicology. She also completed the American Chemical Society’s Forensic Lawyer-Scientist program at Axion Labs in Chicago. After earning the designation, she joined the faculty at Axion as an assistant chromatography instructor and teaches five weeks each year. She added “forensic consultant” to her resume and is now retained by other attorneys to assist in their cases where intoxication is an issue. Her tag line is “The Lawyer Lawyers Call.” Grant has been married to Eric Clendenin for over 20 years and is proud mom to Keegan and Rowan.

The Law Offices of Deandra M. Grant took a leap in 2018 and became Deandra Grant Law. By 2023 the firm had grown from two offices and four staff members to a statewide firm with six offices and fourteen staff members. “That first year was a bit crazy. It was a lot of work to grow a law firm that quickly, but we made it work. We have built an amazing team.”

Deandra Grant Law is a firm that defends cases ranging from traffic tickets to Capital Murder. Client communication and well-being are priorities she stresses to her team. “Being charged with a crime is a scary experience. We work hard to keep our clients informed along the way and to refer them to treatment providers if we see signs that help is needed.”



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Left to Right: Makenzie Zarate, Sorsha Huff, Kevin Sheneberger, Douglas E. Huff, Deandra M. Grant, Johnny Lanzillo, Presh Huff

The Deandra Grant Law team includes partner Douglas Huff, senior associate Johnny Lanzillo and associates Makenzie Zarate, Sorsha Huff, and Kevin Sheneberger. These attorneys staff the offices in Dallas, Fort Worth, Denton, Allen, Waco, and Austin.

Douglas Huff joined the Law Offices of Deandra M. Grant in 2016 and is now a partner at Deandra Grant Law. An Army veteran, Huff received the Army Achievement Medal and the Army Commendation Medal during his service. He later moved to Austin and decided to go to law school. After a stint with the bar education company, Barbri, Huff ran his own firm for a few years before joining the Dallas County Public Defender's Office in 2013. Huff defends offenses such as capital murder, sexual assault allegations, DWI's and drug cases throughout Texas. He is married to Dallas County Criminal Court 10 Judge Monique Huff, father of associate Sorsha Huff, and proud "dad" to their canine Athena.

Johnny Lanzillo joined Deandra Grant Law in 2020. Formerly of Lanzillo Law, Johnny brings a wealth of trial experience to the firm. Johnny is a graduate of Texas A&M School of Law. He is senior associate and heads up the Waco office. Johnny is married to Holly and dad to JJ—as well as canine pups Quill and Poptart and cat Max.

Makenzie Zarate joined Deandra Grant Law in 2020. A Texas native, she attended law school at Texas Tech University and then worked for several years at a criminal defense firm in Ellis County. Makenzie is Chief of the DWI Trial Division and is based in the Dallas office. Her caseload includes felonies, misdemeanors and DWI cases in Dallas, Ellis, Rockwall, Kaufman and counties further east. She is the "mom" of Dachshunds Sammy, Louie, and Stormy.

Sorsha Huff joined Deandra Grant Law in 2020. She is a proud Baylor Law graduate and spent her first years out of law school at a Dallas law firm before joining DGL. Sorsha is both a criminal trial attorney based in the Allen office and chief of the firm's Immigration Department. She is married to Presh Huff (currently in law school) and "mom" to cats King Peanut the Brave and Nelly.

Kevin Sheneberger joined Deandra Grant Law in 2022. He spent many years running various businesses in the North Texas area before heading to law school at SMU. Kevin head's up the firm's office in Denton. He is married and "dad" to dogs Sebastian and Gemini and cat Little Kev.

Deandra Grant Law is very involved in dog rescue and supports Living the Doxie Dream Rescue and Sanctuary in Royse City where Deandra Grant serves as Vice President. The law firm's website includes photos of "Furry Friends of the Firm" and information regarding the dog rescue. "We are an office full of animal lovers," says Grant. 🐾

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