

Jonathan M. Saenz, President & Attorney

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Jonathan M. Saenz, Esq., is the President and Attorney for Texas Values, a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving and advancing a culture of family values in the state of Texas. Jonathan's work on these issues spans two decades, starting professionally in 2002. Jonathan has been licensed to practice law in Texas since 2003.

Prior to leading Texas Values (2012), Jonathan headed the First Liberty Institute offices at the Texas Capitol in Austin where he served as Director of Legislative Affairs and Attorney for First Liberty Institute (2005-2012). He frequently presents research, analysis, and testimony before the Texas Legislature, State Board of Education, and other government entities on various issues affecting faith, family, and freedom.

After graduating from law school, Jonathan worked at a private litigation firm in West Houston where he gained valued experience; including handling his own active case load, serving as second chair counsel for a civil jury trial, and writing an appellate brief for his client. While in law school, Jonathan had a judicial internship with the Honorable Justice Tim Taft, of the First Court of Appeals of Texas, a nonprofit internship with Liberty Counsel in Florida, he served as a Summer Associate for major law firm in downtown Houston, and worked part-time for a litigation law firm in Houston.

Jonathan believes in religious liberty, sanctity of human life, family values, and constitutional rights and has been involved in numerous court cases, including cases before the Texas Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court. Jonathan is the leading voice in Texas on marriage between one man and one woman and he was instrumental in the passage of Texas laws to protect religious liberty ("Under God" in the Texas pledge, the "One State Under God" license plate, the "Merry Christmas Law", the "Pastor Protection Law," The First Amendment Defense Act/"Save Chick-fil-A" Law) and the Freedom to Worship Act; and pro-life laws such as the "Choose Life" license plate, the Sonogram Law, and The Texas Heartbeat Law. In 2021, Jonathan was the coalition and strategic leader who led the effort to pass the Texas Heartbeat Law, which has saved nearly 50,000 babies in Texas a year from abortion, since 2021. For his pro-life work, Jonathan was recognized as the "Runner-Up Pro-Life Person of the Year" in 2021. Jonathan also served as a lawyer for Gianna Jessen, a courageous woman who survived a late-term abortion attempt when she was in the womb and is now a famous pro-life advocate. Jonathan has been part of the effort for every pro-life and religious freedom law that has been passed since 2007 in Texas.

Jonathan was also part of the winning legal team that successfully defended the religious freedom and free speech rights of nonprofit pregnancy care centers for women in Austin. Since 2005, Jonathan has worked to protect marriage between one man and one woman and policies that support this principle, and he has helped defeat threatening legislation on these matters in every legislative session since 2007. In 2015,

Jonathan was the leading statewide voice in Texas that helped defeat the dangerous LGBT Houston “bathroom” ordinance, that would have allowed men into women’s bathrooms and would have restricted the religious freedom on businesses and nonprofit organizations. Jonathan also helped lead the State Board of Education victories to prevent censorship in the Science classroom and protect strong Social Studies & History teachings.

Jonathan hosts the weekly radio show “The Texas Values Report,” and has been featured in local, national, and international media such as Fox News, CNN, USA Radio, Austin-American Statesman, Dallas Morning News, and Houston Chronicle among many others, and is a sought-after speaker for important events. Mr. Saenz received his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center where he was the leader of the Pro-Life Cougars group that successfully defended its free speech rights in a landmark court case against the university. Jonathan was a UH Law Center Public Interest Law Fellow & Scholarship recipient in 2002 and 2003. Jonathan received his undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied family policy issues and served as an intern during the 1997 Texas Legislative Session. Jonathan is a 5th-generation Texan with strong family ties to Central and South Texas. He and his family live in Central Texas and are members of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, where Jonathan serves as a Lector, the Respect Life Director, and a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 13927.