

exposed | **bronwyn blake**

director of the teen justice initiative

photo by jessica attie

Bronwyn Blake sits in her brightly-colored, “teen-friendly” office at the Women’s Advocacy Project doing what no one else does: heading up a one-of-a-kind program offering both education and legal services to victims of teen dating violence. Blake graduated from The University of Texas School of Law with the first UT Law Faculty Fellowship in Public Interest Law. With the grant, Blake developed the Teen Justice Initiative, a pilot program providing legal services to victims of teen dating violence. Blake spent a summer volunteering at the Project and did her clerkship there. “When the law school announced the Fellowship, I knew I was going to get it to start this initiative,” says Blake. Although the year-long grant ends in September, Blake knows there is a lot more work to do, as she hopes to make the Initiative statewide. Blake continues to make presentations to teens about what a healthy relationship is and what their legal rights are if they are not in one. “Something fun about working with teens is that they are grown up enough to make their own decisions,” says Blake. “This is my dream job.”

**What book has inspired you in your life/work?**

*The Diary of Anne Frank.* I admire the fact that she was able to touch so many people and do so much with her situation. She wanted her life to mean something. She wanted to make a difference in the world, and she made all that happen when she was just 13!

**If you had to leave Austin, where would you go? Why?**

If I HAD to leave Austin (and there would be a fight), I would like to live in Boston. There is so much history there, and I really like the architecture. Of course, the 90 degree heat might be influencing my opinion at the moment.

**Who did you admire most as a child? Who do you admire most now?**

My parents. As a child, I felt that they could do anything and would do anything for me. That

hasn't changed much, but as I have grown up, I have an increasing understanding and appreciation for their work and talents.

**Where is your dream vacation?**

Hawaii. They have a fascinating culture and very friendly people. I could be a total beach girl (just pass the sunscreen, I'm very pale).

**What is one thing people don't generally know about you?**

I love ghost stories. I take ghost tours in almost every city I visit (Austin has a great one).

**Which fictional character would you want to trade lives with?**

Jem from the cartoon *Jem and the Holograms!* I was addicted. By day she ran a foster home for girls, and by night she was the lead singer in a hit rock band.

**What are you nostalgic for?**

Summer vacation!

**Whose wardrobe are you envious of?**

Scarlett O'Hara—even curtains look fabulous on her.

**What is the biggest challenge you have overcome?**

Law School and the Bar Exam.