

**Michele Gangnes, Esq.**, is co-founder of LIV and a long-time resident of the Blue community in Lee County, a rural county 40 miles east of Austin. Michele is a native Texan, and graduated from Rice University and the University of Texas School of Law. She is a member of the Washington State Bar and the State Bar of Texas.

Before retiring in 2019, Michele practiced banking and public finance law for over 4 decades, first as a partner in two Pacific Northwest law firms before returning to her native Texas as a sole practitioner. Michele is nationally recognized as a peer-reviewed attorney in the highest categories of legal ability and ethics, and her legal opinions are accepted in the U.S. capital markets.

Michele is a premier "water rights activist" and, as such, was a founding board member of Neighbors for Neighbors (NFN), a Central Texas 501(c)(3) organization, and more recently as a founder of the [Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund](#), also a 501(c)(3), which advocates for aquifer protection and private property rights in groundwater.

Michele authored an extensive analysis of Proposition 6, the Water Amendment that passed in November 2013. See news release [here](#).

Michele has donated thousands of hours-- pro bono (free!) -- to protect the aquifers of Texas for generations to come. She has also never been a member of any organized political party, having considered herself an "independent" voter for fifty years.