



## JUDGE RENÉE YANTA

### LEGAL EXPERIENCE

#### **BOARD CERTIFIED — CIVIL APPELLATE LAW — TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION**

Owner, Law Office of Renée Yanta, PLLC

January 2019-present

Founder and Owner of law practice focusing on Appellate and ADR

Consultant Judge and Program Director of PEARLS/Foster Girls Court

January 2019-present

Judge, 150<sup>th</sup> District Court

January 2015-December 2018

Founder and Presiding Judge of PEARLS/Foster Girls Court

Partner, Beirne, Maynard & Parson L.L.P.

February 2013-December 2014

Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Family, ADR—Mediation and Arbitration

Judge, 73<sup>rd</sup> District Court

Appointed December 2009

January 2010-December 31, 2012

Presided over civil litigation and family law matters

Shareholder, Cox Smith Matthews Incorporated

Litigation Section, leading the Cox Smith Appellate Practice Group

2002-2010

Associate and Senior Associate, Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.

Litigation Section, Appellate Team, 1993-2002

Briefed and/or argued before the:

Texas Supreme Court

United States Federal Circuit

United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals

United States Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals

First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth  
Courts of Appeals of Texas

Provided trial and appellate expertise in trial court cases before:

- Federal courts in the Western District of Texas
- Federal court in the Northern District of Texas
- Texas state district courts
- National trial dockets

## **LEGAL EDUCATION**

- St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, Texas
- Juris Doctor, Summa Cum Laude May 1993
- Dean's List, each semester, Fall 1990-Spring 1993

American Jurisprudence Awards: Federal Civil Procedure, Contracts, Constitutional Law I & II, Evidence I & II, Employment Law, Bankruptcy, Will & Estates

Conflict Resolution, Arbitration Training 2007

Scientific Evidence Judge School, The Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Center, Inc. 2010-12; ASTAR Fellow

## **AWARDS AND HONORS (non-exclusive list)**

- Super Lawyer (Appellate) (Texas Monthly)
- 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2014

Top Women Texas Super Lawyers (Texas Monthly) 2006

Rising Star (Appellate) (Texas Monthly) 2004

- San Antonio's Best Lawyers (Appellate) (SA Scene)
- 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009

San Antonio Bar Association President's Award for Service to the Bar 2004

Belva Lockwood Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award 2005

San Antonio Legal Secretary's Boss of the Year 2009

San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce Vision & Voice Award 2008

San Antonio Business Journal 2010 Women's Leadership Award

Seton Home Motherhood Award 2018

THRU Project Honorary Chair Award 2018

BECOME Empowerment Award 2018

## PROFESSIONAL ARTICLES AND SPEECHES (non-exclusive list)

Editor in Chief, 24 ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL (1992-93)

Writer, 23 ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL (1991-92)

Renée A. Forinash, Comment, *Analyzing Scientific Evidence: From Validity to Reliability with a Two-Step Approach*, 24 ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL (1992)

W. Wendell Hall & Renée A. Forinash, *Employment and Labor Law*, 48 S.M.U. L. Rev. 1135 (1995)

W. Wendell Hall & Renée A. Forinash, *Employment and Labor Law*, 49 S.M.U. L. Rev. 939 (1996)

Speaker and Author, South Texas College of Law, Employment Law Institute, Oct. 1995, *Employment at Will in Texas*

Renée A. Forinash, *Summary Judgment Appeals: The Bull in the China Shop*, in HANDLING APPEALS IN THE FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS (1995)

San Antonio Young Lawyer's Association Newsletter, Bi-monthly Procedural

Update Article, *"Hitchhiker's Guide to Procedure,"* 1996-97, 1997-98

Renée Forinash McElhaney, *Toward Permissive Appeal in Texas*, 29 ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL (1998)

Speaker and Author, South Texas College of Law, Employment Law Institute, July 1998, *Gender and Employment Law Update*

Speaker and Author, 12th Annual Advanced Civil Appellate Practice Course 1998, State Bar of Texas, September 1998, *Attacking and Defending Jurisdiction by Appeal and Mandamus*

Speaker and Author, Appellate Law in the New Millennium 1999, *The New Discovery Rules*

Author, *Explaining Permissive Appeal*, Appellate Advocate, Appellate Section of the State Bar of Texas, 1999

Speaker and Author, Bexar County Women's Bar CLE Presentation May 2000, *Hitchhiker's Guide to Procedure: A Procedure and Discovery Update*

Speaker and Author, American Bar Association Annual Meeting (New York), *Lights, Camera, Action: Oral Argument by Videoconferencing*, July 2000

Speaker, "Legal Lines," KTSA Radio, 2000

Author, *Judicial Profile: Judge Janet Littlejohn*, SAN ANTONIO LAWYER, January-February 2001

Speaker, "The Attorney-Client Privilege," American Association of Corporate Counsel (San Antonio Chapter), March 2001

Speaker, "The Attorney-Client Privilege," Alamo Area Association of Legal Professionals, April 2001

Speaker and Author, *Preserving Error: A Snapshot Approach*, San Antonio Bar Association, Anatomy of a Civil Trial, April 2001

Speaker, "The Attorney-Client Privilege," San Antonio Young Lawyers Luncheon CLE, May 2001

Author, *The Attorney-Client Privilege in the Corporate Counsel Context*, SAN ANTONIO LAWYER, July-August 2001

Speaker and Author, 15th Annual Advanced Civil Appellate Practice Course 2001, State Bar of Texas, *The New Permissive Appeal in Texas*, September 2001

Speaker, San Antonio Bar Association Appellate Section Luncheon, *Legislative Update: Changes in Interlocutory Appeal*, October 2001

Speaker and Author, *Procedure and Discovery Update*, San Antonio Bar Association Appellate Section, Appellate Practice Spring Training, April 2002

Speaker and Author, *The Ethical Aspects of the Attorney-Client Privilege*, San Antonio Bar Association Ethics Seminar, April 2002

Speaker and Author, *The Devil is in the Details: Taming the Procedure and Discovery Demons*, MABA Las Vegas Seminar, July 2002

Author, *Hot Topics in Discovery*, Anatomy of a Civil Trial, May 2003

Speaker and Author, *Discovery Update*, MABA Las Vegas Seminar, July 2003

Speaker and Author, *Even Hotter Topics in Discovery*, Bexar County Women's Bar Luncheon, September 2003

Author, *A Practitioner's Supreme Court Update*, Newsletter offered to over 300 Practitioners Free of Charge, 2002-2005

Speaker and Author, *Can You Keep A Secret: The Trade Secret Privilege in Products Litigation*, USLAW Network National Seminar, March 2004

Director, USLAW and the City; Employment Law Seminar; USLAW Network National Seminar, May 2004

Speaker and Author, *Supreme Court Update*, MABA Las Vegas Seminar, July 2004

Speaker and Author, *Hot Topics at the High Court - Texas Supreme Court Update*, State Bar of Texas, Legal Assistant Division, San Antonio Luncheon Seminar, November 2004

Speaker and Author, *Supreme Court Update*, 2005 Legal Outfitter, February 2005

Speaker and Author, *Texas Supreme Court: Evidentiary Trends*,  
Bexar County Women's Bar Association Luncheon, February 2005

Author, *Creative Use of Motions in Limine*, San Antonio Bar Association,  
Anatomy of a Civil Trial, May 2005

Author, *Supreme Court Update 2005*, Appellate Section of the San Antonio Bar  
Association, February 2006

Presenter and Author, *The E-Discovery Zone*, USLAW Network National Seminar,  
September 2006

Presenter and Author, *The E-Discovery Zone*, Williams Sessions Inn of Court,  
October 2006

Presenter, *Developing Your Practice*, USLAW Women's Retreat, November 2006

Speaker, *E-Discovery*, Federal Bar Association—San Antonio, November 2006

Author, *Traps Eliminated: 2006 Update of Appellate Law*, The Texas Lawyer,  
December 29, 2006

Presenter, *E-Discovery*, USLAW Women's Retreat, May 2007

Author, *Out of Left Field: How Tony Gullo Motors v. Chapa*,  
SAN ANTONIO LAWYER, May 2007

Author and Speaker, *Finding Your E-Discovery Vendor*, USLAW Network National  
Seminar October 2007

Author and Speaker, "Protecting The Attorney-Client Privilege," November 2007

Conference Chair, USLAW Collection May 2008

Author and Speaker, *Supreme Court Update 2008*, Hidalgo Women's Bar Association,  
November 2008

Speaker, *Ethical Practice Development*, San Antonio Young Lawyers Association, March  
2009

Author, *Supreme Court Update 2004-09*

Author, *Supreme Court Update*, Appellate Advocate, State Bar of Texas, Appellate  
Practice & Advocacy Section, January 2010

Speaker, *Family Law from the New Kid on the Block*, San Antonio Family Law  
Association, February 2010

Speaker, *Ethical Witness Preparation*, Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation, March  
2010

Speaker, *Ethical Witness Preparation for Legal Secretaries*, San Antonio Bar Legal Secretaries Association, March 2010

Author, *Supreme Court Update*, Appellate Advocate, State Bar of Texas, Appellate Practice & Advocacy Section, April 2010

Speaker, *Bench Trials & Motions*, Summary Judgment Panel, San Antonio Bar Association, May 2010

Author, *Supreme Court Update*, Appellate Advocate, State Bar of Texas, Appellate Practice & Advocacy Section, October 2010

Author, *Supreme Court Update*, Appellate Advocate, State Bar of Texas, Appellate Practice & Advocacy Section, December 2010

Speaker and Author, *Movin' To Greener Pastures: Relocating After Entry of Final Orders*, San Antonio Bar Association—Family Law Section, Extreme Family Law Makeover IX, March 2011

Author, *Supreme Court Update*, Appellate Advocate, State Bar of Texas, Appellate Practice & Advocacy Section, April 2011

Panelist, *Proximate Cause Redefined: The Controversy Over Substantial Factor*, TexasBarCLE Webinar, recorded April 2011

*Bench Trials & Motions*, Appellate Issues for Trial Lawyers, San Antonio Bar Association, May 2011

Author, *Muddling Through Cause in Fact*, Appellate Advocate, State Bar of Texas, Appellate Practice & Advocacy Section, October 2011

Author, *Supreme Court Update*, Appellate Advocate, State Bar of Texas, Appellate Practice & Advocacy Section, Spring 2012

Speaker, *Bench Trials & Motions, New Trends in Discovery*, San Antonio Bar Association, May 2012

Speaker, *Hitchhiker's Guide to Fiduciary Litigation*, University of Texas, Paige Keeton Civil Litigation Conference October 2012

Author and Speaker, *Deep and Wide: There's a Fiduciary Duty Deep and Wide*, TexasBarCLE, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Anatomy of Fiduciary Litigation, November 2012

Speaker, *Family Law Appeal*, San Antonio Family Law Association, January 2013 Meeting

Author and Speaker: *Family Law Update: Procedure and Evidence Review*, Extreme Family Law Makeover, February 2013

Speaker/Teacher: Appellate Law: San Antonio Legal Assistance Association 2013

Author and Speaker: *Hitchhiker's Guide to Family Law*, Texas Advanced Paralegal

Seminar October 3, 2013

Speaker, *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Texas Judiciary*, Government, Northwest Vista College, April 2014

Speaker, *The Top Ten Reasons Paralegals Are Super Heroes*, San Antonio Legal Assistant Association May 2014

Speaker/Panelist; *Jury Charge Practice*, State Bar of Texas Advanced Civil Trial, July 2014

Speaker, *The Top Ten Reasons Paralegals Are Super Heroes*, SALSA August 2014

Speaker; *The Noble Lawyer*, Law Magnet School, October 2014

Speaker; *A Few from the Bench*, San Antonio Trial Lawyers Ass'n, February 2015

Speaker; *Judicial Roundtable*, Extreme Family Law Makeover, February 2015

Speaker, *The Mechanics of Motions for New Trial*, Bench Trials & Motions Seminar of the San Antonio Bar Association, May 2015

Speaker, *Introducing PEARLS Court*, Girls at the Margin Action Alliance

Speaker, *Sticky Floors and Glass Ceilings*, State Bar of Texas Convention, June 2015

Speaker/Panelist; *Motions for Summary Judgment*, State Bar of Texas Advanced Personal Injury Trial Law, July 2015

Keynote Speaker, San Antonio Business Journal Women's Leadership Award, August 2015

Speaker, *Sticky Floors and Glass Ceilings: The Transformational Role of Women in the Construction Industry*, AEC/O Women's Mini-Forum January 2016

Speaker; *The New Local Rules*, San Antonio Bar Family Lawyers Ass'n, May 2016

Speaker; *Judicial Roundtable*, Bench Trials & Motions Seminar of the San Antonio Bar Association, May 2016

Speaker, *Developing Your Practice*, Bexar County Women's Bar CLE Retreat, June 2016

Speaker/Panelist; *Things to Do and Things Not to Do at Trial/Hearing*, State Bar of Texas Advanced Personal Injury Trial Law, July 2016

Speaker, *Conquering Sticky Floors and Glass Ceilings*, National Ass'n of Female Executives, July 2016

Speaker, *The Road to the United States Supreme Court*, Texas Ass'n of Legal Professionals' Fall Educational Conference, September 2016



Speaker, *The Feminine Side of Legal Ethics*, St. Mary's Univ. School of Law, Women's Law Ass'n, September 2016

Speaker, *Things Your Judge Wants You to Know (and your Attorney may NOT have mentioned)*, State Conference of the Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas, September 2016

Panelist, *A View from the Bench*, Mediator Training, Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center, September 2016

Speaker, *The Anatomy of a Noble Lawyer*, St. Mary's Law Journal Symposium, 2016

Speaker; *Judicial Roundtable*, Bench Trials & Motions Seminar of the San Antonio Bar Association, May 2017

Speaker, *Learning from Women Lawyer Leaders*, Bexar County Women's Bar CLE Retreat, June 2017

Speaker, *Keynote Address*, San Antonio College Backyard Brigade 2017

Speaker, *Becoming a Noble Lawyer*, St. Mary's University Women's Law Association September 2017

Speaker, *the State of Foster Care in Bexar County*, San Antonio Legal Secretaries Association 2017

Speaker, *I Am My Father's Daughter*, Leadership San Antonio 2017

Speaker, *Compadre y Compadre Graduation*, 2017

Speaker and Author, *Responsible Third Party Practice*, Bench Trials & Motions Seminar of the San Antonio Bar Association, May 2018

Speaker, Bexar County Women's Bar CLE Retreat, June 2018

Speaker, *The Noble Lawyer*, UTSA Summer Law Symposium, June 2018

## **LEGAL ASSOCIATIONS**

State Bar of Texas

State Bar of Texas Special Committee on Pattern Jury Charges —  
Malpractice, Premises & Products 2004

State Bar of Texas Special Committee on Pattern Jury Charges —  
Business, Consumer, Employment 2005-18

Fifth Circuit Bar Association



San Antonio Bar Association

Member  
Law Day Chair 2004  
Board of Directors 2002-06  
Appellate Practice and Advocacy Section

Program Director 1995-96, 2001-02  
Special Events Coordinator 1996-97  
Chair of Section 1997-98, 1998-99

San Antonio Bar Foundation

Fellow  
Board of Trustees 2001-09  
Peacemaker Award/Gala Chair 2005, raising \$89,000  
Secretary 2005-06  
Treasurer 2006  
Chair Elect 2006-07  
Chair 2007-08  
Past Chair 2008-09

William Sessions American Inns of Court

Member  
Program Leader 1999-2000, 2015-18  
Secretary 2000-01  
Treasurer 2001-02  
Vice President 2002-03  
President-Elect 2003-2004  
President 2004-05

Bexar County Women's Bar Association/Foundation

President 2001, raising and distributing \$110,000 to local charities  
President-Elect 2000  
Board Member 1996-2002, 2011-present  
Bench Brunch Chair 2000, raising and distributing \$100,000 to local charities  
Bench Brunch Committee Chair 1995-99, 2001-07

Mexican American Bar Association

St. Mary's University School of Law Alumni Association

Board of Trustees 2001-07  
Secretary of Board of Trustees 2002-03  
Vice President of Board of Trustees 2003-04  
President Elect 2004-05  
President 2005-06

St. Mary's University Board of Trustees, Subcommittee 2018

Texas Bar Foundation Fellow

Texas Women Lawyers

Judicial Advisor 2010-12  
Board of Trustees 2007  
Vice President 2008-09

DRI

Professional Liability Subcommittee 2007-09

USLAW Network

Board of Directors (one of only two women serving on this national board)

Founder and Chair of USLAW Collection (nationwide Women Lawyer  
Empowerment Program)

Secretary 2004, 2005

Treasurer, 2006, 2007

Vice Chair 2008

Chair 2009

## **COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS**

University Health System Foundation

Board Member 2016-present

University of the Incarnate Word Development Board 1999-present

President 2006-08

President Elect 2004-06

Chair, Swing In Auction 2004

Chair, Swing In 2003

Co-chair, Swing In 2002

Chair, Student Relations Committee 2001

Speaker for various student leadership events

San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce 2006-10, 2012-present

Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center Advisory Board, 2015-present

Rape Crisis Center 2012-15

Board Member

St. Mary's University Board of Trustees 2006-07

United Way of San Antonio

Women's Leadership Council 2001, 2002, 2004-10, 2018

Program Review Leader 1998-2000

Program Review Team Member 1996-98

Child Guidance Center 2003-2007

Golf Tournament Co-Chair (2005)

Winston School Board of Directors 2006-08

Rotary 2006-11

Hidalgo Foundation 2002-05

Monte Vista Historical Association  
Member  
Board of Trustee 2006-10  
Treasurer 2008  
Corresponding Secretary 2009

Community Volunteer

PEARLS Court (founder, Judge, Consultant, Program Director)  
SUMMIT (founder of coalition focused on empowering Foster Care Alumni)  
Mayor's Task Force to Address Teenage Pregnancy 2010-11  
Community Justice Program  
GALS — Girls in Life Sports (project of the BCWBA, the San Antonio Sports Foundation and Harlendale I.S.D., mentoring at-risk girls)  
Working Parents' Guide to Summer Survival  
Wills Clinic  
Elder Law Handbook  
SAMB Shelter  
Call-A-Lawyer  
John Jay High School — Established Peer Mediation Program  
Fox Tech High School — VoTexas Project, Supreme Team  
Churchill High School, Reagan High School  
Roosevelt High School, Shattered Dreams Program

San Antonio Council of Girl Scouts

Volunteer  
Gold Award Review Committee  
Troop Leader

Boy Scouts

Troop Leader