



Hon. Gary Coley

Education & Certifications

Baylor University School of Law - J.D. - 1993;
Texas A&M University - B.B.A. - 1990

Professional Experience

Cherry Johnson Siegmund James - Of Counsel - 2025 - Present;
Visiting Judge by Assignment - 2025 - Present;
State of Texas - 74th District Court - District Judge - 2009 - 2025;
Baylor University School of Law - Adjunct Professor - 2000-2004, 2018 - Present;
Frederick & Coley - Partner - 1998 - 2008;
McLennan County District Attorney's Office - Assistant District Attorney - 1994 - 1997;
Smith County District Attorney's Office - Assistant District Attorney - 1994

Memberships & Affiliations

American Board of Trial Advocates - TEX-ABOTA - Member - President of Waco Chapter - 2017; American Inns of Court, Judge Abner V. McCall Chapter - Member - President 2016-2017; Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families - Vice Chair, 2021 - 2022 - Commissioner, 2016 - 2022;
Heart of Texas Human Trafficking Coalition - Co-Founder/Member - 2014 - 2024; Waco-McLennan County Bar Association - Member - 1995 - Present;
McLennan County Veterans Treatment Court - Co-Founder/Presiding Judge - 2019 - 2024;
McLennan County Crossover Youth Project Model - Co-Founder/Judge - 2012 - 2023;
Texas Center for the Judiciary - Benchbook Committee - 2014;
Texas College for Judicial Studies - Curriculum Committee - 2013;
McLennan County Juvenile Board - Chair, 2009 - 2023;
McLennan County Challenge Academy - Chair, 2009 - 2023;

Honors & Awards

2025 Serjeant of the Inn Award - American Inns of Court, Judge Abner V. McCall;
2023 Resolution for Distinguished Service - State Bar of Texas;
2022 Judicial Innovation & Leadership Award - Texas CASA;

Seminars/Speaking/Authoring

PRESENTATIONS

The following list does not include the countless speaking engagements through the various professional activities noted previously.

Baylor University School of Law, People's Law School, 2017 - 2025;

Heart of Texas Human Trafficking Coalition Meetings, Facilitator, 2017 – 2023

The Judge's Role in Prevention & Pre-Petition Legal Representation, Child Welfare Judges Conference, 2022;

A Holistic Approach to Serving Dual Status Youth, NCJFCJ Juvenile Justice Conference, 2021;

WHO are Dual Status Youth?, Child Protection Court Dual Status Training, 2021;

Breaking News – Current Events in Juvenile Law, TEX-ABOTA, Waco Chapter, TLS, 2019;

Expert Witnesses: How to Qualify and Disqualify Experts in the CPS Case, Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission Trial Skills Training, 2017 – 2024 (co-presenter);

Crafting Your Opening Statement, Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission Trial Skills Training, 2017 – 2024 (co-presenter);

Presenting a Strong Closing Argument, Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission Trial Skills Training, 2017 – 2024 (co-presenter);

TEX-ABOTA Civility Matters Panel, Baylor Law School Practice Court Program, 2016 – Present;

Commencement Address, McLennan Community College Law Enforcement Academy, June 2016;

PUBLICATIONS

Coley, Gary and Jarrett, Lisa. "Two Doors to the Courthouse: A Judicial Perspective on Dual Status Youth." Texas Bar Journal. Vol. 82, No. 9: pages 694-695. 2019.
