

JUSTICE PATRICIA O. ALVAREZ (RET.).



Profile

With 38 years of legal excellence, 12 as an appellate judge and 26 as a trial attorney, Justice Alvarez understands the full arc of litigation. She knows what wins at trial, what survives on appeal, and most importantly, what disputes are worth the fight. Now, she uses that insight to help you avoid costly battles and reach smart resolutions.

Justice Alvarez doesn't just facilitate discussions; she evaluates your case through the lens of someone who has decided hundreds of appeals and tried complex civil litigation across South Texas. Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law and holding a Martindale-Hubbell "AV Preeminent" peer review rating, she brings judicial authority combined with practical litigation expertise. Her distinguished career includes service as President of the San Antonio Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Former President of the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas, Former Chair of the Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar of Texas, and recognition as TEX-ABOTA's 2022 Jurist of the Year.

Fluent in English and Spanish with genuine cultural understanding, Justice Alvarez ensures every party regardless of language feels heard, respected, and empowered throughout the process.

Justice Alvarez immigrated to the United States as a single mother and built one of Texas's most distinguished legal careers through sheer determination and unwavering commitment to justice. She was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame in 2021, a testament to her extraordinary journey and contributions to the legal profession and community. That same drive now fuels her mission: helping parties find fair, efficient solutions without the devastation of prolonged litigation.

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Areas of Expertise

- Personal Injury
- Medical Malpractice
- Products Liability
- Transportation
- Oil & Gas Disputes
- Fiduciary Duty
- Insurance
- Labor/Employment
- Real Estate
- Business/Contract
- Construction

Languages

- Fluent in Spanish
- **Mediations available in Spanish**



JUSTICE PATRICIA O. ALVAREZ (RET.).

Education

- Duke University School of Law, L.L.M. (2023)
- University of Texas at Austin, J.D. (1987)
- University of Texas at San Antonio, B.B.A. (1982)
- Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, Monclova, Coahuila, México 1974-1979 (Administración de Empresas).

Bar Admissions

Texas (1987); Florida (1992), U.S. District Court, Southern (1991), Northern (1991), Eastern (1991) and Western (1989) Districts of Texas, District of Columbia Court of Appeals (2003), U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit (1989) and U.S. Supreme Court (1992).

Certifications & Credentials

- Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Personal Injury Trial Law.
- Diploma of International Arbitration (London Program), University of Basel, Switzerland (2023)
- Harvard Law School, Negotiation and Dispute Resolution Program (2025)
- Harvard Law School, Program on Mediation and Conflict Management (2025)

Professional Experience

- Mediator, Arbitrator & Senior Judge, Alvarez Dispute Resolutions PLLC (2024-present)
- Arbitrator, American Arbitration Association - National Roster (2025-present)
- Adjunct Professor, St. Mary's University School of Law (2023 -present)
- Justice, Texas Fourth Court of Appeals · Full-timeTexas Fourth Court of Appeals (2013 - 2024)
- Partner, The Alvarez Law Firm, PC (2005- 2013)
- Alvarez, Notzon & Gutierrez (1997 to 2005)
- Alvarez, Griffith, Saenz & Hill (1993-1997)
- Prior to 1993, Butler & Binion and Thornton & Summers & Thornton, Summers, Dunham, Biechlin & Brown

Texas Bar Activities

Editorial Board Member of The Advocate (2022-present); Sustaining Member of the Texas State Bar College and the Foundation (1994-present); Member of the Pattern Jury Charge Oil & Gas (2014- 2024); Trustee of the Texas Bar Foundation (2005-2008); Member of the Board of Directors of the College of the State Bar of Texas (2010-2014); Member of the Grievance Committee District 12 (2008-2012; Panel Chair 2010-2012); Member of the Hispanic Issues Section of the Texas State Bar (Secretary 2007-2008; Chair 2013-2014); Texas Bar Director for the 12th District (2002-2005); PDP Chair, 2003-2005; Member of the Continuing Legal Education Committee (2000-2003); Member of the Pattern Jury Charge Volume 2 Committee of the State Bar of Texas (1991-1992); Member of the Pattern Jury Charge Volume 1 Committee of the State Bar of Texas (1993-1994); Member of the Pattern Jury Charge Civil Special Committee(1995-1996).

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Professional Activities

Present: Association of Attorney Mediators; Texas Association of Mediators; Texas Mediator Credentialing Association; American College of Civil Trial Mediators; American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) (National Representative, 2025-2026; President San Antonio Chapter 2021-2022; Chair Best in Texas Voir Dire Competition 2020-2022; National Representative Laredo Chapter 2009- 2014); Litigation Counsel of America (2007-present).

Past: Texas Association of Defense Counsel (Director 1998-2001; Vice-President 2001-2002; 2008-2011); Mexican-American Bar Association of Texas (President 2008-2009); Defense Research Institute (National Director 2004-2007, Vice-Chair Membership and Publications 1997-2002 of Trucking Committee, Vice-Chair Trucking Committee 1999-2001); American Bar Association (Chair Commercial Transportation Litigation Committee, 1997-1998; Vice-Chair 1998-2002); MABA-San Antonio (Director 2013-2014). Hidalgo County Bar Association (Director 1994-1997); San Antonio Bar Association and Foundation; Bexar County Women's Bar Association; Kendall County Bar Association; Kerr County Bar Association; Maverick County Bar Association; Webb County Bar Association; and Laredo Women's Bar Association. Past member of: International Bar Association; International Association of Defense Counsel; Association for Trial Defense Attorneys; Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel; Transportation Lawyers Association; Trucking Industry Defense Association.

Community Activities

Member of the UTSA Alumni Board of Directors (2013-2015); Member of the Advisory Board for UTSA Council of the College of Public Policy of UTSA (2014-present); Member of the Advisory Board for the Texas International Law Journal (2019-present); Member of Leadership Texas (Class of 2008) and of the Foundation for Women's Resources.

Awards/Recognition

- Martindale-Hubbell Rating: AV (1994-2013)
- Texas Monthly Super Lawyer (2003-2012)
- Inductee in the Hall of Fame of the Laredo Commission for Women (2012)
- Recipient of Judge of the Year Award of MABA-Texas Foundation 2013
- Chairman Law Day, Laredo Bar Association (2013)
- Recipient of the Jim Bowmer Professionalism Award of the College of the State Bar of Texas (2015)
- Recipient of the Judge of the Year Award of the Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar of Texas (2015)
- Recipient of the Legal Legend Award of the SA-ABOTA Chapter (2021)
- Inductee in the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame (2021)
- Recipient of the Judge of the Year Award of the Texas-ABOTA Chapter (2022)
- Recipient of Mentor of the Year Award from the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association (2025)

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Recent Publications & Speaking Engagements

Recognized lecturer at international, national and statewide levels. Most recent engagements include Speaker at Texas Association of Defense Counsel Annual Meeting; Faculty member at National ABOTA Trial College; Speaker at Texas State Bar Association Trucking and Auto Annual Seminar; Speaker at San Antonio Paralegal Association events; Featured presenter at Texas Trial Lawyers Association CLE programs; Speaker at San Antonio Young Lawyers Association CLE; Co-Director of Texas Bar CLE 41st Annual Advanced Personal Injury Law Course; Speaker at Texas State Bar Oil and Gas Seminar; Speaker at ALFA International; Speaker at Defense Research Institute.

Speaking topics include judicial decision-making processes, effective appellate advocacy, trial court best practices, alternative dispute resolution methodologies, and diversity initiatives in the legal profession. Papers and articles are available upon request.