



RICK MORRIS

Senior District Judge Mediator and Arbitrator

Credentialed Distinguished Mediator,
Texas Mediator Credentialing Association

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

District Judge, 146th Judicial District of Texas 1989 – 2013
Appointed District Judge, 146th Judicial District of Texas on May 5, 1989. Elected six times without opposition.
The 146th District Court is a court of general jurisdiction. Docket consists of one-half of all civil cases, 25% of all domestic relations cases, assistance with criminal cases, as needed, and the entire Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, Child Protective Services docket. Presided over civil cases involving personal injury, legal and medical malpractice, commercial, banking, employment, consumer, real estate, contract, governmental, products liability, DTPA, all aspects of family law and criminal law.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Visiting Judge, sitting by assignment January 1, 2013 - Present

Of Counsel to: Baird, Crews, Schiller & Whitaker, P.C.
15 North Main Street, Temple, TX 76501 July, 2016 - Present

Assistant United States Attorney March, 1989 - May, 1989
U.S. Department of Justice, United States Attorney's Office, Gulf Coast Drug Task Force, Southern District of Texas.

Private Practice of Law, Killeen Texas May, 1975 - February, 1989
Engaged in private practice of law in Killeen, Texas; general civil practice, with emphasis in later years on real estate, construction, corporate, banking and general civil litigation. Earlier years of practice included the above, as well as criminal law and domestic relations.

Licensed to practice law in the State of Texas May, 1975

EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate Degree, Baylor University School of Law, Waco, Texas, May 1975
Dean's Honor List - Summer and Fall 1974

Bachelor of Business Administration, University of Texas, Austin, December 1972
Major: Finance
Dean's Honor List - Summer 1972

Killeen High School, Killeen, Texas, 1969

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, HONORS AND SERVICES

- State Bar of Texas
- Judicial Section, State Bar of Texas
- Arbitrator – JWA Arbitrations (Judicial Workplace Arbitrations, Inc.)
- Credentialed Distinguished Mediator, Texas Mediator Credentialing Association
- Texas Association of Mediators – Director, 2016 - 2018
- Association of Attorney Mediators
- Central Texas Chapter of Association of Attorney Mediators
- Texas Attorney-Mediators Coalition; Director 2018 - present
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Section; Family Law Section; Litigation Section; Consumer and Commercial Law Section; State Bar of Texas
- Local Administrative District Judge, 1995 – 2012 - Bell County District Courts
- Judge, Bell County Drug Court; 2009 to August 2015
- President, Bell County Bar Association, 2009-2010; President-Elect: 2008-2009; Secretary-Treasurer: 2007-2008; Board of Directors: 2003-2007;
- President, Bell County Bar Association 1982; President-Elect, 1981; Secretary-Treasurer 1979-1980) Board of Directors 2004-2008
- Bell County Public Sector Lawyer of the Year - 2012
- Bell County Public Sector Lawyer of the Year - 2007
- Director, Judicial Section, State Bar of Texas, 2008-2011
- Director, Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc., 1994-1997
- Texas College of Judicial Studies Graduate – 2004
- Basic Mediation Certification: University of Texas School of Law – Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution-2012
- Advanced Family Mediation Training – Alternative Dispute Resolution, Worklife Institute-2012
- Drug Court Judicial Training, The National Drug Court Institute, National Judicial College, Reno, NV
- Bell-Lampasas Counties Community Justice Council – 1995 to 2012
- Bell County Juvenile Board – 1989 to 2012
- The College of the State Bar of Texas
- Pre-Trial Judge for 3rd, 6th and 7th Administrative Judicial Regions, 1999-2000, Benlate cases
- Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Child Support and Visitation Guidelines (1992-1993)
- District 8-C Grievance Committee of the State Bar of Texas (1982-1989)
- Texas Bar Foundation, Life Fellow
- Commission Director, Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce (1984-1987); Vice-President (1987)
- Selective Service Commission (1987-1989)

SPEECHES AND ARTICLES

- An Evening with the Judges, 1999 – “What Judges Look for in Motions & Briefs”; “Common Mistakes of Lawyers”
- Fall Bench Bar Conference, 2002 – “Court’s Charge Update”
- Fall Bench Bar Conference, 2007 – “Civil Legislation Update”
- Law Office 101, 2008 – “Practice in the District Courts”
- Spring Bench Bar – 2009; “DWOP’s, Motions to Withdraw and Discovery Control Plans”
- Fall Bench Bar Conference, 2014 – “Rule 11 Agreements & MSA’s”
- State Bar of Texas – Alternative Dispute Resolution CLE, 2017; “A Summary of the Impact of Senate Bill 1876 and Senate Bill 1369 on Mediations”
- “Required Domestic Violence Training for Child Custody Mediators – The Implementation of Senate Bill 539” – 2017, Texas Association of Mediators Newsletter
- “To Draft, or Not to Draft, That is the Question” – Texas Mediator Credentialing Association, Annual Symposium – November 10, 2018
- “Being Subpoenaed as a Mediator – How to Avoid and What to do When” – Texas Mediator Credentialing Association, Annual Symposium – October 26, 2019

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born: September 20, 1950, Killeen, Texas
Married: July 16, 1971
Spouse: Karen Boydstun Morris; University of Mary-Hardin Baylor graduate; retired teacher, Harker Heights High School; Paralegal and Coordinator for Rick Morris Dispute Resolution Services
Two children and seven grandchildren
Hobbies: Fly Fishing and Golf