

JUDGE ROBERT J. KERN

Senior District Judge



Robert J. Kern, District Judge from Ft. Bend County, Texas, elected from 1999 to 2012, and sitting as an assigned Senior District Judge throughout Texas from 2013 to present. Perform Umpire Assignments, mediations and arbitrations

Heavy experience in family law and experienced in civil trial law and in non-capital criminal cases. Conduct mediations and arbitrations with 95%+ settlement rate. Also conduct Court ordered umpire assignments on insurance claims.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Admitted to bar, Texas 1968; also admitted to practice before U. S. District Courts of Southern and Western Districts of Texas before assuming the bench.

PREPARATORY AND LEGAL EDUCATION

University of Texas 1961-67, college of business and law school; Post Graduate: University of Nevada at Reno, Advanced Advocacy College, 1979 and George Mason University School of Law, 2010 (law and economics).

CERTIFICATIONS

Board Certified Family Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization 1975 and re-certified each five years thereafter (one of the original Board Certified Attorneys); Advisory Director Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Family Law, 2006-12; Certified in Family and Juvenile Jurisprudence, Texas College for Judicial Studies 2006 to 2016.

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

Judge of the 387th District Court, Ft. Bend County, September 1999 to December 31, 2012. Appointed by Governor George W. Bush to the new Court 1999, elected to full terms in 2000, 2004 and 2008, without opposition. The 387th is a general jurisdiction District Court with an emphasis on family law.

Senior District Judge since January 1, 2013 trying family, civil and criminal cases throughout central and Southeast Texas

Administrative experience as a member of Fort Bend County Self Representation Committee, Council of Judges, Board of District Judges, Juvenile Board, CSCD (adult probation board), Purchasing Board, Chair Courthouse Security Committee, until December 31, 2012; Presiding Local Administrative District Judge 2002-4.

Director, Judicial Section, State Bar of Texas 2011-14. Keynote speaker, U. S. Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony July 20, 2011.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AWARDS

Gulf Coast Family Law Specialists, 1975 to present, founding member, four term director, received 2012 David Gibson Award for professionalism; State Bar of Texas, 1968 to present; Burta Raborn Inn of Court, Master 2000 to 2013, received 2012 Mentor of the Year Award; Recognized by Child Advocates at 2012 State Conference for outstanding contribution in preventing child abuse and for jointly, with wife, creating Fort Bend County Child Advocates.

Fort Bend County Bar Association 1989 to present, received 2006 award for Outstanding Service on Bench-Bar Committee and regular cle speaker; Family Law Tactics Director, 1980-present, received both Founders Award and Lifetime Achievement Award; Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists 1999 to present. Former member Houston Bar Association, Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, Speakers Committee and 2 term Director of Family Law Section.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Practiced civil and family law for 31 years before assuming the bench. AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell; licensed in all Texas State Courts as well as two Federal Courts.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, Houston Bar Association 1992 to 99, adviser and speaker; Fort Bend County Bar Association speaker, most recently May 2013; State Bar of Texas Advanced Family Law Course, speaker and panel member; Attended more than 30 Advanced Family Law Courses since 1975; taught "Friday Afternoon in the 387th District Court" CLE programs 1999 to 2007; Fort Bend Lawyers Care, contributor, speaker and supporter; College of the State Bar member 2002 to 2016, accumulating more than 3,000 hours CLE; Burta Raborn Inn of Court presenter, recently "Boots and Wigs" with English Barrister comparing family law practice in Texas and England and October 2012 team presentation on professionalism.

PERSONAL

Married to Suzanne, 3 living children, one deceased, and 8 grandchildren; President Exchange Club of Sugar Land 2013-14; member and Sunday school teacher 1st United Methodist Church Sugar Land; active rancher and collector of vintage automobiles.

Looking forward to staying active as a Senior District Judge, mediating and arbitrating and umpiring insurance disputes.