

LINDA THOMAS, CHIEF JUSTICE (RET)

JAMS – THE RESOLUTION EXPERTS

Arbitration & Mediation Services

Retired Chief Justice Linda Thomas served thirty-one years in the Texas judiciary before joining JAMS in the Dallas office. As a judge, she authored thousands of opinions and presided over a wide variety of trials involving civil and family law matters.

Judge Thomas is now enjoying her time at JAMS mediating and arbitrating disputes. In this capacity, she constantly uses her extensive experience to help parties identify issues, formulate decisions, and generate creative solutions.

JUDICIAL HISTORY

- Jan. 1, 1995 – October 31, 2009
Chief Justice, Fifth District Court of Appeals at Dallas
- Jan. 1, 1987 - December 31, 1994
Justice, Fifth District Court of Appeals at Dallas
- Jan. 1, 1979 - December 31, 1986
Judge, 256th District Court of Dallas County, Texas

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- 1973 J.D. from Southern Methodist University
- 1970 B.A. from University of Texas at Arlington

OFFICES HELD & HONORS RECEIVED

- 2013 Judicial Lifetime Achievement Award, Judicial Section, State Bar of Texas
- 2010 Women in Law Distinguished Alumni Appreciation Award, SMU Dedman School of Law
- 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award for Judicial Service, SMU Dedman School of Law
- 2007-2010, Commissioner, Texas Access to Justice Commission
- 2005-2009, member of Texas Judicial Council
- 2005 Award of Excellence for outstanding service to the judiciary
- 2005 Outstanding Profile Award, Texas Women's Initiative for dedication, mentoring and support of individuals in pursuit of public service
- 2005 Dallas Bar Foundation Fellows Award, in honor of a distinguished legal career and civic contributions
- 2004 SMU Maura Award, for significant contributions to improving the lives of families
- 2003 Chair, Texas Council of Chief Justices

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1998 ABOTA, Judge-of-the-Year Award, for outstanding service and dedication to preserving right of civil trial by jury
1997 Louise Raggio Award, meritorious contributions to women in the law
1996 Outstanding Adjunct Professor of Law, Texas Wesleyan School of Law
1995-97 member of Texas Commission on Judicial Efficiency
1995 Woman of Distinction - *Today's Dallas Woman*
1993 Presidential Citation, State Bar of Texas, recognition of dedicated leadership
1992 UTA Distinguished Alumni Award
1993-1996 Secretary-Treasurer, Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc.
1991-92 Chair, Judicial Section of State Bar of Texas
1991-92 Chair, Board of Directors of Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc.
1991-1995 Chair, State Bar of Texas Committee on Legal Assistants
1993-1995 Chair, Texas Board of Legal Specialization-Legal Assistants Advisory Commission
1990 Sam Emison Memorial Award for meritorious contributions to family law

Board Certified in Family Law

Faculty member of Texas College for New Judges, 1981-1996, 2005-2006, 2008, 2010-2012
Dean of Texas College for New Judges, 1988-1993
Dean of Texas Regional Judicial Conferences, 1987-1990
Member of Faculty Council of National Judicial College, 1996-2000

2003-2013, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law, SMU Dedman School of Law

Faculty at the National Judicial College, 1992-2002

Retired Chief Justice Thomas is a nationally-recognized leader in continuing legal and judicial education. She is a frequent speaker and author for continuing education programs, teaching attorneys, judges, court personnel, and judicial educators throughout the United States.