

CHIEF JUSTICE (RET.) DORI CONTRERAS RESUME

EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate	University of Houston Law Center	May 1990
BBA Accounting	University of Texas at Austin	December 1980
Mediator Certificate	University of Texas at San Antonio	October 2024
Mediator Cert (Family)	University of Texas at San Antonio	June 2025

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND ACTIVITIES

Professional Dispute Resolution, PLLC, San Antonio, Texas	2025-current
American Arbitration Association-Employment panelist	2025-current
Judicial Workplace Arbitrations, Inc.	2025-current
Chief Justice, 13 th Court of Appeals	2019 - 2024
Justice, 13 th Court of Appeals	2003 - 2018
Partner, Michael J. Garza & Dori Contreras Garza, McAllen, Texas	1997 - 2002
Owner, Professional Dispute Resolution, McAllen, Texas	1997 - 2002
Associate, Law Offices of Frank Herrera, San Antonio, Texas	1992 - 1997
Associate, Thomas N. Thurlow & Associates, Houston, Texas	1990 - 1992

Member, State Bar of Texas
Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation
President-elect, Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal
Immediate Past President and Founding Board Member, Texas Latinx Judges
Member, Hispanic Lawyers Association Section, State Bar of Texas
Member, Hidalgo County, Cameron County and Corpus Christi Bar Associations
Member, Hidalgo County Women's Bar Section
Member, Cameron County Women's Bar Section
Member, Coastal Bend Women Lawyers Association
Member, San Antonio Bar Association
Member, Bexar County Women's Bar Association
Past Council Member, Council of Chief Justices of Texas, Chair 2021-2023
Past Council Member, State Bar of Texas Hispanic Issues Section
Past Member, National Association of Women Judges
Past Member, National Hispanic Bar Association
Past Member, Mexican American Bar Association of Texas
Past Board Member, Texas Judicial Foundation
Past Board Member, Texas Center for the Judiciary
Past President, Hidalgo County Bar Association
Past Board Member, Texas Trial Lawyers Association
Past Board Member, Association of Trial Lawyers of America (n/k/a AAJ)
Past Member, State Bar Administration of Rules of Evidence Committee

LAW RELATED PRESENTATIONS AND HONORS

Women and the Law Retreat luncheon: “You be the Judge (or at least try)”	2025
Co-Course Director, State Bar of Texas Advanced Civil Trial Course	2025
Author, <i>Leaders of the Pack: Hispanic Chief Justices Lead the Way</i> , Texas Bar Journal,	2024
Co-Course Director, State Bar of Texas Soaking Up Some CLE	2024
Presenter, <i>Hernandez v. Texas</i> , 70 th Commemoration, State Bar Annual Meeting	2024
Presenter, Practice Pointers for Surviving on Appeal, CBWLA	2024
Presenter, <i>Hernandez v. Texas</i> 70 th Commemoration, St. Mary’s Law School	2024
Presenter, <i>So, You Want to Go Into Politics?</i> Trinity University	2023
Presenter, Lawtina Summit, St. Mary’s Law School	2023
Presenter, State Bar of Texas Soaking Up Some CLE	2023
Presenter, American Judges Association Midyear Conference	2023
Presenter, New Frontiers in Marital Property, Posturing Property Case for Appeal	2022
Presenter, Advanced Civil Appellate Practice, Court of Appeals Panel	2022
Presenter, POUND Forum for State Appellate Court Judges	2022
Presenter, Corpus Christi Bar Association Appellate Section, Year in Review	2022
Presenter, University of Houston Law Center Heritage Event	2021
Presenter, Capital One, National Hispanic Heritage Month	2021
Presenter, Corpus Christi Bar Association Appellate Section	2021
Presenter, Hispanic Issues Section of State Bar of Texas, Chief Justices panel	2021
Moderator, 19 th Amendment at 100: Latina Perspectives from the Bar and Bench	2020
Presenter, McAllen Rotary Club, Gender Equality in the Legal Profession	2020
Presenter, Mandamus Practice, Appellate Section of State Bar of Texas	2020
Presenter, Hidalgo County Women’s Bar Section, Tribute to RBG	2020
Presenter, Corpus Christi Bar Association Appellate Section	2020
Presenter, Chasnof/Stribner, Diversity and Inclusion Panel	2020
Keynote Speaker, Austin Hispanic Bar Association annual luncheon	2019
Keynote Speaker, UT Austin Chicano/Hispanic Law Students Assoc Banquet	2018
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Presenter, Appellate and Government Law Section, Practice, Procedure & Ethics	2017
Judge of the Year, Hispanic Issues Section of State Bar of Texas	2016
Presenter, Texas Supreme Court Update	2016
Presenter, Preservation of Error in Texas Civil Courts	2015
Presenter, Damages in Civil Litigation	2014
Presenter, CCBA Advanced Civil Trial Law Seminar	2013
Presenter, Robert O. Dawson Conference on Criminal Appeals, Mandamus	2013
Presenter, Hidalgo County Bar Association	2013
Presenter, CCBA Advanced Civil Trial Law Seminar	2011
Co-Course Director, Soaking Up Some CLE	2010
Panel Member, Strategies for Damages and Attorneys’ Fees	2010
Presenter, State Bar of Texas Minority Attorney Program	2009
Co-Course Director, Soaking Up Some CLE	2009
Presenter, CCBA Advanced Civil Trial Law Seminar	2008
Presenter, CCBA Advanced Appellate Law Seminar	2008
Presenter, 30 th Annual Advanced Civil Trial Course	2007
Presenter, CCBA Advanced Civil Trial Law Seminar	2007
Presenter, CCBA Advanced Civil Appellate Law Seminar	2006
Presenter, Conference on State and Federal Appeals	2004
Presenter, ATLA Expert Testimony with Eye on Appellate Record	2003
Presenter, TTLA Hot Tips for Hot Times	2000
Presenter, HCBA Applying the New Rules of Civil Discovery	1998

Presenter, ATLA Trucking Litigation	1995
Presenter, TTLA Handling Bias, Prejudice & Hostile Environments	1993
Author, <i>Creating a History for the Future</i> , Texas Bar Journal	1992

COMMUNITY/SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

Standing Ovation Award, State Bar of Texas, 2026
 Lifetime Achievement Award, Judicial Section, State Bar of Texas, 2025
 Lifetime Achievement Award, Hidalgo County Bar Association, 2025
 Lawyer of the Year, Coastal Bend Women Lawyers Association, 2025
 Women in History Month award, Vanguard Academy Charter School, 2024
 Portrait hung on Hispanic Heritage Classroom Wall of Honor at University of Houston Law Center, 2023
 Podcast, Latinx Mentor, Breaking Barriers: Latinx Chief Justices, 2023
 Sarah T. Hughes Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, Women and the Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, 2023
 Speaker, Project Poderosa, 2022
 Podcast, Leap+Repeat: Chiral Conversations, 2021
 Hispanic Women's Network Rio Grande Valley Chapter, Hispanic Women Making History Award, 2021
 Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce Woman of Distinction, 2019
 Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, Latina Trailblazer Award, 2019
 NAACP Corpus Christi Chapter President's Award, 2019
 Keynote Speaker, IDEA Public Schools Senior Luncheon, 2017
 Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Woman of Distinction, 2014
 Good Samaritan Award 2014, Good Samaritan Community Services-RGV
 Member, Organization of Women Executives
 Board member, Chair 2011-2013, Good Samaritan Community Services-RGV
 Board member, Comfort House Services, 2008-2014
 Mentor, UTPA Executive Mentor Program, 2015
 Member, Hidalgo County Texas Democratic Women
 Life Member, University of Texas Ex-Students' Association
 Board member, St. John's Episcopal Day School, President, 2009-2010
 Volunteer, St. John's Episcopal Church and School, 2001 - 2016
 Frequent speaker at various schools in community
 AVANCE *Mother of the Year* 2005
 Distinguished Service Award, University of Houston Law Center, 1990