

Judge Criss was sworn in as Associate Criminal District Judge in Bell County, Texas on July 7, 2025. For the decade prior to joining Bell County Judge Criss worked at Criss and Rousseau Law Firm, L.L.P. with her partner and husband Col. (Ret.) Rick Rousseau. That firm is now Rousseau Legal Services. Before going back into private practice Judge Susan Criss spent fifteen years sitting on a district court bench in Galveston, Texas.

Judge Criss was Chair of the Finance Committee for the National Association of Women Judges. Prior to that Judge Criss served several terms on the NAWJ Board representing Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

While on the bench in Galveston she was Chair of the Gulf Coast MHMR Task Force for Jail Diversion for the Mentally Ill in Brazoria and Galveston Counties. She worked with the task force to devise procedures to better provide for mental health needs in the criminal justice system. She also lobbied the legislature for funding for mental health treatment for those accused of crimes.

Before becoming a judge Susan Criss worked in private practice in Galveston for three years and as a prosecutor in the Galveston County Criminal District Attorney Office for ten years.

As a prosecutor she was one of the founding members of the Galveston County Child Advocacy Center, the Galveston County Child Abuse and Neglect Task Force and the Galveston County Child Death Review Team.

Susan Criss is board certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.