

**JUDGE KAREN SAGE**  
**299TH DISTRICT COURT**

Judge Karen Sage is the judge of the 299<sup>th</sup> District Court, a felony criminal court in Travis County, Texas. Before taking the bench, she practiced both civil and criminal law at the state and federal level. She began her legal career in 1991 as a commercial litigator for O'Melveny & Myers. Soon after, she moved into the public sector, serving first as chief counsel to Mayor Richard Riordan of Los Angeles, then as a judicial clerk to the Hon. Kim McLane Wardlaw in the Central District of California. She spent the next phase of her career as an assistant United States attorney in the Eastern District of New York, specializing in white-collar crime. There, she prosecuted co-conspirators of Jordan Belfort and Danny Porush. Coming to Texas, she became a state assistant district attorney in Travis County, where she pioneered the county's specialty docket for mental health. In 2010, she was elected judge of the 299<sup>th</sup> District Court. As judge, she developed a reentry court to supervise graduates of Texas's SAFPF substance abuse treatment program and reduce substance-related recidivism.

Beyond her legal practice, Judge Sage has taught courses on the practice and ethics of criminal law at Duke University and the University of Texas. She has held multiple board positions in the National Association of Women Judges, of which she is now president, and served for years as board chairperson of the KidsActing Foundation, a nonprofit providing arts and theater classes to underprivileged and disabled youth in Austin. Judge Sage is admitted to practice in California, New York and Texas. She is a member of the American Bar Association and an honorary member of the Federal Bar Association. She is mother to Abbie, 24 and Harry, 22. She is a *cum laude* graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Law.