

MARIA A. SALAS-MENDOZA

ELECTED POSITION

District Court Judge, 120th Judicial District Court, Term 2007-present

- Appointment, Visiting Justice, 8th Court of Appeals Aug. 2009 – Feb. 2010, Mar. 2011-Sept. 2011; and Mar. 2012 – Sept. 2012 by Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson

EDUCATION

J.D., UCLA School of Law, 1994

A.B., Harvard-Radcliffe College, 1990 [Cum Laude]

ADMISSIONS

State Bar of Texas, May 1997

State Bar of California, December 1994, currently inactive

PROFESSIONAL

Council Member, Judicial Section, State Bar of Texas, 2019 to present, 2013 to 2016

Council Member, Hispanic Issues Section, State Bar of Texas, 2017-present;

Vice-President, 2001-2002

Member, Harvard Schools and Scholarship Committee, 2000 to present

Board Member/Judicial Advisor, Texas Women Lawyers, 2009 to present

Administrative District Judge, El Paso County Council of Judges, 2015-2019

Immediate Past President, El Paso Executive Women Lions Club, 2018 to 2019;

President 2017-18, 2015-16; Secretary 2014-2015; Charter Member 2013-2014

Immediate Past President, El Paso Bar Association, 2013 to 2014

President 2012-2013; Executive Committee 2008-2012; Board of Directors 2002-2005

Council Member, Criminal Justice Section, State Bar of Texas, 2010 to 2014

Secretary/Treasurer, Texas Center for the Judiciary, 2011 to 2013

Special Events & Fund Raising Committee, 2009 to 2010

Member, Judicial Academic Network/Judicial Education Committee, and

New Judges Committee, National Association of Women Judges, 2011 to 2012

Member, El Paso Community Justice Council, 2011 to 2012

Vice President, El Paso Women's Bar Association, 2010 to 2012

Chair, Racial Diversity in the Profession Committee, State Bar of Texas, 2005-2006

Vice-Chair, 2004-2005; Member, 2004-2008

Panel Chair, District 17A Grievance Committee, State Bar of Texas, 2005-2006; Member, 2002-2005

Secretary, Mexican American Bar Association of Texas, 2004-2005

Vice-President-Public Affairs, 2001-2002; Vice-President-Administration, 2000-2001

Member, United Way-Allocation Panel, 2003, 2005

Board Member, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, 2003-2005

Board Member, El Paso Legal Assistance Society, 2001-2002

Member, El Paso Art Museum Advisory Board, 2001-2004

President, Mexican American Bar Association of El Paso, 2000-2001; Treasurer, 2001-2005

SPEAKER/COURSE DIRECTORSHIPS

Panelist, El Paso Bar Association, 24th Annual Trial Practice Seminar, Judges Panel: Use of Experts;

February 2020; Speaker, 17th Annual Civil Practice Seminar, Gender Bias: Lawyers Behaving

Badly, February 2013; Panelist, 16th Civil Trial Seminar, Views from the Bench, February 2012; 13th Civil Trial Seminar, Effective Trial Advocacy, Feb. 2009
Speaker and Discussion Group Leader, 2019 College for New Judges, Texas Center for the Judiciary, Dec. 2019
Panelist, Prosecuting and Defending Truck and Auto Collision Cases, Litigation Section and TexasBarCLE, Judges' Panel – Preservation of Error, November 2019
Speaker, Texas Center for the Judiciary Regional Conferences, Impaired Driving Assessment, April & May 2016
Panelist, MABA-Texas Annual CLE, Women on the Bench, August 2013, August 2011
Panelist, Texas Women Lawyers Annual Conference, Judges Panel, "Rising Together - Women Promoting Each Other in the Practice of Law," March 2013
Speaker, State Bar College, Summer School, Criminal Law Update, July 2012
Speaker, State Bar of Texas, Advanced Evidence and Discovery 2011, Judicial Perspectives on Discovery Sanctions and Motions to Compel, May 2011
Speaker, NBI Judicial Forum, What Civil Court Judges Want You To Know, April 2009, Oct. 2010
Panelist, Open Meetings Act and Social Media, Open Government Seminar, State Bar of Texas, Annual Meeting, June 2010
Co-Director, Gay in the Courtroom: Breaking Barriers to Legal Access, Oct. 2009
Course Director, Texas Minority Attorney Program (El Paso), 2006, 2008

AWARDS/HONORS

2018-2019 New Voices in Leadership, Lions Club International, January 2019
2017 Outstanding Jurist presented by the El Paso Paralegal Association, 2017 and 2013
2017 McDonald's Hispanos Triunfadores Award in Government Service, September 2017
2016 Phillips Brooks House Association, Outstanding Alumna Award, October 2016
2014 Pathfinder, presented by Texas Women Lawyers, February 2014
2014 Outstanding Jurist presented by the El Paso Young Lawyers Association, Fall 2014
Fellow, Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource (ASTAR) curriculum, presented by ASTAR Executive Board by chair Robert M. Bell (ret. Chief Judge), July 2013
Presidential Commendation, Certificate of Special Competence at Texas College of Judicial Studies, presented by State Bar of Texas, June 2013
2012 Border Hero, presented by Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, Oct. 2012
Chair's Award of Excellence for Outstanding Service to the Judiciary, presented by Chair Justice Gina P. Benavides, Texas Center for the Judiciary, Sept. 2012
Reynaldo G. Garza Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar of Texas, June 2011
Founding Fellow, El Paso Bar Foundation, 2008
Certificate of Merit, presented by Directors and Past Presidents of the State Bar of Texas, June 2005