



Hon. Ignacio Torteya, III

Ignacio Torteya, III has served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Texas since January 24, 2014. He is the Immediate Past President of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association. Judge Torteya is frequently invited to speak to federal judges, prosecutors and defenders from Latin and South America at conferences held in Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, El Salvador and Puerto Rico regarding international extraditions and the adversarial system in the U.S, sponsored by the Department of Justice's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT), the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative (ROLI), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Judge Torteya obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Baylor University in 1992, and his Juris Doctor degree from the Baylor University School of Law in 1995. After law school, Judge Torteya was an associate attorney with an international law firm in San Antonio before returning to Brownsville to clerk for the late U.S. District Judge Filemon B. Vela. He was the managing member of the Torteya Law Firm, P.L.L.C. and served as a Municipal Court Judge for the City of Brownsville until he was appointed to the federal bench.

Judge Torteya previously served as Special Counsel to the Mexican Consulate General in Brownsville and an Adjunct Professor of International Business Law at the former University of Texas at Brownsville. Judge Torteya is a member of the State Bar of Texas, National Conference of Federal Trial Judges Division of the American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association-Southern District of Texas Chapter (*Member*, Board of Directors and Judicial Liaison), Cameron County Bar Association (*Member*, Board of Directors, 2018–2024), and a former member of the U.S.-Mexico Bar Association. Judge Torteya was recognized as the 2025 Baylor Lawyer of the Year by Baylor Law School.