

Debra H. Lehrmann
District Judge
360th District Court
Tarrant County, Texas

SUMMARY OF CURRICULUM VITAE

The Hon. Debra Lehrmann, District Judge of the 360th Judicial District in Fort Worth, Texas, has served as a judge in Tarrant County for over 22 years, including nine years as District Judge. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Judge Lehrmann graduated with high honors from the University of Texas in 1979 and the University of Texas School of Law in 1982. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she practiced law with the Fort Worth law firm of Law, Snakard & Gambill. She also worked as the Lead Attorney and Director of the Enforcement Division of the Tarrant County Domestic Relations Office. In 1990, she was recognized as the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Tarrant County.

The 360th District Court is a general jurisdiction court that is charged with the duty to give priority to family law cases, including those filed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Presiding over this type of court requires a broad understanding of all types of matters handled by civil courts. Contested issues involve complex property, real estate, corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property, trusts, oil and gas, tax, torts, constitutional law, domestic violence and child protection. A strong grasp of civil procedure and evidence is also required, as many cases are tried to both the bench and the jury.

The caseload of the Texas Supreme Court involves large numbers of children and families who are the subjects of litigation. The election of Judge Lehrmann fulfills the need for a jurist experienced with the intricacies of these cases. Judge Lehrmann has been involved with the creation and implementation of the Texas Supreme Court's Permanent Commission for Children, Youth and Families for the past several years. She currently serves on a committee dealing with the court-appointed representation of children in abuse and neglect cases through the commission.

Judge Lehrmann has been an active leader within the legal profession for many years. She is a past president of the Texas Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), is a past president of the Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association, is a master member of the Eldon B. Mahon Inn of Court, served on the Advisory Board of Tarrant County Dispute Resolution Services, is a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and the American Bar Foundation, and is a charter member of the Tarrant County Bar Foundation.

Judge Lehrmann actively participates in the national legal community as well. She currently serves as the Chair-Elect the Family Law Section of the American Bar Association (ABA/FLS). She also serves as the Section's liaison to the Judicial Division

of the ABA. She is a past member of the Executive Committee of the Section Officer's Conference (SOC) of the ABA.

In 2003, she was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to represent Texas as a Uniform Law Commissioner. As part of the Texas delegation to the Uniform Law Commission, Judge Lehrmann participates in the study and drafting of uniform acts that harmonize and bring efficiency and predictability to vital areas of interstate interaction. Over the past six years, Judge Lehrmann has participated in revisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, Uniform Probate Code, and Uniform Trust Code. Additionally, she served as the Chair of the ULC drafting committee on the Uniform Relocation of Children Act and on the committee which created a uniform law on the court appointed representation of children. This experience affords Judge Lehrmann invaluable insight into national legal issues and the interplay between judicial, legislative, and practical issues.

As part of her dedication to the practice of law and training of lawyers, she speaks frequently at continuing legal education events throughout the state and country, and is a regular lecturer at Texas Wesleyan School of Law. She authors two legal treatises which are updated yearly, *Texas Annotated Family Code* (Lexis Nexis-Matthew Bender) and *Court Appointed Representation of Children in Texas Family Law Cases—A Practical Guide* (Lexis Nexis-Matthew Bender). The author of numerous published articles, in 2003 she received the Texas Bar Foundation's award for the best bar journal article of the year, for *The Child's Voice An Analysis of the Methodology Used To Involve Children in Custody Litigation*" (Texas Bar Journal, November 2002).

In 2005, Judge Lehrmann received the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Scott Moore Award as recognition for her service in the judiciary. Most recently, in December of 2009, she will receive the prestigious Judge Eva Barnes Award for dedication and outstanding service to the legal profession. As an experienced judge who has been recognized for exemplary service, with a well-rounded professional background, she is ready to bring a fair and sound voice to the court.

DETAIL OF CURRICULUM VITAE

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recipient of the Judge Eva Barnes Award for dedication and exemplary service to the legal profession, 2009

Recipient of Scott Moore Award by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for dedication to children and families, 2005

Recipient of Texas Bar Foundation's Outstanding Bar Journal Award, 2003 for "The Child's Voice—an Analysis of the Methodology Used to Involve Children in Custody Litigation," Texas Bar Journal, Nov. 2002

Outstanding Young Lawyer of Tarrant County, 1990

AUTHOR OF FOLLOWING LEGAL TREATISES:

“Texas Annotated Family Code” (Lexis Nexis-Matthew Bender, 2006 Edition; 2007 Edition; 2008 Edition; 2009 Edition); updated yearly

“Court-Appointed Legal Representation of Children in Texas Family Law Cases—a Practical Guide for Attorneys” (Lexis Nexis-Matthew Bender, 1st Edition, 2004; 2nd Edition 2005-06; 3rd Edition 2006-07; 4th Edition, 2007-08; 5th Edition, 2008-09); updated yearly

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Uniform Laws Commission (ULC)

Commissioner, 2004-2010, appointed by Governor Rick Perry
Chair, Drafting Committee on Relocation of Children, 2006 to 2009
Chair, Study Committee on Relocation of Children, 2005-06
Member, Drafting Committee on Uniform Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect and Custody Cases, 2004 to present

American Bar Association, Family Law Section

Chair-Elect, 2009 to present
Vice-Chair, 2008 to 2009
Secretary, 2007 to 2008
Governing Council, 2005 to 2007
Continuing Legal Education Committee, 2005 to present
Publications Committee, 2002 to present
Commission on State Court Funding, commissioner, 2003-2004
Child Support Committee, chair, 2004-05; co-chair, 2003
Custody Committee, member, 2000 to present
Host Committee for ABA Family Law Section 2005 spring meeting, Austin, 2004 to 2005
Judicial Section Liaison, 2005 to present
Special Committee on Disaster Relief, 2005
Association of Family & Conciliatory Courts (AFCC) liaison, 2004 to 2005
Committee to Develop Standards for Representatives of Children in Custody Litigation, 2000-03

Association of Family and Conciliatory Courts (AFCC), Texas Chapter, president, 2003; vice-chair, 2002; board member, 2000-01

Eldon B. Mahon Inn of Court, Master member, 2004 to present

Co-Chair, Texas Legislative Ad Hoc Ad Litem Committee, 2000 to 2007, which drafted legislative amendments to Texas Family Code Chapter 107

Course Director, Annual Conference of AFCC, Texas Chapter

Fall 2002, "The Child's Voice"

Fall 2003, "High Conflict Families—Methods in Therapeutic Jurisprudence"

Fellow, American Bar Foundation, 2004 to present

Charter Member, Tarrant County Bar Foundation, 1998 to present

Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation, 1996 to present

American Bar Association, Judicial Section, member

Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas, member

National Association of Judges, member

U.S. District for the Northern District of Texas, member

Tarrant County Bar Association, member

Tarrant County Family Bar Association, member

Tarrant County Women Lawyers, member

Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association, president, 1988; president-elect, 1987; vice-president, 1986; secretary, 1985; treasurer, 1984; board of directors, 1983

Committee to develop statewide Title IV-D software package for family district courts, member, 1989-90

West Texas Legal Services Protective Order Task Force, member, 1988-89

Tarrant County Family Law Task Force, member, 1987-88

State Bar Convention Planning Committee, member, 1987-88

Tarrant County Family Bar Association, membership committee, chair, 1986

Tarrant County Teen Court judge, 1987-88

SMU Moot Court judge, 1989-90

Texas Association of Domestic Relations Offices, secretary, 1985-86; board of directors, 1984-85

American Foster Parent Annual Convention, mock trial presentation, organizer and presenter, 1985

Tarrant County Dispute Resolution Services, mediator, 1984-86

Tarrant County Domestic Relations Office Task Force, member, 1984-85

FREQUENT AUTHOR & LECTURER

“The Uniform Collaborative Law Act,” Texas Wesleyan School of Law, May 2009

“Problem Solving Courts,” Alternative Dispute Resolution Symposium, Texas Wesleyan School of Law, February 2009

“We’ve Come a Long Way—Docket Control & Pre-Trial Scheduling Orders-Part I,” Tarrant County Bar Journal, February 2008

“We’ve Come a Long Way—Docket Control & Pre-trial Scheduling Orders-Part II,” Tarrant County Bar Journal, March 2008

“Alternative Forms of Dispute Resolution” Texas Wesleyan School of Law, May 2008

“The Rule of Law & the Civil Courts System,” Texas Wesleyan School of Law, October 2008

“Best Litigation Practices,” Eldon B. Mahon Inns of Court, October 2008

“What Judges Want to Know,” National Business Institute, November 2008

“Docket Control & Pre-Trial Scheduling Orders,” American Bar Association Family Advocate, Fall 2008

“Uniform Representation of Children,” Divorce on the Beach, San Destin, Florida, 2008

“Representation of Children,” ABA Family Law Section Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, 2007

“Ten Custody Cases You Should Know About,” Advanced Family Law Course,

Dallas, 2007

“Uniform Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect and Custody Proceedings Act,” Law Education Institute, Colorado, 2007

“Therapeutic Jurisprudence—A New Paradigm,” Texas Association of Mediators, Fort Worth, 2007

“The Power of Perspective,” ABA Family Law Section Meeting, California, 2007

“Practical Tips for Lawyers in Family Law Court,” Texas Wesleyan School of Law, 2007

“Family Law- Title 5,” Texas Wesleyan School of Law, Fort Worth, 2006

“Family Law Case Update,” N.E. Tarrant County Bar Association, 2006

“Court-Appointed Representation of Children,” Texas Institute of CLE, Dallas, 2006

“Learning to Make the Texas Family Code Work for You,” Texas Institute of CLE, course director, Dallas 2006

“Family Law Case Law Update,” Annual Judicial Conference, Texas Center for the Judiciary, Houston, 2006

“Admissibility of Mental Health Records,” Law Education Institute, Colorado, 2006

“Family Law- Title 5,” Texas Wesleyan School of Law, Fort Worth, 2005

“Ethical Issues and the Representation of Children in Domestic Violence Cases,” Houston Bar Association, Houston, 2005

“Daubert’s Application to Opinions of Mental Health Experts in Custody Cases, Fort Worth , Inns of Court, Fort Worth, 2005

“The Child’s Voice: Role & Responsibilities of Lawyers for Children, Dallas Bar Assoc. Juvenile Justice Committee CPS Training, Dallas, 2005

“Judicial Perspective About Ethical Issues,” ABA Family Law Section Meeting, San Diego, 2005

“Legal Ethics & the Representation of Children in Family Law Cases,” Advanced Family Law Course, Dallas, 2005

“Evidentiary Issues in Family Law,” moderator, ABA Family Law Section Meeting, Austin, 2005

“When Public Policy Interests Collide—the Need for Information v. the Need for Privacy” Dallas Family Law Inns of Court, March 2005

“HIPAA and the Admissibility of Mental Health Records.” ABA National Telephonic Seminar, 2005

“Family Law- Title 5,” Texas Wesleyan School of Law, Fort Worth, 2004

“Admissibility of Mental Health Records,” ABA Family Law Section Meeting, Milwaukee, 2004

“Parenting Coordinators & Parenting Plans—the Proposed Statute,” Texas Association of Domestic Relations Offices (TADRO) Annual Convention, Austin, 2004

“Duties & Ethical Responsibilities of Court Appointed Lawyers for Children,” Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, spring, 2004

“The New Ad Litem Statute—One Year Later,” Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, spring, 2004

“Tips from the Bench,” ABA Annual Meeting, Family Law Section, Atlanta, Georgia, 2004

“Changes to Texas Family Code Chapter 107—A Year Later,” Advanced Family Law Course, San Antonio, Texas, 2004

“Ad Litem Appointments,” Dallas Family Law Section, July 2004

“Amicus Attorneys and Attorneys Ad Litem—A Judicial Perspective,” Texas Center For the Judiciary, Associate Judges Training, Austin, July 2004

“Changes to Texas Family Code Chapter 107,” Pro Bono Continuing Legal Education project, Brownwood, Texas, May 2004

“Ethical Challenges for Experts,” AFCC Annual Conference, San Antonio, Texas, May 2004

“Court-Appointed Representation of Children,” AFCC Annual Conference, San Antonio, Texas, May 2004

“Domestic Violence in Family Law Cases,” Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, spring 2004

“Representation of Children in Family Law Cases,” Denton County Family Bar Association & CASA, spring 2004

“Family Law- Title 5,” Texas Wesleyan School of Law, Fort Worth, 2003

“Therapeutic Jurisprudence,” Texas Chapter of AFCC Fall Conference, 2003

“Discoverability of Mental Health Records,” ABA Family Law Section Meeting, Seattle, 2003

“Clarity At Last—An Analysis of the New Ad Litem Statute,” Advanced Family Law Course, Texas, 2003

“Problem Solving Courts & Access Facilitation,” Association of Family & Conciliation Courts (AFCC) Annual Convention, Ottawa, Canada, 2003

“A Practical Primer for New Lawyers,” Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, 2003

“The Child’s Voice—An Analysis of the Methodology Used To Involve Children in Custody Litigation,” Texas Bar Journal, November 2002

“Amendments to Chapter 107 of the Texas Family Code,” Texas Chapter of AFCC Fall Conf., 2002

“Evaluating the Probative Value of Child Custody Evaluations,” Juvenile & Family Court Journal, spring 2002

“Access Facilitation—A Litigation Tool,” Texas Association of Domestic Relations Offices (TADRO) Annual Convention, Austin, 2002

“Who Are We Listening To?” Advanced Family Law Course, August 2002

“Attorneys as Ad Litem,” Texas Wesleyan University School of Law 2002

“Conciliatory Law,” Tarrant County Bench Bar Conference, 2002

“Listening to Children,” ABA Family Law Section Meeting, Vancouver, B.C., 2001

“Nuts and Bolts Seminar,” Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers, 2001

“Brown Bag Seminar—Attorneys as Ad Litem,” Tarrant County Bar Assoc., 2001

“Domestic Violence—The Tragic Facts,” Texas Christian University, 2001

“Access Facilitation—A Tool for Families in Conflict,” Arlington Bar Association, 2001

“Who Are We Protecting? An Analysis of the Law Regarding Attorneys and Guardians Ad Litem ” Texas Bar Journal, February 2000

"The 360th District Court—Access Facilitation," Tarrant County Family Law Bar Association, 2000

"Judicial Intent and Ad Litem Appointments," T.C. Child Protective Services, September 2000

"Ad Litem in Peril?" Advanced Family Law Course, August 2000

"Ethical Issues Regarding Guardians and Attorneys Ad Litem," TADRO Annual Convention, 1999

"Temporary Orders," West Texas Legal Services Family Law Course, 1998

"Alternate Dispute Resolution," Bench Bar Conference, 1996

"The 360th Associate District Court," Tarrant County Family Law Bar Association, 1995

"Title IV-D—What Judges Should Know," Regional Judicial Conference, 1990

"Federal Child Support Legislation," Texas Judicial Conference, Killeen, 1990

"Title IV-D," Texas Judicial Conference, Texarkana, 1990

"Expedited Process," Judicial Training Seminar, Austin, 1990

"Testifying at Trial," Family Court Service Training Course, Fort Worth, 1989

"Overview of Enforcement," TADRO Annual Convention, Fort Worth, 1986

"Visitation and Mediation," TADRO Annual Conference, San Antonio, 1985

"The Wage Assignment," TADRO Annual Conference, Galveston, 1984

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & RECOGNITION

Involved with creation of Texas Supreme Court Permanent Commission for Children, Youth & Families, 2008 to present

National Adoption Day, Tarrant County, chair, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007 and 2008

Dispute Resolution Services of Tarrant County, advisory board, 2001 to 2008

Open Arms (organization which deals with domestic violence), advisory board, 2000-2002

National Amazing Woman Award, 2001

Who's Who in Texas, 1985

Notable Woman of Texas, 1983

Network for Executive Women, past member

Fort Worth Professional Women's Organization, 1986-87

Tarrant County Parents United, board of directors, 1985-86

Member, Alpha Chi Omega social sorority

PERSONAL

Married to Greg Lehrmann, J.D. since 1983; two sons, Gregory Alan, born 12-25-90 and Jonathan William, born 4-10-92