

HON. ROY B. FERGUSON - CURRICULUM VITAE

394th Judicial District Court

Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio Counties

Professional Affiliations, Honors, Memberships and Awards

- Presiding Judge – 394th Judicial District Court (2013-Present)
- Local Administrative District Judge (2015-Present)
- Judge Pro Tem – 8th District Court of Appeals, El Paso (2015-2016, 2019-Present)
- Commissioner – Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (2021)
- Chair – Texas Children’s Commission Virtual Bench Book Workgroup (2021)
- Subcom. Chair – Remote Proceedings Task Force, “Court Access” Subcommittee (2021).
- Member – Judicial Needs Assessment Committee (2019-Present)
- Liaison Member – Judicial Committee on Information Technology (2016-Present)
- Liaison Board Member – Computer & Tech Section, State Bar of Texas (2020-Present)
- Member – OCA Uniform Case Management System Study Group (2020)
- Director – Judicial Section, State Bar of Texas (2015-2020)
- COVID-19 Specialty Court Judge – by assignment by the Supreme Court of Texas (2020)
- Member – Texas Judicial Council Civil Justice Committee’s Advisory Council (2018)
- Life Sustaining Fellow – Texas Bar Foundation
- Member – Champions of Justice Society, Texas Access to Justice Commission
- Member – Texas Bar College
- Special Service Commendation – State Bar of Texas GPSOLO Section (2014)
- Lawyer of the Year – State Bar of Texas GPSOLO Section (2012)
- Member – District 17 Grievance Committee, State Bar of Texas (2011-2012)
- General Practice Solo and Small Firm Section, State Bar of Texas
 - Councilmember (2003-2016), Officer (2006-2014), Chair (2009-2010)
- Licensed to practice before the United States Supreme Court
- Member – State Bar of Texas (1995-Present)

Education and Related Honors

- Juris Doctorate of Law, St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, Texas (1994)
- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, University of Texas at Arlington (1992)
- Member, Chi Epsilon, honorary fraternity for civil engineering students
- Member, Kappa Kappa Psi, honorary fraternity for college bandsmembers
- Member, Phi Alpha Delta, honorary fraternity for law students

Public Speaking and Articles

- 2021 (scheduled), Appellate Judges Education Institute Summit, Presenter/Panelist, “Social Media.”
- 2021 (scheduled), National Judicial College, Presenter, “Presiding Over Sovereign Citizens.”
- 2021 (scheduled), Adv. Family Law Conference, Presenter/Panelist, “Be the Better Advocate in Contested Custody Cases.”
- 2021 (scheduled), Marriage Dissolution 101, Presenter/Panelist.
- 2021 (scheduled), American Bar Association Roundtable, Presenter/Panelist, “Virtual Trials.”
- 2021 (scheduled), American Board of Trial Advocates, Virtual Advocacy Series, Presenter.
- 2021 (scheduled), Computer & Technology Conference, Presenter/Panelist, “Courtroom Technology.”
- 2021 (scheduled), NJC-NNIC International Leaders Program, Presenter, “Virtual Hearing Techniques.”
- 2021, El Paso Council of Judges, Presenter, “Introduction to Virtual Trials.”
- 2021, TAFLS 36th Annual Trial Institute, Presenter, Day 2 Mock Trial.
- 2021, Texas Trial Lawyers’ Association, Car Wrecks Seminar, Presenter/Panelist.
- 2021, Caribbean Association of Women Judges Biennial Meeting and Conference, Presenter.
- 2021, Handling Your First (or Next) Divorce Case Conference, Presenter/Panelist, “Top Evidentiary Issues - A View from the Bench.”
- 2020, Vaccinating your Tech Tools for Practice in a Pandemic, Presenter/Panelist, “Ethical Considerations Practicing Remotely in a Pandemic.”

Public Speaking and Articles (continued)

- 2020, National Judicial College, Presenter/Panelist, “Lessons Learned from Around the World about the Court’s Management of a Pandemic.”
- 2020, Adv. Family Law Conference, Presenter/Panelist, “Fly Me To the Moon – Effective Advocacy in Relocation Cases.”
- 2020, Thomson Reuters Webinar, Presenter/Panelist, “Virtual Courts: Challenges, Opportunities and What’s Next. The Court’s Perspective.”
- 2020, State Bar College Summer School, Presenter, “Back to Basics of Civil Procedure.”
- 2020, National Judicial College, Presenter/Panelist, “Virtual Court During a Pandemic: Platforms, Process, and Procedure.”
- 2020, Illinois Judicial College Committee and Committee on Judicial Education, Presenter/Panelist, “Conducting Remote Hearings in Child Protection Cases.”
- 2020, National Center for State Courts, Presenter/Panelist, “Lights, Camera, Motion!: Act II. Conducting Effective Remote Hearings.”
- 2020, Texas Family Law Section CLE, Presenter/Panelist, “Zoom Training for Family Lawyers.”
- 2020, Family Justice Conference, Texas Center for the Judiciary, “Controlling the Courtroom.”
- 2020, Texas Indigent Defense Commission Workshop, Presenter/Panelist, “Rural Public Defenders.”
- 2019, Adv. Family Law Conference, Presenter, “Things (Some) Lawyers Do Well.”
- 2019, SBOT Webcast, Presenter/Panelist, “When a Lie Isn’t a Lie: Dealing with False Testimony During Trial.”
- 2019, SBOT Annual Meeting, Presenter, “Simple Things Everyone Does Wrong.”
- 2019, Marriage Dissolution 101, Presenter/Panelist, “Gearing Up: Pleadings.”
- 2019, Marriage Dissolution, Presenter/Panelist, “When a Lie Isn’t a Lie: Dealing with False Testimony During Trial.”
- 2019, Adv. Evidence and Discovery Conference, Presenter, “Ethics in the Courtroom.”
- 2019, Presiding Judge, “State of Texas v. Kylo Ren – Mock Jury Selection.”
- 2019, Adv. Trial Skills for Family Lawyers, Presenter, “Trial on the Merits: Winning from the Beginning.”
- 2018, Adv. Family Law Conference, Family Law 101, Presenter, “Discovery: A View from Both Sides of the Bench.”
- 2018, Ector County Bar Association CLE, Presenter, “Simple Things that Everyone Does Wrong.”
- 2017, NM Defense Lawyers Association and West Texas TADC Joint Seminar, Presenter, “A View from the Bench – Ethical and Effective Advocacy: What Works and What Doesn’t.”
- 2017, Texas A&M University School of Law, “Ethical and Effective Representation of Rural Communities.”
- 2017, Presiding Judge, “State of Texas v. Luke Skywalker – Mock Jury Selection.”
- 2016, Adv. Family Law Conference, Presenter, “Parental Alienation: What It Is and What It Isn’t.”
- 2016, SBOT Annual Meeting, Presenter, “Effective and Ethical Advocacy from the Judge’s Perspective.”
- 2016, Presiding Judge, State of Texas v. Harry Potter – Mock Jury Selection.”
- 2015, Adv. Family Law Conference, Presenter, “Judges’ Tech Tips.”
- 2015, Val Verde County Bar CLE, Presenter, “Effective Use of Courtroom Technology in Family Law.”
- 2015, SBOT Annual Meeting, Presenter, “Effective Advocacy – What Does and Doesn’t Work in the Courtroom from a Judge’s Perspective.”
- 2015, American Legion District Convention, Keynote Presenter, “And Justice for All.”
- 2014, SBOT Annual Meeting, Presenter/Panelist, “What Judges Think Is (and Isn’t) Persuasive With the Use of Technology in the Courtroom.”
- 2014, State of Texas Juvenile Probation Chief’s Conference, Presenter, “Sex, Violence and Video Games.”
- 2014, Region 18 Meeting of School Administrators, Presenter, “Sex, Violence and Video Games.”
- 2014, SBOT Annual Meeting, Presenter, “Practical and Ethical Impacts of *In re Stephanie Lee*, or: Who Will Speak for the Children?”
- 2013, West of the Pecos Republican Women’s Association, Presenter, “Freedom of Speech is Under Attack!”
- 2012, SBOT Annual Meeting, Presenter, “Legal Ethics vs. Moral Compass.”
- 2011, SBOT Annual Meeting, Presenter, “Ethics and the Small Law Firm – That’s an Impact Tremor, That’s What THAT is!”
- 2010, SBOT Annual Meeting, Moderator and Presenter, “Recent Ethical Issues for the Solo and Small Firm Practitioner.”
- 2010, General Practice Institute, Waco Texas, Moderator

Public Speaking and Articles (continued)

- 2009, SBOT Annual Meeting, Presenter, “Hot Topics in Legal Ethics.”
- 2008, SBOT CLE, Presenter, “Ethics and the Small Law Firm.” (webcast)
- 2008, SBOT CLE, Presenter and Moderator, “Ethics and the Small Firm: Use of Technology in the Development of a Successful and Profitable Practice.”
- 2008, SBOT Annual Meeting, Presenter, “Ethics and the Small Law Firm – Ten Hot Tips on Avoiding Grievances.”
- 2007, SBOT Annual Meeting, Presenter, “Ethics and the Small Law Firm – Avoiding Grievances Through Early Detection.”
- 2006, Article, “Ethical Pitfalls for the Community Lawyer – an Outline for Discussion among General Practitioners.”
- 2006, SBOT Annual Meeting, Presenter/Moderator, “Panel Discussion on Legal Ethics.”

“I am not a cat!”

In February 2021, Judge Ferguson created and published the most-viral legal video in world history, seen by over 2.5 billion people. The now famous “Catlawyer” hearing occurred in Judge Ferguson’s court.

About the 394th Judicial District

The 394th Judicial District comprises Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio Counties. The District encompasses approx. 20,000 sq. miles (larger than nine states), and includes over 20% of the United States–Mexico border. Judge Ferguson is a general jurisdiction judge, handling all felonies, family law, child welfare cases, civil disputes, contested guardianships and probates, and supervising adult and juvenile probation, and four county auditors. As LADJ, Judge Ferguson promulgates policy for all courts of the five counties, including the indigency plan and pandemic operating plans.

About the Champions of Justice Society

The Texas Access to Justice Commission, created by the Supreme Court of Texas in 2001, is charged with developing and implementing initiatives designed to expand access to, and enhance the quality of, justice in civil legal matters for low-income Texans. The Champions of Justice Society is comprised of those attorneys and judges who most strongly support access to justice.

About the Judicial Committee on Information Technology

A part of the Texas Supreme Court’s Texas Commission on Judicial Efficiency, the mission of the JCIT is to establish standards and guidelines for the implementation and integration of technology in Texas courts.

About the Texas Bar Foundation

Founded in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has maintained and pursued its mission to assist the public, improve the profession of law, and build a strong justice system for all Texans. Fellows of the Foundation are selected for their outstanding professional achievements and their demonstrated commitment to the improvement of the justice system throughout the state of Texas. Each year, only one-third of one percent of State Bar of Texas members are invited to become Fellows.

About the Texas Bar College

The Texas Bar College is an honorary society of lawyers who are among the best trained attorneys in Texas. Members are qualified attorneys who are interested in both high ethical standards and improved training for all Texas attorneys. The College recognizes those who maintain and enhance their professional skills and the quality of their service to the public by significant voluntary participation in legal education.

About the 394th District Court Mock Jury Selection Program

Historically, public response to jury summonses across the 394th Judicial District was incredibly low – in some counties below 15%. Judge Ferguson implemented a multi-faceted plan to improve jury turnout, with minimal fining or jailing community members in one of the poorest parts of Texas, focusing on public education of the jury system. Each year, Judge Ferguson summons every high school senior in the District to appear, and be placed under oath, qualified, and questioned in a realistic jury selection for a fictional case. In 2016, Harry Potter was tried for the murder of Voldemort. In 2017, Luke Skywalker stood charged with 1.1 million counts of murder for blowing up the Death Star. (Charges against Mr. Potter were ultimately dismissed, and the Skywalker trial ended in a mistrial when the defendant attacked the first witness for the prosecution – Darth Vader.) In 2019, Kylo Ren was tried for the murder of his father, Han Solo. And in

2020, Thor escaped justice when COVID-19 cancelled his criminal jury trial for (allegedly) beheading an unarmed Thanos in an act of vigilante justice. All fictional defendants are innocent until proven guilty.