



HON. ROY B. FERGUSON
394th Judicial District Court of Texas
Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio Counties



Professional Affiliations, Honors, Memberships and Awards

- Judge – 394th Judicial District Court of Texas (2013-present)
- Local Administrative District Judge (2015-present)
- Judge Pro Tem – 8th District Court of Appeals, El Paso (2015-2016, 2019-present)
- Commissioner – Texas Children’s Commission (2022-present)
- Commissioner – Texas Access to Justice Commission (2021-present)
 - Executive Committee member (2023-present)
- Councilmember – Family Law Section, State Bar of Texas (2022-present)
- Member – SBOT Task Force for Responsible AI in the Law (2023-present)
- Member – State Bar of Texas Court Rules Committee (2022-present)
- Member – Judicial Committee on Information Technology (2021-Present, Liaison 2016-2021)
- Judicial Liaison – Computer & Tech Section, State Bar of Texas (2020-Present)
- Chair – Standards of Practice Committee, Texas Children’s Commission (2022-present)
- Member – National Center for State Courts' Hybrid Hearings Focus Group (2022-2023)
- 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 (2019-2021)
- Member – OCA Uniform Case Management System Study Group (2020)
- Director – Judicial Section, State Bar of Texas (2015-2020)
- COVID-19 Specialty Court Judge (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)
- Admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court
- Licensed – State Bar of Texas (1995-Present)

Education

- Juris Doctorate of Law, St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, Texas (1994)
- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, University of Texas at Arlington (1992)

Public Speaking and Articles

International Presentations:

- 2022, Hugh Wooding Law School, Trinidad & Tobago, Presenter, “Professional Etiquette, Dress and Conduct.”
- 2022, University of Toronto Mississauga, Presenter, “Judicial Career and Access to Justice.”
- 2021, Metro and City Judges’ Association of the Philippines, Presenter, “Judicial Etiquette and Decorum in Online Hearings.”
- 2021, Court Watch, Poland, Presenter/Panelist, “Justice Through the Internet.”
- 2021, Caribbean Association of Women Judges Biennial Meeting and Conference, UN Women, Presenter.
- 2021, NJC-NNIC International Leaders Program, Presenter, “Virtual Hearing Techniques.”
- 2021, Judicial Education Institute, Trinidad and Tobago, Master’s Orientation Programme, Presenter.
- 2020, National Judicial College, Presenter/Panelist, “Lessons Learned from Around the World about the Court’s Management of a Pandemic.”

Judicial Education:

- 2023, National Judicial College, Conference on Procedural Fairness, New York, Presenter/Panelist.
- 2022, Iowa Fall Judges Conference, Presenter, “Remote Court Operations: Judicial Ethics and Majesty.”
- 2022, Texas Annual Judicial Conference, TCJ, Presenter, “Child Support Guidelines: Going... Going... GONE! The Role of Presumptions and Judicial Discretion in Setting Child Support.”
- 2022, M.I.N.K. Supreme Court Conference, Presenter, “Judicial Ethics and Access to Justice.”
- 2022, Kansas Municipal Judges Conference, Presenter, “Judicial Ethics: Municipal Judges.”
- 2022, Spring Regional Conferences, Texas Center for the Judiciary, Presenter/Panelist, “Running a 21st Century Court: Tools & Strategies”
- 2022, Criminal Justice Conference, Texas Center for the Judiciary, Presenter/Panelist, “Docket Management Going Forward.”
- 2021, Appellate Judges Education Institute Summit, Presenter/Panelist, “Curse or Blessing: How to Thrive Online Using Social Media in Today’s Legal World.”
- 2021, National Judicial College, Tennessee, Presenter, “Presiding Over Sovereign Citizens.”
- 2021, National Judicial College, Nebraska, Presenter, “Judicial Ethics in Virtual Hearings.”
- 2021, El Paso Council of Judges, Presenter, “Introduction to Virtual Trials.”
- 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.”

Recent Legal Education:

- 2023, Texas Bar College Summer School, Presenter, “Family Law Legislative Update.”
- 2023, Adv. Family Law Conference, Presenter, “Child Support Guidelines: Going... Going... GONE! The Role of Presumptions in Establishing Child Support,” and, “So You Have a Jury Trial, Now What?”
- 2023, Forum for Paralegals and Attorneys, Presenter, “Dos and Don’ts in the Courtroom.”
- 2023, DRI Product Liability Conference, Panelist, “Navigating the Prospects and Pitfalls of Virtual Hearings.”
- 2023, TAFLS 38th Annual Trial Institute, Presiding Judge: Day 1 Mock Trial.
- 2022, Advanced Trial Skills for Family Lawyers, Presenter, “Preparing for the Unexpected.”
- 2022, Texas Association of Court Administrators, Presenter, “Ethics and Social Media.”
- 2022, NAPCO Trial Court Leadership Academy, California, Presenter, “Bridging the Digital Divide.”
- 2022, Adv. Family Law Conference, Presenter/Panelist, “Unique Possession Orders and Interrelated Issues.”
- 2022, Innovations: Breaking Boundaries in Custody Litigation, Presenter/Panelist, “The Child’s Voice.”
- 2022, Adv. Trial Strategies, Presenter/Panelist, “The New Normal: Virtual Trials.”
- 2022, APBCo, Presenter/Panelist, “How the Pandemic Changed *Pro Bono*.”
- 2022, Adv. Litigation Update Institute, Presenter/Panelist, “Avoiding the Traps: Key Differences between State and Federal Civil Procedure.”
- 2021, ABA Student Magazine, Winter Edition, “Your Private Life Isn’t.”
- 2021, Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, CA, Presenter, “The Cat’s Out of the Bag: The Do’s and Don’ts of Virtual Court Appearances.”
- 2021, Adv. Oil and Gas Resources Conf., Presenter, “What Can I say? It’s about Ethics.”
- 2021, ABA Experience Magazine, July Edition, “Viral in a Pandemic: Lawyercat and the Future of Remote Proceedings.”
- 2021, Adv. Family Law Conference, Presenter/Panelist, “Be the Better Advocate in Disputed Custody Cases.”
- 2021, Court Professionals Conference, Texas Center for the Judiciary, Presenter/Panelist, “Communications with the Court: Do’s and Don’ts.”
- 2021, Marriage Dissolution 101, Presenter/Panelist, “Things (Some) Lawyers Do Very Well.”
- 2021, American Board of Trial Advocates, Virtual Advocacy Series, Presenter.
- 2021, American Bar Association Roundtable, Presenter/Panelist, “Virtual Trials.”
- 2021, SBOT Annual Meeting, Presenter/Panelist, “Back to the Future: Courtroom Technology.”
- 2021, TAFLS 36th Annual Trial Institute, Presiding Judge: Day 2 Mock Trial.
- 2021, Texas Trial Lawyers’ Association, Car Wrecks Seminar, Presenter/Panelist.
- 2021, Handling Your First (or Next) Divorce Case Conference, Presenter/Panelist, “Top Evidentiary Issues - A View from the Bench.”

Recent Legal Education (continued):

- 2020, Vaccinating your Tech Tools for Practice in a Pandemic, Presenter/Panelist, “Ethical Considerations Practicing Remotely in 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 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 Very Well.”
- 2019, SBOT Webcast, 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, 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, Family Law Technology Conference, 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, 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, Presenter, “Recent Ethical Issues for the Solo and Small Firm Practitioner.”
- 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, SBOT Annual Meeting, Author, Presenter/Moderator, “Panel Discussion on Legal Ethics.”

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, real estate, civil disputes, contested guardianships and probates, while 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 Texas Children’s Commission

The Supreme Court established the Children's Commission in 2007 with the overall goal of improving the child welfare system by increasing public awareness of challenges facing children and families involved in the child welfare system and bringing attention to this important issue through judicial leadership, reforming judicial practice, and informing policy and practice affecting child welfare in Texas. Its mission is to strengthen courts for children, youth and families in the child protection system and thereby improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of children.

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 are selected for outstanding professional achievements and demonstrated commitment to improving the Texas justice system. Each year, only one-third of one percent of SBOT 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

Each year, Judge Ferguson summons every high school senior in the District to appear, 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 destroying the Death Star. In 2019, Kylo Ren was tried for the murder of his father, Han Solo. (Charge against Potter was quashed, Skywalker ended in mistrial when he attacked the state’s first witness – Darth Vader, and Kylo Ren’s trial ended abruptly when he force-choked the prosecutor to death during opening statement.) And in 2020/21, Thor escaped justice when COVID-19 cancelled his criminal jury trial for (allegedly) beheading an unarmed Thanos. All fictional defendants are innocent until proven guilty.

“I am not a cat!”

In February 2021, Judge Ferguson created and published the most-viral video in world history, seen by over three billion people. Yes, the now famous “LawyerCat” hearing occurred in Judge Ferguson’s virtual courtroom. His article, “Viral in a Pandemic,” was published in the ABA Experience Magazine, Sept. 2021.