

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

1. **Name:** State full name (include any former names used).

Richard "Rick" Wesley Bennett

2. **Position:** State the position for which you have been nominated.

United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas

3. **Address:** List current office address. If city and state of residence differs from your place of employment, please list the city and state where you currently reside.

Office: United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
United States Courthouse
515 Rusk Street
Houston, Texas 77002

Residence: Conroe, Texas

4. **Birthplace:** State year and place of birth.

1974; Louisville, Kentucky

5. **Education:** List in reverse chronological order each college, law school, or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate for each the dates of attendance, whether a degree was received, and the date each degree was received.

1997 – 2000, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law; J.D., 2000

1998, South Texas College of Law; (one summer class), no degree

1993 – 1997, Texas Christian University; B.A., 1997

1996, Universidad de Sevilla (University of Seville); (study abroad through Texas Christian University), no degree

1994, University of Houston; (transferred from Texas Christian University to the University of Houston for the Fall 1994 semester before returning to Texas Christian University), no degree

1994, Houston Community College; (one summer class), no degree

6. **Employment Record:** List in reverse chronological order all governmental agencies, business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions or organizations, non-profit or otherwise, with which you have been affiliated as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college, whether or not you received payment for your services. Include the name and address of the employer and job title or description.

2024 – present

United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
515 Rusk Street
Houston, Texas 77002
United States Magistrate Judge

2014 – 2024

United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas
1000 Louisiana, Suite 2300
Houston, Texas 77002
Assistant United States Attorney (2016 – 2024)
Special Assistant United States Attorney (2014 – 2016) (two-year detail)

2010 – 2016

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of the Principal Legal Advisor
126 Northpoint Drive, Room 2020
Houston, Texas 77060
Assistant Chief Counsel

2009 – 2010

Jones Bennett LLP (no longer exists)
917 Franklin Street, Suite 400
Houston, Texas 77002
Partner

2006 – 2009

United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas
111 East Broadway, Room A300
Del Rio, Texas 78840
Assistant United States Attorney

2005 – 2006

Chamberlain Hrdlicka
1200 Smith Street, Suite 1400
Houston, Texas 77002
Associate

2004 – 2005

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
300 Willow Street, Suite 239
Beaumont, Texas 77701
Law Clerk to District Judge Marcia A. Crone

2003 – 2004

United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
515 Rusk Street
Houston, Texas 77002
Law Clerk to Magistrate Judge Marcia A. Crone

2000 – 2003

Galveston County District Attorney's Office
600 59th Street, Suite 1001
Galveston, Texas 77551
Assistant District Attorney

2000

United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
515 Rusk Street
Houston, Texas 77002
Unpaid Judicial Intern to Magistrate Judge Marcia A. Crone

2000

Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Texas
525 South Griffin Street, Suite 629
Dallas, Texas 75202
Legal Extern (through Southern Methodist University)

1999

Southern Methodist University Civil Clinic
3315 Daniel Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202
Student Attorney

Summer 1999

Texas Children's Hospital Risk Management
1919 South Braeswood Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77030
Summer Law Clerk

Summer 1999

Mills Shirley, Eckel and Bassett
600 Travis Street, Suite 300
Houston, Texas 77002

Summer Law Clerk (The firm's Houston office no longer exists; the address for the firm's Galveston office is 2200 Market Street, Suite 300, Galveston, Texas 77550.)

Summer 1998
Fibich and Garth (no longer exists)
909 Fannin Street, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77010
Summer Law Clerk

7. **Military Service and Draft Status:** Identify any service in the U.S. Military, including dates of service, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number (if different from social security number) and type of discharge received, and whether you have registered for selective service.

I have not served in the military. I registered for selective service upon reaching eighteen years of age.

8. **Honors and Awards:** List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

United States Attorney's Offices

- Career Service Recognition Award (2024)
- United States Attorney Trial Award (2023)
- United States Attorney Trial Award (2023)
- United States Attorney Trial Award (2021)
- Fifteen-Year Government Service Award (2020)
- United States Attorney Special Achievement Award (2017)
- Department of Justice Ambassador Program (approximately 2016 – 2024)
- Certificate of Appreciation (2016)
- Ten-Year Government Service Pin (2015)
- Certificate of Appreciation (2014)
- Five-Year Government Service Pin (2009)

Certificate of Appreciation, Federal Bureau of Investigation (2023)

Department of Homeland Security

- Office of the Principal Legal Advisor Service Appreciation Award (2016)
- Homeland Security Investigations Award of Appreciation (2016)
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement Removal and Operations Award (2016)
- Office of the Principal Legal Advisor Performance Award (2015)
- Resident Agent in Charge, Del Rio, Award of Appreciation (2009)
- Resident Agent in Charge, Del Rio, Case Award (2009)
- Office of Professional Responsibility Service Award (2008)

Certificate of Appreciation, Drug Enforcement Administration (2009)

Certificate of Appreciation, Galveston County District Attorney's Office (2003)

Southern Methodist University School of Law
Phi Delta Phi Law Student Honor Society (2000)
Jessup International Moot Court Competition (1999)

Texas Christian University
TCU Lacrosse Most Valuable Player (Defense) (1997)
Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars (1996)
Texas Christian University Scholar (Fall 1995, Spring 1996, Fall 1996, Spring 1997)
Dean's List (Spring 1995, Fall 1995, Spring 1996, Fall 1996, Spring 1997)

University of Houston
Dean's List (Fall 1994)

9. **Bar Associations:** List all bar associations or legal or judicial-related committees, selection panels or conferences of which you are or have been a member, and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups.

Federal Bar Association (intermittent from 2009 – present)

Garland Walker Inn of Court (estimated 2003 – 2004, 2016 – 2017)

Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association (2009 – 2010)

Michelle F. Mehaffy Inn of Court (2004 – 2005)

Texas Bar College (estimated 2001 – 2002, 2025 – present)

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (2009 – 2010)

Texas District and County Attorneys Association (2000 – 2003)

I may have been a member of the American Bar Association when it offered a free one-year membership after I graduated from law school in 2000. If so, I did not renew after that year.

10. **Bar and Court Admission:**

a. List the date(s) you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership.

Texas, 2000

There have been no lapses in membership.

b. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice, including dates of admission and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in

membership. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require special admission to practice.

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2009
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, 2005
United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, 2005
United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, 2009
United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, 2005
Texas Supreme Court, 2000

There have been no lapses in membership.

Immigration Court, 2010

I allowed my membership to lapse after I joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in 2014.

11. **Memberships:**

a. List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed in response to Questions 9 or 10 to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any office you held. Include clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, conferences, or publications.

American Epilepsy Society (approximately 2014 – present)

Knight of Columbus (estimated 2013 – 2014)

Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society (2000 – present)

Sigma Nu Fraternity Alumni Member (1997 – present)

The Federalist Society for Law & Public Policy Studies (2016 – 2017, 2024 – present)

Trout Unlimited (estimated 2015)

b. The American Bar Association's Commentary to its Code of Judicial Conduct states that it is inappropriate for a judge to hold membership in any organization that invidiously discriminates on the basis of race, sex, or religion, or national origin. Indicate whether any of these organizations listed in response to 11a above currently discriminate or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies. If so, describe any action you have taken to change these policies and practices.

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization whose membership is limited to men

who are practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church, and so, it does limit membership based on sex and religion. There is an equivalent organization for women.

Sigma Nu is a men's college fraternity, and alumni membership is limited to initiated members of Sigma Nu.

To the best of my knowledge, none of the other organizations listed above currently discriminates or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin, either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies.

12. **Published Writings and Public Statements:**

a. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited, including material published only on the Internet. Supply copies of all published material to the Committee.

Court Procedures of Magistrate Judge Richard W. Bennett, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, 2024. Copy provided.

United States Magistrate Judge Richard W. Bennett – Biography, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, 2024. Copy provided.

b. Supply copies of any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed in the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. If you do not have a copy of a report, memorandum or policy statement, give the name and address of the organization that issued it, the date of the document, and a summary of its subject matter.

None.

c. Supply copies of any testimony, official statements or other communications relating, in whole or in part, to matters of public policy or legal interpretation, that you have issued or provided or that others presented on your behalf to public bodies or public officials.

None.

d. Supply copies, transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered by you including commencement speeches, remarks, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the date and place where they were delivered, and readily available press reports about the speech or talk. If you do not have a copy of the speech or a transcript or recording of your remarks, give the name and address of the group before whom the speech was given, the date of the speech, and a summary of its subject matter. If you did not speak from a prepared text, furnish a copy of any outline or notes from which you spoke.

June 29, 2026: Speaker, "Intern Question-and-Answer Session," United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas, Houston, Texas. I met with interns from the United States Attorney's Office in my chambers for a question-and-answer session about how I became a judge, what I do, best practices for attorneys, and other tips in practicing in federal court. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas is 1000 Louisiana, Suite 2300, Houston, Texas 77002.

June 5, 2026: Speaker, Remarks to Visiting Girl Scouts, United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas, 1000 Louisiana, Suite 2300, Houston, Texas. I spoke to Girl Scouts about my job duties, including criminal and civil proceedings, and my path to the bench, and I answered questions from the scouts. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas is 1000 Louisiana, Suite 2300, Houston, Texas 77002.

June 3, 2026: Panelist, "U.S. Magistrate Judges: Who We Are and What We Do," Summer Intern Speaker Series, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston, Texas. I was part of a panel with other Houston magistrate judges speaking to summer interns about what we do, our paths to the bench, what we look for in law clerks, and other tips about practicing in federal court. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas is 515 Rusk Street, Houston, Texas 77002.

February 4, 2026: Presider, Southern District of Texas Naturalization Ceremony, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Houston, Texas. Notes supplied.

January 6, 2026: Presider, Southern District of Texas Naturalization Ceremony, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Houston, Texas. Notes supplied.

November 7, 2025: Panelist, "Judicial Networking Luncheon," University of Houston Law Center, Houston, Texas. Judges were assigned to tables of law students interested in clerking. I discussed my path to the bench, my duties on the bench, and what I look for in law clerks. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The University of Houston Law Center is located at 4170 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77204.

October 8, 2025: Speaker, "Chambers Chat with United States Magistrate Judge Richard Bennett," Federal Bar Association and Houston Young Lawyers Association, Houston, Texas. I met with attorneys in my chambers in Houston for a question-and-answer session about my path to the bench, my duties, and advice to young attorneys. I have no notes, transcript, or recording, but I have provided a copy of the announcement for the event. The address for the Federal Bar Association is 4250 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 301, Arlington, Virginia 22203, and the address for the Houston Young Lawyers Association is Post Office Box 61208, Houston, Texas 77208.

August 20, 2025: Presider, Southern District of Texas Naturalization Ceremony, United

States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Houston, Texas. Notes supplied.

July 9, 2025: Panelist, "U.S. Magistrate Judges," Summer Intern Speaker Series, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston, Texas. I was part of a panel in the federal courthouse with other Houston magistrate judges speaking to summer interns about what we do, our paths to the bench, what we look for in law clerks, and other tips about practicing in federal court. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas is 515 Rusk Street, Houston, Texas 77002.

April 17, 2025: Speaker, Houston Young Lawyers Association Talk with YES Prep Schools, Houston Young Lawyers Association, Houston, Texas. PowerPoint supplied.

April 9, 2025: Presider, Southern District of Texas Naturalization Ceremony, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Houston, Texas. Notes supplied.

February 5, 2025: Presider, Southern District of Texas Naturalization Ceremony, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Houston, Texas. Notes supplied.

February 4, 2025: Panelist, "Southern District of Texas Judges Panel," South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas. I was part of a panel of judges being asked questions on my path to the bench and tips for what new lawyers should and should not do. After the panel, we had lunch with law students to answer any additional questions. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. South Texas College of Law is located at 1303 San Jacinto Street, Houston, Texas 77002.

January 30, 2025: Panelist, "Federal Court: A January Judicial Jamboree!," Garland Walker Inn of Court, Houston, Texas. Notes supplied.

January 8, 2025: Presider, Southern District of Texas Naturalization Ceremony, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Houston, Texas. Notes supplied.

December 11, 2024: Presider, Southern District of Texas Naturalization Ceremony, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Houston, Texas. Notes supplied.

November 21, 2024: Speaker, Career Day, Brabham Middle School, Willis, Texas. PowerPoint supplied.

November 13, 2024: Presider, Southern District of Texas Naturalization Ceremony, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Houston, Texas. Notes supplied.

October 16, 2024: Speaker, Investiture of Richard W. Bennett, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston, Texas. Notes supplied.

August 21, 2024: Presider, Southern District of Texas Naturalization Ceremony, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Houston, Texas. Notes supplied.

July 31, 2024: Panelist, “Introduction to your United States Magistrate Judges,” Summer Intern Speaker Series, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston, Texas. I was part of a panel in the federal courthouse with other Houston magistrate judges speaking to summer interns about what we do, our paths to the bench, what we look for in law clerks, and other tips about practicing in federal court. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas is 515 Rusk Street, Houston, Texas 77002.

May 29, 2024: Speaker, “Meet the New Magistrate Judge: A Fireside Chat with the Hon. Richard W. Bennett,” Federal Bar Association, Houston, Texas. I participated in a question-and-answer session about my background, experience, path to the bench, and duties on the job. I have no notes, transcript, or recording, but I have provided a copy of the announcement for the event. The address for the Federal Bar Association is 4250 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 301, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

April 12, 2024: Panelist, “Investigation through Sentencing: How to Get the Best Outcome for Your Client,” Houston Bar Association Bench Bar Conference, Houston, Texas. I was part of a panel discussion on federal criminal practice and provided advice to attorneys on how best to present their arguments to the court. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The Houston Bar Association is located at Wells Fargo Plaza, 1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 3600, Houston, Texas 77002.

November 2021: Panelist, “Law Panel,” Alumni Leadership Day, Episcopal High School, Bellaire, Texas. I met with students to discuss my background and experience as an attorney and answered any questions. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. Episcopal High School is located at 4650 Bissonnet Street Bellaire, Texas 77401.

November 18, 2020: Panelist, “Law Panel,” Alumni Leadership Day, Episcopal High School, Bellaire, Texas. I met with students to discuss my background and experience as an attorney and answered any questions. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. Episcopal High School is located at 4650 Bissonnet Street Bellaire, Texas 77401.

November 2017: Presenter, “Civil Immigration Proceedings Overview,” Garland Walker Inn of Court, Houston, Texas. As part of our group continuing legal education presentation, I gave a general overview of how civil immigration proceedings work – from being issued a Notice to Appear, to different forms of relief, and to methods of removal. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Garland Walker Inn of Court is 520 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 310, Houston, Texas 77027.

November 2017: Panelist, “Law Panel,” Alumni Leadership Day, Episcopal High School, Bellaire, Texas. I met with students to discuss my background and experience as an attorney and answered any questions. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. Episcopal High School is located at 4650 Bissonnet Street Bellaire, Texas 77401.

In the Spring of 2016 and 2017, while at the United States Attorney’s Office for the

Southern District of Texas, I traveled to Southern Methodist University School of Law, the University of Texas School of Law, and South Texas College of Law for roundtable lunches to meet with law students and discuss the work of Assistant United States Attorneys as well as internship opportunities in Houston. Additionally, I discussed the Department of Justice Honors Programs and other opportunities to intern or work for the Department. I did not use any notes or outlines. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The lunch at Southern Methodist University School of Law was held on campus at 3315 Daniel Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75205. Lunch at the University of Texas School of Law was held on campus at 727 East Dean Keeton Street, Austin, Texas 78705. Finally, the lunch at South Texas College of Law was held on campus at 1303 San Jacinto Street, Houston, Texas 77002.

November 2016: Panelist, Law Panel, Alumni Leadership Day, Episcopal High School, Bellaire, Texas. I met with students to discuss my background and experience as an attorney and answered any questions. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. Episcopal High School is located at 4650 Bissonnet Street Bellaire, Texas 77401.

April 2015: Speaker, Episcopal High School, Bellaire, Texas. Notes supplied.

e. List all interviews you have given to newspapers, magazines or other publications, or radio or television stations, providing the dates of these interviews and copies of the clips or transcripts of these interviews where they are available to you.

Alumni Leadership Day: Law Panel, Episcopal High School, 2020. Copy supplied.

Alumni Leadership Day: Law Panel, Episcopal High School, 2016. Copy supplied.

13. **Judicial Office:** State (chronologically) any judicial offices you have held, including positions as an administrative law judge, whether such position was elected or appointed, and a description of the jurisdiction of each such court.

I was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge to serve in the Houston Division of the Southern District of Texas in April 2024. The Houston Division covers Austin, Brazos, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Grimes, Harris, Madison, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker, Waller, and Wharton Counties.

- a. Approximately how many cases have you presided over that have gone to verdict or judgment?

As a magistrate judge, I have not yet presided over any cases that have gone to verdict or judgment. As of August 17, 2026, according to the CM/ECF Magistrate Judge Summary Report, I have issued approximately 363 Reports and Recommendations on civil dispositive motions, have issued approximately 33 Reports and Recommendations on Social Security appeals, have issued over 3,500 other orders in civil cases, and have resolved 49 civil cases where the parties consented to me for all purposes.

i. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

jury trials:	N/A %
bench trials:	N/A %

ii. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

civil proceedings:	N/A %
criminal proceedings:	N/A %

b. Provide citations for all opinions you have written, including concurrences and dissents.

Based on my best-efforts review, the following are all opinions I have written with substantive analysis through August 17, 2026:

Hafez v. Hafez, No. 4:25-cv-4000 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 14, 2026), Dkt. No. 55.
Simmons Bank v. Monocoque Ints., LLC, No. 4:24-cv-492 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 13, 2026), Dkt. No. 123.
Liang v. Huipeng, No. 4:24-cv-2657 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 12, 2026), Dkt. No. 52.
Trevino v. Johnson Controls Sec. Sols., LLC, No. 4:25-cv-5736 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 12, 2026), Dkt. No. 15.
Negron v. Costco, No. 4:24-cv-1631 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 10, 2026), Dkt. No. 34.
Gibbs v. Williams, No. 4:25-cv-4545 (S.D. Tex. July 27, 2026), Dkt. No. 40.
Morales v. Nationwide Investigations & Sec., Inc., No. 4:20-cv-3085, 2026 WL 2161181 (S.D. Tex. July 27, 2026)
Garcia v. Frink, No. 4:25-cv-5387 (S.D. Tex. July 27, 2026), Dkt. No. 22
Cook v. Equifax Info. Servs., No. 4:25-cv-5238 (S.D. Tex. July 19, 2026), Dkt. No. 25
Kinsey v. Sal Lallahu Alaihu Wasallam LLC, No. 4:25-cv-5848 (S.D. Tex. July 16, 2026), Dkt. No. 38
Guerra v. City of Baytown Police Dept., No. 4:25-cv-2923 (S.D. Tex. July 14, 2026), Dkt. No. 19
Chenault v. Collins, No. 4:26-cv-969 (S.D. Tex. July 7, 2026), Dkt. No. 48
Mitchelmore v. Adapthealth Corp., No. 4:25-cv-3642 (S.D. Tex. July 1, 2026), Dkt. No. 29
Bounds v. U.S. Bank Tr. Nat'l Ass'n, No. 4:26-cv-2016, 2026 WL 20366290 (S.D. Tex. June 26, 2026)
Tatum v. Gardner, No. 4:24-cv-1294 (S.D. Tex. June 26, 2026), Dkt. No. 40
Coleman v. United States, No. 4:26-cv-2265 (S.D. Tex. June 24, 2026), Dkt. No. 41
Viann'K Mansur LLC v. EstiloIsabella LLC, No. 4:23-cv-2914 (S.D. Tex. June 18, 2026), Dkt. No. 95
Collins v. Fla. Dep't of Revenue, No. 4:25-cv-1163 (S.D. Tex. June 17, 2026), Dkt. No. 73
Buffington v. Allstate Vehicle & Prop. Ins. Co., No. 4:25-cv-05044 (S.D. Tex. June 11, 2026), Dkt. No. 12

Wike v. Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Agosto, Aziz & Stogner, No. 4:25-cv-2265 (S.D. Tex. June 10, 2026), Dkt. No. 77
JFJ Holdings, Inc., v. O.G. Holdings Div. LLC, No. 4:26-cv-3333, 2026 WL 1872639 (S.D. Tex. June 9, 2026)
Atala v. Ondeck Capital, Inc., No. 4:25-cv-5708, 2026 WL 1855497 (S.D. Tex. June 5, 2026)
Orazul Energy Guat. y Co., S.C.A. v. Novum Energy Trading Corp., No. 4:25-cv-5747 (S.D. Tex. June 4, 2026), Dkt. No. 30
Pilots v. Galveston-Texas City Pilots, No. 4:25-cv-1801 (S.D. Tex. June 3, 2026), Dkt. No. 138
Gibson v. Cent. S. Carpenters, No. 4:23-cv-522 (S.D. Tex. June 2, 2026), Dkt. No. 136
G&G Closed Cir. Events, LLC v. KOGY, LLC, No. 4:26-cv-64, 2026 LX 308272 (S.D. Tex. June 1, 2026)
Kinsey v. SAL Lallahu Alaihu Wasallam LLC, No. 4:25-cv-5848, 2026 LX 323392 (S.D. Tex. May 22, 2026)
Pacira Biosciences, Inc. v. QuVa Pharma, Inc., No. 4:23-cv-4147 (S.D. Tex. May 22, 2026), Dkt. No. 103
Green v. United Parcel Serv., Inc., No. 4:25-cv-4435, 2026 WL 1839728 (S.D. Tex. May 21, 2026)
Dante v. Power Home Remodeling Grp. LLC, No. 4:24-cv-3099, 2026 WL 1597482 (S.D. Tex. May 18, 2026)
Hodges v. U.S. Bank Nat'l Ass'n, No. 4:25-cv-260, 2026 WL 1839742 (S.D. Tex. May 13, 2026)
In re Complaint of River Constr. Inc., No. 4:22-cv-2413, 2026 WL 1611915 (S.D. Tex. May 13, 2026)
Moore v. City of Houston, No. 4:23-cv-3048, 2026 WL 1597484 (S.D. Tex. May 12, 2026)
Collins v. Fla. Dep't of Revenue, No. 4:25-cv-1163, 2026 WL 1701025 (S.D. Tex. May 11, 2026)
Greene v. St. Vincent de Paul, No. 4:26-cv-2769, 2026 WL 1597480 (S.D. Tex. May 8, 2026)
Reyes v. Tate, No. 4:26-cv-2682, 2026 WL 1459046 (S.D. Tex. May 5, 2026)
Cruz v. Ross Dress for Less, Inc., No. 4:25-cv-1544 (S.D. Tex. May 4, 2026), Dkt. No. 18
Gaddie v. Arrow Truck Sales, Inc., No. 4:26-cv-993, 2026 WL 1408793 (S.D. Tex. May 4, 2026)
Kuuriraya v. Hou. Indep. Sch. Dist., No. 4:25-cv-3283, 2026 WL 1611916 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 24, 2026)
Hameurlaine v. Antoine Bus., Inc., No. 4:24-cv-3924 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 24, 2026), Dkt. No. 33
Golden v. Westlake Fin. Servs., LLC, No. 4:24-cv-4093, 2026 WL 1587125 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 24, 2026)
Golden v. Westlake Fin. Servs., LLC, No. 4:24-cv-4093, 2026 WL 1587837 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 24, 2026)
Moore v. City of Houston, No. 4:23-cv-3048, 2026 WL 1597477 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 23, 2026)

Gantt v. Tex. S. Univ., No. 4:25-cv-2537, 2026 LX 279401 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 23, 2026)
Rhodes v. Crosscountry Mortg. LLC, No. 4:26-cv-2236, 2026 LX 252679 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 22, 2026)
Verde v. Nationwide Cap. Servs., LLC, No. 4:25-cv-2608 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 21, 2026), Dkt. No. 27
Heredia v. Bondi, No. 4:26-cv-1556, 2026 WL 1587132 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 20, 2026)
Hickman v. Powell Indus., Inc., No. 4:25-cv-2696, 2026 WL 1328202 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 20, 2026)
Greene v. MV Transp., No. 4:26-cv-2445, 2026 WL 1579937 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 17, 2026)
Hickman v. Mid-West Elec. Co., No. 4:25-cv-3705, 2026 WL 1340577 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 16, 2026)
Ponce v. Dickey, No. 4:26-cv-948, 2026 WL 1999635 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 13, 2026)
Morales v. Nationwide Investigations & Sec., Inc., No. 4:20-cv-3085 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 10, 2026), Dkt. No. 144
Weatherford Int'l, LLC v. Ameen, No. 4:23-cv-2420 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 9, 2026), Dkt. No. 257
Westmoreland v. Deer Dancer Ranch, No. 4:25-cv-5571, 2026 LX 208304 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 7, 2026)
Hernandez-Medrano v. Noem, No. 4:26-cv-1745 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 1, 2026), Dkt. No. 10
Castro v. Bondi, No. 4:25-cv-3773, 2026 WL 1084008 (S.D. Tex. Mar. 31, 2026)
Azuaje-Diaz v. Dickey, No. 4:26-cv-951, 2026 WL 1587134 (S.D. Tex. Mar. 27, 2026)
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NERO v. O'Malley, No. 4:24-cv-1156, 2024 LX 189939 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 9, 2024)
Fontenot v. O'Malley, No. 4:24-cv-0532, 2024 LX 118987 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 8, 2024)
Maxwell v. O'Malley, No. 4:24-cv-2097, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 215321 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 4, 2024)
Wallace v. O'Malley, No. 4:23-cv-4853, 2024 LX 48008 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 3, 2024)
Lee v. Park, No. 4:24-cv-2148, 2024 WL 4871740 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 27, 2024)
Azam v. O'Malley, No. 4:24-cv-1038, 2024 LX 42454 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 26, 2024)

Ybarra v. O'Malley, No. 4:24-cv-1558, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 191897 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 26, 2024)
Schaefer v. David Simpson Harris Cty. Iv-D Agency, No. 4:24-cv-1142, 2024 WL 4682340 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 24, 2024)
Transatlantica Commodities PTE Ltd. v. Hanwin Shipping Ltd., No. 4:22-cv-1983, 2024 WL 4535472 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 24, 2024)
Whitmire v. O'Malley, No. 4:23-cv-2136, 2024 WL 4219739 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 17, 2024)
Transatlantica Commodities PTE Ltd. v. Hanwin Shipping Ltd., No. 4:22-cv-1983, 2024 WL 4202725 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 16, 2024)
Curtis v. Sec. Credit Servs., LLC, No. 4:24-cv-2586, 2024 LX 138771 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 16, 2024)
Quinidean v. Jackson-King, No. 4:23-cv-1494, 2024 LX 36851 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 11, 2024)
Henry v. O'Malley, No. 4:23-cv-1477, 2024 LX 21196 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 6, 2024)
Carling v. Sacks Counseling, LLC, No. 4:24-cv-1413, 2024 LX 155713 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 6, 2024)
Surgical Assocs. of Hou., P.A. v. Rensel, No. 4:23-cv-4719, 2024 WL 4108781 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 6, 2024)
Moore v. City of Houston, No. 4:23-cv-3048, 2024 LX 132969 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 28, 2024)
Dubash v. City of Houston, No. 4:23-cv-3556, 2024 WL 4351351 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 26, 2024)
Pacira Biosciences, Inc. v. QuVa Pharma, Inc., No. 4:23-cv-4147, 2024 WL 4329142 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 26, 2024)
NRS Ocean Logistics Ltd. v. CirrusHarbor, Inc., No. 4:23-cv-2802, 2024 WL 4364418 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 22, 2024)
Young v. O'Malley, No. 4:23-cv-2138, 2024 WL 4308456 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 21, 2024)
Carling v. Sacks Counseling, LLC, No. 4:24-cv-1413, 2024 LX 186675 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 19, 2024)
In re Complaint of River Constr. Inc., No. 4:22-cv-2413, 2024 LX 195187 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 19, 2024)
Brady v. O'Malley, No. 4:23-cv-2369, 2024 LX 60959 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 19, 2024)
Bacot v. O'Malley, No. 4:23-cv-3233, 2024 WL 4329144 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 12, 2024)
Lewis v. Rosenberg Police Dep't, No. 4:22-cv-2593, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 179010 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 8, 2024)
Lewis v. Rosenberg Police Dep't, No. 4:22-cv-2593, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 178897 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 8, 2024)
Weinmeister v. O'Malley, No. 4:23-cv-3151, 2024 LX 98798 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 6, 2024)
In re Complaint of Encore Dredging Partners, LLC, No. 4:23-cv-604, 2024 WL 4351348 (S.D. Tex. July 25, 2024)
Payne v. Cnty. of Harris, No. 4:23-cv-3067, 2024 LX 65466 (S.D. Tex. July 24, 2024)
Wheeler v. Amazon Web Servs., No. 4:22-cv-370, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 170698 (S.D. Tex. July 12, 2024)
Carling v. Sacks Counseling, LLC, No. 4:24-cv-1413, 2024 WL 3715718 (S.D. Tex. July 12, 2024)
Weatherford U.S., L.P. v. Iron IQ, Inc., No. 4:23-cv-3416, 2024 WL 3447919 (S.D. Tex. July 10, 2024)

Air Liquide Large Indus. United States LP v. Tenaska Power Servs. Co., No. 4:21-cv-4129, 2024 LX 160488 (S.D. Tex. June 25, 2024)

Perry v. Halliburton Energy Servs., Inc., No. 4:23-cv-4441 (S.D. Tex. June 24, 2024), Dkt. No. 21

Haberer v. Prudential Ins. Co. of Am., No. 4:23-cv-3306, 2024 WL 3402859 (S.D. Tex. June 21, 2024)

Perry v. Halliburton Energy Servs., Inc., No. 4:23-cv-4441, 2024 LX 146262 (S.D. Tex. June 21, 2024)

Andre v. O'Malley, No. 4:23-cv-1754, 2024 WL 3237487 (S.D. Tex. June 13, 2024)

Carling v. Sacks Counseling, LLC, No. 4:24-cv-1413, 2024 LX 132983 (S.D. Tex. May 31, 2024)

Abira Med. Labs., LLC v. Blue Cross, No. 4:24-cv-481, 2024 LX 135241 (S.D. Tex. May 17, 2024)

Erazo v. State Farm Lloyds, No. 4:23-cv-1965, 2024 WL 2805328 (S.D. Tex. May 3, 2024)

c. For each of the 10 most significant cases over which you presided, provide: (1) a capsule summary of the nature of the case; (2) the outcome of the case; (3) the name and contact information for counsel who had a significant role in the trial of the case; and (4) the citation of the case (if reported) or the docket number and a copy of the opinion or judgment (if not reported).

1. *Weatherford U.S., L.P. v. Iron IQ, Inc.*, No. 4:23-cv-3416 (S.D. Tex. June 7, 2024), *as amended* (July 10, 2024). Copies supplied. *See also* 2024 WL 3447919 (S.D. Tex. July 10, 2024); 2024 WL 3447920 (S.D. Tex. July 12, 2024); 2024 WL 5137553 (S.D. Tex. Dec. 13, 2024); 2024 WL 5146860 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 29, 2024); 2024 WL 5137553 (S.D. Tex. Dec. 13, 2024).

In this complex trade secret misappropriation case, Plaintiff sued Defendant for allegedly devising and executing a scheme to obtain unauthorized copies of Plaintiff's customized data acquisition platform that was specifically designed to allow oil and gas industry operators to process, manage and respond to data from a variety of sources. Plaintiff sought damages for breach of contract, harmful access by computer, and copyright infringement. Defendant sought leave to allege counterclaims against Plaintiff for unlawful and attempted unlawful monopolization of the Sherman Act, promissory estoppel, tortious interference claims, and violations of the Texas Free Enterprise & Antitrust Act. I granted Plaintiff's claim to amend the complaint, which removed several claims, granted Defendant's request for leave to amend its counterclaims in part, and denied both parties' motions for judgment on the pleadings. The district judge adopted my report and recommendation and amended report and recommendation. The case settled.

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2. *Houston Pilots v. Galveston-Texas City Pilots*, No. 4:25-cv-1801, 2025 WL 4080583 (S.D. Tex. Nov. 6, 2025), *R. & R. adopted*, 2026 WL 300775 (S.D. Tex. Feb. 04, 2026).

In this case, the parties dispute who is authorized to conduct pilotage into and out of the Bolivar Roads Anchorage. Historically, Plaintiff and Defendant had worked out an agreement on how their respective pilots are compensated for providing pilotage to ships heading to a Galveston port and a Houston port. However, in April 2025, Defendant instructed its industry partners that only its pilots had authority to pilot ships into and out of the Anchorage as they now considered the Anchorage legally a port under state law and thus in the domain of Galveston pilots. Plaintiff sued, claiming that the Anchorage is not a Galveston County port and that history and case law provide that the agreement the parties operated under previously was controlling, and also moved for injunctive relief. After analyzing the historical practice and written agreements between the parties and prior case law, I granted injunctive relief for Plaintiff and recommended the parties return to the historical agreement between the parties. The district judge adopted my report and recommendation and Defendant appealed. The case is pending.

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3. *Dubash v. City of Houston*, No. 4:23-cv-3556, 2024 WL 4351351 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 26, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 4355196 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 30, 2024).

Plaintiffs are organizers of an animal rights group who sued Houston and other Defendants, claiming their free speech rights were violated after they were arrested for refusing to leave a park following a demonstration. I granted Defendants' motions to dismiss, finding the officers who arrested one Plaintiff had qualified immunity and that Plaintiffs failed to establish a constitutional violation and failed to show that Defendants were acting under color of state law. The district judge adopted my report and recommendation, and the case is pending.

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4. *Perry v. Halliburton Energy Servs., Inc.*, No. 4:23-cv-4441, 2024 WL 3541601 (S.D. Tex. June 21, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 3543451 (S.D. Tex. July 23, 2024).

Plaintiff sued Defendant for negligence and failure to pay maintenance and cure because of injuries sustained while working as a seaman. Plaintiff alleged he was injured while mixing chemicals needed for a maritime voyage, which exploded and caused burns. Plaintiff alleged Defendant failed to provide proper safety protection and warn him about the dangers of mixing the two chemicals. Defendant removed the case and Plaintiff moved to remand to state court, arguing that the case was a single Jones Act case and the court did not have jurisdiction under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (“OCSLA”). I granted in part and denied in part, holding that Plaintiff’s single Jones Act claims fails as his petition included maritime claims for maintenance and cure, which provide a basis for removal if there is an independent basis for federal jurisdiction, such as the OCSLA. Plaintiff argued OCSLA did not apply since Plaintiff was not on the outer continental shelf when injured, but working on a dock near the vessel. I found OCSLA jurisdiction was proper as there is no “situs” requirement in determining jurisdiction under the OCSLA. Further, I found no textual requirement in the statute that required the injury be caused by an outer continental shelf operation. I also found Plaintiff’s claims arose out of or in connection with a fracking operation. Thus, I recommended denial of Plaintiff’s motion to remand with respect to his maritime claims for maintenance and cure. As for his Jones Act claim, I found that where an action involves a Jones Act claim and OCSLA claim, this hybrid case can be severed and the Jones Act claim be remanded. Therefore, I recommended Plaintiff’s Jones Act claims be severed from this action and remanded. The district judge adopted my report and recommendation. The case is pending.

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5. *Samay Business Inc. v. Jaddou*, No. 4:23-cv-3056, 2024 WL 4957606 (S.D. Tex. Nov. 15, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 4951264 (S.D. Tex. Dec. 3, 2024).

Plaintiff challenged a decision by the United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) denying Plaintiff's I-140 Petition for Immigrant Worker. USCIS determined the beneficiary did not meet the experience requirements of the labor certification and misrepresented his work on the visa application, and so he was not qualified for the position and was ineligible for classification as a skilled worker. Plaintiff claimed the record showed he met the employment experience requirement and USCIS erred in determining a misrepresentation was made by the beneficiary. Both parties filed motions for summary judgment. I found that USCIS's decision was not arbitrary and capricious and that USCIS had not abused its discretion. I recommended Defendant's motion for summary judgment be granted. No objections were filed, and the district judge adopted my report and recommendation.

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6. *Haberer v. Prudential Ins. Co. of Am.*, No. 4:23-cv-3306, 2024 WL 3402859 (S.D. Tex. June 21, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 3403752 (S.D. Tex. July 12, 2024).

This case involved Plaintiff's attempt to recover life insurance proceeds on behalf of the decedent under ERISA. The decedent had enrolled in a life insurance policy, but, after being diagnosed with cancer, and later terminated, he failed to convert his life insurance policy after the company notified him of his right to convert if he filled out the appropriate documents. I recommended that Defendant's motion to dismiss be granted, and the district judge adopted my report and recommendation.

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7. *Moore v. City of Houston*, No. 4:23-cv-3048, 2024 WL 4351346 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 28, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 4357565 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 26, 2024).

Plaintiffs brought this § 1983 suit, which also alleged violations of the Texas Wrongful Death and Survivorship Statute, after Plaintiff's son was shot and killed by officers who were trying to arrest him on an outstanding warrant. As for the officer Defendants, I found their motion to dismiss should be granted and that the lawsuit failed to sufficiently state a claim with specificity against any of the officers individually, and I declined to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims. As for the Houston Police Department, I found the claims against it should be dismissed because it does not have a separate legal identity that allows it to sue and be sued. As for the City, I determined there were insufficient evidence to establish municipal liability with respect to an official "use of force" policy, insufficient evidence of a pattern or practice of unconstitutional conduct by police, and no evidence to support Plaintiff's failure to train, supervise and discipline allegations, so I determined the claims should be dismissed. The district judge allowed Plaintiff to amend the complaint to add another party as a plaintiff. The remaining Defendants filed their motions to dismiss and motions for judgment on the pleadings. I determined the motions for judgment on the pleadings should be granted, finding Plaintiffs' state law wrongful death and survival claims against Defendants failed as they were derivative of underlying claims which had been dismissed, are barred under governmental immunity under the Texas Tort Claims Act, and are barred against the officers by the Texas Tort Claims Act's election of remedies provision. The district judge adopted my report and recommendation and issued final judgment.

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8. *Pacira Biosciences, Inc. v. QuVa Pharma, Inc.*, No. 4:23-cv-4147, 2024 WL 4329142 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 26, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 4357567 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 30, 2024).

This case involved false advertising claims between competing drug products. Plaintiff,

who manufactures Exparel, a non-opioid drug that reduces post-surgical pain, sued Defendant, who compounds a drug called R.E.C.K. that competes with Exparel. Plaintiff claimed Defendant relied on a new drug exemption, thereby circumventing FDA approval requirements, to flood the market with its compounded drug. Plaintiff accused Defendant of false and misleading advertising under the Lanham Act by making misleading statements about R.E.C.K. Plaintiff claimed Defendant induced healthcare providers to buy R.E.C.K. on the mistaken belief it was approved by the FDA. I recommended granting Defendant's motion to dismiss in part and denying in part. I found that Plaintiff's Lanham Act claim was not precluded by the FDCA as Plaintiff was pursuing a private right of action under the Lanham Act and not asking the court to interpret, apply or enforce the FDCA, which would be precluded. I further determined that Defendant's advertisements and statements misrepresented whether R.E.C.K. qualified for the new drug exemption. I determined Defendant's motion to dismiss should be granted on Plaintiff's allegation that Defendant misrepresented R.E.C.K. as FDA-approved. I found that implied governmental approval, without an explicit representation of governmental approval, was not allowed. Lastly, I found, accepting Plaintiff's allegations as true, that they had alleged enough facts to show Defendant's advertising was deceptive or material. The district court adopted my report and recommendation was adopted. The case is pending.

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9. *E.E.O.C. v. Ryan's Pointe Houston*, No. 4:15-cv-2782, 2025 WL 783429 (S.D. Tex. Jan. 21, 2025), *R. & R. adopted*, 2025 WL 586031 (S.D. Tex. Feb. 21, 2025).

Intervenor-Plaintiff brought discrimination claims against Defendant under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The EEOC filed suit on behalf of Intervenor-Plaintiff, alleging unlawful employment practices for sex and national origin discrimination. Among other motions, Defendant moved for summary judgment, arguing it was not an employer, Intervenor-Plaintiff could not prove a contract between her and Defendant, and Defendant took no adverse action against Intervenor-Plaintiff. In denying summary judgment, I found Defendant operated as an integrated enterprise based on testimony that Defendant approved hiring, had an employee handbook and operations manual, and was involved in operational matters. The case settled.

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10. *Air Liquide Large Indus. US LP and Air Liquide Large Indus. US LP v. Tenaska Power Servs. Co.*, No. 4:21-cv-4129, 2024 WL 6072467 (S.D. Tex. June 25, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 6076876 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 28, 2024).

This was a breach of contract case arising from a Master Power Purchase and Sale Agreement concerning the sale of “Responsive Reserve Service (RRS),” which are the daily operating reserves of electricity intended to help restore the frequency of the transmission system in the event an occurrence causes a significant deviation from the

standard frequency. The parties entered into an agreement to buy RRS at a fixed price of 20 megawatts per hour at \$12.85 per megawatt hour. Due to a severe winter storm in February 2021, which caused mechanical failures in many power generation facilities, the Governor of Texas called upon Plaintiff to reduce its energy consumption to preserve power for the public. As a result, Plaintiff curtailed its energy use and deployed its RRS reserves. Demand for electricity skyrocketed and energy prices soared. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) assessed ancillary service imbalance charges of over \$27 million, of which over \$12 million were associated with the 20 megawatts Plaintiff sold to Tenaska. Plaintiff sued, alleging Defendant breached the agreement by refusing responsibility for the ERCOT price adders for the RRS that Defendant purchased, took title, and bore the risk of loss. Defendant argued there was no breach and Plaintiff was responsible to pay the ancillary service imbalance charges. Applying New York law, I found the parties failed to satisfy their burdens of proving the absence of genuine issues of material fact with respect to certain terms of their agreement and denied both parties' motions for summary judgment. The parties subsequently filed a stipulation of dismissal with prejudice.

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d. For each of the 10 most significant opinions you have written, provide: (1) citations for those decisions that were published; (2) a copy of those decisions that were not published; and (3) the names and contact information for the attorneys who played a significant role in the case.

1. *Air Liquide Large Indus. US LP and Air Liquide Large Indus. US LP v. Tenaska Power*

Services Co., No. 4:21-cv-4129, 2024 WL 6072467 (S.D. Tex. June 25, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 6076876 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 28, 2024).

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2. *Pacira Biosciences, Inc. v. QuVa Pharma, Inc.*, No. 4:23-CV-4147, 2024 WL 4329142 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 26, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 4357567 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 30, 2024).

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3. *Simmons Bank v. Monocoque Diversified Ints., LLC*, No. 4:24-CV-492, 2025 WL 4089354 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 8, 2025), *R. & R. adopted*, 2026 WL 950626 (S.D. Tex. Jan. 8, 2026).

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4. *Viann'K Mansur LLC v. Estiloisabella LLC*, No. 4:23-CV-2914, 2025 WL 3197877 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 21, 2025), *R. & R. adopted*, 2025 WL 3194420 (S.D. Tex. Nov. 14, 2025).

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5. *PHI Health, LLC v. Keating Auto Group Employee Benefit Plan Tr.*, No. 4:24-CV-2832, 2025 WL 3618198 (S.D. Tex. Nov. 4, 2025), *R. & R. adopted sub nom. PHI Health, LLC v. Entrust, LLC*, 2025 WL 3617339 (S.D. Tex. Dec. 11, 2025).

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6. *T.L. v. New Caney Indep. Sch. Dist.*, No. 4:24-CV-1435, 2026 WL 1020816 (S.D. Tex. Feb. 26, 2026), *R. & R. adopted*, 2026 WL 809861 (S.D. Tex. Mar. 24, 2026).

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7. *Moore v. City of Houston*, No. 4:23-cv-3048, 2024 WL 4351346 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 28, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 4357565 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 26, 2024).

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8. *Payne v. County of Harris*, No. 4:23-cv-3067, 2024 WL 4218273 (S.D. Tex. July 24, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 4219742 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 11, 2024).

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9. *Houston Pilots v. Galveston-Texas City Pilots*, No. 4:25-cv-1801, 2025 WL 4080583 (S.D. Tex. Nov. 6, 2025), *R. & R. adopted*, 2026 WL 300775 (S.D. Tex. Feb. 04, 2026).

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10. *Dubash v. City of Houston*, No. 4:23-cv-3556, 2024 WL 4351351 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 26, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 4355196 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 30, 2024).

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e. Provide a list of all cases in which certiorari was requested or granted.

To the best of my knowledge, none of my cases have been the subject of a petition for certiorari.

f. Provide a brief summary of and citations for all of your opinions where your decisions were reversed by a reviewing court or where your judgment was affirmed with significant criticism of your substantive or procedural rulings. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

1. *Ramsey v. San Jacinto Coll. Dist.*, No. 4:23-cv-1719, 2025 WL 1261027 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 30, 2025), *aff'd in part and rev'd in part*, *Ramsey v. San Jacinto Coll. Dist.*, No. 25-20195, 2026 WL 2268172 (5th Cir. Aug. 5, 2026).

In this case, Plaintiff sued Defendant for disability discrimination and retaliation alleging violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). In granting summary judgment, I found that Plaintiff failed to meet her burden in identifying specific evidence to support her FMLA interference claim after Defendant provided evidence that Plaintiff took all the necessary FMLA leave. I also granted summary judgment on her FMLA retaliation claim because Plaintiff failed to show a causal link between her FMLA leave and her termination. As to her ADA claims, I found Plaintiff failed to show her termination was a pretext for discrimination and that the employer's reasons for terminating her was not the real reason. Lastly, I found Plaintiff failed to respond to Defendant's argument that she did not engage in activity protected by the ADA.

Plaintiff appealed the rulings on her FMLA retaliation and interference claims and her ADA claims. The Fifth Circuit affirmed summary judgment on the FMLA interference claim. The majority reversed summary judgment on the ADA and FMLA claims, finding Plaintiff provided evidence as to pretext such that a reasonable factfinder could find Defendant's reasons for terminating her not credible. A dissenting judge would have affirmed summary judgment on all claims finding, in light of her deficient conduct, that no reasonable juror could conclude Defendant's reasons for terminating her were pretextual.

2. *Lewis v. Rosenberg Police Dep't*, No. 4:22-CV-2593, 2024 WL 4501972 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 8, 2024), *R. & R. adopted as modified sub nom.* 2024 WL 4346748 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 30, 2024), *rev'd sub nom. Lewis v. Delgado*, 163 F.4th 926 (5th Cir. 2026).

Plaintiff sued Defendants under § 1983, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Texas law over the alleged illegal detention, search, arrest, and seizure stemming from a reported armed robbery. Previously, the district judge dismissed multiple claims, but allowed the claims for unlawful arrest, unlawful search and excessive force claims to remain. After granting summary judgment on the false arrest and illegal search claims, I denied summary judgment on qualified immunity on Defendants' statute of limitations and excessive force claims. I found that a question of material fact existed as to whether Plaintiff informed officers that he could not have anything on his arm, which had a dialysis medical device, and could not conclude that the use of force in handcuffing Plaintiff was objectively reasonable. The district judge adopted my report and recommendation.

In reversing, the Fifth Circuit found the officers did not violate any clearly established law in handcuffing Plaintiff and found qualified immunity applied. The court focused on whether the officers violated a clearly established right in the length of time Plaintiff has handcuffed. In examining other cases, the court found that the short time Plaintiff was handcuffed did not render qualified immunity inapplicable and thus no clearly established right was violated.

3. *Marlon v. Marlon*, No. 4:24-cv-1136 (S.D. Tex) (copies supplied), *rev'd*, No. 24-20443, 2025 WL 2467680 (5th Cir. Aug. 27, 2025).

Pro se Defendant filed a notice of removal from state court to federal court, contending his child support obligations were unconstitutional. The case was assigned to me and I entered a minute entry order requiring him to comply with the procedural requirements in removing a case to federal court by supplementing the record with the proper filings to perfect a proper removal to federal court. I stated that failure to comply would result in a recommendation to remand the case back to state court. The district judge found Defendant did not comply with my order and *sua sponte* remanded the case to state court. The Fifth Circuit reversed, finding the court exceeded its authority with a *sua sponte* remand based on procedural defects because a remand must be tethered to a motion. The order was vacated and the case remanded back to the district court, where it remains pending.

g. Provide a description of the number and percentage of your decisions in which you issued an unpublished opinion and the manner in which those unpublished opinions are filed and/or stored.

All my opinions are "unpublished." They are available on PACER, and some are also on Westlaw or LexisNexis.

h. Provide citations for significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues, together with the citation to appellate court rulings on such opinions. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

Houston Pilots v. Galveston-Texas City Pilots, No. 4:25-cv-1801, 2025 WL 4080583

(S.D. Tex. Nov. 6, 2025), *R. & R. adopted*, 2026 WL 300775 (S.D. Tex. Feb. 04, 2026).

Dubash v. City of Houston, No. 4:23-cv-3556, 2024 WL 4351351 (S.D. Tex. Aug. 26, 2024), *R. & R. adopted*, 2024 WL 4355196 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 30, 2024).

i. Provide citations to all cases in which you sat by designation on a federal court of appeals, including a brief summary of any opinions you authored, whether majority, dissenting, or concurring, and any dissenting opinions you joined.

I have never sat by designation on a federal court of appeals.

14. **Recusal:** If you are or have been a judge, identify the basis by which you have assessed the necessity or propriety of recusal (If your court employs an "automatic" recusal system by which you may be recused without your knowledge, please include a general description of that system.) Provide a list of any cases, motions or matters that have come before you in which a litigant or party has requested that you recuse yourself due to an asserted conflict of interest or in which you have recused yourself *sua sponte*. Identify each such case, and for each provide the following information:

- a. whether your recusal was requested by a motion or other suggestion by a litigant or a party to the proceeding or by any other person or interested party; or if you recused yourself *sua sponte*;
- b. a brief description of the asserted conflict of interest or other ground for recusal;
- c. the procedure you followed in determining whether or not to recuse yourself;
- d. your reason for recusing or declining to recuse yourself, including any action taken to remove the real, apparent or asserted conflict of interest or to cure any other ground for recusal.

The court participates in a mandatory conflict screening to assist judges in determining any potential conflicts of interest that may arise in cases assigned to us. Judges determine which entities to include on their conflict list in accordance with Judicial Codes of Conduct, including Canons 3C and 2A. When the judge determines their conflicts, the forms are returned to the Clerk's Office. The entities identified are entered into the court's conflict checking software so each time a case assigned to one of us contains an entity from that list, an email is sent to chambers. At that time, the judge determines whether they need to recuse themselves based on a conflict. The list is reviewed every three months and each judge signs a statement certifying that appropriate procedures are in place to screen for identified conflicts.

In the following cases, I recused myself *sua sponte* (1) because I had preexisting knowledge about that particular case from my work at the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas; or (2) I had particular knowledge about one of the parties in the case from my work at the United States Attorney's Office for the

Southern District of Texas:

United States v. Damarquis McGee, No. 4:21-cr-350-4 (S.D. Tex.); and
Allstate Ins. Co. v. Wellness Pain & Assocs., Inc., No. 4:24-cv-2091 (S.D. Tex.).

In the following cases, a party requested I recuse myself due to (1) disagreement with my decisions or (2) a belief that the district judge should not assign the matter to a magistrate judge:

Gibson v. Cen. S. Carpenters Reg'l Council Relief Fund, No. 4:23-cv-522 (S.D. Tex.). In this consent case, *pro se* Plaintiff disagreed with the court's decisions regarding discovery disputes, the removal of a Defendant, and actions of her prior attorney. Plaintiff filed a motion to rescue, arguing that the court was biased. I held a hearing on the motion, heard from the parties and explained my rulings and the basis for such rulings, as well as the fact that Plaintiff had been given extensions to accommodate some discovery disputes. I issued a decision denying Plaintiff's motion for recusal as she failed to demonstrate that a reasonable and objective person, knowing all the facts and circumstances of the case, would harbor doubts concerning the court's impartiality.

Gibbs v. Williams, No. 4:25-cv-4545 (S.D. Tex.). In this case, *pro se* Plaintiff filed a motion requesting assignment to a district judge and not a magistrate judge, without any explanation. I issued an order denying Plaintiff's motion stating that, under 28 U.S.C. § 636, Congress has authorized district courts to refer pretrial matters to magistrate judges and grants jurisdiction to the referral judge to issue orders on non-dispositive pretrial motions.

15. **Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations:**

a. List chronologically any public offices you have held, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual who appointed you. Also, state chronologically any unsuccessful candidacies you have had for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

None.

b. List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered, whether compensated or not, to any political party or election committee. If you have ever held a position or played a role in a political campaign, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, dates of the campaign, your title and responsibilities.

None.

16. **Legal Career:** Answer each part separately.

a. Describe chronologically your law practice and legal experience after graduation

from law school including:

- i. whether you served as clerk to a judge, and if so, the name of the judge, the court and the dates of the period you were a clerk;

From 2003 to 2005, I served as a law clerk to the Honorable Marcia A. Crone. From 2003 to 2004, I served when she was a United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Texas. From 2004 to 2005, I served when she was a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

- ii. whether you practiced alone, and if so, the addresses and dates;

I have not practiced law alone.

- iii. the dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been affiliated, and the nature of your affiliation with each;

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2005 – 2006

Chamberlain Hrdlicka
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Houston, Texas 77002
Associate

2006 – 2009

United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas
111 East Broadway, Room A300
Del Rio, Texas 78840
Assistant United States Attorney

2009 – 2010

Jones Bennett LLP (no longer exists)
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Houston, Texas 77002
Partner

2010 – 2016

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of the Principal Legal Advisor
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Houston, Texas 77060
Assistant Chief Counsel

2014 – 2024

United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas
1000 Louisiana, Suite 2300
Houston, Texas 77002

Special Assistant United States Attorney (2014 – 2016) (two-year detail)
Assistant United States Attorney (2016 – 2024)

- iv. whether you served as a mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution proceedings and, if so, a description of the 10 most significant matters with which you were involved in that capacity.

I have not served as a mediator or arbitrator while in private practice.

b. Describe:

- i. the general character of your law practice and indicate by date when its character has changed over the years.

My law practice has ranged from mostly federal criminal litigation to civil and immigration litigation.

After graduating law school in 2000, I worked as an assistant district attorney in Galveston County, Texas, where I prosecuted state felony and misdemeanor offenses. In 2003 I became the felony chief prosecutor of the 405th District Court. In this role, I prosecuted and tried numerous cases including driving-while-intoxicated offenses, assaults, possession of controlled substances, aggravated assaults, and gun cases, and I assisted in two murder trials.

From 2005 to 2006, I was a litigation associate with Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Houston, Texas. I was responsible for researching and drafting legal memoranda and motions on various civil litigation topics for multiple partners and other senior associates. Most of my work involved insurance and commercial litigation disputes. I also participated in civil trial preparation, discovery disputes, depositions, deposition reviews, and extensive motion practice.

In 2006, I accepted a position as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas. I remained there until 2009. During my time in Del Rio, I prosecuted and tried numerous federal felony cases involving narcotics, guns, alien smuggling, child exploitation, and immigration related offenses. In that role, I worked extensively with agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Border Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and Homeland Security Investigations.

In 2009, I partnered with a former prosecutor I worked with to form the law firm of Jones Bennett LLP. We practiced criminal defense and I took felony and misdemeanor criminal appointments in Harris County, Brazoria County, and Fort Bend County, and federal appointments in the Eastern District of Texas. In addition, I assisted my partner in conducting and defending depositions, engaging in discovery, and filing motions in our civil practice. During this time, I routinely appeared in criminal court to handle a variety of proceedings.

From 2010 to 2016, I worked as an Assistant Chief Counsel with the Office of Principal Legal Advisor in Houston, Texas. I represented the Department of Homeland Security in detained immigration removal proceedings in court, including bond and removal hearings as well as appeals. My duties included preparing and responding to various motions, including motions to pretermite, terminate, summary affirmances on appeal, and briefs on removability. I was also assigned to the worksite enforcement team, where we investigated immigration workplace violations. In addition, I was assigned to the human rights and gang crimes litigation teams where we investigated and sought to deport aliens suspected of engaging in human rights violations overseas as well as aliens involved in criminal gang activity in the United States. In 2014, I was detailed as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. In that position, I prosecuted and tried federal cases involving illegal reentry, alien smuggling, aliens in possession of firearms and immigration fraud.

In 2016, I was hired by the United States Attorney's Office in Houston in the civil division as an Assistant United States Attorney. In that role I defended the United States and its agencies against lawsuits involving breach of contract, bankruptcy, civil rights, personal injury, the Federal Torts Claims Act, and immigration claims. I conducted and defended depositions, engaged in discovery and mediation, prepared and filed dispositive and other pretrial motions, prepared cases for trial, and participated in multiple court proceedings.

From 2018 to 2024, I worked as an Assistant United States Attorney in the criminal division. I began in the major offenders/human rights organized crime section, where I prosecuted and tried cases including immigration crimes, sex trafficking, gang crimes, alien smuggling, hostage taking, gun and drug cases, and sexual exploitation crimes. Later I was assigned to the National Security Public Corruption section. In that section, I worked on cases involving corrupt law enforcement and public officials, and people suspected of engaging in domestic terrorism and material support for terrorism. I primarily worked with agents from the Federal Bureau of

Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Postal Service, and the Department of State.

- ii. your typical clients and the areas at each period of your legal career, if any, in which you have specialized.

For most of my career, my clients have been the State of Texas and the United States. During my time practicing criminal defense, I defended indigent criminal defendants and others charged by the state or federal government. At the law firm, our clients were mainly municipalities, cities, school districts, counties, professionals, corporations, and large businesses.

- c. Describe the percentage of your practice that has been in litigation and whether you appeared in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all. If the frequency of your appearances in court varied, describe such variance, providing dates.

With the exception of my clerkship, my entire career has been focused on litigation. I estimate 98% of my practice has been in litigation, whether appearing in state, federal or immigration courts. Except for the one year with the law firm, where I may have had a monthly appearance in court, I estimate I appeared before a judge several times a week.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. | federal courts: | 70% |
| 2. | state courts of record: | 10% |
| 3. | other courts: | 0% |
| 4. | administrative agencies: | 20% |

- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. | civil proceedings: | 30% |
| 2. | criminal proceedings: | 70% |

- d. State the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative law judges, you tried to verdict, judgment or final decision (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

I have tried 30 cases to verdict as either first or second chair counsel. In addition, I have handled hundreds of final merits hearings in immigration court that resulted in final decisions by the immigration judge.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:

- | | | |
|----|-------|-----|
| 1. | jury: | 98% |
|----|-------|-----|

2. non-jury: 2%

e. Describe your practice, if any, before the Supreme Court of the United States. Supply copies of any briefs, amicus or otherwise, and, if applicable, any oral argument transcripts before the Supreme Court in connection with your practice.

I have not practiced before the Supreme Court.

17. **Litigation:** Describe the ten (10) most significant litigated matters which you personally handled, whether or not you were the attorney of record. Give the citations, if the cases were reported, and the docket number and date if unreported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case. Identify the party or parties whom you represented; describe in detail the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case. Also state as to each case:

- a. the date of representation;
- b. the name of the court and the name of the judge or judges before whom the case was litigated; and
- c. the individual name, addresses, and telephone numbers of co-counsel and of principal counsel for each of the other parties.

1. *United States v. Plezia*, No. 4:19-cr-450 (S.D. Tex.) (Rosenthal, J.), Dkt. No. 356 (jury verdict), Dkt. No. 456 (judgment), *aff'd in part, vacated in part, and remanded*, 115 F.4th 379 (5th Cir. 2024) (Higginbotham, Stewart, and Higginson, JJ.). Representation: 2022 – 2023.

This case stemmed from a multi-year investigation into a ring of corrupt plaintiffs' attorneys and paralegals in the Houston area. At issue was the practice of "case running," whereby plaintiffs' attorneys would pay kickbacks to other attorneys, or to non-attorneys, in exchange for the referral of clients. Defendant was charged with violations of federal criminal tax laws because payments to the runners were disguised as either business deductions or false income.

Defendant elected to go to trial. I handled direct testimony and cross examination of multiple witnesses including one of the main case runners, whose testimony helped establish Defendant funneled approximately \$500,000 through his business account to pay the case runner. Defendant was found guilty and sentenced to six months and one day in prison and two years of supervised release. In total, my trial partner and I called over 30 witnesses and introduced over 200 exhibits.

On appeal, the Fifth Circuit affirmed in part, vacated in part, and remanded. Count 5, involving false statements to a law enforcement officer, was vacated because the court found the statute of limitations had run and was not tolled by the pandemic. All other counts of conviction were affirmed.

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2. *United States v. Ahmadou*, No. 4:21-cr-396 (S.D. Tex.) (Bennett, J.), Dkt. No. 76 (jury verdict), Dkt. No. 134 (judgment), *aff'd*, 159 F.4th 936 (5th Cir. 2025) (Smith, Dennis, and Richman, JJ). Representation: 2021 – 2023.

This case originated from the aftermath of the attack on the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi. The shooter was killed but his devices were exploited by law enforcement, which led them to Defendant, who had contacted the shooter for guidance in committing jihad. Subsequent investigation revealed Defendant had a training plan to prepare himself to travel overseas to commit jihad, which included learning to shoot. In May 2021, agents observed Defendant at a gun range shooting pistols and a rifle. Agents continued observing Defendant but ultimately arrested him and charged him for being an alien in possession of firearms and ammunition. I successfully briefed and precluded Defendant's entrapment-by-estoppel argument where he claimed he thought he was eligible to possess a firearm by relying on the gun store's waiver of liability form. I conducted the direct examination of multiple law enforcement witnesses and introduced multiple exhibits. Ultimately, Defendant was found guilty after a jury trial in March 2023, and sentenced to a total term of 78 months in prison. On appeal, the Fifth Circuit affirmed.

Co-counsel

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3. *United States v. Chambers*, No. 4:21-cr-350 (S.D. Tex. 2021) (Hanks, J.), Dkt Nos. 193, 230, 241, 247, 317 (guilty pleas). Representation: 2021 – 2024.

In this sex trafficking prosecution, co-counsel and I obtained indictments of multiple individuals who were ultimately convicted of sex trafficking minor girls for commercial gain. From April to September 2019, Defendant Chambers and co-Defendants worked to recruit young teenage girls and forced them to engage in sex acts with “clients” for money. They lured them with false promises of financial security, affection and housing, and would then use violence and threats against them. I lead the prosecution of this investigation by (1) obtaining numerous phone and social media search warrants; (2) reviewing phone dumps, transcripts, social media; and (3) speaking to victims and cooperators, all of which led to several indictments and guilty pleas of multiple defendants. At sentencing, the most violent Defendants received prison terms ranging from 240, 292, 348 and 365 months in prison. Defendant Chambers received 420 months in prison.

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4. *United States v. Wills*, No. 2:17-cr-390, 2020 WL 5367008 (S.D. Tex. Sep. 8, 2020) (Ramos, J.), *aff'd*, 40 F.4th 330 (5th Cir.) (Davis, Elrod, and Haynes, JJ.), *cert. denied*, 143 S. Ct. 464 (2022). Representation: 2018 – 2020.

I tried this case with co-counsel. In this trial, Defendant, a multi-millionaire businessman, was charged with sex trafficking, coercion/enticement of a minor, and obstruction of justice in a multi-count third superseding indictment. Defendant and the victim's mother conspired to engage in sex trafficking of the victim from 2012 to 2015. At trial, there were 42 witnesses in total. In addition to several others, I questioned the mother on direct examination. Additionally, I cross-examined multiple defense witnesses, filed and argued the jury instructions to the court, and presented closing

arguments. After over two weeks of trial, the jury found Defendant guilty on all but one count. His attorneys filed a lengthy motion for new trial, which after multiple filings by both sides, was denied. Defendant was finally sentenced in September 2020 to life in prison. The case was affirmed on appeal and a petition for certiorari was denied.

Co-counsel

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5. *United States v. Cloudgen, LLC.*, No. 4:21-cr-191 (S.D. Tex.) (Rosenthal, J.), Dkt. No. 15 (guilty plea), Dkt. No. 32 (judgment). Representation: 2021.

In this international visa fraud scheme prosecution, Defendant recruited Indian nationals to apply for H-1B visas by falsifying immigration forms filed with the Department of Homeland Security. Specifically, Defendant created fake contracts and statements of work indicating the Indian nationals had job offers from certain legitimate companies in the United States when, in fact, no such jobs existed. Instead, once the visas were granted, Defendant would bring the Indian nationals into the United States on the false visa and “bench” them at certain locations until other employment was found for them. As a result, Defendant gained a competitive advantage by having a steady stream of employees available for companies. Defendant profited from this scheme by taking a percentage of the employee’s salary from the falsely obtained employment. I negotiated with the company to plead guilty to conspiracy to commit visa fraud, surrender

approximately \$500,000.00 in forfeited proceeds, pay a fine, and accept a three-year debarment from applying for any new H-1B visas. The company was sentenced to probation, a fine, forfeiture, and debarment.

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6. *United States v. Alabi*, No. 4:15-cr-614, (S.D. Tex.) (Rosenthal, J.), Dkt. Nos. 182, 183, 184 (jury verdicts), Dkt. Nos. 227, 230, 308 (judgments), *aff'd*, *United States v. Daniel*, 933 F.3d 370 (5th Cir. 2019) (Higginbotham, Smith, and Southwick, JJ.). Representation: 2015 – 2019.

Five Defendants involved in a marriage fraud ring were charged in a seven-count indictment with conspiracy to commit marriage fraud, aiding/abetting marriage fraud, and marriage fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 371 and 8 U.S.C. § 1325(c). Two Defendants pled guilty, and three proceeded to trial. One Defendant was also charged with theft of government money and false statements. Defendant Alabi, a Nigerian national, was the organizer of a marriage fraud ring where he recruited, for a fee, United States citizens to marry Nigerian citizens in order to obtain status in the United States. The conspirators would complete immigration documents and submit them to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to obtain lawful permanent resident status. In so doing, they would submit staged photographs of themselves as a couple to demonstrate a meaningful relationship. They also coached the recruits and/or Nigerian nationals on what to say when questioned or interviewed by law enforcement or immigration authorities about the legitimacy of their marriage. I worked closely with agents in reviewing immigration documents, speaking to immigration authorities, victims, witnesses and cooperators, and presented multiple indictments against several defendants. At trial, I conducted numerous direct examinations, entered multiple exhibits into evidence, cross-examined witnesses and argued the case to the jury. The jury found Defendants guilty on all charges, and they were later sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. The case was affirmed on appeal in a published decision and is cited as part of the Fifth Circuit Pattern Jury Instructions for 8 U.S.C. § 1325(c).

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7. *United States v. Celedon*, Nos. 5:23-cr-1440 (S.D. Tex.) (Saldana, J.), Dkt. No. 30 (guilty plea), 5:23-cr-1453 (S.D. Tex.) (Saldana, J.), Dkt. No. 174 (guilty plea). Representation: 2023 – 2024.

In this public corruption prosecution, a former Customs and Border Protection officer was charged in two separate federal cases for alien smuggling, bribery, and attempted importation of cocaine. In one case, Defendant pled guilty to four counts of bringing an undocumented alien into the United States through Laredo, Texas. In the other case, he pled guilty to bribery and attempted importation of cocaine for taking money to allow what he thought was cocaine to cross into the United States from Mexico. In this smuggling conspiracy, Defendant, on at least nine occasions, would provide his daily lane assignment to co-conspirators to allow entry without inspection or documentation of

passengers. In the drug conspiracy, he agreed to smuggle, for payment, what he believed was cocaine into the United States on two occasions in October 2023. I worked closely with law enforcement on the drug conspiracy case in reviewing offense reports, reviewing and drafting charges, and providing discovery to opposing counsel. Defendant was convicted and sentenced to a total of 103 months in prison in both cases.

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8. *United States v. Doucet*, No. 4:19-cr-137 (S.D. Tex.) (Rosenthal, J.), Dkt. Nos. 71, 74, 77 (guilty pleas), Dkt. Nos. 154, 157, 170 (judgments), *aff'd*, *United States v. Kanu-Bradley*, No. 21-20244, 2022 WL 1055179 (5th Cir. Apr. 8, 2022) (Higginbotham, Higginson, and Duncan, JJ). Representation: 2019 – 2021.

In this violent assault against federal law enforcement officials, three Defendants were charged and convicted of assault on a federal officer, robbery, conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. This case stemmed from an undercover investigation into drugs and firearms involving a violent street gang. In February 2019, undercover agents had agreed to purchase narcotics from Defendant Doucet at a hotel in Houston. In the hotel room, undercover agents met with the three Defendants who ended up holding the undercover agents at gunpoint, stealing the money they had brought for the undercover drug purchase, and then beating and stomping on one of the agents while he was held at gunpoint. Defendants fled the scene but were quickly apprehended by law enforcement. One agent suffered injuries from the assault. I handled the criminal complaint immediately after this incident, prepared charges, successfully detained all Defendants at a hearing, prepared and presented the indictment, provided discovery, and handled the guilty pleas for all Defendants. All three were convicted and sentenced to eighty-four months in prison. Defendant Kanu-Bradley appealed his sentence, arguing the district court erred in applying the financial motivation sentencing enhancement and under U.S.S.G. § 2A2.2(b)(5), the enhancement under U.S.S.G. § 2A2.2(b)(1) where the assault involved more than minimal planning, and that the definition of “brandish” is unconstitutionally vague. The Fifth Circuit affirmed the sentence.

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9. *United States v. Ibarra*, No. 2:06-cr-971 (W.D. Tex.) (Moses, J.), Dkt. No. 111 (verdict), Dkt. No. 130 (judgment), *aff'd*, 291 Fed. App'x 611 (5th Cir. 2008) (Jones, Dennis, and Haynes, JJ.). Representation: 2006 – 2007.

In a contested bench trial, Defendant was convicted of conspiracy to transport, and transporting, illegal aliens from Mexico into the United States. Defendant was the leader and organizer of a large-scale complex alien smuggling ring using multiple drivers, scouts, guides, money runners, and stash houses to smuggle hundreds of illegal aliens into the United States using stolen motor vehicles out of Houston. The conspiracy was especially dangerous as Defendant instructed his drivers to crash their vehicles and flee if pursued by law enforcement. Such action resulted in the death of one of the aliens being smuggled, which was later attributed at sentencing to the supplier of the illegal aliens in Mexico, who was later convicted as well. This case led to the indictment of eleven Defendants who all pled guilty to alien smuggling using stolen vehicles. According to law enforcement, this case drastically hindered alien smuggling operations in the Del Rio area for several weeks. I worked closely with law enforcement in preparing charges, obtaining discovery, speaking to victims and cooperators. I tried the case against Defendant, presenting multiple exhibits, witnesses, and argument. Defendant was

convicted at trial and sentenced to 90 months in prison. His sentence was affirmed on appeal.

Opposing counsel

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10. *United States v. Aviles-Villa*, No. 4:14-cr-151 (S.D. Tex.) (Rosenthal, J.), Dkt. Nos. 84, 85, 86, 87, 88 (guilty pleas), Dkt. Nos. 142, 144, 146, 156, 158 (judgments). Representation: 2014 – 2015.

This prosecution stemmed from a large-scale alien smuggling operation involving over 115 aliens found in a stash house—one of the largest ever taken down in the Houston area at that time. The case garnered significant national media attention. Testimony from the illegal aliens revealed they were kept in the stash house until the smugglers received payments for their release. Several guns were found in the residence as well as a taser and wooden paddle used to keep the aliens in line. All five Defendants confessed their involvement in the smuggling operation and stated they possessed the firearms and hit some of the aliens to intimidate them and maintain order. I worked with law enforcement to review evidence, provide discovery, speak to material witnesses, and prepare charges for indictments. I also argued motions in court and helped prepare plea agreements and sentencing memoranda. Defendants were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 111 months to 123 months.

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18. **Legal Activities:** Describe the most significant legal activities you have pursued, including significant litigation which did not progress to trial or legal matters that did not involve litigation. Describe fully the nature of your participation in these activities. List any client(s) or organization(s) for whom you performed lobbying activities and describe the lobbying activities you performed on behalf of such client(s) or organizations(s). (Note: As to any facts requested in this question, please omit any information protected by the attorney-client privilege.)

Most of my career has been dedicated to public service, both at the state and federal levels. In these positions, I have strived to pursue justice as a prosecutor, protect the rights of victims, and ensure the safety of the community by investigating and prosecuting thousands of cases. In my time as a civil litigator and criminal defense attorney, I worked hard to protect my clients' rights and ensured they had the best representation in court. In these roles I worked with some excellent attorneys, helped mentor and supervise younger attorneys, and assisted in recruiting legal talent to the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas.

As a magistrate judge, I strive daily to be fair and impartial to all parties and to issue legally supported and reasoned opinions. I make it a point to try and resolve cases in a timely and efficient manner so parties will receive resolution to their cases. Through judicial outreach I have spoken to several students to explain how the judicial process works to provide some understanding as to what we do on a daily basis.

I have never acted or registered as a lobbyist.

19. **Teaching:** What courses have you taught? For each course, state the title, the institution at which you taught the course, the years in which you taught the course, and describe briefly the subject matter of the course and the major topics taught. If you have a syllabus of each course, provide copies to the committee.

I have not taught any courses.

20. **Deferred Income/ Future Benefits:** List the sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock, options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients or customers. Describe the arrangements you have made to be compensated in the future for any financial or business interest.

Because of my federal government service, I will be entitled to receive a pension under the Federal Employees Retirement System. In addition, as a magistrate judge, I have the option of switching from FERS to the Judicial Retirement System annuity once I am close to retirement.

21. **Outside Commitments During Court Service:** Do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during your service with the court? If so, explain.

I do not have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment in the future.

22. **Sources of Income:** List sources and amounts of all income received during the calendar year preceding your nomination and for the current calendar year, including all salaries, fees, dividends, interest, gifts, rents, royalties, licensing fees, honoraria, and other items exceeding \$500 or more (if you prefer to do so, copies of the financial disclosure report, required by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, may be substituted here).

When my nomination is formally submitted to the Senate, I will file my Financial Disclosure Report and supplement this Questionnaire with a copy of that Report.

23. **Statement of Net Worth:** Please complete the attached financial net worth statement in detail (add schedules as called for).

. See attached Net Worth Statement.

24. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

a. Identify the family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation, and financial arrangements that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest when you first assume the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you would address any such conflict if it were to arise.

As a judge, I have recused myself on matters where I had personal knowledge from my prior position as an Assistant United States Attorney. I have also prepared a conflicts list per our district's mandatory conflicts checks form to include cases where the parties include my spouse's employer, where my son will attend college, our banking institutions, and our church. If confirmed, I will continue to evaluate any other real or potential conflicts of interest, or any other relationships that could give rise to the appearance of impropriety, on a case-by-case basis, and determine appropriate action with the advice of the parties and their counsel, including recusal, where necessary.

b. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including the procedure you will follow in determining these areas of concern.

I will carefully review and address any real or potential conflict by reference to 28 U.S.C. § 455, Canon 3 of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, and any and all other laws, rules, advisory opinions, and practices governing such circumstances.

25. **Pro Bono Work:** An ethical consideration under Canon 2 of the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility calls for "every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, to find some time to participate in serving the disadvantaged." Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, listing specific instances and the amount of time devoted to each.

For most of my professional career, I have worked for either the state or federal government and so have generally been restricted from engaging in pro bono work. However, I have been involved in charitable work through my church. I have also volunteered to judge multiple moot court competitions at local law schools, helping to improve the law students' argument skills. And I volunteer to speak to students at schools about my job and general legal topics.

26. **Selection Process:**

a. Please describe your experience in the entire judicial selection process, from beginning to end (including the circumstances which led to your nomination and the interviews in which you participated). Is there a selection commission in your jurisdiction to recommend candidates for nomination to the federal courts? If so, please include that process in your description, as well as whether the commission recommended your nomination. List the dates of all interviews or communications you had with the White House staff or the Justice Department regarding this nomination. Do not include any contacts with Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel concerning your nomination.

In January 2025, Senators Ted Cruz and John Cornyn announced on their websites they were accepting applications for Texas judicial vacancies. I applied for a judicial position on February 21, 2025. I subsequently was invited to interview with the Texas Federal Judicial Evaluation Committee ("FJEC"), and I interviewed on April 25, 2025. The FJEC later recommended me to Senators Cruz and Cornyn, with whom I interviewed on

September 10, 2025. I interviewed with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office on February 13, 2026. Since then, I have been in contact with officials from the White House Counsel's Office and the Justice Department's Office of Legal Policy regarding the nomination.

On August 18, 2026, President Trump called me to inform me that he planned on nominating me for a position on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

b. Has anyone involved in the process of selecting you as a judicial nominee discussed with you any currently pending or specific case, legal issue or question in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as seeking any express or implied assurances concerning your position on such case, issue, or question? If so, explain fully.

No.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Richard W. Bennett, do swear that the information provided in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

August 14, 2026
(DATE)

Richard W. Bennett
(NAME)

Aaliyah Davis
(NOTARY)

