

Darlene Payne Smith *Shareholder & Mediator*

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Overview

Darlene Payne Smith is a mediator and a member of the firm's Probate Trust and Guardianship Group and the Fiduciary Litigation Group.

Her practice is focused on individuals who have experienced a loss or are facing the issue of a loved one who is becoming incapacitated or suffered a traumatic injury that rendered them incapacitated. Darlene fights to uphold the wishes of those who have established valid estate plans and she defends fiduciaries wrongfully accused. She seeks justice against fiduciaries who have wronged their beneficiaries.

As a result, Darlene often appears in courts in Harris, Montgomery, Brazoria, Galveston, Fort Bend, Brazos, San Jacinto, Chambers, Walker and Jefferson Counties as well as in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties.

Darlene represents fiduciaries and beneficiaries in trial and appellate courts of those counties, and across the State of Texas, in matters relating to probate, guardianship, trust administration and litigation.

Because of her knowledge and skill, Darlene often is sought to help resolve disputes or to improve the knowledge of fellow attorneys.

Darlene is a frequent speaker and serves as an adjunct professor at South Texas College of Law. She is a co-author of the Texas Jury Charge publication for Probate and Trust and a continuing member of the Pattern Jury Charge Committee. She is also a mediator and arbiter of probate, trust, guardianship, and related matters.

Darlene has been honored many times over the years for her accomplishments including being selected to the 2006-2011 and 2014-2018 Texas Super Lawyers lists (Thomson Reuters).

Education

Bachelor of Science: Criminal Justice,
University of Houston (Magna Cum Laude)

Doctor of Jurisprudence, University of
Houston Law Center

Practice Areas

Fiduciary Litigation

Probate, Trust and Guardianship

Admissions

Texas

United States District Court for the
Southern District of Texas

Memberships/ Certifications

- Adjunct Professor – South Texas College of Law, 2010 - 2017
- Member – State Bar Pattern Jury Charge Committee, 2010 - 2012
- Co-Chair – Houston Bar Association Elder Law Committee, 2010
- Texas Bar Association;
- Texas Bar Foundation;
- Houston Bar Association;
- Probate Legislative Sub-Committee -- Houston;
- Past President –Women Attorneys in Tax and Probate;
- Former Vice President – Disability and Elder Law Lawyers Association;
- Planning Committee – Elder Law Section, State Bar;
- Planning Committee – Wills and Probate Institute;
- Elder Law Committee;
- Certified by the State Bar of Texas Pursuant to Texas Probate Code § 647A as Ad Litem
- Former Trust Committee Member - NAELA

Personal

Married - Michael David Smith;

Three Children - Stephan, Coleman and Hallie;

Speaker/ Author

- Panelist: State Bar of Texas - 7th Annual Course on Firearms Law: What Every Lawyer Needs to Know 2018 - San Antonio, Texas, September 20-21, 2018
- Course Director: State Bar of Texas - 19th Annual Advanced Courses Guardianship Law and Elder Law - Dallas, Texas, April 12-13, 2018
- Course Director: State Bar of Texas – 12th Annual Fiduciary Litigations Course, San Antonio, Texas – “Tortious Interference: Dead or Just in A

Temporary Coma”; November 30-December 1, 2017

- Speaker/ Co Author: The University of Texas School of Law – Galveston, Texas – “Elder Abuse, The Criminal Aspects of Estates and Guardianships, and Mental Commitments”; August 2, 2017
- Speaker: State Bar of Texas, Live Webcast – Austin, Texas – “Building Blocks of Wills, Trusts and Estates”; January 20, 2017
- Speaker/Co-Author: Montgomery County Bar Association Fall Conference – The Woodlands, Texas – “Elder Abuse and the Criminal Aspect of Estates, Guardianships, and Mental Commitments”; November 4, 2016
- Speaker/Co-Author: Midland Odessa Business and Estate Counsel – Midland, Texas – “Elder Abuse and the Criminal Aspect of Estates, Guardianships, and Mental Commitments”; September 20, 2016
- Speaker/Co-Author: 40th Annual Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course – San Antonio, Texas – “Elder Abuse and the Criminal Aspect of Estates, Guardianships, and Mental Commitments”; June 22-24, 2016
- Speaker/Author: Montgomery County Law Day - Conroe, Texas – “Legislative Update of 2015 Session”; May 6, 2016
- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas, 34th Annual Texas Forum Towards a More Perfect Union: Attorney and Paralegal Team - Austin, Texas – “Best Practices in Communication and Supervision on the Legal Team”; March 30, 2016
- Speaker: State Bar of Texas, 17th Annual Building Blocks of Wills, Estates, and Probate Course - Austin, Texas – “The Estate Administration Guide”; January 29, 2016
- Speaker/Co-Author: Brown Bag, Montgomery County Court at Law No. 2 – “Criminal Aspects of Guardianship and Mental Commitment”; January 22, 2016
- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas, 10th Annual Fiduciary Litigations Course, San Antonio, Texas – “Ancillary Documents Should Not be an Afterthought”; December 10- 11, 2015
- Speaker/Co-Author: State Bar of Texas, Handling Your First (or Next) Guardianship Case, Austin, Texas – “Criminal Aspects of Guardianship and Mental Commitment”; December 9, 2015
- Speaker/Co-Author: State Bar of Texas, Essentials of Winding Down A Law Practice in Texas, Austin, Texas – “Assessing Competency and Making the Decision to Wind Down – Lessons from the Baseball Diamond”; December 4, 2015
- Speaker: State Bar of Texas, Webcast, Austin, Texas – “Using a Paralegal in Your Practice: What they Can and Cannot Do”; October 1, 2015
- ?Speaker/Author: State Bar College Summer School, Galveston, Texas– “Who’s Handling Mama’s Money”, July 16-18, 2015
- Speaker/Author: National Board of Trial Advocacy, New Business: Learn New Cause of Action Continuing Legal Education, Houston, Texas – “Little Known Statutes/Issues Relating to Fiduciary Litigation”, February

6, 2015

- Speaker/Author: 9th Annual Fiduciary Litigation Course, Horseshoe Bay, Texas – “Little Known Statutes/Issues Relating to Fiduciary Litigation”, December 4-5, 2014
- Speaker/Co-Author: Lawyer Competence in the 21st Century, Austin, Texas – “What Options Exist when you Recognize a Problem?”, November 21, 2014
- Speaker: 63rd Annual Education Conference and National Forum 2014 – “Estate Administration A to Z”, October 2-4, 2014
- Speaker/Co-Author: Advanced Elder Law and Advanced Guardianship Law Course 2014 – “Criminal Aspects of Guardianship and Mental Commitment”, April 3-4, 2014
- Speaker/Author: Transitional Learning Center, Galveston, Texas – “Powers of Attorney, Common Law Spouses and Guardianships”, August 30, 2013
- Speaker/Co-Author: Advanced Elder Law and Advanced Guardianship Law Course 2014 – “Criminal Aspects of Guardianship and Mental Commitment”, April 3-4, 2014
- Speaker: Criminal Justice Symposium and Community Day, Houston, Texas
- Speaker: Texas College of Probate Judges, San Antonio, Texas – “Practical Aspects of Guardianship Law”, September 6-8, 2012
- Speaker/Author: State Bar College, Summer School 2012, Galveston, Texas – “Will and Guardianship Contests (Limine, Voir Dire, Opening, Preserving Errors, Charge and Closing)”, July 19, 2012
- Speaker/Author: Houston Northwest Bar Association, Houston, Texas – “Handling Insolvent Estates and the Claims Process”, July 18, 2012
- Speaker/Author: Lorman Education Services, Houston, Texas – “Fiduciary Administration (Common Sense Approach)”, April 26, 2012
- Speaker/Author: DELAA, Houston, Texas – “Fiduciary Litigation – Practical Approach”, February 16, 2012
- Speaker/Author: Wills & Probate Institute, Houston, Texas – “Trial of a Guardianship”, September 22-23, 2011
- Speaker/Author: Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course, Fort Worth, Texas – “Probate, Guardianship and Trusts, Where are we Now?”, June 8-10, 2011
- Speaker/Author: Advanced Guardianship Law Course, Houston, Texas – “Trial of a Guardianship”, April 8, 2011
- Speaker/Author: National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Inc., Orlando, Florida – “Divorce and Annulment In the Elderly”, May 12, 2010
- Speaker: Sharpstown Rotary Club, Houston, Texas – “Estate Planning No Matter How Big or How Small”, February 2, 2010
- Speaker/Author: Trial of a Fiduciary Litigation Case, Fredericksburg, Texas – “Getting to Victory: Winning Techniques in Fiduciary Litigation”,

December 17-18, 2009

- Speaker: St. Edward Catholic Church, Spring, Texas – "Estate Planning No Matter How Big or How Small", October 25, 2009
- Speaker: State Bar of Texas Webcast, Austin, Texas – "Guardian Ad Litem in a Personal Injury Case: Deal or No Deal, Austin, Texas", May 14, 2009
- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas Advanced Guardianship Course, Houston, Texas – "Complex Family Matters in Guardianship", March 2009
- Speaker/Author: Attorneys In Tax & Probate – "Drafting and Entering Judgments", March 3, 2009
- Advisory Committee: 2009 Advanced Elder Law and Guardianship Courses
- Speaker/Author: Tarrant County Probate Bar Association – Sixth Probate Litigation Seminar, Ft. Worth, Texas, "Expert Testimony", September 19, 2008
- Speaker: Estate Planning, Guardianship and Elder Law Conference, Galveston, Texas, "Ask The Experts: Guardianship Topics including Medical Issues in Guardianships", August 14-15, 2008
- Speaker/Author: Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course, Dallas, Texas, "Drafting and Entering Judgments", June 11-13, 2008
- Speaker/Author: Texas College of Probate Judges Regional Workshop, Corpus Christi, Texas, "The Role of The Ad Litem", March 28, 2008
- Speaker/Author: Texas College of Probate Judges Regional Workshop, Corpus Christi, Texas, "Show Cause, Contempt, Surcharge, and Injunctive Actions", March 28, 2008
- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas Advanced Guardianship Course, Dallas, Texas, "Medical Experts: Can Yours Withstand Cross?", March 7, 2008
- Speaker/Author: National Business Institute Fundamentals of Trust Administration, Houston, Texas, "Major Provisions of a Trust", December 7, 2007
- Speaker/Author: National Business Institute Fundamentals of Trust Administration, Houston, Texas, "Essential Steps in Trust Termination", December 7, 2007
- Speaker: National Business Institute Fundamentals of Trust Administration, Houston, Texas, "Overcoming Ethical Challenges", December 7, 2007
- Speaker/Co-Author: State Bar of Texas Advanced Drafting Course for Estate Planning and Probate, Houston, Texas, "File Documentation, Retention & Destruction: i.e. Will Your Notes Nail You?", October 25, 2007
- Speaker/Co-Author: Trust Administration in Texas, Houston, Texas, "Fiduciary Litigation", July 17, 2007
- Speaker/Author: Trust Administration in Texas, Houston, Texas, "Fiduciary Administration", July 17, 2007

- Speaker/Author: Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course 2007; San Antonio, Texas, "Getting to Victory: Special Issues: Jury Charge", June 6-8, 2007
- Speaker/Moderator: Texas Guardianship Association Spring Conference, Waco, Texas, Ethics Panel; April 12-13, 2007
- Advisor: National Academy of Elder Law Attorney, Inc. – Trust Special Interest Group Steering Committee, 2006 to present
- Speaker: State Bar of Texas - Advanced Elder Law & Guardianship Course, Houston, Texas, "Contested Guardianships", March 8-9, 2007
- Speaker/Co-Author: DELAA, Houston, Texas, "Fiduciary Litigation", January 22, 2007
- Speaker/Author: HBA All Day Ethics Program; Houston, Texas, "Ethical Jeopardy", November 4, 2006
- Speaker: South Texas College of Law Wills and Probate Institute, Houston, Texas, "Navigating the Quagmire of Potential Claims Against Estate Planning, Trust, Probate and Guardianship Practice", September 2006
- Speaker/Moderator: Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course, Houston, Texas, "Expert Qualification and Disqualification in Probate and Fiduciary Litigation", June 2006
- Speaker/Author: Planned Giving Council of Houston – Monthly Program, Houston, Texas, "Giving Till it Hurts You", May 18, 2006
- Speaker/Author: Texas Trial Lawyers Association – Advanced Personal Injury Seminar, Houston, Texas "Personal Injury Involving Probate From Beginning to end or Avoiding the Silver Bullets That Can Kill Your Case", May 11-12, 2006
- Speak/Co-Author: State Bar of Texas – Advanced Guardianship Course, Dallas, Texas, "Promoting the Well-Being of the Proposed Ward", March 9, 2006
- Speaker: Houston Bar Association – Guardianship Certification Course For Ad Litem Appointments 2006, Houston, Texas, "The Role of the Attorney Ad Litem in a Contested Guardianship Proceeding", January 27, 2006
- Speaker/Author Jefferson County Bar Association CLE – Avoiding Malpractice, Beaumont, Texas, "Avoiding The Silver Bullets That Can Kill Your Case", October 28, 2005
- Speaker/Author: Tarrant County Probate Bar Association – Litigation Seminar, Ft. Worth, Texas, "Personal Injury Involving Probate From Beginning to End or Silver Bullets That Can Kill Your Case", October 14, 2005
- Speaker: South Texas College of Law – Wills and Probate Institute, Houston, Texas, "Investment Plans and Guardianships", September 16, 2005
- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas – Avoiding Malpractice, Houston, Texas, "Personal Injury Involving Probate From Beginning to End or Silver Bullets That Can Kill Your Case", August 24, 2005

- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas – Avoiding Malpractice, San Antonio, Texas, “Personal Injury Involving Probate From Beginning to End or Silver Bullets That Can Kill Your Case”, August 2, 2005
- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas – Avoiding Malpractice, Dallas, Texas, “Personal Injury Involving Probate From Beginning to End or Silver Bullets That Can Kill Your Case”, July 12, 2005
- Speaker/Author: El Paso Planned Giving Counsel, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas, “Giving Till it Hurts you”; May 23, 2005
- Speaker: National Business Institute, Houston, Texas, “The Probate Process from Start to Finish”, May 17, 2005
- Speaker: H.B.A. Speech to the Elderly, Houston, Texas, “Guardianship Alternatives and Settling Contested Guardianships”; May 17, 2005
- Advisor: University of Houston Wills and Probate Advisory Committee – 1995 to present
- Speaker: Case Law Update, Reliant Decision; Houston, Texas; The Disability and Elder Law Attorneys Association; March 21, 2005
- Speaker/Author: TBA Trust Financial Services Division, Court Created Trusts Seminar, Dallas, Texas; “Court-Created 867 Trusts Practical Approach; March 5, 2005
- Speaker/Author: Houston Estate and Financial Forum; Houston, Texas, “Will Your Notes Nail You? (Notes, Video, Audio, Emails, Comments and Other Faux Paus That Cause Problems)”, November 18, 2004
- Speaker/Author: Texas Bankers Association Personal Trust Seminar; Dallas, Texas, “Dealing with the Difficult Client and/or Beneficiary”, October 7, 2004
- Speaker/Author: Tarrant County Probate Bar Association 3rd Annual Probate Litigation Seminar; Fort Worth, Texas, “Jury Charges In Probate”, September 17, 2004
- Speaker/Author: Texas State Bar, Charitable Giving Course; San Antonio, Texas, “Giving Till it Hurts You”, July 29-30, 2004
- Speaker/Author: Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course; San Antonio, Texas; “How Your Notes Can Get You Into Trouble”; June 9-11, 2004
- Speaker/Co-Author: Wills and Probate Institute, University of Houston Law Foundation, Houston; “Dependent Administrations”; May 20-21, 2004
- Speaker: El Paso Probate Bar Association, Texas College of Probate Judges; “Independent Administration”; May 12-13, 2004
- Speaker/Co-Author: El Paso Probate Bar Association, Texas College of Probate Judges; “Probate Surcharge and Preliminary Proceedings”; May 12-13, 2004
- Speaker/Author: Fiduciary Litigation 2004, Texas Bar CLE, Houston, May 6-7, 2004

- Speaker: Klein Forest High School “Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education”, May 2004
- Speaker/Co-Author: State Bar of Texas – 14th Annual Advanced Drafting Estate Planning and Probate Course; Dallas, Texas; “Will Your Notes Nail You? (Notes, Video, Audio, Emails, Comments and Other Faux Paus)”; October 23-24, 2003
- Speaker: Tarrant County Probate Bar Association Second Annual Probate Litigation Seminar; “Avoiding Sudden Death or at Least Temporary Incapacitation of your Case in Probate Court – Including Jurisdiction and Probate”; October 3, 2003
- Speaker Advanced Personal Injury Law Course, San Antonio; “Probate Issues in a Personal Injury Case”; August 2003;
- Speaker: Advanced Personal Injury Law Course, Houston; “Probate Issues in a Personal Injury Case”; July 2003
- Speaker: Advanced Personal Injury Law Course, Dallas; “Probate Issues in a Personal Injury Case”; June 2003
- Manual Committee: State Bar of Texas - Texas Guardianship Manual, Second Edition; May 2003
- Speaker: South Texas Collage of Law “Guardianship Certification Course for Ad Litem Appointments in Probate Court”; January 2003
- Speaker: Victoria Area Estate Planning Counsel; Court Created Section 867 Trusts; November 2002
- Speaker: State Bar of Texas Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course; June 2002
- Advisory Committee: Wills & Probate Institute, University of Houston Law Foundation; May 2002
- Speaker: South Texas College of Law “Representing the Elderly Client”; May 2002
- Speaker: San Antonio Young Lawyers Association “Docket Call in Probate Courts Seminar”; April 2002
- Speaker: Judge Rory Olsen’s Class on Chemical Dependency, “The Role of The Ad Litem”; October 2001
- Speaker: University of Houston Law Center, Wills and Probate Institute Course; July 2001
- Course Director: State Bar of Texas Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course; June 2001
- Author: Texas Collection Manual - Third Edition: Probate and Guardianship Section; March 2001
- Guest Lecturer: South Texas College of Law - Estate Planning & Probate - Creditor Claims; March 2001
- Speaker/Facilitator: Houston Bar Association - Family/Probate Bench Bar Conference; October 27 & 28, 2000

- Speaker/Author: Texas College of Probate Judges. Topic: Show Cause, Contempt, Surcharge, and Injunctive Actions; August 2000
- Speaker/Author: Tarrant County Bar Association – Probate Section. Topic: Anatomy of a Will; July 2000
- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas – Advanced Estate Planning and Probate. Topic: Ten Unanswered Questions in Probate; June 2000
- Speaker: KSEV Radio Talk Show; Topic: Legal Speaking; one hour talk on trusts; March 26, 2000
- Speaker: Disability and Elders Law Attorneys Association; Topic: Show Cause, Contempt, Surcharge, and Injunctive Actions; February 21, 2000
- Speaker: San Antonio Young Lawyers Association; Docket Call 2000; Topic: How to Initiate a Guardianship; January 6-7, 2000
- Speaker: South Texas College of Law; Wills & Probate Institute; Topic: Anatomy of a Will; September 16-17, 1999
- Speaker: Texas College of Probate Judges, Annual Conference; Topic: Show Cause, Contempt, Surcharge and Injunctive Actions; September 9-11, 1999
- Speaker: The University of Texas School of Law; Intermediate Estate Planning, Guardianship and Elder Law; Topic: Duties and Responsibilities of Ad Litem; August 26-27, 1999
- Speaker: University of Houston Law Foundation, Wills and Probate Institute; Topic: The Anatomy of a Will; Practical Considerations in Will Drafting; Dallas - July, 22-23, 1999; Houston - July 29-30, 1999
- Speaker: Texas Bar Association; Telephone Conference Seminar; Topic: Probate and Guardianship Issues Under The New Discovery Rules; March 17, 1999
- Speaker: Disability and Elders Law Attorneys Association; Topic: Probate and Guardianship Issues Under The New Discovery Rules; February 15, 1999
- Speaker: South Texas College of Law; Topic: Probate and Guardianship Issues Under The New Discovery Rules; February 12, 1999
- Speaker: Trust Financial Services Division/Texas Bankers Association; Topic: Dealing With The Difficult Client; Dallas; January 14, 1999
- Speaker/Co-Author: Putative Spouses and Their Role in the Probate Process
- Speaker: Houston Bar Association/Family Law Section; Topic: Family Law Cases Do Not Exist in a Vacuum; Probate Issues with Family Law Cases; August 1998
- Speaker/Author: Guardianship Institute 1998; Topic: Advanced Directives, Powers of Attorney and Disclaimers; Dallas; February 13, 1998
- Speaker/Author: Docket Call in Probate Court - Estate Planning, Probate, and Guardianship Seminar; Topic: Dealing With The Difficult Client; San Antonio; January 22-23, 1998

- Speaker/Author: State Bar - Legal Assistants Division - Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Law Seminar; Topic: Advanced Directives, Powers of Attorney and Disclaimers; October 17-18, 1997
- Speaker: Midland County Probate Bar Luncheon: Topic: Guardianship laws: The Basics, October 14, 1997
- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas First Annual Texas Marital Property Institute. Topic: Damages, Including Attorney's Fees; October 9-10, 1997
- Speaker: Tarrant County Probate Bar Luncheon: Topic: Attorney Ad Litem: How Far Do You Go? Guardian Ad Litem: Best Interest, Etc.; August 7, 1997
- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas – Advanced Strategies. Topic: Avoid Will Contests and Other Fiduciary Litigation; San Diego; April 1997
- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas – Advanced Estate Planning and Probate. Topic: Damages; June 1996
- Speaker: State Bar of Texas. Topic: Contesting a Guardianship and Other Important Issues; December 1, 1995
- Speaker: Wills and Probate Institute – South Texas College of Law. Topic: Avoiding Will Contests; September 28-29, 1995
- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas. Topic: Effect of Guardianships and Criminal Proceedings on Mental Health Hearings; March 1995
- Speaker/Author: State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting, Red Flags and Hot Topics, Selected Issues in Texas Law. Topic: Guardianship and Ad Litem – Changes that May Affect You; June 1994
- Speaker: National Association of Estate Planning Councils 1994 Annual Convention. Topic: Fiduciary Liability from the Perspective of a Probate Trial Attorney
- Speaker/Co-Author: University of Houston, General Practice Institute – Winter Topic: Alternatives to Probate; 1994
- Speaker/Co-Author: University of Houston, General Practice Institute – Summer Topic: Law Office Management for General Practitioners; 1994
- Speaker/Co-Author: South Texas College of Law, Wills and Probate Institute. Topic: Structuring Family Settlement Agreements to Avoid Will contests; 1994
- Speaker: State Bar of Texas 18th Annual Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course. Topic: Reformation and Construction Suits; June 1994
- Speaker/Author: Texas College of Probate Judges Probate Seminar. Topic: Accounting, June 1994; Duties of the Attorney Ad Litem Under the Amendments to the Texas Probate Code Affecting Guardianships and Removal and Surcharge, April 1994
- Speaker/Author: Legislative Changes that Affect Probate Practitioners, Law Seminars, Inc.
- Speaker: Guardianship Administration and Alternatives - Texas Elder Law Seminar

- Speaker: Tips from the Experts - Independent and Dependent Estates
- Speaker: State Bar of Texas: Elder Law Institute. Topic: An Overview of Guardianships; 1994
- Speaker/Co-Author: State Bar of Texas: New Guardianship Laws in Texas. Topic: Show Cause, Contempt, Surcharge and Successor Actions; March 1994
- Speaker: Texas Association of Legal Secretaries: Mock Trial; 1994
- Speaker/Author: A.G. Edwards, Structured Settlement vs. 142 Trusts
- Speaker/Co-Author: New Guardianship Forms
- Speaker/Co-Author: State Bar of Texas: Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course. Topic: Procedural and Evidentiary Overview for the Probate Litigator; 1993
- Speaker: University of Houston: General Practice. Topic: “Money Saving Tips for Tomorrow Morning”; 1993, 1994
- Speaker: American Association for the Mentally Ill - 1993
- Speaker: Advanced Estate Planning and Probate - 1993, State Bar of Texas
- Speaker/Author: National College of Probate Judges, March 1993, Maui, Hawaii - The Ramification of Closed Head Injury
- Speaker: Appeals, Mandamus & Recusal, Legislative Update, Advanced Directives
- Speaker/Co-Author: State Bar of Texas; Wills and Probate Institute. Topic: Appeals, Mandamus and Recusal; 1992
- Speaker: University of Houston-Downtown – Guest Lecturer - Business Law, 1992; University of Houston-Clear Lake – Guest Lecturer - Advanced Directives
- Speaker/Author: Texas College of Probate Judges (1991-94) - Head Injury
- Speaker: Texas Young Lawyers Association, The Women’s Advocacy Project and Texas Lawyers Care
- Speaker: Estate Planning for the Cancer Patient

Recognitions

- Included in the list of Texas Super Lawyers for 2006 - 2011 and 2014 -2018 by Thomson Reuters.