

ROBERT K. SCHAFFER

JUDGE, 152ND DISTRICT COURT
HARRIS COUNTY CIVIL COURTHOUSE
211 CAROLINE, 11TH FLOOR
HOUSTON TX 77002

Judge Robert Schaffer has been Judge of the 152nd Civil District Court since January 1, 2009. Prior to assuming the bench Judge Schaffer practiced law in the Houston metropolitan area for 24 years representing individuals in civil disputes. He also served as a mediator for 16 years.

In October of 2013, he was elected by the Harris County District Court judges to serve as Local Administrative Judge for the Harris County District Courts and served from 2013 to 2021. He served as the Administrative Judge for the Civil Trial division from 2012 to 2013. In 2010 he served as a Justice on the 14th Court of Appeals by special assignment. The State Multidistrict Litigation Panel selected him to serve as the pretrial judge for the Toyota Unintended Acceleration Multidistrict Litigation in 2010, for the General Motors Ignition Switch Multidistrict Litigation in 2014 and for the Texas Opioid Litigation in 2018. He was selected by Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists as Trial Judge of the Year for 2013 and 2019 and in 2014 he was selected as the Distinguished Alumnus at South Texas College of Law Alumni Association. He served as a member of the Harris County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee from 2013 to 2021.

Judge Schaffer earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arizona in 1974. Following his graduation from college he worked in local and state government in Austin before attending law school at South Texas College of Law Houston. He received his law degree in 1984 and began his legal career as an associate with a small Houston law firm before opening his own law office in 1990 as a sole practitioner. In 1992 he expanded his practice to include mediation services. He continued in that practice until he became a judge in 2009.

Judge Schaffer presently serves on the Supreme Court Advisory Committee, Judicial Administration Certification Task-Force and is Vice-Chair of the State Bar of Texas Pattern Jury Charge Oversight Committee. He has previously served on other various committees of the State Bar of Texas and the Houston Bar Association. He served as President of the Houston Trial Lawyers Association, Houston Trial Lawyers Foundation and the South Texas College of Law Alumni Association. He presently serves on the Southwest Regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League and on the Board of Trustees at Congregation Emanu El.

Judge Schaffer has been married to Jo Ann Weiss Schaffer for 36 years and they have three children.