

The Honorable Tonya Parker
Judge Presiding, 116th Judicial District Court
Dallas County, Texas

The Hon. Tonya Parker is Judge of the 116th Judicial District Court, a position she has held since 2011. Elected by her judicial colleagues, she has twice served as the Presiding Judge for the Dallas County Civil District Courts. Judge Parker has also served as the president of the Texas Association of District Judges. She is a member of the American Law Institute, and serves as an Adviser to the ALI's *Restatement of the Law Third, Torts: Remedies* project. Judge Parker is consistently recognized for her performance and temperament on the bench. In the Dallas Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Polls for 2019, 2017, 2015 and 2013, her overall approval ratings exceed 92% and are among the highest ratings of the judges evaluated in the polls.

Judge Parker serves with distinction, and she is recognized at the local, state and national levels for her contributions. In January 2021, the Dallas Bar Association awarded Judge Parker the Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Award in recognition of the barriers she has broken in the legal community and her commitment to the principal of equal justice under the law. For the second time in the last five years, the State Bar of Texas African-American Lawyers' Section awarded her its **DISTINGUISHED JURIST AWARD** at its 2019 Annual Meeting in acknowledgment of the leadership role Judge Parker played in spearheading the *Implicit Bias Project* in the Dallas Civil District Courts. In 2018, the Dallas NAACP awarded her the **PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR LEGAL EXCELLENCE**. In 2017 she won four prestigious awards: the **STONEWALL AWARD** from the American Bar Association's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Commission, the **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD FOR JUDICIAL SERVICE** from SMU Dedman School of Law, the **MAURA WOMEN HELPING WOMEN AWARD** from the Dallas Women's Foundation, and the **TRAILBLAZER AWARD** from IGNITE. Judge Parker has also been named **TRIAL JUDGE OF THE YEAR** by the Dallas Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

While in private practice she earned the esteem of her peers. She was recognized as one of the top lawyers in Texas by being voted a **SUPER LAWYERS RISING STAR** three years in a row from 2006 to 2008, and again for a fourth time in 2010 just before she was elected to office. Also in 2010, she received **OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARDS** from both the J.L. Turner Legal Association and the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers. A few years prior, the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers also named Judge Parker **OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER OF DALLAS**. The Dallas Bar Association recognized her with its **OUTSTANDING MINORITY ATTORNEY AWARD** and an **AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**. Judge Parker is also a former **AMERICAN MARSHALL FELLOW**, in which capacity she traveled throughout Europe for a period in 2005 to promote transatlantic relations and learn about the social, political and economic systems of various European countries.

Judge Parker is a dedicated public servant and thought-leader in the community. Outside of her work on the bench, she devotes countless hours to crafting and delivering keynote addresses at bar and civic events across the country. In addition, over the last decade she has been a regular volunteer with IGNITE, a non-partisan organization aimed at building political ambition in and training young women (ages 14-22) to run for public office. Throughout her career as a lawyer and judge, she has served on numerous legal and civic boards and commissions, including as Chairperson

of the Dallas Arts District Alliance's Board of Directors, Commissioner on the City of Dallas Community Development Commission, At-large Director for the Dallas Bar Association Board, a two-term Board Member for the J.L. Turner Legal Association, and a three-term Advisory Board Member for the Dallas Women Lawyers Association.

Her professional and personal mantra is "Shrink from making no sacrifice in service of God, family, and community."

HONORS AND AWARDS

- American Bar Association Business Law Section Women's Commercial and Business Advocate Committee Annual Leadership Award (April 2020)
- Dallas Bar Association, Martin Luther King Justice Award (2020)
- Distinguished Jurist Award, State Bar of Texas African-American Lawyers' Section (2019 and 2015)
- President's Award, Dallas NAACP (November 2018)
- Dallas Bar Association Bar Poll approval ratings of 93% and above (2019, 2017, 2015, and 2013 polls)
- Maura Women Helping Women Award, Dallas Women Foundation (2017)
- Distinguished Alumni Award for Judicial Service, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law (2017)
- Stonewall Award, American Bar Association's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Commission (2017)
- Elected Official of the Year, Dallas County Democratic Party (2016)
- Trial Judge of the Year, American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), Dallas Chapter (2015)
- L.A. Bedford Distinguished Jurist Award, J.L. Turner Legal Association (2013)
- Harryette Ehrhardt Distinguished Democrat Award, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas (2012)
- Profiles in Leadership Award, Southern Methodist University Women's Symposium (2013)
- Charlye O. Farris Award for Professionalism and Service, Dallas Association of Black Women Attorneys (2012)
- Honorable Sam A. Lindsay Award for Professionalism and Ethics from the J.L. Turner Legal Association (2011) Super Lawyers Rising Star, TEXAS MONTHLY MAGAZINE (2010, 2009, 2008 and 2006)
- Outstanding Mentor Award, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers (2010)
- Outstanding Mentor Award, J.L. Turner Legal Association (2010)
- President's Award, J.L. Turner Legal Association (2007, 2004 and 2003)
- Outstanding Young Lawyer of Dallas Award, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers (2006)

- American Marshall Memorial Fellow with the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Program designed to promote transatlantic relations and expose America's emerging leaders to social, political, and economic systems of various European nations. Month long Tour included meetings with business and political leaders in Brussels, Belgium; Frankfurt and Berlin, Germany; Thessaloniki, Greece; and Bratislava, Slovakia (October 2005).
- Award of Excellence; Dallas Bar Association (2004)
- Outstanding Minority Bar Leader Award; Dallas Bar Association (2002)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- American Law Institute, (Inducted 2016)
- Texas Center for the Judiciary
 - Faculty for College for New Judges (Winter 2018)
 - Member (2011-Present)
 - Curriculum Committee (July 2012-July, 2015)
 - Chair of Subcommittee for Civil Track for Texas College for Judicial Studies (2013-2014)
 - Faculty for College for Judicial Studies (2013)
 - Board Nominations Committee (2011)
- Texas Association of District Judges
 - Member (2011-Present)
 - President (2014-2015)
 - President-elect (2013-2014)
 - Dallas Regional Representative (2012-2013)
- American Inns of Court
 - Master, Mac Taylor Chapter (2015-2018)
 - Barrister, Patrick E. Higginbotham Chapter (2005-2008)
- American Bar Association
 - Judicial Section Member (Since 2012)
 - Commissioner, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Commission (2012-2013)
- Dallas Bar Association
 - Dallas Bar Foundation Fellow (2007-present)
 - Dallas Bar Association Diversity Committee (2018)
 - Dallas Bar Association Women's Initiative (2018)
 - DBA Trail Skills Program (2017, 2016, 2015, 2014), 2013)
 - Mentor, Transition to Law Program (2015, 2010, 2008)
 - Bench/Bar Committee (2014)
 - Advisory Council Member, Business Litigation Section (2012, 2013)
 - Co Vice-Chair, Bench Bar Committee (2013)
 - Unanimously elected to DBA Board of Directors as At-Large Member (2007, 2006)

- Law Day Committee (Member, 2001–2007) (Co-chair. 2004)
- *Brown v. Board* 50th Anniversary Commemoration Committee (2004)

- DAYL
 - Mentoring Circles Program (2018, 2017)
 - Judicial Internship Program participant (2011-2015)
 - Life Fellow, DAYL Foundation (Since 2006)
 - Mentor, Mentor Match Program (2007-2010)
 - Co-chair, Lawyers Promoting Diversity Committee (2006, 2005)

- JLTLA
 - Co-Presiding Judge for Trial Advocacy CLE Series (2016-Present)
 - Member (1999-Present)
 - Mentor, Law Student Mentor Program (2000-2007)
 - Director, JLTLA Foundation Board (2006)
 - Director, JLTLA Board (2005, 2004)
 - Co-Chair, JLTLA Community Outreach Committee (2004, 2003)

- Dallas Women Lawyers Association
 - Advisory Board Member (2017, 2016, 2015)

OTHER LEADERSHIP ROLES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Stagen Social Change Leadership Cohort (2020-2021)
- Chair, Task Force over Civil District Courts' Implicit Bias Project (2017-Present)
- Southern Methodist Dedman School of Law
 - Member, Executive Board of Directors (2019-Present)
 - Member, Host Committee for Twenty-Year Class Reunion (2018)
 - Fellow, Community Fellows/Inns of Court (2017-Present)
- Presiding Judge, Dallas County Civil District Courts (2017 and 2016)
- Course Director, Advanced Civil Litigation CLE for State Bar of Texas (August 2016)
- Moderator, Judicial Panel Discussion on 25th Anniversary of *Dondi* Decision (2015)
- Volunteer for IGNITE, a non-partisan organization aimed at building political ambition in and training young women to run for public office (2012-Present)
- Advisory Committee Member, Interfaith Peace Chapel (2011)
- Volunteer, Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (2000-2010)
- Chair, Dallas Symphony Orchestra African American Festival Committee (2009)
- Commissioner for District 11, City of Dallas Community Development Commission (2007-April 2009)
- Chair, Dallas Arts District Alliance Board of Directors (2009) (Board member from 2007-2009)

REPRESENTATIVE SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Guest panelist, **TEXAS CENTER FOR THE JUDICIARY COLLEGE FOR NEW JUDGES (DECEMBER 2020)**
- *What You Absolutely Positively Gotta Know About Implicit Bias* at **TEXAS TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING/CLE SEMINAR**, November 2020
- *Lessons From An American Courtroom*, **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR TRIAL LAWYERS** (January 2020)
- *Can Jury Instructions Reduce Implicit Bias In Civil Trials*, **DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION IMPLICIT BIAS 3.0** (October 2019)
- *The Implicit Bias Project in the Dallas Civil District Courts*, paper (with Issa Kamaru) and presentations:
 - **STATE BAR OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING**, July 2019
 - **AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS SUMMIT**, November 2018
 - **STATE BAR OF TEXAS ADVANCED CIVIL TRIAL SEMINAR**, August 2018
 - **STATE BAR OF TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING**, June 2018
 - **STATE BAR OF TEXAS BILL OF RIGHTS SEMINAR**, May 2018
- *Top Ten Things You Need to Know About Expert Witnesses*, paper and presentations:
 - **TEXAS CENTER FOR THE JUDICIARY COLLEGE FOR NEW JUDGES**, December 2018
 - **TEXAS CENTER FOR THE JUDICIARY COLLEGE FOR JUDICIAL STUDIES** April 2013
- *How to Qualify and Disqualify Expert Witnesses*, paper and presentation at **STATE BAR OF TEXAS WINNING YOUR CASE BEFORE TRIAL SEMINAR**, January, 2016
- *Ten Tips from a Trial Judge on Daubert/Robinson Challenges and Hearings*, paper and presentation at **STATE BAR OF TEXAS ADVANCED MEDICAL MALPRACTICE SEMINAR**, March 2015 and 2013
- *How Social Media Affects Lawyers, Judges, and Juries: Tips to Avoid Disaster*, **STATE BAR OF TEXAS WEBCAST (moderated by Robert Tobey, Esq.)**, December 2013
- *Know Thy Trial Judge*, presented at **TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL TRIAL ACADEMY**, April 2013
- *Voir Dire Demonstration & Seminar*, presented at **JLTLA TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM**, February 2010
- *Employment Torts Update*, presented at **UH ADVANCED EMPLOYMENT LAW CLE SEMINAR**, May 2009
- *Inclusion: The Older and Better Looking Sister of Diversity*, ethics CLE presented to **NORTH TEXAS PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION**, June 2008
- *Professionalism in the Courtroom*, ethics CLE presented to **DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION**, April 2008 (panelist with several state and federal court judges)
- *Texas Insurance Law Update and Proposed Legislation*, presented to **LIBERTY MUTUAL LEGAL SERVICES AND CLAIMS DEPT.**, June 2007
- *Sticks and Stones Can Break Your Bones But Words May Get You Sued: Business Defamation and Disparagement Claims*, presented at **WOMEN THAT SOAR SMALL BUSINESS LUNCHEON**, August 2003

- *Public Construction Contracts in Texas*, presented at **DFW AIRPORT'S TENTH ANNUAL SMALL CONTRACTORS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**, February 2002 (with H. Ron White)
- *What Your Employees Know Can Hurt You: Use A Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreement to Protect Trade Secrets*, **DALLAS BUSINESS JOURNAL**, June 15, 2001
- *What Your Employees Know Can Hurt You!*, WWW.LAW.COM, **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW PRACTICE CENTER**, April 18, 2001
- *The Franchise Enterprise: Investigate Before You Invest*, **MINORITY OPPORTUNITY NEWS**, September 2000
- *All Rise!: Reflections on My First Jury Trial*, **THE DICTA**, July 2000
- *Student-Athlete Sexual Violence Against Women: Defining the Limits of Institutional Responsibility*, **WASHINGTON & LEE LAW REVIEW**, Vol. 55, No. 1, Winter 1998 (with Timothy Davis)

Representative List of Keynote and Public Addresses:

- National Trial Lawyer's Summit, *Lessons from an American Courtroom about Bias and Race*, Jan., 2020
- Center for Women in Law Power Summit, Reprisal of TEDx Talk *Lessons in the Label*, April 2019
- National Association of Women Lawyers, Reprisal of TEDx Talk *Lessons in the Label*, May 2018
- Dallas Bar Association Law Day Luncheon, May 2017
- SMU Black Law Students Association Graduation Dinner, April 2017
- TEDx Talk, *Lessons in the Label*, Turtle Creek Women TEDx Event, October 2016
- Dallas Bar Association Annual Law Student Professionalism Program, June 2016
- Dallas County Tax Assessor's Employee Enrichment Day, May 2016
- Desoto ISD Education Foundation Gala, April 2016
- Law and Leadership Symposium hosted by Dallas Women Lawyers Association and Irma Rangel, January 2016
- Texas Lawyer Extraordinary Minority Attorney Awards Luncheon, November 2015
- University of North Texas College of Law Incoming Law Students Fundamentals Dinner, August 2015
- Richardson ISD Convocation Address, August 2015
- Cutting Edge Youth Summit at UNT Dallas, April 2015
- Dallas Bar Association Transition to Law Program Dinner, February, 2015
- Garland NAACP Chapter Freedom Fund Luncheon, 2014
- South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club Annual Luncheon, 2014
- Garland ISD Girls with Goals Leadership Program, 2014
- University of North Texas Hooding Ceremony for Master's Candidates of the Department of Communication Studies (2013)