



Judge Melody Wilkinson

17th District Court
Fort Worth, Texas

The Honorable Melody Wilkinson proudly serves as Judge of the 17th District Court in Tarrant County, Texas. The 17th District Court is a court of general jurisdiction and is a civil preference court. Prior to her 2008 election to the bench, she served in private practice for twenty years where her practice focused on civil litigation matters. She has been re-elected as a state district judge without opposition in 2012, 2016 and 2020. She was also elected by the twenty eight state district judges in Tarrant County to serve a two year term as the Tarrant County Local Administrative Judge which began in January 2023. Recently, she served as the Chair of the Tarrant County Juvenile Board.

Judge Wilkinson's commitment to the legal profession through her extensive work in local, state and national bar associations uniquely sets her apart. Judge Wilkinson currently serves as Chair of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas. She has previously served as President of the Texas Association of District Judges. Earlier in her legal career, she served as the President of the Texas Young Lawyers Association as well as President of the Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association. She has served on the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors and as Chair of the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation. She previously led the Tarrant County Bar Association as its President.

In addition, Judge Wilkinson has received numerous awards and recognitions throughout her career including the prestigious national Delta Zeta Woman of the Year award and "40 Under 40" recognizing up-and-comers in the Texas legal community. She is a recipient of the Charles J. Murray Outstanding Jurist Award. Angelo State University has recognized Judge Wilkinson as a Distinguished Alumnus and invited her to speak as a commencement speaker. She has also been the commencement speaker for Texas Tech University School of Law and what is now the Texas A& M School of Law.

She graduated from Angelo State University *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in Government and English and earned her law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law.

She is most proud of her three young adult children, son Ned, and twin daughters, Elizabeth and Emily.

- Current** 17th District Court (Civil Preference) Judge
- Elected to bench in November 2008 and began serving on January 1, 2009
- Tarrant County Local Administrative Judge, 2023-2024
- Judicial Section, Board of Directors, Chair, 2022-2023
- Judicial Section, Board of Directors, Chair-elect, 2021-2022
- Judicial Section, Board of Directors, Secretary/Treasurer, 2020-2021
- Judicial Section, Board of Directors, District Judge, Place 4, 2017-2020
- Texas Association of District Judges, President, 2016-2018
- Jury Services Committee, Chair, 2011-2013; Member, 2018-2021
- Audit Committee, 2009-2011
- Juvenile Board, 2009-present; Chair, Juvenile Board 2018-2019

- Education** Texas Tech University School of Law, J.D., 1988
- Angelo State University, *summa cum laude*, B.A., 1985

- Admitted** State Bar of Texas
- United States Supreme Court
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Western District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas