

Cynthia M. Burkett

Experience

Assistant Municipal Judge – Highland Village, Texas

August 23, 2022, to present

Presiding Municipal Judge – Shady Shores, Texas

March 22, 2022, to present

Presiding Municipal Judge – Krugerville, Texas

October 1, 2021, to present

Presiding Municipal Judge – Hickory Creek, Texas

August 2, 2021, to present

Assistant Municipal Judge – Corinth, Texas

August 6, 2020, to present

Assistant Municipal Judge – Denton, Texas

January 1, 2020, to present

Associate Municipal Judge – Argyle, Texas

August 2015 to present

Sole Practitioner – Law Office of Cynthia M. Burkett, P.C.

February 2003 to Present

Denton, Texas

I represent individuals in family law cases, including juvenile criminal cases, child custody, divorce, and children and parents involved in litigation with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. I have served as a mediator in many cases. I previously represented adults charged with committing misdemeanor and felony offenses.

Associate Attorney – Crosbie and Moraine, LLC

April 2001 to February 2003

Denton, Texas

I represented individuals in family law cases, including juvenile criminal cases, child custody, divorce, and children and parents involved in litigation with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. I also represented individuals charged with committing felony and misdemeanor offenses.

Associate Attorney – Cordray, Goodrich, and Miltenberger

May 1999 to April 2001

Fort Worth, Texas

I represented A.P. Green and Harbison-Walker in class-action asbestos litigation. I handled dozens of depositions and participated in jury trials.

Assistant District Attorney – Denton County District Attorney's Office

July 1998 to May 1999

Denton, Texas

I served as chief prosecutor of various misdemeanor county courts. I reviewed cases, supervised the prosecutors who were assigned to the various courts, and represented the State of Texas in jury trials and bench trials.

Assistant District Attorney – Smith County District Attorney's Office

June 1997 to July 1998

Tyler, Texas

I served as the grand jury attorney, responsible for meeting with law enforcement officers daily, reviewing felony cases, and presenting cases to the Smith County grand jury.

Assistant District Attorney – Brown County District Attorney's Office

January 1993 to June 1997

Brownwood, Texas

I represented the State of Texas in the prosecution of cases in the Justice of the Peace Courts, County Court at Law, and District Court. I first-chaired misdemeanor and felony jury trials, and I presented cases to the Brown County grand jury.

Education

Doctor of Jurisprudence

Texas Tech University School of Law

Lubbock, Texas

1992

Bachelor of Arts: History and Political Science

Howard Payne University

Brownwood, Texas

1989

Memberships and Accomplishments

- Member in good standing of the State Bar of Texas
- Member of The College of the State Bar of Texas
- Member of the Denton County Bar Association; previously served on the Board of Directors

References

Hon. Robin A. Ramsay, 940-765-6527
Hon. Kimberly McCary, 972-965-5216
Hon. Tiffany Haertling, 940-391-9141

KIMBERLY R. LAFFERTY

PROFILE

ACCOMPLISHED ATTORNEY WITH 27 YEARS OF LITIGATION AND APPELLATE EXPERIENCE, AND OVER 20 YEARS OF GOVERNMENTAL LAW EXPERIENCE:

- Management of complex civil litigation cases from pre-suit claims through trial and appeal
- Comprehensive case analysis and development of strategies for effective and efficient results
- Highly successful in obtaining dismissals through jurisdictional and dispositive motions
- Proficient handling of complex motions and requests for extraordinary relief
- First chair trial experience
- Appellate briefing in United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, Texas Supreme Court, and Texas Courts of Appeals, and oral argument before numerous Texas Courts of Appeals
- Practical legal counsel to City Council, Planning and Zoning Boards, and other local governmental bodies and their staff, including advice on issues related to contracts, zoning, land use, employment matters, constitutional concerns, the Open Meetings Act, and Texas Public Information Act
- Preparation of ordinances and resolutions, contracts, and other legal documents

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CITY OF COPPELL, Coppel, Texas

Associate Municipal Court Judge, January 2019 to present

CITY OF DENTON, Denton, Texas

Associate Municipal Court Judge, November 2019 to present

CITY OF LEWISVILLE, Lewisville, Texas

Associate Municipal Court Judge, November 2018 to present

CITY OF PLANO, Plano, Texas

Associate Municipal Court Judge, July 2022 to present

CITY OF SEAGOVILLE, Seagoville, Texas

Associate Municipal Court Judge, December 2014 to December 2022

CITY OF THE COLONY, The Colony, Texas

Presiding Municipal Court Judge, September 2011 to July 2018

LAFFERTY LAW FIRM, PLLC, Plano, Texas

Member, December 2012-present

- Provide legal expertise to businesses and governmental entities in litigation, appellate, and transactional matters.

LAFFERTY & SLAYTON, PLLC, Dallas, Texas

Member, April 2010-November 2012

- Provided legal expertise to businesses and governmental entities in litigation, appellate, and transactional matters.

NICHOLS, JACKSON, DILLARD, HAGER & SMITH, LLP, Dallas, Texas

Senior Associate, 2007-2010

- Defended and prosecuted lawsuits and appeals for governmental entities involving contract and tort claims, employment and civil service disputes, annexation, eminent domain, and constitutional issues.
- Negotiated and drafted service agreements, purchase agreements, public works contracts, franchises, licenses and lease of property.

SMITH & MOORE, PLLC, Dallas, Texas

Contract Attorney, 2007

- Performed legal services for litigation firm practicing primarily in area of aviation law, handling various pretrial and post-trial matters for complex commercial and wrongful death litigation with damages asserted in the seven-figure dollar range.

LAW OFFICES OF ARTHUR K. SMITH, Allen, Texas

Senior Associate, 2003-2007

- Practiced primarily in the areas of business litigation and insurance defense, with an emphasis on coverage, contract, product defect and premises liability law.

CITY OF PLANO, Plano, Texas

Assistant City Attorney, 2001-2003

- Provided legal services and support for eight City departments and two Commissions.
- Represented City and its employees in civil litigation, including contract, deprivation of civil rights, and tort claims.
- Negotiated and drafted service agreements, purchase agreements, franchises, and licenses.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, Dallas County, Texas

Assistant District Attorney, 1997-2000

Specialized Crime Division

- Prosecuted felony white-collar crime offenses, representing the state at trial and during pretrial discovery suppression motions.

Appellate Division

- Represented the State in over 100 appeals from trial judgments with a near perfect success rate.

EDUCATION

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Dallas, Texas

Juris Doctorate, May 1996

Honors: *Maguire Center for Ethics & Public Responsibility Fellow*, Fellow 1996

Phi Delta Phi Honor Legal Fraternity, Exchequer 1995-1996

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, Austin, Texas

Bachelor of Science; Advertising, May 1989 (Honors)

BAR ADMISSIONS

State Bar of Texas, 1996

United States District Court for Northern District of Texas

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Policy and Procedure Fundamentals for Employers, Municipal Matters Seminar

Economic Development Tools, Annual Riley Fletcher Basic Municipal Law Seminar

Land Use Law: Procedural Tools and Traps, Annual Riley Fletcher Basic Municipal Law Seminar

Policy and Procedure Fundamentals for Employers, Municipal Matters 101

Legal Aspects of Code Administration, Building Professionals Institute

Texas Cases Affecting Municipalities, Texas City Attorney's Association

Retaliation and the Public Employer, Enterprise Center

Texas Public Information Act, Enterprise Center

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Texas Municipal Courts Association

Ann Stephens Poston

Denton, Texas

Experience

ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL JUDGE/MAGISTRATE

City of Denton, Texas | 2004-2012, 2018-Present

County of Denton, Texas | 2004-Present

City of Grand Prairie, Texas | 2005-Present

City of Flower Mound, Texas | 2024-Present

- Perform magistrate duties evenings, weekends, and holidays, both in-person and remotely
 - Determine probable cause, set bail, issue orders of commitment, conditions of bond, orders for emergency protection and mental health orders
 - Inform defendants of rights, charge(s), bail, and determine if a court-appointed attorney/consulate notification is needed
 - Take pleas on Class C misdemeanors, grant time-served/jail credit when appropriate
 - Submit bail reports on PSRS
 - E-file necessary paperwork with Denton County
- Issue blood warrants through LEADRS

TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

Denton Independent School District | Denton, Texas | August 2008 - Present

- English Language Arts Teacher Grades 4-12, Joe Dale Sparks Campus (Juvenile Detention Center)
- Librarian: select and purchase books, check in and out, shelve, inventory, repair, and weed books

CONTRACT ATTORNEY

Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue | Dallas, Texas | September 2000 – April 2000

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld | Dallas, Texas | May 1998 – May 1999

Exxon Company, USA | Houston, Texas | September 1996 – May 1997

- Reviewed documents for litigation

ATTORNEY

Hilton & Davidge | Denton, Texas | January 1999 – April 2000

- Reviewed real estate documents

Law Office of S. Camille Milner | Denton, Texas | June 1997 – March 1998

- Practiced family law

LITIGATION PARALEGAL

Pravel, Hewitt, Kimball & Krieger | Houston, Texas | July 1991 – July 1993

- Prepared documents for trial

Education

MASTER'S IN LIBRARY SCIENCE | December 2025 | University of North Texas

JURIS DOCTORATE | December 1995 | University of Houston Law Center

BACHELOR OF ARTS | May 1991 | Southwestern University

Major: History | Minors: English and Business

Certification/License

Texas Teaching Certificate – Region XI Alternative Certification Program

2008-2009 Probationary, 2009-Present Standard

English Language Arts and Reading Grades 4-12

Social Studies Grades 4-8

English as a Second Language

Licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas for the General Practice of Law, May 1996

HYATTYE O. SIMMONS

(hsimmons@hostxattorneyatlaw.net: 469-499-6046)

LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE:

- **Assistant Municipal Court Judge**, (August 2023 – Present): *City of Denton, Texas*.
- **Presiding Municipal Court Judge**, (January 2019 – Present): *City of Combine, Texas*.
- **Associate Municipal Court Judge**, (January 2019 – July 2022): *City of Seagoville, Texas*.
- **Associate Municipal Court Judge**, (May 2020 – July 2022): *Town of Sunnyvale, Texas*.
- **Legal Consultant & Representative*** (April 2015 – Present): *Hyattye O. Simmons, Attorney & Counselor at law*.
- **Of Counsel** (April 2014 – April 2015): *Dean International, Inc.*
- **Of Counsel/Partner** (April 2013 – April 2014): *Mahomes Bolden PC*.
- **General Counsel** (March 2007 – March 2012, Ret.): *Dallas Area Rapid Transit*.
- **Interim General Counsel** (January 2007 – March 2007): *Dallas Area Rapid Transit*.
- **Senior Assistant General Counsel IV** (August 1998 – March 2007): *Dallas Area Rapid Transit*.
- **Chief Counsel, Tort Litigation Division** [Assistant General Counsel III] (January 1992 – August 1998): *Dallas Area Rapid Transit*.
- **Assistant General Counsel II** (February 1988 - January 1992): *Dallas Area Rapid Transit*.
- **Assistant City Attorney** (February 1987 - February 1988): *City of Dallas*.
- **General Counsel** (February 1986 - February 1987): *Texas Secretary of State's Office*.
- **Assistant General Counsel** (November 1984 - February 1986): *Texas Secretary of State's Office*.

** In Texas, municipal judges are allowed to have a law practice: Serves as an appearance counsel, and provides legal advice, compliance advice, & internal legal process review to businesses and governmental entities.*

PRO BONO SERVICE AS A NON-PROFIT GENERAL COUNSEL:

- Dallas Asian American Youth Orchestra (**September 2014 – Present**).
- Dallas FBI Citizens' Academy Alumni Association (December 2018 – August 2021).
- DFW Asian American Citizen Council (September 2012 – September 2018).
- InfraGard National Members Alliance (**September 2022 – Present**; September 2017 – April 2020; Deputy General Counsel, February 2022 – September 2022).
- InfraGard North Texas Members Alliance (January 2016 – September 2017).

LEGAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

- Region 3 Director, Board of Directors – Texas Municipal Courts Association and Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (September 2023 - Present).
- Adjunct Professor of Law – University of North Texas Dallas College of Law (January 2019 - Present).
- Fellow – Dallas Bar Foundation (March 2018 – May 2025).
- Fellow – Texas Bar Foundation (February 2018 – Present).
- Member – International Association of Privacy Professionals (August 2016 – Present).
- Fellow – Litigation Counsel of America (July 2016 – Present).
- Life Fellow – American Bar Foundation (January 2015 – Present).
- Life Fellow - American Board of Trial Advocates (May 2015 – Present).

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

- American Bar Association
- American Bar Foundation
- American Board of Trial Advocates
- American Inn of Courts
- College of the State Bar of Texas
- Dallas Bar Association
- Litigation Counsel of America
- Society of Legal Scholars (Texas Bar College)
- Texas Association of Defense Counsel
- Texas Bar Association (licensed November 1984)
- Texas Bar Foundation
- Texas District and County Attorneys Association
- Texas General Counsel Forum
- Texas Municipal Courts Association
- Texas Municipal Courts Education Center

STATE BAR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

- Advisory Member, State Bar of Texas Pattern Jury Charges - Oversight Committee (Appointed June 2025 – June 2026)
- Chair, State Bar of Texas Standing Committee on Pattern Jury Charges – General Negligence, Intentional Personal Torts & Workers’ Compensation (Appointed June 2021 – June 2022; Reappointed June 2022 – June 2025).
- Member, State Bar of Texas Standing Committee on Pattern Jury Charges – General Negligence, Intentional Personal Torts & Workers’ Compensation (Appointed June 2013 – June 2016; Reappointed June 2016 – June 2019, June 2019 – June 2022 & June 2022 – June 2025).
- Member, Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee of the State Bar of Texas, Dallas District 6 Subcommittee (Appointed April 2013 – Present).

EDUCATION:

Legal Education: University of Texas School of Law, Austin, Texas - J.D., May 1984.

Pre-Legal: Lamar University¹, Beaumont, Texas - B.S. (Government), December 1979; completed 4-year program in 2 1/2 years with High Honors.

¹ Recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

ALISSA A. JANKE

P.O. BOX 560062 • THE COLONY, TEXAS 75056
PHONE: (469) 223-6587 • E-MAIL: ALISSA@JANKELAWFIRM.COM

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Judicial Experience

Town of Copper Canyon

Copper Canyon, Texas

Presiding Judge, March 2025 – Present

- Preside over all hearings from pre-trial, trial, and post adjudication management of cases involving show cause hearings.
- Review and sign blood warrants.

Town of Cross Roads

Cross Roads, Texas

Presiding Judge, October 2024 – Present

Associate Judge, September 2024

- Preside over all hearings from pre-trial, trial, and post adjudication management of cases involving show cause hearings.
- Review and sign blood warrants.

Town of Northlake

Northlake, Texas

Associate Judge, February 2024 – Present

- Preside over all hearings from pre-trial, trial, and post adjudication management of cases involving show cause hearings.
- Review and sign blood warrants.
- Perform magistrations of inmates in jail.

Denton County

Denton, Texas

County Jail Magistrate, January 2024 – Present

- Perform magistrations of inmates in jail.

Town of Flower Mound

Flower Mound, Texas

Presiding Judge, July 2024 – Present

Associate Judge, June 2022 – July 2024

- Preside over all hearings from pre-trial, trial, and post adjudication management of cases involving show cause hearings.
- Review and sign blood warrants.
- Perform magistrations of inmates in jail.

City of The Colony

The Colony, Texas

Associate Judge, July 2018 – Present

- Preside over all hearings from pre-trial, trial, and post adjudication management of cases involving show cause hearings.
- Review and sign blood warrants.
- Perform magistrations of inmates in jail.

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Attorney Experience

Janke Law Firm

The Colony, Texas

Attorney, February 2016 – Present

- Prepare estate planning documents for clients, including wills, powers of attorney, HIPAA authorizations, directives to physicians, declarations of guardian, disposition of remains, and transfer on death deeds.
- Represent clients in probate proceedings, including independent administrations, heirship determinations, muniments of title, small estate affidavits, and affidavits of heirship.
- Prepare NFA/gun trusts for clients interested in obtaining/using firearms and parts governed by the National Firearms Act.
- Serve as court-appointed Attorney Ad Litem and/or Guardian Ad Litem in personal injury suits involving minors, heirship, guardianship, and tax cases.

Butler Law Firm, P.C.

Flower Mound, Texas

Of Counsel, February 2016 – October 2017

- Represented owners and general contractors in construction litigation cases.

W.T. Skip Leake, P.C.

Arlington, Texas

Of Counsel, June 2013 – February 2016

- Represented individuals and small to mid-sized businesses in commercial litigation cases arising from breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, DTPA violations, partnership disputes, defamation, foreclosures, and bankruptcy.
- Prepared estate planning documents for clients, including wills, powers of attorney, HIPAA authorizations, directives to physicians, declarations of guardian, and disposition of remains.
- Represented clients in probate proceedings, including independent administrations, heirship determinations, muniments of title, and small estate affidavits.
- Represented residential and commercial tenants and landlords in landlord/tenant disputes, including lease violations and evictions.

Epiq Systems

Dallas, Texas

Attorney Document Reviewer, April 2013 – June 2013

- Reviewed documents of corporate client subject to SEC investigation to determine whether documents were privileged and coded according to client specifications.

Adkerson, Hauder & Bezney, P.C.

Dallas, Texas

Civil Litigation/Insurance Defense Associate, June 2012 – April 2013

- Defended insureds in personal injury and property damage cases arising from motor vehicle accidents, premises liability, and non-subscriber worker's compensation claims.

Wentz & Zavarelli, L.L.P.

Irving, Texas

Civil Litigation/Insurance Defense Associate, August 2008 – June 2012

- Defended insureds in personal injury and property damage cases arising from motor vehicle accidents, premises liability, health care liability, and sexual abuse/molestation claims.

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BAR ADMISSIONS AND EDUCATION

Bar Admissions

- State Bar of Texas, 2008
- Eastern District of Texas, 2012
- Northern District of Texas, 2013
- Western District of Texas, 2019

Texas Wesleyan University School of Law
(now known as Texas A&M University School of Law)

Fort Worth, Texas

Juris Doctor, December 2007

The University of Texas at Dallas

Richardson, Texas

B.S., Business Administration, 2003

The Professional Development Institute

Dallas, Texas

Paralegal Certificate, 2003

CERTIFICATIONS

Attorney Ad Litem, State Bar of Texas

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Secretary, Next Steps The Colony, October 2020-Present

Member, Building Leadership Team, Peters Colony Elementary, August 2020-Present

The Colony Chamber of Commerce

Chairman, 2022

Chair, Education Committee, 2019-2022

Board Member, 2014-2023

Lakeside Leaders of ABWA

Vice President, 2021-2022

Board Member, 2016-2023

Chair, Covenants Committee, Legends Texas Homeowners Association, 2014-2022

Member, Board of Directors, Collin County Young Lawyers Association, 2014-2018