

# **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**, Coppell, 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 University<sup>1</sup>, Beaumont, Texas - B.S. (Government), December 1979; completed 4-year program in 2 1/2 years with High Honors.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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**

*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.

**Copper Canyon, Texas**

**Town of Cross Roads**

*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.

**Cross Roads, Texas**

**Town of Northlake**

*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 registrations of inmates in jail.

**Northlake, Texas**

**Denton County**

*County Jail Magistrate, January 2024 – Present*

- Perform registrations of inmates in jail.

**Denton, Texas**

**Town of Flower Mound**

*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 registrations of inmates in jail.

**Flower Mound, Texas**

**City of The Colony**

*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 registrations of inmates in jail.

**The Colony, Texas**

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

**Attorney Experience**

**Janke Law Firm**

*Attorney, February 2016 – Present*

**The Colony, Texas**

- 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.**

*Of Counsel, February 2016 – October 2017*

**Flower Mound, Texas**

- Represented owners and general contractors in construction litigation cases.

**W.T. Skip Leake, P.C.**

*Of Counsel, June 2013 – February 2016*

**Arlington, Texas**

- 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**

*Attorney Document Reviewer, April 2013 – June 2013*

**Dallas, Texas**

- 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.**

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

**Dallas, Texas**

- 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.**

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

**Irving, Texas**

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

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

**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)  
*Juris Doctor, December 2007*

**Fort Worth, Texas**

**The University of Texas at Dallas**  
*B.S., Business Administration, 2003*

**Richardson, Texas**

**The Professional Development Institute**  
*Paralegal Certificate, 2003*

**Dallas, Texas**

**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**