

Jennifer Walker Elrod

Jennifer Walker Elrod has served as a Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit since 2007. In 2002, Judge Elrod was appointed and then twice elected Judge of the 190th District Court of Harris County, Texas, where she spent over five years presiding over more than 200 jury and non-jury trials.

Judge Elrod is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Baylor University, where she was the Outstanding Graduating Senior in the Honors Program and was later named an Outstanding Young Alumna. She graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where she was an Ames Moot Court finalist and Senior Editor of the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*. She clerked for the Honorable Sim Lake in the Southern District of Texas. Before serving as a judge, Judge Elrod was in private practice, focusing on civil litigation, antitrust, and employment matters.

She is a member of the Board of Advisors for the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*, the Baylor University Board of Regents, the Board of the Houston Urban Debate League, and the American Law Institute. She has served as the Board Chair of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics, on the State Bar of Texas Committee on Pattern Jury Charges, and as Chair of the Board of the Gulf Coast Legal Foundation (now Lone Star Legal Aid).

Judge Elrod is the recipient of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics 2015 Chief Justice Jack Pope Professionalism Award. In 2013, Judge Elrod was featured in the book *Learning to Lead: What Works for Women in Law*, a publication of the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession. She has received the Judge Thomas Gibbs Gee award for her *pro bono* work and has twice received the President's Award from the Houston Bar Association. In 2004, the Houston Young Lawyers Association named her the Woodrow Seals Outstanding Young Lawyer of

Houston, and in 2012, HYLAA presented her with the Outstanding Mentor Award. In 2008, the Mexican-American Bar Association of Texas named her Judge of the Year.

Judge Elrod has served as the M.D. Anderson Visiting Public Service Professor at the Texas Tech University School of Law, as Jurist-in-Residence at Brigham Young University Law School, and has taught legal writing at the University of Houston Law Center. Judge Elrod also serves as an instructor in the Guide to the Basics of Law Practice, which is a requirement for every new lawyer in Texas. She has presented the Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Distinguished Lecture at Washington and Lee University School of Law and delivered the keynote address at the convocation to install Susan Saab Fortney as the Distinguished Professor of Legal Ethics at Hofstra University. She is a frequent speaker on the topics of trial and appellate procedure, ethics, employment law, and constitutional law.

As a judge on the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Judge Elrod has authored hundreds of published opinions, including opinions for the *en banc* court in *United States v. Rodriguez*, 711 F.3d 541 (5th Cir. 2013) (criminal sentencing); *E.E.O.C. v. Bob Brothers Construction. Co., L.L.C.*, 731 F.3d 444 (5th Cir. 2013) (Title VII sex discrimination); *Jimenez v. Wood County, Texas*, 660 F.3d 841 (5th Cir. 2011) (jury instructions), and *Morgan v. Swanson*, 659 F.3d 359 (5th Cir. 2011) (First Amendment).

Judge Elrod's publications include: *Don't Mess with Texas Judges: In Praise of the State Judiciary*, 37 Harv. J.L. & Pub. Pol'y 629 (2014); *For Good: Enriching Your Practice and Your Life Through Pro Bono and Community Service*, 4 Hous. L. Rev.: Off the Rec. 1 (2013); *Is the Jury Still Out?: A Case for the Continued Viability of the American Jury*, 44 Tex. Tech L. Rev. 303 (2012); and *W(h)ither the Jury? The Diminishing Role of the Jury Trial in our Legal System*, 68 Wash. & Lee L. Rev. 3 (2011).

Judge Elrod met her husband Hal while both attended Baylor

University. Now married for 28 years, they have two daughters ages 16 and 19.