

**Mara Asya Blatt** has been an appellate Assistant United States Attorney with the Western District of Texas since 2003. Her docket takes in a complete range of criminal substantive and sentencing issues. In addition to her duties appellate duties, she has most recently served as her district's point of contact for the First Step Act. Since 2005, she has spearheaded her district's response to Supreme Court and Fifth Circuit categorical approach jurisprudence, and application of that analysis to many statutory and guidelines issues. In both roles, she has actively collaborated with other appellate AUSAs from around the country, the Department of Justice, and the Office of the Solicitor General. For two years Ms. Blatt served on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee's USSG § 2L1.2 working group contributing to the drafting and defense of the 2016 Guideline amendments to USSG § 2L1.2. She has been a frequent CLE lecturer for the Fifth Circuit Conference, the Fifth Circuit Bar Association, the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina and the State Bar of Texas. She currently serves on the Board of the Fifth Circuit Bar Association and the El Paso Federal Bar Association. Prior to her appointment as an AUSA, Ms. Blatt was in private appellate practice specializing in civil federal and state employment, insurance, and personal injury cases. She has been honored to serve as a law fellow to United States District Judge Jack B. Weinstein (ED-NY), a law clerk for United States District Judge Harry Lee Hudspeth (WD-TX), and a senior staff attorney for the 8th Judicial District Court of Appeals (El Paso). She has an A.B. (Political Science) from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, and a J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City.

**Lyle W. Cayce** obtained a Juris Doctorate from the University Of Kentucky School Of Law and then served 27 years with the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Among other military assignments, he served as Senior Litigation Attorney for the United States Army Litigation Division, where he represented the Army in appeals to 11 different Circuit Courts of Appeals. He served as the Senior Legal Officer (Staff Judge Advocate) at three Army installations; as the senior U.S. Legal Officer for U.S. Army forces in Hungary in 1998; as Legal Advisor of a Multi-National Division in Bosnia between September 2000 and October 2001; and as the Staff Judge Advocate for the Third Infantry Division during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. He became the tenth Clerk of Court for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on April 1, 2010, after serving 18 months as Chief Deputy Clerk for the court. Mr. Cayce has assisted the Administrative Office

of the Courts and Judicial Conference of the United States through service on national level groups, including the Information Technology Advisory Council, which recommends deployment of Information Technology programs, systems, and services for the Judiciary. He currently serves as chair of the Appellate Clerks Advisory Group.

**Craig Haynes** focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on energy litigation. He represents major oil companies, large and small independents, gas plant owners, and other oil and gas interest owners in royalty owner litigation, class action litigation, pricing disputes, take-or-pay issues, operational issues, development and drainage claims, pooling and unitization issues, litigation of administrative disputes, disputes between working interest owners, and litigation involving issues arising in the shale plays. He serves as National Coordinating Counsel for civil royalty cases for one of the largest natural gas producers in the U.S.

**Allison Jones** has settled, mediated and litigated hundreds of employment law cases. Several of her cases have been featured on 60 Minutes, CNN and other national news networks.

Since 2015, Ms. Jones has served as an instructor for the L.S.U. Law School Trial Advocacy Program. Ms. Jones is also a frequent speaker at seminars and has numerous publications in local and state bar journals. She has presented at the Judicial Conference, hosted by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit for the years of 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018, and has served as the Program Chair for the Appellate Advocacy Seminar sponsored by the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit. In addition to these bar association seminars, she is a frequent speaker at the Louisiana State Bar Association and for Sterling Education Services and local organizations.

Ms. Jones has been invited to join the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, and she is currently a Senior Fellow with the Litigation Counsel of America, an invitation only trial lawyer honorary society representing less than one half of one percent of American lawyers. Fellows are selected and invited into the Fellowship after being

evaluated for effectiveness and accomplishment in litigation and trial work, along with ethical reputation.

**Judge Philip R. Martinez** was born in El Paso, received his B.A. from the University of Texas at El Paso in 1979, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1982. He was in private practice in El Paso, Texas from 1982 to 1990. He was elected Judge of County Court at Law #1, El Paso County, Texas in 1990. Nine months later, he was appointed by Governor Ann Richards as Judge, 327th Judicial District Court, Texas over which he presided until 2002. On October 2001, Judge Martinez was nominated by President George W. Bush to his current position as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, having been confirmed by the United States Senate in February 2002. He is the Immediate Past Chair of the National Conference of Federal Trial Judges (ABA Judicial Division), a member of the Court Administration and Case Management Committee of the Judicial Conference, a member of the Fifth Circuit Judicial Council, and is active in numerous professional and civic organizations. As of January, 2019, Judge Martinez has served in a judicial position for 28 years.

**Chief Judge Priscilla Owen** joined the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in June of 2005 after serving on the Supreme Court of Texas for ten years. Born in Matagorda County, Texas, Chief Judge Owen attended primary and secondary schools in Waco, Texas, and received her undergraduate degree from Baylor University with honors. She received her doctor of jurisprudence from the Baylor University School of Law, also with honors. Before becoming a Justice on the Supreme Court of Texas in 1995, Chief Judge Owen was with the firm of Andrews & Kurth for seventeen years, based in Houston, where she was a partner practicing primarily in the commercial litigation area, with some appellate work, administrative law matters, and a smattering of corporate finance.

**Professor Ellen S. Podgor** is a professor at Stetson University in Deland, Florida. A former deputy prosecutor and criminal defense attorney, Professor Ellen S. Podgor teaches in the areas of white collar crime, criminal law and criminal procedure: adjudication. She has previously taught other courses, such as professional responsibility, international criminal law, criminal procedure, law and sexual orientation seminar, and trial advocacy. She served as Stetson's inaugural Associate Dean of Faculty Development and Electronic Education and also served as a LeRoy Highbaugh Sr. Research Chair and presently serves as the Gary R. Trombley Family White-Collar Crime Research Professor. She is the co-author of numerous books including [\*White Collar Crime in a Nutshell\*](#), [\*Understanding International Criminal Law\*](#), [\*Mastering Criminal Law\*](#), [\*White Collar Crime\*](#)

[\*Hornbook\*](#), and [\*Mastering Criminal Procedure Vol. I\*](#) and [\*Vol. II\*](#). She has authored more than 70 law review articles and essays in the areas of computer crime, international criminal law, lawyer's ethics, criminal discovery, prosecutorial discretion, corporate criminality, and other white collar crime topics. These have been published in journals such as the *Boston College Law Review*, *Hastings Law Journal*, *Washington & Lee Law Review*, *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*, *Yale Law Journal Pocket Part*, *Washington University Law Review*, *Illinois Law Review*, *Fordham Law Review*, *Cardozo Law Review*, *U.C. Davis Law Review*, *American University Law Review*, *Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics*, *American Criminal Law Review*, *Vanderbilt En Banc*, *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, and many others.

Podgor has been interviewed on National Public Radio and been quoted in newspapers across the country, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, *National Law Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Business Week*. She is the editor of the highly ranked [White Collar Crime Prof Blog](#). She is the chair of the Advisory Committee of the NACDL White-Collar Criminal Defense College at Stetson.

She has taught at other law schools including Georgia State University College of Law and St. Thomas University College of Law, and been a visiting professor at University of Georgia School of Law, George Washington University Law School and held a visiting endowed chair position at University of Alabama School of Law. She also was a visiting scholar at Yale Law School. Podgor served for six years as a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) and presently serves on the board of directors of the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law (ISRCL) and is a past-president of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS). She is a past chair of the Association of American Law School's (AALS) Sections on Criminal Justice and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues. Professor Podgor is an honorary member of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers (ABCL) and also is a member of the American Law Institute.

In 2010, Podgor received the Robert C. Heeney Award, the highest honor given by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She is also the recipient of the Dickerson-Brown Award for Excellence in Faculty Scholarship, the Homer & Dolly Hand Award for Excellence in Research, the J. Ben Watkins Award for Excellence in the Legal Profession, the Southeast Association of Law Schools Distinguished Service Award and the ABA Criminal Justice Section Raeder-Taslitz Award.

**Macey Reasoner Stokes** heads Baker Botts' Appellate Section, which U.S. News & World Report ranks Tier One in the National, Austin, Dallas and Houston categories in Best Lawyers in America, and which Chambers USA lists as Band One in Texas. Over her 25-year career, she has handled a wide variety of civil appeals and extraordinary proceedings in both state and federal court, with extensive experience in energy litigation, and has frequently provided appellate assistance at trial in complex, high-stakes litigation. Macey has been Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1998. She serves as President of the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit and is an Executive Committee Member, Trustee, and Past President of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society, as well as a fellow of the American Law Institute and a Past Chair of the Appellate Section of the State Bar of Texas.