

## MASTER OF JUDICIAL STUDIES PROGRAM 2021-2023 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

### **Micaela Alvarez**

**Judge, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas**

*McAllen, Texas*



Micaela Alvarez was born in Donna, Texas on June 8, 1958 to Evencio and Macaria Alvarez. Judge Alvarez graduated from Donna High School in 1976, after only three years in high school. She attended the University of Texas at Austin where, in 1980, she obtained a bachelor's degree in Social Work. Judge Alvarez then attended the University of Texas School of Law and graduated in 1989. After graduation from law school, Judge Alvarez returned to the Rio Grande Valley where she began practicing law with the firm of Atlas & Hall, L.L.P. She left that firm and joined the Law Offices of Ronald G. Hole in 1993. In 1995, Judge Alvarez was appointed by then Governor Bush to serve as a District Judge for the 139<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court in Hidalgo County. Judge Alvarez was the first woman to sit as a District Judge in Hidalgo County. In 1997, she returned to private practice and was a founding partner in the Law Offices of Hole & Alvarez, L.L.P. In mid-2004, Judge Alvarez was nominated by President Bush to serve as a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. She was confirmed by the

Senate in November 2004. Judge Alvarez first served in the Laredo Division of the Southern District of Texas where she was again the first female District Judge and now serves as a United States District Judge in McAllen, Texas. From 2015 to 2017, Judge Alvarez served as the Director for the Hispanic National Bar Association's Moot Court Competition. In 2017, Judge Alvarez joined the Committee on Defender Services, and as of October 2020, Judge Alvarez serves as Chair of the Committee on Defender Services. Additionally, Judge Alvarez serves as a Judicial Trainor for The Department of Justice's Office of Prosecutorial Development and Training and as a speaker for the State Bar of Texas Continuing Legal Education Programs.

### **Patricia O'Connell Alvarez**

**Justice, Texas Fourth Court of Appeals**

*San Antonio, Texas*



I am currently a Justice in the Fourth Court of Appeals, a position I have held since 2013. In 2018, I was re-elected to serve an additional six-year term. My district covers 32 counties in South Texas where more than half the population is Hispanic. I am one of a few (about four) judges in the United States who were born and raised in México. I attended my first years of college in México. In 1979, I moved to the United States with my then 6-year-old son, Eduardo. Once in the United States, I saw the importance of continuing my college education. After working as a waitress, a blood bank recruiter, a teller, and all sorts of other jobs, I applied for admission at various colleges. My poor command of the written English language proved to be a impediment, but I persevered and was finally admitted to the University of Texas at San Antonio on a probationary basis. I graduated from UTSA (BA '82) and was then accepted to the master program

(also on a probationary basis). Before I concluded my master program, I decided to pursue a legal career. I was admitted to the University of Texas School of Law where I graduated in 1987. While in law school, my activities were limited to studying, working and taking care of Eduardo. It was all well worth it! By the time I graduated from the UT Law School, I had a command of the written English language, the American culture, and was in love with the United States Constitution! For 25 years I tried cases in state and federal courts in South Texas; I mostly handled complex civil trial matters. I am admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, the State of Florida and the State of Texas. I have been invited to lecture in multiple states by various organizations including the ABA, the State Bar of Texas and the DRI. Throughout my career, I made it my priority to continue educating myself. I am Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. At the time of my election, I was classified by Martindale-Hubbell rating as an "AV Preeminent" attorney. I am an active member of the Oil & Gas Texas Pattern Jury

Charge Committee and continue to lecture on current Texas legal topics. The past seven years as a justice have been the most rewarding in my legal career. I have had the opportunity to think, analyze and apply the law. I have learned from every case before me. I also remain mindful of the importance to the judicial system that I give each case my full attention and thought. With this end in mind, I chose Duke Law School's Master of Judicial Studies to continue enhancing my legal skills and thought. As to my private life, I am a yoga instructor who loves to cook, travel, scuba dive, ride motorcycles, and enjoy time with family, including my five grandchildren.

## **J. Campbell Barker**

**Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas**

*Tyler, Texas*



The Honorable J. Campbell Barker was confirmed in 2019 as a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, with a duty station in Tyler, Texas. From 2015 until 2019, Barker served as Deputy Solicitor General for the State of Texas. Before that, he was a partner in Texas litigation boutique Yetter Coleman LLP. Barker started his career in the United States Department of Justice, serving in the Appellate Section of the Department's Criminal Division and in the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. He clerked for the Honorable William C. Bryson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the Honorable John M. Walker, Jr. of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He graduated first in his class from the University of Texas School of Law and holds a Bachelor of Science degree, summa cum laude, in computer engineering from Texas A&M University.

## **James P. Bassett**

**Associate Justice, New Hampshire Supreme Court**

*Concord, New Hampshire*



Justice James P. Bassett was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut in 1956. He received a B.A. in Government from Dartmouth College in 1978, and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1982. He served as a law clerk for Chief Judge Andrew A. Caffrey of the Federal District Court in Boston, Massachusetts from 1982-83. He worked as an associate at Hale and Dorr, now WilmerHale, in Boston, Massachusetts until 1985, when he moved to Canterbury, New Hampshire and joined the Concord law firm Orr & Reno. His practice focused on medical malpractice defense, Right-to-Know and First Amendment litigation, and he argued a landmark case decided by the New Hampshire Supreme Court securing the right of the media to bring cameras into trial courts in New Hampshire. Justice Bassett had an active appellate practice, arguing dozens of cases before the New Hampshire Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He was appointed to the New Hampshire Supreme Court as its 107<sup>th</sup> Associate Justice in 2012. In 2016, Justice Bassett was appointed by Chief Justice Roberts to serve as a member of the federal Advisory Committee on Rules of Evidence, and he was recently reappointed to another three-year term. Prior to serving on the bench, he had a leadership role in many non-profit organizations, including serving as chairman of the 2008-09 Merrimack County United Way Campaign, and as a member of boards of New Hampshire Public Radio, the Friends of the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, and the Canterbury Shaker Village. He also served on the Campaign Leadership Council for the NH Campaign for Legal Services. For more than twenty five years, Justice Bassett was active in town government in Canterbury, sitting on many commissions and committees, and serving numerous terms on the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board, including several years as chairman of each board. In 1994, he was an unsuccessful candidate for the United States House of Representatives. Justice Bassett has been married for 37 years to his wife, Ellen, a palliative care and hospice physician. They have three adult children and two grandchildren.

## **Allegra Collins**

### **Judge, North Carolina Court of Appeals**

*Raleigh, North Carolina*



Judge Allegra Collins is a judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. She is also an adjunct professor, former Chair of the N.C. Bar Association's Appellate Practice Section, and member of its Appellate Rules Committee. Prior to taking the bench on January 1, 2019, she was a professor at Campbell Law School where she directed its externship program and taught, among other classes, Judicial Writing and Appellate Brief Writing. She also had an active appellate practice before the N.C. Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. Prior to joining the faculty at Campbell Law School, she spent four years at the N.C. Supreme Court as an Assistant Appellate Reporter. Before that, she spent more than three years at the N.C. Court of Appeals as a law clerk to the Honorable Linda Stephens. Judge Collins is a Campbell Law graduate and completed her undergraduate studies at UCLA and the College of William and Mary, where she played on the varsity tennis teams. At UCLA, she was a member of the

NCAA finalist and semi-final tennis teams. She also represented the United States at the Pan American Games in 1999 and 2003 as a member of the United States Women's Team Handball Team. Judge Collins and her husband, Superior Court Judge Bryan Collins, reside in Raleigh with their eight-year-old daughter and seventeen-year-old son.

## **Veronica L. Duffy**

### **Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court, District of South Dakota**

*Sioux Falls, South Dakota*



Veronica L. Duffy graduated magna cum laude from Black Hills State University in December, 1986, with a Bachelor of Science degree in English. She entered the Peace Corps and served in Sri Lanka, teaching English as a second language. She graduated first in her class from Creighton University School of Law in May, 1992, serving as a Lead Articles Editor on the Creighton Law Review. Thereafter, she clerked for the late Richard H. Battey, United States District Judge. She then practiced law for 13 years, first at Bangs McCullen Law Firm and then with her late husband, Patrick, at Duffy and Duffy Law Firm. While a private lawyer, Judge Duffy handled a wide variety of civil and criminal work, including trial and appellate work. She was admitted to practice before South Dakota state courts, the United States District Court, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. She was first appointed a United States Magistrate Judge on June 11, 2007, and has served in

that capacity for 14 years, first in Rapid City, South Dakota, and now in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Judge Duffy and her late husband have seven wonderful sons who are adults now. Judge Duffy is a member of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association, the American Bar Association, the South Dakota Bar Association and Women in Law. She has published law review articles on criminal law and Indian law.

## **Willie J. Epps, Jr.**

### **Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri**

*Jefferson City, Missouri*



Judge Willie J. Epps, Jr. was born in Mississippi and raised in Missouri. He is a graduate of St. Louis Country Day School, Amherst College, and Harvard Law School. He began his legal career in service to our country as a U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, and Assistant Special Counsel for The Waco Investigation. Later, he was named chief compliance officer for a *Fortune* 500 company, partner at two law firms, and head of litigation for a financial services company. Judge Epps is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He serves on the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Federal Trial Judges. He teaches annually at Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop. Prior to being appointed a federal judge, Judge Epps was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*.

## **Douglas M. Fasciale**

### **Judge, New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division**

*Newark, New Jersey*



In 1986, Judge Fasciale graduated from Seton Hall Law School in Newark, New Jersey. He served his judicial clerkship with the Honorable John E. Keefe, J.S.C. (J.A.D., retired), and then practiced law as a trial attorney for approximately eighteen years. In 2000, he became a Certified Civil Trial Attorney by the New Jersey Supreme Court, a designation that was, at the time, held by fewer than three percent of New Jersey attorneys. In 2004, Governor James McGreevey appointed Judge Fasciale to the New Jersey Superior Court for a seven-year term. In 2011, Governor Chris Christie re-appointed him to the Superior Court, where he now serves as a tenured judge. He has judicial experience at the trial and appellate levels. At the trial level, he served as a judge in the Civil, Criminal, and Family Parts of the Superior Court. Before his elevation to the appellate court, the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court named him as the Presiding Judge of the Civil and Criminal Parts, and as Supervising Judge of the Special Civil Part of the Law Division. He also served as a Drug Court judge and as a judge of the mental health court. In May 2010, the Chief Justice elevated Judge Fasciale to the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court, which is an intermediate court of appeals. He is currently a Presiding Judge in the Appellate Division and writes approximately 100 judicial opinions annually, adjudicating appeals from final administrative agency decisions, and from judgments and orders of the state Civil, General Equity, Family, Criminal, Tax, and Workers' Compensation courts. He has published numerous opinions. Judge Fasciale is a first-generation U.S. citizen and enjoys exploring his Italian roots by traveling and cooking. As an adult, he learned to play his father's tenor and alto saxophones, which his father played during the 1940s. He served as the President of the Westfield, New Jersey Rotary Club, and as a board member for the Westfield Symphony, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. He enjoys watching baseball and football, especially the New York Yankees and New York Jets.

## **Pamela Goodwine**

### **Judge, Kentucky Court of Appeals, Fifth Appellate District**

*Lexington, Kentucky*



Judge Pamela R. Goodwine was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. She moved to Lexington in November of 1979 to begin her career as a court reporter. She began her studies at the University of Kentucky in January of 1980. Despite many tragedies and obstacles, Judge Goodwine graduated with honors from the University of Kentucky, Carol Martin Gatton College of Business in 1991. She graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1994. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky in October 1994. Judge Goodwine was employed by the law firm of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs from 1994 until her appointment to the bench in August of 1999. Judge Goodwine became the first African American female to be appointed and subsequently elected to the bench in Fayette County, Kentucky. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Goodwine chaired the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. She also served as a commissioner of that agency. She was inducted into the Carol Martin Gatton College of Business and Economics Alumni Hall of Fame in February 2000. Judge Goodwine became the Chief Regional District Judge in December 2002. Judge Goodwine was elected to the Fayette Circuit Court in November 2003 to complete an unexpired term. She was elected to a full term in November 2006. Judge Goodwine served as Vice-Chief of the Fayette Circuit Court from 2006-2016. In December of 2016, she became Chief Judge of the Fayette Circuit Court. In November of 2018, Judge Goodwine was elected to the Kentucky Court of Appeals for the 5<sup>th</sup> Appellate District, which covers 11 counties, including Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Mercer, Scott and Woodford counties. In June 2012, Judge Goodwine was certified as a Jazzercise fitness instructor. She enjoys teaching fitness classes, sports and interior design. She is married to Lee A. Padgett, Jr.

## **Shera Grant**

### **Judge, Alabama Tenth Judicial Circuit**

*Birmingham, Alabama*



Judge Shera Grant is the Presiding District Court Judge in the Civil Division of Jefferson County. In January 2016, she was appointed by the Governor of Alabama. In November 2016, she was elected and won a full term in the general election. Judge Grant graduated summa cum laude from Alabama State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems. Judge Grant attended law school at Louisiana State University School of Law. She also studied International and Comparative Law at the Université d'Aix-Marseille III in Aix en Provence, France. She graduated from Louisiana State University School of Law with dual degrees, Juris Doctor (J.D.) and a Bachelor of Civil Law (B.C.L.). Prior to taking the bench, Judge Grant practiced in a variety of areas. She practiced as a prosecutor with the City of Atlanta and the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office in Georgia. After several years as a prosecutor, she began her own law practice in Alabama handling a variety of civil and criminal cases. Judge Grant also practiced as a Deputy Public Defender with the Community Law Office. There, she

helped implement the strategic vision for the newly formed office and developed a youth development program for high school students. She has received several awards for her service and dedication. Judge Grant is a member of the Alabama and Georgia State bars. She and her husband have two children.

## **Keith Gregory**

### **Judge, North Carolina Superior Court**

*Raleigh, North Carolina*



In 2010 Keith O. Gregory was appointed, and later elected to serve as a District Court Judge. Judge Gregory was elected in October 2017, by his peers, consisting of 273 District Court Judges across North Carolina, as President of the North Carolina Association of District Court Judges. In May of 2018 Judge Gregory was appointed to the Superior Court bench. In November of 2018 Judge Gregory was elected to retain his Superior Court seat. Judge Gregory graduated from the University of Virginia in 1988 and North Carolina Central University School of Law in 1994.

## **Roseann Ketchmark**

### **Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri**

*Jefferson City, Missouri*



Roseann Ketchmark was appointed to her position as a Federal District Court Judge in September of 2015 after 25 years of public service as a prosecutor for both the State of Missouri and the United States government. Judge Ketchmark received her law degree in 1990 from the University of Kansas School of Law and her bachelor's degree in nursing in 1986 from the University of Oklahoma. After law school, Judge Ketchmark began her legal career as an Assistant Prosecutor in Jackson County, Missouri, from 1990 to 1995 where she was assigned to the crimes against children and sex crimes unit. From 1995 to 2001, she served as First Assistant Prosecutor for Platte County, Missouri. In 2001, after participating in over 100 jury trials, Judge Ketchmark began her service in the United States government as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of Missouri. During her tenure as an Assistant United States Attorney, Judge Ketchmark held several management positions including First Assistant United States Attorney, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, and Counsel to the US Attorney.

**Klaudia Lozyk**  
**President, District Court**  
*Slupsk, Poland*



I have been a judge for 20 years since I was nominated as a District Court Judge by the President of Poland. I got my qualifications in the University of Gdansk where I received a Master of Law Degree. I have also completed several postgraduate studies for instance (European Law Faculty in Gdansk University; Foreign Policy Faculty at Collegium Civitas University in Warsaw, and Management of Public Establishment in Gdansk University. I have been presiding over criminal and family trials since 2000. Between 2005 and 2019 I served as the Head of District Court Penal Division, providing also the court administrative job. From 2011 to 2017 I served as the President of District Court in Slupsk. As an active member of International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) I took part in some events. (The Regional Conference for Women Judges in Morocco, Casablanca 2000, organized by International Development Law Organization (IDLO); The 61th Session of the United Nations` Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in headquarters of United Nation in New York City, March 2017; The Summit of Women Judges and Prosecutors on Human Trafficking and Organized Crime in Vatican City, Rome, Italy, 2017; and The Law, Justice and Development Week, organized by The World Bank, Washington DC, 2018. Travelling and my job as a judge are my biggest passions. I am glad when it is possible to combine these two. I enjoy on participating in various judicial events like seminars, workshops, conferences all over the world. I appreciate having the opportunity to meet judges from other countries and learn about different judicial system. I always care deeply about fair justice system. I have learned more about international service thanks to the European Judicial Programs. My primary concern is to care of judicial independence in my country. At the moment we have a rule-of-law crisis in Poland. Therefore, I am taking all legacy action in public space in defense of sovereignty of the courts and the independence of judges. Apart from being a judge, I am a mother of two children and a wife. I love looking after my family and taking care of my home. I am also an animal lover and owner of four wonderful cats.

**K. Nicole Mitchell**  
**Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas**  
*Tyler, Texas*



Judge Mitchell, a native Texan, was born and raised in Victoria, Texas. She graduated with honors from Baylor Law School after receiving both bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas A&M University. While at Baylor, Judge Mitchell served as the Senior Executive Editor of the Baylor Law Review, as well as Managing Editor of the Law Review's Texas Practice Edition. She also competed in mock trial and moot court. After law school, Judge Mitchell clerked for the Honorable Chief Judge Leonard Davis in the Eastern District of Texas before starting her civil practice at Fulbright & Jaworski (now Norton Rose Fulbright) in Houston, Texas. Judge Mitchell's practice focused primarily on the area of Health Law Litigation, but she also worked on patent cases and is licensed to practice before the USPTO. After her time at Fulbright & Jaworski, Judge Mitchell returned to the Eastern District of Texas to serve as the Chief Staff Attorney to Judge Davis. Judge Mitchell was sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge on August 16, 2013. In her time on the bench, Judge Mitchell has overseen numerous patent and general civil litigation cases as well as criminal cases. She also mediates cases pending in the Eastern District of Texas and the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Judge Mitchell currently serves as the President of the T. John Ward Inn of Courts and the Vice President of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association. In addition, Judge Mitchell serves as an adjunct faculty member and Jaworski Fellow at Baylor Law School where she regularly teaches in the Baylor Law Academy of the Advocate study abroad program in St. Andrews, Scotland. When not working, Judge Mitchell enjoys running, fishing, and spending time with her husband and four active boys.

**Karen Wells Roby**

**Chief Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana**

*New Orleans, Louisiana*



Judge Roby is the Chief United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She has served on the court for twenty three (23) years where she serves on the court’s technology committee. She has been active in the American Bar Association during her tenure on the bench and has served in various leadership roles and was responsible for the success of the Diverse Leaders Academy. Additionally, Judge Roby served in 2012 as President of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association (“FMJA”), a national organization of over 600 U.S. Magistrate Judges across the country. As President of the Association, she worked to secure pay raises for all active and recently retired federal magistrate judges. She is a graduate of Tulane Law School and Xavier University. Judge Roby serves on the Dean’s Advisory Board of Tulane Law

School where she also serves as Adjunct Professor and teaches a course on E-Discovery and Digital Evidence. Judge Roby recently joined other notables at the Georgetown Advanced E-Discovery Institute where she did an eDTalk on Diversity on the E-Team highlighting the importance of diversity on the E-Discovery. Her commitment to the community is unsurpassed. She was integral in saving her high school, has served as the coordinating judge over a pipeline program in New Orleans for the last ten years, and serving as a mentor to area young female lawyers where she hosts a quarterly round table to discuss career advancement issues of interest to the women.

**Xavier Rodriguez**

**Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas**

*Antonio, Texas*



Xavier Rodriguez is a former Texas Supreme Court Justice and currently sits on the bench as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas. Born in San Antonio, Texas, he received his bachelor’s degree from Harvard University, a master’s degree from the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Texas Law School. Prior to assuming the bench, he was a partner in the international law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski (now known as Norton Rose Fulbright). Judge Rodriguez is a frequent speaker on continuing legal education seminars and has authored numerous articles regarding employment law, discovery and arbitration issues. He is the editor of Essentials of E-Discovery (TexasBarBooks 2d ed. 2020). He is a member of The Sedona Conference Judicial Advisory Board, the Georgetown Advanced E-Discovery Institute Advisory Board, and serves as the Distinguished Visiting Jurist-in-Residence and adjunct professor of law at the St. Mary’s University School of

Law. He was elected to membership in the American Law Institute and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation. In 2011 he was awarded the Rosewood Gavel Award for outstanding judicial service from the St. Mary’s University School of Law. In 2017, he received the State Bar of Texas Gene Cavin Award for Excellence in CLE, recognizing his long-term contributions to continuing legal education. In 2021, he was presented the Texas Bar Foundation’s Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Jurist Award and TexasBarCle’s Pat Nester Innovation in Professional Development Award. He is Chair of the State Bar of Texas Litigation Section and Past Chair of the State Bar of Texas Labor and Employment Law Section and Past Chair of the State Bar of Texas Continuing Legal Education Committee.

## **Jack Sabatino**

### **Deputy Presiding Judge, New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division**

*Trenton, New Jersey*



Hon. Jack M. Sabatino is Deputy Presiding Judge for Administration of the New Jersey Appellate Division. He previously was a trial judge in Mercer County, where he presided over a hundred civil jury trials and where he also sat in the Family Part. Before his judicial appointment, he was an Associate Dean at Rutgers Law School in Camden, where he has taught Evidence for over twenty years. His career includes private practice in litigation, service as an Assistant State Attorney General, and full-time law teaching. Author of numerous articles, he chairs the N.J. Supreme Court Committee on Civil Practice, and also serves on the N.J. Supreme Court Committees on Evidence and Judicial Education. He is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a Member of the American Law Institute. He is a cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, where he is a regular co-instructor in the Winter Trial Advocacy

Workshop, and a summa cum laude graduate of Yale College.

## **Tsogt Tsend**

### **Judge, Administrative Court of Appeals**

*Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia*



Tsogt Tsend is currently a judge at the Administrative Court of Appeals, Mongolia, and he served as chief judge for two and half years when this appellate court was established in 2011. He is one of the first judges appointed when the administrative court was inaugurated in 2004 as the first specialized court. He studied at School of Law, National University of Mongolia, Willamette University College of Law (LL.M in transnational law), and Nagoya University Graduate School of Law, Japan (LL.D in comparative administrative law). He teaches as an associate professor of law (contracted) at School of Law, National University of Mongolia and has taught clinical, judicial and administrative courses since early 2000. Judge Tsend is active in both local and international association of judges and lives in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

## **Juan Villaseñor**

### **Judge, Eighth Judicial District of Colorado**

*Fort Collins, Colorado*



Judge Juan G. Villaseñor was appointed as a District Judge by Governor Hickenlooper in October 2018. Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Villaseñor was an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado (2008 -- 2018). In that capacity, he enforced criminal judgments for restitution, conducting complex investigations into defendants' financial condition and investigated and prosecuted many civil claims, like trespasses on federal property, False Claims Act matters, and debts owed to the government, among others. He also represented federal agencies and employees in a wide variety of defensive cases, including prisoner litigation involving issues of national security and international terrorism, environmental law, employment discrimination, habeas corpus, immigration, negligence, medical malpractice, and intentional torts. Lastly, Judge Villaseñor prosecuted criminal cases (misdemeanors and felonies) dealing with violent crimes and financial crimes, and argued

multiple appeals in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Between 2014 and 2016, Judge Villaseñor was detailed to the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of the Pardon Attorney, where, as part of the Clemency Initiative, he made recommendations to the Pardon Attorney, the Deputy Attorney General, and the President of the United States on



applications for commutation of sentence submitted by federal prisoners convicted of drug-possession or drug-distribution offenses. His work led to five sentence commutations. Before working as a federal prosecutor, Judge Villaseñor was an Assistant Attorney General at the Tennessee Attorney General's Office (2003 – 2008), where he represented state agencies, departments, corporations and, at times, state employees in federal and state court. He specialized in appellate practice and argued over 60 cases dealing with civil rights, dependency and neglect, child support, and workers' compensation. At the beginning of his career, Judge Villaseñor was the Justice William J. Brennan First Amendment Fellowship Attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union in New York (2002 -- 2003), and a law clerk to now retired U.S. District Judge William J. Haynes, Jr., in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee (2001 - - 2002). Judge Villaseñor earned his A.B. from St. John's College (Annapolis) in 1997 and his J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School in 2001.