



**Joseph B. Morris**

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Joseph B. Morris is Of Counsel to the firm. He works with the firm's appellate lawyers to bring value to firm clients at all stages of the litigation and appeals process. Joe also participates in the firm's arbitration practice, with an emphasis on disputes involving complex sets of legal issues.

Joe's extensive judicial and trial experience brings added power to the firm's well-recognized appellate practice. In addition to the experience gained from trying lawsuits across the state during the first part of his legal career, Joe served on the Texas judiciary for 25 years. As a state district court judge, he presided over 100 jury trials and 500 non-jury trials, and thus has deep and comprehensive knowledge of the trial process. As a twenty year veteran of the Dallas Court of Appeals, Joe authored over two thousand judicial opinions touching on countless legal issues relating to property rights, corporate governance, contract rights, employee-employer relations, torts, and statutory claims. In recognition of all his accomplishments, the American Board of Trial Advocates presented Joe with an award upon his leaving the judiciary that acknowledged his "25 years of exemplary service to the jury system."

While on the bench, Joe taught at both Texas Wesleyan University School of Law and at Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law. His courses covered pretrial, trial, and appellate procedure. Joe also has been a frequent speaker for the Texas State Bar Continuing Legal Education program and a lecturer at the Texas Center for the Judiciary. He is also a founding member of the Patrick E. Higginbotham American Inn of Court, has served as its President, and in 2013 received the Inn's Sergeant at Arms Award for distinguished service to the Inn.

In 2002, the Texas Supreme Court appointed Joe to the Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct, the body that has statewide jurisdiction to review and investigate complaints about Texas judges. He twice served as the Commission's chairman. Joe earned his B.A. from Southern Methodist University and he received his J.D. from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law.

**EDUCATION**

- Southern Methodist University School of Law (J.D., 1973)
- Southern Methodist University (B.A., *with honors*, 1970)

**JUDICIAL**

- Justice, Fifth District Court of Appeals at Dallas (1992-2012)
- Presiding Judge, 101<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court, Dallas (1987-1992)

**AFFILIATIONS**

- Member, Dallas Bar Association
- Member, State Bar of Texas
- Life Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation
- Master, Patrick E. Higginbotham American Inn of Court (1987-2012)