

## **Who I Am**

As I visit the 20 counties that I serve as your Justice on the 13<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals, I like to share a little bit about who I am: as a young person, a professional, a judge, a candidate, and a man.

### **As a Young Person:**

Events in my early years that shaped who I am include working as a paper boy at *The Monitor*, earning my Eagle Scout award, and growing up in my family's pharmacy business. From my Dad who was a pharmacist, I learned to work long hours; from My Mom who was a homemaker, I learned to be involved in organizations; from my sister who was in college, I learned to have fun; and from my older brother, I learned to run fast. ;-)

My family instilled in me these values of hard work and civic involvement that I carry on to this day into my profession as your judge. Groups that I volunteer for include Rotary, Boy Scouts, Chamber and Leadership programs.

### **As a Professional:**

Highlights of my professional career include 20+ years experience as an appellate attorney; more than two decades board certification in civil appellate law; elected as a state appellate justice; and admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. I also serve on multi Texas judicial boards, commissions, and

committees. I use all of this experience and knowledge for the benefit of the 13th Court and the people it serves.

**As a Judge:**

Appellate law is my specialty, and the judiciary is my passion. My judicial philosophy is that judges should strictly interpret the laws as written. Since first being elected in 2010, I've worked hard to make fair decisions because the people of Texas deserve a court that will uphold the law.

During these 6 years on the bench, I have maintained an open door policy; treated everyone with respect; personally reviewed every case set before me; and ruled in a fair and impartial manner. I've tried my best to be a judicial leader who gives back to his community.

**As a Candidate:**

For my first campaign, I emphasized three things: my qualifications, my willingness to work hard, and my belief in equal justice. These haven't changed. I kept my campaign promise to work long hours at both court houses in Corpus Christi and Edinburg. I have also travelled throughout the 20 counties I serve to stay in touch with voters.

**As a Man:**

I have been married to my wife Rachel, an educator, for 30 years and am proud to have raised two grown sons, Andrew and Christopher, both Eagle

Scouts. I've earned a reputation for four characteristics: family man, hard worker, community volunteer, and service to profession.

My very first job after graduating from law school was on the 13<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals. I was an inexperienced 27 year-old lawyer when I first walked through those courthouse doors; I returned nearly 25 years later at the age of 50, much more experienced, not only in law but in life, to sit on the bench as a judge.

I am humbled to have come this far...from a newspaper boy delivering papers to 80 customers in the Rio Grande Valley to a state judge who serves more than 2 million people in Texas. I appreciate that voters put their faith in me to do a good job.

In closing, I am honored to serve as your Justice on the 13<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals. My pledge to every voter: I will continue to uphold the law of the land as it is written to make sure everyone gets a fair trial. I am running for re-election in 2016 and would greatly appreciate your support!