



JW | CARTER LAW

Probate, Trust & Business Trial Attorneys



James W. Carter, Partner
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Jimmy Carter has built a reputation as a trial attorney with a proven track record trying complex cases throughout the southern United States. He is uncompromising, formidable, confident, and is a determined driver to attain high achievement for his clients.

He has successfully presented numerous cases to juries and courts involving fiduciary and estate litigation, including issues such as lack of testamentary capacity, document validity challenges, fraud, and breach of fiduciary duty. Mr. Carter also has successful involvement in appeals / reported opinions issued by the Texas Courts of Appeal, the Texas Supreme Court, and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Carter, board certified in Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, graduated summa cum laude from Texas Tech University's Honors College and earned his law degree from Baylor University. A fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, he received the 2017 Peacemaker Award from the San Antonio Bar Foundation for his work on David's Law, aiding minors against bullying. He was honored with the 2016 Outstanding Lawyer Award by the San Antonio Business Journal and holds Martindale-Hubbell's AV-Preeminent rating, based on peer and judge reviews, as well as a 5/5 client rating for communication, responsiveness, value, and quality of legal representation.

An active author and speaker on legal matters of keen interest to Texans, Mr. Carter presents subjects important to estate beneficiaries, rural landowners, developers, mineral owners, and business owners. Mr. Carter can often be found practicing his love of oil painting Texas landscapes and enjoying the thrill and challenge of piloting the Cirrus SR-20 when not practicing law.

Representative Decisions

- *Matter of Estate of Crapps*, No. 04-23-00761-CV, 2023 WL 7006289 (Tex. App.–San Antonio Oct. 25, 2023, no pet. h.)
- *Estate of Burns*, 619 S.W.3d 747 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 2020, pet. denied)
- *In re Estate of Mahaffey, Deceased*, 2019 WL 7196618 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 2019, no pet.)
- *Cash v. King*, 2017 WL 3701781 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 2017, no pet.)
- *In re: Estate of Sperber*, 2017 WL 2124481 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 2017, no pet.)
- *Saenz v. Saenz*, 2017 WL 2351101 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 2017, no pet.)

- *In re Estate of Bedell*, 2016 WL 416374 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 2016, pet. denied)
- *Bank of America, N.A., as Trustee of the Bettye Baker Brown Trust, et al. v. Prize Energy Resources, L.P., et al.*, 2014 WL 4257865 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 2014, pet. denied)
- *Vela v. GRC Land Holdings, Ltd.*, 383 S.W.3d 248 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 2012, no pet.)
- *Retamco Operating, Inc. v. Republic Drilling Co.*, 278 S.W.3d 333 (Tex. 2009)
- *In re: Estate of Oma Bell Perry*, 2008 WL 182860 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 2008, no pet.)

Bar Admissions

- The State of Texas, 1998
- United States Supreme Court, 2005
- United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, 2005
- United States District Court, Western/Southern/Northern Districts of Texas, 2004

Education

- Baylor University School of Law, J.D., 1998
- Texas Tech University, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1995

Certifications and Accolades

- Board Certified in Civil Trial Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization, 2018
- Legal Innovators Award Finalist, The Texas Lawyer, 2024
- The American Lawyer / The National Law Journal Top Rated Litigator, 2021
- Peacemaker Award, San Antonio Bar Foundation, 2017
- Outstanding Lawyer Award, San Antonio Business Journal, 2016
- Texas Bar College (2016-present)
- FAA Private Pilot, 2025
- Martindale Hubbell AV Preeminent Rated

Professional Affiliations and Community Involvement

- American Board of Trial Advocates, Member (2022-current)
- San Antonio – American Board of Trial Advocates: Secretary (2024), Vice Chair / President Elect (2025)
- TransPecos Banks / TransPecos Financial Corporation, Director (2015-current)
- David's Legacy Foundation (Director, 2016-present) and DBM Project (Co-Founder / Chair)
- Man of the Year, Leukemia Lymphoma Society (2015)
- Leadership Committee, Leukemia Lymphoma Society (2016-2018) (2018, Chair)
- Alamo Heights School Foundation Director (2015-2017) and Executive Committee (2016-2017)
- Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow (2014-present)
- San Antonio Bar Association, District Courts Committee (2014-2017)
- Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health, Director (2012-2013)
- Youth Soccer and Alamo Heights Little League Softball Head Coach (2010-2015)

Articles/Presentations

- *Analyzing the Past, Shaping the Future: A Data-Driven Approach to Probate Litigation*, presentation and paper to San Antonio Estate Planners Council at the Docket Call in Probate Court series, February 16, 2024.

- *Testamentary Capacity* article and Moderated Virtual Dementia Tour Panel Debrief, presentation to San Antonio Estate Planners Council at the Docket Call in Probate Court series, February 14, 2020
- *Guardianship Litigation Update*, presentation to San Antonio Estate Planners Council at the Docket Call in Probate Court series, February 16, 2018
- *Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 202 Update*, State Bar of Texas Advanced Evidence and Discovery Continuing Legal Education Series, Paper and Presentation 2017
- *David Bartlett Molak's Legacy: Don't Bully Me!*, San Antonio Lawyer Magazine, March-April 2017
- *Strategies in Fiduciary Litigation*, San Antonio Bar Association Lunch Series, October 20, 2016
- *Use of Declaratory Judgments in Probate Court*, presentation and paper to San Antonio Estate Planners Council at the Docket Call in Probate Court series, February 11, 2016
- *Inside the Minds: Best Practices for Structuring Trusts and Estates*, Ch. 6 (co-author with Ashley Ressmann Gray, Thomson Reuters, 2015 ed.)
- *Hot Topics from Four Legal Experts: Panel discussion* (December 3, 2014, San Antonio CPA Society continuing education class)
- *Shale boom puts mineral rights under spotlight*, San Antonio Express News, June 2, 2014, Business Section
- *Texas Landowner Notes—Prescribed Land Burns*, Bandera County Courier, May 1, 2014, Farm & Ranch Section
- *Amid shale boom, law is evolving*, San Antonio Express News, March 30, 2014, Eagle Ford & Energy Section
- *Eagle Ford Land Notes*, Frio-Nueces Current News (March 27, 2014, Oil & Gas Section)
- *Disclosing Taxpayer Information: A Guide for the Wary Accountant*, (November 2013, paper presented to various accounting firms and seminars)