

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 310<sup>TH</sup> FAMILY DISTRICT COURT** 2019 - Present  
*Presiding Judge*  
➤ Exclusively family law.
- THE LAW OFFICE OF SONYA HEATH** 2010 - 2018  
*Solo Practitioner*  
➤ Primary focus was family law.  
➤ Experienced in contested divorces, custody and child support cases; issued and responded to discovery; represented clients in mediation; and, motions practice.  
➤ Counsel for parents in Texas Department of Protective Services termination of parental rights cases.  
➤ Attorney Ad Litem Certificate – *Representing Texas Children in Abuse and Neglect Cases*  
➤ Treasurer for Hon. Julia Maldonado Campaigns (Family Law Judge for the 507<sup>th</sup> Harris County)  
➤ Assisted in Hon. Maria Jackson Campaigns (Criminal Judge for the 339<sup>th</sup> Harris County)  
➤ Candidate for Judge of the 310<sup>th</sup> Family Law District Court in Harris County, Texas (2017-18)  
➤ *Pro Bono* Attorney, Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program (2017-18)  
➤ Special Master for the 507<sup>th</sup> Family District Court (2018)
- UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT** 2013 - 2015  
*Criminal Justice Act Attorney for the Southern District of Texas, McAllen Division*  
➤ Accepted appointments, ordered and reviewed reporter’s transcript of testimony.  
➤ Researched and drafted motions, memorandums of law, and appellate briefs.  
➤ Prepared for oral argument to Fifth Circuit.  
➤ Prepared *Anders* briefs if applicable.
- THE CRAIG WASHINGTON LAW FIRM** 2008 - 2010  
*Associate Attorney*  
➤ Prepared and argued contested motion hearings, bench trials, mediations, and depositions.  
➤ Researched and drafted motions, memorandums of law, and appellate briefs.
- NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LAW COUNCIL** 1993 - 2010  
*Conference Planner*  
➤ Managed 750+ membership of national labor and employment defense attorneys.  
➤ Planned and coordinated annual member meeting throughout the country.
- FIRST COURT OF APPEALS** 2007 - 2008  
*Judicial Intern to Justice George Hanks*  
➤ Researched factual and legal issues; reviewed appellate records; performed substantive cite checks; wrote memorandum of law; discussed memorandum with Justices and Court attorneys; observed Justice discussions regarding issues that were to be argued; observed oral arguments; and, observed post-submission resolution of legal issues raised in oral arguments.
- HIRSCH & WESTHEIMER, P.C.** 2007  
*Summer Law Clerk for Pat Huttenbach, Esq.*  
➤ Drafted writs of garnishment, motions and post-judgment collection discovery.

**GODFREY, LEIBSLE, BLACKBOURN & HOWARTH, S.C.** 2006

*Executive Legal Assistant and Real Estate Department Administrator*

- Managed Real Estate Department; and, kept track of past-due receivables and coordinate collection efforts.
- Performed executive legal assistant duties to managing partner of real estate department.

**EPSTEIN BECKER GREEN WICKLIFF & HALL, P.C.** 1993 - 2005

*Executive Legal Assistant*

- Recruited, hired, and supervised staff in the labor and employment section; facilitated monthly team meetings; coordinated yearly performance reviews; and planned quarterly client seminars.
- Created policies and procedures manuals; reviewed, coded, and processed invoices for payment through accounting department; and kept track of past due receivables and coordinated collection efforts.
- Performed executive legal assistant duties to managing partner of Houston office; interacted with clients, court staff, opposing counsel, and governmental agencies (NLRB and EEOC).

**MEYER, CRIBBS & WILSON, P.C.** 1984 - 1993

*Legal Secretary / IT Coordinator*

- Worked for managing partner Larry Meyer and attorney Richard Blohm.
- Established, monitored and updated Novell network system; drafted and maintained confidential firm management and financial documentation.

**POLK COUNTY JUDGE WAYNE BAKER** 1984

*Assistant Secretary*

- Assisted with court room docket, dealing with public and general office duties.

**THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW** EDUCATION

*Juris Doctorate, 2009*

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN**

*Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, 2004*

*Bachelor of Business Administration in Administrative Management, 2005*

#### **SPEAKER AND PUBLICATIONS**

- *Human Papillomavirus: Can the Legislature Mandate the Vaccine*  
17 THE ADELPHIA LAW JOURNAL OF SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW (2010-2011)
- *Establishing Character of Marital Property Techniques*  
Mexican-American Bar Association of Houston, September 11, 2017
- *Judicial System Reform*  
Houston Community College, Central Campus, April 16, 2018
- *Family Law Highlights, Court Policies and Procedures*  
Houston Bar Association—Family Law Section, September 27, 2019
- *Personnel Leadership-Talent Management Policies and Skills*, University of Houston-Downtown  
President's Leadership Academy, February 27, 2020
- *Family Law Highlights, Judicial Question/Answer*  
Houston Bar Association—Family Law Section, March 4, 2020

- *Zoom, or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Have Remote Hearings*  
Houston Bar Association—Family Law Section, April 8, 2020
- *Zoom Hearings in the Era of COVID-19*  
The Houston Family Law Group, September 23, 2020
- *How is Harris County Handling Jury Trials*  
Mexican-American Bar Association of Houston, September 25, 2020
- *Zoom Presentations From Judges' Perspectives*  
Houston Bar Association, April 8, 2021
- *The Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act & The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act*  
Mexican-American Bar Association of Houston, September 17, 2021

#### ASSOCIATIONS

American Bar Association, <i>Vice Chair, Family Law Committee</i>	2009 – 2010
American Leadership Forum, Houston Gulf Coast Chapter, <i>Fellow Class LV</i>	2021 – Present
Association of Women Attorneys, <i>Member</i>	2008 – Present
Burta Rhoads Raborn Family Law American Inn of Court, <i>Barrister</i>	2018 – Present
The College of the State Bar of Texas, <i>Member</i>	2009 – Present
First Methodist Houston, Downtown Campus, <i>Member</i>	2006 – Present
Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, <i>Lifetime Member</i>	2013 – Present
Houston Bar Association, <i>Co-Chair Law Library Committee 2019-Present</i>	2009 – Present
Mexican-American Bar Association of Houston, <i>Board of Directors</i>	2009 – Present
Rotary Club, University Area Chapter, <i>President 2016-17</i>	2010 – Present
State Bar of Texas, <i>Family Law Section Member</i>	2009 – Present
Texas Bar Foundation, <i>Fellow</i>	2019 – Present