

OVERVIEW

Phylis J. Speedlin arbitrates and mediates hundreds of complex, multi-party disputes. She delivers exceptional value by virtue of her almost four decades of experience as an appellate justice, district court judge, and trial lawyer. Justice Speedlin served as a jurist for 13 years, 10 years as a Justice on the Texas Fourth Court of Appeals and three years as a Bexar County District Court trial judge. During her tenure on the Fourth Court of Appeals, Justice Speedlin authored more than 1,300 opinions, covering a myriad of legal issues, including personal injury, breach of contract, medical negligence, oil and gas, property rights, employment law, construction law, family law, and criminal law.

Since leaving the bench, Justice Speedlin has served as an arbitrator in complex cases nationwide. Justice Speedlin arbitrates for the American Arbitration Association and serves on the Healthcare, Commercial, Consumer, Employment, Appellate, and Construction rosters. Since 2013, she has arbitrated, as a single arbitrator and as a member of a panel, over two hundred and fifty cases.

As a distinguished past litigator herself, Justice Speedlin mediates commercial, medical, contract, employment, appellate, oil and gas, products, and construction cases. A winner of the San Antonio Bar Journal's Outstanding Lawyer Lifetime Achievement Award, Justice Speedlin was also the recipient of the St. Thomas More Award from St. Mary's University School of Law. She has been inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame and the Texas Chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

Phylis served as President of the San Antonio Bar Association, Chair of the San Antonio Bar Foundation Advisory Committee, and Chair of the Community Justice Pro Bono Committee, among dozens of other service and board positions in bar and civic endeavors. Justice Speedlin co-founded and chaired the Community Justice Program, for which she was honored with the American Bar Association's Harrison Tweed Outstanding Pro Bono Award and the State Bar of Texas Judge Merrill Hartman Pro Bono Judge Award.

Originally raised in Ohio, Justice Speedlin moved to San Antonio in 1970 during her service with the United States Army Nurse Corps. She completed her undergraduate education in nursing at Incarnate Word College and obtained a master's degree in healthcare administration from Trinity University in San Antonio. She received her law degree, with distinction, from St. Mary's University School of Law.

Before becoming a jurist, Justice Speedlin practiced trial and appellate law for 17 years with the San Antonio law firm of Clemens & Spencer. As an attorney in San Antonio, she represented clients in numerous industries, with a significant focus on the healthcare industry, including doctors, nurses, and hospital administrators in medical malpractice and medical product litigation. She is board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in personal injury law.

EDUCATION

St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, Texas J.D. with distinction, 1983

Member of the John M. Harlan Society

Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas

M.S. Healthcare Administration, 1977

Honor Graduate

Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, Texas, B.S. Nursing, 1975

Pittsburgh Presbyterian University

Hospital School of Nursing, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Diploma - Registered Nurse, 1970

Honor Graduate

President of Student Government

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Phylis J. Speedlin, PLLC**
January 2022 - present

Provides both in person and online dispute resolution which allows the parties to participate in every stage of the mediation process remotely over secure videoconference. Mediates and arbitrates complex, multi-party litigation, including medical malpractice, healthcare law, personal injury, oil and gas lease and royalty disputes, breach of contract, product litigation, employment, construction, probate, commercial, and family law. Arbitrates for the American Arbitration Association and serves on the roster for neutrals in Large, Complex Commercial, Construction, Employment, Healthcare, Appellate, and Consumer cases. Qualified under the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to serve as a Private Judge, upon agreement of the parties and referral by the trial court.

- **Dykema**

January 2014 – December 2021
Mediator, Arbitrator, and Private Judge
San Antonio, Texas

Mediates and arbitrates complex, multi-party litigation, including medical malpractice, healthcare law, personal injury, oil and gas lease and royalty disputes, breach of contract, product litigation, employment, construction, probate, commercial, and family law. Arbitrates for the American Arbitration Association and serves on the roster for neutrals in Large, Complex Commercial, Construction, Employment, Healthcare, Appellate, and Consumer cases. Qualified under the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to serve as a Private Judge, upon agreement of the parties and referral by the trial court. Served for over 12 years on the State Bar Pattern Jury Charge Oversight Committee developing jury issues used by all Texas civil trial judges.

- **Plunkett & Griesenbeck, Inc.**

January 2013 - January 2014
Mediator, Arbitrator, and Private Judge
San Antonio, Texas

Mediated and arbitrated complex, multi-party disputes including personal injury, tort, product, healthcare, business, construction, employment, oil and gas lease and royalty disputes, probate, commercial and family law.

- **Justice Fourth Court of Appeals**

April 2003 - December 2012

Heard and decided civil and criminal cases and personally authored over 1,300 opinions covering a wide variety of issues, including personal injury, breach of contract, medical negligence, oil and gas, property rights, employment law, construction law, family law, and criminal law.

- **408th Judicial District Court Judge**

Bexar County, Texas January 2000 - April 2003

As a State District Court Judge, presided over and rendered decisions in all types of general civil litigation to include personal injury, commercial litigation, deceptive trade practices, medical malpractice, medical products litigation, legal malpractice, family law, construction law, employment law, and class actions. Has extensive experience in all aspects of civil trial practice, including pre-trial discovery disputes, summary judgments, non-jury and jury issues. Designated by the Presiding Judge of the Fourth Administrative Judicial District as the sole judge to preside over all pretrial matters related to the Firestone Tire mass tort litigation filed and pending in the 4th Judicial Region.

- **Clemens and Spencer**

1983 - 1999

Attorney/Shareholder

Before becoming a jurist, practiced as a shareholder in San Antonio's oldest law firm with extensive experience in general civil litigation in both state and federal courts. Advised and assisted healthcare professionals including doctors, nurses, and hospital administrators on medical malpractice and medical product litigation. Served as lead trial attorney for multimillion-dollar complex personal injury, medical malpractice, and medical product cases taking more than thirty cases to jury verdict. Argued before the Texas Supreme Court and the Intermediate Appellate Courts of the State. Defended Wyeth Pharmaceuticals (previously American Home Products) in the Phen-Fen mass tort litigation and served as a member of the Texas trial team. Provided corporate and healthcare legal advice and support to area hospitals, both large and small, in all aspects of compliance with state and federal healthcare laws. Dealt with physician employment agreements, physician practice agreements, non-competition and confidentiality agreements, partnership and practice group dissolutions, healthcare payment and billing disputes, medical staff bylaws, and other matters pertaining to the provision of healthcare. Argued before Texas regulatory agencies defending doctors, hospitals, nurses, and dentists on standard of care issues and professional licensing challenges.

LICENSED

State Bar of Texas, 1983

United States Supreme Court, 1988

United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, 1983

United States District Court for Southern District of Texas, 1985

BOARD CERTIFICATION

Personal Injury Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization, 1991-present
(recertified 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, State Bar of Texas

Member, American Board of Trial Advocates – San Antonio Chapter, 1997-present

Texas Bar Association, Pattern Jury Charges Oversight Committee, Vice-Chair
2005-2017; Volume 3, 1993-1995

Diplomate National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, Texas Chapter, 2015
to present

State Bar of Texas Alternative Dispute Resolution Section 2016-present
Member, ADR Section Council

Life Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation

Member, Texas Bar Association ADR Section, 2012-present

Association of Attorney-Mediators, 2012-present

Member, San Antonio Bar Association; President 2010-2011; Officer or
Director 2004-2009

Master, William S. Sessions American Inn of Court 2012-2016; Member, 1987-
2001

Chair, Community Justice Pro Bono Committee, 2009-2013

Co-Founder and Co-Chair, San Antonio Community Justice Program, 2002-
2008

Vice Chair, Program Committee, 2000-2006

Vice Chair, San Antonio District Courts Committee, 1997-1999; Member 2002

Member, Continuing Legal Education Committee, 2000-2001

Member, San Antonio Medical-Legal Liaison Committee, 1988-1990

Chair Advisory Committee, San Antonio Bar Foundation, 2011-2012

Member, San Antonio Women's Bar Association, 2000-present

Member, Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas, 2003-present

Member, ADR Section San Antonio Bar Association, 1997-1999; Treasurer,
1998-1999

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ORGANIZATIONS

Board Member, St. Mary's Law Alumni, 2014-2018

Member, Assistance League of San Antonio 2016-2018

Legal Advisory Committee, Catholic Charities, 2014-2016
Board Member, Central Catholic High School, 2005-2011, 2012-2014
Member, Rotary Club of San Antonio, 2000-2002, 2007-2013
Member, Assistance League of San Antonio Advisory Council, 2007-2010
Member, Bexar County Republican Women's Club, 2000-2013
Member, Alamo City Republican Women's Club, 2000-2013
Board Member, Bexar County Alternative Dispute Resolution Center, 2001-2005
Bexar County Juvenile Board of Directors, 2000-2003
Member, Business and Professional Women's Club Inc. of San Antonio, 2000-2006
Member, Altrusa International Inc. of San Antonio, 2000-2001
Board Member, San Antonio Young Life, 1992-1995, 2000-2001
Founder and Director, San Antonio Adoption Awareness Center, 1979-1980
Member, University United Methodist Church

FORMER GOVERNMENT SERVICE

United States Army Nurse Corps, 1970-1973
Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital, San Antonio, Texas
Assistant Hospital Administrator, 1977-1980

HONORS

2020; 2022 Best Lawyers "Lawyer of the Year" for Mediation in San Antonio
2017- 2022 Best Lawyers in America in Mediation, Arbitration and Appellate practice
2019, 2020 Best Lawyers of San Antonio
2017 San Antonio Business Journal Lifetime Achievement Award
2017 San Antonio Business Journal Outstanding Lawyer
2016- 2020 Texas Super Lawyer in Arbitration and Mediation
2016 San Antonio Woman of the Year in Innovation
2015 Inducted to the Texas Chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals
2014 St. Mary's University School of Law St. Thomas More Award
2013 San Antonio Bar Association Lifetime Achievement Award
2012 American Bar Association Harrison Tweed Outstanding Pro Bono Award
2012 State Bar of Texas Judge Merrill Hartman Pro Bono Judge Award
2011 President's Award San Antonio Bar Association in recognition of a decade of dedication and innovation in support of a strong pro bono culture within Bexar County
2008 State Bar of Texas Resolution for Achievement

- 2007 San Antonio Bar Foundation Pioneer Peacemaker Award
- 2005 President's Award San Antonio Bar Association
- 2005 Community Leadership Award San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce
- 2003 President's Award San Antonio Bar Association
- 2004 Partners in Justice Award Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc.
- 2004 Star of Achievement Award State Bar of Texas
- 2004 Pro Bono Award State Bar of Texas
- 2004 Scales of Justice Award from the NALS Foundation

DISPUTE RESOLUTION TRAINING

- 2021 Arbitrator Faculty for the American Arbitration Association
Healthcare Webinar Series for 2021, Best Practices for the Preliminary Hearing.
- 2021 Arbitrator Faculty for the American Arbitration Association,
Arbitration Fundamentals and Best Practices for New AAA Arbitrators
(CORE) Training
- 2020 AAA Adoption of Initial Employment and FLSA Discovery Protocols.
- 2019 Advanced Mediation Training, The National Academy of Distinguished
Neutrals
- 2019 Speaker Listening Hard and Dealing with Anger, Advanced Attorney-
Mediator Training, Association of Attorney-Mediators
- 2019 Speaker Mediation Strategies San Antonio Bar Association
- 2018 AAA Healthcare Dispute Resolution Innovation and Strategy
Conference
- 2017 AAA Addressing the Challenges of Demanding Arbitrations: Part 1 ~
The Pre-Hearing Landscape;
- 2016 Advanced Mediator Training—If It Does Not Challenge You, It Does
Not Change You, Association of Attorney Mediators.
- 2016 AAA/ICDR/Mediation. Org Panel Conference, American Arbitration
Association
- 2015 AAA Principled Deliberations Decision-Making Skills for Arbitrators
- 2015 Advanced Attorney-Mediator Training—Be the Best Mediator You Can
Be, The National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals
- 2014 Advanced Mediator Training-The Magic of Mediation Association of
Attorney Mediators
- 2014 Advanced Mediator Training-New Tools for Your Mediation Toolbox
Association of Attorney Mediator
- 2013 Managing a Successful Arbitration - American Arbitration Association
- 2013 AAA Healthcare Payor Provider Judicial Orientation
- 2013 Advanced Attorney-Mediator Training, Association of Attorney-
Mediators

- 2013 Arbitration Fundamentals & Best Practices for New AAA Arbitrators
- 2013 Successful Mediation in a Nutshell: How to Close the Deal, State Bar of Texas, Recognizing Cognitive Barriers to Creative Solutions and Real tools to Deal with Them, State Bar of Texas
- 2013 Deal or No Deal: An Empirical Look at the Negotiation Dance, State Bar of Texas
- 2012 Alternative Dispute Resolution: Getting to and Mediating in the Red Zone, State Bar of Texas
- 1998 Issues of Regulation in the Practice of Mediation, ADR Section San Antonio Bar Association
- 1994 Basic Mediator Training for Attorneys, Attorney-Mediators Institute (AMI)

BOOKS OR PUBLICATIONS

- Dear Birthmother, Kathleen Silber and Phylis J. Speedlin (A book on open adoption), Corona Publishers, first edition 1982; second edition 1991; third edition 1997
- Casenote, "Telecommunication-Right of Access," 13 St. Mary's Law Journal 692, 1982

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 2021 Arbitrator Faculty for the American Arbitration Association, Arbitration Fundamentals and Best Practices for New AAA Arbitrators (CORE) Training
- 2021 Panelist and Speaker Association of Attorney Mediators, It's Show Time Folks
- 2020 Arbitrator Faculty for the American Arbitration Association, Arbitration Fundamentals and Best Practices for New AAA Arbitrators (CORE) Training
- 2020 Co- Author Practical Recommendations on Seeking Attorney Fees, State Bar of Texas Blog, May 11, 2020.
- 2019 Speaker Association of Attorney Mediators, Listening Hard and Dealing with Anger in Mediation
- 2019 Speaker Mediation Strategies, San Antonio Bar Association Conference
- 2018 Speaker AAA Healthcare Dispute Resolution Innovation & Strategy Conference—Best Practices in Arbitration Procedures
- 2017 Speaker San Antonio Young Lawyers Association—Alternative Dispute Resolution
- 2017 Speaker Annual Litigation Update Institute—Mediation Update
- 2015 Course Director State Bar of Texas Advanced Evidence and Discovery
- 2014 "Private Judging: An Option for Resolving Legal Disputes" San Antonio Lawyer

- 2014 Speaker State Bar Advanced Evidence and Discover—Sufficiency of the Evidence
- 2013 Speaker Texas Advanced Paralegal Seminar - Sponsored by the Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas
- 2013 Speaker 5th Annual Damages in Civil Litigation- Sponsored by Texas Bar CLE
- 2012 Course moderator San Antonio Advanced Evidence and Discovery Institute
- 2003 Speaker - 27th Annual Page Keeton Product Liability & Personal Injury Law Conference- Sponsored by the University of Texas School of Law
- 2001 Course Moderator--Medical Malpractice Conference - Sponsored by Texas Tech University School of Law and St. Mary s University School of Law
- 1999 Speaker - 11th Annual Texas Nurse Practitioners Conference, Medical Malpractice Suits Against the Advanced Practice Nurse and Advanced Nurse Practitioner - Contractual Relationships
- 1998 Speaker - UTHSC School of Nursing, Legal Aspects of Nursing Practice
- 1997 Author - Statute of Limitation in Health Care Litigation, TADC Fall Meeting, September, 1997
- 1996 Author and Speaker - Medical Malpractice Conference - Sponsored by Texas Tech University School of Law and St. Mary s University School of Law - Statute of Limitations
- 1995 Speaker - National Perinatal Nurses Association - Legal Issues Involving the Neonate
- 1994 Speaker - University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio - Contemporary Influences Class
- 1994 Author and Speaker - Texas Bar Association - Advanced Personal Injury Course - Civil Procedure Update
- 1994 Speaker - University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio - Fourth Annual Perinatal Connection - Nurse's Role in Malpractice
- 1992 Speaker - Medical Malpractice Conference Sponsored by University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio - Perinatal Conference - Anatomy of a Lawsuit
- 1991 Author and Speaker - Texas Bar Association Advanced Personal Injury Course - Government Liability
- 1991 Speaker - South Central Texas Society of Gastrointestinal Nurses and Associates - Mock Trial/Tips on Giving a Deposition
- 1991 Speaker - Texas Nurses Association - District Eight, Inc. - Mock Trial

1990 Author and Speaker - Medical Malpractice Conference Sponsored by
Texas Tech University School of Law and St. Mary's University School of
Law - Liability for Patient Dumping
1989 Author and Speaker - Risk Management Course - Houston, Texas -
Investigative Privilege

