

**THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT CLERK (TXN),
THE DALLAS FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION,
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
DALLAS COLLEGE OF LAW,
AND
THE OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER (TXN)**

Are Pleased To Sponsor The

2018 ANNUAL FEDERAL CRIMINAL PRACTICE SEMINAR

July 18-20, 2018

**UNT Dallas College of Law, 1901 Main St.
Dallas, Texas, 75201**

Overview

The Dallas Federal Criminal Practice Seminar offers an assortment of cutting-edge material and instruction to benefit the less-experienced and experienced federal practitioner alike. This year's seminar will take place at the University of North Texas Dallas College of Law (located in downtown Dallas at 1901 Main Street) from July 18th-20th. The State Bar of Texas has been asked to approve the seminar's curricula for **21 hours** of continuing legal education credit, of which **4 hours** should qualify for ethics credit.

This year's event returns to the separate "Track" format for the first two days. For the new or less-experienced federal practitioners, we are re-offering a **Fundamentals** Track on Wednesday, July 20th. For more-experienced (and for any "Fundamentals" attendees who are so inclined to attend), we are re-offering a **Refresher** Track on Thursday, July 19th. On Friday, July 20th, we will focus on honing those litigation skills used most frequently in federal court.

The 2018 Seminar Format & Description

This year's seminar will meet in plenary session(s) for all three days. Each day will consist of various lectures, to include an Ethics-qualifying presentation during the lunch hour. (Lunch is included in your tuition and will consist of boxed-lunches or similar fare brought in from local eateries.)

On Wednesday, July 18th, Fundamentals Track attendees will receive instruction on Initial Appearance/Detention; Arraignment/Re-arraignment; common issues in Magistrate Court; an overview of the laws that govern federal sentencing; and appeal considerations. This will all take place within the context of a single case-scenario which will be made available beforehand.

On Thursday, July 19th, Refresher Track attendees will meet in plenary session to focus various aspects of federal practice to include: administrative matters affecting all CJA practitioners (E-Discovery procedures; CJA Voucher payment issues); Bureau of Prisons policies affecting defendants; A Supreme Court update; Sentencing Commission data that helps defendants; and Differences between conspiratorial culpability and sentencing relevant conduct liability.

Finally, on Friday, July 20th, the seminar focuses on trial practice in federal court. Attendees will receive instruction about handling expert witnesses, cell phone forensics, opening statements, handling “snitches,” and pretrial litigation issues.

AGENDA

FUNDAMENTALS TRACK (DAY ONE)

Wednesday, July 18, 2017

- 8:00 - 8:20 A.M.** **Welcome / Registration.** *UNT Dallas College of Law (Lobby)*
- 8:30 - 8:45 A.M.** **Welcoming Remarks.** *Fourth Floor, Rm 410*
Karen Mitchell, United States District Clerk for the Northern District of Texas
Jason D. Hawkins, Federal Public Defender, Northern District of Texas
The Honorable Barbara M.G. Lynn, Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas
- 08:45 – 9:45 A.M.** **Initial Appearance, Preliminary Examination, and Detention Hearing** *Rm 410*
Michael Lehmann, AFPD, NDTX (Fort Worth)
Erin Brennan, AFPD, NDTX (Dallas)
- The United States Magistrate Judge has just appointed you to your first CJA appointment. Your assistant hands you a complaint and supporting affidavit from the case. Two defendants (Clara Client and Donnie Defendant) are charged with burglary of a post office. Clara has priors and is on deferred adjudication probation. Donnie attempted to avoid arrest by fleeing in a car. Search of the car revealed opiates and a USPS package that contained several guns, including a short-barrel rifle. Court is scheduled for later this afternoon. Now what?
- 09:45 – 10:00 A.M.** **BREAK**

10:00 – 11:00 A.M.

A View from the Bench *Rm 410*

The Hon. Irma Carillo Ramirez, United States Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Texas

Moderator: Lauren Woods, AFPD, NDTX (Dallas)

Surprise! It turns out that Donnie has been less than truthful when completing his financial affidavit. And Clara refuses to fill out her affidavit at all. (She’s told you that she has not filed her federal taxes for three years and claims that she has no income despite her \$60,000/year job with a local airline.) Now what? Judge Ramirez will offer her insights into these and other “difficult” issues that may arise during the initial stages of a case.

[Note: This presentation has been submitted for Ethics credit.]

11:00 – 11:50 P.M.

An introduction to federal sentencing under the statutes and the guidelines. *Rm 410*

Matthew Wright, AFPD, NDTX (Amarillo)

Brandon Beck, AFPD NDTX (Lubbock)

More than 95% of federal criminal cases are resolved by guilty plea. What drives this fact is the draconian sentencing exposure under federal law. In Part I of this discussion, AFPD Wright will examine the federal statutory scheme(s) that govern a federal sentencing with an eye toward determining what Donnie and Clara may be “looking at.”

12:00 – 1:10 P.M.

LUNCH & LUNCH SPEAKER

Fundamental considerations of professional ethics in a federal criminal case. *Rm 410*

Courtney Stamper, AFPD, NDTX (Dallas)

This presentation covers numerous ethical issues that arise in representing a defendant in a federal criminal case.

[Note: This presentation has been submitted for Ethics credit.]

1:20 – 2:50 P.M.

Federal Sentencing, continued: A Deeper Dive. *Rm 410*

Brandon Beck, AFPD, NDTX (Lubbock)

Matthew Wright, AFPD NDTX (Amarillo)

In Part II of the sentencing exposure lecture, AFPD Beck will review at a basic level how various guideline and statutory sentencing enhancement provisions may come to bear on Donnie and Clara’s exposure under federal law.

2:50 – 3:00 P.M.

BREAK

3:00 – 4:35 P.M.

Thoughts from CJA Peers. *Rm 410*

Emily LaChance, The Schneider Law Firm, Fort Worth

Erin Hendricks, Erin Hendricks Law Office, Dallas

William R. Biggs, PLLC, Fort Worth

Moderated by Lara Wynn, AFPD, NDTX (Dallas)

The panel will share their insights into how they would seek to resolve the difficulties in Clara and Donnie’s cases: difficult clients, late-breaking Discovery, ghost dope, pleading open to the indictment, and more.

4:35 – 5:30 P.M.

What to do about the appeal? *Rm 410*

Christopher A. Curtis, Branch Chief, AFPD, NDTX (Fort Worth)

Jerry V. Beard, AFPD, NDTX (Fort Worth)

Always lurking in the backdrop of a district court case is the question of “the appeal.” This consideration certainly arises in context of federal trials. But it also does so in guilty plea cases—even where an appeal waiver provision is present. AFPDs Curtis and Beard will discuss some of the appeal considerations in Donnie and Clara’s cases.

5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

Hosted Social Hour. *Lobby*

ADVANCED TRACK (THURSDAY)

July 19, 2018

8:00 - 8:20 A.M.

Welcome / Registration. *Lobby*

8:30 - 8:45 A.M.

Welcoming Remarks. *Fourth Floor, Rm 410*

*Lara Wynn, AFD and, eff. March 1, 2019, Lubbock Branch
Chief, Northern District of Texas*

*Dean Felecia Epps, University of North Texas College of
Law*

08:45 – 9:45 A.M.

**High Interest Items in the Northern District of Texas: the
Latest Discovery Procedures and the Availability of
Expert and Investigator Funding. *Rm 410***

*Jason D. Hawkins, Federal Public Defender, NDTX
Camille Knight, Law Office of Camille Knight, Dallas, Texas*

Mr. Hawkins and Ms. Knight will explore best-practices available to practitioners to maximize Discovery. First, they will highlight the current procedures in place to transmit discovery documents to defense counsel. Hawkins and Knight will then shift gears to explain how, when, and why CJA practitioners have access to funds by which to make use of Investigators and other and case experts.

09:45 – 10:00 A.M.

BREAK

10:00 – 10:30 A.M.

CJA Vouchers: Required practices; Best practices; and Practices to avoid. *Rm 410*

Kim Schaefer, CJA Auditing Attorney, U.S. Dist. Clerk's Office (TXN), Dallas

Tammy Shipley, Administrative Assistant, U.S. Dist. Clerk's Office (TXN), Dallas

Ms. Schaefer and Ms. Shipley will discuss best practices for setting up eVoucher accounts and for obtaining prompt and proper payment. They will also review various provisions in the Guide to Judiciary Policy, Vol. 7, Part A, chapters 1 through 6, as well review the Northern District's new CJA Plan. Among other things, attendees will learn how to prepare a voucher for quickest processing, how to request the assistance of investigators and experts, how to request transcripts, what work is compensable, what expenses are reimbursable, when to prepare budgets, and how to avoid common mistakes.

10:30 – 11:50 A.M.

Bureau of Prisons Sentencing Considerations. *Rm 410*

Theresa Montoya, Assistant General Counsel, Bureau of Prisons, Designation & Sentence Computation Center, Grand Prairie, Texas

(We have reprised last year's BOP presentation because of its overwhelming popularity. But this year we have added an additional 30 minutes for more Q & A.) This session will explain how the Bureau of Prisons applies statutes and policies to calculate inmate sentence computations. Ms. Montoya will provide information regarding how prior custody credit is applied in particular circumstances and will suggest language to be used to effectuate the sentencing court's intent.

12:10 – 1:10 P.M.

LUNCH & LUNCH SPEAKER:

Ineffective Assistance of Counsel: Common Pitfalls and Strategies to Avoid IAC Claims. *Rm 410*

Zachary Lee Newland, of Brandon Sample PLC, Denver Co.

Mr. Newland will review current federal case law dealing with claims of ineffective assistance of counsel with a focus on common issues addressed by appellate attorneys when reviewing plea and trial cases. He will review communicating adequately with clients, failing to properly advise of sentencing exposure, plea ineffectiveness, and failure to advise clients about rights to appeal. Newland will also provide insights into strategies used to avoid claims of IAC.

[Note: This presentation has been submitted for Ethics credit.]

1:30 – 2:30 P.M.

Supreme Court Update *Rm 410*

Kevin Joel Page, Appellate Chief, Office of FPD (TXN)

Appellate Chief Joel Page will review the leading criminal law decisions from the Supreme Court's just-concluded term.

2:30 – 3:30 P.M.

The Sentencing Commission Research and Data that Matters! *Rm 410*

Racquel Wilson, Chief, Training Branch, U.S. Sentencing Commission (Washington D.C.)

The United States Sentencing Commission not only promulgates annual guideline and guideline revisions, it also publishes treasure troves of empirical sentencing data that is often very useful to defense attorneys before and at sentencing. Raquel Wilson will direct a peek into these data gold mines and will point us in various directions to allow us to better mine this data for use when defending our clients.

3:30 – 3:45 P.M.

BREAK

3:45 – 4:45 P.M.

Statutory Conspiratorial culpability versus Relevant Conduct guideline culpability: Distinctions with a Huge Difference. *Rm 410*

Troy Stabenow, AFPD, WDMO

Federal conspiracy law is expansive; federal guideline sentencing is much less so. Even so, often Presentence reports are written so expansively as to conflate criminal *culpability* with sentencing guideline *liability*. AFPD Troy Stabenow will compare and contrast the two differing legal theories to illustrate ways defense counsel can ensure that PSR relevant-conduct recommendations are not erroneously inflated on a conspiracy theory.

End of Day Two

FEDERAL TRIAL SKILLS (FRIDAY)

July 20, 2018

08:00–08:20 A.M. **Welcome / Registration. *Lobby***

8:30 - 08:45 A.M. **Opening Remarks. *Fourth Floor, Rm 410***

Cody Cofer, AFD, NDTX (Fort Worth)

08:45–09:40 A.M. **Examining Expert Witnesses. *Rm 410***

Greg Westfall, Westfall Sellers Attorneys, Fort Worth, TX

Too often the jury is lulled into convicting your client because an “expert” blesses the case based on “training, education, and experience.” Learn how to fight back against these sanctimonious Government props.

09:40–9:50 A.M. **BREAK**

09:50-10:45 A.M. **Cell Phone Forensics in Trial. *Rm 410***

Frank Seller, Westfall Sellers Attorneys, Fort Worth, TX

This presentation delves into obtaining cell phone forensic evidence, litigating the issues surrounding the evidence, and effectively incorporating cell phone evidence into your trial presentation.

10:45–11:40 A.M.

Opening Statement. *Rm 410*

Reagan Wynn, Law Offices of Kearney / Wynn, Fort Worth, TX

Getting your theory and power statement in the jury's mind as early as possible immeasurably increases your chances of success.

11:40–11:50 A.M.

BREAK

11:50 A.M–12:50 P.M. LUNCH & LUNCH SPEAKER

Ethics issues in a representation in a federal case. *Rm 410*

Richard Anderson, Esq.

A review of ethical issues that arise during the representation of a federal criminal client (and maybe some suggestions on how to deal with those issues).

[Note: This presentation has been submitted for Ethics credit.]

12:50–1:00 P.M.

BREAK

1:00–1:45 P.M.

Snuffing Out Snitch Testimony. *Rm 410*

Michael Ware, Law Office of Michael Ware, Fort Worth, TX

Government incentivized witnesses are a mainstay in efforts to convict your client at trial. Learn to expose the individual and systemic credibility issues to the jury.

1:50–2:40 P.M.

Pretrial Litigation. *Rm 410*

Michael Heiskell, Johnson Vaughn Heiskell, Fort Worth, TX

Paving the way to success in trial. Learn strategies and techniques to bring the fight to the Government early and begin making advances in your case.

2:45–3:45 P.M.

Closing Argument. *Rm 410*

Cody Cofer, AFPD, NDTX (Fort Worth)

This presentation focuses on techniques to compel and to empower a jury--to accept your client's marching orders!

3:45-4:00 P.M.

Closing Remarks. *Rm 410*

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

Richard Anderson

Richard Anderson has practiced criminal defense law since he was licensed in 1973. He is a past president of the Dallas Criminal Defense lawyers Association; a past president of the Texas Criminal Defense lawyers Association; a past chairman of the Criminal Justice Section of the State Bar of Texas; and formerly the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Texas. In 2013 he was elected to the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers hall of Fame.

Brandon Beck

Brandon Beck is an appellate attorney with the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Texas and adjunct professor of legal practice at Texas Tech University School of Law. Before entering the world of federal criminal law, Professor Beck spent three years practicing civil trial and appellate litigation in Tyler, Texas. He has an undergraduate degree in classics from The University of Texas at Austin, a master's degree in religious studies from Boston University, and a law degree from Texas Tech. He is a 2012 inductee into both the National Order of Barristers and the National Order of Scribes.

William R. Biggs

William R. Biggs has practiced criminal defense exclusively since he was licensed in 2007. From 2007-2013, Mr. Biggs worked for the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Texas, as a Research and Writing Attorney from 2007-2009, and as an Assistant Federal Public Defender from 2009-2013. In 2014, Mr. Biggs opened his own law firm in Fort Worth, TX, William R. Biggs, PLLC, which focuses exclusively on state and federal criminal defense. He is Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and in 2015 he was named a "Rising Star" by Texas Super Lawyers. Mr. Biggs performs the monthly "Caselaw Update" for the Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

Cody Cofer

Cody Cofer has tried more than 60 cases to a jury. He became Board Certified in Criminal Law in 2013. His trial experience includes both state and federal cases ranging from drug possession to murder. Cody has spoken on a variety of criminal law topics such as jury selection and complex evidentiary issues.

Before becoming an AFPD, Cody managed his own criminal law practice in Fort Worth. While in private practice, he was recognized as a Texas Super Lawyer Rising Star and Fort Worth Magazine "Top Attorney."

Currently, Cody is serving as a Board member for the Tarrant County Bar Association. Previously, he served on the Board for the Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association.

Christopher A. Curtis

A 1986 graduate of Baylor University School of Law, and a 1983 graduate of Baylor University, Chris has been with the Federal Public Defender's office in the Northern District of Texas since February, 2002. Prior to that, Chris was an Assistant United States Attorney from December 1990 until July 2000. From July 2000 until February 2002, Chris worked in private practice and also worked for the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT).

Chris has written and presented course materials for the State Bar of Texas, Advanced Criminal Law Course on the topics of Federal Criminal Practice and Federal Health Care Fraud Prosecutions. Chris has also written and presented course materials for the CJA panel training in the Northern District of Texas and the Dallas Federal Bar Association while he was in private practice and as an Assistant Federal Public Defender. For several years, Chris routinely prepared and presented course materials for the annual training in the U.S. Attorney's office in the Northern District of Texas and has taught on the topic of health care fraud prosecutions for the Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Jason D. Hawkins

Upon graduating from St. Mary's University School of Law in 1995, Jason became a law clerk and *Pro Se* Staff Attorney for the Greatest American, the Honorable Royal Furgeson, former United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas and current Dean of the University of North Texas Dallas College of Law.

His career in the Federal Public Defenders Office started in 1999, when he went to work in the Capital Habeas Unit in Phoenix, Arizona, representing death row prisoners. He won a ruling that Arizona's rules for restoring death row inmate to competency were unconstitutional in *Amaya-Ruiz v. Stewart*. Jason also drafted the briefly successful argument that the Supreme Court's decision in *Ring v. Arizona* (holding Arizona's death penalty sentencing scheme unconstitutional) should apply retroactively to all of Arizona's death row prisoners. Ultimately Justice Scalia disagreed and, writing for the majority, reversed the Ninth Circuit's decision.

Growing weary of the eternal sunshine, Jason left Phoenix in 2001 and accepted a position with the Federal Public Defenders Office in Dallas. He was named appellate chief in 2008 and his wins before the Fifth Circuit have generally come in either unpublished *per curiam* opinions or sweeping published opinions "limit[ing] the precedential value of [the] holding to cases presenting indistinguishable facts in all material respects." *United States v. Willis*, 563 F.3d 168 (5th Cir. 2009). In November 2011, he argued and lost before the Supreme

Court in *Setser v. United States*, 10-7387. Justice Scalia once again proved to be Jason's nemesis.

He was later moved out of the appellate section and named First Assistant when former Federal Public Defender Richard Anderson became despondent over the new and creative ways Jason was making harmful precedent. Hoping to completely remove him from ever appearing in court again, the Honorable Carl Stewart, Chief Judge of the Fifth Circuit, sentenced Jason to 48 months as the Federal Public Defender on August 26, 2013. Jason is now in charge of making sure everyone has enough paper and pencils to go to court. In his spare time he and his wife can be found in a gym supporting their two daughters' club volleyball habits.

Michael P. Heiskell

Michael Heiskell is a former Galveston County Assistant District Attorney; Former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas; and recipient of the Tarrant County Black Bar Association's "Lawyer of the Year Award," in both 1995 and 2000. Michael is a frequent author and lecturer on all aspects of State and Federal Court practice, e.g., Grand Jury Litigation, Pre-Trial Motions, Plea Negotiations, Opening Statements, Privileges, Confessions, Jury Selection, Handling High Profile Cases, Direct Examination, Cross-Examination and Ethics.

Michael has spoken frequently before the Advanced Criminal Law Course sponsored by the *State Bar of Texas* and to numerous seminars sponsored by the *Texas Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association*, and *Texas Center for the Judiciary*. Has also presented to the *NACDL*, *Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers*, *Dallas County Criminal Defense Lawyers*, *San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyers*, *Mexican-American Bar Association* and the *Tarrant County Bar Association*. Michael has also been recognized in "Texas Lawyer" as one of the "Extraordinary Minorities in Texas Law."

Camille M. Knight

Camille Knight has devoted a large portion of her career to defending indigent people accused of federal crimes. Currently in private practice in the Dallas area, Camille's federal defense roots stem from her experience as a CJA attorney and as a former assistant federal defender. Her relationship with the Federal Defender family began in law school, where she interned at the Federal Defender office in Chicago, and externed for a United States magistrate Judge who was a former Assistant Federal Defender. After school, Camille clerked for United States magistrate Judge Paul D. Stickney, also a former Assistant Federal Defender. During the last 16 years, Camille has practiced at large and small firms in Dallas and Chicago in civil litigation in federal courts, has worked for the Federal Defender's Office, and has now returned to solo practice focusing mainly on federal criminal defense. During her years of practice, Camille has been on the CJA panels in the Northern and Eastern Districts of Texas, the Northern District of Illinois, and the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and Seventh Circuits.

Michael Lehmann

Michael joined the Fort Worth Division of the Federal Public Defender's Office as a trial attorney in 2014. He was previously a member of the CJA Panel in private practice, a Dallas County Public Defender, and an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas. He earned a degree in Plan II from the University of Texas and a Juris Doctor at University of Colorado School of Law. He enjoys reading Harry Potter novels with his daughter, laughing through Curb Your Enthusiasm episodes with his wife, and contemplating the meaning of life with his dog.

Zachary L. Newland

Zachary Newland is a licensed Texas attorney who currently specializes in prosecuting federal appeals on behalf of incarcerated inmates as well as defending citizens accused of federal crimes. Much of his practice as an employee of Brandon Sample PLC is devoted to preparing and bringing claims of ineffective assistance of counsel on behalf of convicted citizens. Zach has previously litigated extensively in Texas state cases in civil and criminal matters in addition to bringing appeals before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit and presenting oral argument before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. Zach is a proud member of the Texas bar and enjoys spending his time with his wife, Suzanne, and their dog, Simba, exploring the wilds of Colorado where they now live.

Joel Page

Joel Page has worked in the Federal Public Defender's office here in Dallas since 2004. He started as a Research and Writing Attorney, became an Assistant Federal Public Defender in 2007, and now serves as the supervisor of the Appellate Division. He's written over 400 briefs to the Fifth Circuit, and helped write merits briefs for two of the office's cases that went to the Supreme Court. For the past ten years, he's watched the evolution of Fifth Circuit and Supreme Court jurisprudence regarding criminal history enhancements, and helped obtain appellate relief from these enhancements in at least ten cases.

Kim Schaefer

Kim Schaefer was born and raised on the south shore of Long Island, New York. She left The Island to attend the University of Houston and graduated from U of H in 1989. She headed back north for law school and earned a J.D. with honors from the George Washington University in 1992. After a year of trial work at the Williamson County Attorney's Office in Georgetown, Texas, Kim established herself as a "book lawyer" in the appellate section of the Dallas County District Attorney's Office. She left for a 3-year stint at the Court of Appeals for the Fifth District of Texas at Dallas, where she clerked mostly for Justice Joseph B. Morris and sometimes for now-U.S. District Judge Ed Kinkeade. Kim has been a part-time death penalty staff attorney and a part-time CJA attorney in the

Northern District of Texas since 2010. Kim married a sixth-generation Texan and they have two teenaged daughters.

Greg Westfall

Greg Westfall has tried close to 100 cases as a defense attorney. He became Board Certified in Criminal Law in 2000. His experience ranges from capital murder trials to federal defense of material support of terrorism. Throughout his career, Greg has been keenly interested in how we can better communicate with juries. He conducts focus groups for other attorneys and writes and teaches extensively on the subject of juror communication and persuasion both in Texas and at Gerry Spence's Trial Lawyers College in Dubois, Wyoming.

Greg has a reputation for intense preparation and formidable trial skills. This reputation has earned him recognition by his peers as a Thomson/Reuters "Super Lawyer"® every year since the list was created, an AV® Rating from Martindale Hubbell and a listing in their Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers, and recognition as a Fort Worth, Texas Magazine "Top Lawyer" every year since the list was created.

Matthew Wright

Matthew Wright is an Assistant Federal Public Defender in Dallas, Texas. He practices primarily in appeals before the Fifth Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court. Matthew is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Law. He previously served as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge Kenneth Hoyt in Houston. Matthew has also worked as an associate at Sidley Austin in Washington D.C. and at Mullin, Hoard, & Brown in Amarillo, Texas.

Reagan Wynn

Reagan Wynn regularly tries complex and high-profile jury trials. He became Board Certified in Criminal Law in 2002. Reagan is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, formerly served on the Board of Directors of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and was President of the Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association in 2006. Additionally, Reagan serves as Co-Chair of the Amicus Curiae Committee of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association.

Reagan has been elected by his peers to be listed in The Best Lawyers in America from 2005-present, and was one of three Fort Worth attorneys to be named "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America for 2011. Reagan has also been named a Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly in 2003, 2005, and from 2007-present and as a "Top Attorney" by Fort Worth, Texas Magazine. Reagan is AV-Rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

