



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

- News Release -



AMARILLO, TX – United States District Judge Mary Lou Robinson died peacefully on January 26, 2019, of natural causes while surrounded by her loving family. She was 92 years old.

Appointed by President James E. Carter, Jr. in 1979, Judge Robinson served the court with distinction. She assumed senior status on February 3, 2016, after more than 60 years as a judge, including over 35 years as a federal judge for the United States District Court, Northern District of Texas. On May 1, 2018, she relinquished her caseload and took inactive senior status.

Judge Robinson began her legal career in 1949 with her husband, A.J. Robinson, in the firm Robinson and Robinson in Austin. She returned to Amarillo in 1950 and continued the private practice of law.

She was appointed judge of the newly created County Court at Law in Potter County in 1955. She was later elected judge of the 108th District Court in Amarillo in 1961, and she was subsequently reelected in 1964, 1968, and 1972.

In 1973, Judge Robinson was appointed justice of the Seventh Court of Appeals, making her the first female appellate judge in the State of Texas. She was appointed chief justice of that court in 1977, the first female chief justice in Texas, and she continued to serve as chief justice until her appointment to the federal bench in 1979. When appointed to the federal bench, Judge Robinson was only the second female in Texas to be appointed to a federal bench.

Judge Robinson graduated from Amarillo High School in 1944. She received an associate's degree from Amarillo College in 1946, a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Texas in 1948, and a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1950.

Judge Robinson received many awards and honors throughout her distinguished career. She was named one of the "100 Legal Legends" by Texas Lawyer and was also named "Distinguished Alumna" by Amarillo College in 2004. Judge Robinson received the "Outstanding Fifty-Year Lawyer Award" presented by the Texas Bar Foundation, the "Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Professional Excellence" by the Texas Center for Legal Ethics, the "Chief Justice Charles L. Reynolds Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Amarillo Area Bar Association, the "Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Jurist Award" by the State Bar of Texas, and the "Girl Scouts 2007 Woman of Distinction." In 2015, she was honored as a "Texas Legal Legend" by the State Bar of Texas. In 2016, the Amarillo Globe-News honored Judge Robinson with its "Woman of the Year" award. In 2018, the federal courthouse in Amarillo was renamed the "J. Marvin Jones Federal Building and Judge Mary Lou Robinson United States Courthouse" in her honor.

Judge Robinson's husband and former law partner, A.J. Robinson, preceded her in death. She is survived by her three children, Rebecca McCoy, Diana Robinson, and Matt Robinson, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.