



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

- News Release -



AMARILLO, TX – U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson has announced that she will take senior status effective February 3, 2016, after serving for more than sixty years as a judge, including thirty-five years as a federal district judge for the United States District Court, Northern District of Texas.

Appointed by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, Judge Robinson is a legal legend. Although she has presided over cases in several divisions of the court, her principal duty station has always been the Amarillo division, where she will continue to serve as a senior district judge.

Judge Robinson graduated from the University of Texas (B.A. 1948) and from the University of Texas School of Law (LL.B. 1950). In 1949, Judge Robinson opened a private law practice under the firm name of Robinson and Robinson in Austin, Texas, with her late husband, A.J. Robinson. She moved to Amarillo, Texas, in the spring of 1950 and continued in private practice until she was appointed judge of the newly-created County Court at Law in Potter County in 1955. Judge Robinson was elected judge of the 108th District Court in Amarillo in 1961 and was subsequently reelected in 1964, 1968, and 1972. In 1973, she was appointed justice of the Seventh Court of Appeals in Amarillo, making her the first female appellate judge in Texas. She was appointed chief justice of that court in 1977 and continued to serve as chief justice until her appointment to the federal bench.

Judge Robinson is a member of the American Bar Association, Federal Judges Association, National Association of Women Lawyers, Amarillo Bar Association, State Bar of Texas, and fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. Judge Robinson is also a member of the Northern District of Texas

Local Rules Committee and Non-Appropriated Fund Committee.

Judge Robinson has 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 Pessarar Outstanding Jurist Award by the State Bar of Texas, and the Girl Scouts 2007 Woman of Distinction. Most recently, she was honored as a Texas Legal Legend by the State Bar of Texas. As she assumes senior status, Judge Robinson has the longest record of service of any active district judge in the Fifth Circuit.