



**HONORABLE JOHN J. SPECIA,
JR.**

**Mediator, Arbitrator
Senior District Judge**

**Judge 225th District Court
(1998-2006)**

JOHN J. SPECIA, JR. – The Honorable John J. Specia, Jr. conducts Mediation, Arbitration and Private Judging Practice at Plunkett, Griesenbeck & Mimari, Inc. (formerly Plunkett & Griesenbeck, Inc.). Judge Specia practiced at Plunkett & Griesenbeck, Inc. from 2007 to 2012, where he conducted over 500 mediations and numerous arbitrations involving all areas of civil and family law. In 2012 Governor Rick Perry appointed Judge Specia as Commissioner of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. He served in that capacity until May 31, 2016. Judge Specia spearheaded an overhaul of Child Protective services, developed system enhancements, and significantly expanded the child abuse and neglect prevention and early intervention program. Under his leadership, Texas became a national leader in child welfare transformation efforts and research into child abuse and neglect fatalities.

Prior to joining Plunkett & Griesenbeck, Inc. in 2007, Judge John Specia served as the judge of the Bexar County 225th Judicial District Court from May 1988 until December 31, 2006, when he retired from that bench. John Specia's life-long dedication to public service also includes work in civil, family, and juvenile programs, with a special commitment to children and the prevention of child abuse.

As Judge of the 225th District Court, he presided over a wide range of civil cases, including contract disputes, construction disputes, medical and legal malpractice, personal injury, and business litigation. Judge Specia also presided over numerous family law cases, such as divorces, custody and visitation disputes, and adoptions.

Judge Specia has extensive experience in all aspects of civil trial practice. Due to the unique Bexar County rotating docket system, he presided on a daily basis over virtually all types of civil pretrial hearings, jury trials, and non-jury trials. His docket included medical malpractice cases, other professional malpractice cases, personal injury cases, complex family law matters, and complex business litigation.

Admitted to the Texas Bar: 1975

Education:

University of Texas (B.A. 1972)
St. Mary's School of Law (J.D. 1975)

Honors:

2005 Distinguished Law Graduate (Judicial), St. Mary's School of Law
2001 Rosewood Gavel Award (Outstanding Judicial Service)

Professional Activities:

Chair, Texas Supreme Court Task Force on Foster Care
Chair, Texas Supreme Court Task Force on Child-Protection Case Management and Reporting
Board Member, Central Catholic Marianist High School
Board Member, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (2000-2006)
Numerous other Civic and Professional Board Positions
Practice includes mediation, arbitration and private judging.

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Elected Administrative Judge for the District Courts of Bexar County
(1998-2000 and 2002-2004)

Assigned as Multi-District Litigation Pre-Trial Judge of the *Hurricane Rita and Hurricane Humberto Litigation*.

Assigned as pre-trial judge by the Presiding Judge of the Fourth Administrative Region to handle all pre-trial matters for:

1. All cases related to cough and cold medications and appetite suppressant medications containing phenylpropanolamine and involving common issues of law and fact.
2. All pre-trial proceedings involving consolidated diet drug litigation.

Adjunct Professor, St. Mary's School of Law
Teaching Trial Advocacy and Advanced Trial Advocacy

Complex Cases - sample of cases presided over while 225th District Court Judge:

Valero Interstate Transmission vs. John L. Clanton;
Cause No. 88-CI-17229
(Take or pay, breach of contract)

Stewart Windeler vs. Julio Palmaz, M.D.;
Cause No. 89-CI-08568;
(Six-week patent infringement jury trial)

Chromalloy Gas Turbine vs. United Technologies Corporation;
Cause No. 95-CI-12541
(Three-month anti-trust jury trial)

Hall vs. Diamond Shamrock;
Cause No. 97-CI-11503
(Six-week refinery explosion jury trial)

Charles Messervey vs. Northbrook;
Cause No. 97-CI-06922
(Insurance fraud)

Wayne Urbanowski vs. Bruce McGovern;
Cause No. 98-CI-02840
(Medical malpractice jury trial)

TPLP vs. City of San Antonio;
Cause No. 99-CI-12469
(Commercial zoning dispute)

Robert Salter vs. AH Belo Company;
Cause No. 99-CI-13471
(Employment contract dispute)

HM Jr. Auto Sales
vs. South Point Pontiac-Cadillac;
Cause No. 2003-CI-16587
(Breach of contract/commercial fraud)

Tetco, Inc.
vs. ExxonMobil Oil Corporation;
Cause No. 2003-CI-04424
(Four-week breach of contract jury trial)

Awards:

- (2005) Distinguished Law Graduate (Judicial), St. Mary's School of Law
- (2001) St. Mary's University – School of Law, Rosewood Gavel Award
(Award for outstanding Judicial Service)
- (2001) Dale Wood Award (Award for outstanding protection of children by the
Judiciary)
- (1999) Special Commendation, Texas Association for Marriage & Family Therapy
- (1998) CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Judge of the Year

Affiliations:

Texas Supreme Court Task Force on Foster Care - Chair
Texas Supreme Court Task Force on Child-Protection Case Mgt & Reporting – Chair
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges - Board Member 2000-2006
Central Catholic Marianist High School – Board of Directors
Communities in School - Past Member of Board of Directors
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) – Advisory Board
Sexual Assault Resource Center – Advisory Board
Catholic Family and Children's Services, San Antonio Archdiocese – Past President

Background:

- (1988-2006) 225th District Court Judge, Bexar County, Texas (Appointed by Governor in May
1988, and re-elected without opposition in 1990, 1994, 1998, 2002)
- (1985-1988) Master, 289th Family and Juvenile District Court, Bexar County, Texas
- (1985-1988) John J. Specia, Jr. Attorney at Law, private practice, San Antonio, Texas
- (1978-1985) Regional Attorney – Texas Department of Human Resources, Region 9

Education:

- (1975) St. Mary's University of Law, Juris Doctor
San Antonio, Texas
- (1972) University of Texas at Austin, Bachelor of Arts
Political Science, Austin, Texas

Publications:

Crisis in Foster Care, 55 Tex.B.J. 490, 1992

Various Articles for Alamo City Children's Advocacy Center and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), 1985-1992

Law and the Practice of Psychiatry, (Contributor), The American College of Psychiatrists 1981

Courtroom Testimony by Mental Health Professionals, Texas Psychologists, Vol. 32, 1980

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