



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Richard F. Cortez
County Judge

David L. Fuentes
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Ellie Torres
Commissioner, Precinct 4

**OFFICE OF
COUNTY JUDGE
RICHARD F. CORTEZ**

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2019

Renée Rodriguez-Betancourt honored by Texas Bar Foundation

EDINBURG – The Hon. Renée Rodriguez-Betancourt, presiding Judge of the 449th District Court, has been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation. Only the top one-third of one percent of Texas attorneys receive membership each year.

According to the Foundation, fellows are selected for their outstanding professional achievements and demonstrated commitment to the improvement of the justice system throughout the state. Election is a mark of distinction and recognition of Betancourt's contribution to the legal profession. Rodriguez-Betancourt has served on the bench since 2016 when she was elected to the 449th District Court. At the time, she was the youngest District Court Judge in the state.

Rodriguez-Betancourt earned her Juris Doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law in 2005. In addition to serving on the bench, Rodriguez-Betancourt serves on two committees for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and was recently selected to participate in the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission 2019 Dual Status Task Force. She also serves as the Attorney Advisor to numerous local high school Mock Trial teams.

The Texas Bar Foundation is the largest charitably-funded bar foundation in the country. Membership has grown from an initial 255 Charter Members in 1965 to more than 9,500 Fellows today. The Texas Bar Foundation has maintained its mission of using the financial contributions of its members to build a strong justice system for all Texans. To date, the Texas Bar Foundation has distributed more than \$19 million throughout the state to assist nonprofit organizations with a wide range of justice-related programs and services. For more information, contact the Texas Bar Foundation at www.txbf.org.

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Attached: Photo of Renee Betancourt, 449th District Court Judge, and pdf of the Texas Bar Foundation certificate.

Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility. Follow our social media feed at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus