

Justice Julie Countiss, First Court of Appeals of Texas

Justice Julie Countiss was elected to Place 7 on the Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas on November 6, 2018, and sworn into office by her father, retired Justice Richard Countiss. In 2022, she was named **Appellate Judge of the Year** by the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists.

Born and raised in the Texas Panhandle, Justice Countiss graduated from Southern Methodist University in Dallas and joined Teach for America Corps in 1993 serving in the South Bronx, NYC. She graduated from the Law Center at the University of Houston in 2002 with two young children in tow by then. After years of working in private practice, Justice Countiss returned to public service as Assistant County Attorney in the Office of the Harris County Attorney until her election to the Court.

Currently, Justice Countiss serves on the Texas Children's Commission—a judicial commission for children, youth, and families in Texas. She is an active member of the National Association of Women Judges and serves on their Houston Color of Justice Scholarship Program Committee. And she co-chairs the Houston Bar Association Law Library Committee. In previous years she co-chaired the HBA Professionalism Committee, the Civil Trial and Appellate Bench Bar Committee and the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee. She was twice awarded the HBA President's Award for her service on HBA committees. Justice Countiss also serves on the State Bar Judicial Section Legislative Committee.