

JUDGE NANCY F. ATLAS

Nancy F. Atlas was appointed in 1995 as a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas (Houston Division).

Before her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Atlas was a shareholder and director of the firm of Sheinfeld, Maley & Kay, P.C. in Houston, Texas. Her prior legal experience includes serving as a law clerk for Judge Dudley B. Bonsal in the Southern District of New York, an Assistant United States Attorney in New York City, Civil Division, and an associate with the law firm of Webster & Sheffield in New York.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Tufts University (1971), magna cum laude (math) in 1991, and a Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law (1974).

Judge Atlas has held numerous positions in the American Bar Association's Section of Litigation from approximately 1990 to the present, including serving as a member of the Section's Council (1998 - 2001); Co-Division Director (2001-02); Member, ABA Litigation Section Council's Task Force on Multi-Jurisdictional Practice (which sponsored model Pro Hac Vice Rule); Member, Task Force on Ethical Guidelines for Settlement, and Co-Chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (1994-95), and member of the Federal Practice Task Force on several occasions. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the Section of Litigation 2007 Annual Conference, as a member of the Section of Litigation's Task Force on the Independent Judiciary. She is also Program Chair for the ABA Judicial Division's National Conference of Federal Trial Judges. Prior to her judicial appointment, she served as a Director (1990-94) and the Treasurer (1993-94) of the Houston Bar Foundation. Judge Atlas was a Council Member of the State Bar of Texas's Section of Alternative Dispute Resolution (1993-95) and Co-Chaired the Section's Committee that drafted Ethical Guidelines for Mediators (1994-95). She also founded and was a Director and Vice President of the Houston Chapter of the Association of Attorney-Mediators, Inc. (1991-93). Judge Atlas recently was elected to membership of the American Law Institute.

Judge Atlas also has been active in community affairs. She served as Chair of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (1992-95), a founding member of the Board of Victory, a fundraising arm of the Houston Branch of the American Cancer Society, and a board Member, Vice President and Treasurer of the American Jewish Committee in Houston.

Judge Atlas is a frequent lecturer on litigation and ADR topics.