

Linda L. Addison



Linda Addison is the daughter of Marcus and Theresa Leuchter, who married in Krakow, Poland in 1941. After the Nazi invasion, they lived in the Krakow ghetto, then went into hiding in Warsaw for two years, and finally were

deported to separate concentration camps; her mother nearly died at Ravensbrück. They were liberated in 1945 and reunited by the Red Cross. The Leuchters moved first to New York, then Pennsylvania, and eventually to Houston.

Ms. Addison was born six years after her parents were freed from Nazi concentration camps. When she started school in Allentown, Polish was the only language she knew. American culture was unknown to her parents. It fell to Ms. Addison to bridge the cultural divide for her parents and her younger brother. Since her earliest days, she never saw a challenge that was too daunting.

A *cum laude* graduate of the University of Texas, Ms. Addison was the first woman to serve as managing editor of the *Texas Law Review*. The Chancellor of the University of Texas described her to the chair of Fulbright & Jaworski as the most impressive student he had met in many years. Ms. Addison wanted to be a trial lawyer. Many Texas firms told her flat out that this was not a career path for women. She chose Fulbright because the firm promised her that opportunity.

Ms. Addison built her practice at a time when business clubs and events were closed to women in Texas and when clients were not the least bit reluctant to question why they should trust women with significant matters. Ms. Addison opened doors for women by leaving no doubt that a woman could try big, hard cases. In her three decades of private practice, she has tried over 50 cases to judgment as lead counsel. Her cases have ranged from intellectual property to commercial disputes, to matters involving securities, banking, and ERISA issues. She is the author of the practice guide *Texas Evidence*, a resource kept at the fingertips of bench and bar. Early in her career, she successfully challenged the constitutionality of Texas Blue Laws, opening the way to Sunday shopping, and for the city of Houston secured the right to redevelop a public housing community.

As a leader of her firm, she consistently encourages women to take on added responsibility and works to ensure that opportunities exist for other women. In 2001, she became the first woman member of Fulbright's six-person executive committee. In that position, she shepherded the development of a modified work schedules program, designed to encourage women and men to remain on partnership track while balancing family and career goals. She also works to implement programs to foster women's involvement in bar and community activities and to ensure that women continue to move into leadership roles. In 2009, she became partner-in-charge of Fulbright's 140-lawyer New York office.

Ms. Addison became the first woman in active practice to receive the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the University of Texas School of Law, joining only a handful of women in the school's 125-year history to be so honored, and is a trustee of the University of Texas Law School Foundation. She was also named one of the "50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America" and one of only 17 women among the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America" by the *National Law Journal*. She serves on the U.S. Commission for Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad and as a board member of the Advisory Board of Northern Trust Bank, N.A., the M.D. Anderson Cancer Foundation, and Holocaust Museum Houston. She is a founding guild member of Girls Incorporated of Greater Houston, whose mission is to help girls be "strong, smart, and bold." She actively participates in the U.S. State Department's annual International Women Leaders Mentoring Partnership, which pairs young businesswomen from other nations with mentors from *FORTUNE* magazine's Most Powerful Women Summit.

Recently, Ms. Addison joined a small group of distinguished women lawyers to found the Center for Women in Law at the University of Texas. For its inaugural summit in 2009, the Center convened women leaders from the legal profession, academia, business, and non-profit organizations, who issued the Austin Manifesto, calling for specific changes to address the issues facing women lawyers. In Ms. Addison's words, through this center, these women "expect to change the world."