

## **Biography for Eva Guzman**

Eva Guzman is a partner at Wright, Close & Barger in Houston. She is a trailblazing force in the legal industry, with an impressive history both as a litigator and as a judge. A former Texas Supreme Court Justice, Guzman focuses her practice on appellate work in state and federal courts, but some of her most recent work in private practice also included commercial litigation, state and local tax litigation, and mediation. She is also a mediator and American Arbitration Association's Roster of Arbitrators.

Guzman began her legal career in 1989, practicing law in Houston for 10 years before then-Governor George W. Bush appointed her to the District Court bench in Harris County. In 2001, then-Governor Rick Perry appointed her to the Texas 14th Court of Appeals. In 2009, after an appointment by Gov. Perry to the Supreme Court of Texas, she became the first Latina to serve on Texas's highest civil court and subsequently the first to win statewide office in Texas. As an Appellate court Justice, Guzman ruled on thousands of civil and criminal appeals and authored more than 900 opinions.

Eva Guzman has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston Law Center, teaching trial advocacy, and is a prolific speaker and presenter at state and national legal conferences and symposiums. An elected member of the prestigious American Law Institute, she has collaborated with legal professionals on a range of studies and projects and authored articles for several legal publications.

Guzman has earned numerous honors, awards, and accolades for her contributions to the legal profession, law enforcement, education, and business. She has been committed to the betterment of Texas children and families throughout her career and currently serves as Chair Emeritus of the Supreme Court of Texas Commission for Children, Youth, and Families.

A native Houstonian, Justice Guzman graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She received a law degree from the South Texas College of Law. She also holds an LL.M. in Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law, where she took classes from United States Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Samuel Alito.