

Sol Villasana

Of Counsel



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214-231-0137
Dallas

Practice Area:

- **Commercial Litigation**
- **Tort and Insurance Defense**
- **Governmental Agencies' Defense**
- **Attorney Disciplinary Defense**
- **Domestic Relations**
- **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

Sol Villasana is Of Counsel in the Firm's Dallas office. He is a civil trial lawyer and certified mediator, with over thirty years of experience in the Dallas and regional legal community. His primary practice areas include commercial litigation, including business and contract disputes, personal injury, insurance and subrogation, premises liability, domestic relations, and attorney disciplinary defense. Mr. Villasana regularly represents business entities before various governmental agencies. He also advises small-to medium-sized businesses on corporate and regulatory issues.

Mr. Villasana is a prolific writer and frequent speaker on a variety of legal and public policy issues.

EXPERIENCE

- Secured historic preservation status for a multi-million dollar, adaptive reuse commercial property in downtown Dallas
- Was trial attorney in the following cases reviewed by the United States Supreme Court: *City of Dallas v. Stanglin*, 744 S.W. 2d 165 (Tex. App.—Dallas 1987), *revised*, 490 U.S. 19 (1989); *Dumas, et al. v. City of Dallas*, 648 F. Supp. 1061 (N.D. Tex. 1986), *aff'd in part, vac'd in part, remanded*, 493 U.S. 215 (1990)
- Represented the buyer in the acquisition of a \$6.1 million commercial property from the Dallas Independent School District
- Special Counsel to the City of Dallas' Citizen's Charter Review Committee
- Served as court appointed, certified mediator since 1998 on hundreds of mediations
- Represented a large public school district in litigation in Federal courts
- Served as first chair lawyer in numerous trials as a Dallas Assistant City Attorney involving subrogation, tort and insurance defense, land use and zoning, pension, and workers' compensation matters
- Served as first chair lawyer as an Assistant General Counsel for the State Bar of Texas in several disciplinary trials
- Trial attorney in numerous legal malpractice matters, including representation in bar-related agencies
- Representation before several city, county, and state agencies involving various administrative law matters
- Served as Special Assistant to the Executive Director at the Texas Department of Commerce involved in small business and technology business development, and Texas/Mexico border issues including NAFTA
- Tried numerous tort/insurance-related cases
- Successfully represented homeowners in Rockwall, Texas in a highly contested zoning case
- Taught mediation at SMU's Center for Dispute Resolution & Conflict Management

EDUCATION

- J.D., The University of Texas at Austin School of Law (1983)
- B.S., Southern Methodist University (1975)

BAR/COURT ADMISSIONS

- All Texas Courts
- United States District Courts for the Northern and Eastern Districts of Texas
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States Supreme Court

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/MEMBERSHIPS

- Rockwall Bar Association
- Dallas Bar Association (with service on numerous committees including: Media Relations, Minority Affairs, and Community Dispute Resolution)
- Hispanic Bar Association of Dallas (former board member)
- Service on the Public Affairs & Public Education Committee of the State Bar of Texas
- Served as a Dallas County Grand Jury Commissioner
- Served on the Investiture Committee for United States District Judge Sam A. Lindsay

PRESENT AND PRIOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERSHIPS

- Helping Hands of Rockwall County (Board Corporate Secretary 2014)
- SMU Alumni Association
- The Family Place
- Dallas Museum of Natural History (presently the Perot Museum of Nature & Science)
- Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce
- The Dallas Assembly
- Dallas Mexican American Historical League
- The Shakespeare Festival of Dallas

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

- Presenter: "Dallas's Little Mexico," Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting (Spring 2013)
- Presenter: "We Came, We Built, We Prospered: 100 Years of Mexican American History in Dallas," Old Red Museum of Dallas County History and Culture (2012)
- Presenter: Dallas's Sixth Annual International Book Fair (2011)
- Author: *Dallas's Little Mexico*, (Arcadia Press, 2011)
- Presenter: "Education Law," Dallas Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (2010)
- Author: "Who is Tony Sanchez?" *Valiente Magazine* (2001)
- Author: "War & Memory," *D Magazine* (1995)
- Author: "The Peoples' Right to Know in the Age of Electronic Information," *Barrister Magazine* (1990)
- Author of numerous articles in *The Dallas Morning News* and other regional publications involving legal and public policy issues (1985 to present)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Dallas Bar Association's Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award (1999)