

JUSTICE GINA BENAVIDES

Justice Gina M. Benavides was first elected to the Thirteenth Court of Appeals in 2006 and re-elected to a second six-year term in 2012.

In 2007, Justice Benavides was named "Latina Judge of the Year" by the Hispanic National Bar Association.

In 2008, Justice Benavides was appointed to serve on the Texas Center for the Judiciary Board of Directors (the "Texas Center"). The Texas Center provides continuing judicial education programs for the state's judiciary and support personnel. In 2011, she was elected Chair of the Texas Center by her fellow judges—the first Hispanic female to hold this position. In 2013, Justice Benavides received the Chair's Award of Excellence from the Texas Center. She continues to serve the Texas Center as its judicial liaison to the State Bar of Texas's Judicial Section.

In 2010, the Texas Supreme Court appointed Justice Benavides to the Texas Access for Justice Commission. In February 2012, Justice Benavides was appointed to the Solutions 2012 Task Force.

Justice Benavides is also involved in the Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar of Texas and was named their "Judge of the year" in 2014. In 2016, she was elected the vice-chair of the Hispanic Issues Section.

Justice Benavides serves an active role in the State Bar of Texas, the National Association of Women Judges, the Hidalgo County Bar Association, and Texas Women Lawyers. She is past President of the Mexican-American Bar Association of Texas, past President of the Cameron County Bar Association, and a former Vice-President of the Texas Association of Defense Counsel. Justice Benavides is also a frequent speaker and presenter throughout Texas.

Justice Benavides is originally from Corpus Christi and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1985 from the University of Texas in Austin. She then attended law school at the University of Houston Law Center and was admitted into the State Bar in 1988. Justice Benavides currently resides in Corpus Christi, Texas with her husband Sammy. She is the proud mother of three: Daniella, Ricardo, and Alyssa; and the grandmother of Willow and Trey.