

The Honorable Susan D. Reed is the first woman to be elected District Attorney of Bexar County. Prior to her election in November of 1998, she served as Judge of the 144th District Court for 12 years.

District Attorney Reed was raised in San Antonio, Texas. She graduated from Alamo Heights High School. Her undergraduate degree is from the University of Texas at Austin majoring in Economics. She was awarded the Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law in 1974.

In addition to being licensed to practice law in Texas, she is licensed in Federal court in the Western District of Texas and the United States Supreme Court. She is board certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Beginning her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney for Bexar County in November of 1974, she served in that position for eight years and was chief prosecutor in the 144th and 187th District Courts. Her civil law experience stems from four years in private practice concentrating in business litigation at the firm of Soules and Reed.

As the Judge having led the creation of the "Gang" unit in the Adult Probation department, she naturally gives emphasis to gang issues as District Attorney. Her office is now a State leader in establishing gang injunctions. She has also worked in the legislative arena to increase penalties against gang members for soliciting or threatening young people to join gangs and thus to commit crimes as well as supporting the creation of gang free zones in those areas frequented by our youth. She also established an Elder Fraud Unit recognizing that the elderly citizens of our community deserve extra protection because of the vulnerabilities that come with growing older. After more than four legislative sessions where others had attempted to enhance certain crimes dealing with elder fraud, she was able to successfully push for the enhancement of six different fraud offenses when the crimes were perpetrated against an elderly victim. She is also responsible for the Bexar County Family Justice Center, which is the first in Texas to be created and remains to this date the only such center in the State.

Serving Texas in many capacities throughout her career, she was appointed on the Criminal Justice Policy Council for Gov. Bill Clements. Later, Gov. George Bush appointed her to serve on the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Board. She also serves on the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force and will be at the forefront of proposing significant legislative changes to deal with this ever present problem in our State. Nationally, Judge Reed was appointed by the Attorney General to be a member of the National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women and is a member of the national working group of the International Association of Chiefs of Police on sexual offenses by police officers. Locally she serves as the Chair of the Bexar County National Campaign to Stop Violence. This is a unique educational program designed for 7th and 8th grade students to stimulate a dialogue to discuss strategies and solutions for dealing with gang violence, weapons, drugs and domestic abuse and bullying.

She was chosen by the state's elected district and county attorneys to serve as President of the Texas District and County Attorney's Association in 2005 and presently serves on its Board. She is also a member of the National District Attorney's Association. She has testified both before the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature on issues related to crime. In 2009 she received the "Speaker's Gavel" award from the Texas House of Representatives for her hard work in the pursuit of justice.

In her commitment as a Judge and District Attorney, enhancing awareness of victim's rights and sensitivity to those falling victim to wrongdoers is a top priority. She remains an outspoken advocate both within and outside her office for those who find themselves a victim of crime.

Resulting from her belief that "justice" does not include wrongful convictions, she worked to pass procedures for post conviction testing of evidence after the person has been convicted of a crime. This was necessary to establish a uniform, fair process for ensuring that only the guilty will be punished.

She has been honored by induction into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame, presented the Eastside Community "Honors Award," and has been recognized by School Districts, Family Violence Prevention Services and the Children's Shelter for her many community contributions. She has also been recognized by the National Association of Social Workers-San Antonio Branch as the Elected Official of the Year for 2010.