

NANCY FRIEDMAN ATLAS**Judge, United States District Court, Southern District of Texas**

Nancy Friedman Atlas was appointed as a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas in August, 1995. Judge Atlas chaired the Southern District of Texas committee that drafted the District's Local Patent Rules. She also was instrumental in drafting the District's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program and serves as the Chair of its Standing ADR Panel of Neutrals.

Before her judicial appointment, Judge Atlas was a Shareholder and Director of the Houston law firm of Sheinfeld, Maley & Kay, P.C. from 1982 to 1995, where she concentrated on federal litigation and mediation. She mediated more than 400 court cases and arbitrated various disputes.

Prior to relocating to Texas, Judge Atlas practiced law in New York, NY, where she served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York (Civil Division), was an associate with a New York law firm, and served as a law clerk to a United States District Judge in the Southern District of New York.

Judge Atlas was Chair of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Federal Judicial Improvements, a member of the ABA Section of Litigation's Council, the Council's Task Force on Multi-Jurisdictional Practice, and currently co-chairs the Section's Federal Practice Task Force. She has served as a member of the Section's Task Force on Judicial Independence, and the Task Force on Ethical Guidelines for Settlement. She also co-chaired the Section's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and was vice chair of the Section's Bankruptcy Committee.

Judge Atlas served as a Director and Treasurer of the Houston Bar Foundation, a Council Member of the State Bar of Texas's Section of Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Co-Chair of the Committee that drafted the Section's Ethical Guidelines for Mediators. Judge Atlas co-founded and was a Director and Vice President of the Association of Attorney-Mediators, Inc. (Houston Chapter). Judge Atlas is a member of the American Law Institute.

Judge Atlas is a frequent lecturer and has written extensively on federal litigation and alternative dispute resolution topics.

Judge Atlas graduated from Tufts University (1971) *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from New York University School of Law (NYU) (1974), where she served as Managing Editor of NYU's *Annual Survey of American Law*, and received the law school's Vanderbilt Award for outstanding service.

