

MICHAEL RATLIFF

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Board Certified, Civil Trial Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization (1995-present).

Education:

Juris Doctor, University of Houston, 1977.

Bachelor of Arts with Honors, University of Texas at Austin, 1973.

Work experience:

October 2019-present. Of Counsel, Sanderford & Carroll, P.C., Assists in the evaluation, analysis and work-up of claims of clients in order to present the most efficient and effective presentation of the claim.

July 1995-April 2019. Office of the Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General in the Transportation Division, Tort and Contract Litigation Section, representing the Texas Department of Transportation. In this capacity, tried over 30 tort cases to jury trial verdict in 22 different counties and several contract disputes before the State Office of Administrative Hearings. Also handled appeals of jury verdicts and summary judgment/plea to the jurisdiction orders. Appeared for hearings or trials in 82 different counties in the State, some counties numerous times before different judges. Served as Senior Attorney for the Tort and Contract Litigation Section the last several years prior to retirement supervising younger attorneys and legal assistants in tort and contract litigation.

1980-1995. Partner, Moore, Dickson, Roberts and Ratliff, Sweetwater, Tx. General practice of law, including personal injury plaintiff and defense practice, worker's compensation, family law, real estate, commercial law, wills and estates, and criminal law. Handled over twenty cases to jury verdict and several appeals.

1985-1995. Municipal Judge, City of Sweetwater, Tx. Part-time position administering adjudication of Class C misdemeanor cases.

1977-1980. Associate, Adams & Reese, New Orleans, La. Maritime law practice. General maritime law litigation, including vessel collisions and Jones Act personal injury defense claims.

1977-Licensed to practice law in Texas and Louisiana. (Louisiana license inactive upon returning to Texas).

Key Published Cases:

Sipes v. Tex. Dep't of Transp., 949 S.W.2d 516 (Tex. App.—Texarkana 1997, writ denied).

Snow v. Tex. Dep't of Transp., 13 S.W.3d 889 (Tex. App.—Amarillo 2000, no pet.)

Tex. Dep't of Transp. v. Bederka, 36 S.W.3d 266 (Tex. App.—Beaumont 2001, no pet.)

Tex. Dep't of Transp. v. Velasco, 40 S.W.3d 702 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 2001, no pet.)

Ihlo v. State, 71 S.W.3d 494 (Tex. App.—Austin 2002, no pet.)

Sehorn v. Tex. Dep't. of Transp., No. 07-03-0195-CV, 2005 WL 991290 (Tex. App.—Amarillo Apr. 26, 2005, no pet.) (mem. op.)

Evatt v. Tex. Dep't of Transp., No. 11-05-00031-CV, 2006 WL 1349352 (Tex. App.—Eastland May 18, 2006, pet. denied) (mem. op.)

Tex. Dep't. of Transp. v. Crockett, 257 S.W.3d 412 (Tex. App.—Corpus Christi 2008, pet. denied).

Tex. Dep't. of Transp. v. Gutierrez, 284 S.W.3d 848 (Tex. 2009).

Tex. Dep't. of Transp. v. Peterson, 2011 WL 5166409 (Tex.App.—Tyler, 2011).

Tex. Dep't of Transp. v. Perches, 388 S.W.3d 652 (Tex. 2012).

Tex. Dep't. of Transp. v. Ingram, 412 S.W.3rd 129 (Tex.App.—Texarkana 2013, no pet.)

Tex. Dep't. of Transp. v. Tarver, No. 01-17-00919-CV, 2018 WL 3468475 (Tex.App.—Houston [1st.Dist.], July 19, 2018, no pet.) (mem.op).

Personal Interests:

Married to Jolie Tate

Two adult children and six grandchildren

Boating

Gardening

Travel