

[Harvey Weitz](#)

CYNTHIA ORR

CYNTHIA EVA HUIJAR ORR has attained national prominence defending citizens and entities in state and federal trial and appellate courts. She is the Second Vice President of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Past President of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. She is on the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Council. She is listed in The Best Lawyers in America and is an inductee to the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame. Cynthia obtained the first confession of error by the State of Texas in a death penalty case. She was counsel on the Amicus brief in *CNN v. General Manuel Noriega* before the United States Supreme Court where she successfully defended this unpopular defendant's attorney-client privilege.



She is a co-founder of the Texas Innocence Network and the San Antonio Minority Business Accelerator. She is also chair of the Women's Opportunity Week at the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce during which women are awarded the Ford Motor Company Women of Achievement award.

She began her career clerking for Fifth Circuit Judge Emilio Garza when he was on the District Court bench in San Antonio, Texas. She is most active advocating criminal justice reforms. She is also Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and has an AV rating by Martindale Hubble.

A 1979 undergraduate of University of Texas at Austin and 1988 graduate of St. Mary's University Law School, she is proficient in trial, appeals, writs of habeas corpus, petitions for discretionary review, writs of certiorari, mandamus, prohibition and coram nobis. Her breadth of experience with each vehicle complements the others, making her a strong and experienced advocate.

Some of her past clients have been under investigation for antitrust, money laundering, RICO (Racketeering in Corrupt Organizations), economic espionage, foreign bank fraud, bank fraud, Bank Secrecy Act violations, money transfer business violations, bankruptcy fraud, insurance fraud, healthcare fraud, tax fraud, tax evasion, securities fraud, computer and internet fraud, economic and cyber-crime violations, credit card fraud, phone and telemarketing fraud, mail fraud, campaign contribution and election code violations, public corruption, government fraud, financial fraud, insider trading, bribery, kickbacks, counterfeiting, embezzlement, trade secret theft, ITAR, EAR and munitions violations, environmental violations, import or export offenses and forfeiture. Her practice also includes the representation of those individuals and entities under investigation or accused of white collar and serious crimes in state court. She further devotes a portion of her time to a pro bono death penalty practice.

EDUCATION:

B.B.A. - University of Texas (1979)

J.D. - St. Mary's University (1988)

BAR ADMISSIONS:

Texas (1989); United States Supreme Court (1992)

United States District Court for the Western District (1989), United States District Court for the Southern District (1990), United States District Court for the Eastern District and Northern District of Texas (1991)

United States Courts of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (1992), Fifth Circuit (1990), Ninth Circuit (1996) and Eleventh Circuit (2004).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Federal Judicial Clerkship for the Honorable Emilio Garza (1988)

President, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (2003-2004)

Second Vice President, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (2007-2008)

Board of Directors, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (1999-2005)

Co-Chair, American Bar Association Defense Functions/Services Committee (2003-2007)

Member of the American Bar Association, Criminal Justice Council (2007- present)

Member of the ABA Task Force re-writing the Criminal Justice Standards for the Defense Function and the Prosecution Function

Member, American Bar Association Criminal Justice Committee Section (2001 to present)

Member, American Bar Association Defense Functions/Services Committee Liaison to Criminal Justice Section Ad

<http://www.theatla.com/cynthia-orr.html>

5/25/2010

The American Trial Lawyers Association

Hoc Innocence Committee to Ensure the Integrity of the Criminal Process (2002-present)

Co-Chair, Federal Courts Committee - Criminal Law Subcommittee, San Antonio Bar Association (1999-present)

Member, William S. Sessions American Inn of Court (2001 to present)

Co-Founder, Texas Innocence Network (2000)

Member of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce (2004-present)

Member of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Board for the East Area Business Council (2004-present)

Member of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Board for the Northwest Area Business Council (2005)

2005 Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce SA to DC Trip, lobbied Congress on behalf of small businesses regarding contract bundling, association insurance and leadership for the SBA.

HONORS:

Best Lawyers in America 2005, 2006, 2007

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Presidential Award 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2003

Presidential Recognition by National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2007

San Antonio Bar Association Presidential Award 1998

Featured in Texas Monthly chosen as a Texas Super Lawyer by peers 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007

Featured in Scene in SA Monthly chosen as one of the best Lawyers in San Antonio by peers 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT:

Obtained the first Confession of Error by the State of Texas in a death penalty case, Miguel Angel Martinez vs. Gary Johnson, No. L-98-37 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Laredo Division, underlying case - State of Texas vs. Miguel Angel Martinez, Cause No. K-91-294-D3 in the 341st Judicial District Court, Webb County, Laredo, Texas.

The American Trial Lawyers Association

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The Garretson Firm - We navigate the complex demands of settlement to achieve closure quickly



Counsel Financial - Loans for Lawyers from *Counsel Financial* provides attorneys with flexible revolving credit using the value of your contingent lawsuit as collateral.

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