

Roberto Cañas

Roberto Cañas was the presiding judge of County Criminal Court #10 in Dallas County, the first Latino to hold that position. His court handled only domestic violence cases. While on the bench, Judge Cañas worked to improve the legal system's response to domestic violence. His numerous awards for his service on the bench includes the 2018 HeRO Award from Genesis Women's Shelter, the 2018 Dallas Hispanic Bar Association's President's Award, the 2019 Mexican-American Bar Association's Misdemeanor Judge of the Year, the 2013 Champion of Human Rights Award from Mosaic Family Services and the 2009 Make A Difference Award from New Beginning Center.

In 2013, Judge Cañas's court was named a Domestic Violence Mentor Court by the U.S. Department of Justice, one of only three in the nation to receive that designation. This means that his court exhibited best practices and also that his court served as a model for other courts to follow. Judge Cañas was a faculty member of the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence and trained judges around the country and around the world on domestic violence issues.

In 2014, Judge Cañas instituted Dallas County's first-ever gun surrender program for domestic violence offenders to ensure that they are compliant with federal and state laws prohibiting gun possession. Currently, Judge Cañas serves as on the Domestic Violence Executive Task Force created by Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings. The purpose of the Task Force is to identify and remedy gaps in the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence in Dallas.

Judge Cañas is currently in private practice at the firm of Lisa E. McKnight P.C. He represents clients in complex family and criminal matters.