

**Hon. Claudia Laird**  
**Presiding Judge of County Court at Law Number Two**  
**Montgomery County, Texas**



Judge Laird has presided over Montgomery County Court at Law #2 since 2011 and was the presiding Administrative Judge for the County Courts at Law for 2015, 2016 2020 and 2021. County Court at Law #2 was awarded Department of the year in 2016. Judge Laird was recognized in 2016 by the Texas Office of Court Administration in a statewide publication detailing “best practices” used by probate courts. In 2017 County Court at Law #2 was named by the Texas Office of Court Administration as a “model court” for guardianship administration practices, and Judge Laird was called to testify as a judicial expert on guardianship before the Texas Senate State Affairs Committee. In 2018 Judge Laird was appointed to serve on the Texas Judicial Council's Civil Justice Advisory Committee. In 2020 her Court was designated by the Texas Judicial Council as a Judicial Center of Excellence; at the time only four courts in Texas had received this honor. During her first term in office Judge Laird created the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Court, and during her second term in office Judge Laird created the Montgomery County Veterans' Court. Most recently Judge Laird (2021) was appointed by Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Hecht to serve as one of two County Court at Law Judges on the Texas Judicial Counsel.

Judge Laird has worked with legislators to recommend, draft and testify in Austin regarding the following legislation:

Code of Criminal Procedure § 26.041  
HB 634 (84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session)  
Texas Government Code § 501.010  
SB 38 – Passed as amendment to SB 39 (85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session)  
SB 1016 (85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session)  
Subtitle K, Title 2, Government Code, Chapter 130  
HB 1296 (87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session)  
HB 1297 (87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session)  
HB 3394 (87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session)

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:**

2013-2016 Texas Center for the Judiciary, Bench Book Committee Member  
Responsible for the 2014 probate section of the Texas Bench Book  
Jointly responsible for the 2016 probate section of the Texas Bench Book

2015,2016,  
2020, 2021 County Courts at Law Administrative Judge

2015-2016 Veterans Treatment Court Steering Committee Member

2017 Texas Bar Association Fiduciary Litigation CLE Planning Committee

2018 Texas Bar Association Advanced Guardianship Law CLE Planning  
Committee

2018 Texas Bar Association Elder Law CLE Planning Committee

2018 Texas Judicial Council Civil Justice Committee's Advisory Council upon  
invitation by the Texas Supreme Court's Chief Justice Nathan Hecht

2018-Present Montgomery County Bail Bond Board

2011-Present Montgomery County Juvenile Judge's Board

2011-Present Montgomery County Board of Judges

2019-Present Montgomery County Board of Judges Local Rules Drafting Committee

## **PAPERS:**

Laird, Claudia. "Civil Law: Let the buyer beware." The Texas Prosecutor September -  
October 2010: 23-25

Laird, Claudia. "Probate and Guardianship- The Fundamental Nuts and Bolts."  
Presented to:  
The Texas Center for the Judiciary Winter Regional Conference 2/13 & 1/13.  
-Highest Conference Speaker Rating from January 2013  
-Perfect "Knowledge of Topic" score from February 2013  
The Texas College of Probate Judges Regional Workshop 3/16; 6/16; 9/16; 6/17;  
8/17; 8/18; 3/19; 5/19; 8/19; 5/21; 8/21

Laird, Claudia & Payne Smith, Darlene. "Criminal Aspects of Guardianship."  
Presented to:  
The Texas Bar Association Advanced Guardianship Law Course on 4/4/14.  
The Montgomery County Court at Law Number Two Brown Bag Luncheon 1/16.

Laird, Claudia & Payne Smith, Darlene. "Elder Abuse and the Criminal Aspects of  
Estates, Guardianships, and Mental Commitments" Texas Tech University School of Law  
Estate Planning & Community Property Journal Volume 10, Summer 2018, Book 2.  
Presented to:

- The Texas Bar Association Advanced Estate Planning & Probate Seminar  
6/16
- The Texas College of Probate Judges Regional Workshop 9/16
- The Midland Odessa Business and Estate Council 9/16
- The Montgomery County Bar Association Fall Conference 11/16
- National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys Annual Conference (CLE  
hosted by University of Texas) 8/17

Cited by Texas Supreme Court:

- *In re Theftford*, 2019 Tex. LEXIS 496, 62 Tex. Sup. J. 1126, 2019 WL 2237994

Laird, Claudia. "Business Records Affidavits of Personal Representatives of the Estate"  
Presented to: The Texas Bar Association Fiduciary Litigation Seminar 12/17

Laird, Claudia. "WHAT'S NEW (and not so new) IN ELDER LAW AS OBSERVED FROM THE BENCH"  
Presented to: The Texas Bar Association Advanced Elder Law Conference 4/18