



Hon. Jerry W. Simoneaux, Jr.

Judge, Harris County Probate Court No. 1
201 Caroline St, Ste 600, Houston, Texas 77002
(office) 832-927-1401



Judge Jerry Simoneaux has presided over Harris County Probate Court No. 1 since January 2019. He previously served as the Assistant State Presiding Judge of the Statutory Probate Courts for the 2023–2025 term, and came to the bench after more than 17 years of practice in probate, trust, guardianship, and fiduciary litigation and appeals.

He has delivered over 80 presentations on topics ranging from guardianship law and fiduciary duties to judicial ethics and courtroom technology. His written work includes more than 20 articles and legal papers, published in *The Houston Lawyer* and on his Substack publication "Jerry's Prudence," which covers Texas probate law and procedure for practitioners and interested lay readers.

He is a Lifetime Jurist of the Texas Center for the Judiciary, a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, a Fellow of the Houston Bar Foundation, and the founder and former president of the Texas Probate Law American Inn of Court. He is the recipient of numerous professional honors, including the State Bar of Texas Judge Merrill Hartman Pro Bono Judge Award and the Judge Norman Black Award. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the State Bar of Texas Judicial Section—the first Statutory Probate Judge elected to that position.

A 2001 graduate of South Texas College of Law, he holds dual bachelor's degrees from the University of Houston—a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and a Bachelor of Arts in French, both earned in 1997—and completed Harvard Law School's Judicial Executive Leadership Program.

He holds a U.S. Coast Guard Master Captain's license and sails regularly along the Gulf Coast and to international destinations including Croatia, Italy, and the British Virgin Islands. In 2016, he organized the first group of U.S. sailors to bring privately owned vessels into Havana Harbor, Cuba—the first such entry since 1958.