

NANCY FORBIS CARNAHAN

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Education, Honors, Certifications

- + University of Texas at Austin, B.A., summa cum laude, 1986
- + Member, Phi Beta Kappa
- + University of Texas School of Law, J.D., cum laude, 1989
- + Proficient Spanish-Speaking Mediator
- + Member, Associate Editor, The Texas Law Review, 1987-1989
- + Certified Basic, Advanced Family Law, and CPS Mediator
- + Volunteer Mediator – Dispute Resolution Services of North Texas
- + Martindale Hubbell – Peer Review AV Rated

Nancy was born and raised in Decatur, Wise County, Texas, where she graduated from Decatur High School as its valedictorian. She received her B.A degree from the University of Texas at Austin, with highest honors in 1986, and her J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law, with honors in 1989. While at UT Law School, she was a member and later an associate editor of The Texas Law Review, the school's pre-eminent legal publication, where she later served as an associate editor.

In high school and college, Nancy studied Spanish and had the privilege of traveling extensively in Mexico with her school, family, and church mission trips and as an adult, was volunteered with Human Rights Initiative, representing clients pro bono in connection with their political asylum claims. Through these experiences, Nancy became a proficient Spanish-speaker and now employs these skills in her mediation practice, providing mediation services in Spanish where called upon. She can also assist with Spanish translation as needed.

Nancy's twenty-seven (27) year legal practice has been devoted to litigation, including everything from commercial litigation, to all manner of personal and professional liability litigation, property disputes, employer liability, product liability, family law and alternative dispute resolution. Nancy began her practice with the commercial litigation firm of Figari & Davenport (1989-1991), and later practiced with the Dallas firm of Cowles & Thompson (1991-2000), where she became a partner in 1994. In 2000, she left to form the Hermes, Sargent, Bates law firm where she was a partner until her departure to form her own firm

in Southlake, Texas. Nancy was with the Carnahan Thomas law firm from 2003-2017, where her practice remained focused on litigation of all kinds, and she acted as the firm's managing partner for 14 years. In late 2017, she and husband and mediator Mike Carnahan formed Carnahan & Carnahan PC where the practice together. In the course of managing the firm, she has bought and sold commercial real estate, acted as trustee and administrator for the firm's 401K plan, procured the firm's health and dental plans, hired and fired employees, negotiated leases and gained a great deal of practical business experience.

From 1996 to 2015, as part of her practice, Nancy acted as national coordinating products liability counsel for The Brinkmann Corporation, managing the company's litigation nationwide, assisting with the defense and resolution of their suits, as well as with a number of product recalls which were undertaken by the company in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission.

More recently, Nancy has added family law as a more prominent area of her practice and is now focusing her efforts on developing a full-time alternative dispute resolution and mediation practice in all areas of litigation and pre-litigation matters, including family law. Nancy has received her basic mediation certification, as well as her Advanced Family Law Mediator certification, and her CPS Mediator certification. Nancy has joined Gilbert Mediation Group in Dallas Texas, and also mediates at her offices in Southlake, as well as acting as a volunteer mediator for Dispute Resolution Services of North Texas, serving Tarrant and surrounding Counties. She has successfully mediated family law, commercial and personal injury cases.

Nancy is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbe, its highest rating for ethics and excellence, and has held that rating for over 15 years. She has also been named to Martindale-Hubbell's Bar Registry for Preeminent Lawyers publication.

Nancy is licensed to practice in all Texas state courts as well as the Federal District Courts for the Northern, Eastern, and Southern Districts of Texas. She is a member of the Dallas Bar Association, the Northeast Tarrant County Bar Association, and the Texas Association of Mediators. Nancy has been married to attorney and mediator Mike Carnahan for 24 years, and they are raising four sons.

[Nancy's Mediation Fee Schedule.](#)