

## ***Mr. Al Ellis***

Mr. Al Ellis graduated from South Oak Cliff High School in Dallas Texas, in 1961, and in the fall he enrolled in Arlington State College. He joined the ROTC program and by his senior year was the Cadet Corps Commander and the Commander of the Sam Houston Rifles. While accomplishing all this, he paid his way through college with part-time and summer jobs. As one of his contemporaries has said, "he is the complete package." Al graduated in 1965 with a BA degree. He was a Distinguished Military Graduate and commissioned in the Infantry. His first duty assignment was with the 82nd Airborne Division where he served in the Dominican Republic. He later served in Vietnam as an advisor to the Vietnamese Army. Al left the Army in 1969 as a Captain to pursue a career in law.

He attended Southern Methodist University and received his law degree in 1971. While at SMU, he was the Student Chief Counsel for the SMU Legal Clinic and a member of the Board of Editors for the *Journal of Air Law and Commerce*. After graduation he began his career as a trial lawyer with a small firm that eventually became his own solo practice.

Mr. Al Ellis is known in legal circles for his long list of professional credentials. He has always been an advocate for his clients, having tried over 175 jury trials. Mr. Ellis serves as "Of Counsel" with Sommerman & Quesada, which signifies exemplary leadership and integrity in the practice of law as well as service to the community. Al Ellis has earned this special designation through a lifetime of professional achievement, personal generosity, and energetic public service. He is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and all Federal and State Courts in Texas. He is a Board Certified Personal Injury and Civil Trial Lawyer.

He is a member of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers (an elite organization comprised of only 500 members in the U.S.), the American Board of Trial Advocates, the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, and the Dallas Bar Association. He has served as a board member of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, Texas Bar Association, Dallas Bar Association, Law Focused Education, Inc., Legal Services of North Texas, Dallas Legal Hospice, Dallas Habitat for Humanity, Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation, and the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism. Over the years he has helped build over 100 homes for Habitat for Humanity in Dallas, the Gulf Coast, Vietnam and Haiti.

Past leadership roles include: presidencies of the Dallas Bar Association, Dallas Trial Lawyers Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, American Board of Trial Advocates (Dallas Chapter), Dallas Council on Alcoholism, Dallas All Sports Association, and tournament director for the Dallas Regional Golden Gloves Tournament for 20 years.

Mr. Ellis's numerous honors include: Martin Luther King Jr. Justice Award, Dallas Justinian Award, UTA Distinguished Alumni Award, The Dallas Jaycees Distinguished Service Award, Dallas All Sports Association Distinguished Service Award, Dallas Trial Lawyers Distinguished Community Involvement Award, Leon Jaworski Award for Teaching Excellence, Nancy Garms Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to Law-Focused Education, Best Lawyers in America 2003-12, and Texas Super Lawyer 2003-12.

Mr. Ellis and his wife Sandy live in Dallas. They have three children: Josh Ellis, Jennifer Fahey, and Mike Fahey. They also have three grandchildren: Alex Fahey, Brooklyn Fahey and Sofia Fahey.