

Emily Johnson-Liu

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Emily is an Assistant State Prosecuting Attorney in Austin. Originally from North Texas, Emily got her English degree from Rice, traveled to China to teach English for a year, and returned to Austin for law school. She clerked at the Travis County District Attorney's Office and served as a briefing attorney for the Fourteenth Court of Appeals in Houston. She was an appellate prosecutor in the Collin County District Attorney's Office for fourteen years before joining the State Prosecuting Attorney's Office in 2017. She has written several articles for the Texas Prosecutor magazine and is board certified in Criminal Appellate Law. She is also co-chair of the State Bar's Criminal Pattern Jury Charge Committee and chair of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association's Publication Committee.

Wendell Odom, Jr.

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Wendell is a Thomson Reuters Super Lawyer (2006-2022) and recipient of Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating. He is best known to the public for his representation of Andrea Yates after she tragically drowned her five children. He obtained a "not guilty by reason of insanity" verdict in her high-profile re-trial which touched off a national debate over insanity laws and our system of justice. Wendell is the son of former Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Wendell A. Odom. Wendell graduated from Baylor Law School in 1974 and became an Assistant District Attorney in Harris County, quickly rising to Chief of the Consumer Fraud Division. In 1978, Wendell became an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District, where he investigated and prosecuted RICO crimes and public corruption cases, among others. Wendell started his own practice in 1981. His representation has included the defense of major national corporations, high-profile cases involving bank fraud, tax evasion and white-collar crimes, and offenses ranging from DWI to Capital Murder. He has been president of the Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association, chair of the State Bar of Texas Committee on Pattern Criminal Jury Charges, and co-editor of the Houston Bar Journal. He currently serves on the Pattern Jury Charge Committee and the Committee that approves and oversees the appointment of attorneys in the Southern District. He has lectured on criminal topics at various universities and appeared on national and local television and radio shows, discussing high-profile criminal cases. Wendell was recently named Attorney of the Year by the Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association.