

BENJAMIN P. GIFFORD: BIO



Ben Gifford is a practicing attorney in Amarillo, Texas where he currently serves as the Director for the Managed Assigned Counsel division, for Potter and Armstrong County, Texas. Mr. Gifford originally hales from southern California and remains an unwavering fan of the 1984 San Diego Padres. He attended undergrad at the University of California, Berkeley where he played catcher for the baseball team, competing in what was then known as the PAC-10 Conference. Mr. Gifford graduated from Cal in 2000 and immediately joined the United States Marine Corps. Over the course of the next eight years Mr. Gifford served as an Marine infantry officer, ultimately rising to the rank of Captain, and serving in a variety of billets including time spent as a Company Commander with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines. Mr. Gifford served in multiple combat tours, both in Iraq and Afghanistan, and earning a number of personal and unit awards. Tragically, in December of 2006, Mr. Gifford lost his little brother, Army Corporal Micah Gifford, killed in action just outside of Baghdad, Iraq, while serving with the 3-509th Airborne Infantry Regiment out of Fort Richardson, AK. Shortly after the loss of his brother, Mr. Gifford began the process of departing the Marine Corps and turned his sights to law school. While stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, Mr. Gifford was accepted to nearby Pepperdine University School of Law where he began attendance in 2008. Upon graduation in 2011, Mr. Gifford moved his family to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he served as a State Prosecutor, and later worked in private practice, primarily working personal injury and criminal defense matters. In 2019, Mr. Gifford began service as a Federal Prosecutor in the Eastern District of Oklahoma, where during his time, the landmark Supreme Court decision in *McGirt v. Oklahoma* (2020) changed the entire legal landscape in tumultuous ways. In 2022, Mr. Gifford made the decision to leave the U.S. Attorney's Office and make one last move, this time close to family in Amarillo, Texas, where his Uncle, Richard Martindale, had served as a State Prosecutor for decades, and where the majority of Mr. Gifford's family now resides. Mr. Gifford has been practicing law in Amarillo since that time recently being selected to head up the aforementioned Managed Assigned Counsel Division. Mr. Gifford also maintains a criminal defense docket of his own, serving indigent clients specifically in Armstrong County. Mr. Gifford is licensed in Colorado, Texas, all Federal District Courts in Texas and Oklahoma, the District of Colorado, and the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Gifford has been married for 23 years to his wife Sara, and they have 5 children: two now in college, and three still at home. Mr. Gifford is the proud owner of 3 goats, 5 chickens, 2 dogs, 4 cats, and a miniature horse named Trooper. The family attends the Colonies Church of Christ in Amarillo, where his wife is employed as the full time church secretary.