

**UNITED STATES COURTS
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**
600 CAMP STREET, ROOM 100
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 3, 2024

Lorie A. Robinson
Circuit Executive
(504) 310-7777

PRESS RELEASE

On October 4, 2024, the Honorable Jennifer Walker Elrod of Houston, Texas, becomes the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, which hears appeals from federal courts in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Judge Elrod succeeds Chief Judge Priscilla Richman, who has led the court since 2019.

Judge Elrod earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics *magna cum laude* from Baylor University in 1988. She graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 1992, where she was an Ames Moot Court finalist and a Senior Editor of the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*. After law school, Judge Elrod clerked for the Honorable Sim Lake in the Southern District of Texas and practiced civil litigation with Baker Botts in Houston. She also served as the first general counsel of Communities in Schools Houston.

In 2002, Judge Elrod was appointed by Governor Rick Perry and then elected to the 190th Civil District Court of Harris County, Texas. She was reelected in 2006. On the state-court bench, she presided over more than 200 jury and non-jury trials. President George W. Bush nominated Judge Elrod to the Fifth Circuit in 2007, and she was confirmed by voice vote in the United States Senate.

Judge Elrod recently finished a term as Chair of the Committee on Codes of Conduct for the Judicial Conference of the United States, a role to which she was appointed by Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts, Jr. In that role, Judge Elrod was responsible for directing the Committee's work and advising judges and judicial employees on their ethical obligations arising under the Codes of Conduct. She previously served as chair of both the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and the Gulf Coast Legal Foundation.

Judge Elrod is the Jurist-in-Residence at the South Texas College of Law, where she teaches courses in civil procedure and First Amendment law. She has also taught legal writing at the University of Houston Law Center. She previously served on the Baylor University Board of Regents, where she chaired the Academic Affairs Committee.

Judge Elrod also serves on the Executive Committee of Houston's Garland R. Walker Inn of Court, an organization that promotes professionalism, civility, and ethics among attorneys. She co-produces and directs the Inn's annual musical focused on legal education, which has earned multiple national awards. In 2015, Judge Elrod received the Chief Justice Jack Pope Professionalism Award, which recognizes an appellate lawyer or judge who epitomizes the highest level of professionalism and integrity.

As Chief Judge of the Circuit, Judge Elrod will sit on the Judicial Conference of the United States, which establishes policies for federal courts nationwide.