

**LAW OFFICE OF SAM M. (TREY) YATES, III, P.C.**  
**ATTORNEY ~ MEDIATOR**

SAM M. (TREY) YATES, III.  
BOARD CERTIFIED FAMILY LAW  
TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

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**Education:**

Graduate: St. Mary's School of Law  
San Antonio, Texas  
Juris Doctor, 1984

Licensed to practice law by the Supreme Court of Texas - 1984

Undergraduate: University of Houston  
Bachelor of Arts - Political Science, 1981

American Academy of Dramatic Arts  
Los Angeles, California, 1979

**Professional:** Law Offices of Sam M. (Trey) Yates, III, P. C.  
50 Briar Hollow Lane, Suite 425 West  
Houston, Texas 77027

A civil law trial practice since 1986 in Harris, Ft. Bend, Brazoria, Montgomery and Galveston counties with a primary focus on family law litigation, probate/guardianship litigation and basic estate planning services. Experienced in Collaborative family law, mediation, and Court appointments as a child representative.

Martindale-Hubbell CV Peer Review Rated

Board Certified Family Law - Texas Board of Legal Specialization - 2010

Texas Super Lawyers - Family Law - 2015

Certified Attorney-Mediator - 1998

Certified Family Law Mediator - 1999

Child Protective Services Mediation Training for Children First

Houston Bar Association Peer Mediation in Schools Program Training

Children's Friend in Court Amicus Training

Collaborative Family Law Attorney

Admitted to Practice - United States District Court - Southern District of Texas

Member - Yarrell & Yates, LLC.

Owner - The Guide to Good Divorce, Inc.

**Professional Memberships:**

Fellow - American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists

Gulf Coast Family Law Specialists

Texas Trial Lawyers Association

The Collaborative Law Institute of Texas

Houston Bar Association  
Member Family Law Section  
Member Probate, Trusts and Estate Section  
Member Collaborative Law Section  
Houston Bar Foundation, Life Fellow

Fort Bend County Bar Association  
College of the State Bar of Texas  
American Inns of Court  
Burta Rhoads Raborn Family Law American Inn of Court  
Pro Bono College State Bar of Texas  
The American Association of Justice  
American Bar Association

**Professional Affiliations:**

**Burta Rhoads Raborn Family Law Inn of Court**

President - Current  
President Elect - One Term  
Secretary - Two Terms

**Gulf Coast Family Law Specialists**

Board of Directors - Current

**Houston Bar Association - Collaborative Law Section**

Board of Directors - One Term

**Houston Bar Association - Family Law Section**

Chair - 2007/2008 Term  
Chair Elect - One Term  
Secretary - One Term  
Board of Directors - Three Terms

**Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, Inc.**

Board of Directors - Three Terms  
Former Family Law Pro Bono Mentor for King and Spalding, L.L.P  
Star Volunteer of 1999

**Houston Bar Association - AIDS Outreach Committee**

Committee Chair - One Term  
President's Award for Outstanding Service as Chair of AIDS  
Outreach Committee Houston Bar Association - 1997

**Continuing Legal Education Activities:**

**Course Director** - "Family Law Conference for General Practitioners and Legal Assistant" - South Texas College of Law (2004, 2005, 2006)

**Course Director** - "Ad Litem/Amicus Boot Camp" - South Texas College of Law (2009)

## **Lectures and Invited Presentations -**

- “Same-Sex Marriage and Parentage Update”  
2015 Highlights for the Advanced Family Lawyer - Houston
- “Sex and the Law: How Science & the Supreme Court Have Changed Your World”  
2015 - Houston Bar Association
- “Dog Fights and Bones of Contention - Family Law and Pets in Texas”  
2015 - South Texas College of Law - Houston
- “Same-Sex Couples and Texas Family Law”  
2015 - HVL Family Law Seminar  
South Texas College of Law - Houston
- “Marriage and Divorce After the Demise of Doma”  
29<sup>th</sup> Annual Wills and Probate Institute  
2014 - South Texas College of Law - Houston
- “Marriage, Divorce and Parentage After the Demise of Doma”  
40<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Family Law Course  
2014 - State Bar of Texas - San Antonio
- “Marriage and Parentage After the Demise of Doma”  
The American Academy of Adoption Attorneys  
The American Academy of Assisted Reproduction Technology Attorneys  
2014 Annual Conference - New Orleans
- “Marriage Equality and Divorce Equality After the Demise of Doma”  
2014 - Houston Bar Association
- “Legal Ethics Involved in Marketing Collaborative Divorce Services”  
2014 - Houston Bar Association
- “Marriage and Parentage After the Demise of Doma”  
2014 - 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Law Conference  
South Texas College of Law - Houston
- “Equal Protection Under the Law and the Redefinition of Marriage”  
2013 - Gulf Coast Family Law Specialists - Houston
- “So What’s Happening With Same-Sex Marriage?”  
2013 - 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Law Conference  
South Texas College of Law - Houston
- “Real Estate Issues for Same-Sex Couples”  
2013 - State Bar of Texas - Austin
- “Issues for Divorcing Parents with Special Needs Children Under the Texas Family Code and Texas Probate Code”  
2012 - Houston Bar Association
- “Effectively Assessing Cases for ADR”  
2012 - 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Law Conference

South Texas College of Law - Houston

“Getting the Benefit of the Bargain: Drafting Enforceable Language on Temporary Orders and Final Decrees”

2012 - Houston Bar Association Family Law Institute - Houston

“Support for a Disabled Adult or Minor Child and Related Issues”

2012 - Inns of Court - Houston

“Getting It In and Keeping it Out - A Practical Guide to Using Evidence in Family Law Cases”

2011 - Houston Bar Association

“Who’s My Daddy? A Parentage Mystery”

2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009 - HVLP Family Law Seminar - Houston

“Dance With The One Who Brung Ya - A Private Practitioner’s Dance With The Office of The Attorney General and IV-D Courts of Harris County, Texas”

2011 - Houston Bar Association

“The Business of Family Law”

2011 - 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Law Conference - South Texas College of Law - Houston

“The Business of Family Law”

2010 - 24th Annual Family Law Conference-South Texas College of Law - Houston

“Common Law and Same Sex Marriages, Adult Adoptions, Maternity Tests, and Other Unusual Topics”

2009 - 23rd Annual Family Law Conference - South Texas College of Law - Houston

“Child Support Calculations: Guidelines and Above”

2008 - Family Law Institute - Houston Bar Association - Houston

“Direct and Cross Examination of a Custody Evaluator”

2008 - Deciding a Child’s Fate: Child Custody Evaluations, Ethics and Investigating Allegations of Sexual Abuse - Galveston

“Making Mediation Work for You”

2008 - 22nd Annual Family Law Conference - South Texas College of Law - Houston

“Family Law and Fido: How to Split the Dog”

2008, 2006 - Texas Dog Law Seminar - Houston

“Parenting Plans”

2007 - 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Family Law Conference - South Texas College of Law - Houston

“Paternity and Co-Respondent”

2007 - HVLP Family Law Seminar - Houston

“Paternity and Co-Respondent”

2006 - HVLP Family Law Seminar - Houston

“Voi Dire and Opening and Closing Statements”

2005 - 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Family Law Conference - South Texas College of Law - Houston

"Legislative Changes and Updates"

2004 - 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Law Conference - South Texas College of Law - Houston

"Law Office Management Tips"

2003 - 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Law Conference - South Texas College of Law - Houston

**Community Affiliations:**

**Unity Church of Christianity - Houston**

Board of Directors - Current

**Bering Omega Community Services**

Board of Trustees - Seven Terms

**Long Term Care Ombudsman Program**

Certified Volunteer Ombudsman - 2000 to current

University of Texas Houston Center for the Aging

**Raintree Place Property Homeowners Association**

President - 2009

Board of Directors - Two Terms

**MECA (Multicultural Education & Counseling through the Arts)**

Board of Directors - Three Terms

1999 Gala Co-Chairman "Noche de Milagros"

**AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.**

Advisory Board - Current

Vice President - Two Terms

Board of Directors - Five Terms

"In Your Ear and Off The Wall" Gala Co - Chair 1997 Benefit for AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.

**Friends of Hermann Park**

Board of Directors - Two Terms

Advisory Board - Current

Luncheon Co-chair "Picnic In The Park" - 1998

**The Assistance Fund**

Board of Directors - Three Terms

Vice President - One Term

President and Chairman of the Board - Two Terms

Former Legal Counsel

**Eagle Scout (1969)**