

BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM (BILL) CORNELIUS

William (Bill) Cornelius was born in Marshall, Texas on January 27, 1951. He attended public schools in Jefferson, Texas, where he grew up, and where his Father and Grandfather were both practicing attorneys. He graduated 3rd in his high school class in 1969. From there, he attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas, on a football scholarship. He attended the Business School at Baylor, and then entered Baylor Law School, graduating with a J.D. in 1975, in the top third of his class.

Bill began his practice in Galveston, Texas, with the firm of **McLeod, Alexander, Powel & Apffel**, where he did insurance defense work until 1979. He then returned to his native East Texas to become an **Assistant U.S. Attorney** in Tyler, where, for six years, he defended Federal Tort Claims Act cases against the Government. During his tenure there, he was named Chief of the Civil Division, and later, Senior Litigation Counsel. His honors there included receiving the Certificate of Merit from the Attorney General.

In 1985, Bill joined the Wilson Firm (now **Wilson, Robertson & Cornelius**) in Tyler as a partner; and now conducts his full time mediation practice there. His previous trial practice included the handling of commercial, tort and intellectual property cases, in state and federal courts. He has ten years' experience mediating all kinds of civil disputes, including patent infringement and other intellectual property cases.

He was admitted to the bar in Texas in 1975; and is admitted to practice in the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Southern and Northern Districts of Texas; and the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit.

Bill is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, The T. John Ward American Inn of Court, and is a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. He has the Martindale Hubbell **AV** rating; and in 2008, was named a "super lawyer" by Texas Monthly magazine. He is also a member of the Association of Attorney Mediators.

Bill is married to Kimberly Parks Cornelius; has three grown children, two grandsons, and two stepchildren in college.