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## **EDUCATION AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Richard Schechter grew up in Austin and is a 1976 graduate of Rice University, where he was on the President's Honor Roll, selected to Who's Who in Colleges and Universities and served as Chairman of the Program Council. After graduating he enrolled at the University of Texas School of Law, where he was inducted into the academic honor society and recognized for his outstanding contributions to the law school. He served as a lecturer in Legal Research and Writing as a third year student, won the Hildebrand Moot Court Competition, Best Advocate and the Best Brief Award, and graduated with honors in 1979. Schechter later went on to teach Admiralty and Maritime Law for a decade as an adjunct professor at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

After serving for one year as a law clerk for Judge Sam Johnson on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Richard Schechter began the private practice of law in 1980. Since 1986 he has headed his own firm, and has been responsible for developing and trying the full range of complex civil cases, including product liability and medical negligence cases, Deceptive Trade Practice-Consumer Protection Act causes of action, federal statutory claims, maritime litigation, all types of personal injury cases, and business tort and contract claims. Defendants he has faced include some of the world's leading companies, such as B.P., Volkswagen, Bridgestone/Firestone, and several American Fortune 100 companies. Schechter has litigated cases from Florida to California and around the State of Texas, including cases against Exxon Mobil, Chevron, DowDuPont, American Airlines, Caterpillar, and he recently filed class action lawsuits in nine states against General Motors. He has started trial in over one hundred jury cases and has tried cases to verdict before a range of fact-finders, including federal and state juries, federal and state judges and magistrates, and administrative law judges.

Schechter's skill, experience and reputation have earned him the honor of being selected by his peers as a Texas Monthly "Texas SuperLawyer®" each year since the establishment of that honor in 2003, and he is rated "AV-preeminent" by Martindale-Hubbell. He is the author of numerous articles, speaks regularly at legal seminars around the United States, and has testified before committees of both the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives.

## **CERTIFICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS**

Schechter is a Certified Civil Trial Specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocates and Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He is licensed to practice in the State of Texas, and is admitted to the Bars of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Fifth Circuit, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and the United States District Courts for the Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of Texas.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE (partial list of past and present)**

Member, SER Board of Trustees

Member, Board of Trustees, Houston Arts Alliance

Chairman and Member of the Board of Trustees, Houston Community College

President of the Houston Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and Advisory Board member of the national organization

Founder and Chairperson of the Houston Chapter of the American Constitutional Society

Senior Fellow of the American Leadership Forum and member of the Selection Committee

Member, Advisory Board, Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.

Member, Houston Police Advisory Commission

Chairman, State Bar of Texas Grievance Committee

Officer and Board Member of the Board of Trustees, Congregation Emanu El

Member, Board of Trustees of Houston Hillel

Member, Shared Decision Making Committee at Jones High School

Member, University of St. Thomas' Board of Trustees Student Affairs Sub-Committee

Member, Texas Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Appointments

Chairman, Admiralty Section of the American Association of Justice

Testified before both United States House of Representatives and Senate committees

Testified before the Texas Supreme Court regarding proposed rule changes

Served on various committees of the American, Texas and Houston Bar Associations; the American Association of Justice; and the Texas and Houston Trial Lawyers Associations

Provider of Pro Bono legal services through the Houston Volunteer Lawyers program