

# **Appendix A**

*Task Force Members and Staff Biosketches*

## Appendix A

### ***Task Force Members and Staff Biosketches***

**Neal F. Lane, Ph.D., *Chair***

Malcolm Gillis University Professor of  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Senior Fellow of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy  
Rice University

Neal Lane is the Malcom Gillis University Professor at Rice University. He also holds appointments as Senior Fellow of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, where he is engaged in matters of science and technology policy, and in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Prior to returning to Rice University, Dr. Lane served in the Federal government as Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, from August 1998 to January 2001. In addition he was the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and member (*ex officio*) of the National Science Board, from October 1993 to August 1998. Before becoming the NSF Director, Dr. Lane was Provost and Professor of Physics at Rice University in Houston, Texas, a position he had held since 1986. He first came to Rice in 1966, when he joined the Department of Physics as an assistant professor. In 1972, he became Professor of Physics and Space Physics and Astronomy. He left Rice from mid-1984 to 1986 to serve as Chancellor of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. From 1979 to 1980, while on leave from Rice, he worked at the NSF as Director of the Division of Physics. Dr. Lane received his Ph.D., M.S. and B.S. in physics from Oklahoma University.

**John Stobo, M.D., *Vice Chair***

President  
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

John Stobo began his medical career at the University of Vermont School of Medicine. There, he became interested in the science of medicine and spent a year in immunology research between his sophomore and junior year. After graduating from medical school, he completed his residency training in internal medicine on the Osler Medical Service at Johns Hopkins Hospital where he was chief medical resident. He continued his research in immunology as a research associate at the National Institutes of Health. From 1973 to 1976 he was in the department of immunology at the Mayo Clinic and served as head of the section of rheumatology and clinical immunology at the University of California, San Francisco from 1976 to 1985. There he was an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. In 1985, he returned to Johns Hopkins as the William Osler professor of medicine and director of the department of medicine. In 1994, Dr. Stobo became chairman and CEO of Johns Hopkins Health Care, L.L.C., an organization created to address challenges in managed care on behalf of Johns Hopkins Medicine. In 1997, Dr. Stobo became president of The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. As the only full service, state owned hospitals in Texas, UTMB address the health needs of medically underserved individuals throughout the state of Texas.

**Hector Balcazar, Ph.D.**

Regional Dean of Public Health at El Paso  
Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Science  
The University of Texas at Houston School of Public Health  
El Paso Regional Campus

Hector Balcazar is the Regional Dean of Public Health at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health, El Paso Regional Campus. He is also a professor of health promotion and behavioral sciences. Prior to joining The University of Texas, he was a professor and Chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Science, School of Public Health at University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, Texas. He holds a Ph.D. and M.S. degree in International Nutrition from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and a B.S. degree in Nutrition and Food Science from Iberoamericana University, Mexico City.

Dr. Balcazar serves as the Co-Director of the Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center, an NIH funded initiative in collaboration with the College of Health Sciences of the University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Balcazar specializes in the study of public health problems of Latinos/Mexican Americans. Dr. Balcazar is a bilingual, bicultural family and public health scientist who has conducted numerous studies of Latino birth outcomes, acculturation and health related behaviors, cardiovascular disease prevention programs in Latinos, and border health issues. His most recent funded work includes: An NIH initiative to test the effects of promotoras de salud in changing clinical outcomes for chronic diseases in El Paso, Texas; a CDC/ASPH project on promotoras de salud and hypertension control; the North Texas Salud Para Su Corazon (Health For Your Heart) Community Health Initiative; a Hispanic diabetes clinical study; a Latino family caregiver educational program for individuals with Alzheimer's disease; the development of a strategic plan for a national Latino public health leadership collaborative, and a two-year study on the use of perinatal, infant, and childhood health services among high-risk Mexican American subgroups. As a Latino health specialist Dr. Balcazar provides consultation and leadership to local and national health organizations. Dr. Balcazar currently serves as a member of the Editorial Board of APHA (American Public Health Association) and as a member of the Board of Trustees of SOPHE (Society for Public Health Education).

**Kirk Calhoun, M.D.**

President  
The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler

Kirk Calhoun has been president of The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler since November 2002. The University of Texas System has utilized his services on two search committees. He also serves on the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Prevention and is a member of the National Association of Public Hospitals Executive Committee.

From 2000-2002, Dr. Calhoun was at Parkland as the Senior Vice President and Medical Director and on the faculty of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas as Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. While at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Dr. Calhoun served as Corporate Medical Director of UTMB HealthCare Systems, Chief Medical Officer and Senior Medical Director, Director of Internal Medicine Clinics and in

other capacities. From 1983-93, he was a faculty member at the University of Missouri in Kansas City and a staff member at several Kansas City hospitals.

Dr. Calhoun, a native of Chicago, earned his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle and an M.D. from the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He served an internship and residency in internal medicine at Northwestern University and Medical Center in Evanston, Illinois, as well as a fellowship in clinical nephrology, hypertension, and metabolism at the University of Chicago.

**David F. Chappell, Esq.**

President  
Chappell Hill, L.L.P.

David F. Chappell is the president of Chappell Hill, L.L.P. in Fort Worth, Texas and Board Certified in Civil Trial Law. He is also the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the HCA Medical Plaza Hospital and the Chair of the Day Resource Center Board. His previous activities have included being a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Homeless and the Chair for the Area Medical Ambulance Authority. Mr. Chappell also served as a City Councilman for the City of Fort Worth from 1989 through 1993. Mr. Chappell's professional activities include serving as Chair of the Board of Directors for the State Bar of Texas (1984-85), serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Texas Bar Foundation (1987-88), and serving as a member of the House of Delegates for the American Bar Association (1978-91). His major concentrations of practice include business litigation, employment, public law, banking law, governmental relations, and land use planning. Mr. Chappell received his B.A. in Government from the University of Texas in 1964 and his J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 1968.

**Patrick J. Crocker, M.S., D.O.**

Chief, Brackenridge-Children's Emergency Services  
Chief of Staff, Brackenridge Hospital

Patrick Crocker is the Chief of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Brackenridge & Children's Hospital in Austin, Texas and the Chief of Staff at Brackenridge Hospital. Dr. Crocker also serves as a lead panelist expert reviewer for Emergency Medicine on the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners as well as member of the Austin Travis County EMS Advisory Board and the Chairman of the Travis County Medical Society EMS Committee. He is the co-editor of Continuous Quality Improvement for Emergency Departments, widely recognized as the manual for successful application of the QI process in the emergency department.

Dr. Crocker earned a bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Food Science and a master's degree in Human Nutrition at the University of California, Berkley. He earned his D.O. at the University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines, Iowa and served an internship and residency in Emergency Medicine at Darnall Army Hospital, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Charles Haley, M.D., M.S.**

Medical Director

TrailBlazer Health Enterprise

Charles Haley is the Medicare Medical Director and the Medicare Fiscal Intermediary Medical Director for TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC, a subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina. He is also a clinical associate professor of medicine at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. Prior to his work at TrailBlazer, Dr. Haley was a Dallas County Epidemiologist, the Medical Director of the HIV Impact Program, and the Medical Director of the Preventive Health Services Program. From 1977-81, he joined the U.S. Public Health Service for four years and was an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer and an Assistant Chief for Water-Related Diseases, Enteric Diseases Division at the Centers for Disease Control.

Dr. Haley received a B.S. in biology at Southern Methodist University in 1971 and his M.D. at U.T. Southwestern Medical School in 1975. He served an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Baylor Hospital in Dallas. In 1982, he earned a master's in Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control at the University of Virginia. From 1982-84, he did a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at U.T. Southwestern Medical School.

**George B. Hernández, Jr., Esq.**

President-Chief Executive Officer

University Health System

George Hernández joined University Health System, Bexar County's publicly supported hospital district, in 1990, serving initially as Vice President of Legal Services. He was named Executive Vice President/Assistant Administrator in 2000 and has been President/CEO since 2005. Prior to joining the Health System, Mr. Hernández was the Chief of the Civil Section in the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. He began his career as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of San Antonio. Mr. Hernández earned a B.A. in political science from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas and a law degree from George Washington University in Washington D.C.

Among his numerous professional and service affiliations, he serves as vice chair for the Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio, a board member for the United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County, a member of the Texas Hospital Association Council on Policy Development, and a board trustee for The Center for Health Care Services, the mental health and mental retardation authority for Bexar County.

**Winell Herron, M.B.A.**

Group Vice President, Public Affairs and Diversity

H-E-B

Winell Herron began her career with H-E-B Grocery Company in 1988 in store operations. In January 1996, Ms. Herron was promoted to Service Team Leader where she provided leadership in the achievement of the organization's customer service goals. In August 1997, Ms. Herron joined the Diversity Management Department as the Director of Workforce Diversity. In February 1999, Ms. Herron was promoted to Vice President of Customer Service, responsible for providing vision, strategy, training and motivation to 285 retail grocery stores in the delivery of superior customer service. She held this position until her promotion in June 2000 to Group

Vice President of Public Affairs and Diversity. She is responsible for leading the organization's initiatives in these critical areas.

Ms. Herron earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Texas at Austin in 1988. She successfully completed the Food Industry Management Program at the University of Southern California in 1992, and she completed her Executive M.B.A. from the University of Texas at San Antonio in May 2000.

**Richard W. Johnson, Jr., M.A.**

Director, Division of Medical Economics  
Texas Medical Association

Richard Johnson has been with Texas Medical Association since May 1997. As a member of senior management, Mr. Johnson is responsible for leading the TMA Division of Medical Economics' 12 employees and three departments, and the policy development, member service, research and advocacy efforts of TMA on medical and socioeconomic issues. Mr. Johnson also serves as staff director for the TMA Council on Socioeconomics.

Before coming to TMA, Mr. Johnson was the Chief Executive Officer for the Wyoming Medical Society and the Wyoming Medical Political Action Committee from 1984-97. He was Senior Vice President and Chief Lobbyist for the Wyoming Hospital Association, Inc. from 1982-84, and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Wyoming Health Systems Agency, Inc. from 1976-82. Mr. Johnson was also Chief Executive Officer of the American Heart Association, Wyoming Affiliate from 1973-76 and Health Policy Analyst for the Office of the Governor/Division of Health and Medical Services for the State of Wyoming from 1972-73.

Mr. Johnson received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Wyoming in Laramie and an M.A. in Public Administration with an emphasis in Policy and Finance from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

**Wm. Fred Lucas, M.D.**

Cypress Creek Hospital

Fred Lucas has worked in Admission Review Assessment at Cypress Creek Psychiatric Hospital since February of 2004. Prior to his work there, he was an Associate/Medical Director of NHIC. From 1985 to 2002 he was the Chief Executive Officer of Lucas Medical Associates, Inc. There he consulted with health care providers while developing and participating in ambulatory healthcare centers and *in vitro* fertilization labs. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Lucas has been involved in medical payments including stints at Blue Cross – Blue Shield in Texas and Indiana and Electronic Data Systems and its subsidiary National Heritage Insurance Company.

Dr. Lucas received his M.D. from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He served his internship and residency at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas, Texas with a brief stretch in the U.S. Air Force in between.

**Michael McKinney, M.D.**

Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer  
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Michael McKinney is the Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Prior to his appointment in Houston, Dr. McKinney was Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs at The University of Texas System in Austin. Dr. McKinney joined The University of Texas System in 2002 after serving as chief of staff to Governor Rick Perry. As vice chancellor, he concentrated on business management and financial issues related to the six health science institutions in The University of Texas System. Before joining the Governor's Office, Dr. McKinney served for three years in a variety of executive positions with Centene Corp., a managed care company. As Texas Commissioner of Health and Human Services, Dr. McKinney oversaw 11 state agencies, a staff of 64,000, and a budget of \$24 billion. He was appointed to that position by Governor George W. Bush. Dr. McKinney's other career experience includes serving as medical director of an insurance company and a health care plan; a consultant to the Texas health commissioner; a member of the Physician Payment Review Commission in the Federal Office of Technology; and a family practitioner in Pasadena and Centerville, Texas. In the Texas House of Representatives, he represented District 15 (Leon, Madison, Grimes, Houston, and Montgomery Counties). He was speaker pro-tempore of the House from 1989 to 1990. Dr. McKinney earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and his M.D. from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

**Kathy Mechler, MS, RN, CPHQ**

Director of Medical Services  
Texas A&M University System Health Science Center  
Rural and Community Health Institute

Kathy Mechler serves as the Director of Medical Services for the Rural and Community Health Initiative (RCHI) program. She has over 20 years of health care experience, with over 10 years in senior leadership. Ms. Mechler's experience includes acute care, behavioral health and managed care operations. Not only does she bring health care leadership experience to RCHI, Ms. Mechler has a very strong background and experience in quality improvement and utilization management. She also brings a history of successful experience with regulatory and accreditation body surveys.

Ms. Mechler is licensed to practice nursing in Texas, Colorado, and Wyoming. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Southwest Texas State University. She is a member of the National Association of Healthcare Quality and American College of Healthcare Executives. Ms. Mechler is also a Certified Professional in Health Quality.

**Elaine Mendoza**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Conceptual MindWorks, Inc.

Elaine Mendoza is the founder and President and CEO of Conceptual MindWorks, Inc. (CMI) in San Antonio, Texas, established in 1990. CMI serves the U.S. Department of Defense by delivering healthcare-related, specialized, scientific and technical support services. In the private-sector healthcare industry, CMI markets Sevocity™, an electronic health record product.

Ms. Mendoza earned her bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering at Texas A&M University.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, Ms. Mendoza has been fortunate to be involved in community initiatives revolving around the expansion of educational opportunities, health care and economic growth. She serves on the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care Board of Directors and was the 2004 and 2005 Chair of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Mendoza has also taken a lead role nationally, being appointed by Senator Trent Lott to the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology (1999-2000), and statewide, by serving on Texas Governor Rick Perry's Special Commission on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Colleges and Universities (2000-2001).

**Rob Mosbacher, Esq.**

President

Mosbacher Energy Company

Rob Mosbacher is the President of Mosbacher Energy Company. His other business activities include being a Board member for Chase Bank, Houston and the Director of Devin Energy Company. In his early career, he worked as a staff member for U. S. Senator Howard Baker in 1971-74 and 1977-80. His more recent government activities have been positions as a member of the Texas State Job Training Coordinating Council (1987-91) and as the Chairman of the Governor's Welfare Reform Task Force (1988) and the Chairman of the Board for the Texas Department of Human Services (1989-91). Currently, Mr. Mosbacher has found time to take a leadership position on several civic organizations including the Chairman of the Health Care Advisory committee for the Greater Houston Partnership, Director of the Methodist Hospital Board, and Founder and Co-Chairman of the Rebuilding Together Houston.

Mr. Mosbacher received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University in 1973 and his J.D. from Southern Methodist University Law School in 1977.

**Steve Murdock, Ph.D.**

State Demographer of Texas

Director of the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research

The University of Texas at San Antonio

Steve H. Murdock is the Lutcher Brown Distinguished Chair at the University of Texas at San Antonio College of Business. As part of his appointment, he is also the director for the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research. Prior to his appointment at UTSA, Dr. Murdock was the Regents Professor and Head of the Department of Rural Sociology at Texas A&M University. He is also the official State Demographer of Texas. He was appointed to this position by Governor Rick Perry and is the first person to occupy this position. As state demographer, Dr. Murdock heads the State Data Center, a network of 45 university, state, regional and municipal agencies that provide access to demographic information on the socioeconomic characteristics of Texas. Dr. Murdock earned his Ph.D. in demography and sociology from the University of Kentucky and is the author of 12 books and more than 150 articles and technical reports on the implications of current and future demographic and socioeconomic change. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards. These include the Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award in Research from Texas A&M University, the Excellence in Research Award from the Rural Sociological Society, and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the



Department of Sociology at the University of Kentucky. He was named one of the fifty most influential Texans by *Texas Business* in 1997 and one of the 25 most influential Texans by *Texas Monthly* in 2005. He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Eta Epsilon national honor societies.

**Betsy Schwartz, M.S.W.**

Executive Director

Mental Health Association of Greater Houston

Betsy Schwartz completed her undergraduate studies from the University of Denver and a Masters Degree in Social Work Administration from the University of Houston. She has over twenty years of leadership of nonprofit organizations having served as Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of Greater Houston since 1980. She has served as the President of the Board of Directors of the Coalition for the Homeless, Vice Chairman of the Mental Health Needs Council, and Chairman of the Children's Oversight Team. She is a consultant to the National Mental Health Association and trains MHA's throughout the nation on consensus building strategies to develop community problem solving of mental health problems. In 2000 Betsy was named one of Houston's *Women on the Move*. Ms. Schwartz is a Senior Fellow of American Leadership Forum and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

**David C. Warner, Ph.D.**

Wilbur J. Cohen Professor of Public Affairs

Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs

The University of Texas at Austin

David Warner is Wilbur Cohen Professor of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and a Visiting Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health. His major teaching and research interests are in health policy, health economics and health finance. A graduate of Princeton University and Syracuse University (MPA and Ph.D. in economics), he formerly taught at Wayne State University and Yale University and was Deputy Director of the Office of Program Analysis of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

Professor Warner has served as a consultant to a number of organizations in the health sector, and for six years was a member of the Board of Directors of Austin's Brackenridge Municipal Hospital. In addition, he was Chairman of the Texas Diabetes Council from January 1985 to December 1989. He has served on several editorial and advisory boards and has been appointed to other state level advisory committees. He has published widely and during the last five years has directed two studies on addressing problems of the uninsured in Texas and several studies relating to medical care and cross border insurance between the U.S. and Mexico.

**M. Roy Wilson, M.D.**

President

Texas Tech University Health Science Center

Roy Wilson was named President of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in 2003. Dr. Wilson is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Ophthalmological Society, and the Glaucoma Society of the International Congress of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Wilson's major scientific contributions have been in bridging the fields of epidemiology and ophthalmology. He actively participates on numerous national boards and committees, with particular focus on ophthalmology and on minority health and health disparities. Among these are the Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas, EyeCare America (the Glaucoma Project of the American Academy of Ophthalmology), and the Association of International Glaucoma Society's Committee on Global Research and Screening for which he is the co-chair. Additionally, Dr. Wilson was an initial Advisory Council member of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health and served four years as chair of its Strategic Plan subcommittee.

Dr. Wilson received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and his Master of Science in epidemiology at the UCLA School of Public Health. He performed both his ophthalmology residency and glaucoma fellowship at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School. In 1998, Dr. Wilson was appointed Dean of the School of Medicine at Creighton University, and then served as both Dean and Vice President for Health Sciences from 1999-2003. Prior to that time, he was Professor of Ophthalmology both at the Jules Stein Eye Institute of UCLA and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science.

Dr. Wilson has delivered more than 200 invited lectures, many of these internationally, and has published more than 200 articles, book chapters and abstracts.

***Senior Advisor***

**Kenneth I. Shine, M.D.**

Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

The University of Texas System

Kenneth I. Shine is the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs at the University of Texas System and is responsible for the six University of Texas System health institutions and their aggregate operating budget. A cardiologist and physiologist, Dr. Shine is the former President of the Institute of Medicine, where he addressed important issues in medicine and healthcare, such as quality of care and patient safety, nutrition, food safety, and child development. Dr. Shine is also Professor of Medicine Emeritus at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine, former Dean and Provost for Medical Sciences at UCLA, and a member of many honorary and academic societies. Dr. Shine received his bachelor's degree from Harvard University and his M.D. from Harvard Medical School.

## **Task Force Staff**

### **Kirstin Matthews, Ph.D., *Project Officer***

Postdoctoral Research Associate  
James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy  
Rice University

Kirstin Matthews is a postdoctoral research associate in the Science and Technology Policy Program at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. Dr. Matthews' current research focuses are biomedical research and health policy issues. At the Baker Institute, her responsibilities include coordinating science and technology policy events and programs, researching policy issues and advocating the participation of scientists in science policy.

Dr. Matthews holds a B.A. in Biochemistry from The University of Texas at Austin and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, where she characterized the protein and gene for carboxypeptidase N in mice. During her graduate career she published several scientific journal articles and a review.

### **Maggie Floores, *Project Staff***

Administrative Associate  
Office of Health Affairs  
The University of Texas System

Maggie Floores began her career with The University of Texas System in 1980. Before coming to the Office of Health Affairs in 1988 she worked in numerous offices throughout U.T. System including the Office of Human Resources, Lands Accounting, and the Office of General Counsel. Currently, Ms. Floores assists two Assistant Vice Chancellors in the Office of Health Affairs.

### **Amy Shaw Thomas, Esq., *Project Staff***

Associate Vice Chancellor and Counsel for Health Affairs  
Office of Health Affairs  
The University of Texas System

Amy Shaw Thomas is Associate Vice Chancellor and Counsel for Health Affairs with The University of Texas System. She provides advice and counsel on complex business, operational, regulatory, legal, public policy and legislative issues affecting the six health institutions of The University of Texas System. She joined The University of Texas System Office of Governmental Relations in January 1997 and the Office of Health Affairs in September 2002. Ms. Thomas previously worked as Legislative Counsel and Director of Debt Management and Public Policy for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison when she was Texas State Treasurer. She also served on the staff of a U.S. Senator in Washington, D. C., and two members of the Texas Senate. She practiced public finance and general governmental law with the firms Hutchison, Price, Boyle & Brooks and Wickliff & Hall.

Ms. Thomas is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and a doctorate of law from The U.T. School of Law in 1984.