

# **Judge Sue Pirtle**

**“The Truth Revealed!”**

*The truth about Rockwall's most controversial  
public official and the 382<sup>nd</sup> District Court!*

## Judge Sue Pirtle's Courthouse Antics for 1998-1999

**'I do not believe that a history of domestic violence towards all 4 of his ex-wives causes me to believe he would ever harm his child.'** Judge Sue Pirtle (Dec. 1998)

**FACT: "Domestic violence is the single, major precursor to child abuse and neglect fatalities in the United States." Quoted by the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse & Neglect in a Nation's Shame, April, 1995.**

Judge Pirtle disregarded the health of two toddlers, ages 1 and 2, and ordered that they travel 1200 miles every weekend, from Rockwall, Texas to Barbourville, Kentucky, for exchange between the parents. (Sept. 1998)

Judge Pirtle refused to grant a protective order for a seven-year-old girl who stated to CPS – in video taped testimony - that she was touched sexually by the biological grandfather while in her father's care. The same father was also facing assault charges at that time and has since been convicted of family violence assault. Judge Pirtle refused to talk with the child's counselor who waited for 3 hours to testify. Judge Pirtle told the mother, **"You must turn over this child even if she is kicking and screaming for her life!"** (Dec. 1998)

In Feb. 1999, Judge Pirtle's court coordinator, Judy Perser, was caught on tape engaging in lengthy phone conversations while on the job. Perser talked badly about public officials, law firms, and individual court cases that were to be heard in Pirtle's court. Perser stated, "We have a rumor mill going on here". Perser's remarks were made to individuals *outside* the court and not associated with the cases. The tapes indicate the 382<sup>nd</sup> District Court is forming biased opinions, in certain cases involving children, *before* evidence has been presented. This is in violation of the Texas Judicial Canons. This evidence was presented to the County Commissioner's Court on November 8, 1999, but County Judge Bill Bell and the commissioners declined to take action. In addition, the Rockwall Success refused to run the story.

Judge Pirtle granted *full* parental visitation rights to a deadbeat father even though, only 2 months earlier, he was convicted of family-violence assault for the hospitalization of his 4th wife. In addition, the child is terrified of him. Pirtle's decision came after a Longview judge had limited the man's parental rights. Texas Family Code states a judge *shall* consider a history of domestic violence against a spouse to limit, restrict or deny parental visitation. (Nov. 1999)

Judge Pirtle granted joint custody to a father even though the child stated the father used drugs and engaged in pornography while the child was with him!

Judge Pirtle did not allow key witnesses, who flew over a thousand miles, the opportunity to testify in court. Instead, Judge Pirtle allowed the mother to be badgered about her Christian beliefs while the mother's witnesses waited outside for several hours. Judge Pirtle then continued the hearing on a date nearly two weeks later, making it impossible for the witnesses to return. (Feb. 1999)

Judge Pirtle refused to acknowledge valuable medical evidence, pictures, and letters that showed two children, ages 1 and 2, were being abused. Instead, Pirtle used the opinion of an *unlicensed* social worker that she appointed. Pirtle also accepted the same social worker's *incomplete* social study 36 days *after* the required deadline. CPS has since stated that there was evidence that the children were abused.

Judge Pirtle threw a grieving mother in jail after the mother refused to leave the courthouse. Judge Pirtle refused to tell the mother when she could see her two babies again. Pirtle jailed the mother for 'Criminal Trespass' even though several other people were still inside the courthouse. (Feb. 1996)

Judge Pirtle took a disabled child away from a loving mother and placed him in a mental hospital and foster care where his condition worsened. Pirtle then gave custody of the child to the father who had not paid child support in years. Pirtle's decision resulted in the loss of Medicaid benefits to the child. As a result of Judge Pirtle's ruling, a lawsuit was filed against those involved and now Rockwall County taxpayers must pay for the child's medical bills since his Medicaid benefits were lost.

Judge Pirtle took two children from a loving mother and gave full custody to the abusive father. Pirtle then ordered that the mother could only have supervised visitation - which costs \$120 per hour! (Ironically, the same mother use to watch Judge Pirtle's child after school!)

At least 7 known complaints have been filed against Judge Pirtle with the State Commission on Judicial Conduct. The complaints state that Pirtle engaged in conspiracy, violated the Parental Kidnapping Act, improperly claimed subject matter jurisdiction over certain cases, forced individuals into self-representation (no lawyer), refused to hear key evidence, engaged in improper ex parte communications, and many other violations.

Many parents have spent their life savings to protect their children, but they haven't been given the chance by Judge Pirtle to utter a single word or present any valuable evidence in her court. Some parties have also stated that their court files were tampered with, including form removal/insertion and information messaging.

Judge Pirtle inappropriately threatened a Rockwall maintenance worker with contempt when the worker refused to make a copy of the Courthouse entrance key for Pirtle's husband. This "power kick" landed Judge Pirtle a Bum Steer Award from Texas Monthly Magazine in Dec. 1998. Pirtle's actions cost Rockwall County taxpayers since special meetings were called to consider a Grand Jury indictment.

Judge Pirtle has been embroiled in a battle with Rockwall attorney, David Rohlf. Rohlf stated that during a child custody case, Pirtle summoned the attorneys to her chambers then told Rohlf, "You've done it now! You're through in Rockwall!" Pirtle retaliated and filed charges against Rohlf. A Grand Jury was summoned to decide if Rohlf should be indicted. Incredibly, the jury was found to be *improperly* impaneled by the court. A second Grand Jury was assembled and *properly* impaneled. That Grand Jury did not indict Rohlf. Once again, a squabble involving Judge Pirtle cost Rockwall County taxpayers. Two Grand Juries were impaneled and visiting judge(s) were brought to Rockwall to preside over all of Rohlf's cases. In addition, the Dallas Morning News stated that Rohlf claimed Judge Pirtle offered to rule favorably in his cases in return for 'political favors'.

Judge Sue Pirtle has consistently stated that she is a child's advocate. As proof, she points to her efforts to bring CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) to Rockwall. By establishing CASA, we believe Pirtle has single handedly given herself *more* power over children's cases since she appoints the advocate for each case. In addition, Pirtle also 'swears in' each advocate to their job position. Rockwall CASA has stated that they are in need of volunteers, yet they have turned away several good, loving individuals when they (CASA) realize that person has a dispute with Judge Pirtle. Since when does a citizen's relationship with the judge have anything to do with whether or not they can make unbiased decisions for the safety of a child? Why must a CASA volunteer's decision agree with what Judge Pirtle wants?

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*The above statements are backed by eyewitness testimony, court records, CPS reports, and other evidence. For more information, call Children And Loving Parents (CALP) at 972-772-6099.*

CALP is a stated chartered non-profit organization headquartered in Heath, Texas. CALP acts as a public watchdog against inappropriate actions of public officials involved in the safety and happiness of our children. CALP was founded in order to be active and strong advocates for children and loving parents who are seeking to limit or terminate the rights of deadbeat and abusive parents. CALP's agenda promotes increased legislative, judicial, and public awareness of current problems in the legal system - as concerns children's rights.

April 12, 1999

American Civil Liberties Union  
Attn: Michael M. Daniel  
3301 Elm St.  
Dallas, Texas 75226

Mr. Daniel,

I am writing to you in response to a request from Harvey Davis of Austin, Texas. Harvey is the father of Mark Davis, a man recently released from jail in Rockwall. I believe they have been in contact with you concerning possible civil rights violations committed by Judge Sue Pirtle and her staff of the 382<sup>nd</sup> District Court.

In the past 5 months, my wife and I have become very aware of the atrocities occurring in Judge Pirtle's court. After a letter to the editor and an ad announcing our intentions to form a non-profit organization called Children and Loving Parents (CALP), we were swarmed with information from several parties that seem to indicate wrong-doing and/or severely compromising behavior in the 382<sup>nd</sup> District Court. We believe the behavior is blatant and, in our opinion, a violation of many civil rights.

In the past month, I am aware of 3 judicial complaints, concerning Judge Pirtle's actions, that have been filed with the State Commission on Judicial Conduct. These complaints were filed by 1) my wife and I, 2) Diana Devenney and 3) a Rockwall attorney. Enclosed you will find the complaints filed by our family and Diana Devenney. In addition, Mark Davis is in the process of filing his complaint. I am also aware of a 5<sup>th</sup> complaint that may be filed by Robin Duckworth of Kentucky.

These two complaints are only a small portion of the overall problem. We have knowledge of at least thirteen witnesses, in six or more different cases, that have divulged to us information that is extremely relevant to any decision you may reach – pertaining to the possible involvement of the ACLU in our cases. Each of the witnesses is willing to discuss with you what they have witnessed.

Some of the accusations we have heard and witnessed include: 1) inserting-removing-changing paperwork in the court files, 2) quoting Biblical scripture, in court, in an inappropriate manner, 3) using one's religious beliefs to take away children, 4) ex-parte communication with opposing attorney while the client's attorney is out of the room, 5) threatening to end the career of an attorney, 6) dismissing court reporter before giving a verdict, 7) threatening individuals with fines, contempt and possible jail if they file more motions with the court, 8) using a criminal charge to threaten an individual while in court on a civil charge, 9) forcing an individual to represent themselves (dismissing their attorney) in the middle of a hearing, etc, etc. In addition, we also possess a taped phone conversation of the court administrator talking about our own personal case with a private

individual not associated with the court or our case. The administrator called us 'stupid' and consistently badgered the credibility of our case.

The worst actions we have witnessed are associated with the Robin Duckworth divorce/custody case. Robin has had her children taken away from her based upon a tape that her husband gave a CASA representative. (CASA was brought to Rockwall by Judge Pirtle.) The CASA report, which was only 50% completed, stated Robin was delirious – based upon her religious beliefs. She has only seen her children 3 times in the last five months. Earlier this year she was thrown in jail because she refused to leave the courthouse whenever Judge Pirtle would give no indication as to when Robin could have a supervised visitation with her children. Even though there were other people inside the courthouse, it was Robin who was jailed. (It is critical to note that the mother of the husband is the treasurer of the Women's Republican Party – the party that nominated Judge Pirtle two years ago. Judge Pirtle refused to recuse herself from the case when she was asked.)

Mr. Daniel, we believe there are many more stories of wrong-doing in Rockwall by the 382<sup>nd</sup> District Court. I certainly have more to tell you, but feel that I've already inundated you with enough information that points to civil rights violations. Please give us, Mark Davis, and the other parties your consideration.

Sincerely,



Derek Sunderman  
608 Laurence  
Heath, Texas 75032  
(972) 772-6099

cc.  
Mark Davis  
Harvey Davis  
Diana Devenney  
Robin Duckworth

**HOTMAIL  
TIP:***Log In Regularly to Keep  
Your Account Active***msn  
Hotmail****Hotmail** robinkarr@hotmail.com

Folder: Inbox

**From: Derek Sunderman <dsunderm@flash.net> Save Address Block Sender**

Reply-To: dsunderm@flash.net

To: freemrk1@flash.net

CC: RobinKarr@hotmail.com

**Subject: Robin Duckworth case - Rockwall County Judicial abuses**

Date: Mon, 07 Jun 1999 00:44:53 -0500

August 3, 1999

Mr. Shackelford,

My name is Derek Sunderman. I am co-founder of a newly state chartered organization called Children And Loving Parents (CALP).

My wife and I founded our organization to help individuals and their children escape from deadbeat and abusive parents, whether the deadbeat is the father or the mother. Our concern is the welfare and safety of the child - not, necessarily the reunification of a family unit that is in shambles due to abuse/neglect.

We are aware that Robin Duckworth has sent you materials concerning her case in Rockwall County. We ask that you please look at her materials closely. Although we are not lawyers, we feel that her constitutional rights as a mother (a good mother) have been severely trampled upon by Judge Pirtle, Judge Kent, and the Rockwall District Court. I am a first-hand witness to many of the nasty occurrences that took away Robin's children. I have witnessed papers being removed and changed from the file at the clerk's office. I have seen Robin forced into representing herself when Judge Pirtle would not allow her to obtain another attorney. I was also there when Judge Kent ordered that Robin never talk about the devil to her children. I was even more appalled when Robin flew her witnesses from Kentucky and Houston to Rockwall - then due to so called time restraints was never allowed to have one witness testify on her behalf, even though she had 4 witnesses to back her story.

However, Robin's ex-husband, Ed, was allowed every witness he wanted. Yet it was never brought up that Ed's mother is treasurer for the Women's Republican Party in Rockwall. This is the same party that nominated Judge Pirtle two years ago. Judge Pirtle had more than one reason to make sure that Ed got the children. Ed's parents are very influential in Rockwall, have lots of money, and can influence future nominations.

Mr. Shackelford, Robin's rights to religion and equal justice have been severely shunned. Please give her case your upmost attention. We are aware that you must be inundated with requests, however, I don't believe there are many cases as complex and yet as interesting as Ms. Duckworth's case. I truly believe that this case will some day recieve national attention.

In addition, I have possession of some very interesting tapes of the court coordinator for Judge Pirtle badmouthing other peoples' cases - before they have come to trial. I feel that these people have also had their constitutional rights to a fair and unbiased hearing abused.

If you are interested in talking or recieving some of the evidence I possess, please call me at 972-772-6099. My email address is not working correctly.

Thank you,  
Derek Sunderman  
(CALP)  
972-772-6099

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