

damages brought by hundreds of plaintiffs against Brunini’s client.

Wise Carter Child & Caraway

Wise Carter Child & Caraway maintains a broad litigation practice from three offices throughout Mississippi. Handling corporate, litigation and regulatory cases, the firm has represented clients in state and federal courts for more than a century. The specific practice areas handled by the firm’s staff of more than 50 attorneys include environmental litigation, insurance defense, personal injury, and products liability matters. The firm’s appellate attorneys have appeared before the Supreme Court of the US, the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the Federal Circuit, the Supreme Court of Mississippi, and the Court of Appeals of the State of Mississippi. Wise Carter’s attorneys have served the state of Mississippi and federal judiciaries as clerks to presiding justices, and one member of the firm served for 10 years as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Mississippi. The firm employs the procedural knowledge garnered in this capacity, bringing it to bear on its many successful appeals.

Michael Wallace, former clerk to US Supreme Court Justice William F Rehnquist, handles appellate litigation for the firm and comes highly recommended by his peers. He is a member of the American Academy of Appellate lawyers, and operates out of the firm’s Jackson Office. Wallace litigates commercial claims, constitutional claims, and election disputes at the trial and appellate level.

Recommended firms

Butler Snow O’Mara & Cannada

Butler Snow O’Mara Stevens & Cannada is a Mississippi-based law firm with a nationally recognized appellate and written advocacy practice. The firm’s appellate attorneys involve themselves at all stages of the litigation, often operating as integral parts of the trial team to shape and preserve the record from the earliest stages of litigation. The firm handles appeals in all federal circuits and at the state level. **John Henegan** comes recommended as an appellate attorney by his peers. A Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Attorneys, Henegan has successfully argued numerous state and federal appeals on substantive and procedural grounds. Henegan litigates and appeals cases relating to antitrust and intellectual property, complex commercial litigation, media defense, and telecommunications. Prior to joining the firm, he served as a chief of staff for the governor of Mississippi. Henegan also handles *pro bono* appeals, once successfully obtaining a habeas corpus writ finding that an indigent, mentally ill inmate detained in prison is incompetent to be executed in accordance with the strictures imposed by the Eight Amendment of the US Constitution.

Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy

With about 18 partners in total, Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy is a Mississippi-based law firm primarily representing defendants and the occasional commercial litigation plaintiff. The firm’s appeals lawyers practice at both the state and federal levels, in all districts of Mississippi and nationwide depending on needs of a client. Forman Perry has nine attorneys in Jackson, Mississippi, and one in its office in New Orleans, Louisiana, and its appellate practice specifically consists of complex post-trial motions as well as collaborative involvement at the trial level to preserve the record in anticipation of appeal and handling of dispositive motions. The firm’s appellate practice is not defined by a distinct group. Rather, the attorney litigating the case will generally handle the appeal. Almost all of the firm’s appellate work comes from its own trial work, and occasionally firm attorneys will come in only at the appellate level to offer a fresh set of eyes of the issues.

Phelps Dunbar

Phelps Dunbar, in addition to coming highly recommended in Louisiana, is also recommended for its appellate practice in Mississippi. The firm’s skilled appellate attorneys litigate civil and criminal matters in state and federal appellate courts, and its collective appellate acumen is rooted in decades of appellate litigation across the Second, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth and Eleventh Federal Circuit Courts of Appeal, and before the US Supreme Court. As a Southeast-based law firm, Phelps Dunbar’s appellate attorneys most regularly appear in the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits. Many of the firm’s appellate attorneys are former Fifth Circuit federal clerks, and one is a former United States Supreme Court Clerk. Phelps Dunbar recently litigated federal appeals involving land disputes and landholder claims worth \$30 million, a commercial lease dispute, a multimillion-dollar legal malpractice action, and a products liability suit involving very serious injuries. **Luther Munford** is a senior partner in the general litigation group in the Jackson office and comes highly recommended by his peers in the state. Munford represents news media clients, litigates constitutional issues, and handles state and federal appeals, and he holds the distinguished honor of having clerked for Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun from 1978-1979.

Fifth Circuit litigation firms – Texas

Highly recommended

Alexander Dubose & Townsend

Andrews Kurth

Baker Botts

Beck Redden & Secrest

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher

Haynes and Boone

Hankinson & Levinger

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell

Thompson & Knight

Vinson & Elkins

Recommended

Bracewell & Giuliani

Cooper & Scully

The Holman Law Firm

Pendery Law Firm

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman

Smith Law Group

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

Strasburger & Price

Fifth Circuit litigation stars – Texas

Deborah Alsop

Thompson & Knight

Douglas Alexander

Alexander Dubose & Townsend

Pamela Stanton Baron

Attorney at Law

Brett Busby

Bracewell & Giuliani

Nina Cortell

Haynes and Boone

R Brent Cooper

Cooper & Scully

Kevin Dubose

Alexander Dubose & Townsend

Sharon Freytag
Haynes and Boone

David Gunn
Beck Redden & Secrest

Deborah Hankinson
Hankinson & Levinger

Mike Hatchell
Locke Lorde Bissell & Liddell

James Ho
Gibson Dunn & Crutcher

David Holman
The Holman Law Firm

P Michael Jung
Strasburger & Price

Jeremy Kernodle
Haynes and Boone

Thomas Leatherbury
Vinson & Elkins

Jeffrey Levinger
Hankinson & Levinger

Lynne Liberato
Haynes and Boone

Julia Pendery
Pendery Law Firm

Thomas Phillips
Baker Botts

Russell Post
Beck Redden & Secrest

D Todd Smith
Smith Law Group

Craig Smyser
Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

Scott Stolley
Thompson & Knight

Macey Reasoner Stokes
Baker Botts

Steven Susman
Susman Godfrey

Stephen Tipps
Baker Botts

Roger Townsend
Alexander Dubose & Townsend

Larry Veselka
Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

Marie Yeates
Vinson & Elkins

Highly recommended firms

Alexander Dubose & Townsend

Alexander Dubose & Townsend is a highly regarded appellate boutique specializing in all levels of litigation. The firm boasts substantial bench depth and strength, employing many board-certified appellate specialists. **Douglas Alexander, Kevin Dubose, and Roger Townsend** are founding members of the firm and all come highly recommended by their peers for appellate litigation. Austin-based Alexander has served as the Chair of the Appellate Section of the State Bar of Texas and is an adjunct professor of Appellate Advocacy at the University of Texas School of Law. Doug Alexander is an appellate specialist, and has been Certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1990. He makes a substantial contribution to the legal profession outside of litigation, often writing and speaking on issues pertinent to appellate practice.

Kevin Dubose is based in the Houston office and was a solo practitioner before founding his current firm. A member of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, DuBose also makes substantial contributions to the legal profession, aside from litigation, through his writing and speaking engagements. Roger Townsend, also based in Houston, is recommended by peers in the Fifth Circuit for appellate litigation. He is an appellate specialist and has been certified in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization for more than 20 years. Townsend currently serves as treasurer to the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and is a member of the Council of Appellate Lawyers in the Appellate Judges Conference of the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association. He is licensed to practice law before all Texas state courts, as well as the US Supreme Court, the US Courts of Appeals for the Second, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, and Eleventh Circuits, as well as the US District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of Texas. Before founding Alexander Dubose & Townsend, Roger Townsend established and led the appellate group as a partner in the Litigation Department of Fulbright & Jaworski.

Andrews Kurth

The appellate attorneys at Andrews Kurth understand that not all appellate attorneys have expertise in every substantive area of law likely to invoke appeals. Appellate attorneys, often substantive generalists who work closely with trial lawyers, are known for their procedural acumen and ability to adapt to learning curves on subject matter they would not otherwise be familiar with. The appellate department at Andrews Kurth fills the gap in the appellate market, with appellate attorneys who have substantive expertise in employee benefits, managed care, health care, intellectual property litigation,

toxic torts, premise liability, complex bankruptcy matters, and energy litigation.

Scott Brister is a former appellate court judge, which gives him unique insight into the appellate practice. In choosing to retain Andrews Kurth for the past year, one client notes that “I considered the appellate experience of Scott Brister, his fees, and the ease with which I could work and communicate with him. Scott Brister has extremely valuable appellate experience, especially at the Texas Supreme Court level. Scott was able to craft a response to a petition for review that focused on the issues he believed were priority for the Court. He was able to do this because of his prior service as a Justice on the Court and because one of the most pertinent cases at issue was authored by him when served on the Court. In my opinion, other firms were not as passionate or supportive about the positions we were positing.”

Baker Botts

Houston-based national firm Baker Botts has long been championed for its appellate expertise. In addition to influential appellate litigation, Baker Botts regularly co-authors influential amicus briefs in the US Supreme Court. Recently the firm authored one for the VFW, American Legion, and Military Order of the Purple Heart in the high-profile case involving an Establishment Clause challenge to a World War I memorial in the Mojave Desert. The Court ruled in favor of Baker Botts’ brief, which was cited an unusually high 12 times by the various opinions of the Court, including by the lead opinion. The firm also maintains offices in Austin and Dallas.

Macey Reasoner Stokes is head of the firm’s appellate practice group. She handles a wide variety of civil appeals in state and federal courts, including the US Supreme Court, the US Courts of Appeals for the Fifth, Tenth and Eleventh Circuits. Her legal and appellate acumen is often employed at the trial stage for making interlocutory appeals and for preserving the trial court record in anticipation of an appeal. Stokes has been involved with a number of successful federal appeals over the course of the past few years. In 2010, she participated in a successful appeal of a judgment on a jury verdict against oil and gas refiners. The firm represented Shell Oil in a suit brought by a franchised dealer, Mac’s Shell Service. The appeal was heard before the US Supreme Court and resulted in the court’s first opinion construing the Petroleum Marketing Practices Act. **Thomas Phillips**, retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, joined the firm’s Austin office in September 2005, after serving as a judge for nearly 25 years. Since returning to practice and working with Baker Botts, he has represented dozens of clients in state and federal appeals on a wide variety of commercial, personal injury, regulatory and constitutional issues. **Stephen Tipps** served as head of the firm’s appellate practice group

from 1999 to 2007. As an appellate practitioner, Tipps has argued a number of significant cases before the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the Supreme Court of Texas, and a number of the intermediate Texas courts of appeals.

Beck Redden & Secrest

Beck Redden & Secrest is a Texas-based litigation boutique with a highly recommended appellate practice. **David Gunn** and **Russell Post** are certified in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Most of the remaining members of the appeals group are not “specialists” per se but their practice is composed entirely of appellate work. Gunn is widely recognized as one of the top appellate lawyers in the Fifth Circuit. “David Gunn is the best appellate attorney in Texas,” says a client, emphasizing that “other large national law firms don’t compare to the work done by this firm.” Another client notes “The level of experience and professionalism demonstrated by David Gunn provides a value that resulted in much confidence in him and the firm. David was forthright with regard to the specifics of the case. He possesses the ability to communicate well with the Justices both in the oral as well as the written communications he develops.” Another client reiterates, the sentiment, noting that “David was masterful in front of the jury and did an excellent job cross-examining the witnesses. Beck Redden’s appellate lawyers are excellent at their craft, and the firm was originally chosen based upon recommendations of their peers in Texas.”

In 2010 in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the firm successfully represented American International Specialty Lines Insurance Company on an issue of first impression where the court concluded that a standard-form exclusion for obligations arising under worker’s compensation law does not exclude coverage for negligence claims against Texas employers who elect not to subscribe to the Texas worker’s compensation system. In the same year, the firm also successfully represented a well known law firm against securities fraud claims. Having prevailed in the district court, Beck Redden attorneys successfully defended their client when the decision was appealed to the Fifth Circuit.

Gibson Dunn

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher has 17 offices worldwide, with appellate attorneys in each office. The firm’s appellate attorneys argue appeals in every district, at the state and federal level. The majority of the firm’s appellate practice is located in Washington DC, and business and constitutional disputes are some of the more common issues handled by the firm’s celebrated appellate attorneys.

James Ho, former Solicitor General of Texas, comes highly recommended by his peers in the Fifth Circuit. As a government lawyer, he has

extensive experience counselling government officials on highly complex legal issues and cases. His oral and written appellate advocacy skills are nationally regarded, and he has been repeatedly recognized by legal organizations as one of the most skilled appellate advocates in the country. He was hired by Gibson Dunn in December 2010 and currently works out of the firm’s Dallas office. Ho has brought his extensive litigation skills, honed as the state’s chief appellate and Supreme Court litigator, to bear on Gibson Dunn’s revered appellate practice.

Haynes and Boone

Haynes and Boone’s appellate practice is comprised largely of 19 attorneys who dedicate the entirety of their practice to appellate litigation. This dedication is consistent with Texas’ tradition of having a clearly defined appellate bar when compared to other jurisdictions and circuits. Even in Texas, where appellate litigation is often a defined practice area, Haynes and Boone distinguishes itself with the bench depth and specialization within its appellate practice. For example, one attorney is dedicated to crafting effective jury instructions where no pattern exists, and another specializes in judgment enforcements pending appeal.

Lynne Liberato, based in Houston, comes recommended by peers in the Fifth Circuit. She has led appellate teams in some of the most substantive issues litigated in her jurisdiction and nationwide, and she has received recognition for her commitment to her profession and to public service. An author and litigator, Liberato positively impacts her profession and the appellate bar in Texas by making consistent and substantial contributions to the body of law and theory. **Mark Trachtenberg** is also viewed with respect by peers for his rising profile in state and federal appeals matters.

Hankinson & Levinger

Hankinson and Levinger crafted its practice in the Texas tradition of a defined appellate bar and appellate practice groups. The firm is an appellate law firm, rather than a law firm with an appellate practice group. Together, the practitioners offer a strategic approach to appeals at all phases of litigation. In addition to handling litigation at the appellate stage, the firm also works at the earliest stages of litigation to preserve the record for appeal, form a litigation strategy in anticipation of appeal, and handle dispositive motions.

Jeffrey Levinger and **Deborah Hankinson**, firm co-founders, are certified in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. They come recommended by their peers in the Fifth Circuit, and bring diverse yet pertinent backgrounds to bear on the firm’s mission. Hankinson is a former jurist on the Fifth District Court of Appeals in Dallas. She returned to practice in 2002, and currently serves her firm in many capacities. Levinger is known for his skill in

drafting and arguing jury charges. As an appellate lawyer, he has handled varied practice areas from legal malpractice, intellectual property, and products liability.

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell maintains a diverse litigation practice. In addition to appeals, the firm handles an extensive array of international law cases, health care, corporate, finance, and energy litigation. The firm is based in Texas and was brought forth from the 2007 merger between Texas-based Locke Liddell & Sapp and Chicago’s Lord Bissell & Brook. In Texas, the firm maintains locations in Austin, Dallas and Houston. Operating at all stages of litigation when called on for an appeal, the firm prides itself on being a full-service firm with appellate being a separate practice group.

Mike Hatchell, Of Counsel, is head of the firm’s appellate practice and is well regarded by his peers at other Texas firms. Hatchell is a member of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. Like all great appellate attorneys in the state of Texas and in the Fifth Circuit, Hatchell contributes to the state’s strong appellate tradition through litigation at the state and federal level, and through his speaking and writing engagements.

Thompson & Knight

Thompson & Knight is known for its expertise in handling high-stakes appeals throughout Texas and the Southwest. With appellate attorneys in Dallas, Houston, and Austin, the firm’s appellate attorneys have built a reputation based on bench strength and ability to adapt to learning curves regarding appeals referred to them from outside. Several of the firm’s appellate attorneys are board certified in Civil Appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

A client of Thompson & Knight notes that “The firm is known for oil and gas expertise, and **Scott Stolley** was recommended to me as a good appellate lawyer. His strengths are being able to simplify complex legal concepts into plain, easy-to-read language. I also think he does a good job prioritizing the most important aspects of the case so as not to lose the reader in the details. I would use him again if I had another appeal to file.” Another client enthuses, “We have been using Thompson & Knight for more than 12 years and we are still a client. For appellate matters, we use **Deborah Alsup** in the Austin office. We would also use various lawyers involved in the preliminary stage (agency of district court). We use Thompson & Knight for a variety of matters including employment, toxic tort and general commercial litigation.”

TEXAS

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Baker Botts

Beck Redden & Secrest

Fulbright & Jaworski

Gibbs & Bruns

Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox

McKool Smith

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

Susman Godfrey

Vinson & Elkins

Recommended

Andrews Kurth

Bracewell & Giuliani

Haynes and Boone

Jones Day

King & Spalding

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell

Mayer Brown

Reynolds Frizzell Black Doyle Allen & Oldham

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

Thompson & Knight

Yetter Coleman

Local litigation stars

Thomas Ajamie

Ajamie LLP
Commercial Litigation

Eric Albritton

Albritton Law Firm
Intellectual Property

John Anaipakos

Baker Botts
Commercial Litigation, Energy, Professional Liability

Mark Baker

Fulbright & Jaworski
International Arbitration

Glenn Ballard, Jr

Bracewell & Giuliani
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

Nicolas Barzoukas

Weil Gotshal & Manges
Intellectual Property

Samuel Baxter

McKool Smith
Intellectual Property

Vance Beagles

Weil Gotshal & Manges
Class Actions, Commercial Litigation, Securities

Jerry Beane

Andrews Kurth
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Insurance

David Beck

Beck Redden & Secrest
Commercial Litigation

Van Beckwith

Baker Botts
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, International Arbitration

Vineet Bhatia

Susman Godfrey
Commercial Litigation

Doak Bishop

King & Spalding
International Arbitration

John Bowman

King & Spalding
International Arbitration

George Bramblett, Jr

Haynes and Boone
Business Torts, Commercial

Scott Brister

Andrews Kurth
Appellate

Kay Lynn Brumbaugh

Andrews Kurth
Antitrust

Robert Burford

Burford Hawash Meade & Gaston
Commercial Litigation

Otis Carroll

Ireland Carroll & Kelley
Intellectual Property

John Carter

Vinson & Elkins
Commercial Litigation

Johnny Carter

Susman Godfrey
Antitrust, Commercial, Intellectual Property, Securities

Douglas Cawley

McKool Smith
Intellectual Property

Jerry Clements

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell
Commercial Litigation

Rachel Giesber Clingman

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan
Aviation, Energy, Insurance

Nina Cortell

Haynes and Boone
Appellate, Commercial Litigation

Trey Cox

Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox
Commercial Litigation

Stephen Crain

Bracewell & Giuliani
Energy, Intellectual Property, Internal Investigations

Tom Cunningham

Cunningham Darlow
Commercial Litigation, Energy, Oil & Gas

Alistair Dawson

Beck Redden & Secrest
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation

William Dawson

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher
Intellectual Property, Oil & Gas, Professional Liability, Securities

Otway Denny, Jr

Fulbright & Jaworski
Commercial Litigation, Mass Tort

Karl Dial

Fulbright & Jaworski
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property, Securities



Stephen Dillard

Fulbright & Jaworski
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Jennifer Doan

Haltom & Doan
Intellectual Property

Murray Fogler

Beck Redden & Secrest
Appellate

Jean Frizzell

Reynolds Frizzell Black Doyle Allen & Oldham
Commercial Litigation

Thomas Fulkerson

The Law Offices of Tom Fulkerson
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property, Oil & Gas

David Genender

Baker Botts
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Robin Gibbs

Gibbs & Bruns
Commercial Litigation

Mark Giugliano

Gibbs & Bruns
Commercial Litigation

Mark Glasser

Baker Botts
Commercial Litigation, Securities

Lee Godfrey

Susman Godfrey
Bankruptcy, Commercial

Michael Goldberg

Baker Botts
Commercial Litigation, International Arbitration,
White-Collar Crime

Melanie Gray

Weil Gotshal & Manges
Bankruptcy, Commercial

Andi Gulley

Gibbs & Bruns
Commercial Litigation

David Gunn

Beck Redden & Secrest
Appellate

Cliff Gunter

Bracewell & Giuliani
Antitrust, White-Collar Crime

Rusty Hardin

Rusty Hardin & Associates
Civil Litigation, Criminal Litigation

Robert Harrell

Fulbright & Jaworski
Commercial, Intellectual Property, Securities

Grant Harvey

Gibbs & Bruns
Commercial Litigation

Gregory Huffman

Thompson & Knight
Antitrust

Thomas Jackson

Jones Day
Antitrust

Lee Kaplan

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka
Intellectual Property

John Kim

The Kim Law Firm
Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury, Products Liability

William Knull III

Mayer Brown
Commercial Litigation

Peter Kraus

Waters & Kraus
Commercial Litigation, Pharmaceutical, Toxic Tort

Kevin Kudlac

Weil Gotshal & Manges
Intellectual Property

Mark Lanier

The Lanier Law Firm
Civil Litigation

Lewis LeClair

McKool Smith
Commercial, Intellectual Property

Michael Lynn

Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox
Commercial Litigation

James Maloney

Baker Botts
Commercial Litigation, Securities

Neal Manne

Susman Godfrey
Commercial Litigation, Energy

Kenneth Marks

Susman Godfrey
Commercial Litigation

Sydney McDole

Jones Day
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Michael McKool

McKool Smith
Commercial, Intellectual Property

Barry McNeil

Haynes and Boone
Antitrust

Robert Meadows

King & Spalding
Products Liability, Toxic Tort

David Noteware

Thompson & Knight
Energy, Franchise

Yvette Ostolaza

Weil Gotshal & Manges
Commercial Litigation

Kathy Patrick

Gibbs & Bruns
Securities

Rod Phelan

Baker Botts
Intellectual Property

Michael Powell

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell
Antitrust, Appellate, Commercial Litigation

Hugh Ray

McKool Smith
Bankruptcy

Barrett Reasoner

Gibbs & Bruns
Commercial Litigation

Joe Redden, Jr

Beck Redden & Secrest
Intellectual Property, Products Liability

James Reeder, Jr

Vinson & Elkins
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Securities

Tracie Renfroe

King & Spalding
Commercial Litigation, Environmental, Products Liability, Toxic Tort

Chris Reynolds

Reynolds Frizzell Black Doyle Allen & Oldham
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

Steven Roberts

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan
Insurance

Sean Royall

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher
Antitrust, Appellate, Commercial Litigation,
Intellectual Property

Travis Sales

Baker Botts
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability,
Professional Liability

Richard Sayles

Sayles Werbner
Commercial Litigation

Stephen Scheve

Baker Botts
Commercial Litigation, International Arbitration,
Products Liability

Robert Schick

Vinson & Elkins
Products Liability

William Sims, Jr

Vinson & Elkins
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

Reginald Smith

King & Spalding
Commercial Litigation, International Arbitration

Craig Smyser

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka
Commercial Litigation

David Sterling

Baker Botts
Commercial Litigation, Professional Liability,
Securities

Karl Stern

Vinson & Elkins
Commercial Litigation, International Arbitration, Oil &
Gas, Securities

Theodore Stevenson III

McKool Smith
Intellectual Property

Daniel Stewart

Vinson & Elkins
Bankruptcy

John Strasburger

Weil Gotshal & Manges
Bankruptcy, Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Harry Susman

Susman Godfrey
Commercial Litigation

Stephen Susman

Susman Godfrey
Commercial Litigation

Michael Sutton

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell
Intellectual Property

Irvin Terrell

Baker Botts
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Securities

Jeffrey Tillotson

Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox
Commercial Litigation

Terry Tottenham

Fulbright & Jaworski
Products Liability

Larry Veselka

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka
Appellate, Commercial Litigation

Patricia Villareal

Jones Day
International Arbitration, Securities

Robb Voyles

Baker Botts
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Vincent Walkowiak

Fulbright & Jaworski
Products Liability

Johnny Ward

Ward & Smith
Intellectual Property

Mark Wawro

Susman Godfrey
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation

Gene Williams

Shook Hardy & Bacon
Insurance, Products Liability

Paul Yetter

Yetter Coleman
Commercial Litigation

Marie Yeates

Vinson & Elkins
Appellate

Damon Young

Young Pickett
Intellectual Property

Future stars

Fields Alexander
Beck Redden & Secrest

Clayton Bailey
Baker & McKenzie

Sydney Ballesteros
Gibbs & Bruns

Shelbi Barnhouse
Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal

Hunter Barrow
Thompson & Knight

Bradley Benoit
Bracewell & Giuliani

Brent Benoit
Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell

Frank Brame
Vinson & Elkins

Jonathan Bridges
Susman Godfrey

Daniel Charest
Susman Godfrey

Brad Coffey
Beck Redden & Secrest

Vijay D'Cruz
Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell

Tricia DeLeon
Bracewell & Giuliani

Jennifer Rudenick Ecklund
Thompson & Knight

Andrew Ehmke
Haynes and Boone

Brett Govett
Fulbright & Jaworski

Tonya Gray
Andrews Kurth

Joseph Grinstein
Susman Godfrey

Kenneth Held
Vinson & Elkins

Scott Humphries
Gibbs & Bruns

David Jones
Beck Redden & Secrest

Matthew Moran
Vinson & Elkins

Jennifer Poppe
Vinson & Elkins

Russell Post
Beck Redden & Secrest

Jason Powers
Vinson & Elkins

Joshua Roseman
Jones Day

Brian Ross
Gibbs & Bruns

Richard Stewart
Adams and Reese

Katherine Strahan
Andrews Kurth

Mark Trachtenberg
Haynes and Boone

Justin Waggoner
Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

Charles Walker Jr
Fulbright & Jaworski

David Woodcock
Vinson & Elkins



Texas

Tort reform changed Texas litigation in a big way a few years ago, rendering some products liability areas dead, while doctors flocked to the state seeking its strong medical malpractice protection. East Texas remains a hotbed of intellectual property litigation, even if the number of cases brought there has slowed the courts down, contrary to its "Rocket Docket" image. The oil and gas industry remains the engine driving Texas litigation, particularly as hydraulic fracturing opens up large natural gas fields previously unavailable. In recent years, lawyers note that the industry has been involved in substantially more antitrust and international arbitration matters.

Highly recommended firms

Baker Botts

Houston-based Baker Botts has been around, under various names, since 1840, growing in prominence along with the oil industry in the early 1900s. Baker Botts has several partners with high-level government experience and has built a significant reputation in white-collar defense and government investigations, due to strong connections to both Presidents George HW Bush and George W Bush, who once worked in the mailroom. The firm is also noted for its strength in oil and gas, antitrust, and commercial litigation. The Houston office is particularly strong in energy litigation, with strong connections in most key energy markets worldwide.

When **Rod Phelan** takes a case, peers know it will receive the full attention it deserves. "Rod Phelan is a scorched-earth, no-stone-unturned, aggressive litigator," says a competitor. Another adds, "Rod Phelan [is a] terrific lawyer, works very hard, is very smart, is a good writer, and is very much at ease in the courtroom." **Travis Sales** focuses his practice on products liability, representing clients like Merck, AstraZeneca and BASF. "Travis Sales should move up to litigation star," says a peer. "He specializes in big defense cases, like product defect cases. [He] defended the Vioxx case and got a very good defense result." Working out of Dallas, **Van Beckwith** draws praise for his intelligence and creativity. "Van Beckwith's command of the facts is extraordinary and effective," says a competitor. "He developed a very creative case against us." Beckwith handles commercial and class-action matters, particularly for the food and beverage industries.

Beck Redden & Secrest

Established in 1992, Beck Redden & Secrest quickly established itself as a premier litigation boutique. "All the lawyers there are absolutely top-notch," says a competitor. The firm has represented major clients like 3M, ExxonMobil and Cameron International.

Over the course of his career, **David Beck** has firmly established himself as one of the top litigators in the country. "David Beck is

an outstanding trial lawyer who is well known and respected throughout Texas and the nation," says a client. Peers are equally impressed, praising his talent, as well as his integrity. "David Beck is one of the preeminent trial lawyers in Texas," says a competitor. "David brings intellect and integrity that few others can bring; juries trust him, because he is honest as the day is long." **Joe Redden, Jr** and **Fields Alexander** recently represented Cooper Cameron against claims that its frac mandrel infringed on a patent owned by Duhn Oil Tool. The judge ruled that Duhn's patent was invalid, due to being anticipated or obvious. When Dr. Ebrahim Bagherzadeh had a dispute with his former employer, Marcus Oil & Chemical, over \$20 million he claimed he was owed for relinquishing his intellectual property rights to a new technology he invented, he turned to **Murray Fogler**, who won him the full payment, plus attorney's fees. "Murray Fogler is a superb lawyer," says a peer. "He's low-key, but extremely effective in the defense of a case." **David Gunn** is widely respected for his appellate practice. "My go-to appellate lawyer is David Gunn at Beck Redden," says a competitor. "He is terrific and cerebral."

Fulbright & Jaworski

Founded in Houston in 1919 by a railroad regulation expert, Fulbright & Jaworski now has over 900 lawyers in 17 offices in the US, Europe, Asia and Middle East. The Houston office has over 250 lawyers known for their expertise in antitrust, intellectual property, mass tort, products liability and securities matters. Within Texas, the firm also has offices in Austin, Dallas and San Antonio.

Mark Baker co-heads the firm's international department, as well as its arbitration and ADR practice group. Peers consider him a leading voice on international disputes. "Mark Baker has done a remarkable job of specializing in international arbitration and being one of the leaders of that." Working out of the Dallas office, **Karl Dial** handles complex commercial matters with seeming ease. "Karl Dial is a highly regarded commercial litigator in Dallas," says a competitor. "He is one of the best complicated commercial guys I have seen. [He] makes

complex matters simple." A certified public accountant, Dial handles director and officer liability, securities, legal and accounting malpractice, information technology, and intellectual property litigation. Noted for his products liability practice, **Steve Dillard** chairs the firm's global litigation department. "Steve Dillard is one of the guys in products liability," says a competitor. "He is successful, well regarded by the judges, and has been doing this for a long time; clients trust him." A partner in the Houston office since 1978, Dillard has recently devoted his practice to environmental, groundwater contamination, chemical exposure, and toxic and mass tort cases, including class actions.

Gibbs & Bruns

With around 30 lawyers, Gibbs & Bruns operates as a lean litigation boutique, taking and winning big cases, both as a plaintiff and defendant. The firm touts its plaintiffs experience, claiming that approaching all cases with a plaintiff's mentality give it an edge. "We are still a client and would look to them for representation in significant commercial disputes, either as a defendant or plaintiff," says a client. "The firm is recognized as a true trial firm with a highly competent appellate and legal research capability." Another adds, "I believe they have the best plaintiff's lawyer reputation in Texas for serious business disputes."

While **Kathy Patrick** epitomizes the bulldog litigator image, multiple peers who worked alongside her also felt she was the smartest lawyer involved in the case. "She beat the tar out of us in a case," says a competitor. "We settled." Patrick recently represented 22 mortgage-backed securities investors who sued Bank of America to force them to buy back the investments, securing a, \$8.5 billion settlement that surprised industry analysts who expected a longer fight. When Texas billionaire Trevor Rees-Jones sold his energy company in 2006, it came as a surprise to former minority shareholder Bobbitt Noel, Jr, who recently allowed Rees-Jones to buy out his shares based on what he claimed was a much lower valuation of the company. **Grant Harvey** took the case, and in May 2011, a judge handed down a \$196 million judgment, citing fraud and breach of fiduciary duty. Specializing in complex commercial litigation, **Barrett Reasoner** draws praise for his approach. "Barrett Reasoner is professional, respectful of opponents, but aggressive and hones in on the issues very quickly," says a competitor.

Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox

Operating out of Dallas, Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox has been drawing the attention of fellow litigators recently. "Lynn Tillotson gets overlooked," one competitor says, with another adding, "In the Dallas marketplace, they show up in all the high-end stuff." The firm represents *Fortune 500* corporations, major financial institutions and prominent

APPELLATE

Tier 1

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher
 Kellogg Huber Hansen Todd Evans & Figel
 Latham & Watkins
 Mayer Brown
 O'Melveny & Myers
 Robbins Russell Englert Orseck Untereiner & Sauber
 Sidley Austin
 WilmerHale

Tier 2

Covington & Burling
 Jenner & Block
 Jones Day
 Vinson & Elkins

Tier 3

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
 Baker Botts
 Fulbright & Jaworski
 Kirkland & Ellis
 McDermott Will & Emery
 Morrison & Foerster

Litigation stars

Miller Baker
 McDermott Will & Emery
 Scott Ballenger
 Latham & Watkins
 Theodore Boutros
 Gibson Dunn & Crutcher
 Paul Clement
 Bancroft
 Edward "Ted" Cruz
 Morgan Lewis & Bockius
 Walter Dellinger
 O'Melveny & Myers
 Donald Dunner
 Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner
 John Elwood
 Vinson & Elkins
 Roy Englert
 Robbins Russell Englert Orseck Untereiner & Sauber
 John Estes
 Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom
 Meir Feder
 Jones Day
 Jonathan Franklin
 Fulbright & Jaworski
 David Frederick
 Kellogg Huber Hansen Todd Evans & Figel
 Andrew Frey
 Mayer Brown
 Kenneth Geller
 Mayer Brown
 Thomas Goldstein
 Goldstein & Russell
 David Gunn
 Beck Redden & Secrest
 Peter Huber
 Kellogg Huber Hansen Todd Evans & Figel
 Michael Kellogg
 Kellogg Huber Hansen Todd Evans & Figel
 Robert Long
 Covington & Burling
 Maureen Mahoney
 Latham & Watkins
 Glen Nager
 Jones Day

Theodore Olson
 Gibson Dunn & Crutcher
 Carter Phillips
 Sidley Austin
 Joshua Rosenkranz
 Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe
 Stephen Shapiro
 Mayer Brown
 Sri Srinivasan
 O'Melveny & Myers
 Evan Tager
 Mayer Brown
 Richard Taranto
 Farr & Taranto
 Seth Waxman
 WilmerHale



GENERAL COMMERCIAL

Tier 1

Cravath Swaine & Moore

Davis Polk & Wardwell

Kirkland & Ellis

Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

Sullivan & Cromwell

Williams & Connolly

Tier 2

Baker Botts

Cahill Gordon & Reindel

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton

Covington & Burling

Debevoise & Plimpton

Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher

Jenner & Block

Jones Day

Kaye Scholer

Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel

Latham & Watkins

Morrison & Foerster

Munger Tolles & Olson

O'Melveny & Myers

Sidley Austin

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom

Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz

Weil Gotshal & Manges

WilmerHale

Winston & Strawn

Tier 3

Bingham McCutchen

Cadwalder Wickersham & Taft

Fulbright & Jaworski

Mayer Brown

Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman

Shearman & Sterling

White & Case

Litigation stars

Bruce Abbott
Munger Tolles & Olson

Jack Auspitz
Morrison & Foerster

Fred Bartlit Jr.
Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott

Stuart Baskin
Shearman & Sterling

Philip Beck
Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott

David Beck
Beck Redden & Secrest

Steven Bierman
Sidley Austin

David Boies
Boies Schiller & Flexner

Theodore Boutrous Jr.
Gibson Dunn & Crutcher

Brad Brian
Munger Tolles & Olson

James Brosnahan
Morrison & Foerster

Thomas Buchanan
Winston & Strawn

Bobby Burchfield
McDermott Will & Emery

Evan Chesler
Cravath Swaine & Moore

Richard Clary
Cravath Swaine & Moore

Vincent Connelly
Mayer Brown

Robert Cooper
Gibson Dunn & Crutcher

Greg Danilow
Weil Gotshal & Manges

Michael Dell
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel

Gandolfo "Vince" DiBlasi
Sullivan & Cromwell

Scott Edelman
Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy

Martin Flumenbaum
Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison

Robert Giuffra
Sullivan & Cromwell

Richard Godfrey
Kirkland & Ellis

Sandra Goldstein
Cravath Swaine & Moore

John Hall
Covington & Burling

Jason Halper
Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft

Kirke Hasson
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman

Robert Heim
Dechert

John Hickey Jr.
Kirkland & Ellis

Keith Hummel
Cravath Swaine & Moore

David Ichel
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

William Jeffress
Baker Botts

Brad Karp
Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison

Jay Kasner
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom

Marc Kasowitz
Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman

Thomas Kavalier
Cahill Gordon & Reindel

Raoul Kennedy
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom

John Kiernan
Debevoise & Plimpton

Jeffrey Lamken
Molo Lamken

Jonathan Lerner
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom

Alan Levine
Cooley Godward Kronish

Lewis Liman
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton

Joan Lukey
Ropes & Gray