

Texas

Texas litigation made news several times this year with cases involving the Yearning for Zion Ranch and polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs against child welfare services. While many children were returned to their parents, the State wanted to put many of them back into custody, but cases are ongoing. Texas made international headlines when the International Court of Justice and President Bush asked for a stay of execution on a man convicted for the rape and murder of two teenage girls. The Supreme Court, however, said Congress did not have the power to justify the “stay,” and Texas went through with the execution. The matter could now affect US citizens in foreign countries.

Highly recommended firms

Nationally recognized firm **Baker Botts** started with its offices in Austin, Houston and Dallas. With office expansion including Beijing, Dubai, London and Moscow, the firm continues to grow from its Texas roots to encompass a worldwide base. The firm consists of roughly 800 lawyers spread across a dozen offices, with more than 250 lawyers dedicated to litigation. Practice areas encompass a bevy of litigation including a strong energy practice, intellectual property, employment, securities and products liability. “They’re great litigators,” says one client. “[They are] nationally known to do good work.” Baker Botts continues to remain at the top of peer and client lists for significant “bet-the-company” matters, and in the past year, “represented clients in more than 1,000 cases, spanning 45 Federal District Courts, 35 states and 15 Courts of Appeals.” Recent intellectual property work includes successful representation of Elan Pharma International in a patent infringement lawsuit against Abraxis BioScience resulting in \$55.2 million in damages for Elan. The case involved the “first nanotechnology patent case taken to jury trial.” Other notable clients include Reliant Energy Resources, Shell Oil, Morgan Stanley and Liberty Media. Baker Botts recently added to its financial and energy litigation strengths with the hiring of Mark Glasser from King & Spalding.

Daryl Bristow handles cases involving mass tort, employment, energy, securities, corporate governance and internal investigations. Recent casework involves representing CenterPoint Energy against a class action regarding the cost of natural gas. **Michael Goldberg** receives praise from clients for his extensive trial experience handling complex commercial and international

arbitration matters. “He’s very smart,” says one client. “He has a keen ability to get through the layers of an argument and get to the key [points].” Clients also lauded **Goldberg** for his ability to interact well with an in-house legal team, while focusing on the crux of a case and still keeping the client in the loop. **James Maloney** handles complex business litigation including securities, class actions, takeover disputes and trade secrets. Clients include Pennzoil-Quaker State and CenterPoint Energy. Dallas litigation partner **Rod Phelan** has more than 30 years of trial experience in complex commercial matters. Practice areas include antitrust, oil and gas, securities and intellectual property. **Irvin Terrell** focuses his work on business litigation involving contract disputes, business torts, antitrust law, fiduciary duty and securities fraud. **Danny David** receives mention for his work handling complex commercial litigation and class action suits. Clients praise the work of **Travis Sales** saying, “He did a great job.” Another notes, “[He’s] a good tactician.” Sales handles products liability and insurance matters for pharmaceutical companies.

Houston-based **Beck Redden & Secrest** receives praise from sources for its litigation practice. This litigation boutique has 32 lawyers, with 26 dedicated to trial work. Strengths of the firm include antitrust, securities, mass torts, energy, professional malpractice and intellectual property. “Their work has been excellent,” says one client, who also says their company would “absolutely” use Beck Redden again. One recent case includes representing South Texas Electric Co-Operative regarding a breach of contract and breach of warranty suit involving a “defective steam turbine manufactured and installed by Dresser-Rand

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Baker Botts
Beck Redden & Secrest
Bracewell & Giuliani
Fulbright & Jaworski
Gibbs & Bruns
Susman Godfrey
Vinson & Elkins

Recommended

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
Andrews Kurth
Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal
Haynes & Boone
Jones Day
King & Spalding
Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell
Mayer Brown
McKool Smith
Smyser Kaplan & Veselka
Thompson & Knight
Weil Gotshal & Manges

“I’ve dealt with many New York firms, and Gibbs & Bruns is as good as it gets,” says one client.”

- Gibbs & Bruns



Local litigation stars

Linda Addison
Fulbright & Jaworski

Mark Baker
Fulbright & Jaworski

Glenn Ballard Jr
Bracewell & Giuliani

Nicolas Barzoukas
Weil Gotshal & Manges

Vance Beagles
Weil Gotshal & Manges

David Beck
Beck Redden & Secrest

Vineet Bhatia
Susman Godfrey

Doak Bishop
King & Spalding

George Bramblett
Haynes & Boone

Daryl Bristow
Baker Botts

Philip Bruns
Gibbs & Bruns

Richard Caldwell
Andrews Kurth

John Carter
Vinson & Elkins

Jerry Clements
Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell

James Coleman
Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal

Nina Cortell
Haynes & Boone

William Dawson
Vinson & Elkins

Otway Denny
Fulbright & Jaworski

Stephen Dillard
Fulbright & Jaworski

Edward Fernandes
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

Murray Fogler
Beck Redden & Secrest

Robin Gibbs
Gibbs & Bruns

Lee Godfrey
Susman Godfrey

Michael Goldberg
Baker Botts

Company.” Other recent matters include obtaining a summary judgment that dismissed all claims against client Morgan Stanley. The plaintiffs alleged breach of fiduciary duty, fraud and negligent misrepresentation, among other issues. Other notable clients include ExxonMobil, Research in Motion and the Memorial Hermann Hospital System. Clients continue to praise the firm’s “excellent reputation.”

“David Beck is on everyone’s list of the 10 best trial lawyers in Texas,” says one client. “He is creative, has good jury appeal, and is a great story teller.” An active trial lawyer, Beck handles general commercial and intellectual property matters. One client notes, “There is never a question that he will demonstrate the highest ethical behavior in representing his client.” Sources name **Joe**

tort suit against 729 garment workers in the Rio Grande Valley. The workers alleged personal injuries based on exposure to various chemicals, but Bracewell & Giuliani litigators obtained a complete dismissal of all claims, releasing Singer Sewing from any liability. Other notable clients include Kinder Morgan, Valero Energy and Midland Cogeneration Venture.

Senior partner **Clifford Gunter** has more than 40 years of trial experience handling fraud, construction, energy and shareholder securities fraud claims. Recent case work includes the successful defense of UHY against claims of negligence. After a two-week trial, a jury ruled in favor of the client. Head of the trial section, **Glenn Ballard Jr** practices commercial, intellectual property, real estate, banking and energy law. Recently

“They’re great litigators,’ says one client. ‘[They are] nationally known to do good work.’”

- *Baker Botts*

Redden for his experience handling intellectual property and products liability cases. Trial work includes obtaining a \$9 million federal jury verdict in favor of “two executives who were defrauded into relinquishing valuable stock options.” **Murray Fogler** receives mention for his complex commercial cases including antitrust, breach of contract and insurance disputes. His recent work includes representing another law firm, Andrews Kurth, in litigation stemming from the “distribution of fees from its representation of the maternal heirs of Howard Hughes.” Senior associate **Brad Coffey** receives mention for his work handling products liability and professional liability matters. Associate **Matthew Whitley** receives accolades for his intellectual property and complex commercial litigation practice.

With more than 400 lawyers spread across local and international offices, clients praise the work of **Bracewell & Giuliani**. “They have an excellent reputation,” says one client. “They’re excellent in the work they do.” Well-known for its energy and environmental practices, the firm continues to show promise and growth in the antitrust, products liability, intellectual property, securities and white-collar criminal defense arenas. The insurance team also receives accolades for its successful defense of Frank’s Casing Crew & Rental Tools. Office locations include Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio with international offices in Dubai, London and two offices in Kazakhstan. “They’re good trial lawyers,” says one client. One recent case includes successful representation of Singer Sewing in a \$437 million mass toxic

inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates, Ballard’s notable list of clients includes Baker Hughes and Northern Trust Bank. Recently elected partner **Brad Benoit** receives accolades for his work on litigation relating to business torts, energy law and insurance coverage disputes. For environmental and toxic torts, clients turn to the counsel of **Tricia DeLeon**. Goodyear Tire & Rubber and Farmers Insurance are both clients of DeLeon.

Clients consistently offer praise for the litigation group at **Fulbright & Jaworski**. “They’re a big firm with smart litigators,” says one client. “[They are] highly regarded by their peers.” With more than 450 lawyers dedicated to litigation, and 385 of those with first-chair trial experience, Fulbright & Jaworski receives high accolades. Texas offices include Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. Litigation strengths include intellectual property, products liability, mass torts, antitrust, securities and health law. Environmental law continues to grow as well with expansion in Minneapolis. Recent case work includes the successful representation of QPSX in a patent infringement case resulting in a jury award of \$28.1 million against Nortel Networks. Other representation includes an antitrust case for International Speedway in a matter against Kentucky Speedway. Fulbright & Jaworski obtained a dismissal with prejudice on behalf of the client against allegations of conspiring to keep the Nextel Cup away from the Kentucky Speedway.

Linda Addison receives accolades for her work in business and complex commercial litigation suits. Case work includes

representation of The Northern Trust Company in a bankruptcy preference action against Enron. For international arbitration and alternative dispute resolution, clients turn to **Mark Baker**, who co-heads the firm's international department. Baker's case history includes representing investors against several South American countries, representing a Russian energy company in arbitration proceedings and representing a Chinese company in a suit involving a chemical plant in Bangladesh. Chair of the global litigation practice, **Stephen Dillard** handles environmental, mass tort and toxic tort litigation. Recent case representation includes Vulcan Materials against the government of the Virgin Islands regarding environmental damage to an aquifer on the island of St Thomas. **Otway Denny** receives praise for his work handling toxic torts, products liability, professional liability, construction and environmental matters. Experience includes handling litigation arising from plant and oil refinery explosions in the Gulf Coast region. **Brett Govett** and **Charles Walker** receive mention for their intellectual property work. Walker serves as head of the intellectual property and technology group in Houston.

Clients agree that **Gibbs & Bruns** boasts a significant commercial litigation practice in its 38-lawyer Houston boutique. Clients note the decision to use Gibbs & Bruns based on its "reputation as an outstanding law firm." The firm works "exclusively in high-stakes commercial litigation" for both plaintiffs and defendants. Litigation strengths include contract, securities, intellectual property, insurance, antitrust, construction, energy and professional malpractice. "I've dealt with many New York firms, and Gibbs & Bruns is as good as it gets," says one client. Recent case representation includes Lonestar Inventions in a patent dispute against Nintendo regarding the Wii gaming platform. Another client, ConocoPhillips, is using the firm regarding a breach of contract and fraud dispute against West Texas Gas. Other significant clients include Unocal, PGET Energy Trading Power and Cerberus.

Philip Bruns receives praise for his work on complex commercial litigation practice with regard to energy law. Recent case work includes successful representation of the National Energy Group regarding arbitration claims and counterclaims against Southaven Power and Caledonia Power. "I would recommend Robin and his firm highly, not just in the state of Texas, but in the US," says one client of **Robin Gibbs**. "[He's an] extremely experienced trail lawyer." Gibbs handles antitrust, securities and general commercial matters. **Kathy Patrick** receives accolades for her complex commercial work in securities and legal malpractice. "[She's] extremely smart, very hard working and she doesn't give up easily," says one client. "She does her work in a very thorough way." Peers praise the work of **Aundrea Frieden** as a

"great jack of all trades," and "fearless" when it comes time to prep clients before a trial. Case work includes the representation of several former directors and offices of Peregrine Systems.

Litigation boutique **Susman Godfrey** has offices in both Houston and Dallas, and receives regular mention among peers as one of the best litigation houses in Texas. The firm prides itself on allowing associates to play a prominent role early in their careers, and regularly staffs cases between offices, also located in Los Angeles, New York and Seattle. "We had some litigation in Texas, and found them to be the best," says one client. "[Susman] is in a class by themselves." Approximately 75 lawyers dedicate their time to litigation, with 40 that have first-chair trial experience. "They were great lawyers," says a client. "They were very aggressive." The firm handles the gamut of business litigation including antitrust, intellectual property, products liability, energy and securities. Representative clients include ABB Lummus Global, Baker Hughes and Nevada Gold & Casinos.

For general commercial, energy and insurance litigation, clients turn to **Lee Godfrey**. Godfrey receives praise for his skills in antitrust and natural resource matters as well. **Stephen Susman** garners praise for his commercial, intellectual property and more recently, climate change matters. Susman serves as a "pioneer in global-warming litigation," and "completed a successful representation of a coalition of 37 Texas cities opposing the permitting of coal-fired electric generating plants by TXU." Other notable clients include Masimo and Medtronic. Peers praise the work of **Vineet Bhatia** for his high-stakes commercial litigation practice including antitrust, contracts, intellectual property and insurance matters. Case work includes the successful representation of a class of shareholders in a securities fraud action against Genzyme. The case recently settled for \$64 million, with Bhatia serving as lead trial counsel. **Mark Wawro** represents clients in securities and intellectual property matters. Notable clients include Amazon.com and REI. **Jonathan Bridges** receives mention for his work representing clients in class actions, while **Joe Grinstein** receives praise for an array of intellectual property matters for clients like Google, Yahoo! and Netflix.

International firm **Vinson & Elkins** offers clients an extensive group of attorneys that span the globe. In recent months, the firm added to its Middle Eastern presence with the addition of new attorneys in both Dubai and Abu Dhabi to help bolster the ever-growing economic possibilities there. Texas offices include Austin, Dallas and Houston, with a national network from coast to coast, as well as offices in Beijing, London and Moscow. Clients appreciate the diversity practice in litigation and transactional matters, while

Clifford Gunter
Bracewell & Giuliani

Karen Hirschman
Vinson & Elkins

Gregory Huffman
Thompson & Knight

Lee Kaplan
Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

William Knull III
Mayer Brown

James Maloney
Baker Botts

Mike McKool
McKool Smith

Sydney McDole
Jones Day

Robert Meadows
King & Spalding

Terrence Murphy
Jones Day

David Noteware
Thompson & Knight

Kathy Patrick
Gibbs & Bruns

Robert Phelan
Baker Botts

Michael Powell
Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell

Harry Reasoner
Vinson & Elkins

Joe Redden
Beck Redden & Secrest

Craig Smyser
Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

Stephen Susman
Susman Godfrey

Irvin Terrell
Baker Botts

Mark Wawro
Susman Godfrey

Future stars

Shelbi Barnhouse
Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal

Hunter Barrow
Thompson & Knight

Brad Benoit
Bracewell & Giuliani

Jonathan Bridges
Susman Godfrey

Amy Burgert
Mayer Brown

Brad Coffey
Beck Redden & Secrest

Scarlett Collings
Weil Gotshal & Manges

Danny David
Baker Botts

Tricia DeLeon
Bracewell & Giuliani

Richard Deutsch
Andrews Kurth

Andrew Ehmke
Haynes & Boone

Aundrea Frieden
Gibbs & Bruns

Laurie Gallun
McKool Smith

Brett Govett
Fulbright & Jaworski

Joe Grinstein
Susman Godfrey

Kenneth Held
Vinson & Elkins

Christopher Maynard
Jones Day

Kristen McKeever
Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

Jason Powers
Vinson & Elkins

Michelle Reed
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

Sarah Ring
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

Alissa Rubin
King & Spalding

Travis Sales
Baker Botts

Michael Stockham
Thompson & Knight

April Terry
Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell

Matthew Whitley
Beck Redden & Secrest

Charles Walker
Fulbright & Jaworski

others “appreciate the depth of their bench.” While energy remains a strong area, antitrust, intellectual property and securities continue to grow and strengthen the firm’s reputation. Recent case work includes successful representation of Continental Airlines in a federal antitrust case against travel agents alleging that various airline companies conspired to “reduce and ultimately eliminate travel agent commissions.” Another recent case involves successful representation of Cyberonics in a stock options backdating case. Other notable past clients include Blockbuster, AT&T and KBR.

John Carter receives recognition for his representation of clients in cases involving antitrust, securities and contract issues. Carter successfully defended clients in a breach of fiduciary duty and obtained a summary judgment. Co-head of the litigation department in Dallas **William Dawson** receives recommendation for his work handling intellectual property matters and lawsuits for accounting firms and energy companies. One recent client includes Ernst & Young in a securities fraud suit against shareholders of Seitel. Dawson handled the matter with **Karen Hirschman**, a litigator in the Dallas office with a practice emphasizing “defending auditors, issuers and directors and officers in securities fraud class actions and M&A litigation.” Hirschman recently represented Swift Beef in a case alleging the company harbored illegal immigrants “forced the county to spend millions of dollars in extra health care and law enforcement.” **Harry Reasoner** receives mention for handling cases regarding antitrust, securities, insurance and contract claims. **Kenneth Held** receives praise for his energy and class action litigation practice, while **Jason Powers** garners attention for his work on antitrust, securities fraud and business torts.

Recommended firms

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld houses roughly 400 litigators across its national offices. Bases in Texas include Austin, Houston and San Antonio. Founded in Dallas, the firm earns praise for its notable securities, class actions and intellectual property practices. The firm’s energy division receives recommendation as it continues to grow with the recent addition of new attorneys in Houston. Expansions also continue for the firm’s international offices in Moscow and London. For litigation, the firm stresses an avoidance of the “one size fits all” approach to litigation, and strives to “narrow the issues” before going to trial. The main approach to the process rests in the firm’s ability to “design an affirmative defense that is more credible than the plaintiff’s case.” In a recent victory, the firm won a significant case for 70 hospitals against the government’s Medicare program. After five years of litigation, the federal government agreed to pay \$666 million to more than 600 hospitals

for back payments in what is believed to be one of the biggest settlements in Medicare history.

In Austin, **Edward Fernandes** receives praise for his work handling complex commercial litigation matters involving intellectual property, securities and trade secrets. Case work includes representing a chemical company in regard to a \$200 million trade secret case, a venture capital firm in a \$189 million breach of contract issue and he currently represents Lenovo, a computer manufacturer, in a patent infringement suit against Shuttle Computer Group. Associates **Michelle Reed** and **Sarah Ring** receive recommendation for their work in litigation. Reed represents companies in securities litigation and enforcement actions by the SEC, while Ring’s practice emphasizes intellectual property matters with a focus on patents and trademarks.

Peers mention **Andrews Kurth** as notable competitors in the Texas litigation arena. The firm boasts a “straight-talk” approach and promises to give clients “advice instead of just options,” as well as “the bottom line instead of lawyer-speak.” Started in Houston, the firm’s offices have expanded to include Austin, Dallas and The Woodlands. Commercial, energy, oil & gas, intellectual property and white-collar criminal defense are all prominent practice areas. One prominent former client includes Howard Hughes, represented by the firm through the late 1960s and early 1970s. The firm was recently involved in litigation with the heirs of former Andrews Kurth attorney Raymond Cook, who once represented Hughes, in a suit alleging the firm cut out the Cook estate in a portion of a contingency fee worth approximately \$15 million in relation to the Hughes estate. While the Cook family claimed fraud, misrepresentation, breach of contract, and other matters, the court sided with Andrews Kurth.

Co-chair of the litigation department, **Richard Caldwell** receives praise for his more than 40 years of experience handling contract, class actions, products liability and professional malpractice suits. **Richard Deutsch** receives mention for his representation of energy, construction and mining litigation.

Dallas firm **Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal** earns a reputation for its broad litigation practice including antitrust, real estate, intellectual property, products liability and securities. The firm of approximately 90 attorneys also offers a competitive complex dispute resolution practice. It boasts that the “practice offers the sophistication of the largest law firms, without their bureaucracy or impersonality.” Name partner **James Coleman** receives praise for his litigation strengths, most notably for his involvement with the cases resulting from the collapse of Enron. His other practice areas include antitrust and professional liability. Associate **Shelbi Barnhouse** also

receives mention for her general commercial and civil litigation work.

Peers praise the growing litigation team at **Haynes & Boone** for their skills in the courtroom. The firm emphasizes a “culture of teamwork” for its team of roughly 500 lawyers. Notable practice areas for the firm include antitrust, construction, insurance, intellectual property and real estate matters. The firm secured a win for Electronic Transaction Consultants against TransCore, in a matter that would have cost the client more than \$60 million. The case involved four patent infringement matters relating to toll-collection facilities. In a pro bono case, the firm represented two Mexican nationals imprisoned for life for the murder of a convenience store clerk in 1996. The decision to reverse and vacate the men means new trials for both, and the possibility of freedom based on the lack of evidence linking the men to the murder. Other past clients include American Airlines, Dell, Nortel Networks and RadioShack.

Dallas litigator **George Bramblett** represents clients in “high profile, high stakes” situations of business, securities and torts. Representative matters include Exxon in an insurance case against underwriters at Lloyds of London stemming from the Valdez oil spill in Alaska. Bramblett also represents Hunt Petroleum Chairman Tom Hunt in litigation based on a merger between Hunt and XTO Energy. **Nina Cortell** handles complex litigation and receives mention for her appellate work as well. Past clients include Sunbelt Bancorp and Sunbelt Savings. An associate in the intellectual property group, **Andrew Ehmke** handles cases with an emphasis on computer and cyberspace law. He regularly represents companies in “patent portfolio development and intellectual property infringement matters.”

The national firm **Jones Day** receives recommendation for its offices in both Houston and Dallas. Energy, intellectual property and securities remain strong practice areas for the firm in Texas. The Dallas group recently represented Goodman Manufacturing in a case against Angel in a class action matter regarding an alleged defect in paint on roughly 800,000 air conditioning units. The court granted the client’s motion for summary judgment on the matter. In a recent headline-grabbing issue, the firm represented several mothers from the Yearning for Zion Ranch who took issue with the State’s sweeping decision to remove all children, more than 450, from their parents. The Texas Supreme Court agreed that child welfare officials overstepped authority, and ordered the return of the children to their mothers, but the investigations are ongoing. Recent Houston representation includes CenterPoint Energy in a case involving compliance programs and natural gas transportation policies.

Sydney McDole receives praise for handling cases regarding oil & gas, products

liability and intellectual property. Past clients include Hanson PLC in a toxic waste and personal injury matter against Lloyd’s of London and Simon Property Group in a trademark matter. Antitrust, insurance and federal securities cases are the focus of **Terrence Murphy**. Representative clients include Bridgestone/Firestone, Occidental Petroleum and United Services Automobile Association. **Christopher Maynard** receives praise for his work on antitrust and intellectual property matters. Past clients include Nokia and Texas Instruments.

King & Spalding’s Texas presence receives praise for its ability to handle energy, securities and international arbitration. The Houston office now holds approximately 100 lawyers, many of whom focus their strengths on trials. The Latin American practice also remains a strong group, as does the liquefied natural gas division. The recently opened Austin office boasts a strong presence in similar practice areas as Houston, and includes a growing environmental practice. Major clients for the Texas offices include Chevron, the Houston Astros and Dow Chemical. The firm recently won a mass toxic tort case for client Cooper Industries against four plaintiffs alleging injuries from exposures to various chemicals.

In the Latin American group, **Doak Bishop** receives praise for his work on litigation and international arbitration involving energy, environmental and oil and gas matters. Bishop recently successfully represented Noble Energy and MachalaPower in an International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes arbitration claim against Ecuador. **Robert Meadows** represents a diverse group of clients in energy, environmental and products liability matters. Meadows serves as managing partner of King & Spalding’s Houston and Austin offices. Associate **Alissa Rubin** receives praise for her representation of clients in employment, securities and fraud cases.

The extensive group at **Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell** receives recommendation for its litigation strengths in Austin, Houston and Dallas. Energy and securities litigation remain prominent practice areas for the firm. Within the energy group, the firm represents “100 oil, gas and energy clients in domestic and international litigation and arbitration proceedings.” Liquefied natural gas, petrochemicals and electric power are all strong subsets of the division, with a growing presence in alternative and renewable energy as well. Representative clients include the El Paso Corporation, Merrill Lynch Commodities and a private energy developer relating to the construction of “three greenfield ethanol plants.”

Jerry Clements works out of both the Austin and Dallas offices, receiving accolades for her work in energy, environmental, trade secret and employment litigation. As a former managing partner of the firm, representative experience includes an oil and gas

exploration company in a breach of a joint venture agreement and a software manufacturer for a “nationwide class action” alleging defective software. Dallas attorney **Michael Powell** represents clients in antitrust and energy litigation, and receives mention from peers for his appellate practice. His clients include accounting firms in relation to class action suits. **April Terry** focuses her practice on professional liability, indemnity disputes and general contract matters.

The Houston office of **Mayer Brown** opened to help “serve the worldwide needs of oil and gas clients.” While energy is a major focus of the office, intellectual property, environmental law and securities all play significant parts in the litigation scene there. The office draws on the strength of the overall firm to assist clients from as far away as South America and China. **William Knull III** has more than 30 years of litigation and arbitration experience in the oil and gas industry. Representative experience includes serving as co-counsel for Cargill in a proceeding against Mexico “arising out of tax and import measures favoring domestic suppliers of sugar over similarly situated foreign suppliers of high fructose corn syrup.” **Amy Burgert’s** commercial litigation practice emphasizes commercial, bankruptcy and securities fraud matters. With her extensive trial experience, Burgert also “counsels her clients on how to avoid litigation or how to resolve matters through alternative dispute mechanisms.”

For intellectual property and business litigation, clients turn to **McKool Smith**. The securities and environmental practice recently saw growth with the addition of new lawyers in the Dallas office. The Austin office also grew with the addition to the intellectual property group. In a recent move to expand its services, the firm opened a New York office and hopes to bolster the growth outside of Texas. Recent casework includes defending a class action claim against BP America Production in relation to “underpaid royalty on natural gas liquids.” The case settled, and the class received \$35 million.

Founder **Mike McKool** continues his strong reputation in Texas for representing “high profile” clients in various intellectual property matters. Recent trial experience includes representing Ericsson in a patent infringement action against Interdigital Communications involving mobile telephones. McKool also successfully represented National Instruments against The MathWorks involving patent infringement on software technology. Associate **Laurie Gallun** focuses on complex commercial litigation with clients such as Kyocera, American Airlines and Trilogy Software.

Houston firm **Smyser Kaplan & Veselka** boasts the ability to “master complicated facts against tight deadlines and present a compelling, organized case to the court and

jury.” This boutique emphasizes intellectual property and securities matters, as well as the traditional general commercial practices. Recent case work includes representing a Fortune 500 technology company in a defamation and misappropriation of likeness suit against record promoters. The firm “obtained a summary judgment” for the client. Clients range from ConocoPhillips to the City of Houston.

Lee Kaplan represents clients in intellectual property, fraud, antitrust and class action cases. While larger cases are less likely lead to trial, “Kaplan still relishes the challenge of representing his clients in the courtroom.” **Craig Smyser** receives recommendation for his practice handling major business disputes, securities fraud class actions and intellectual property matters. **Kristen McKeever** handles commercial litigation and appeals. Past trial work includes a breach of contract case in which she obtained a summary judgment and settlement against an automobile manufacturer.

Peers and clients praise Dallas-based **Thompson & Knight** for the respected litigation group. They are “very accomplished, very user friendly” lawyers that “understand litigation strategy,” one

client says. “They work well as a team and work together for the ultimate goal.” With offices in Austin, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio, the firm has an extensive reach across the state. “They don’t seem to have a big firm mentality,” says a client. “They take the time to understand the case and not just staff it arbitrarily.” Leading practice areas include products liability, intellectual property, energy, environmental and securities. Representative work includes a case for Pogo Producing in two arbitration cases involving contested title and environmental defects. Cases settled favorably for the client. A client also notes, “They’re service oriented and very cognizant of what [the client] needs are in terms of cost.”

David Noteware receives praise for his energy and oil & gas practices. Past work includes representing a “health care product manufacturers in regional product liability cases,” and representing the “Middle Eastern subsidiary of a multinational oil company in US commercial litigation.” **Gregory Huffman** handles antitrust, complex commercial and criminal investigations. Huffman served as a liaison counsel to a defendant in a class action involving charitable gifts. **Hunter**

Barrow and **Michael Stockham** both receive mention for their litigation work. Barrow handles securities fraud, banking and energy litigation matters while Stockham focuses on securities litigation and class actions defense.

The international firm **Weil Gotshal & Manges** has a growing Texas presence in Austin, Dallas and Houston. Securities, bankruptcy and intellectual property are all major litigation practice areas, providing additional attention to local matters. A recent case includes representing Microsoft in a patent infringement matter against plaintiffs seeking more than \$750 million. A jury found in favor of Microsoft.

Vance Beagles receives recognition for handling class actions and business torts. He handles cases for several major clients in the Dallas areas such as HM Capital Partners, as well as Ernst & Young and ExxonMobil. In Houston, **Nicolas Barzoukas** receives praise for his work on intellectual property litigation for patents in the pharmaceutical industry. Joining the firm in 2006, Barzoukas is making a name for himself representing major clients like Merck. Houston associate **Scarlett Collings** handles employment, bankruptcy and shareholder litigation. Past clients include Enron, Merrill Lynch and Halliburton.

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Phil Bruns' practice is devoted exclusively to business and commercial litigation. Over the years, he has handled complex, high-stakes disputes of every description, including securities fraud, engineering, construction, energy, oil and gas, employment, executive compensation, probate and every variety of intellectual property matters. While continuing to handle a broad array of litigation, Mr Bruns focuses much of his current time on energy industry matters and intellectual property matters, including patent infringement litigation. In all areas of practice, Mr Bruns has represented both plaintiffs and defendants.

Mr Bruns' is named a Leading Individual in the areas of commercial litigation and energy and natural resource dispute resolution by *Chambers USA*, 2003-2008. *Best Lawyers in America* recognized Mr Bruns in the areas of commercial litigation and oil and gas law, 2007-2008 and Legal Media Group's *Benchmark Litigation* recognizes Mr Bruns as a top litigator, one of only 34 named in the directory for Texas, 2008. Mr Bruns was also named a Texas Super Lawyer by *Law and Politics*, 2003-2008, as well as being a special entry in the Top 100 Super Lawyers in Houston list, 2006-2008.

Mr Bruns is a member of the American Bar Association and Houston Bar Association, and a fellow of the Houston Bar Foundation. He received his JD, with honors, from the University of Texas Law School in 1981 and his BA from the University of Oklahoma in 1978.

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Andi Frieden's practice is devoted exclusively to high stakes commercial litigation on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants. Ms Frieden focuses much of her practice on securities matters: however, the scope of her litigation experience includes contract, environmental, construction, intellectual property and director's liability matters. Ms Frieden was heavily involved in the defense of multiple corporate directors in litigation and investigations arising from one of the most notable corporate collapses in recent history.

Ms Frieden was named a Rising Star by *Texas Super Lawyers* and *Law and Politics*, 2008. She received her JD, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2000 and her BA, summa cum laude, from Western Illinois University in 1996 as the Lincoln Laureate graduate. During law school, Ms Frieden was an articles editor for the *University of Illinois Law Review* and a law clerk at the Illinois Office of the Attorney General. Before law school, Ms Frieden was a performance auditor in the Illinois Office of the Auditor General. She is licensed in both Illinois and Texas.

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Robin Gibbs has over 37 years experience of handling high-stakes commercial litigation matters. Mr Gibbs' practice, and that of his firm, Gibbs & Bruns LLP, focuses exclusively on business and commercial litigation in a wide array of areas, including securities, director's liability, contract, legal malpractice, energy, oil and gas, antitrust, trade secret, intellectual property, copyright, construction and partnership disputes. Mr Gibbs and his firm appear in courts and venues both domestically and internationally.

Mr Gibbs was named a Top 25 US Litigator by *Expert Guides to the Leading Lawyers – Best of the Best USA 2008*. *International Commercial Litigation* named him to a list of the top 15 US trial lawyers. He was named a Leading Individual for General Commercial Litigation and Energy & Natural Resource Dispute Resolution by *Chambers USA, 2003-2008*. *Chambers Global, 2008*, ranked Mr Gibbs a "Band One" globally-recognized commercial litigation lawyer. *Texas Lawyer* named Mr Gibbs the "Go To" lawyer for securities litigation. He is listed on *Law and Politics'* "Super Lawyer" list, 2003-2008 and was named one of the "Top 10 Super Lawyers in Texas". Mr Gibbs is recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* for: antitrust law, bet-the-company litigation, commercial litigation, legal malpractice law and securities law and was named a top commercial litigation lawyer in the US by *Who's Who Legal, The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers*.

Mr Gibbs is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He is an advocate in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and is the current president of the Houston ABOTA chapter. Mr Gibbs is a member of The American Law Institute. He serves as president of the Houston chapter of the International Network of Boutique Law Firms, an organization of highly-credentialed boutique law firms selected for their preeminence in various areas of practice. He is a member of the Texas Bar Association, the American Bar Association, Houston Bar Association and the Harris County Bar Association and is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation. Mr Gibbs is a trustee on The University of Texas Law School Foundation. He also served on the executive committee of the University of Texas Law Alumni Association (2002-2003) and was president of the Texas Law Review Association (1999-2000).

Mr Gibbs joined Vinson & Elkins in 1971 where he tried insurance defense cases. He left the firm in 1974 to form the full service law firm of Wood, Campbell, Moody & Gibbs PC, where he focused on the development of a trial group. In 1983, Mr Gibbs and the trial lawyers formed Gibbs & Bruns LLP, formerly Gibbs & Ratliff LLP, focusing its practice on all forms of high-stakes commercial litigation. Gibbs & Bruns is renowned for its representation of both plaintiffs and defendants, and was named on *The National Law Journal's* "Plaintiffs Hot List" in 2003 and 2004. *Chambers USA* ranks Gibbs & Bruns first in commercial litigation in Texas, 2003-2008. *International Commercial Litigation* named Gibbs & Bruns tenth among the top-15 litigation firms in the US. American Lawyer Media's 2008 *Go-To Law Firms of the World's Leading Companies and Financial Institutions* named Gibbs & Bruns a "Go To" firm for litigation.

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Ms Patrick's practice is in complex commercial litigation, large-scale securities litigation and securities arbitration on both sides of the docket. She represents institutional investors, government entities, banks, hedge funds and mutual funds in actions to recover their capital. She also represents investment management firms in the defense of investor complaints and corporate directors in the defense of litigation and investigations arising from some of the most notable corporate collapses in history.

Her significant cases include the representation of investors seeking to recover over \$1.6 billion in damages suffered in the collapse of National Century Financial Enterprises, the largest securitisation failure in history, service as lead litigation counsel for the former outside directors of Enron in the defense of over 100 civil lawsuits, regulatory investigations and congressional hearings arising from Enron's collapse and service as counsel for CC Media in Texas actions concerning its \$26 billion acquisition of Clear Channel.

Ms Patrick is named as a Leading Individual for securities litigation by *Chambers USA, 2006-2008*. *Best Lawyers in America 2008* recognizes Ms Patrick in the area of commercial litigation. She was named a Highly Recommended Individual by Practical Law Company's *Which Lawyer? Yearbook 2008* in the areas of commercial and securities litigation. In addition, *Who's Who Legal* recognized Ms Patrick for her expertise in securities and legal malpractice, 2007-2008.

Ms Patrick received her JD from Harvard Law School in 1985 and her BA, with highest honors, from the University of Texas at El Paso in 1982. Before joining Gibbs & Bruns, Ms Patrick was a law clerk to the Honorable John R Brown of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. She is a member of the Texas, American and Houston Bar associations.