

TEXAS

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Baker Botts

Beck Redden & Secrest

Fulbright & Jaworski

Gibbs & Bruns

McKool Smith

Susman Godfrey

Vinson & Elkins

Weil Gotshal & Manges

Recommended

Andrews Kurth

Bracewell & Giuliani

Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal

Haynes & Boone

Jones Day

King & Spalding

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell

Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox

Mayer Brown

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

Thompson & Knight

Local litigation stars

Linda Addison

Fulbright & Jaworski
General Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property, Securities

C. Mark Baker

Fulbright & Jaworski
International Arbitration

Glenn Ballard Jr.

Bracewell & Giuliani
Complex Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

Nicolas Barzoukas

Weil Gotshal & Manges
Intellectual Property

Vance Beagles

Weil Gotshal & Manges
Class Actions, Complex Commercial Litigation, Securities

David Beck

Beck Redden & Secrest
Complex Commercial Litigation

Vineet Bhatia

Susman Godfrey
Complex Commercial Litigation

Doak Bishop

King & Spalding
International Arbitration

Jon Bowman

King & Spalding
International Arbitration

George Bramblett

Haynes & Boone
Business Torts, Complex Commercial Litigation

Phillip Bruns

Gibbs & Bruns
Complex Commercial Litigation

Richard Caldwell

Andrews Kurth
Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Products Liability

John Carter

Vinson & Elkins
Complex Commercial Litigation

Jerry Clements

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell
Complex Commercial Litigation

Rachel Clingman

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan
Complex Commercial Litigation

Gregory S. Coleman

Yetter Warden & Coleman
Complex Business Litigation, Insurance, Intellectual Property, Securities

James Coleman

Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal
Complex Commercial Litigation

Nina Cortell

Haynes & Boone
Appellate, Commercial Litigation

Stephen Crain

Bracewell & Giuliani
Intellectual Property, Internal Investigations

Alistair Dawson

Beck Redden & Secrest
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation

William Dawson

Vinson & Elkins
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

Otway Denny

Fulbright & Jaworski
Complex Commercial Litigation, Mass Torts

Stephen Dillard

Fulbright & Jaworski
Complex Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Bryan Farney

Dechert
Intellectual Property

Murray Fogler

Beck Redden & Secrest
Commercial Litigation

Jean Frizzell

Gibbs & Bruns
Complex Commercial Litigation

David Genender

Baker Botts
Complex Business Litigation, Products Liability

Robin Gibbs

Gibbs & Bruns
Complex Commercial Litigation

Mark Glasser

Baker Botts
Complex Commercial Litigation, Securities

Lee Godfrey

Susman Godfrey
Bankruptcy, Commercial Litigation

Michael Goldberg

Baker Botts
Commercial Litigation, International Arbitration, White Collar Crime





Melanie Gray

Weil Gotshal & Manges
Bankruptcy, Complex Commercial Litigation

David Gunn

Beck Redden & Secrest
Appellate

Clifford Gunter

Bracewell & Giuliani
Antitrust, White Collar Crime

Karen Hirschman

Vinson & Elkins
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation

Gregory Huffman

Thompson & Knight
Antitrust

Thomas Jackson

Jones Day
Antitrust

Lee Kaplan

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka
Intellectual Property

William Knull III

Mayer Brown
Complex Commercial Litigation

Kevin Kudlac

Weil Gotshal
Intellectual Property

Mike Lynn

Lynn Tilottson Pinker and Cox
Commercial Litigation

James Maloney

Baker Botts
General Commercial Litigation, Securities

Neal Manne

Susman Godfrey
Commercial Litigation, Energy Litigation

Kenneth Marks

Susman Godfrey
Complex Commercial Litigation

Sydney McDole

Jones Day
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Mike McKool

McKool Smith
Complex Commercial Litigation

Barry McNeil

Haynes & Boone
Antitrust

Robert Meadows

King & Spalding
Products Liability, Toxic Torts

David Noteware

Thompson & Knight
Energy Litigation, Franchise Litigation

Yvette Ostolaza

Weil Gotshal & Manges
Complex Commercial Litigation

Kathy Patrick

Gibbs & Bruns
Securities

Rod Phelan

Baker Botts
Intellectual Property

Michael Powell

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell
Antitrust, Appellate, Commercial Litigation

Barrett Reasoner

Gibbs and Bruns
Complex Commercial Litigation

Harry Reasoner

Vinson & Elkins
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Securities

Joe Redden Jr.

Beck Redden & Secrest
Complex Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Chris Reynolds

Gibbs & Bruns
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

Steven Roberts

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan
Commercial Litigation, Energy Litigation

Sean Royall

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

Craig Smyser

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka
Commercial Litigation

Daniel Stewart

Vinson & Elkins
Bankruptcy

John Strasburger

Weil Gotshal
Bankruptcy, Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Harold Susman

Susman Godfrey
Complex Commercial Litigation

Stephen Susman

Susman Godfrey
Complex Commercial Litigation

Michael Sutton

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell
Intellectual Property

Irvin Terrell

Baker Botts
Antitrust, Complex Commercial Litigation, Securities

Jeff Tillotson

Lynn Tilottson Pinker & Cox
Commercial Litigation

Terry Tottenham

Fulbright & Jaworski
Products Liability

Robb Voyles

Baker Botts
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Vincent Walkowiak

Fulbright & Jaworski
Products Liability

Mark Wawro

Susman Godfrey
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation

Gene Williams

Shook Hardy & Bacon
Insurance, Products Liability

Texas

The deregulation of the electric industry in Texas has caused a huge increase in the number of energy and environmental cases in the state within the past decade. A majority of the state's prominent firms devote a portion of their litigation department to representing clients in the lucrative oil and gas industry. Austin, Dallas and Houston remain the centers of litigation activity.

Highly recommended firms

Baker Botts

International law firm Baker Botts was first established in Houston in 1840 and today includes offices in Austin and Dallas as well. With offices throughout Europe, Asia, and the eastern United States, the firm enjoys a reputation for high quality litigation counsel. Important practice areas include energy, intellectual property, employment, securities, and products liability. An insider notes "Baker Botts really ramped up their litigation efforts in the last couple of years."

In 2009, the Houston office represented Iberdrola Renewables in a lawsuit initiated by Coastal Habitat Alliance regarding the construction of wind turbines to harness renewable energy. CHA claimed that the state government violated the Coastal Zone Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to require an environmental review of wind turbine facilities that the firm's clients planned to build. The court ruled in favor of Iberdrola and dismissed the suit.

Robb Voyles chairs the litigation department of Baker Botts and is respected among peers for his representation of businesses including Deloitte & Touche, Ernst & Young and Grant Thornton. Clients turn to him for his skill in handling commercial, securities and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act litigation. A source says "Rod Phelan is a really good litigator." Phelan has over 30 years of trial experience and represents clients in complex commercial matters, specifically oil and gas, antitrust, securities and intellectual property litigation. Senior trial partner **Michael Goldberg** receives accolades for his expertise in managing complex commercial and international arbitration cases. **James Maloney** focuses on complex business litigation, specifically securities, class actions, takeover disputes, and trade secrets matters. **Mark Glasser**, who recently joined the firm, brings an expertise in professional liability, energy, and securities defense litigation. **Irvin Terrell's** practice deals with contract disputes, business torts, antitrust matters, fiduciary duty and securities fraud cases. **Travis Sayles** has been complimented for his products liability, insurance and pharmaceutical practices. Peers highlight **David Genender's** products liability work.

Beck Redden & Secrest

Based in Houston, Beck Redden & Secrest is a litigation boutique with 26 lawyers dedicated to trial work. The firm is adept at handling antitrust, energy, intellectual property, mass torts, professional malpractice and securities litigation. In June 2009, the firm won a reversal of a \$40 million fraud judgment in appellate court for its client Quicksilver Resources. In the original matter, plaintiff CMS Energy Resource Management claimed that Quicksilver entered into a long-term natural gas contract with them under fraudulent circumstances and then breached the agreement. The appellate court rendered judgment in favor of the defendant. Partner Russell Post handled the appeal.

Founding partner **David Beck** is consistently recommended as a remarkable lawyer. A peer raves that he is a "true superstar." Another litigator says that he "is an outstanding lawyer with a great reputation." An active and highly sought-after trial lawyer, Beck focuses on general commercial and intellectual property cases. He served as president of the American College of Trial Lawyers from 2006 to 2007. Co-founder and named partner **Joe Redden** is well-regarded for his intellectual property and products liability practice. **Murray Fogler** maintains a strong complex commercial practice, concentrating on antitrust, breach of contract and insurance disputes. Also of note is **Alistair Dawson**, who maintains a strong antitrust and commercial litigation practice, and **Brad Coffey**, best known for representing plaintiffs and defendants in complex commercial disputes. **David Gunn** focuses entirely on appellate work and has represented clients in oil and gas, commercial, and personal injury disputes. Gunn regularly appears before the Texas Supreme Court.

Fulbright & Jaworski

Established in Houston in 1919, Fulbright & Jaworski receives accolades for its dynamism. The firm boasts 450 litigators worldwide, with 385 possessing first-chair trial experience. Its Texas offices include Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. The Texas offices have robust antitrust, intellectual property, mass torts, products liability and securities practices. The Houston headquarters in particular is noted for housing one of the most diverse litigation

practices in the nation, with a competitor noting that "the team can handle almost any case." Another competitor lauded the firm's "solid tort work." The firm's San Antonio office supports a specialized appellate team that works directly with other litigation departments to handle all the minutiae of the appeals process. QPSX and International Speedway are clients.

Linda Addison is skilled in handling complex commercial and bet-the-company litigation. She possesses over 30 years of experience advising multinational corporations. Co-leader of the firm's international arbitration and alternate dispute resolution department, **Mark Baker** has represented numerous clients including a Russian energy company in numerous arbitrations, a Canadian corporation in a UNCITRAL arbitration, and a multinational energy company in arbitrations regarding long-term electric power purchase agreements. **Stephen Dillard** chairs the firm's global litigation practice and tackles environmental, mass tort and toxic tort issues. He has been a partner with the firm since 1978. **Otway Denny** is renowned for his toxic torts, environmental, construction, products and professional liability practice. A member of the firm's Dallas office, **Brett Govett** practices intellectual property and toxic tort litigation. **Charles Walker** heads the firm's Intellectual Property and Technology department and has argued cases before the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. Peers praise **Terry Tottenham** and **Vincent Waklowiak** for their products liability work.

Gibbs & Bruns

Established in 1983, Gibbs & Bruns has a substantial commercial practice. The litigation boutique has 37 lawyers, with over half of the team possessing first-chair trial experience. The firm has extensive experience in regulatory and white-collar investigations. An insider has said that the team enjoys "a big reputation in Houston and manages active trial dockets."

From June through August 2008 Gibbs & Bruns defended St. James Capital Corporation against St. James Capital Partners. The plaintiffs asked for \$157 million in alleged damages on claims of breach of fiduciary duty. The defense counterclaimed, and was successful in recovering \$11 million. Other clients include Chevron Corporation, Cerberus Capital Management, ConocoPhillips, Pioneer Natural Resources, Texas Children's Hospital and the State of Arizona. That the firm attracts such high profile companies should come as no surprise; a client has called the team "extremely creative and very results oriented."

Founders **Philip Bruns** and **Robin Gibbs** stand out for their work in complex commercial litigation. Bruns has represented National Energy Group and Tuboscope Vetco International in high-profile cases within the

past two years. A peer notes that Gibbs “has a reputation for handling bet-the-company litigation work.” **Kathy Patrick** receives praise for her work in successful securities and legal malpractice. “Her work is extraordinary” notes an insider. **Jean Frizzell** is known for his “big trial wins” says a competitor. With 26 years of trial experience, **Chris Reynolds** is cited as being “unafraid of going into the courtroom and bumping heads.” **Barrett Reasoner** successfully represented Frontera in a \$19 million arbitration filed by GAC Logistics regarding oil and gas development in the republic of Georgia. Also of note is complex-commercial litigator **Aundrea Frieden**.

McKool Smith

With offices in Austin, Dallas, and Marshall, as well as East Court locations in New York City and Washington, D.C., McKool Smith is known for its expertise in business and intellectual property litigation. A competitor has called the firm “one of the best litigation boutiques in Dallas.” In Austin, the firm has seen a rise in patent infringement cases. The Marshall office excels in high-stakes commercial disputes. The firm obtained a \$200 million patent infringement verdict in favor of Toronto-based client i4i Inc. against Microsoft Corporation in May 2009. The case involved software developed by the client created to manipulate document architecture and content. Other clients include Kyocera and American Airlines.

Founder **Mike McKool** is a lawyer that a competitor notes “shows up a lot in high-profile cases.” His practice focuses on intellectual property matters and a source says that “he has really carved out a niche for himself.” Personal clients include National Instruments and Ericsson.

Susman Godfrey

Susman Godfrey is a notable litigation boutique in Dallas and Houston. With offices in Los Angeles, Seattle and New York, the firm enjoys a national reach and a remarkable reputation for its success in antitrust, intellectual property, energy, products liability and securities matters. Peers have also noted an increase in the firm’s bankruptcy work. The firm has over 75 attorneys devoted to litigation, with slightly over half the team having first chair trial experience. Best known for its work in the courtroom, Susman Godfrey works to get its associates actively participating in trials. Clients include Baker Hughes and Nevada Gold & Casinos.

Stephen Susman and **Lee Godfrey** are described as “outstanding lawyers” by their peers. Susman receives several accolades for his commercial litigation and intellectual property practice. Godfrey is cited as “very active” and has thriving antitrust and natural resources practices. Called a “great trial lawyer” by his peers, **Mark Wawro** is known for his notable securities and intellectual

property practice. **Vineet Bhatia** practices high-stakes commercial litigation, with a concentration in antitrust, contracts, intellectual property and insurance matters. Continuing in his father’s footsteps, **Harold Susman** has a successful complex litigation practice representing plaintiffs and defendants. **Neal Manne** handles mass torts litigation. **Joe Grinstein** and **Jonathan Bridges** are also viewed as prominent complex commercial litigators.

Vinson & Elkins

Vinson & Elkins boasts a successful international presence and is recognized for its high-profile energy litigation practice. The firm has offices in Austin, Dallas and

in bankruptcy and international litigation recently. Competitors note that the Houston office in particular is very busy, with partners in that offices counseling financial institutions and corporations on restructuring issues.

Yvette Ostolaza co-leads the Complex Commercial Litigation practice and stands out among her peers for her work representing board committees, companies, and noted individuals. Contemporaries have also lauded her successes in Latin America-related litigation. **Nicolas Barzoukas** focuses on class actions, business torts, breach of contract, professional malpractice, and state and federal securities litigation. Peers note his effective representation of energy companies.

“An insider has said that the [Gibbs & Bruns] team enjoys ‘a big reputation in Houston and manages an active trial docket.’ A competitor calls the firm’s white-collar investigations practice ‘excellent.’”

Houston; all three cities are major energy hubs. Clients praise the firm for its work in antitrust, intellectual property and securities matters. Known for its commitment to diversity, the firm received the Community of Respect designation by the Anti-Defamation League.

Co-leader of the Dallas litigation department **William Dawson** is commended by peers for his patent litigation practice. With over three decades of experience, Dawson represents firms, lawyers, real estate developers and oil and gas companies. **John Carter**’s practice emphasizes antitrust, contract and securities litigation. Notable clients include Compaq and Quintana Petroleum. **Karen Hirschman** is called a “definite star” by an attorney and excels in securities and shareholders class action defense work. Representative clients include TXU Corp and United Surgical Partners International. **Harry Reasoner** is renowned for his complex commercial litigation practice, specifically in antitrust, insurance, oil and gas, RICO, securities law, and utility matters. **Kenneth Held** is well regarded for his work in securities and energy litigation as well as his class action defense work. **Jason Powers** garners praise for his success in managing antitrust, business tort, and securities fraud cases.

Weil Gotshal & Manges

Weil Gotshal & Manges enjoys a very successful international presence with a group of over 450 litigators worldwide. In recent years, the firm has built up a presence in Texas, with offices in Austin, Dallas and Houston. Best known for its securities, intellectual property and commercial practices, the firm has seen an influx of work

Competitors mention **Vance Beagles** for his strong intellectual property practice and his work for major clients in the pharmaceutical industry. **John Strasburger** is the managing partner of the Houston office and participates in complex commercial, bankruptcy, and products liability cases. Major clients include SemGroup and Enron and its subsidiaries. **Melanie Gray** has an impressive bankruptcy practice. **Kevin Kudlac** is known for handling patent disputes involving telecommunications software, microprocessors, computer memory and video software.

Gregory Coleman at Yetter Warden & Coleman

Gregory Coleman leads Yetter Warden & Coleman’s appellate litigation practice. His clients include Dell, Equatorial Mining, Hydril Company, and the City of Houston. His practice covers a wide range of litigation from business torts and class actions to constitutional litigation and governmental representation. He has argued cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Courts of Appeals as well as several state and district courts. Prior to his private practice Coleman worked as the solicitor general for the State of Texas.

Bryan Farney at Dechert

Based out of Dechert’s Austin office, **Bryan Farney** is part of the firm’s intellectual property group and focuses on technology licensing issues and patent disputes. His extensive client list includes Gateway, eMachines, Apple, Compaq, Verizon, Samsung, Medtronic, Lexmark, Nokia, and Micron Technology. He has represented plaintiffs and defendants in over 20 federal

district courts, with numerous appearances in the Eastern District Court of Texas. In addition, he has argued cases before the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the International Trade Commission.

Sean Royall at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher

Operating out of the Dallas office of Gibson Dunn, **Sean Royall** co-chairs the Antitrust and Trade Regulation Practice Group. His primary focus is on business tort, false advertising, and intellectual property claims and he represented clients in several industries including the computer, petrochemical, telecommunications, food and beverage, entertainment, and avionics industries. Clients include ValueClick and Johnson and Johnson. He previously served as Deputy Director of the Bureau of Competition at the Federal Trade Commission.

Gene Williams at Shook Hardy & Bacon

Gene Williams is the managing partner of the Houston office of Shook Hardy & Bacon. He is distinguished for his work defending pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers in products liability cases in addition to representing businesses in intellectual property matters. Clients include Hewlett Packard, Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Borden Chemical, and Microflex Corporation.

Recommended firms

Andrews Kurth

First founded in 1902 in Houston, Andrews Kurth has expanded to include offices in Austin, Dallas and The Woodlands as well as locations in New York, London and Beijing. Prominent practice areas include intellectual property, commercial litigation, energy, and white-collar defense litigation. The firm has represented manufacturers in the software, biotechnology, energy, and mechanical industries. The addition of former Texas Supreme Court Justice Scott A. Brister will strengthen the firm's litigation capabilities. Brister is set to head the firm's appellate practice.

Richard Caldwell co-chairs the firm's litigation department and has been practicing for over four decades. He is recommended for his contract, class actions, professional malpractice, and products liability work. He is a member of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Bracewell & Giuliani

The Texas branch of Bracewell & Giuliani counts 80 litigators and maintains offices in Austin, Dallas and San Antonio. The firm handles antitrust, energy, environmental, intellectual property, securities and white-collar criminal defense litigation. The Houston office has a robust intellectual property practice, while the firm's San

Antonio office excels in labor and employment litigation. Representative clients include Singer Sewing, Valero Energy, Kinder Morgan, and Midland Cogeneration Venture.

Glenn Ballard Jr. heads the firm's trial section and possesses a wealth of expertise in matters of commercial litigation, energy, intellectual property, and real estate law. Ballard's clients include Baker Hughes and Northern Trust Bank. **Clifford Gunter** has over 40 years of experience dealing with issues of construction, energy and shareholder and securities fraud litigation. **Brad Benoit** effectively handles commercial contract disputes, business torts, and energy litigation. Based in Houston, **Stephen Crain** represents plaintiffs and defendants in construction law, patent litigation, business torts, and securities class actions. He has also advised power producers, power traders and suppliers in energy-related disputes. **Tricia DeLeon** manages a notable complex commercial litigation practice. She has advised clients in bankruptcy, class actions and consumer finance matters.

Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal

Dallas-based law firm Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal enjoys a national presence and has garnered praise for its real estate, intellectual property, securities, products liability, and antitrust litigation. Cited as a "wonderful firm" by an attorney, its partners represent both individuals and large-scale corporations. Senior counsel and founding member **James Coleman** has 30 years of experience representing plaintiffs and defendants in civil trial disputes. He has advised individuals, banks, corporations and partnerships in matters regarding breach of fiduciary duty and malpractice claims. He has also litigated oil and gas, securities law, and antitrust disputes. **Shelbi Barnhouse** receives praise for her complex securities litigation practice.

Haynes & Boone

Formed in 1964 by Richard Haynes, Haynes & Boone is acclaimed for its trial litigation skills. Headquartered in Dallas, the 500 person firm supports 12 offices throughout Texas, New York, California, Washington, D.C. and in Mexico and Moscow. An insider notes that the firm has "received a ton of business in bankruptcy and securities litigation." Other practice areas include antitrust, construction, real estate, insurance, and intellectual property. Peers recommend **George Bramblett** for his work in business torts and securities. Past clients include a chairman of Hunt Petroleum and Exxon. **Nina Cortell** receives notice for her appellate work and complex litigation practice. **Barry McNeil** has over 35 years of experience and has prosecuted and defended cases involving fraud, conspiracy, breach of contract and fiduciary duty, and RICO claims. He formerly worked in the Antitrust Division of

the US Department of Justice. Based in Dallas, **Andrew Ehmke** has a notable intellectual property practice, concentrating in computer, video game and cyberspace law.

Jones Day

Cited as having a "paramount reputation" in Texas, local attorneys recognize the Dallas and Houston offices of Jones Day for their work in employment, energy, intellectual property, and securities litigation. Recent casework includes the representation of Verizon Business in a March 2009 lawsuit tried in a Guam federal court. The plaintiffs, 13 individuals employed by Verizon's contractors, alleged that Verizon Business was liable for harassment and retaliation due because of its purported joint employer relationship with the contractors. The firm's Dallas office also won summary judgment for Bayer Corporation in a nationwide antitrust class action brought by pest control operators who had purchased Premise, a pesticide that Bayer manufactures. The plaintiffs claimed that Bayer had conspired to fix prices with the intermediaries who sell the products. The court disagreed and ruled in Bayer's favor. Members of the Houston team successfully represented Dell Computer in several patent infringement matters brought by various Taiwanese companies.

Peers favor **Sydney McDole** for his skill in oil and gas, products liability, and intellectual property cases. Personal clients include Hanson PLC and Simon Property Group. **Thomas Jackson's** practice concentrates in complex commercial litigation, namely in the areas of derivative actions, intellectual property disputes, commercial disputes, and governmental investigations. He is a member of the American Bar Association and the Dallas Bar Association

King & Spalding

King & Spalding's Texas influence stems from its Austin and Houston offices. Established in 1995, the Houston team includes over 100 lawyers and maintains a premier energy litigation practice. A competitor notes, "The firm is still a major player in Texas." In addition, the regional firm has enhanced its Latin American presence, representing clients located in over 22 countries. The Austin office was founded in 2008, and is targeted to handle energy and natural resources litigation.

Doak Bishop is a prominent member of the Latin American Practice group and his work involves energy, environmental, and oil and gas litigation and arbitration. Major clients include Noble Energy, MachalaPower and Azurix Corporation. **Jon Bowman** is highly regarded for his work representing international oil companies in commercial and investment disputes and in international arbitration. Managing partner **Robert Meadows** defends corporations, including oil and gas companies, construction and engineering companies and product

manufacturers, in tort litigation and contract disputes. **Christopher Wray** chairs the Special Matters and Government Investigations Practice Group. He formerly served as the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the U.S. Department of Justice's Criminal Division. He excels in securities fraud, healthcare fraud, FCPA, and intellectual property piracy matters.

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell

A competitor calls Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell a "great firm with a strong team." With offices in Austin, Dallas and Houston, the firm has a strong practice in energy and securities litigation. Subsets of the energy division include petrochemicals, electric power and alternative and renewable energy matters. Clients include lenders and financial institutions.

Operating out of the Austin and Dallas offices, **Jerry Clements** garners praise for her successes in energy, environmental, employment, and trade secret litigation. A former managing partner, Clements has 27 years of experience and has represented Fortune 500 companies across multiple industries. **Michael Powell** is based out of Dallas and has served clients in the areas of antitrust and energy litigation and also has a noteworthy appellate practice. **Vijay D'Cruz** represents owners, developers and contractors in commercial and construction litigation. **Brent Benoit** handles securities and complex commercial litigation. **Michael Sutton** stands out for his intellectual property practice.

Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox

A competitor calls Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox "a strong litigation firm with a very good heart." The litigation boutique is noted for handling high-stakes commercial litigation. Founder **Mike Lynn** has a prolific trial practice, having tried to verdict over 90 civil and criminal cases. He primarily handles contract disputes, antitrust matters, and securities litigation. Co-founder **Jeff Tillotson** represents consumer finance companies,

major banks, and credit card issuers in complex commercial litigation. "Tillotson is one of the major players in Dallas," notes an insider.

Mayer Brown

International law firm Mayer Brown enjoys an esteemed presence in Texas via its Houston office. Although the firm is best recognized for its energy practice, the firm is also proficient in environmental, intellectual property, and securities litigation. Possessing more than 30 years of experience, **William Knull III** is best known for his skill in representing clients in the oil and gas industry. His commercial and financial litigation practice involves accounting malpractice, lending practices, and automotive products matters. He has extensive international arbitration experience and has appeared before the ICC, ICSID, and NASD among other major committees.

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

Based in Houston, Smyser Kaplan & Veselka is recommended by peers for "its great team of trial lawyers." The boutique litigation firm has an emphasis in intellectual property and securities matters and is renowned for being able to successfully tackle complex cases. Peers call **Craig Smyser** "an extremely talented litigator." His practice focuses on business disputes, securities fraud class actions and personal injury cases as well as substantial appellate work. Past clients include large institutional companies, oil companies and the City of Houston. Named partner **Lee Kaplan** has been practicing for over 30 years and excels in antitrust, fraud, intellectual property and class actions work. **Kristen McKeever** specializes in commercial litigation and appeals.

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

Established in 1924, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan has a global reach, with offices in Austin and Houston as well as locations in major financial cities like New York, Atlanta, and Washington D.C. The firm supports over

150 litigators and has achieved success in securities, insurance, energy, construction, banking, manufacturing and pharmaceutical litigation. Previous clients include American Suzuki, O'Neal Constructors, Ford Motor Company, NASCAR, and a Big Four accounting firm.

Houston Partner-in-Charge **Rachel Clingman** is renowned throughout the country for her strong complex energy, transportation and commercial practices. She has handled cases in over 20 states and is noted for trying the first shareholder oppression case to a jury in Texas. Possessing 30 plus years of courtroom experience, **Steven Roberts** is praised for his successful energy and environmental litigation practice. Clients include oil and gas companies, drilling and service contractors, underwriters and vessel owners

Thompson & Knight

Established in 1887, Thompson & Knight maintains a successful international practice with national offices in Texas and New York as well as offices in Latin America, Europe, and Asia. Competitors praise the firm's Dallas branch for its oil and gas litigation. Over a quarter of the attorneys based there focus exclusively on litigation. In addition to the Dallas headquarters, the firm's Austin, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio offices are distinguished for their commercial, insurance, intellectual property, energy, environmental and products liability practices. "The firm has a really good stable of trial lawyers," notes a competitor. Dallas-based partner **Gregory Huffman** tackles antitrust and complex commercial issues in addition to criminal investigations. He is a noted member of the American Board of Trial Lawyers. **David Noteware** receives accolades for his energy and oil and gas litigation practices. Past clients include a health care product manufacturer and a Middle Eastern subsidiary of a multinational oil company. **Hunter Barrow** is known for banking, energy and securities fraud litigation.



LEE KAPLAN

**SMYSER KAPLAN & VESELKA, L.L.P.**

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Lee Kaplan obtained his first jury verdict as lead counsel in October 1978 when he persuaded the jury that his client's air conditioner did not cause a house fire. Within a year he had seven jury trials as lead counsel, winning six outright and in the other, admitting liability and obtaining a verdict lower than the settlement demand. With larger and more complex cases, trials are less frequent, but Mr Kaplan still relishes the challenge of representing his clients in the courtroom.

Mr Kaplan has tried dozens of cases in state and federal courts, representing plaintiffs and defendants. His docket has included patent and trademark infringement, antitrust, criminal and civil fraud, theft of trade secrets, shareholder rights and securities fraud claims, royalty claims, toxic tort and class action cases. He frequently handles high tech cases and enjoys mastering complicated business dealings or scientific concepts in order to present them concisely to judges and juries. A few years ago he was hired as lead plaintiff counsel by a Fortune 20 company just four months before a patent infringement trial. His client prevailed on both patents, winning a \$9 million damages award (including \$6.5 million in price erosion damages) and a permanent injunction. The judgment was affirmed on appeal. More recently, he argued successfully in the Texas court of appeals to uphold a summary judgment dismissing all common-law and statutory claims of breach of contract, fraud, and negligence in a case alleging approximately \$400 million in actual damages plus additional punitive damages for purported design problems in a catalytic cracking unit.

Mr Kaplan has conducted a special investigation for the board of directors of a Fortune 500 corporation and has represented a special committee of a board of directors in its successful defense of litigation relating to a going-private transaction. One of his individual clients is cooperating with the US Government in a wide-ranging investigation of violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act that has already led to disgorgement and fines totaling \$579 million. Mr Kaplan has also represented clients in numerous injunction proceedings and arbitrations, and served as a party-appointed arbitrator in two arbitrations with over \$50 million in dispute.

CRAIG SMYSER

**SMYSER KAPLAN & VESELKA, L.L.P.**

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Since founding Smyser Kaplan & Veselka in 1995, Mr. Smyser has successfully represented multi-national oil companies, Texas' largest non-profit hospital system, class action plaintiffs and defendants, the City of Houston, the Houston Sports Authority, one of Mexico's largest resort companies, and prominent and not-so-prominent individuals in battles in federal and state courts around the country. He successfully defended Enron's Chief Financial Officer in more than 100 civil securities fraud lawsuits nationwide.

As trial lawyer for plaintiffs, Mr. Smyser represented David's Supermarkets in a civil fraud trial that resulted in a judgment for more than \$200 million. He prosecuted a patent infringement case on behalf of an inventor of a random number generator against major companies in the computer industry.

Currently, Mr. Smyser represents Yukos International UK B.V. and a number of individual officers of the former Yukos Oil in on-going disputes over the expropriation of Yukos Oil by the Russian government. A federal court judge in Los Angeles granted summary judgment in a class action case for Mr. Smyser's client in a case alleging fraud in the sale of time shares in Mexico. In the Southern District of New York, Mr. Smyser represented the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Phillip Services in a class action securities fraud case. In one of many matters handled for the City of Houston, Mr. Smyser obtained summary judgment upholding the City's sign ordinance in the face of a First Amendment challenge. Another federal judge in the Southern District of Texas held that a Texas statute violated his client's constitutional rights and declared the statute unconstitutional. In international arbitration in London, Mr. Smyser represented an oil field equipment manufacturer in a dispute with an Indian company over construction of a plant in Hyderabad, India.

In addition to his extensive trial court experience, Mr. Smyser has briefed and argued cases at every level of appellate court in the state and federal system, including the Texas Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court.

Recognized by his peers as a Super Lawyer for years, Mr. Smyser served as President of the Houston Chapter of the American Board of Advocates in 2009 and President of the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists in 2007. Prior to graduating from the University of Texas Law School, where he served on the *Texas Law Review* and was chosen the outstanding advocate of his law school class, he was Political Editor of the *Houston Chronicle* where he covered both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions and was given an award by the Associated Press in 1974 as one of the State's outstanding reporters. Mr. Smyser obtained his undergraduate degree, with Honors, from the University of Texas, Plan II, and was selected as a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

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STEPHEN D SUSMAN founded Susman Godfrey in 1980 in Houston, TX. The firm now boasts 79 lawyers in offices in Houston, Dallas, Seattle, Los Angeles, and New York, and has had the privilege of being named one of the two top litigation boutiques in the nation by *The American Lawyer* in their "Litigation Boutique of the Year" competition.

Susman is among a small group included in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 25 years, and recognized for two consecutive years by *Who's Who Legal: The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers* as the 2006 and 2007 Leading Commercial Litigator in the *World*. *Who's Who Legal: Texas* acknowledged him in both the Commercial Litigation and Unfair Competition categories. *Texas Monthly Magazine* named Susman as one of the top 10 lawyers in Texas for six consecutive years as well as being listed in the 2008 *Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America* with the comment: "This legendary litigator is hot when it comes to global warming suits, getting TXU reforms for 37 Texas cities and representing an Inuit tribe whose home was lost to environmental changes." Although the stakes are high and the demands immense in his private practice, that doesn't stop Susman from tirelessly pursuing issues of justice, reform and challenges to the profession as a whole. Now serving on the Texas Supreme Court's Advisory Committee, Susman has been instrumental in discovery rule revision, tantamount to making trials quicker and less expensive. Just appointed in 2009 to serve on both the ABA's section of litigation trial attorney advisory board and the Commission on the Impact of the Economic Crisis on the Profession and Legal Needs, Susman dedicates a tremendous amount of time and effort to these endeavors.

Other professional affiliations include: State Bars of Texas, District of Columbia, New York, and Colorado; American Bar Association (section of antitrust law, federal practice task force, Committee to Improve Jury Comprehension, and Section of Intellectual Property); National Council of Human Rights First; American Law Institute; Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee; American Board of Trial Advocates; Warren Burger Society; board member of the American Constitution Society; The University of Houston Law Foundation; The University of Texas Health Science Center Development Board; MD Anderson University Cancer Foundation board of visitors; The University of Texas development board; and the Leadership Council of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.