

Texas

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

- Baker Botts
- Beck Redden & Secret
- Fulbright & Jaworski
- Gibbs & Bruns
- Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox
- McKool Smith
- Smyser Kaplan & Veselka
- Susman Godfrey
- Vinson & Elkins
- Yetter Coleman

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

Local litigation stars

Name	Firm	Location	Biography	Antitrust	Appellate	Bankruptcy	General commercial	Insurance	Intellectual property	International arbitration	Product liability	Securities	White-collar crime	Other
Thomas Ajamie	Ajamie LLP	Houston	453			✓								
Eric Albritton	Albritton Law Firm	Longview							✓					
Fields Alexander	Beck Redden & Secret	Houston				✓					✓			Personal injury, Professional liability
John Anaipakos	Baker Botts	Houston				✓								Energy, Professional liability
C. Mark Baker	Fulbright & Jaworski	Houston				✓			✓					
Glenn Ballard, Jr.	Bracewell & Giuliani	Houston				✓		✓						
Nicolas Barzoukas	Weil Gotshal & Manges	Houston						✓						
Samuel Baxter	McKool Smith	Marshall						✓						
Vance Beagles	Weil Gotshal & Manges	Dallas			✓	✓						✓		
Jerry Beane	Andrews Kurth	Dallas	✓		✓	✓								
David Beck	Beck Redden & Secret	Houston				✓								
Van Beckwith	Baker Botts	Dallas	✓		✓				✓					
Vineet Bhatia	Susman Godfrey	Houston				✓								
R. Doak Bishop	King & Spalding	Houston							✓					
John Bowman	King & Spalding	Houston							✓					
George Bramblett, Jr.	Haynes and Boone	Dallas				✓								

Texas

Local litigation stars

Name	Firm	Location	Biography	Antitrust	Appellate	Bankruptcy	General commercial	Insurance	Intellectual property	International arbitration	Product liability	Securities	White-collar crime	Other
Scott Brister	Andrews Kurth	Austin		✓										
Kay Lynn Brumbaugh	Andrews Kurth	Dallas	✓											
Otis Carroll	Ireland Carroll & Kelley	Tyler							✓					
Johnny Carter	Susman Godfrey	Houston	✓			✓		✓					✓	
Douglas Cawley	McKool Smith	Dallas							✓					
Jerry Clements	Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell	Austin				✓								
Nina Cortell	Haynes and Boone	Dallas		✓		✓								
Trey Cox	Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox	Dallas				✓								
Stephen Crain	Bracewell & Giuliani	Houston						✓					✓	Energy
Alistair Dawson	Beck Redden & Secret	Houston	✓			✓								
William Dawson	Gibson Dunn & Crutcher	Dallas						✓			✓			Energy, Professional liability
Otway Denny, Jr.	Fulbright & Jaworski	Houston				✓								
Karl Dial	Fulbright & Jaworski	Dallas				✓		✓			✓			
Stephen Dillard	Fulbright & Jaworski	Houston				✓				✓				
Carol Dinkins	Vinson & Elkins	Houston				✓								Energy, Environmental
Murray Fogler	Beck Redden & Secret	Houston		✓										
Jean Frizzell	Reynolds Frizzell Black Doyle Allen & Oldham	Houston				✓								
Thomas Fulkerson	Fulkerson Lotz	Houston				✓		✓						
David Genender	Baker Botts	Dallas				✓				✓				
Robin Gibbs	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston				✓								
Rachel Giesber Clingman	Sutherland Asbill & Brennan	Houston						✓						Aviation, Energy
Mark Giugliano	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston				✓								
Mark Glasser	Sidley Austin	Houston				✓						✓		Energy
Lee Godfrey	Susman Godfrey	Houston				✓	✓							
Michael Goldberg	Baker Botts	Houston				✓			✓				✓	
Melanie Gray	Weil Gotshal & Manges	Houston				✓	✓							
David Gunn	Beck Redden & Secret	Houston		✓										
Cliff Gunter III	Bracewell & Giuliani	Houston	✓										✓	
Jennifer Haltom Doan	Haltom & Doan	Texarkana						✓						
Rusty Hardin	Rusty Hardin & Associates	Houston					✓							
Robert Harrell	Fulbright & Jaworski	Houston					✓	✓				✓		

Texas

Local litigation stars

Name	Firm	Location	Biography	Antitrust	Appellate	Bankruptcy	General commercial	Insurance	Intellectual property	International arbitration	Product liability	Securities	White-collar crime	Other
Grant Harvey	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston					✓							
Gregory Huffman	Thompson & Knight	Dallas	✓			✓								
Scott Humphries	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston				✓						✓		
Thomas Jackson	Jones Day	Dallas	✓											
Lee Kaplan	Smyser Kaplan & Veselka	Houston	456					✓						
John Kim	The Kim Law Firm	Houston					✓			✓				Personal injury
William Knull III	Mayer Brown	Houston				✓								
Peter Kraus	Waters & Kraus	Dallas				✓				✓				Personal injury
Kevin Kudlac	Weil Gotshal & Manges	Houston						✓						
Mark Lanier	The Lanier Law Firm	Houston				✓								
Thomas Leatherbury	Vinson & Elkins	Dallas		✓		✓								
Lewis LeClair	McKool Smith	Dallas				✓		✓						
Michael Lynn	Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox	Dallas				✓								
James Maloney	Baker Botts	Houston				✓						✓		
Neal Manne	Susman Godfrey	Houston				✓								Energy
Kenneth Marks	Susman Godfrey	Houston				✓								
Sydney McDole	Jones Day	Dallas				✓				✓				
Mike McKool	McKool Smith	Dallas				✓		✓						
Barry McNeil	Haynes and Boone	Dallas	✓											
Robert Meadows	King & Spalding	Houston								✓				
David Noteware	Thompson & Knight	Dallas				✓								Energy, Franchise
Mike Oldham	Reynolds Frizzell Black Doyle Allen & Oldham	Houston				✓								
Yvette Ostolaza	Weil Gotshal & Manges	Dallas				✓								
Kathy Patrick	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston										✓		
Rod Phelan	Baker Botts	Dallas						✓						
Michael Powell	Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell	Dallas	✓	✓		✓								
Hugh Ray	McKool Smith	Houston			✓									
Barrett Reasoner	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston				✓								
Macey Reasoner Stokes	Baker Botts	Houston		✓										
Joe Redden, Jr.	Beck Redden & Secrest	Houston						✓		✓				
James Reeder, Jr.	Vinson & Elkins	Houston	✓			✓					✓			
Tracie Renfroe	King & Spalding	Houston				✓				✓				Environmental

Texas

Local litigation stars

Name	Firm	Location											Other		
			Biography	Antitrust	Appellate	Bankruptcy	General commercial	Insurance	Intellectual property	International property	Product arbitration	Securities		White-collar crime	
Chris Reynolds	Reynolds Frizzell Black Doyle Allen & Oldham	Houston				✓		✓							
Steven Roberts	Sutherland Asbill & Brennan	Houston						✓							
Sean Royall	Gibson Dunn & Crutcher	Dallas	✓	✓		✓		✓							
Travis Sales	Baker Botts	Houston				✓				✓				Professional liability	
Richard Sayles	Sayles Werbner	Dallas				✓									
Stephen Scheve	Baker Botts	Houston				✓			✓	✓					
Robert Schick	Vinson & Elkins	Houston								✓					
Reagan Simpson	Yetter Coleman	Austin		✓											
William Sims, Jr.	Vinson & Elkins	Dallas	✓			✓		✓							
Reginald Smith	King & Spalding	Houston				✓			✓						
Craig Smyser	Smyser Kaplan & Veselka	Houston	456			✓									
David Sterling	Baker Botts	Houston				✓						✓		Professional liability	
Karl Stern	Vinson & Elkins	Houston				✓			✓		✓			Energy	
Theodore Stevenson III	McKool Smith	Dallas							✓						
Daniel Stewart	Vinson & Elkins	Dallas				✓									
John Strasburger	Weil Gotshal & Manges	Houston				✓	✓				✓				
Harry Susman	Susman Godfrey	Houston					✓								
Stephen Susman	Susman Godfrey	Houston					✓								
Jeffrey Tillotson	Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox	Dallas	455				✓								
Terry Tottenham	Fulbright & Jaworski	Austin										✓			
Larry Veselka	Smyser Kaplan & Veselka	Houston	457	✓		✓									
Patricia Villareal	Jones Day	Dallas								✓		✓			
Robb Voyles	Baker Botts	Dallas				✓				✓					
Vincent Walkowiak	Fulbright & Jaworski	Dallas									✓				
Johnny Ward	Ward & Smith	Longview							✓						
Mark Wawro	Susman Godfrey	Houston		✓		✓									
Gene Williams	Shook Hardy & Bacon	Houston					✓			✓					
Marie Yeates	Vinson & Elkins	Houston			✓										
Paul Yetter	Yetter Coleman	Houston				✓									
Damon Young	Young Pickett	Texarkana							✓						

Future stars

Debora Alsup
Thompson & Knight

Clayton Bailey
Baker & McKenzie

Sydney Ballesteros
Gibbs & Bruns

Hunter Barrow
Thompson & Knight

Bradley Benoit
Bracewell & Giuliani

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

Jeremy Doyle
Reynolds Frizzell Black Doyle Allen & Oldham

Andrew Ehmke
Haynes and Boone

Brett Govett
Fulbright & Jaworski

Tonya Gray
Andrews Kurth

Joseph Grinstein
Susman Godfrey

Kenneth Held
Schiffer Odom Hicks & Johnson

David Jones
Beck Redden & Secrest

Matthew Moran
Vinson & Elkins

Eric Nichols
Beck Redden & Secrest

Jennifer Poppe
Vinson & Elkins

Russell Post
Beck Redden & Secrest

Jason Powers
Vinson & Elkins

Joshua Roseman
Jones Day

Brian Ross
Gibbs & Bruns

Jennifer Rudenick Ecklund
Thompson & Knight

Richard Stewart
Adams and Reese

M. Katherine Strahan
Andrews Kurth

Mark Trachtenberg
Haynes and Boone

Justin Waggoner
Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

Charles Walker, Jr.
Fulbright & Jaworski



Texas



Energy, specifically oil and gas, remains the primary driver of litigation in Texas. The second anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil spill coincided with a flurry of case filings, and development of the Eagleford Shale oil play has led to even more commercial disputes. Beyond matters purely concerning energy, the sector has sparked litigation associated with those companies as a whole, such as non-compete clause issues when employees move to firms offering better compensation. Outside of energy, litigators are seeing a slight uptick in new filings across the board, although this has been mitigated somewhat by tort reform, especially with regard to medical malpractice claims. A wave of securities filings has come across dockets, given that potential suits are nearing the statute of limitations vis-à-vis the onset of the recession in late 2007.

Highly recommended firms

Baker Botts

The international law firm Baker Botts was founded in Houston in 1840, when the present-day state of Texas was the Republic of Texas. Today the firm has more than 800 attorneys across 13 offices worldwide, including, quite notably considering Baker Botts's thriving energy practice, offices in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Riyadh. Stateside, Baker Botts has six offices, including three in its home state. Beyond its headquarters in Houston, the firm maintains two offices: one each in Austin and in Dallas. Firmwide, Baker Botts is known for its top-notch antitrust, general commercial and energy litigation. The Houston office has a particularly robust energy litigation practice, with strong industry connections thanks to being located in the US energy capital.

Stars name-checked by peers include **Travis Sales**. "Travis Sales is really good," says a competitor. Specializing in product and professional liability, he has represented Merck in several class actions, some of which were in defense of the pharmaceutical company's anti-inflammatory drug Vioxx. He has also defended AstraZeneca in several cases, including matters concerning the antipsychotic drug Seroquel. **David Sterling**, the co-chairperson of Baker Botts's securities litigation practice group, won a denial of class certification in his defense of Halliburton, which was later affirmed by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. In April 2011, Sterling argued the case before the US Supreme Court. A competitor says, "David Sterling is very professional to deal with." **Irvin Terrell** is nationally prominent due in part to his role as trial counsel for President George W. Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney during the proceedings concerning the presidential election ballot count in Florida. In 2009, Terrell won a trial judgment worth billions of dollars in a case concerning breach of fiduciary duty and fraudulent transfer. A peer acknowledges, "Irv Terrell at Baker Botts is a very hard person but a very fine intellect."

Beck Redden & Secrest

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2012, Houston litigation boutique Beck Redden & Secrest has developed into a widely respected force in the Texas legal market. "Beck Redden is among the firms that have historically been in the platinum category of litigation boutiques in Texas," says a competitor. Longstanding litigator, name partner and firm tri-founder **David Beck** receives recognition across the state and the country for his handling of general commercial matters. Competitors stress the firm's depth on many levels of experience, however. "David Beck is an outstanding lawyer. Their younger lawyers are outstanding as well."

The firm draws from all corners of its talent pool in its counsel for oil and gas drilling product company Cameron International in its defense in the multibillion-dollar Deepwater Horizon litigation in the pending multi-district litigation and in the US Coast Guard hearings. The company produced and sold the blowout preventer that was used on the vessel owned by Transocean at the time of the failure in April 2010. In addition to Beck, litigators on the case include local litigation stars **Joe Redden, Jr.** and future star **David Jones**. On a *pro bono* basis, **Fields Alexander** and future star **Eric Nichols** prosecuted on behalf of the State of Texas Warren Jeffs, the leader of the polygamist sect Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, on charges of aggravated sexual assault against a 12-year-old and a 15-year-old. In less than a half hour, the jury rendered a guilty verdict on both counts. Jeffs was sentenced to maximum prison terms of life and 20 years, respectively. Fields Alexander moves up to local litigation star status from future star in this edition of *Benchmark Litigation*. One peer says, "Fields Alexander should be moved up from future star. He gets the phone calls directly." Another says, "I speak very high of Fields. He's just good at analyzing things."

Fulbright & Jaworski

Fulbright & Jaworski was founded in 1919 in Houston by R.C. Fulbright, an attorney

specializing in railroad regulation. The firm has since grown to encompass a cadre of more than 850 lawyers across 17 offices, including locations abroad in Beijing, London, Munich, Hong Kong, Dubai, and Riyadh. Within Texas, the firm has offices at its Houston headquarters, as well as in Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio. Says a peer, "Fulbright can't get enough credit for being a great firm." The Houston office has more than 250 lawyers. Litigation practice areas covered at its home base include antitrust, intellectual property, product liability, securities, mass tort, and general commercial matters.

On the product liability front, **Steve Dillard**, the chair of Fulbright's global litigation department until the start of 2012, focuses his practice on toxic and mass tort cases such as groundwater contamination and chemical exposure. He defends clients in cases concerning hydraulic fracturing, Superfund and other hazard waste sites, and underground storage tanks. **Mark Baker**, the co-chairperson of the firm's international department and the co-chairperson of the firm's arbitration and alternative dispute resolution group, gets nods from peers for his international arbitration practice, calling him a "leader" in the practice area. **Karl Dial** represents clients on an array of issues, including "Big Four" accounting firms in malpractice and breach of fiduciary duty lawsuits, as well as of directors and officers in financial matters such as FDIC or bankruptcy trustee-filed suits and securities class actions.

Gibbs & Bruns

The Houston litigation boutique Gibbs & Bruns has established a nationwide reputation for its bet-the-company approach to cases, representing clients on the plaintiff's and defendant's side. In fact, the firm prides itself on its courtroom style, claiming that it drives litigation—and by extension, the firm—forward. A client concurs: "They have sort of a plaintiff attorney mentality. Very aggressive in terms of pursuing claims." Arguably among its higher-profile matters is the firm's \$8.5 billion settlement with Bank of America on behalf of 22 institutional investors including PIMCO, MetLife and BlackRock that held residential mortgage-backed securities issued by Countrywide. **Kathy Patrick** obtained the settlement in June 2011; the case is still under prosecution. She scored another multibillion-dollar win in May 2012 on behalf of 17 institutional investors who held trusts issued by Residential Capital and its affiliated debtors. The pending ResCap settlement proposal is worth \$8.7 billion. Patrick is also counsel for holders of \$1.6 billion in notes issued by National Century Financial

Enterprises. Following a March 2012 summary judgment ruling on the case, the total amount of damages recouped on behalf of clients may top \$1 billion.

Firm founder and name partner **Robin Gibbs** is leading the trial team defending Trustmark National Bank in two lawsuits related to the Stanford Financial Group fallout. Gibbs and fellow litigation star **Grant Harvey** are on the team that won a \$196 million settlement for D. Bobbitt Noel, Jr. against Dallas billionaire Trevor Rees-Jones. Noel, the plaintiff, was a minority interest shareholder in Rees-Jones's former company. He allowed Rees-Jones to buy out his shares based on what Noel claimed was an undervaluation of the company. The judge who issued the settlement cited breach of fraud and fiduciary duty on behalf of the defendant. The case is on appeal. In November 2011, Gibbs and **Barrett Reasoner** obtained a \$4.58 million jury verdict for client SourceGas Distribution in a natural gas purchasing dispute. A client says about members of the firm, "**Scott Humphries**, Grant Harvey, Barrett Reasoner are all great. I would give them the highest possible rating."

McKool Smith

McKool Smith, founded in Dallas in 1991 with an original team of 13 lawyers, has developed into a multi-office firm with a nationally revered intellectual property practice, representing plaintiffs and defendants in high-profile, high-dollar-amount matters. One IP win was **Doug Cawley's** representation of Canadian software firm i4i in a plaintiff-side patent dispute against Microsoft. The case was heard by the US Supreme Court. Cawley won a \$290 million judgment on behalf of his client. Cawley is also representing VirnetX in a patent infringement suit against Apple before the US District Court of the Eastern District of Texas and the International Trade Commission. The case is ongoing and involves an investigation of a secure communications link among computers of Virtual Private Network. In May 2011, **Samuel Baxter** and **Mike McKool** won a patent infringement suit on behalf of Versata against SAP. After a one-week trial, the jury awarded Versata a total of \$345 million in damages for lost profits and reasonable royalties. A team that includes Baxter is defending Medtronic in a suit alleging patent infringement of a method to treat narrowing of the blood vessels. McKool Smith won summary judgment; plaintiff Wyeth has filed an appeal.

While the firm certainly has a strong track record in IP, McKool Smith's capabilities extend far beyond patent litigation into other practice areas such as bankruptcy, antitrust, white-collar criminal defense, and general commercial matters. Says a peer, "I've worked with some of the McKool Smith people. I have high regard for them." **Lewis LeClair** gets strongly positive feedback from peers for his litigation acumen. He is on the team

representing the trustee of the LLV creditor trust in litigation in connection to the bankruptcy case of the Lake Las Vegas joint venture.

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

The reputation of Houston-based boutique Smyser Kaplan & Veselka extends far beyond its 13-lawyer size. Firms name-check the firm for its decisive handling of matters and lack of fear to take cases to trial when need be. "Smyser Kaplan is in the top echelon. They're a great firm," says a competitor.

A team including name partners **Craig Smyser** and **Larry Veselka** is representing two Ecuadorian clients in the ongoing case against Chevron. Peers call Smyser a "great trial lawyer" and "an intellectual mind." In the process during some 30 years of Texaco's operations in Ecuador, the oil company dumped more than 15 billion gallons of toxic wastewater into waterways, spilled crude oil and left waste in open pits. Chevron acquired Texaco in 2001. Soon after, Chevron asked the case to be dismissed in US court because the case should be tried in Ecuador. US federal court dismissed the case in 2002, allowing for the matter to be heard before courts in the South American country. After an eight-year trial, in February 2011, Ecuadorian courts found Chevron responsible for \$18 million in environmental damages. The amount was affirmed on appeal in January 2012. In the US however, Chevron sued the Ecuadorians and their representatives in New York federal court, claiming corruption and conspiracy on the part of the Ecuadorian judiciary. In January 2012, Chevron's motion for attachment was denied, leading them to file a renewed motion for attachment in March 2012. Smyser Kaplan logged a win for their Ecuadorian clients in May 2012, when a federal judge in New York rejected Chevron's motion and request for a temporary restraining order. Two months later, the judge denied Chevron's motion for summary judgment, not ruling as a matter of law that the Ecuadorian ruling is not entitled to be recognized. The case is under discovery and a trial date is pending.

Susman Godfrey

Susman Godfrey has a nationwide reputation for aggressive bet-the-company litigation. With offices in Houston, Dallas, Seattle, Los Angeles, and New York, the firm's roughly 90 lawyers are known for their high-stakes trial practice. The firm as a whole is known for its longstanding history of flexibility on client fee arrangements. Susman Godfrey's base of clients covers a broad array of industries, including tech and software firms, oil and gas companies, and financial entities. The firm represents defense contractor KBR on a number of matters. In June 2012, the firm won a ruling for KBR at the Fifth Circuit in a dispute over a purported shareholder proposal. Susman Godfrey is also representing

KBR in a suit brought by members of the Oregon National Guard, who are alleging the defense contractor exposed them to various noxious substances, including sodium dichromate, when they were providing security detail to a KBR project in Iraq in 2003.

Future star **Daniel Charest** scored a major win for Olympia Minerals in March 2012 in a trade secrets dispute. The adversaries alleged that Olympia exploited their seismic data. The court ruled, however, that the adversaries had intentionally breached an agreement with Olympia, as it had not conducted a seismic data survey of the entirety of Olympia's acreage and did not sublease a portion of the property as per contract. A peer says of **Johnny Carter**, "I'm glad to see him on these lists! He's quirky and bright." Carter has been handling a number of antitrust cases during 2012, including an opt-out antitrust case in California and another matter concerning alleged price-fixing of LCD panels. Firm name partner and co-founder **Stephen Susman** is called "a legendary lawyer" by peers and is referenced by commercial litigation peers as "one of the great generalist trial lawyers" without exception. Another peer touts **Neil Manne** and **Mark Wawro**, saying "I'd feel comfortable referring cases to either of them."

Vinson & Elkins

Vinson & Elkins boasts a solid presence in Texas, across the country, and internationally. Within the state, the firm has offices at its headquarters in Houston, as well as in Dallas and Austin. Other US offices where Vinson & Elkins enjoys an extended litigation footprint include branches in New York, Palo Alto, San Francisco, and Washington, DC. The firm's international offices include locations in Abu Dhabi, Beijing, Dubai, Hong Kong, London, Moscow, Riyadh, Shanghai, and Tokyo. Its Texas offices' litigation strengths include antitrust, securities, intellectual property, bankruptcy, appellate matters, general commercial disputes, and especially energy.

The Houston office is representing BP in labor and employment issues, such as potential OSHA issues in connection with the 2005 explosion at the oil company's refinery in Texas City and in the biggest-ever OSHA case, contesting citations issued in October 2009 worth \$87 million. The firm is also representing BP in Toledo, Ohio in a dispute over \$3 million in penalties in connection with labor and employment citations. A team including **Karl Stern** and future star **Jennifer Poppe** is representing Statoil in 15 lawsuits pending in state court in Delaware and Texas, challenging the Norwegian government-controlled oil company's \$4.4 billion offer to shareholders of Brigham Exploration. The plaintiffs are alleging that the Brigham Exploration board breached fiduciary duty. The three federal lawsuits allege violations of Section 14(e) of the Securities Exchange Act. "Karl Stern is a great lawyer," says a

competitor. Peers also widely acknowledge Vinson & Elkins's nationally respected appellate practice. At its helm is **Marie Yeates**, the co-chairperson of the firm's appellate section, whom peers call "excellent, just excellent" and "one of the leading appellate lawyers in the country."

Yetter Coleman

Houston-based boutique Yetter Coleman is promoted to "highly recommended" status in this edition of *Benchmark Litigation* after garnering near-unanimous praise from its Texas peer firms. Comments from competitors include "definitely think about moving them up" and "a standout, top firm." Founded in 1997, the firm maintains offices in Houston and Austin, with the two offices specializing in trial and appellate litigation, respectively. Peers acknowledge former name partner and appellate head Gregory Coleman's untimely passing in November 2010, recognizing the firm has "weathered a tough storm" and "still has a good balance of trial and appellate abilities."

Peers nod towards firm co-founder and name partner **Paul Yetter** as a force. "Paul Yetter is still there, and is just a great lawyer. I have referred potential clients to him." His recent case matters include representation of American Airlines in an antitrust suit with its vendors, as well as successfully defending IBM in an antitrust suit that alleged the company had denigrated Austin-based plaintiff Neon Enterprise's zPrime software, and took unlawful steps to prevent the software's purchase. The case was worth \$1 billion. Taking the reins of Yetter Coleman's appellate practice is **Reagan Simpson**, who recently joined the firm from King & Spalding. "Yetter Coleman's appellate practice is just superb. I hear Simpson in cases all of the time." Simpson recently won three appeals in asbestos cases in Illinois: one that reversed a \$2 million award and gave a take-nothing judgment on no-duty grounds and two others that affirmed summary judgments. Beyond the firm's leaders, peers speak to its overall depth, as well: "Yetter Coleman has got a lot of good young folks."

Recommended firms

Andrews Kurth

Founded in 1902, Andrews Kurth has a longstanding history of representing Texas's dominant oil and gas industry. The firm has seven offices across the US, plus branches in Beijing and London. Within Texas, Andrews Kurth maintains a presence in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and The Woodlands. Known for its corporate legal practice, during recent years, the firm has been striving to deepen its trial and appellate litigation cadre. **Scott Brister**, based in Austin, is an overall standout. He returned to Andrews Kurth in 2009 after 20 years serving as a judge at various levels of the Texas court system. His recognition and standing in the Texas legal community steadily

beckons clients. Says one, "We were attracted to the firm by the presence of Scott Brister, an experienced attorney and judge." Another client opines, "We were particularly interested in Scott Brister's appellate expertise and his experience as a former appellate judge and justice of the Texas Supreme Court."

King & Spalding

Atlanta-headquartered King & Spalding was founded in 1885 and presently encompasses more than 800 lawyers across 17 offices. Two of those offices are in Texas, with locations in Austin and Houston. The Houston office opened in 1995 after the request of a major local client. The Austin office opened in 2008 to handle casework for the energy and natural resources sectors. Getting particular recognition from peers is the firm's international arbitration department. "King & Spalding's international arbitration practice in Houston is just outstanding," says a peer. On that team are local litigation stars **Doak Bishop**, the firmwide head of the international arbitration practice group. Also handling IA is **John Bowman**, who routinely handles cross-border matters for international oil companies. "John Bowman is really good," says a peer. "I've worked with him a lot." **Tracie Renfro** is also name checked by peers. "Tracie is particularly good at environmental defense cases," says a competitor.

Mayer Brown

Chicago-based international firm Mayer Brown's Texas presence is located in Houston. The office opened in 1982 to serve clients in the city and region's omnipotent energy sector. Thirty years later, the office has broadened beyond oil and gas to encompass a variety of practice areas including securities, arbitration, intellectual property, bankruptcy, and real estate. Getting particular notice from peers is the office's international arbitration practice, of which **William Knull III** is co-chairperson. Knull has more than 30 years of experience helping clients resolve cross-border disputes, many of which involve the oil and gas sector.

Reynolds Frizzell Black Doyle Allen & Oldham

Founded in late 2009 by members of respected Houston firm Gibbs & Bruns, the litigation boutique Reynolds Frizzell Black Doyle Allen & Oldham has built a solid reputation for itself during its nascent tenure. Says a peer, "I really respect my former partners at the Reynolds Frizzell firm. If I were in a pinch, they would be at the top of my list." Another peer says, "Whenever we need to involve someone else, I look to people at Reynolds Frizzell." Joining the ranks of local litigation stars in this edition of *Benchmark Litigation* is name partner **Mike Oldham**. "Mike Oldham is strong among the younger generation," says a peer. Oldham and future star **Jeremy Doyle** were hired to represent ExxonMobil in 2011 after the close of all discovery of a matter that had been ongoing since 2006. A jury dismissed

several of the plaintiff's claims via directed verdict and the remainder rejected via verdict. The final judgment decreed that the plaintiff take nothing on its millions of dollars in claims. **Jean Frizzell** repeatedly is mentioned by peers for his general commercial, intellectual property, and energy acumen. "I'd stack up Frizzell of anyone who is that age and class," says a peer. Fellow litigators also have "a lot of respect" for **Chris Reynolds**.

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, founded in Atlanta in 1924, has a nationally respected insurance litigation practice, as well as significant education, antitrust, and real estate litigation practices. The firm has two Texas locations in Austin and Houston. Peers acknowledge the firm's heavy caseload in relation to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill: "Sutherland Asbill has got a lot of work going on due to BP stuff," says a peer. Local litigation stars **Rachel Giesber Clingman** and **Steven Roberts** are leading the firm's defense of Transocean in the more than 400 cases in which the drilling company has been named. Many of these cases are consolidated as part of the multi-district litigation proceedings in the Eastern District of Louisiana. In addition, there have been more than six Congressional investigations, several investigations conducted by third parties, and hearings by the Coast Guard. Clingman, the partner-in-charge of the Houston office, gets individual commendations from peers as a "good, good lawyer."

Thompson & Knight

Dallas-based Thompson & Knight has some 350 lawyers practicing around in the world, including in such far-flung locales as Algiers. The firm has a standout energy practice, as well as strong litigation practices in appellate matters, intellectual property, labor and employment, tax, and real estate. Thompson & Knight has four offices in Texas: its Dallas headquarters; a location in Fort Worth, as well as branches in Austin and Houston. Future star **Debora Alsup** is gaining notice for her appellate practice, including a win on behalf of BNSF Railway in a toxic tort suit. **Gregory Huffman** is noted for his antitrust and general commercial litigation practice. **David Noteware** has a varied general commercial practice, including handling product liability cases for one of the largest health care product manufacturers. He has also represented the Middle Eastern subsidiary of a major oil company in US litigation.

AJAMIE LLP

HOUSTON

Pennzoil Place – South Tower
711 Louisiana, Suite 2150
Houston, TX 77002

NEW YORK

460 Park Avenue – 21st Floor
New York, New York 10022
Tel: 713-860-1600
Fax: 713-860-1699
Web: www.ajamie.com

Ajamie LLP is a litigation boutique founded on the belief that the pursuit of excellence is integral to the practice of law. The firm's lawyers are all seasoned litigators with first-chair trial experience. We have secured landmark awards and settlements, and have amassed an impressive record of positive outcomes – winning critical victories and over \$750 million in settlements and awards.

We advise in a wide range of litigation-related practice areas, including complex business litigation, antitrust and competition law, white-collar crime, employment litigation, and international litigation and arbitration. Our firm has built a solid reputation for rendering blue-chip defense for companies of all sizes, and for providing cross-border representation in the most intricate of business litigation matters. We are lean and efficient, with the expertise and resources to represent clients worldwide – without hidden conflicts of interest.

Recognized as an elite go-to firm in securities litigation, the firm has successfully handled a number of high-profile cases, including representing companies, pension funds and shareholders seeking to recover losses in stock fraud cases, and corporations and officers and directors being sued in securities matters.

The firm's successes include winning a record \$112 million jury award on a civil RICO Act claim on behalf of our Fortune 100 client against defendants who conspired to extort money from our client and tamper with trial witnesses. The jury's verdict was the largest RICO verdict in Texas history, and the third largest in the history of the United States.

We recently recovered a multimillion-dollar "clawback" for another Fortune 100 client in a case where the client's executive employees were hired away by a competitor. The departing executives had signed agreements in which they promised to pay back restricted stock and stock option awards that they received if they went to work for a competitor.

Litigation experience combined with strong business acumen leaves our lawyers uniquely qualified to advise our corporate clients in conducting sensitive internal investigations. The firm has recently led a number of such investigations for our clients.

We understand that, to be a true business partner with its clients, a law firm must provide more than just legal advice. We pride ourselves in thoroughly understanding the organizational and business objectives of our clients in order to build relationships that enable us to swiftly and successfully respond to their needs.

THOMAS R. AJAMIE



AJAMIE LLP

HOUSTON

Pennzoil Place – South Tower
711 Louisiana, Suite 2150
Houston, TX 77002

NEW YORK

460 Park Avenue – 21st Floor
New York, New York 10022
Tel: 713-860-1600
Fax: 713-860-1699
Web: www.ajamie.com

Tom Ajamie has successfully represented clients in complex commercial litigation and arbitration matters for 25 years. His work includes groundbreaking securities and financial cases, cross-border litigation, business contract disputes and employment issues. Mr. Ajamie has handled a number of high-profile cases, including representing companies, pension funds and shareholders seeking to recover losses in stock fraud cases, and corporations and officers and directors being sued in securities matters. Mr. Ajamie holds the distinction of winning two of the largest awards ever handed down by an NYSE arbitration panel for individual investors: a \$429.5 million award against a former PaineWebber broker, and a \$14.5 million award on behalf of a New York family against Prudential. He won a \$112 million jury verdict after a three-week trial in a case brought under civil RICO against defendants who conspired to extort money from his client and then tamper with trial witnesses.

Mr. Ajamie co-authored the book *Financial Serial Killers: Inside the World of Wall Street Money Hustlers, Swindlers, and Con Men*, a look at financial fraudsters, their schemes, and their victims, that has been featured in *The New York Times* and *Money* magazine. Mr. Ajamie is regularly invited to give legal analysis by major news media outlets, including ABC, CNN, CNBC, NPR and BBC, and his cases have been profiled in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *American Lawyer*, *InvestmentNews*, *Bloomberg*, *Forbes*, *Financial Times*, *BusinessWeek*, *Newsweek* and *Texas Lawyer*, among others. His work on behalf of investors in the Bre-X gold scandal is featured in the book *Fools' Gold: the Making of a Global Market Fraud*, by Brian Hutchinson.

Mr. Ajamie has authored numerous articles and presentations, most recently "What Advisors Can Learn from the Financial Crisis & Scams," The Financial Planning Association of New York Annual Forum; W/ise MoneyPower Conference for Financial Literacy, The McGraw-Hill Companies, New York; "How To Detect and Deflect Scams & Schemes," The Financial Planning Association of New York's 9th Annual Financial Fitness Workshop; "Greed, Ego, Power, Ethics & the Law," NALSC 2011 Spring Conference; "The Financial Serial Killers Among Us," CFA Society of Houston Program; "Turning Commercial Litigation into Commerce—The Corporate Legal Department as a Profit Center," ALM's 2nd Annual Litigation Summit; "Thinking Like a Plaintiff," Corporate Counsel's 7th Annual General Counsel Conference West Coast Conference.

AJAMIE LLP

Who do clients really rate as the top practitioners?



For over 17 years, Legal Media Group's Expert Guides have identified the world's leading lawyers in 29 practice areas. If you regularly interact with the legal profession in a specific practice area anywhere in the world, you should obtain a copy of the relevant Expert Guide for just £85



ORDER FORM £85 per copy. Please send me the following Expert Guides. Indicate no. of copies in each box:

- Aviation 2011
 Banking 2011
 Best of the Best 2011
 Best of the Best 2012
 Capital Markets 2011
 Competition & Antitrust 2012
 Construction 2011
 Corporate Governance 2009
 Emerging Markets Practitioners 2010
 Energy & Natural Resources 2010
 Commercial Arbitration 2011
 Insolvency & Restructuring 2010
 International Trade 2010
 Insurance & Reinsurance 2011
 Investment Funds 2010
 Labour & Employment 2011
 Litigation and Product Liability 2012
 Mergers & Acquisitions 2011
 Patent 2010
 Private Equity 2010
 Project Finance 2011
 Real Estate 2010
 Shipping & Maritime 2010
 Structured Finance & Securitization 2009
 Tax 2010
 TMT 2011
 Trade Mark 2012
 Transfer Pricing 2011
 Trusts & Estates 2011
 White Collar Crime 2012
 Women in Business Law 2012
Total £:

YOUR DETAILS

Name: _____
 Position: _____ Company: _____
 Address: _____

 City/State: _____ Post Code: _____
 Country: _____ Email: _____
 Tel: _____ Fax: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Please find enclosed a cheque payable to 'Euromoney Trading Limited'
 Please invoice me/my company (Purchase Order Number: _____)
 Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

3 easy ways to order: Tel: +44 (0) 20 7779 8418
 Fax: +44 (0) 20 7779 8678

Email: thivka@legalmediagroup.com
Post to: Tatiana Hivka, Expert Guides, Nestor House, Playhouse Yd, London EC4V 5EX, UK

CLAYTON E BAILEY

**BAKER & MCKENZIE**

2300 Trammell Crow Center
2001 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75201
Tel: (214) 978-3041
Fax: (214) 978-3099
Email: Clayton.Bailey@bakermckenzie.com

Clayton E Bailey chairs the disputes resolution group of Baker & McKenzie's Dallas office, and maintains an active practice representing clients in trials and appeals of complex commercial litigation, class actions, and multi-plaintiff tort and business cases. Besides having tried cases in various federal and state courtrooms located throughout the nation, he has an impressive track record as an advocate for his clients before numerous federal and state appellate courts including the Supreme Courts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, and the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Federal Circuits.

Clayton also advises agribusiness companies concerning regulatory matters and serves as defense counsel in administrative enforcement actions initiated by the federal government.

Clayton graduated *magna cum laude* from Baylor University in 1990 before earning his juris doctor with honors from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1996. He was the editor-in-chief of a law journal.

Clayton has been recognized by his peers as a Texas *Super Lawyer* and is a member of various invitation-only associations. He is a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America.

Representative Matters

- After the nation's largest poultry producer filed bankruptcy in 2008, Clayton managed and served as lead trial counsel of a litigation team that successfully defended against nearly 400 individuals' separate claims alleging federal price fixing claims, as well as various fraud and promissory estoppel theories and consumer protection violations under Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Texas law.
- Won the dismissal of RICO claims filed against an agribusiness company, a bank, an appraiser, a lawyer and a title company.
- Won the dismissal of numerous antitrust and state law claims pleaded by a municipality seeking in excess of \$28 million in damages, and later persuaded a federal circuit court of appeals to affirm the district court's decision.
- Defeated numerous requests for class certification in antitrust cases.
- Persuaded a majority of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, sitting en banc, to reverse a district court's and an earlier panel's decisions concerning the interpretation of a federal antitrust statute. The en banc court's decision was later characterized as a "tidal wave" opinion by a sister federal circuit court.
- After being retained as appellate counsel, Clayton convinced the Mississippi Supreme Court to reverse and remand a jury verdict initially resulting in an award of \$1.65 million.
- After being retained as appellate counsel, Clayton persuaded the Louisiana Supreme Court to reverse the district court's and intermediate appellate court's interpretation of and findings of liability against a client under the Louisiana unfair trade practices and consumer protection law, which resulted in the vacatur of millions of dollars in treble damages and attorneys' fees.

JEFFREY M. TILLOTSON, PC

**LYNN TILLOTSON PINKER AND COX**

2100 Ross Ave., Suite 2700
75201 Dallas
Tel: (214) 981-3838
Fax: (214) 981-3839
Email: jmt@lynnllp.com
Web: www.lynnllp.com

Few lawyers in the country have as much complex litigation experience as Jeff Tillotson. Even fewer have as much trial experience in complex multi-party cases. For example, over the past few years alone, Jeff has been the lead lawyer in over a dozen major multi-party cases brought in courts in nine different states for clients such as the nation's largest consumer finance company, its third largest bank; its second largest credit card issuer and forty of the nation's leading industrial concerns. These cases involved all possible aspects of complex litigation – multiple parties, competing venues, extensive discovery, complex strategy and intense media scrutiny. The cases were profiled in publications like *The Wall Street Journal* and *People Magazine* as well as in television media like *Nightline* and *CBS Evening News*. Jeff's experience with reputation management in the media has helped cultivate victory for his clients.

Jeff has successfully handled numerous cases on appeal. Over the past few years, he argued cases before the Second, Fifth and Ninth Circuits, the Texas Court of Appeals for Dallas, Eastland, Tyler and Corpus Christi.

Jeff has been acknowledged by his peers for excellence in the courtroom. Some of these accolades include:

- Honored as a "Leader in His Field" in *Chambers & Partners* 2010 USA Guide to Leading Lawyers-General Commercial Litigation (Texas)
- Texas Super Lawyers, *Law & Politics* magazine 2003-2012 (as seen in *Texas Monthly*)
- The Advocates: Litigators You Don't Want to Face in Court, *D CEO Magazine* 2008
- Super Lawyers – Corporate Counsel Edition (inaugural class) *Texas Lawyer* 2008
- Leading Lawyers in America, *Lawdragon* 2007
- Defense Win of the Month, *National Law Journal* 2002
- Defense Win of the Year, *National Law Journal* 2002
- 40 Outstanding Texas Lawyers Under 40, *Texas Lawyer* 2001

A native Texan, Jeff was born in San Antonio, Texas. His forebears settled in Texas generations ago, and his great-great-great-great grandfather, Jose Antonio Navarro, was a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, a drafter of the Texas Constitution, one of the first elected to the Texas Congress and later its Senate, and the namesake for Navarro County in East Texas.

LynnTillotsonPinkerCox

LEE KAPLAN

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

700 Louisiana Suite 2300
77002 Houston
Tel: (713) 221-2323
Fax: (713) 221-2320
Email: lkapan@skv.com
Web: www.skv.com

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, often going up against Fortune 100 corporations represented by "big firm" lawyers.

Mr. Kaplan has tried dozens of cases in state and federal courts, representing plaintiffs and defendants. His docket has included breach of contract, patent and trademark infringement, 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 10 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. He is both a trial and appellate lawyer. For example, 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.

In 2012 he expects to have at least three jury trials, all involving millions of dollars, including a contract dispute, trade secret misappropriation claims, and patent infringement. The first two are pending in Texas state court and the patent case is in federal court.

Mr. Kaplan has conducted special investigations for boards of directors or special committees of publicly traded companies and has represented a special committee of a board of directors in its successful defense of litigation relating to a going private transaction. He represented an executive who cooperated with the US Government in a wide-ranging investigation of violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act that led to disgorgement and fines totaling in excess of \$1 billion; Mr. Kaplan has also represented clients in numerous injunction proceedings and arbitrations and has served as an arbitrator in multiple arbitrations.

CRAIG SMYSER

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

700 Louisiana Suite 2300
77002 Houston
Tel: (713) 221 2330
Fax: (713) 221-2320
Email: csmyser@skv.com
Web: www.skv.com

Since founding Smyser Kaplan & Veselka, LLP 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 security fraud lawsuits nationwide. He currently represents the Ecuadorian Plaintiffs in the Southern District of New York in their battle to prevent Chevron from invalidating the \$18 billion judgment against Chevron for environmental pollution of the Ecuadorian rain forest. In 2012, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals dissolved the trial court's injunction aimed at preventing enforcement of the Ecuadorian Judgment anywhere in the world. Earlier in 2011, Mr. Smyser obtained a jury verdict on behalf of the Celotex Corporation after a national law firm hired him three months before jury selection to try the real estate fraud case against another large law firm.

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.

Mr. Smyser represents Yukos International UK B.V. and a number of individual officers of the former Yukos Oil in ongoing 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, a ruling affirmed in the US Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. 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 successfully 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.

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

700 Louisiana Suite 2300
 77002 Houston
 Tel: (713) 221-2325
 Fax: (713) 221-2320
 Email: lveselka@skv.com
 Web: www.skv.com

In more than 35 years of practice, Mr. Veselka has tried some 50 jury trials to verdict. Annually selected by his peers as one of Texas' "Super Lawyers" since 2005, he has also argued scores of appeals before various Texas Courts of Appeals, the Texas Supreme Court, the Wyoming Supreme Court, and the US Courts of Appeals for the Fifth, Tenth, Eleventh, and DC Circuits. He has handled cases pertaining to securities, oil and gas, real estate, breach of contract, fraud, RICO, professional liability, and various business torts and statutory claims. He has handled matters in courts and administrative agencies throughout Texas, as well as in Arkansas, Colorado, California, Illinois, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Wyoming and Washington, DC. Mr. Veselka was brought in post-trial and before judgment to represent one of the defendants receiving adverse findings on a \$1.4 billion jury verdict; he successfully obtained a take-nothing judgment in favor of his client. Mr. Veselka co-counsels with Craig Smyser in the representation of two Ecuadorian citizens pertaining to Chevron's attempt in New York Federal Court to avoid collection of a \$19 billion judgment for contamination of soil and water during almost 30 years of oil and gas production operations in the rain forest. He has advised both insureds and insurers on coverage issues, and has successfully prosecuted claims for coverage and/or bad faith. Mr. Veselka has both prosecuted and defended securities and consumer class actions, as well as shareholder derivative matters. From 2007 to 2010 he led the successful defense of the Special Committee of the Board of a public company considering an offer from the company's founder and CEO to take the company private. The appeals in that matter affirming the trial court's dismissals of both direct shareholder class-action claims and separate shareholder derivative claims clarified in his clients' favor what the nationally prominent securities plaintiff firms contended to be open areas of Texas substantive and procedural law regarding shareholder litigation. In 2011 Mr. Veselka was hired only six weeks before a trial when the plaintiff stevedoring company sought more than \$25 million from Del Monte Fresh Produce NA, and obtained a take-nothing judgment.

Besides the complex civil cases which have predominated in his practice over the last 30 years, Mr. Veselka has handled white-collar criminal matters at the grand jury, pre-trial, trial and appellate stages. Since 2004 he has represented the former chairman of a global oilfield services company in an FCPA prosecution pertaining to dealings in Nigeria that has resulted in fines or restitution of more than \$1.6 billion to the US authorities. He recently conducted an investigation for a public institution into allegations of potential criminal or civil violations regarding procurement practices and procedures that resulted in a censure of one of the institutions trustees. He has on numerous occasions served as counsel to individuals or potential witnesses in investigations by either or both the DOJ and the SEC for potential violations of criminal and securities statutes.

Mr. Veselka served as Administrative Assistant to Lt. Governor Bill Hobby from January 1973 until August 1976. Mr. Veselka served as the elected Chair of the Harris County Democratic Party from 1986 to 1988. He served as a gubernatorial appointee of the Board of Regents for Texas Southern University from 1985 to 1991.