



The following section features attorneys who have demonstrated leadership qualities and have achieved the AV Preferred rating by Martindale-Hubbell®.

Martindale-Hubbell®, the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings, has supplied ALM with a list of Top Rated Lawyers who have achieved an AV® Preferred® Peer Review Rating, the highest rating in legal ability and ethical standards. To create this section, Martindale-Hubbell® tapped its comprehensive database of Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™ to identify lawyers who have been rated by their peers to be AV® Preferred™.

Martindale Hubbell Peer Review Ratings are driven by the confidential opinions of lawyers and members of the judiciary who receive invitations from Martindale-Hubbell®, via an online survey or by mail, to provide reviews of lawyers of whom they have professional knowledge.

A complete directory of all AV® Preferred™ lawyers can be found online at Lawyers.com® and Martindale.com, in the Martindale-Hubbell® Law Directory in print and CD-ROM formats, and online through the LexisNexis® services and at lexis.com. Attorneys shown do not constitute the full list of "Top Rated Lawyers"



## TOP RATED LAWYERS

### TEXAS AUSTIN

## TODD KELLY

Born in Nacogdoches, and raised in Arlington, Todd Kelly has been blessed to receive numerous awards and honors over the years. As a U.S. Marine from 1987 to 1998, Kelly first served as a combat engineer then graduated from The Dickinson School of Law in 1995 eventually attaining the rank of Major as a Judge Advocate. Before joining the Carlson Law Firm, he owned The Kelly Law Firm in Houston from 2006-2012, where he gained national recognition for his representation of sexual assault victims against military contractors. His efforts changed the rules related to funding of military contractors overseas and defeated, for the first time, the mandatory binding arbitration provision in one major military contractor's employment contracts.

Rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell, Todd has been named a Texas Super Lawyer in 2011-2012 as well as 2014-2021. He has been recognized for Excellence in Personal Injury Litigation by Texas Monthly Magazine numerous times for his top verdicts, and was inducted into Texas Monthly's Hall of Fame in 2013 (attaining a verdict of \$16.9 Million for a rape victim against a long-term care facility). He was selected as one of Houston's Top Lawyers for multiple years before moving to Austin to join The Carlson Law Firm in 2012. Todd has received honors for the top 10 verdicts in Texas on several occasions and twice named in the top 100 verdicts nationwide, including 2020.

Kelly is a member of The American Board of Trial Advocates, as well as Calvert Inns of Court. Nationally, Kelly is a member of the Million and Multi-Million Dollar Advocate's Forums. Additionally, Kelly is member of the National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Trial Lawyers, the Elite Lawyers of America, and the National Association of Distinguished Counsel.

He is a Past President of the Capital Area Trial Lawyers' Association and is the PAC Chair for the Texas Trial Lawyers' Association. Kelly also chairs the advisory committee to the Central Texas chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Kelly still handles sexual assault and medical malpractice cases, but also a wide range of commercial and other serious vehicle collisions. He is also handling a significant docket of cases on behalf of human trafficking victims. Kelly is licensed in six jurisdictions including Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and is Board-Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law.



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**TEXAS** DALLAS

# LES WEISBROD

**D**ubbed the “pit bull” of the Texas medical malpractice bar and recognized nationally and internationally as one of the top plaintiff’s medical malpractice trial lawyers in the United States, Les Weisbrod is a leader in personal injury law with a strong history of results.

Les Weisbrod gets results. His \$31 million verdict against Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas in 2003 was one of the top 100 verdicts in the United States that year. More recently in August 2014, Mr. Weisbrod successfully obtained a summary jury trial verdict in Dallas Country Court At Law No. 1 for \$3.7 million on behalf of an injured 79-year-old client, which included \$2 million in punitive damages. Cumulatively, since May 1986, Mr. Weisbrod has tried or settled over 205 medical malpractice and medical product cases that have each resulted in verdicts or settlements of \$1 million or more for his clients. According to Michael Rustad, a Professor of Law at Suffolk University Law School in Boston, who has done extensive research of punitive damage awards, “Les Weisbrod has obtained more medical malpractice punitive damage jury verdicts for his clients than any other attorney in the United States.”

Mr. Weisbrod has served as President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian of the American Association for Justice (AAJ). AAJ (formerly known as the Association of Trial Lawyers of America) is the world’s largest trial lawyer association. He has also served on the AAJ Board of Governors since 1998 and on the 17-member Executive Committee of AAJ since 2001. Mr. Weisbrod was the founding Co-Chair of AAJ’s Birth Trauma Litigation Group (1991), founding Co-Chair of AAJ’s Medical Negligence Litigation Group (1999), and Chair of AAJ’s Professional Negligence Section (1996). He is a past president of the Dallas Trial Lawyers Association (1993) and has been a member of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association Board of Directors since 1990. He is Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Personal Injury Trial Law and Civil Trial Law. He has lectured to lawyers groups across the US, Canada, England and Australia, and has written extensively on medical malpractice and medical product topics. Les received his bachelor’s degree *magna cum laude* in



1975 from Claremont Men’s College and his law degree in 1978 from Southern Methodist University.

A founding partner of Miller Weisbrod LLP, Les Weisbrod is uniquely qualified to handle the intricacies of cases involving medical malpractice, personal injury or wrongful death. With his tenacity and relentless pursuit of discovery, Mr. Weisbrod continually exceeds client expectations. Simply stated, Les Weisbrod has more experience, more expertise and more of what it takes to win.



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# KoonsFuller, P.C. Family Law 2021 Legal Leaders: Top Rated Attorneys in Texas



Left to Right: Fred Adams, Heather King, Ike Vanden Eykel, Charla Bradshaw, Brian Loughmiller and Sherri Evans.

**K**oonsFuller, P.C. continues its 40-plus year tradition of excellence in 2021 by securing favorable resolutions for family law clients during virtual and in-person hearings and mediations.

Proud to be known as one of the largest family law firms in Texas, KoonsFuller's 35 lawyers and more than 40 legal staff members has the resources to provide legal services throughout the state of Texas with offices in Dallas, Denton, Houston, Plano and Southlake.

The firm understands the financial and emotional issues encountered in the family law arena, from divorce and the resulting characterization and division of assets, to child custody issues. While KoonsFuller understands the benefit of reducing conflict through alternative dispute resolution, the attorneys are seasoned trial attorneys with a proven track record of success in the courtroom.

"At KoonsFuller, we care for our clients and provide family law services at the highest level," said Shareholder Charla Bradshaw. "We are equipped to handle

any family law case. We provide services that even include a licensed professional counselor for litigation support. Our level of representation is unsurpassed and we work as a firm-wide team to meet every client's needs."

The firm and its attorneys are frequently honored within the business and legal communities, most recently with the selection of Ike Vanden Eykel, Heather King, Charla Bradshaw, Sherri Evans, Brian Loughmiller and Fred Adams to the **2021 Legal Leaders: Top Rated Lawyers in Texas** publication. *Legal Leaders* recognizes these attorneys due in part to their AV® Preeminent Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings for having cultivated the esteem of colleagues and clients. The rating also reflects a record of success, which speaks to their abilities for helping clients prevail in even the most complex cases.

In addition to being board-certified in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, all of the aforementioned attorneys are recognized among *The Best Lawyers in America*® in family law by Best Lawyers, LLC, with shareholders Rick



# KoonsFuller

## Family Law

Robertson, Charla Bradshaw and Heather King earning additional recognition by being named to the family law mediation list.

KoonsFuller, P.C. Dallas Shareholder **Ike Vanden Eykel** is regarded nationwide as one of the top family law attorneys and has been named the #1 Family Law Super Lawyer in Texas by Thomson Reuters. He has also been named a Top 100 Texas and Top 100 DFW Super Lawyers honoree by Thomson Reuters. He has secured favorable results for high-profile clients and has been described as the “reigning king” of Texas divorce and the “divorce law jedi” by The Dallas Morning News.

Plano Shareholder **Brian S. Loughmiller** is board-certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in both family law and civil trial law. He has received numerous accolades throughout his 32-year career, including recognition by the National Law Journal for achieving one of the top 100 verdicts in the United States in 2001 and Readers’ Choice Best Family Law Attorney 2011 and 2015 in McKinney and Allen, Texas. He has received recognition for community leadership as former Mayor of McKinney, Texas including the NLP National Leadership Award in 2011, and Leadership Alumni of the Year in 2015. He also has the distinction of being a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a nationally recognized group of certified family law attorneys, as well as named a Texas Super Lawyers honoree by Thomson Reuters.

Denton Shareholder **Charla Bradshaw** is an accomplished board-certified family law attorney. She is a well-known speaker and author in the area of family law and also trained in collaborative law. While she employs an aggressive approach to litigating family law cases, Ms. Bradshaw is also a certified mediator and handles collaborative law cases. Most recently, she has been named the Best Attorney by Living Magazine N. Irving/Coppell, Best Divorce Lawyer by Best of Denton County and Top 50 Women, Top 100 DFW and Top 100 Texas Super Lawyers honoree by Thomson Reuters.

Houston Shareholder **Sherri Evans** has more than 25 years of experience practicing law in Harris County and is uniquely qualified to analyze and litigate complex property cases in a divorce. She is recognized as a Top Lawyer in Houston by *H Texas Magazine*, *Houstonia Magazine* and *ReviewIt Magazine*, as well as a Top 50 Women, Top 100 Texas and Top 100 Houston Texas Super Lawyers honoree by Thomson Reuters.

Dallas Shareholder **Fred Adams** has practiced family law in Dallas for more than 30 years and has extensive experience in all types of family law matters. Having tried hundreds of cases and mediated or settled hundreds more, Fred is a successful family law attorney who assists clients with divorce, property division and more. He also regularly presents CLE-qualified courses to other family law attorneys throughout the state. Additionally, Mr. Adams is named a Texas Super Lawyers honoree by Thomson Reuters.

Southlake Shareholder **Heather King** is a well-known family lawyer in Texas who continues to be recognized among the elite family law and divorce attorneys. This is evidenced by her recent recognitions, including the prestigious Sam Emison Award by the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists, being named a Texas Trailblazer by *Texas Lawyer*, and listed among the Top 50 Women, Top 100 DFW and Top 100 Texas Super Lawyers honoree by Thomson Reuters. Ms. King was also recognized in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, as the “Lawyer of the Year” in Family Law in Dallas-Fort Worth.

“KoonsFuller prides itself on the experience, reputation and skills of its attorneys, many of whom have been elected by their peers to serve in the highest family law leadership positions in Texas,” King said. “We have further expanded that leadership through volunteering to serve on committees and boards that work to benefit not only the family law community, but others in need of assistance.”

For more information visit **KoonsFuller.com**

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**TEXAS** DALLAS - HOUSTON

## PATRICIA KAY DUBE

### GENERAL CIVIL LITIGATION AND INSURANCE MATTERS

**P**atricia Kay Dube has 42 years of experience in handling general civil complex litigation in federal and states courts and arbitration proceedings in areas that include commercial litigation, products liability, construction defect, professional malpractice, employment disputes, maritime and transportation, insurance disputes and subrogation litigation. Her practice includes handling of excess and reinsurance matters, negotiation of insurance contracts and manuscript provisions, negotiating complex cost sharing agreements, and related insurance matters on a domestic and international basis. She has experience in the London market and has represented foreign underwriters in evaluation and supervision of product liability claims of recognized international corporations throughout the world. In addition, Ms. Dube is a certified Mediator with certifications from the Harvard Law School Program on Negotiations and the A.A. White School of Alternative Dispute Resolution – University of Houston Law Center. She is also a member of the Texas Bar College.

Ms. Dube has consistently been rated AV Preeminent – Peer Review by Martindale-Hubbell for ethical standards legal ability since 1986. She has been a member of the Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers for over 15 years. Ms. Dube received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1972, a Master of Arts Degree from Sam Houston University in 1973, and earned her J. D. from South Texas College of Law in 1979, where she was assistant editor of Law Review.

Ms. Dube currently practices throughout the state of Texas with the firm of Burt Barr & Associates, LLP out of the firm's offices in Dallas and Houston, Texas.



**BURT BARR  
& ASSOCIATES, LLP.**



### PATRICIA KAY DUBE, P.C.

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**TEXAS** HOUSTON

## MICHAEL D. SYDOW

**M**ichael Sydow graduated from the University of Texas School of Law, with honors, in 1976. He began his career with the United States Navy, where he tried numerous cases with a 100% success rate.

Mr. Sydow then returned to Texas where he entered private practice with a regional law firm. While at the firm, Mr. Sydow tried cases involving complex business structures and international jurisdictional issues.

In 1984 Mr. Sydow was recruited to join a national law firm based in San Francisco, as a shareholder. For the next 20 years he continued to try cases involving individuals and closely held businesses and their activities, including insurance, finance, securities, commodities, succession, and the effects of divorce on their assets, ownership, control, and structure.

In 2004 Mr. Sydow was asked to become counsel to entertainer Michael Jackson for civil and business matters, including family law issues. Mr. Sydow served in that role until after Mr. Jackson's acquittal on criminal charges in 2006, and during the restructuring of his affairs after acquittal.

In 2010 Mr. Sydow returned to the private practice of law. His practice includes family law, domestic and international child custody and support, complex and multi-jurisdictional property issues, international business transactions and business organizations, international litigation and arbitration.

Mr. Sydow has been Board Certified in Civil Trial Law since 1986.

He has handled cases in state and federal courts in New York, New Jersey, Florida, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Colorado, California, Idaho, and British Columbia.

Mr. Sydow is multi-lingual and speaks English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.



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# TEFTELLER LAW, PLLC

## TRIAL LAWYERS

### Catastrophic Injury, Wrongful Death

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Tefteller Law PLLC is an East Texas trial firm representing Texans across the state who have been severely injured or killed in commercial vehicle accidents, oilfield accidents, auto accidents, or through dangerous conditions. In recent years, the firm has demonstrated an impressive level of expertise in brain injury cases.

As explained by Todd Tefteller, the founder of the firm, "My granddaddy taught me that 'a man should never forget where he came from, no matter where he ends up.' This philosophy has allowed our firm to achieve an impressive level of success. Staying true to our East Texas roots and being plugged into our local communities allows us to relate better with jurors anywhere and speak with them as people, friends and neighbors—not talk down to them from some legal ivory tower." The results have been seen in Tefteller Law's ability to go across Texas and obtain substantial settlements and verdicts in tough cases when insurance companies or big corporations refuse to do the right thing.

Tefteller states that "the firm's 'dig in and fight' mentality illustrates why some of our lawyers have been featured in numerous national and international publications, radio and television programs." Tefteller Law attorneys have appeared, provided commentary, or been featured on Fox News, CNBC, ABC's World News Tonight, NBC's Nightly News, and CBS' Nightly News, along with *The New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and National Public Radio, among others.

LEGAL LEADERS



AV PREEMINENT®  
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TODD TEFTELLER  
 TOM MCCORKLE



**TEXAS** ROCKWALL

## BETSY BRANCH

**B**etsy Branch began practicing law in 1990, becoming Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in 2006. Betsy is an AV-rated attorney by Martindale Hubbell in recognition of her ethical and legal ability. A seasoned trial attorney and skilled mediator, Betsy has also complete all the required courses to serve as a Parent Facilitator. Betsy Branch maintains a client-focused practice that she describes as holistic. Betsy strives to obtain a unique legal resolution tailored to the goal of the client. When mental health or substance abuse factors into a case, Betsy encourages the client to acknowledge and address the impact of such complications on the case. When a case involves children, Betsy coaches her clients to cultivate positive co-parenting skills.

Betsy opened The Branch Law Firm, PLLC in 2012 and practices with her son, Ryan Branch, a 2016 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center and a 10-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, and with Valencia K. Campbell, a 2018 graduate of SMU Dedman School of Law whose undergraduate degree is from the University of Texas at Austin. Betsy, Ryan, and Valencia practice primarily in Rockwall County and its surrounding counties.



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**TEXAS** ROCKWALL

## MIKE MARTIN

**M**ike Martin was first licensed in 1985. By the time he graduated from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Martin was a national and state advocacy champion and had already argued before the D.C. Circuit (en banc); the Texas State Supreme Court and two United States Supreme Court justices. While in law school he won multiple national advocacy championships, including best advocate in the region and in the nation.

Martin has specialized in trial litigation for both commercial and personal injury, with a specific specialty in respirator product liability.

### Experience

Mike Martin has successfully tried over 100 civil cases as first chair. During his career he has verdicts ranging from 3.5 million to 7.5 million in damages. Martin has successfully tried both complex toxic tort cases and complex commercial cases. In addition to his role as a seasoned and experienced trial lawyer, Martin has garnered many positive settlements for his clients. By way of example these recent settlements included a 6.5 million, 4.5 million, 3.5 million, 2 million, 2.2 million, 2.8 million 1.5 million in respirator product liability cases.



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**TEXAS** DALLAS

## MUSGROVE LAW FIRM, P.C.

**M**usgrove Law Firm, P.C. provides quality legal representation to businesses and individual clients in a multitude of complex and routine matters. Our combined 65 plus years of legal experience includes corporate and commercial transactions involving business organization formation and structure, mergers and acquisitions, banking, oil and gas, real estate, estate and tax planning, intellectual property, aviation law, general corporate representation and other commercial transactions.

Musgrove Law Firm, P.C. also assists clients in partnership and business disputes and federal, state and local tax disputes. In addition, the Firm represents individuals and entities before administrative boards and tribunals.

At Musgrove Law Firm, P.C. we recognize that our clients are the reason for our existence. Accordingly, through collaboration and consultation with our clients, we strive to achieve efficient, timely cost-effective and goal-oriented results. We strive to be true business partners to our clients in addition to legal counsel. We recognize our clients have choices to make when it comes to quality business legal representation, and we strive to continue to earn your confidence. In this regard, we believe our clients should be provided with cost effective solutions and alternatives early on. Our primary goal as legal counsel is to establish long-term relationships with our valued clients.

Our efficient size allows Musgrove Law Firm, P.C. to offer traditional hourly rates, blended rates, fixed fee or incentive-based fee arrangements. Our Firm was founded on the principles of providing experienced, talented legal services to our clients at a fair price. Our founder, H. Len Musgrove, Jr., has been recognized by his peers as an AV Rated Preeminent attorney and one of Texas' Best Lawyers.



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**TEXAS** DALLAS

## MELISSA DORMAN MATTHEWS

**M**elissa is the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Partner, and represents clients in professional liability, product liability, employment, personal injury, construction, commercial litigation and premises liability matters. She is Texas counsel for a drug and medical device manufacturer, and serves other clients as local counsel in Texas state and federal courts as well. She has extensive experience representing a broad spectrum of industries and clients in attorney-client disputes, business and employment disputes, personal injury cases, and product defect cases. Melissa has gained extensive first-chair trial experience over her 27 years of practice, and has tried cases all over Texas and beyond. She has always been a champion of retaining and promoting women in law, and is spearheading the firm's diversity and inclusion program by focusing the firm's efforts on hiring, training, and retention initiatives.

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**TEXAS** HOUSTON**THE AMARO LAW FIRM**

Superheroes, saints, saviors, blessings are some of the ways our clients have described us in our client testimonials on Google and Facebook. With over a thousand of 5 star Google reviews and hubs across the state, our firm is committed to achieving the best result possible for our clients while holding ourselves to the highest standard of customer service. As a result, the firm has become one of the largest Hispanic-owned personal injury law firms in Texas. Our attorneys and team of legal professionals are passionate advocates dedicated to being a force of good for our clients by bringing them bigger, better, and faster value and results.

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**TEXAS** THE WOODLANDS**STEVE SCHLACKS**

Credit for the success of this law firm goes to Sarah, my wife of 43 years, my family, including 3 daughters and 7 grandkids, my parents, mentors Lois Johnson and Harry Adamson, lawyers Richard Clark and Don Wetzel, Insurance Company managers Daryl Bonar and Ramona Nystrom and paralegals Liz, Rita and Evangeline. Above all, His Grace has made it possible for our firm to excel.

My career began in management with Johnson & Johnson after completing a BA Degree in Business and History from Austin College in 1978. The company paid for all courses required to earn an MBA at the University of Dallas in 1982. Scholarships from Baylor Law School led to graduation 35 years ago. Started law career with Wetzel & Associates, then became a shareholder with Hope, Causey & Schlacks, PC. Twenty five years ago, with the support of Sarah and my three daughters, Rebecca, Jennifer and Stephanie, opened my own practice in Insurance Defense in 1996. Licensed before the U.S. Supreme Court, Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law through 2023, AV Preeminent Lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell since 1994 and Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation since 2005.

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**TEXAS** HOUSTON**E. MICHELLE BOHREER**

E. Michelle Bohreer is a founder and the managing partner of Bohreer Law Firm PLLC, an employment defense and commercial litigation boutique. Michelle brings over 30 years' experience and a dynamic relationship approach to her legal practice. Michelle views the job of a lawyer from the perspective of counselor and strategic partner first, and then, after all proactive efforts have been taken to avoid litigation, as an advocate zealously representing the interests of the client. Michelle actively engages in preparing and training on employee policies including discrimination and harassment, providing investigation assistance, and defending charges of discrimination and unemployment claims. Prior to attending law school, Michelle received her CPA license and utilizes those skills in analyzing business issues disputes. Michelle believes that clients should be apprised of changes in the law before the client finds out the hard way. Through e-blast and Facebook updates, Bohreer Law Firm highlights potential "trouble spots". Business and employment negotiations and litigation require a lawyer that understands business. Michelle does. Bohreer Law Firm stands at the intersection of business and law.

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The Intersection of Business and Law

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**TEXAS** MIDLAND**STUART STARRY**

TRUCKING ACCIDENTS, INDUSTRIAL INJURIES, AND COMPLEX LITIGATION

Licensed in 1986, Stuart Starry has extensive experience in complex and serious cases. He has handled many plaintiffs' personal injury and wrongful death cases. His experience includes trucking accidents, aviation accidents, industrial accidents, mass torts, and product liability claims. He is also experienced in drug litigation, securities fraud, oil and gas fraud, probate contests, and a host of other civil tort and fraud cases. Because he has had careers in construction and manufacturing, his approach is grounded on real-world experience. His perspective is broad because he spent years on the defense side of the bar, giving him experience in the insurance side of cases.

He graduated in 1983, Phi Beta Kappa, from the USC (the University of Southern California), with a Bachelor of Arts Degree (cum laude). He received his Juris Doctor in 1986 from Vanderbilt University School of Law. Stuart is a partner at Moravcik Threadgill & Starry, PLLC, a Midland Texas firm that combines, Probate, Family, and Personal Injury Law.

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Midland/Odessa and West Texas

**TEXAS** HOUSTON**LOREN KLITSAS**

**M**r. Klitsas is the managing partner of Klitsas & Vercher P.C. Mr. Klitsas has been recognized nationally as a top trial attorney for representing injured victims for over 27 years.

He is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education programs on topics including voir dire, "non-subscriber" litigation, and legal ethics. He has also appeared on local television talk shows discussing negligence issues, as well as national news programs discussing the practice of law. Mr. Klitsas graduated from the University of Houston in 1985 with a degree in Business Marketing. He worked as marketing manager for 7 years for SYSCO Food Corporation. He pursued his legal education at night while working for SYSCO and graduated from South Texas College of Law in 1992. Mr. Klitsas has served as lead counsel in cases involving the BP oil spill, the BP plant explosion, the lawsuit involving Houston Uber drivers vs Uber and a national lawsuit representing workers against Starbucks.

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**TEXAS** FORT WORTH**SEAN D. COLSTON**

**S**ean Colston spent over 25 years serving as a prosecutor with the Tarrant and Dallas County Criminal District Attorney's Offices in Fort Worth and Dallas, Texas. During his career as a prosecutor he worked in many different areas of law, including Family Violence, Juvenile, and Gang prosecution. Mr. Colston has prosecuted numerous capital and high-profile cases in Texas. He has over 200 jury trials and over 70 murder trials. Mr. Colston has appeared on several television shows including: The Queen Latifah Show, 48 Hours Mystery, Snapped, and Forensic Files. Mr. Colston has served as Chairman of the Criminal Law section of the Tarrant County Bar Association, and Chairman of a Grievance Panel for the Texas State Bar. He graduated with honors from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1993, and the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama in 1990. In addition to being a member of the Texas State Bar, Mr. Colston is also admitted to the Alabama State Bar.

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**TEXAS** ODESSA**BRENT A. BIGGS****PERSONAL INJURY & BUSINESS DISPUTES**

**B**rent A. Biggs has 30 years of experience representing individuals and companies in a wide range of civil litigation in both state and federal courts as well as arbitration. His experience includes representation of individuals who have been injured in accidents and also businesses and insurance companies that have been sued by injured individuals. His practice includes the representation of homeowners in construction defect litigation and the defense of architects, engineers, general contractors, and subcontractors who have been sued due to construction defects. Mr. Biggs has had successful trial verdicts ranging from personal injury verdicts on behalf of plaintiffs to successful defense verdicts on behalf of defendants who have been sued for personal injury and construction defects. Mr. Biggs currently practices in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico with his primary office located in Odessa, Texas, but he has decades of experience in Central Texas including San Antonio and Austin and all of South Texas from Corpus Christi to Brownsville to Laredo and most counties in between. Mr. Biggs also advises oilfield service companies in the Permian Basin on liability risk associated with contracts they are executing as well as their purchase-sell agreements. Mr. Biggs also speaks Spanish.

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**TEXAS** BRYAN**JAMES W. JAMES**

**F**or thirty years, Bryan native Jim James has vigorously represented persons accused of crimes in the Brazos Valley and beyond. He has represented clients from Boston to Miami and 80 counties in Texas; cases ranging from capital murder and embezzlement to DWI and narcotics trafficking. Jim has tried hundreds of jury trials and conducted oral argument before the 5th Circuit and the Court of Criminal Appeals. Texas Super Lawyers has recognized him and he has addressed the Advanced Criminal Law Seminar.



Board certified in Criminal Law, he is a past President of the Brazos County Bar Association and is a member of the TCDLA. He is Of Counsel at James, Reynolds, Spiegelhauer & Ask.

Prior to becoming a defense attorney, Jim served as the First Assistant District Attorney in Galveston County, trying some of the highest profile cases on the Texas Gulf Coast. Jim was a research assistant at the Court of Criminal Appeals and First Assistant District Attorney in Brazos County.

Jim graduated magna cum laude from Texas A&M and with honors from the University of Texas Law School.



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**TEXAS** DALLAS

## SAM BOYD

A Texas native, an Eagle Scout and a former Green Beret Captain, Sam Boyd is the owner of Boyd & Associates, a leading, national whistleblower law firm headquartered in Dallas, Texas, since 1980. Whistleblowers file Qui Tam suits on behalf of the government under the False Claims Act to hold corrupt companies and individuals accountable. He also files Whistleblower claims under the IRS and SEC. "Whenever your client takes the bold move of speaking out against the largest corporations, they need the assurance and confidence that fearless trial lawyers have their back." About 75% of all recoveries are returned to Government.

Sam has received the prestigious "AV" peer review rating from Martindale-Hubbell, signifying the highest standards of ethical and legal ability. Sam has also been honored as a "Texas Top Rated Lawyer" by Martindale-Hubbell. The National Trial Lawyers Association in 2020 named him to the Top 10 Lawyers after having named him to their Top 100 Lawyers from 2013 to 2020. For years, Sam has been a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum reflecting the achievement of multi-million dollar settlements or judgments.

In 2018, The Top 100 Registry's Top 100 Lawyers honored Sam as America's Top Business Fraud and Whistleblower Attorney. It also presented him with its Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2020, the organization honored Sam in its cover story as 'Texas Best' in its December 2020 issue.

Honored as a 2015 Distinguished Alumnus by the Texas Tech School of Law, Sam was a Member and the Managing Editor of the Texas Tech Law Review, a member of the Board of Barristers, Mock Trial Champion, and selected to the Order of the Coif. During Law School, Sam was a 1977 Fellow of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and performed research on innovative agricultural futures. He has been an active Director Emeritus of the Associations of the Texas Trial Lawyers and the Dallas Trial Lawyers.

In 1979, Sam married Delilah Holmes a triple SMU graduate (B.A. Music, 1969; MLA, 1970; JD, 1992). During law school Delilah was an Editor on the SMU Law Review while working with Sam on a private Russian Satellite Telecom JV project with the Russian military (Lavochkin and Kometa), Alcatel Espace and GTE. While searching for the JV HQ, Sam and Delilah discovered the Turks & Caicos Islands where they and their Shih Tzus have been Permanent Residents for many years. Sam and Delilah volunteered for a charitable educational organization (Jubilee) in a lesser advantaged Dallas community. At Jubilee, they both mentored third-graders at O.M. Roberts Elementary. Sam also worked on the Jubilee Education Committee where he remains involved today.

Sam volunteered to serve his country during the Vietnam War. On his way to Special Forces training, Sam was selected as the Distinguished Honor Graduate [1/500] of his Airborne Jump School Class # 68-22 at Fort Benning. He became a Special Forces A-Team Demolition Specialist and, later, an A-Team Leader. In Vietnam, Sam was a Rifle Platoon Leader in Combat with the 173d Airborne Brigade. Sam's Awards and Decorations include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist's Badge, Military Freefall (HALO) Badge, four (4) Bronze Stars (2 with "V" for Heroism) (2 for Achievement in Combat), three (3) Air Medals (Achievement During Flight), three (3) Army Commendation Medals, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Jungle Expert Badge among other recognition. As a Rifle Company Commander in the 82nd Airborne Division, one of his rifle platoons and one of his rifle squads were each awarded, contemporaneously, the Outstanding Unit awards in annual Division Competition, a first in 82nd Airborne Division history.

After his military service, Sam attended Texas Tech University, where he graduated (1974) as Valedictorian with a Bachelor of Arts (Mathematics), with Highest Honors, and later (1977) as Valedictorian of his MBA class. He received (1977) his Juris Doctor (JD), with High Honors, from Texas Tech. Sam was selected by the International Legal Fraternity Phi Delta Phi as its International Winner of the Law Graduate for the Year 1977.



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