



## **CHRISTOPHER L. ELLIOTT**

Shareholder

**CIVIL LITIGATION, PERSONAL INJURY,  
FIDUCIARY, PROBATE & TRUST  
LITIGATION**

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## **ABOUT**

Chris has extensive experience in commercial and tort litigation, representing clients on the plaintiff and defense sides of the docket. His commercial clients have ranged from large multi-national high tech companies, startups and state agencies to individuals and “mom and pop” businesses. Prior to rejoining Graves Dougherty in 2007 after a fifteen year hiatus, Chris was a partner in a personal injury firm in Austin, where he practiced exclusively on the plaintiff’s side of the docket. His keen understanding of the plaintiff personal injury practice has been put to good use at Graves Dougherty. Chris continues to selectively represent seriously injured individuals in tort cases but also has defended, and continues to defend, firm clients that have found themselves on the opposite side of such claims. Representative cases on the defense side include wrongful death and serious injury claims against institutions of higher learning, a wrongful death claim against a deceased iconic business owner’s estate, a serious injury case against the race director of a Central Texas triathlon, multiple death and serious injury cases against a local annual festival, and a serious injury premises liability case against a prominent local restaurant chain.

In addition to commercial and tort litigation, Chris also has experience in, and enjoys, probate litigation, having represented estates and individual claimants as well as trustees accused of breach of fiduciary duty.

Chris is recognized by his peers as an accomplished litigator. He is A.V. rated by Martindale-Hubbell, was elected to membership in the Austin Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and served in 2000-2001 as the president of the Capital Area Trial Lawyers Association. He is also adept

at conflict resolution outside the courtroom. He puts these skills to use for his litigation clients and also as a member of the adjunct faculty at the Baylor University School of Law in Waco, where he teaches a class on Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Chris strongly believes in giving back to his community. In addition to service on non-profit boards, he keeps a docket of pro bono cases referred by Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas, Texas C-BAR and the Capital Area AIDS Legal Project, among others.

## PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Admitted to bar: Texas, 1990; U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Texas
- Education: Austin College, B.A. Political Science and Economics, 1984; Baylor University School of Law, J.D., 1990; Order of the Barristers, Phi Delta Phi, Baylor Mock Trial Team
- Adjunct professor of law at Baylor University, 2005-present
- Crews & Elliott, P.C., 1992-2007
- Associate, Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, 1991-1992
- General Counsel, Texas State Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, 1991
- Briefing Attorney to Hon. Bob Shannon, Chief Justice, and Justice Mack Kidd, Third District Court of Appeals in Austin, 1990-1991

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Austin Bar Association Litigation Section, Board of Directors, 2017 – Present
- State Bar of Texas
- Million Dollar Advocates Forum
- Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation
- Fellow of the Austin Young Lawyers Association Foundation
- American Constitution Society, former Austin Chapter Director;
- American Board of Trial Advocates

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- **AV<sup>®</sup> Preeminent<sup>™</sup> Peer Review Rating, Martindale.com**
- Selected as President of the Capital Area Trial Lawyers Association, 2001-2002

## COMMUNITY

- Leadership Austin Essentials Class of 2014
- Member, **Robert W. Calvert American Inn of Court**

- Board of Directors, [Austin Habitat for Humanity](#), 2011-2016
- Board of Directors, [Mexic-Arte Museum](#), 2015- Present
- Chair, Travis County Democratic Party, 2004-2008
- Board Member, Capital Area AIDS Legal Project (Chair, 1999-2001)
- Member of President’s Advisory Council and Alumni “L” Association Executive Committee, Austin College, Sherman, Texas
- Board Member, Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation, Commerce, Texas (his hometown)

## **PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- Panel moderator, Ethical Implications of Developments in Human Memory, Austin College [Kenneth W. Street Law Symposium](#), March, 2012
- Author, [Guantanamo — Ten Years Later](#), *Texas Lawyer/ALM*, Law.com, January 16, 2012
- Presenter at numerous CLE conferences on topics including construction site accident liability, insurance negotiations and trial tactics
- Panel moderator, “The Role of Memory and Eyewitness Identification in Civil and Criminal Litigation” – Austin College Kenneth W. Street Law Day Symposium, February 2016
- Panelist on Texas BarCLE webcast on “Balancing Zealous Advocacy with Civility” – June 2016