



DEBORAH S. COLDWELL

Partner

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PRACTICES: Litigation, Franchise and Distribution, Franchise Litigation, Media and Entertainment Litigation, Procurement and Supply Chain Management, Food, Beverage and Restaurant, Trademark Litigation; **INDUSTRIES:** Sports Law, Media, Entertainment and Sports, Hospitality, Retail

DALLAS

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EDUCATION AND CLERKSHIPS

- J.D., University of Texas School of Law, 1990
- M.A.T., Colorado College, 1979
- B.A., Colorado State University, 1974

ADMISSIONS

- Texas

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico

LANGUAGES

Deborah Coldwell represents franchisors, distributors, joint ventures, limited liability companies, partnerships and the individuals who run those companies in jury trials, bench trials and arbitrations. She has litigated across several industries – from hotels and restaurants to health clubs and tax preparation services to product and service-based franchise and distribution networks.

Deb will help bring a business solution to a dispute when possible and is skilled in representing clients in mediations and other settlement proceedings. But when litigation is inevitable, she is fully prepared to go to trial or arbitration and to fight for a company and its officers. To that end, she litigated a successful six week jury trial in Texas state court in a joint venture dispute. Nationally-ranked by *Chambers USA*, (Chambers and Partners, 2009-2020) in the franchise law category, clients have described her as an “outstanding trial lawyer,” “very poised, thoughtful and smart,” and as “an especially good advocate.”

Deb loves to organize and motivate teams to accomplish short and long term goals. She is a past chair of the 2,000-plus member American Bar Association Forum on Franchising. She also served the Forum as the editor-in-chief of the *Franchise Law Journal* and as its publications officer. Deb channels her love of sports by litigating sports law-related matters and serving as co-chair of Haynes and Boone’s Sports Law Practice Group. She is also a passionate member of the Food, Beverage and Restaurant Practice Group.

Prior to attending law school, Deb worked in restaurants and taught junior high and college. Deb’s unique background helps her bring a practical approach to problem solving and allows her to assist clients to find an individual workable strategy in each case she handles. As a skilled and creative trial lawyer, Deb has the experience and flexibility to provide clients with quality representation on a “one size does not fit all” basis.

Selected Publications and Speeches

- “Franchise Law,” co-author, *SMU Annual Texas Survey*, Volume 6, Fall 2020.
- “Practical Strategies to Limit Premises Liability Claims Involving COVID-19,” co-author, *Franchising.com*, September 15, 2020.
- “Forty Years of the Franchise Law Journal,” editor, *Franchise Law Journal*, Summer 2020.
- “Judicial Update - Encroachment Cases,” speaker and author, International Franchise Association Legal Symposium, Washington, D.C., May 7, 2019.

- Spanish
- "Franchise Law," co-author, *SMU Annual Texas Survey*, Volume 3, Fall 2017.

Professional Recognition

- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*, Woodward/White, Inc., for Franchise Law, 2007-2021
- Selected by *Best Lawyers*, Woodward/White, Inc., as a "Lawyer of the Year" in Franchise Law, 2016 and 2018
- Recognized by *Chambers USA*, Chambers and Partners, as a nationally recognized franchise lawyer in America, 2009-2020
- Recognized as a Standout Lawyer, Acritas Stars, 2018-2020
- Nominated by her peers as one of the world's leading franchise practitioners in *The International Who's Who of Franchise Lawyers*, Law Business Research Ltd., 2004, 2006, 2007, 2011; recognized as a Thought Leader for Franchise, 2019
- Inducted into inaugural Legal Eagles Hall of Fame, *Franchise Times*, 2013
- Included as a Legal Eagle (top 100 franchise lawyers) in *Franchise Times*, Franchise Times Corp., 2004-2020
- Selected by her peers in *D Magazine*, D Magazine Partners, as one of the "Best Women Lawyers in Dallas," 2010, and as one of the top lawyers in franchise and distribution law in Dallas, 2003-2020
- Selected as a *Texas Super Lawyer*, Thomson Reuters, 2003-2020
- Selected by *Best Lawyers*, Woodward/White, Inc., as "2012 Dallas Franchise Law Lawyer of the Year," 2012
- *Martindale Hubbell Law Directory* with a Peer Review Rating of AV Preeminent

Professional and Community Activities

- The Grant Halliburton Foundation, Board Member
- ABA Forum on Franchising, Past Chair (2015-2017), Chair (2013-2015); Governing Committee Member (2009-2013); Publications Chair (2009-2013); Leadership (2006-2009)
- ABA Franchise Law Journal, Editor-in-Chief (2006-2009)
- State Bar of Texas
- American Bar Association
- Dallas Bar Association
- ABA Forum on Franchising Governing Committee
- Women's Foodservice Forum (Leadership Development Committee)