



Polly Benton Fohn

Partner

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PRACTICES Appellate, Oil and Gas Litigation

Polly Fohn has argued to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and Texas appellate courts and has been involved in appeals of some of the largest jury verdicts in Texas since graduating from Harvard Law School in 2008.

Named a “Rising Star” by *Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars*, Thomson Reuters, from 2013-2021, Polly has achieved victories for her clients even when the odds were stacked against them. For example:

- Persuaded a court of appeals to stay execution on a multimillion dollar judgment pending appeal even though her client could not post a supersedeas bond.
- Convinced a trial court to render a take-nothing judgment in the face of an adverse multimillion dollar jury verdict.
- Obtained an emergency stay within hours of seeking relief from the court of appeals and ultimately went on to achieve mandamus relief for her client.
- Successfully petitioned an en banc court of appeals to reverse a panel decision and render judgment for her client.

In addition to her work in the courts of appeals, Polly regularly collaborates with trial teams to obtain summary judgment, exclude or protect key expert witnesses, and draft and argue jury charges in high-stakes litigation.

Polly is also an active member of the legal community. She currently serves as chair of the Houston Bar Foundation which is the charitable arm of the Houston Bar Association and is a former Editor-in-Chief of *The Houston Lawyer* magazine. Polly is also a regular speaker on recovery of attorneys’ fees, preservation of error and summary judgment practice at State Bar of Texas CLE programs.

Polly gives back to her community as a Young Leader of the United Way of Greater Houston.

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- J.D., Harvard Law School, 2008, cum laude, *Journal on Legislation*, Supervising Editor
- B.S., Chemistry, Brown University, 2004, magna cum laude, with honors

CLERKSHIPS

- Law Clerk, the Honorable R. Lanier Anderson, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (2008-2009)

ADMISSIONS

- Texas

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
 - U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
 - U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
 - U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas
 - U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas
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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Recognized as "Up and Coming" in *Chambers USA*, Chambers and Partners for Appellate (Texas), 2023
- Recognized by *Best Lawyers*, Woodward/White, Inc., for Appellate Practice, 2021
- Included among the *Texas Rising Stars Up-and-Coming 100* list, Thomson Reuters, 2020-2021