



Chris Knight

Partner

Fort Worth

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PRACTICES Appellate, Litigation, Power and Renewables Litigation

Chris Knight is an appellate lawyer with substantial experience litigating — and winning — complex, high-stakes disputes in both state and federal courts. Chris has represented clients throughout the litigation process, from pre-suit analysis and strategy, to crafting the jury charge, to seeking (and obtaining) discretionary review in a court of last resort. And he has worked alongside clients in various industries, including oil and gas, news media, power generation, insurance, and finance.

Clients trust Chris to craft and deliver persuasive and focused arguments, no matter the medium or forum. He has led successful brief-writing efforts on a variety of cutting-edge legal issues — from the types of damages available in fraud cases, to the interpretation and application of Texas’ anti-SLAPP statute, to the proper standard for analyzing conditions of confinement under the Eighth Amendment. He also has considerable experience presenting oral argument, including to the Texas Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the Texas courts of appeals.

Chris’s recent work includes:

- Successfully led appellate briefing, presented argument, and opposed Texas Supreme Court review in a novel case involving the intersection of free speech and anonymity.
- Led briefing and presented argument to the Texas Supreme Court in a certified-question appeal dealing with a novel statutory interpretation question.
- Successfully led briefing and presented argument to the Fifth Circuit in a pro bono appeal concerning sleep deprivation — ultimately resulting in a published opinion clarifying Eighth Amendment standards in the Fifth Circuit.
- Successfully led briefing, from the post-verdict stage to the Texas Supreme Court, in securing the affirmance of a multimillion-dollar judgment in an oil-and-gas insurance dispute.
- Successfully led briefing, in both the court of appeals and the Texas Supreme Court, in securing the complete reversal of a \$100 million trial court verdict on behalf of a major bank.

Outside the office, Chris is active in the bar and his community. He is the Vice President of the Fort Worth Chapter of the Federalist Society, and he recently completed stints as the Chair of the Tarrant County Bar Association’s Appellate Section and as a Barrister in the Eldon Mahon Inn of Court. He also regularly writes and speaks on Texas Supreme Court practice and other appellate topics.

Chris graduated first in his class from SMU Dedman School of Law, and he clerked at both the Texas Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He has been recognized by *Texas Super Lawyers* as a “Rising Star,” by *Best Lawyers* as “One to Watch,” and by *Fort Worth, Texas* magazine as a “Top Attorney” in appellate practice.

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- J.D., Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, 2015, valedictorian; *summa cum laude*; Order of the Coif; lead articles editor, *SMU Law Review*
- B.B.A., Abilene Christian University, 2012

CLERKSHIPS

- Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Leslie H. Southwick, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2016-2017

Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Jeff Brown, Texas Supreme Court, 2015-2016

ADMISSIONS

- Texas

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
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PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “The Art of Oral Advocacy: Arguing Motions and Appeals,” panelist, *2025 Northern District of Texas Bench Bar Conference*, April 11, 2025.
- “Fireside Chat with Judge Jeff Brown,” moderator, *Fort Worth Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society*, February 27, 2025.
- “Getting from a Damages Verdict to Judgment,” co-author, *State Bar of Texas Litigation Section’s “The Advocate,”* Fall 2024 edition, and speaker, *Houston Bar Association Appellate Section Monthly Lunch CLE*, July 11, 2024.
- Second Court of Appeals Panel, moderator, *DCBA/TCBA Appellate Section Joint Seminar*, September 22, 2023.
- Fort Worth Judicial Panel, moderator, *Tarrant County Bar Association Brown Bag: Appellate Law*, January 27, 2023.
- “Practice Before the Supreme Court of Texas,” speaker, *State Bar of Texas: Civil Appellate Practice 101*, December 1, 2021.
- “Justice Paul Green’s Legacy on the Texas Supreme Court,” co-author, *The Texas Lawbook*, July 24, 2020.
- Judicial Profile: Judge Mark T. Pittman, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, author, *The Texas Lawbook*, June 17, 2020.
- “Texas Supreme Court 2018-19 Term Review” and “Brave New World: Changes to the Texas Citizen’s Participation Act (TCPA) and Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 91a,” speaker, ACU Alumni Bar Association CLE, October 2019.

- “State and Federal Appellate Procedure,” speaker, *State Bar of Texas Appellate Section: Appellate Diversity Committee CLE*, April 2019.
 - “Rule 91a Dismissals and Appeals,” co-author, *The University of Texas School of Law State and Federal Appeals CLE*, June 2018.
 - “Texas Supreme Court Update,” co-author, *State Bar of Texas Appellate Section Appellate Advocate*, quarterly, beginning in 2018.
 - “International Human Rights Litigation After Bauman: the Viability of Veil Piercing to Hale Foreign Parent Corporations into U.S. Courts,” author, 41 U. Dayton L. Rev. 213, 2016.
 - “Post-Kiobel Procedure: Subject Matter or Prescriptive Jurisdiction?” co-author, 19 UCLA J. Int’l L. & Foreign Aff. 49, 2015.
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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Included in *Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars* directory, Thomson Reuters, 2023-2024
- Included in the "Ones to Watch" category of *Best Lawyers in America*, Woodward/White, Inc., 2021-2025
- Chosen as a Top Attorney in *Fort Worth, Texas magazine*, Panther City Media Group, LP, 2021, 2024