



Ryan Pitts

Associate

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PRACTICES Appellate, Litigation, Oil and Gas Litigation, Power and Renewables Litigation

Ryan Pitts represents clients in complex litigation matters, focusing on appellate advocacy. He began his legal career with clerkships at the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Ryan draws on these experiences to advocate for his clients using the clear, concise, and well-reasoned arguments that judges find persuasive, whether at critical trial moments or on appeal.

During law school, Ryan earned both a JD and a Master of Laws in International and Comparative law, while also serving as an editor of the *Duke Law Journal*. From his study of the world's legal systems, Ryan knows how to approach his clients' legal problems from different, and often unexplored, angles.

Ryan was selected as a member of the Houston Young Lawyers Association's Leadership Academy for 2018–2019. He currently serves on the Houston Young Lawyer's Association's Board of Directors. He is also a member of the Federal Bar Association, Houston Bar Association, and Texas Supreme Court Historical Society.

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- J.D., Duke University School of Law, 2017, cum laude; Editorial Board, *Duke Law Journal*
- LL.M., in International and Comparative Law, Duke University School of Law, 2017
- B.A., University of Kentucky, 2014, summa cum laude

CLERKSHIPS

- Law Clerk to the Honorable Lee H. Rosenthal, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, August 2018 - August 2019
- Law Clerk to the Honorable Gerald B. Tjoflat, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, August 2017 - August 2018

ADMISSIONS

- Texas

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
 - U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
 - U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas
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PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "[Appellate Review of Non-Economic Damages: Thoughts in Response](#)," co-author, *Texas Bar Journal*, January 2024.
 - "The Texas Third Court of Appeals Weighs in on Production Sharing Agreement Wells," author, Haynes Boone client alert, July 10, 2023.
 - Columnist for *The Appellate Lawyer* publication of the Houston Bar Association:
 - "[The Casteel Doctrine, Evidence, and Argument: Horton v. Kansas City Southern Railway Co.](#)," November 2023.
 - "[The Texas Supreme Court's 'Utilitarian Standpoint' in Contract Construction](#)," June 2023.
 - "[The Fate of the Texas Law of the Case Doctrine after Mitschke v. Borromeo](#)," February 2023.
 - "[Issue v. Argument Preservation](#)," October 2022.
 - "[A Couple Developments in Preserving Evidentiary Errors in Summary Judgment Practice](#)," July 2022.
 - "[The Timing of Record Supplements on Appeal](#)," April 2022.
 - "[The Scope of Permissive Interlocutory Appeals in Texas](#)," January 2022.
 - "[The Primary Jurisdiction Doctrine's 'Inherently Judicial' Boundary Under Texas Law](#)," October 2021.
 - "[The Use of Scattergrams to Challenge Extreme Verdicts: A Case Study](#)," co-author, *The Texas Lawbook*, September 19, 2023.
 - "[The Texas Supreme Court's 'Utilitarian Standpoint' in Contract Construction](#)," June 2023.
 - "[Straehla's Presumed Duties](#)," author, *The Houston Lawyer*, Volume 58 – Number 6, May/June 2021.
 - "Midstream Gas Gathering and Processing Agreements in Bankruptcy – A Hot Topic," presenter, Haynes and Boone, LLP's Oil Crash Course, October 14, 2020.
 - "Fifth Circuit Update," co-author, *The Appellate Advocate*, State Bar of Texas Appellate Section, 2020–present.
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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ENGAGEMENTS

- Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Texas Supreme Court Historical Society, Member
- Houston Bar Association, Appellate Practice Section, Council Member, 2023 – present
- Houston Young Lawyers Foundation, Fellow, Class 2020
- Houston Young Lawyers Association, Board of Directors, 2020-2021
- Houston Young Lawyers Association, Leadership Academy, 2018–2019