

Sylvia A. Matthews



Of Counsel

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PRACTICE AREAS

Litigation

EDUCATION

JD, 1986, University of South Carolina, South Carolina Law Review, Moot Court Bar, National Moot Court Team, Order of the Barrister, Order of the Wig & Robe

BS, 1983, *cum laude*, The College of Charleston, Sigma Alpha Phi (Honor Society), Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa

ADMITTED

Texas 1986

US Supreme Court

US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

US District Court for the Northern District of Texas

US District Court for the Southern District of Texas

US District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

During her 20 plus years of practice, Sylvia has represented clients with a diverse docket of commercial disputes and personal injury cases. Her commercial experience includes defending clients in cases involving claims of misappropriation of trade secrets, tortious interference with contracts, fraud, breach of representations and warranties, and breach of non-compete agreements. Her representation in personal injury cases includes claims resulting from alleged premises liability, products liability (including pharmaceuticals) and medical malpractice. Sylvia has first chair trial and arbitration experience and has handled cases in both federal and state courts.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Defended a public entity and its employees against claims of Civil Rights Act violations, RICO violations and misappropriation of trade secrets, among others. On defendants' motion, the Court dismissed many of the claims. The case subsequently settled on favorable terms.
- Served as lead counsel in federal court representing a Swedish company that allegedly misappropriated trade secrets of a Texas company. The court dismissed the complaint after finding that there was no general or specific jurisdiction over the Swedish company.
- Represented an oilfield tool manufacturer as lead counsel before a three person arbitration panel involving claims of misappropriation of trade secrets following an acquisition of a new product line.
- Acted as lead counsel in trial court and on appeal involving commercial dispute over breach of contract where patent rights and royalties were at issue. The Court granted summary judgment in favor of our client and the judgment was affirmed on appeal.
- Defended health care providers in medical malpractice claims in which plaintiffs suffered a variety of permanent injuries.
- Served as lead counsel in defending company and its employees in breach of contract claims involving non-compete clauses.

BRIEFINGS, SEMINARS & SPEECHES

Recent CLE Presentations

- "Lawyers in the Movies: What We Can Learn From Their Ethical Dilemmas," Andrews Kurth Executive Women's Retreat (October 2008)

Sylvia A. Matthews

- "Electronic Discovery: Preservation and Spoliation," El Paso Corporation (April 2005)
- "Client Discovery and Spoliation (Lessons Learned from *Zubulake v. UBS Warburg*)," Andrews Kurth Executive Women's Retreat (November 2004)

PROFESSIONAL/CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

Member

- Houston Bar Association
- Texas Association of Defense Counsel
- Defense Research Institute
- Leadership Texas, Class of 2005

Advisory Board Member - Main Street Theater, 2004 to present

Life Fellow - Texas Bar Foundation

Fellow - Houston Bar Foundation