

Phillip

Partner

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Phillip Sampson has spent decades aggressively advocating for his clients' interests in complex business disputes. Phillip's consistent approach to preparing a matter for trial or arbitration emphasizes thoroughness, creativity, and practicality. *Chambers USA* has reported that clients consider Phillip "a very accomplished, intelligent and diligent attorney," and *The Legal 500 United States* has reported clients' praise for Phillip's "great trial preparation and presentation." Phillip's significant courtroom experience led to his admission as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). He has twice been recognized in *VerdictSearch's* "Top Texas Verdicts" (2009 and 2010) for jury verdicts he obtained involving fraud and breach of contract. Phillip was named the Texas "Litigator of the Week" by the *Texas Lawyer* in October 2015 for his defense victory in a \$25 million commercial dispute, and he has been recognized in *The Legal 500 United States* (2011-2015, 2016, 2018, 2023), *Best Lawyers in America* (2021-2024), and *Chambers USA* (2013-2014).

Phillip is co-chair of the firm's construction litigation practice group, and he represents clients in a diverse range of complex business litigation and arbitration matters involving the energy, construction, manufacturing, steel, oil field services, chemical, petrochemical, software, financial services, consumer products, and real estate sectors. Phillip has experience and a particular focus on matters involving contract and payment issues, fraud and other business torts, construction defects, products liability, consumer protection claims, personal injury, real estate and landlord/tenant issues, and trade secret and intellectual property rights for both plaintiffs and defendants. Phillip has also successfully handled a number of appeals at the state and federal level.

Industries

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Practices

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In addition to his client responsibilities, Phillip has served various roles in firm management, including membership on the firm's Management Committee, as Hiring Partner, and as a member of the Associate Evaluation Committee.

Credentials

Education

- Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology, J.D., 1993, *with honors*

Bar Admissions

- Texas

American College of Trial Lawyers

- Fellow

American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)

- Member

ALM Media Properties, LLC

- *VerdictSearch*, Top Texas Verdicts, 2009 – 2010

Chambers USA

- Construction, 2013 – 2014

The Legal 500 United States

- Construction (including Construction Litigation), 2011 – 2015, 2016, 2018, 2023 – 2024

BL Rankings

- *Best Lawyers*, Commercial Litigation, 2021 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Litigation – Real Estate, 2023 – 2025

Thomson Reuters

- *Texas Super Lawyers*, 2017 – 2020
- *Texas Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, 2004, 2006 – 2007

Lawdragon Inc.

- *Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America*, Complex Business Litigation, including Energy, 2025

Internet Brands, Inc.

- *Martindale-Hubbell® AV® Preeminent™ Rating*

Houston Bar Association

- *President's Award for Outstanding Service, 2006-2007*

Resources

Texas Supreme Court Clarifies Scope of Property Owners' Statutory Protections

Update

The New Rules: Liability Limitations for Construction Design Defects in Texas

Update

The New Rules (Part 2): Restrictions on the Duty to Defend for Architects and Engineers

Update

The COVID-19 Change Order

Update

Improper Jury Argument: Texas Courts' Recent Focus on Unsubstantiated Anchoring

Update

Important Terms for Price Escalation Clauses to Mitigate the Inflationary Effect of Tariffs on Construction Materials

Update

Publications & Speeches

- "The COVID-19 Change Order," (Bracewell), July 20, 2022.
- "The New Rules (Part 2): Restrictions on the Duty to Defend for Architects and Engineers," (Bracewell), October 7, 2021.
- "The New Rules: Liability Limitations for Construction Design Defects in Texas," (Bracewell), September 22, 2021.
- "Managing Legal Spend – Perspectives From The Outside," *Consero General Counsel Conference*, June 15, 2021.

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- “Texas Supreme Court Clarifies Scope of Property Owners’ Statutory Protections,” (Bracewell), March 29, 2021.
- “Understand and Define Key Substantive Contract Provisions,” *Construction Executive*, December 2019.
- “Define the Forum and Scope of Recovery in Contract Disputes,” *Construction Executive*, December 2019.
- “Negotiating Your ‘Standard’ Construction Contract,” Bracewell’s *Spotlight on Public Finance*, Spring 2019.
- “Steel And Aluminum Tariffs? Can You Turn To Your Force Majeure Clause?,” *The National Law Review*, May 14, 2018.
- “Texas Weighs In: Do Contractors Have Blanket Indemnity?,” *Law 360*, August 15, 2016.
- “Texas Supreme Court Narrows The Ability Of General Contractors To Seek Chapter 82 Indemnity For Product Claims,” (Bracewell), June 24, 2016.
- “Effectively Managing Product Issues,” *Industry Week*, June 15, 2015.