

W. Stephen

Partner

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Steve Benesh is a seasoned business litigator in his 36th year of practice at Bracewell. He currently serves as President Elect of the State Bar of Texas and is a former Chair of the Texas Bar Foundation.

Steve brings his experience and judgment to bear in helping his clients resolve their issues, whether that means vigorously protecting those interests in the courtroom or working collaboratively to reach a common-sense solution outside the courtroom. He has represented clients in diverse matters, including securities, class action, business torts, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, deceptive trade practices, breach of contract, and products liability. Steve has first-chair jury and non-jury trial experience representing plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal courts, as well as arbitration and mediation experience.

Steve's qualities have been described by sources quoted by *Chambers USA*. "Stephen is practical and business-oriented, he anticipates issues well and his work product is great," says one source. "He is a results-oriented lawyer," says another. In addition to his ranking in *Chambers USA* in Texas Litigation: Securities and General Commercial (2023-2024), Steve is recognized by BL Rankings, *Best Lawyers* (2009-2024) in the areas of Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Banking and Finance Litigation and Construction Litigation. In addition, he has been honored by the same publication four times as Austin Lawyer of the Year in Banking and Finance litigation (2014, 2016, 2024) and Construction Litigation (2022). In *The Legal 500 United States*, Steve is recommended in Energy Litigation: Oil and Gas (2023); Dispute Resolution – General Commercial Disputes (2023); Dispute Resolution – Securities Litigation: Defense (2018, 2020-2023); Construction (including Construction Litigation) (2016-2018); and Construction (2013 – 2014).

Industries

[Energy](#)

[Finance](#)

Practices

[Financial Institutions](#)

[Litigation](#)

[Financial Institutions Litigation](#)

Credentials

Education

- Tulane University, J.D., 1987
- Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, B.A., Business Administration, 1984

Bar Admissions

- Texas

Chambers USA

- Texas Litigation: General Commercial, 2023 – 2024

The Legal 500 United States

- Energy Litigation: Oil and Gas, 2023
- Dispute Resolution – General Commercial Disputes, 2023
- Dispute Resolution – Securities Litigation: Defense, 2018, 2020 – 2024
- Construction (including Construction Litigation), 2016 – 2018
- Construction, 2013 – 2014

BL Rankings

- *Best Lawyers*, 2009 – 2025
- Austin Lawyer of the Year, Litigation – Banking and Finance, 2014, 2016, 2024
- Austin Lawyer of the Year, Litigation – Construction, 2022

Lawdragon Inc.

- *Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America*, Commercial Litigation, including Business and Energy, 2024 – 2025

Thomson Reuters

- *Texas Super Lawyers*, 2006 – 2013, 2016 – 2023
- *Super Lawyers*, Corporate Counsel Edition, 2008 – 2013

American City Business Journals

- *Austin Business Journal*, Person of Power, 2006
- Best of Business Attorneys, 2004, 2005

State Bar of Texas

- Presidential Citation for Outstanding Service, 2014

Austin Bar Association

- President's Award for Outstanding Service, 2002, 2003

Internet Brands, Inc.

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

Resources

Revisiting Force Majeure and Other Contractual Considerations Amid COVID-19

Update

Dealing With Opposing Counsel the Ted Lasso Way

Article

Publications & Speeches

- "Dealing With Opposing Counsel the Ted Lasso Way," *Austin Lawyer*, October 2022.
- "Understanding Recent Changes to AIA Form Contracts," *Construction Executive*, November 28, 2017.
- "The Impact of Full Disclosure," *Construction Today*, April 17, 2017.
- "Bench Strength-Preparing New Attorneys for the Courtroom," *Austin Lawyer*, Dec 2016/Jan 2017.
- "Denied Rule Petitions in Texas Will Have No Day in Court," *Law360*, July 30, 2014.
- "Finally, Clarity On Spoliation Under Texas Law," *Law360*, July 11, 2014.