

Stephen T. Dennis

Member

Stephen T. Dennis' practice primarily focuses on helping clients find creative solutions to solve legal problems. He strives to educate his clients regarding their legal rights and provides them with several solutions to further their goals. To do this, Steve creates or revises documents that protect client interests, provides pre-litigation counseling, litigation, trial and appellate practice.

While he is capable of serving clients in many industries, he primarily works with clients who need help regarding transportation, energy, and insurance related issues.

EXPERIENCE

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

- Represented and negotiated favorable settlements for transportation brokers in freight damage and stolen freight cases in Montgomery County, PA; Travis County, TX; Webb County, IL
- Represented and negotiated favorable settlements for a motor carrier in various lease-on disputes located in Atascosa County
- Counseled and advised a public utility on the applicability of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (FMCSA and PHMSA) to their fleet of trucks
- Obtained summary judgment in defense of a personal injury claim related to pallets falling out of the back of a trailer in Bexar County
- Represented and negotiated favorable settlements for various trucking companies and their drivers in defense of personal injury claims made in Bexar County, Cameron County, Dallas County, Hays County, Hidalgo County, and Webb County
- Represented and negotiated favorable settlements for various trucking companies in defense of property damage claims made in Bexar County, Comal County, Kames County, Nueces County, and Hidalgo County
- Successfully transferred case in federal court for a transportation company seeking to defend a breach of contract claim, which led to a favorable settlement
- Assisted in obtaining a summary judgment in support of a shipper's claim that it had no duty to comply with the FMCSA's Hours of Service Rules. See *Caballero v. Archer*, No. SA-04-CA-561-OG, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 12271 (W.D. Tex. 2007)
- Counseled and advised a trucking company on non-compete issues
- Counseled and advised a concrete company on best practices related to installing dash-cam videos into its ready-mix cement trucks
- Obtained dismissal of freight damage claim based on the Cormack Amendment in the U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division
- Represented and negotiated favorable settlements for various trucking companies seeking and defending freight damage claims
- Represented and negotiated favorable settlements for various trucking companies seeking and defending cargo claims in Bexar County and Webb County
- Obtained defense verdict in the defense of a drayage service and its driver in a claim involving a motor carrier safety citation
- Represented and negotiated favorable settlements for school districts in defense of personal injury claims related to school bus accidents in Bexar County and Nueces County
- Obtained summary judgment in defense of personal injury claim related to an auto accident in Bexar County based on plaintiff's failure to use due diligence in serving defendant
- Removed personal injury claims related to auto accidents from Maverick County District Court to federal court using alienage jurisdiction and obtained dismissals based on plaintiff's failure to comply with Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
- Obtained summary judgment for a tractor trailer driver in a personal injury claim made in Webb County.
- Assisted transportation broker in the creation of a standard broker/carrier agreement as well as a standard broker/shipper agreement
- Assisted oil gathering company with the creation of indemnity language for use in oil purchasing contracts
- Assisted oil gathering company with the purchase and acquisition of another oil gathering company
- Assisted oil gathering company with counsel and advice regarding employee issues
- Assisted motor carrier with worker's compensation claims including benefit review conferences and contested



Office

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Education

J.D., summa cum laude, St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, Texas, 2003, St. Mary's Law Journal, Comment Editor; John M. Harlan Society; Phi Delta Phi

The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, 1996, M.P.A.

B.A., The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, 1995

State Bar Licenses

Texas

Court Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. District Ct., E.D. of Texas

U.S. District Ct., N.D. of Texas

U.S. District Ct., S.D. of Texas

U.S. District Ct., W.D. of Texas

U.S. Court of Federal Claims

case hearings

BUSINESS, COMMERCIAL & ENERGY

- Represented and negotiated favorable settlement in a partnership dispute for a bar located in Bexar County
- Represented and negotiated favorable settlement between a motor carrier, a factoring company, and an oil services company in a significant dispute related to the payment of frac sand hauling services
- Assisted in the discovery process of a significant transaction before the Texas Public Utilities Commission regarding the purchase of power transmission lines
- Represented and obtained a favorable settlement on behalf of an investor seeking the return of his investment in an oil and gas venture in Webb County
- Obtained a favorable settlement on behalf of an oil gathering company related to downstream condensate allegedly smuggled into Texas from Mexico
- Obtained a favorable bench trial verdict in a commercial debt collection action in Tarrant County
- Represented and obtained favorable settlements on behalf of various nursing homes in commercial debt collection actions in Travis County, Bexar County and Harris County
- Represented and obtained favorable settlement on behalf of a trucking company in a commercial debt collection action in Bexar County and Guadalupe County
- Represented and obtained death penalty sanctions in an e-discovery dispute related to an insurance fraud claim in the United States Bankruptcy Court - Western District of Texas - El Paso Division
- Represented and obtained favorable settlement on behalf of a landowner's Association regarding a dispute over an easement, large boulder and fines issued against a landowner
- Represented and obtained a favorable settlement on behalf of an oil services company in a worker's compensation retaliation claim located in Dimmitt County
- Represented and obtained a favorable settlement on behalf of a geologist seeking to receive his interest in a royalty partnership agreement in Goliad County
- Assisted in representing a securities broker in a proceeding before FINRA
- Obtained a favorable settlement on behalf of a flooring subcontractor in a dispute involving wood flooring installed in a San Antonio residential high rise
- Obtained favorable settlements for a large industrial construction company involving subcontractor and owner disputes in Harris County and Bexar County

PREMISES LIABILITY

- Represented and negotiated favorable settlements for various restaurants in defense of premises liability claims made in Bexar County, Nueces County, Travis County, Hidalgo County and Johnson County
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a restaurant related to a defamation claim made in Bexar County. See Lopez v. Sonic Restaurants, Inc., No. 04-10-00318-CV, 2010 Tex. App. LEXIS 8235 (Tex. App. - San Antonio October 13, 2010, pet. denied)
- Obtained dismissal based on a Plea to the Jurisdiction in a trip and fall claim against a local housing authority

INSURANCE COVERAGE

- Assisted in obtaining a final summary judgment for a health insurance company regarding a breach of contract claim. See Fermin v. United HealthCare Ins. Co., 138 Fed. Appx. 638 (5th Cir. 2005)
- Represented and negotiated favorable settlements on behalf of insurance companies in defense of mold claims in Nueces County
- Represented and negotiated favorable settlement on behalf of a stop loss insurance company regarding a breach of contract claim in Kerr County
- Represented and negotiated favorable settlement on behalf of a group mortgage accidental death insurance company regarding a breach of contract claim in Bexar County

PRODUCT LIABILITY

- Represented and obtained favorable settlement on behalf of a carpet manufacturer in defense of a fiberglass exposure claim in Cameron County
- Assisted in obtaining the voluntary dismissal of a lift kit manufacturer in a products liability claim in Duval County
- Represented and obtained the voluntary dismissal of a company who reconditions automatic shrink wrap machines in a products liability claim in Bexar County
- Represented and obtained favorable settlement on behalf of a thermostat manufacturer in defense of a fire

damage claim in Nueces County

PRESENTATIONS

- *Broker Involvement in a Cargo Claim: Deal Maker, Deal Breaker, or No Deal*, Transportation Lawyer's Association Annual Meeting (May, 2019)
- Panelist. *Alright, You've Got the Goods - Now What? When the Music Stops: What To Do When the Cargo and/or Tractor Trailer Stops*, Transportation Lawyers Association's Webinar Series (February 2018)
- Panelist. *PR: Moving It from Perfunctory to Priority*, Annual Texas NAHRO Conference (June 2017)
- Panelist. *Email Etiquette & Errors*, Housing Authorities of Texas Symposium (November 2016)
- Panelist. *Challenges for Housing Authorities*, Housing Authorities of Texas Symposium (November 2015)
- *Ouch That Hurt! Shipper/Carrier Liability to Drivers and Third Parties for Improperly Loaded Freight (at the Liability Interstices Where Casualty and Cargo Collide)*, Transportation Lawyers Association (March 2015)
- *The Dos & Don'ts: The RFP/RFQ Process for Legal Counsel*, Housing Authorities of Texas Symposium (November 2014)
- Co-presenter. *Board Liability: Fiduciary Duties & Best Practices*, Texas Housing Authority Conference (August 2014)
- Panelist. *Employment Law Q&A*, Housing Authorities of Texas Symposium (November 2013)
- *Case Presentation: DHL Express (USA), Inc. v. Falcon Express International, Inc.*, Conference of Freight Counsel (June 2013)
- *Case Presentation: Starke v. UPS*, Conference of Freight Counsel (January 2013)
- Panelist. *Ask the Lawyer*, Housing Authority of Texas Symposium (November 2012)
- *Case Presentation: Travelers Property Casualty Company of America v. Breeding Heavy Haulers, Inc.*, Conference of Freight Counsel (June 2012)
- Truck driver's mom seeks help freeing son from Mexican jail, Jonesey's All Night Truck Stop, SiriusXM Satellite Radio.Ch.106 (May 2012)
- *Basic Litigation Primer for Housing Authority Executives*, Annual Texas NAHRO Conference (April 2012)

PUBLICATIONS

- *Browning Oil Co. v. Luecke: Has Texas Illuminated a Dark Distinction Between Vertical and Horizontal Drilling?*, St. Mary's Law Journal 215 (2002)

MEDIA

- *Local Attorneys Weigh In On the Hot Topics for 2015*, San Antonio Business Journal (January 2015)
- *Full Speed Ahead?*, San Antonio Business Journal (May 2014)
- *Pig or Prince? Cleaning Up Your CSA Scores May Call for an Extreme Makeover*, Big Rig Owner (March 2013)

Practices, Industries & Services

Automotive & Manufacturing
Construction Law
Energy & Utilities
Healthcare
Litigation
Transportation & Logistics

Memberships

- Federal Bar Association (San Antonio), Past President
- State Bar of Texas, Litigation Section
- San Antonio Bar Association, Member
- American Trucking Association, Member
- Texas Trucking Association, Emerging Leaders Council
- Transportation Lawyer's Association, Webinar Committee, Co-Chair
- Conference of Freight Counsel, Member
- Transportation Intermediary Association, Member

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- Susan G. Komen Foundation, San Antonio, Former Race for the Cure Committee Member
 - University United Methodist Church Day School, Former Board of Directors Member
 - Arthritis Foundation, San Antonio Chapter, Board Member

Honors

- Named AV Preeminent by Martindale Hubble
- Named among the Best Lawyers in Business Litigation and Transport & Marine Law by San Antonio Scene Magazine (2015)
- Named Texas Super Lawyers' Rising Star by Thomson Reuters (2008-2013)
- Recipient of the Strasburger Richard Davis Litigation Associate Award (2007)
- Named among the Best Lawyers in General Litigation by San Antonio Scene Magazine (2018)