


People



Kristen McDanald

Partner, Litigation

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vCard

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Kristen McDanald focuses her practice on insurance coverage from providing practical advice regarding managing extra-contractual risk exposure to representing carriers in active litigation. Kristen has first and second chair trial experience, in a variety of civil litigation matters, and also has appellate experience. She has taught evening classes on appellate advocacy for five years as an adjunct and is an active volunteer in the community. Prior to graduation, she interned at the Harris County District Attorney's Office with a temporary law license and participated in more than 200 hearings. While pursuing a career in civil law, she was also sworn in to the Special Prosecution Unit of the Texas Attorney General's Office and obtained Guardian ad Litem certification.

Notable Work

Nnaka v. Mejia: Appellate court upheld underlying trial verdict and award against Plaintiff counsel for sanctionable conduct.

Royal Hospitality Corp. v. Underwriters at Lloyds, et al.: Obtained judgment as a matter of law against plaintiff Royal Hospitality, a restaurant operator seeking contractual and extracontractual damages from insurance carriers due to alleged damages to scheduled properties due to Hurricane Harvey.

Allied World National Assurance Co. v. The Howard Hughes Corp. et. al.: Represented Plaintiff Allied World in declaratory judgment suit against The Howard Hughes Corporation and The Woodlands Land Development Company, LP. Upon receipt of the dec action petition, purported insureds voluntarily dropped request for coverage in connection with related underlying Hurricane Harvey lawsuit, resulting in dismissal of insurance coverage declaratory judgment action as now moot.

Randy Durham v. Hallmark County Mutual Ins. Co.: Appellate court upheld district court's dismissal of matter for lack of subject matter

Areas of Experience

Litigation
Insurance Litigation

Education

J.D., South Texas College of Law, 2008, Spurgeon E. Bell Scholar; Dean's Merit Scholar; National Champion Appellate Advocacy; Regional Champion Appellate Advocacy; Heart of the South Texas Advocate
B.A., University of Texas, Government, 2005, with honors

Admissions

Bars

Texas
Georgia

Courts

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas
U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
U.S. Supreme Court

Related Content

Texas Lawyer Recognizes Kristen McDanald, Xakema Henderson, and Todd Reed in 2024 Legal Awards
September 05, 2024

112 Akerman Lawyers Across the U.S. Named to 2023 *Super Lawyers* and Rising Stars Lists
September 28, 2023

Record Number of Akerman Lawyers Named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2024 Guide
August 22, 2023

jurisdiction in an attempted direct action lawsuit against insurance carrier.

Rosales v. Hilcorp Energy Co.: Obtained minor settlement judgment, to settle and protect against further claims exposure against Helmerich & Payne, Inc. and Helmerich & Payne Int'l Drilling Co.

Brewer et al. v. Suzuki Motor of America Inc. et al.: Obtained dismissal of a fuel-system defect suit against Suzuki Motor Corp. of Japan failed to directly serve the company in compliance with the Hague Convention requirements or to indirectly serve the company through an authorized subsidiary.

Robert Castro and Jeremiah Flores v. Eighteen Seventy Strand Corp. dba The Hotel Galvez and The Hotel Galvez: Obtained jury trial verdict in favor of defendants; personal injury plaintiffs who fell through wooden staircase during beer delivery to the hotel awarded \$0 recovery.

Affiliations

- Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation
- State Bar of Texas
- American Bar Association
- Houston Bar Association
- Houston Young Lawyers Association
- Fellow of Houston Young Lawyers Foundation
- Texas Association of Defense Counsel
- Hermann Park Conservancy – Advisory Board Member
- Junior League of Houston

Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers*, 2023-2025, Listed in Texas for Insurance Law
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2016-2024, Listed in Texas as a “Rising Star” for Civil Litigation: Defense
- *Texas Lawyer's* Texas Legal Awards, 2024, “On the Rise,” Honoree
- Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Houston Young Lawyers Foundation, Fellow
- *Houstonia Magazine*, 2018, Listed in “Top Lawyers in Houston” for Insurance

Related Professional Experience

- South Texas College of Law, Adjunct Professor of Appellate Advocacy, 2008-2013

Published Work and Lectures

- *TADC Bi-Annual Report*, Co-Author, Texas Association of Defense Counsel, Bi-Annual “Insurance Law Update,” 2012 – Present
- CLE Co-Author and Lector, “Avoiding Bad Faith Claims Settlement Practices in Texas,” 2015 – Present
- ABA Oil & Gas Committee Article, Author, “BP to Pay Largest Criminal Penalty in U.S. History,” Spring 2015
- ABA Oil & Gas Committee Article, Author, “D.C. Circuit Reigns in the EPA,” Fall 2014
- ABA Oil & Gas Committee Article, Author, “Supreme Court Upholds EPA’s Transport Rule,” Spring 2014