

People



Xakema L. Henderson

Partner, Litigation

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Xakema Henderson focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation. She has experience litigating high-stakes matters in state and federal court and has litigated a wide range of issues, including insurance coverage and bad faith matters; data breach, privacy, and cybersecurity matters; and complex business disputes. She has defended restaurants, universities, and an international automaker in nationwide class actions, including in multi-district litigation.

Xakema also represents major insurance companies in connection with claims of significant exposure that pose extreme risk of loss to the company. She advises insurance companies not only on related policy coverage issues and disputes, but also on overall environmental regulatory compliance and preventive measures to avoid similar disputes and mitigate future risks. Xakema and her team have significant experience handling environmental coverage issues, including those involving emerging contaminants such as PFAS, PFOA, PFOS, and GenX.

Before entering private practice, Xakema clerked for the Honorable Justice William W. Hood, III of the Colorado Supreme Court.

Notable Work

Insurance Coverage Dispute: Represented a global insurance company in a complex environmental insurance coverage dispute involving the disposal of contaminated railroad crossties. Under Louisiana's direct action statute, two railroad companies sought reimbursement under the company's pollution policy after a formerly insured company filed for bankruptcy, leaving the railroads to bear the cost of remediating the company's contaminated property. The railroads sued to recover the more than \$1.5 million in remediation costs they had allegedly incurred and for bad faith. The parties filed cross-motions for summary judgment on the issue of coverage, but the trial court denied both parties' motions. On appeal, the court granted the client's motion for summary judgment and dismissed the railroad companies' claims in their entirety.

Areas of Experience

Insurance Litigation
Litigation
Commercial Disputes
Environmental Litigation
PFAS Litigation and Regulatory Counseling

Education

J.D., University of Colorado Law School, 2014
B.B.A., Texas A&M University, Finance, 2009

Admissions

Bars

Colorado
Texas

Courts

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas
U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas
U.S. District Court, District of Colorado
U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit

Related Content

Akerman Attorneys Provide Insights Into the Future of PFAS Regulation Under Trump
February 04, 2025

Benchmark Litigation Recognizes 34 Akerman Lawyers in its 2025 Rankings of the Leading Litigators in the United States
October 17, 2024

Seventeen Akerman Partners Named to *Benchmark Litigation's* 40 & Under List
September 09, 2024

First-Chair Trial Counsel: Represented a major automaker in a breach of warranty action. Plaintiff alleged that a smart feature in a recently purchased luxury vehicle did not function as warranted by the automaker and sought a full refund for the vehicle. The court found that no warranty was breached and entered a take-nothing judgment in favor of the automaker.

Data Privacy and Cybersecurity: Represented a national restaurant chain in a putative nationwide data privacy class action in federal court. The plaintiff-financial institutions asserted various negligence-related claims against the restaurant after third parties breached the restaurant's payment card system. The financial institutions alleged that they had incurred millions of dollars in damages for having to make whole their customers whose payment card information was compromised. The court granted the restaurant's motion to dismiss all of the claims.

Commercial Litigation: Represented a commercial landlord in a lease dispute against a former tenant. After oral argument, the court granted summary judgment against the tenant-retailer.

Appellate: Represented a trust beneficiary in obtaining confirmation of a \$5 million judgment against the commercial trustee for breach of fiduciary duty and negligence. The Supreme Court of Texas requested briefs on the merits of the trustee's appeal but subsequently rejected the trustee's request to reduce the \$5 million-judgment.

Related Professional Experience

- Law Clerk to the Honorable Justice William W. Hood, III, Colorado Supreme Court

Honors and Distinctions

- *Texas Lawyer's* Texas Legal Awards, 2024, "Pro Bono Attorney of the Year," Finalist
- *Best Lawyers*, 2021-2023, Listed in Texas for Commercial Litigation, Insurance Law as "One to Watch"
- *Bloomberg Law*, 2024, "They've Got Next: The 40 Under 40"
- *Benchmark Litigation*, 2025, Listed in Texas as a "Future Star" for Dispute Resolution
- *Benchmark Litigation*, 2024, Named to the "40 & Under" List
- *Texas Lawyer's* Texas Legal Awards, 2023, "Rising Star" Honoree
- *Dallas Business Journal*, 2023, 40 under 40 Honoree
- *ColoradoBiz*, 2018, Listed in Top 25 Most Influential Young Professionals in Colorado
- *Law Week Colorado*, 2017, Listed in Up and Coming Lawyers
- Colorado Black Women for Political Action (CBWPA), 2017, Honoree for Community Leadership in Law and Service

Published Work and Lectures

- *International E-Discovery*, Co-author, U.S. Chapter on E-Discovery Practices, 2018
- *Survey of Federal Class Action Law: A Circuit-by-Circuit Analysis*, Chapter Co-author, "Precedent in the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit," 2018