

# DONALD B. HIGHTOWER



**Senior Associate**  
**[713.752.8609](tel:713.752.8609)**  
**[dhightower@craincaton.com](mailto:dhightower@craincaton.com)**  
[Download vCard](#)

## Overview

Don Hightower assists clients in the areas of probate litigation, estate and probate administration, and guardianship, as well as in general civil litigation.

Don's practice includes representing fiduciaries and beneficiaries in the State of Texas in matters relating to probate and trust administration, accounting and administration issues, as well as prosecution and defense of fiduciary claims.

Before attending law school, Don spent eleven years managing professional arts organizations in Ohio and Texas. During this time, Don acquired valuable experience working with numerous collective bargaining groups affiliated with the performing arts. In 2000, Don managed all logistics related to leading a major American orchestra on a ten-day European tour. Don benefits his clients by bringing his diverse background and practical experience to solve problems across a number of different practice areas, while working productively with a multitude of different, and sometimes difficult, personalities.

Don was identified as a 2017 and 2018 Texas Rising Star in the Super Lawyers Magazine, a Thomson Reuters publication.

Outside the office, Don is married and has two children. He is a volunteer coach for the Klein Soccer Club, and the cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 1325. In his spare time, Don enjoys baseball, soccer, and wine.

## Practices

[Commercial Litigation](#)  
[Estate, Trust and Wealth Planning](#)  
[Fiduciary Litigation](#)  
[Probate, Trust and Guardianship](#)  
[Appellate](#)

## Education

- J.D., South Texas College of Law
- M.B.A., M.A., B.F.A., Southern Methodist University

## Admissions & Certifications

- State Bar of Texas
- United States District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of Texas

## Experience

- Obtained a pre-discovery dismissal for a national life insurance company against claims of fraud and negligent representation in matter related to a voluntary employees' beneficiary plan (VEBA)
- Assisted in obtaining a take-nothing summary judgement for a national life insurance company against third-party claims for contribution and indemnity related to the use of life insurance policy contracts issued to fund a 412(i) welfare benefit plan
- Assisted in obtaining a take-nothing summary judgement and dismissal for a national life insurance company against claims of rescission and breach of life insurance policy contracts issued to fund a 412(i) welfare benefit plan. The judgment was subsequently affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit based upon a brief authored by Mr. Hightower
- Obtained a take-nothing summary judgement in a life insurance dispute involving allegations of breach of contract, negligence, and violations of the Texas Insurance Code and DTPA relating to a \$500,000 policy

## Affiliations

- State Bar of Texas, ad litem in guardianship proceedings
- State Bar of Texas, Appellate Law Section, member
- State Bar of Texas, Insurance Law Section, member
- State Bar of Texas, Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section, member
- State Bar of Texas, Entertainment and Sports Law Section, member
- Houston Bar Association

## Honors & Awards

- Texas Rising Star, Super Lawyers, Thomson Reuters, 2017-2018