

Allison Beckham *Shareholder*

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Overview

Allison Beckham focuses primarily on commercial and fiduciary litigation at the trial and appellate levels, as well as in arbitration. She has successfully represented both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide variety of cases, including cases involving breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, partnership and business disputes, and contested probate matters.

Effective litigation requires mastering a wealth of complex details to reveal the simple and coherent narrative, which informs every aspect of the case, and shows how to win. Allison enjoys the strategy and high-level legal analysis required to successfully defend or prosecute complex litigation. She utilizes teams that include not only other attorneys and legal assistants in the firm but, most importantly, the client.

Allison's interest in litigation began in college when she received her B.A. with highest honors in 2002 and her J.D. with honors in 2005 from the University of Texas. Her experience in the legal profession began as an intern for the Honorable Tom Price of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals where she learned how judges think, what they expect from trial counsel, and that crucial details often determine which party wins or loses.

Before joining Crain Caton & James, Allison was an associate at an AmLaw 100 firm where, through formal training and hands-on experiences, she developed effective litigation strategies and an appreciation for precision.

While at Crain Caton & James, Allison has gained significant jury trial experience and advocated for her clients' interests to judges throughout the state. Her courtroom experience has taught her that, to be effective, a litigator must identify and focus on the client's ultimate goal and nothing else.

Allison was selected to the 2015-2018 Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars lists

Education

University of Texas School of Law, J.D.,
with honors, 2005

University of Texas at Austin, B.A.,
Highest Honors, 2002

Practice Areas

Commercial Litigation

Fiduciary Litigation

Appellate

(Thomson Reuters). Only 2.5 percent of lawyers in the state were selected.

Admissions

Texas, 2005

United States District Courts for the
Southern and Eastern Districts of Texas

Representative Experience

- Represented multiple businesses in prosecuting claims in arbitration for breach of contract and deceptive trade practices against a publicly traded company; after a five-day hearing, obtained an award from the AAA for more than 10 times the last settlement offer
- Represented a corporate trustee in appealing an order removing the trustee; the Court of Appeals reversed and remanded finding an abuse of discretion by the trial court
- Defended a construction services company against multimillion-dollar breach of lease and environmental claims made both in the district court and with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Prosecuted claims against insurance companies for breach of the policy and violations of the Insurance Code
- Defended members of an energy company against claims of member oppression, breach of fiduciary duty, and breach of the company agreement, which were brought in arbitration
- Defended numerous former employees of Plaintiff against claims for breach of non-solicitation provisions, breach of fiduciary duties, and tortious interference with existing contract
- Represented minority shareholders in a dispute between closely held corporations involving breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, self-dealing, lease construction, and minority oppression claims
- Defended a geophysical services company and its principal against claims of breach of a confidentiality agreement and breach of fiduciary duty brought by a competitor
- Represented an international oil company in a highly-contested breach of contract case involving fraud claims, antitrust allegations, and discovery disputes over highly confidential information
- Prosecuted claims for breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, fraud, conspiracy, and theft against a trustee and joint venturer in an oil and gas interest
- Represented a small business on claims against an insurance company for breach of contract and violations of the DTPA and Insurance Code
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a corporate executor against plaintiffs on their breach of contract claim
- Successfully prosecuted to final judgment, on behalf of an executor, claims of breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and conversion
- Represented will beneficiaries in obtaining a unanimous jury verdict against a will contestant whose handwriting expert opined the will was a forgery

Honors & Awards

- Texas Super Lawyer-Rising Star (Thomson Reuters) 2015-2018
- Houston's Top Lawyer-Appellate Law - *Houstonia Magazine* 2016
- Top Lawyer - *H Texas Magazine* Top Lawyer (Bayou City Publishing, LLC) 2013

Affiliations

- Houston Bar Association
- Houston Young Lawyers Association
- Texas Bar Foundation
- Texas Center for Legal Ethics
- Ellevate