



Crystal Jamison Woods

Partner

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Crystal Woods has a diverse legal practice involving labor and employment and complex commercial litigation, with a primary focus on litigating disputes and counseling on matters implicating trade secrets, restrictive covenants and fiduciary duties.

She has successfully represented clients in a range of disputes before state and federal courts, administrative agencies and arbitration panels, including disputes involving enforcement of employment agreements and restrictive covenants; workplace discrimination, retaliation and harassment; wage-and-hour class and collective actions; and a variety of tort and complex contractual matters. She has significant experience defending and prosecuting high-stakes claims involving business entity separations, executive departures, and the usurpation of corporate opportunities by former high-level employees – cases that often require emergency injunctive relief. Her background in the fiduciary duty arena also includes conducting internal investigations, assisting clients in civil and criminal matters before regulatory bodies and defending shareholder derivative actions.

Crystal regularly advises companies on employment aspects of significant business transactions, including overseeing due diligence of a target's employment practices and counseling on executive employment, separation and restrictive covenant agreements. She also counsels employers on compliance with federal, state and local employment laws and regulations, and on litigation avoidance measures.

RELATED SERVICES

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Class Actions
- Commercial Contracts Disputes
- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Employee and Labor Relations

RELATED SECTORS

- Energy and Natural Resources
- Healthcare
- Hospitality and Leisure

EXPERIENCE

- On trial team representing a private equity investment advisor and one of its portfolio company's former executive team and a competitive private equity investment advisor, based on corporate usurpation, conspiracy, breach of fiduciary duty, and misappropriation of trade secrets, in which the client was seeking in excess of \$700 million. After nine weeks of trial, on the eve of closing arguments, the case ended with a settlement, for which the clients were extremely pleased.
- Represented an insurance industry client in a multi-billion dollar securities class action, a separate multi-billion dollar receivership claim, numerous related lawsuits filed in both state and federal court, a federal multi-district litigation (MDL) processing, and appellate proceedings in the Fifth Circuit Court Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. See

Chadbourne & Parke LLP, et al. v. Troice, 134 S. Ct. 1058 (2014); Rishmague v. Winter, 616 Fed. Appx. 138 (5th Cir. 2015)

- Defended a Texas corporation as well as its officers and directors in shareholder derivative action arising from a merger transaction and obtained full dismissal of claims
- Represented a publicly traded technology company and its board of directors in a Delaware class action arising from a US\$560 million merger transaction
- Prosecuted claims for breach of contract and misappropriation of trade secrets against a software developer who began using proprietary software developed for a specialty pharmacy in order to wrongfully compete in the specialty pharmacy industry, including obtaining a preliminary injunction
- Defended national employer in an action brought by eight former employees on behalf of themselves and others who were similarly situated asserting FLSA and various Missouri state law causes of action in connection with alleged unpaid overtime
- Represented a publicly traded waste management company and its board of directors in a nationwide shareholder class action arising from a US\$525 million merger transaction
- Counseled clients on compliance with employment agreements, including non-competition and non-solicitation provisions
- Assisted a trial team in representing a large private equity investment advisor in litigation involving fiduciary duty, shareholder derivative, defamation and contractual claims, ultimately recovering US\$2.8 million in attorney's fees for the client and a take-nothing verdict in its favour, in which the recovery sought against them was approximately US\$200 million
- Assisted a REIT in an SEC inquiry regarding marketing practices, resulting in the SEC closing the inquiry after attorney presentation; counseled the REIT in developing new policies and procedures relating to the preparation, approval and dissemination of marketing and advertising materials
- Represented an oil and gas company in an SEC investigation of embezzlement and kickbacks by the company's CEO and CFO, including interaction with the SEC
- Represented broker-dealers and investment advisors in investigations and examinations by the SEC and FINRA
- Represented 100+ financial advisors in federal court litigation arising from an alleged Ponzi scheme and in related appellate proceedings at the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- Texas

Recognitions

- Super Lawyers Texas Rising Star, Texas Monthly (2017)
- Super Lawyers Texas Rising Star, Texas Monthly (2018)

Education

- J.D., Southern Methodist University School of Law 2009
cum laude
Staff Editor, *International Law Review*
- B.S., University of Texas 2005
cum laude

Courts

- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

- United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Western District of Texas

Memberships

- Dallas Bar Association
- Dallas Bar Association Judiciary Committee
- Dallas Bar Association, Labor and Employment Section
- Dallas Association of Young Lawyers (DAYL)
- Vice-Chair, DAYL CLE Committee, 2011
- Chairman, DAYL Social Committee, 2012 and 2013
- Co-Chairman, DAYL Trial Skills Bootcamp, 2016-2017
- DAYL Trial Skills Bootcamp Committee, 2014-2016
- Associate Member, Patrick E. Higginbotham American Inn of Court, 2016-2017
- Women's White Collar Defense Association
- Texas Bar Foundation, Life Fellow
- Chairman, DAYL Courthouse Tour Committee, 2017

INSIGHTS

Publications

Texas narrows anti-SLAPP law

10 June 2019

The new law enjoys broad bipartisan support.

- "The New Proposal to Expand EEO-1 Reports to Include Pay Data: What You Need to Know OutSolve Effective Affirmative Action Blog" (February 16, 2016)
- "U.S. Supreme Court Issues Two Important Securities-Law Opinions" (March 12, 2013)
- "Supreme Court to Address Fraud-on-the-Market Presumption in Federal Securities Class Actions" (June 26, 2012)
- "What to Expect in SEC Enforcement Actions" (pdf) *Financial Fraud Law Report* (May 2012)
- "SEC Enforcement Actions; A Look at 2011 and What to Expect in the Next Year" (February 28, 2012)
- "U.S. Supreme Court Limits Scope of Primary Liability Under Federal Securities Laws" (June 16, 2011)
- "Supreme Court Unanimously Rejects Fifth Circuit's Loss Causation Standard" (June 9, 2011)
- "U.S. Supreme Court to Review Fifth Circuit's Controversial Loss Causation Rules for Securities Class Actions" (pdf) *Compliance Week* (March 3, 2011)
- "Family Tradition: Cuban Policy Reform as Raul Castro Takes the Reigns," *Law & Bus. Review of the Americas*, Volume 15, Issue 4

Events

- "Audio/Video Technology Bootcamp," DBA Courthouse Committee (May 17, 2017)
- "Trial Techniques Through Technology," Dallas Bar Association (March 24, 2011, August 11, 2011 and July 12, 2013)
- "Technology in the Courtroom," Solo Practitioner and Small Firm Section of the
- "Dallas Bar Association" (April 2, 2014); Ghana Delegation (June 9, 2014), Plano
- "Bar Association" (October 3, 2014)
- "Dallas County Technology Upgrade," Dallas Bar Association (October 10, 2014); Texas Trial Lawyers Association (October 22, 2014)

NEWS

DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2019

1 APR 2019

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 77 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of April 1, 2019 in the United States and May 1, 2019 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions were made across many of the firm's practice areas in 43 different offices throughout 20 countries.

DLA Piper represents 4 West Holdings in chapter 11 proceedings

11 JAN 2019

DLA Piper represented 4 West Holdings, Inc., Orianna Health Systems, and various affiliates in their voluntary chapter 11 cases in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division.

Two DLA Piper lawyers listed in *D Magazine's* 2019 Best Lawyers Under 40 list

8 JAN 2019

Crystal Woods and James C. Bookhout were recently named to *D Magazine's* 2019 Best Lawyers Under 40 list, which recognizes outstanding young lawyers in Dallas.
