



Firm Resume

Firm Overview

Based in Tyler, Texas, Flowers Davis PLLC is a multi-disciplinary law firm devoted to providing the highest quality legal services to clients in a prompt and efficient manner. The Firm was founded in 1994 by Senior Partners Celia C. Flowers and Robert S. Davis, and practice areas have developed around their areas of expertise.

Celia Flowers is quadruple-Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in the areas of Oil, Gas and Mineral Law, Real Estate Law, Property Owner Association Law, and Civil Litigation. Only nine out of 103,000+ active attorneys in the State of Texas are Board Certified in four areas of the law, making this a most distinguished accomplishment. Under Celia's guidance, the Firm's oil and gas and real estate practices were established; they range from oil and gas litigation to the preparation of title opinions to curing real estate title to document preparation and real estate closings. Celia co-manages these practice areas with Partner Rob Knight.

Robert Davis leads the defense of public entities and insurance defense sections of the Firm, where Flowers Davis attorneys represent cities, counties and law enforcement organizations, as well as handle insurance litigation cases.

Both Senior Partners are involved in business and commercial litigation matters. Attorneys within the Firm represent almost 20 different practice areas, and many have backgrounds in industry or public service, giving them practical, working knowledge of the issues their clients face. This uniquely positions Flowers Davis as a one-stop legal shop for many individuals and entities.

When you hire Flowers Davis, you will enjoy having one point of contact within the firm who will coordinate attorneys across practice areas to meet your needs.



Practice Areas

*The practice area descriptions below are for general informational purposes only.
They describe the range of services offered by the firm.
Individual attorneys may offer representation in a subset of this practice area.
See individual attorney profiles for their specific practice areas.*

Banking Law

The Flowers Davis Banking Law attorneys regularly represent financial institutions in areas involving lending, operations and collections.

Our banking professionals understand that lending transactions aren't run-of-the-mill business deals. We advise on and prepare documents for commercial and residential lending transactions including Deeds, Deeds of Trust and other closing documents, releases of liens, modification agreements, loan participation agreements, collateral substitution agreements and commercial loan agreements. We offer real estate closings and servicing activities for local and out-of-area lending institutions. Our attorneys also provide analysis of title defects and title curative services.

Operationally, Flowers Davis attorneys advise financial institutions on regulatory compliance, offer creative strategies in loan structuring, assist in writing loan policies and procedures, and advise on inter-creditor and subordination issues. We are experienced in counseling lenders on how to avoid liability actions, and on defending lender liability actions.

The Flowers Davis team of bankruptcy and restructuring professionals regularly represents debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, landlords and trustees in all aspects of bankruptcy, sequestration, foreclosure and repossession. We represent creditor's rights in bankruptcy cases, obtain and execute writs of sequestration, file forcible entry and detainer suits to assist lenders in gaining possession of property, and repossess personal property such as manufactured homes, recreational vehicles, tractor trailers, tractors and oil field pipe.

Practicing Staff: [Scott Miller](#)

Business and Commercial Litigation

Flowers Davis Business and Commercial Litigation Attorneys are active in litigating on behalf of clients involving many aspects of business and commercial law. At this time, the primary commercial litigation matters concern disputes between lenders and borrowers, general business, contract litigation, and collection matters.

As Texas continues to rank in the top five US states in both GDP and population growth, the firm is involved in an increasing number of construction lawsuits. These lawsuits typically involve large commercial or governmental entities filing suits against contractors or subcontractors. Construction litigation can also involve property owners and developers and any other party involved in designing, developing, lending or insuring the construction of public and private projects.

As a part of business litigation, we handle cases involving the defense of clients accused of violations of consumer law, including deceptive trade practices (DTPA) litigation. Both of our Partners, Celia Flowers and Robert Davis, are active in this area, as well as many other attorneys throughout the firm.

Practicing Staff: [Mitch Beard](#), [Robert Davis](#), [Celia Flowers](#), [Rob Knight](#), [Preston McGee](#), [Chad Rook](#)
Of Counsel: Tom Buchanan, Steve Mason

The Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Consumer Protection Act (DTPA) is Texas's primary consumer protection statute. The underlying purpose of the statute is to protect consumers against false, misleading, and deceptive business practices, unconscionable actions, and breaches of warranty in an economical and efficient manner. Before DTPA, consumers who were cheated by a dishonest business or businessperson didn't have any realistic way to seek remedy because the amounts they were typically cheated would be less than the cost of hiring an attorney and going to court.

DTPA cases can involve almost any consumer transaction, and the Act intended to be liberally construed and applied. Unlawful acts under DTPA include but are not limited to:

- False advertising
- False or misleading billing practices
- Misleading agreements or contracts
- Contracts and agreements that take unfair advantage of a consumer
- Representing used goods as new
- Misrepresenting the quality or grade of a product
- Any representation regarding the source, sponsorship, approval, or certification of goods or services that is false, misleading or deceptive
- Disparaging or providing misleading information about the goods or services of another
- Advertising goods with no intent to sell them as advertised or without disclosing limitation of quantity
- Failure to disclose information that would cause a consumer not to purchase a product or service
- Taking advantage of a disaster by selling goods or services at inflated prices

Under DTPA, consumers must prove that they relied on the deception to their detriment and suffered financial loss. Before filing suit, they must first send a written demand letter to the seller letting them know what they want. If the seller does not remedy the situation within 60 days, suit may be filed for damages. Consumers who win a suit brought under the DTPA are entitled to economic and mental anguish damages, court costs and attorney's fees, interest and much more. If they show the person acted "knowingly," they can receive up to treble economic damages.

Because of DTPA, more businesses will attempt to satisfy any issues with consumers before suit is filed, but many cases still make their way to court. Hiring an experienced consumer law attorney will help maximize your payout if you are treated unfairly by a business.

Practicing Staff: [Preston McGee](#)

Corporate Law | Business Entity Setup and Support

The Corporate Attorneys at Flowers Davis assist clients in the formation of Corporations and General and Limited Partnerships. Our team has particular experience in establishing the nuanced joint ventures or partnerships unique to the oil and gas industry.

In addition to providing advice on entity selection and formation, we are also available to act as outsourced General Counsel, advising and participating in the decision-making process on business law issues including shareholder and partnership agreements, prevention of liability, option plans and other equity arrangements, and related corporate matters.

Practicing Staff: [Michael Carney](#), [Rob Knight](#), [Scott Miller](#), [Laci Stovall](#)

Defense of Governmental Entities

Flowers Davis' Attorneys practicing in the Defense of Governmental Entities section have represented over 45 counties and several cities and school districts throughout Texas. From our Tyler, Texas offices, we represent individual government officials in litigation across the State. We also represent governmental entities in automobile accidents, medical liability cases, premise defect cases, civil rights litigation, employment law cases, workers compensation matters, sexually-oriented business cases, bail bond forfeitures and tax-related matters.

Practicing Staff: [Lee Correa](#), [Robert Davis](#), [Jack Fulgham](#), [Chad Rook](#), [Robin O'Donoghue](#), [Laci Stovall](#), [Ginger Young](#)
Of Counsel: Steve Mason

Document Preparation

Legal documents are complex instruments which by their very definition must hold up in a court of law. Individuals and businesses require these documents to spell out the details of life's most important events, such as setting up business partnerships, trust agreements, estate planning, buying or selling a home or taking care of aging or special-needs family members. The surest way to be certain your legal documents actually make the provisions you require is to have them professionally prepared.

What About Online Doc Prep Services? We acknowledge there is a dizzying array of tempting low-cost, do-it-yourself doc prep service offerings online. These sites make doc prep sound as easy as filling in a few blanks. For an extra charge, some even include "peace of mind" reviews. But D-I-Y services are no substitute for the advice of an attorney familiar with your circumstances. Consider the following:

Your Situation is Unique – Most online services include disclaimers stating they are not offering legal advice, which means they cannot apply the law to the facts of your individual situation. Your individual circumstances can have a huge impact on what kind of provisions you need to include. It is rare for two legal documents of significant length to be worded exactly the same, and it's often hard to tell if an online form really fits your needs.

State Laws Change – State laws are constantly evolving due to new case law and statutes. Online services attempting to serve the entire nation often struggle to keep up with the latest details. Their "peace of mind" reviews typically only verify that all blanks are filled in, the pages are formatted properly, abbreviations are not used, and your contact information is correct.

Unfortunately, the issues raised above are often uncovered by the very people the documents were trying to protect, when it's too late to change them. At Flowers Davis, we use our years of education and experience to analyze your unique situation, explain the ramifications of your choices, and advise you on the best way to accomplish your goals. We'll tailor your documents to address your unique needs. Canned forms cannot do that.

Flowers Davis provides professional document preparation services customized to fit your unique situation. Most are offered at a flat fee. All are prepared by a licensed attorney. Examples include:

- Wills
- Deeds (Special Warranty Deed, Warranty Deed, Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien, Gift Deed, Quitclaim Deed)
- Deeds of Trust
- Affidavits of Heirship
- Power of attorney

- Medical power of attorney
- Living wills
- Statutory power of attorney
- Same name affidavit
- Release of Lien
- Notes
- Life Estates
- Trusts
- Ladybird Deeds
- Real Estate Transaction Contracts (sale, landlord/tenant, resale, construction contracts, etc.)
- Foreclosures
- Owner Finance Transactions

Practicing Staff: [Catherine Goodgion](#), [Laci Stovall](#)

Eminent Domain/Condemnation

Eminent Domain or Condemnation often involves a local, state or federal government taking of private property for a public use. The power of eminent domain is also available in many instances to oil and gas pipeline companies who operate as common carriers or as gas utilities.

Interstate pipeline companies which are granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission have the power of eminent domain under federal law.

The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 17, of the Texas Constitution require that just compensation be paid to a landowner whose land is taken through an eminent domain/condemnation proceeding. Disputes arise between the taking entity (condemnor) and the landowner (condemnee) over how much compensation is due, or in some cases whether the entity even has a right to take the property.

The eminent domain process and subsequent litigation is unique in the litigation world. This rapidly changing area of the law is a combination of administrative law and litigation and thus requires a full understanding of the nuances involved in this type of legal matter compared to other types of litigation. Flowers Davis attorneys have over 70 years of experience effectively representing both plaintiffs and defendants in local, intrastate and interstate eminent domain/condemnation proceedings in both State and Federal court. We regularly represent oil and gas pipeline companies and cities in these proceedings. We have handled pipeline projects throughout Texas.

Flowers Davis attorneys assist clients with:

- Pre-condemnation planning and negotiations
- Injunctive relief to prevent interference or access property
- Cooperation with appraisers
- Preparation of litigation documents and property filings
- Special Commissioners' hearings
- De novo appeals to the trial court
- Appellate review of trial court decisions

Practicing Staff: [Mitchell Beard](#), [Celia Flowers](#), [Rob Knight](#), [Preston McGee](#)
Of Counsel: Tom Buchanan

Employment Law

The Flowers Davis Employment Law Attorneys advise businesses on all employment-related matters, as well as defending employment related claims. From our offices in Tyler, Texas, we advise clients on a number of employment issues including proper agreements and training, contracts, and employee benefits.

We also defend claims relating to alleged causes of action filed pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, claims filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or the Texas Commission on Human Rights (TCHR), alleged claims filed pursuant to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and alleged claims filed pursuant to Section 451.001 et seq. of the Texas Labor Code.

Practicing Staff: [Robert Davis](#), [Preston McGee](#), [Ginger Young](#)

Of Counsel: Daniel Ross (immigration only), Ellis Vickers

Estate Planning

Estate planning involves a variety of tasks intended to manage one's assets in the event of incapacitation, unexpected events, or death. Lack of adequate estate planning can cause undue financial burdens to loved ones, so at a minimum your estate plan should address the transfer of assets to your heirs and the settlement of estate taxes. Most estate plans also include the establishment of durable and medical powers of attorney, guardianships, living wills or directives, and keeping beneficiaries up to date. Some estate plans set up trusts and annual gifting to reduce the taxable estate. If you own a business, your estate plan should also address business ownership and management issues.

The estate planning attorneys at Flowers Davis assist clients with:

Last Will & Testament

A will provides for the distribution of your estate upon your death. A will identifies a person or person (executor) responsible for the carrying out the terms of your will and the settlement of your debts. Flowers Davis attorneys will discuss options with you to prepare your family for the future and prepare the documents to support your plan.

Probate

Executors, administrators, personal representatives and trustees all have certain responsibilities. Flowers Davis attorneys can assist them in settling an estate or trust.

Guardianships

Guardianships are established to care for the needs of minors, the elderly, those with special needs, and the incapacitated. Guardianships can present many possibilities and also many challenges. Flowers Davis attorneys can help you protect your family members by determining if a guardianship is appropriate for your situation, and if it is, they can assist in navigating through the often confusing and frustrating process of setting up a guardianship.

Trusts

Like guardianships, trusts are established to care for the needs of minors, the elderly, those with special needs, and the incapacitated. Trusts can be broader in scope, require less court documentation, and typically cost less to set up. Flowers Davis attorneys can help you determine if a trust is appropriate for you, and can advise you on how to limit estate taxes by setting up trust accounts for beneficiaries.

A durable power of attorney makes arrangements for another person to handle your assets and investments in the event you are incapacitated. They can be very broad or very specific in scope, and can often eliminate the need for a guardianship action. Flowers Davis attorneys can advise you on the best alternative for your situation.

Advance Directives

Advance directives are legal documents that allow you to convey your decisions about end-of-life care ahead of time. They provide a way for you to communicate your wishes to family, friends, and health care professionals, and to avoid difficult decisions and confusion later on. Flowers Davis attorneys can assist you in drawing up your Medical Power of Attorney, Directives to Physicians (Living Will), Declaration for Mental Health Treatment and other documents.

Business Succession

If you own a business, Flowers Davis attorneys can assist you with planning for the preservation or transfer of that business upon your retirement, disability or death. Business succession planning often involves people not related to you, so specific and separate instructions should be created and reviewed regularly.

Other Estate Planning Services

Flowers Davis attorneys can assist with creating/updating beneficiaries on plans such as life insurance, IRAs and 401(k)s, setting up funeral arrangements, and establishing annual gifting to reduce your taxable estate.

Estate planning is an ongoing process and should be started as soon as you have any measurable assets. As your life progresses and your goals shift, your estate plan should evolve to be in line with your new situation.

Practicing Staff: [Paul Brown](#), [Michael Carney](#), [Catherine Goodgion](#), [Rob Knight](#), [Preston McGee](#), [Melanie Reyes-Rawls](#), [Laci Stovall](#)

Immigration Law

The Firm handles transactional matters and litigation concerning immigration and related matters, including but not limited to: employment-based petitions (I-140) and family-based petitions (I-130), including permanent residency, adjustment of status proceedings, consular processing, employment authorization, employee verifications, family unity issues, fiance(e) visas, Freedom of Information Act requests, H-1B visas, labor certification (PERM), naturalization, outstanding researcher-professor visas, removal of conditions, and waivers. The firm also handles I-9 compliance and audits.

Immigration Services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Advance Parole
- Adjustment of Status
- Consular Processing
- Deportation (Removal)
- Employment Authorization
- Employment Based Visas
- Extend/Change Status
- Family Unity
- Fiance(e) Visas
- Freedom of Information Act Request
- H-1B Visas



- Labor Certification (PERM)
- Naturalization
- Permanent Residency
- PERM
- Outstanding Researcher/Professor
- Religious Worker Visas
- Removal of Conditions
- TPS
- Waivers

To learn more about our immigration practice area, please visit our dedicated immigration law website, www.flowersdavisimmigrationlaw.com.

Practicing Staff: [Ginger Young](#)

Of Counsel: [Ha Kummerfeld](#), [Daniel Ross](#)

Insurance Defense

The Insurance Defense Attorneys at Flowers Davis are active in defending both third party and first party claims for a number of major insurance carriers. From our Tyler and Longview offices, we have active litigation files involving property and casualty, automobile and trucking liability, premises liability, commercial liability, general liability and builder's risk liability. We also provide direct representation of insurance carriers in first party litigation and we provide carriers with coverage opinions.

Practicing Staff: [Lee Correa](#), [Robert Davis](#), [Jack Fulgham](#), [Preston McGee](#), [Chad Rook](#), [Robin O'Donoghue](#)

Of Counsel: Steve Mason

Intellectual Property

Flowers Davis is proud to offer representation by a registered USPTO attorney to inventors, entrepreneurs and others seeking to protect their intellectual property.

Our Patent Prosecutor:

- Conducts patentability analyses to determine if your invention, process or design is indeed patentable.
- Prepares, drafts and files patent applications.
- Negotiates with and responds to office actions from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
- Conducts patent reviews and appeals before the USPTO.
- Prepares and files appeals with the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) and with the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Develops Patent Portfolio Management Plans, which help businesses protect their R&D efforts, bolster their market position, generate revenue from licensing agreements and create barriers to competition.
- Protects clients against copyists and competitors by filing Comprehensive Design Patents, which complement utility patents by protecting names or symbols (trademarks), original works of authorship (copyrights) and inventions (patents).

Rounding out the Flowers Davis IP team is an experienced litigator and a transactional IP attorney. Our litigator is ready to defend your patent, trademark or copyright should the need arise. He handles patent infringement litigation and also has extensive experience practicing before the Federal courts. He has served as local and trial counsel for numerous infringement cases pending before the United States Court for the Eastern District of Texas



and each of its divisions. Our transactional IP attorney drafts licensing agreements and contracts and obtains trademarks and copyrights.

Practicing Staff: [Catherine Goodgion](#) (USPTO), [Preston McGee](#)

Of Counsel: Steve Mason

Medical Liability

Flowers Davis is active in medical liability litigation. Our clients come from a wide range of practice areas and include both physicians and their professional associations. Our Medical Malpractice Attorneys understand what is at stake for our clients and the impact a malpractice claim can have, not only from a business standpoint, but from personal and professional standpoints as well. When we defend against medical malpractice claims, we thoroughly investigate and evaluate every case, review all relevant medical records, locate well-qualified expert witnesses and make effective use of deposition testimony.

Based out of Tyler, Texas the Flowers Davis Medical Malpractice team also works with physicians and their staffs to review areas such as record keeping, surgical consent procedures, and the like in order to identify and correct problem areas before a lawsuit occurs.

Practicing Staff: [Robert Davis](#), [Preston McGee](#), [Chad Rook](#)

Of Counsel: Tom Buchanan, Steve Mason

Oil and Gas Litigation

Oil and gas disputes are complex and may be governed by state tort law, real estate law, and a range of other acts, laws and regulations, depending on location and other factors. The firm's Oil and Gas Litigation section handles disputes involving minerals, lease rights, and JOAs. Led by Celia C. Flowers, who is quadruple-Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization including the area of Oil, Gas and Mineral Law, the Oil and Gas Litigators at Flowers Davis are experienced at litigating matters including royalty disputes, contract disputes, injunctions, and surface damage claims. Based out of Tyler, Texas, members of the team also address matters related to right of way acquisition, including condemnation for pipeline companies, power companies and cities.

Our clients have included:

- Major oil and gas companies
- Pipeline companies
- Service providers and contractors
- Owners of oil and gas interests
- Landowners

Practicing Staff: [Mitchell Beard](#), [Brison Burse](#), [Lee Correa](#), [Celia Flowers](#), [Rob Knight](#), [Preston McGee](#), [Laci Stovall](#)

Of Counsel: Tom Buchanan

Oil and Gas Title Opinions

The Flowers Davis team of Oil and Gas Title Attorneys provide original, division order and drilling title opinions in an efficient and expedient manner. From our offices in Tyler, Texas, we work closely with field and in-house landmen to prepare oil and gas title opinions for onshore properties in Texas, Louisiana and Pennsylvania, determining



existing ownership in surface rights, mineral rights, royalty rights and oil and gas leasehold rights. We also provide curative and title examination services in support of financing transactions and acquisitions, providing detailed information on encumbrances that could affect the financing, acquisition or development of a property.

Several of our oil and gas attorneys have prior landman experience which gives them a practical working knowledge of the oil and gas business. Senior Partner Celia C. Flowers and Partner Rob Knight are frequent speakers at landman association events. Celia has also taught numerous AAPL-accredited courses for RL, RPL and CPL certification and numerous Texas State Bar-accredited courses for attorneys in the areas of oil, gas energy, and real property.

Through our affiliated company, [RecordsOnline](#), landmen and others can search county clerk records 24/7 from the comfort of your home. You can even sign up for notifications across multiple counties to keep up with specific transactions, properties, or parties.

Practicing Staff: [Paul Brown](#), [Celia Flowers](#), [Rob Knight](#), [Melanie Reyes-Rawls](#)

Of Counsel: H. D. Black, Jr. Tom Buchanan, Maya Jedlicka, Andy Schwing, Alan Tomme, Ellis Vickers

Professional Liability

The Professional Liability Attorneys at Flowers Davis are experienced at all aspects of professional liability defense. Our Tyler, Texas-based attorneys are skilled at handling the confidential and sensitive issues that arise with an Errors and Omissions (E&O) claim and we understand the impact such a case can have on the professional's ongoing practice. Our clients come from a wide range of professions, including attorneys and insurance companies.

Quick and successful disposition is our goal, so we work hard to investigate claims quickly. Early evaluation is key, and we seek quick resolution or go to trial, depending upon the needs and desires of our clients.

Practicing Staff: [Preston McGee](#), [Chad Rook](#)

Real Estate Law

The Real Estate Law Attorneys at Flowers Davis handle transactional matters concerning real estate and related industries.

Our Real Estate Law practice involves routine document preparation, real estate closings, analysis of title defects and title curative. We work closely with local and out-of-area banks and title companies to ensure real estate transactions are consummated in a timely and professional manner. Additionally, we prepare governing documents for homeowners' associations, including but not limited to restrictive covenants, bylaws and articles of incorporation, and we assist associations with amendments to those documents. Our attorneys also represent both landlords and tenants with lease preparation.

The Real Estate Law Section, operating out of our Tyler and Longview offices, is spearheaded by Partner Celia C. Flowers, who is Quadruple-Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in the areas of Real Estate Law, Property Owners Association Law, Oil & Gas Law, and Civil Litigation. Celia also owns East Texas Title Companies, which can handle your real estate sales, purchases and refinances in eighteen East Texas counties. Another affiliated company, RecordsOnline, brings county clerk records to your fingertips so you can research title or receive notifications about your transaction or property. Celia is a frequent speaker and trainer certified in Realtor MCE and Attorney CLE courses in the areas of real estate and oil and gas matters.

Real Estate Litigation

Property ownership is often one of the largest investments people make in life, and as such, disputes can arise that result in litigation. Whether the property owner is an experienced investor or corporation, or a first-time homeowner, protecting the value of and rights to that property is critical. Issues can range from disputes in transactions and development to conflicts among co-owners or between landlords and tenants. The high stakes can rapidly escalate a simple contractual dispute to threats of lawsuits, liens, foreclosures and injunctions, often overshadowing more practical solutions.

Flowers Davis Real Estate Litigators are adept at seeking remedies out of court when a properly-worded letter or well-timed phone call will be more effective than suing for damages or injunctive relief. We have also met client objectives through mediation and negotiation. At the same time, we have a successful track record of prosecuting and defending property owners, investors, developers, builders, homeowner's associations, landlords and tenants in a broad range of real estate-related conflicts, including:

- Real estate sale contract disputes; disputes involving claims of breach of contract, breach of warranty, misrepresentation and Deceptive Trade Practices Act (DTPA) claims
- Disputes arising under purchase and sale agreements, option agreements, development agreements, and land use laws and regulations
- Disputes relating to real estate brokers and agents involving their legal and fiduciary duties
- Disputes between landowners and general contractors, subcontractors and related liens
- Title disputes: easements, boundary lines, adverse possession, quiet title, trespass, nuisance and other title disputes and actions
- Litigation involving premises liability and damages to land
- Litigation over mineral interests and leases, oil and gas purchase and sale agreements, assignments, farm-outs, joint operating agreements, and royalties
- Receivership actions
- Business agreement disputes, workouts, foreclosures, trustee's sales, collection, deficiency actions, and bankruptcy including motions for relief from stay
- Commercial and residential lease disputes, landlord-tenant, liens and eviction proceedings
- Homeowner's Association disputes related to covenants, conditions, and restrictions
- Interpretation and litigation involving the construction and enforcement of POA documents
- Eminent domain, condemnation hearings and trials in state and federal courts
- Valuation disputes and partition proceedings
- Subsurface rights and disputes relating to water and minerals
- Forcible Entry & Detainer Suits to assist lenders in obtaining possession of foreclosed property when previous owners fail to vacate the premises



Transactions, Acquisitions and Development

Closely related to Flowers Davis' real estate and corporate practices is our transactional business practice. Our Transactions, Acquisitions & Development Attorneys have negotiated, drafted and successfully completed acquisitions, mergers, joint ventures, sales and development transactions. Many transactions involve complex financial analysis, due diligence activities, and environmental concerns. We have completed oil and gas acquisitions, business sales and real estate asset-based transactions over a broad spectrum of businesses. Practicing attorneys are based out of Tyler and Longview, Texas.

Practicing Staff: [Celia Flowers](#), [Michael Carney](#), [Catherine Goodgion](#), [Rob Knight](#), [Scott Miller](#), [Laci Stovall](#)
Of Counsel: Alan Tomme

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Individual attorneys may offer representation in a subset of this practice area.
See individual attorney profiles for their specific practice areas.*



Members of the Firm



Celia C. Flowers
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CIVIL TRIAL LAW
OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LAW
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION LAW
RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE LAW



Celia C. Flowers is a Senior Partner in Flowers Davis PLLC and oversees the Oil & Gas, Real Estate and Civil Litigation Sections. Celia is quadruple-Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in the areas of Oil & Gas Law, Residential Real Estate Law, Property Owners Association Law and Civil Trial Law. Board Certification is the highest, most public commitment to excellence in specific areas of the law. As of July 2019, 0.0086% of all active Texas attorneys are certified in four separate areas (nine out of 103,342), making this a most distinguished accomplishment.

Celia’s practice is focused on oil and gas matters, business and commercial litigation and real estate. She prepares title opinions, settles or litigates surface damage disputes, conducts receivership proceedings and pipeline condemnation proceedings, and litigates contracts. In addition to her law practice, Ms. Flowers owns East Texas Title Companies, licensed in over eighty Texas Counties. Prior to attending law school, Ms. Flowers was a petroleum landman for approximately ten years.

The depth of Ms. Flowers’ expertise in the oil and gas, real estate and title insurance fields, along with her experience as a small business owner makes her uniquely qualified to advocate for her clients, her industries and her community. Her clients appreciate her deep understanding of the intertwining and complex issues that are often present in a single case.

Celia’s industries have honored her many times with board memberships, leadership positions, and invitations to speak out on national or statewide issues before the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and Texas Department of Insurance, among others. Since 2011, she has served on the Texas Title Examination Standards Board, which formulates, develops, comments on and amends title examination standards for the Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section (REPTL) and for the Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. In addition, Celia’s clients and peers have ranked her at the highest level of professional excellence (5.0 out of 5.0 in each area of evaluation), earning her an AV Preeminent® rating by Martindale Hubbell since 2014. Thomson Reuters has named her a Texas Super Lawyer since 2020. Celia is a Fellow in the College of the State Bar of Texas, an honorary society of lawyers who are among the best trained attorneys in Texas, having completed at least double the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) required by the State Bar of Texas. She is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), an invitation-only organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the civil jury trial right provided by the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Celia regularly provides CLE training to Texas attorneys and MCE courses for East Texas Realtors. She is a frequent speaker to Landmen and Lenders throughout the area, keeping them abreast of legislative, real estate and mineral issues.

<p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 1990 State Bar of Pennsylvania, 2012</p> <p>Board Certifications Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Oil Gas and Mineral Law, since 1997 Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Residential Real Estate Law, since 2000 Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Civil Trial Law, since 2002 Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Property Owners Association Law, since 2019</p> <p>Court Admissions US District Court, Eastern District of Texas US District Court, Northern District of Texas</p> <p>Education Baylor University School of Law, J. D., 1990 University of Texas at Tyler, undergraduate studies, honors Tyler Junior College, A.A., 1987, summa cum laude</p> <p>Extracurricular Order of Barristers Baylor Law School Honors List Carlton J. Smith Scholarship Clifton Cummings Scholarship Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities Dean's List National Dean's List President's Honor Roll Harvey M. Richey Moot Court Society</p> <p>Community Involvement Azleway Board Cattle Baron's Ball Texas Rose Festival Women's Symphony League Boys & Girls Club Boy Scouts Luncheon Mistletoe and Magic Habitat for Humanity Cystic Fibrosis Foundation</p>	<p>Memberships Fellow in the College of the State Bar of Texas Texas Board of Legal Specialization State Bar of Texas Rusk County Bar Association Gregg County Bar Association Van Zandt County Bar Association Smith County Bar Association International Right of Way Association East Texas Association of Petroleum Landmen American Association of Petroleum Landmen Oil & Gas Council of the Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas Independent Title Agents of Texas (2011-2012 President) American Land Title Association ALTA RESPA Implementation Task Force ALTA Executive Committee, Abstractors and Title Insurance Section Small Business Review Panel to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Texas Title Examinations Standards Board (since 2011) Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section (REPTL) of the State Bar of Texas Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas Texas Land Title Association (Board of Directors since 2004; President 2008-2009) Texas Real Estate Commission-certified Instructor (Provider 0478) American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), since 2022</p> <p>Honors and Awards Rated AV Preeminent® on Martindale.com and Lawyers.com, with 5.0 out of 5.0 client and peer ranking, since 2014 Selected by Thomson Reuters as a Texas Super Lawyer, 2020, 2021 East Texas Association of Petroleum Landmen Pioneer Award, 2013 Greater Tyler Association of Realtors Affiliate of the Year, 2013 Texas Land Title Association Title Person of the Year, 2011 East Texas Association of Petroleum Landmen President's Award, 2011 American Jurisprudence Award for Remedies Edwin P. Horner Award for Oil & Gas John R. Wilson Remedies Award</p>
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2022 STATE BAR OF TEXAS OIL, GAS & MINERAL TITLE EXAMINATION CLE, “Examining the ‘Life’ of a Correction Instrument After *Broadway Bank* and *Concho*”, June 2022, Paper and Presentation, Celia C. Flowers

2020 STATE BAR OF TEXAS OIL, GAS & MINERAL TITLE EXAMINATION CLE, “Electronic Signatures, Remote Online Notaries and E-Recording”, June 2020, Paper and Presentation, Celia C. Flowers

2019 TEXAS LAND TITLE ASSOCIATION (TLTA) CLE, "Boundary Line Agreements and Easements", December 2019, San Antonio, Texas, Celia C. Flowers

2019 AMERICAN LAND TITLE ASSOCIATION (ALTA) – ALTA ONE & ANNUAL CONVENTION, “Texas Title Agents are Rocking with RON”, October 2019, Austin, TX, James L. Anderson, III, Aaron Day, Celia C. Flowers, Rick Triola

2019 65TH ANNUAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN MINERAL LAW INSTITUTE – “Where is the Original? How does Electronic Signatures, Online Notaries and E-Recording Change our Record Driven Industry...or does it?”, July 2019, Monterey, California, Celia C. Flowers

2019 AMERICAN LAND TITLE ASSOCIATION (ALTA), LARGE AGENTS GROUP – Remote Online Notary (RON) Demonstration, January 2019, Boca Raton, FL, Celia C. Flowers

2018 TEXAS REAL ESTATE COMMISSION MCE, “Mediation v. Litigation”, December 2018, presented to Texas Realtors in various East Texas Locations, Celia C. Flowers

2018 TEXAS LAND TITLE ASSOCIATION (TLTA) eClosing Live Lab – “What is the Legal Basis for RON?”, December 2018, San Antonio, Texas, Roland Love and Celia C. Flowers

2018 EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM LANDMEN, “Title Issues for Landmen”, July 2018, Tyler, TX, Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2017 EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF LEASE AND TITLE ANALYSTS SPRING SEMINAR – “Mineral or Royalty Interest? Fixed or Floating?”, based on a paper drafted by St Mary's University Professor Laura Burney, used with permission. April 2017, Tyler, TX, Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2017 EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF LEASE AND TITLE ANALYSTS SPRING SEMINAR – “Horizontal Wells Crossing Unit Lines: From Permitting to the Division of Royalties”, April 2017, Tyler, TX, Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2017 “Horizontal Wells Crossing Unit Lines: From Permitting to the Division of Royalties”, April 2017, paper by Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2017 EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF LEASE AND TITLE ANALYSTS SPRING SEMINAR – “Surface Site Issues with Horizontal Wells”, April 2017, Tyler, TX, Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2017 EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF LEASE AND TITLE ANALYSTS SPRING SEMINAR – “

2016 “Cost-Free Royalties: Where Valuation Begins and Post-Production Cost Deductions End”, December 2016, paper by Celia Flowers and Melanie Reyes

2016 EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM LANDMEN, “Mineral or Royalty Interest? Fixed or Floating?”, October 2016, Tyler, TX, Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2014 & 2015 ADVANCED OIL, GAS AND ENERGY RESOURCES LAW – “Ethical Considerations-Trilogy of Working Together as Lawyers and Landmen for the Good of the Client”, October 2014 & 2015, Houston, Texas, Celia C. Flowers

60th AAPL ANNUAL MEETING AND EDUCATION SESSIONS – “We Have to Drill This Well Somewhere-A Survey of Surface Issues Across the Nation”, June 2014, Montreal, Canada, Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2014 TEXAS LAND TITLE INSTITUTE - “Minerals--Practice Tips for Leases and Surface Use Agreements”, December 2014, San Antonio, Texas, Celia C. Flowers

2013 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN FIELD LANDMAN SEMINAR, September 2013, Field Landman Ethics, Celia C. Flowers

2013 REAL ESTATE DRAFTING ARTICLE, March 2013, “Avoiding the Unintended Consequence When Drafting Mineral Reservations”, Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2012 TEXAS LAND TITLE INSTITUTE, December 2012, “CFPB – The New Disclosure Form and Its Requirements”, Celia C. Flowers

2012 SECTION REPORT OF THE 30TH ANNUAL ADVANCED OIL, GAS AND ENERGY RESOURCES LAW COURSE, October 2012, “The Before and After – an Update of the Eminent Domain Changes”, Celia C. Flowers

2012, TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS CONFERENCE, September 2012, Presentation “Access to the Surface of Property for Oil and Gas Activities – Dispelling the Many Myths”, Celia C. Flowers

2012, TEXAS REALTOR MAGAZINE, “Expert Advice on Negotiating Mineral Rights”, Celia C. Flowers

2011 SECTION REPORT OF THE OIL, GAS & ENERGY RESOURCES LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS, June 2011, “The Proof is in the Public Record...or is it? Navigating Evidentiary Issues Related to Texas Railroad Commission Documents”, Celia C. Flowers

2011 TEXAS REALTOR MAGAZINE, May 2011, “It’s the Little Things”, Celia C. Flowers, Contributor

2009 TEXAS LAND AND TITLE INSTITUTE, November 2009, “Surface Use by Mineral Owners: The Title Insurance Solution,” Celia Flowers, Melanie Reyes-Bruce, and Eric Schmalbach

2009 EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM LANDMEN SEMINAR, February 2009, “Pitfalls in Title Examination: The Intricate Relationship Between Real Property Rights and Ownership,” Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes Bruce

2007 REVIEW OF OIL AND GAS LAW XXII, Energy Law Section Dallas Bar Association, August 17, 2007, “Exercising the Power of Eminent Domain,” Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2007 TEXAS LAND AND TITLE INSTITUTE, November 2007, “Minerals: Examination and Coverage Issues,” Celia C. Flowers, Melanie S. Reyes, and Meredith N. Todd

2006 OIL, GAS & MINERAL LAW INSTITUTE, “Protecting and Defending Your Mineral Title”, Celia C. Flowers

2004 STATE BAR OF TEXAS CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR: SUING AND DEFENDING GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES, November 2004, “Exercising the Power of Eminent Domain”, Celia C. Flowers

2002 INTERNATIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY ASSOCIATION, NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER 36, “Right-of-Way Condemnation”, Celia C. Flowers

2002 EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM LANDMEN, April 2002, “Legal Updates”, Celia C. Flowers

Panelist for the 25th Annual Oil, Gas & Energy Resources Law Course: A Panel Perusing the Perfectly Perplexing Problems of Pipelines

Speaker for the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors Conferences in 2008 and 2009



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Robert S. Davis is a Senior Partner at Flowers Davis PLLC and oversees the Business and Commercial Litigation, Insurance Defense, Defense of Governmental Entities, Employment Law, and Medical Liability Sections of the firm.

Robert has extensive experience in representing governmental entities and government officials in all types of litigation. He also has extensive experience in first party and third-party litigation for major insurance carriers, drafting coverage opinions for insurance carriers, and in medical malpractice litigation for private practitioners as well as county health authorities. Since co-founding Flowers Davis in 1994, Mr. Davis has tried 99 jury trials in state and federal court to verdict, and he has handled 159 appellate cases at the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit during that same period. Since he started keeping such records in 2008, Robert has filed 93 successful Motions for Summary Judgment and Motions to Dismiss for governmental entities and has won 20 successful bench trials during the same period.

Robert began his legal career as a Briefing Attorney to the Honorable Justice Sue LaGarde, 5th Judicial District Court of Appeals in Dallas, Texas from 1988 to 1989. Afterwards, he was appointed as Law Clerk to United States District Judge William M. Steger from 1989 to 1991.

During law school, Robert served as the assistant legislative liaison for Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade and his successor, Dallas District Attorney John Vance. While working for Mr. Wade, Robert wrote a paper on recidivism and the need for increased prison capacity that was published by the Texas Governor's Office, and excerpts of the paper were published by the major news media in Texas. Through the years, Robert has written many papers for and made numerous presentations to entities such as the State Bar of Texas, Texas Sheriff's Association, Texas Association of Counties, Texas Jail Association, the Jail Management Institute of Sam Houston State University, and Texas Chief Deputies' Association.

Practice Areas: Business & Commercial Litigation, Defense of Governmental Entities, Employment Law, Insurance Defense, Medical Liability

<p>Education Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, Juris Doctorate, 1988 Trinity University, Bachelor of Science, History, 1985</p> <p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 1988</p> <p>Court Admissions United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas (1990) United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas (1991) United States District Court for the Western District of Texas (1991) United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas (1995) United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas (2006) United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit (1991) Supreme Court of the United States (1998)</p>	<p>Honors & Awards State Bar of Texas, Three-Time Recipient of the Pro Bono Award for helping indigent citizens</p> <p>Memberships Smith County Bar Association, Director, 2005-2006 and State Bar Fellow, 2006 Gregg County Bar Association Harrison County Bar Association Eastern District of Texas Bar Association Fifth Circuit Bar Association The Bar Association for the United States Supreme Court Defense Research Institute Smith County Young Lawyers Association, Past President, 1994-1995 Eastern District of Texas Historical Committee, Past Co-Chairman, 1996-1997</p> <p>Community Involvement Texas Association of Counties, Regional Counsel East Texas Area Counsel of the Boy Scouts of America, General Counsel and Board Member, six years Robert is active in his church and several non-profit organizations</p>
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Articles and Publications

- "Liability Issues in Texas Jails," Jail Management Institute 2007, Sam Houston State University
- "Federal Law Update," State Bar of Texas, 2007 Suing and Defending Governmental Entities
- "Liability Issues in Law Enforcement," 2007 Chief Deputies Conference
- "Liability Issues in Law Enforcement," Sheriff's Association of Texas 2006
- "Civil vs. Criminal Liability for School District Employees," 2006 Texas Association of School Board's Risk Management Fund Members' Conference
- "Bail Bond Handbook," Texas Association of Counties, 2007
- "Jail School," Chief Deputies Conference, June 2005, 2006 and 2007, and Texas Jail Association Annual Conference, 2005, 2006 and 2007
- "House Bill 4 The Newest Version of Tort Reform," State Bar of Texas; Suing & Defending Governmental Entities 2004
- "Winning Writing: Summary Judgment Practice in Texas State Courts," State Bar of Texas, Suing & Defending Governmental Entities 2003
- "Bail Bonds: Emerging Liability Issues," 1999 Regional Law Enforcement Workshop Series, February 1999

Co Author, "Jail Litigation: From Class Action Lawsuits to Pro Se Litigation," 1999 Fall Law Enforcement Regional Workshops Mitigating Liability in County Jails, November 1999

"Civil Rights Litigation Update," Texas Association of Counties, Northeast Texas Seminar, August 29, 1998

"Anatomy of a Law Enforcement Lawsuit," County Management Institute Seminar, April 8, 1998

"Jail Litigation: From Pro Se Lawsuits to Class Actions," State Bar of Texas Seminar Suing and Defending Governmental Entities, 1997

"Bail Bond Forfeitures," Northern and Eastern County Judges Association of Texas, 1997

"A Court Divided: The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and the Politics of Judicial Reform," 52 TEX. B. J. 706 (1989)(book review)

"The Choice: Increased Prison Capacity or Increased Recidivism," published by the Governor's Office of the State of Texas, 1986

"Using Abstract Questions to Develop Critical Thinking Skills in Social Studies," Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc. 1984

"Selecting a United States President in 1984," McGraw Hill Book Company, 1984.



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Lee Correa has been a Litigation Attorney for Flowers Davis since 2010. Her practice focus is on governmental entity defense, specifically as it pertains to government officials and law enforcement. Her practice also includes first-party and third-party litigation for major insurance carriers, business litigation, hazmat-related litigation, entity formation and structuring, and collection litigation on behalf of business clients. Lee also serves as general counsel for businesses, advising them on employment, contract and real estate matters.

During law school, Lee served as a law clerk to United States Magistrate Judge Judith K. Guthrie in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. She also served as an intern with the Lone Star Legal Aid Office in Tyler, Texas. Lee was appointed to the City of Tyler, Civil Service Commission in 2018 and continues to serve on the Commission today. She has presented at numerous educational seminars and conferences, including the Sheriffs' Association of Texas Annual Conference, Women in Criminal Justice, Sheriffs' Administrative Assistants Conference, New Sheriffs' School, Tyler Area Association of Legal Professionals, and numerous individual Counties.

Lee grew up in Tyler, Texas. She gained a respect for law enforcement at a young age as her father served as a Tyler Police Officer for 20 years. She graduated from Texas A&M University and worked her way up from filing clerk to paralegal at Flowers Davis. Lee left the firm to attend law school at South Texas College of Law, Houston. Upon graduation, she returned to Flowers Davis and has thoroughly enjoyed providing law enforcement officers and County officials with a strong defense. Lee is married to Cory Shepherd and lives in Tyler with their two dogs, Chiquita and Beatrice.

Practice Areas: Real Estate Litigation, Commercial and Business Litigation, Oil and Gas Litigation, Defense of Governmental Entities, Insurance Defense

<p>Education South Texas College of Law, Juris Doctorate, 2009 Texas A&M University, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science, 2002</p> <p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 2010</p> <p>Community Involvement City of Tyler, Civil Service Commission Board, 2018-present Smith County Young Lawyers Association, past Board Member</p>	<p>Court Admissions US District Court, Northern District of Texas US District Court, Eastern District of Texas US District Court, Southern District of Texas US District Court, Western District of Texas Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Supreme Court of the United States of America</p> <p>Memberships State Bar of Texas Smith County Bar Association Bar Association of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals</p>
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Articles, Publications & Presentations

- “Bail Bond Handbook,” published by the Texas Association of Counties, Co-author, 2019, 2022
- “Game Rooms and Eight-Liners,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Annual Training Conference, 2022
- “Open Records: An Overview for Law Enforcement,” Correctional Management Institute of Texas, Women in Criminal Justice Conference, 2022
- “The Facts of the Acts: Sandra Bland, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Botham Jean,” Texas Association of Counties, 2021 RMP Defense Counsel Symposium
- “Excessive Force & Bystander Liability,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Annual Training Conference, 2021
- “Investigating, Evaluating & Defending In-Custody Deaths,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Annual Training Conference, 2021
- “Three Indefensible Acts,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Sheriffs’ Administrative Assistants Conference, 2021
- “Internal & External Complaints about Officers,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Sheriffs’ Administrative Assistants Conference, 2021
- “In-Custody Deaths,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Sheriffs’ Administrative Assistants Conference, 2021
- “Open Records for Law Enforcement,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Sheriffs’ Administrative Assistants Conference, 2021
- “Excessive Force & Bystander Liability,” United States Marshals Service, 2021
- “Labor Laws, Open Records, Ethics and Bail Bonds,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, New Sheriff’s Leadership Institute, 2020
- “Things to Know about Open Records,” Wood County, Texas, 2020
- “Investigating, Evaluating and Defending In-Custody Deaths,” Texas Association of Counties, 2019 RMP Defense Counsel Symposium
- “Three Indefensible Acts,” Correctional Management Institute of Texas, Women in Criminal Justice Conference, 2017-2019

“Bail Bonds: Issues, Liability & Legal Update for Bail Bond Board Counties,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Sheriffs’ Administrative Assistants Training Conference, 2019

“Legal Issues: Bail Bonds,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Sheriffs’ Administrative Assistants Training Conference, 2019

“Legal Issues: Open Records,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Sheriffs’ Administrative Assistants Training Conference, 2019

“I Didn’t Do It, But the Warrant Says I Did,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Sheriffs’ Training Conference, 2018

“Preventing and Defending Against Sexual Harassment Claims,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Sheriffs’ Administrative Assistants Training Conference, 2018

“Bail Bonds: Issues, Liability & Legal Update,” Sheriffs’ Association of Texas, Sheriffs’ Administrative Assistants Training Conference, 2018

“Three Indefensible Acts,” Hays, Liberty and Chambers County Sheriff’s Offices, 2017

“Texas Public Information Act,” Wood County Sheriff’s Office, 2017

“Legal Liabilities,” Van Zandt County Sheriff’s Office, 2017

“Qualified Immunity,” Tyler Area Association of Legal Professionals, 2016



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Rob Knight started his legal career in 2007 by opening a law firm in Houston, Texas, where he practiced in the areas of family, criminal, real estate and probate law. He relocated to Tyler, Texas, to focus his work on Oil and Gas Title Opinions. At Flowers Davis, he practices in the areas of oil and gas title opinions and real estate law. Rob has prepared title opinions in multiple states, from simple title opinions to complex division order, unit-wide opinions and leasehold opinions. He also renders title opinions and consults on title issues in anticipation of both residential and commercial loans, and for municipal condemnation proceedings. Additionally, he oversees a team of attorneys who review real property title for over 1,500 real estate properties a month for title companies prior to issuing title insurance policies. He has worked in several areas of the law that overlap real property law, including probate and family law, and has a thorough understanding of all instruments within a chain of title, and what is required to cure title defects.

Rob typically works for large multi-national oil and gas companies, as well as mid-sized and small local oil and gas companies, as well as individuals who own oil, gas and mineral interests. In addition, Rob assists individuals with estate planning, drafting wills and trusts, POAs, advanced directives and Transfer on Death Deeds. In early 2019, Rob was named Managing Partner over the Oil and Gas Litigation, Appellate and Transactional Sections of the Firm.

Rob enjoys working in real property law and reviewing land title. Whether he is preparing title opinions or aiding the issuance of loans and title policies, he understands the importance of providing his services in a quick and efficient manner, and in delivering a quality product.

Outside of work Rob enjoys playing guitar, painting, mountain biking, yoga, preparing for and competing in obstacle course races.

Practice Areas: Business & Commercial Litigation, Business Entity Formation, Eminent Domain | Condemnation, Estate Planning - Wills & Trusts, Oil & Gas Litigation, Oil & Gas Title Opinions, Real Estate Law, Real Estate Litigation, Transactions, Acquisitions & Development

<p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 2007</p> <p>Court Admissions U. S. District Court, Southern District of Texas</p> <p>Education South Texas College of Law, merit scholarship, cum laude, 2007 Texas A&M University, Bachelor of Science, Construction Science, 1999</p> <p>Extracurricular South Texas College of Law Moot Court Competition</p>	<p>Memberships State Bar of Texas State Bar of Texas Oil and Gas Law Section Harris County Attorney’s Association Delta Theta Phi, a professional law fraternity Tau Sigma Delta, the Honors Society for Architecture and the Arts</p> <p>Honors and Awards The Order of the Lytae, a legal honors society South Texas School of Law Dean’s Honor List College of Architecture Distinguished Students Roster, Spring 1997 and 1998</p>
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Publications and Presentations

EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM LANDMEN, “Death, Divorce, Business Entities - Who Needs to Sign?”, September 2021, Tyler, TX, presented by Rob Knight.

AUSTIN PROFESSIONAL LANDMAN’S ASSOCIATION, “Drilling vs. Division Order Title Opinions”, December 2019, Austin, TX, presented by Rob Knight.

EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF LEASE AND TITLE ANALYSTS FALL SEMINAR, “Drilling vs. Division Order Title Opinions”, October 2018, Tyler, TX, Melanie S. Reyes and Rob Knight.

2018 HOUSTON ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN FALL SEMINAR, “Ethical Considerations: Trilogy of Working as Lawyers and Landmen for the Good of the Client”, September 2018, presented by Rob Knight and Jordan Mullins. Based on a paper authored by Celia Flowers.

2017 EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM LANDMEN SPRING SEMINAR, “Horizontal Wells Crossing Unit Lines: From Permitting to the Division of Royalties”, April 2017, presented by Melanie S. Reyes and Rob Knight. Based on a paper co-authored by Celia Flowers and Melanie Reyes.



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Preston McGee is Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in the areas of Civil Trial Law and Personal Injury Trial Law*. He has spent most of his career defending large and small business clients in Commercial and Personal Injury Litigation. In recent years, his caseload has included an increasing number of construction lawsuits, where he has obtained positive outcomes for contractors and sub-contractors sued by commercial or governmental entities. Preston has successfully tried complex oil and gas cases including injury and condemnation cases on behalf of major oil and gas companies. He has also represented individuals and businesses in diverse Medical Liability, Professional Liability, DTPA and Employment Law cases. Preston regularly serves as local and trial counsel for both individuals and large corporations in Intellectual Property and other Litigation pending in the Eastern District of Texas.

After graduating from Baylor University Law School, Preston began private practice with the Potter Law Firm in Tyler, winning accolades as the Smith County Bar Association Outstanding Young Lawyer in 1996. He founded his own firm in 1998 and after joining Flowers Davis in 2001 has continued the work he loves by serving his clients in trial practice.

Preston is a native of East Texas and is a sixth-generation Texan. He and wife Liz have made Tyler, Texas home since 1986. The McGees are a close-knit family, including a son and daughter-in-law Peyton and Katelaine McGee, and two daughters and sons-in-law, Emily and Bill Boyd and Abby and Harrison Pollard. He is very involved in his local church, serving as a Deacon and adult Connect Group leader. In his free time, Preston enjoys playing golf, closely following his favorite football and basketball teams, and most of all, spending time with his family.

*The Board Certification process is rigorous and thorough with stringent, ongoing requirements after initial certification. As of July 2019, fewer than 1% of all Texas attorneys are Board Certified in any two areas of the law.

Practice Areas: Business & Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, Consumer Law/DTPA, Eminent Domain/Condemnation, Employment Law, Estate Planning, Insurance Defense, Intellectual Property Defense, Medical Liability, Oil & Gas Litigation, Professional Liability

<p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 1986</p> <p>Board Certifications Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Civil Trial Law, since 1992 Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Personal Injury Trial Law, since 1999</p> <p>Court Admissions United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas United States District Court, Northern District of Texas United States District Court, Southern District of Texas United States District Court, Western District of Texas United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit United States Supreme Court</p> <p>Education Baylor University School of Law, Juris Doctorate, 1986 Baylor University, Bachelor of Arts, History, 1983 (with honors)</p> <p>Honors & Awards Smith County Bar Association Outstanding Young Lawyer, 1996 – 1997 Baylor School of Law Phi Delta Phi Honor Fraternity – Magister</p>	<p>Memberships State Bar of Texas, Litigation Section Texas Association of Defense Counsel DRI, international organization of attorneys defending the interests of business and individuals in civil litigation Texas Board of Legal Specialization Smith County Bar Association</p> <p>Extracurricular Baylor University – Vice President of Class Baylor University Student Foundation – Recruitment Chairman Baylor University New Guard, Vice Chairman Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Vice President and Treasurer Baylor School of Law Moot Court Competitions</p> <p>Community Involvement Green Acres Baptist Church, Deacon and adult Connect Group leader Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, Life Member and former Board Member Children’s Village Home of Tyler, former Board Chairman United Way of Tyler/Smith County, former Division Chair Baptist General Convention of Texas, former Human Welfare Coordinating Board Vice-Chairman</p>
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Chad Rook has practiced in the Litigation Section of Flowers Davis since 2006. His primary areas of focus are Insurance Defense, Defense of Governmental Entities, Medical Negligence, Professional Negligence and Commercial Litigation. Chad handles first-party and third-party insurance claims, defends governmental entities in Civil Rights litigation, employment litigation, and under the Texas Tort Claims Act, and has defended professionals ranging from physicians, nurses, attorneys, and insurance agents/adjusters. He also represents physicians before the Texas Medical Board and in connection with peer review matters. Representative clients include State Farm Insurance, Texas Association of Counties, ProAssurance, and Travelers. He is an active trial attorney who has tried numerous jury and non-jury cases in many counties and federal courts throughout the State of Texas as well as arguing cases on appeal in both state and federal appellate courts.

After graduating from law school in 1991, Chad began private practice with the law firm of Fowler, Wiles, Norton and Keith in Dallas, Texas, focusing on the defense of medical malpractice, products liability, premises liability, and trucking litigation. He left Fowler Wiles to help form Jones Rook Austin in 1997, a Dallas based insurance defense and commercial litigation firm focusing on medical malpractice, products liability, toxic tort, trucking litigation and commercial litigation.

Chad lives in Tyler, Texas with his wife, Christina, and their five daughters, Caroline, Catherine, Sophie-Claire, Ella and Rose.

Practice Areas: Business & Commercial Litigation, Defense of Governmental Entities, Insurance Defense, Medical Liability, Professional Liability

<p>Education University of Houston Law Center, Doctor of Jurisprudence, 1991 Baylor University, Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance and Economics, 1987</p> <p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 1991</p> <p>Court Admissions All Courts in the State of Texas US District Court, Eastern District of Texas US District Court, Western District of Texas US District Court, Northern District of Texas</p>	<p>Memberships State Bar of Texas American Bar Association American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)</p> <p>Extracurricular Moot Court Mock Trial Competitions</p> <p>Community Involvement Basketball and Soccer Coach for his daughters' teams Treasurer, Tyler Legacy Hoops Club</p>
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J. Mitchell Beard’s practice is focused on the practice areas of general Civil Litigation, and Oil and Gas Law. He represents clients from all walks of life, corporate and individual. In the past few years, he has represented mostly oil and gas corporate clients in condemnation actions, although he also represents landowners in condemnation actions and in general oil and gas transactions and disputes. Mitch came to Flowers Davis, P.L.L.C. from the law firm of Wellborn, Houston, Adkison, Mann, Sadler & Hill, L.L.P. in Henderson, Texas where he initially served as an Associate Attorney and, later, as a Partner for seven years.

Mitch has had a varied practice on both sides of the docket involving general civil litigation, personal injury, family law, corporate and business law, oil and gas law, appellate law and probate law, among others. Before attending law school, he practiced as a Registered Pharmacist (R. Ph.) for seven years. His experience as a pharmacist helps him evaluate and handle medical malpractice cases, from both the plaintiff or defendant points of view. The same can be said with regard to personal injury lawsuits.

Mitch is very active in his community, providing pro bono legal services and as ad litem for minor children in a variety of family law and domestic dispute proceedings, and in situations involving minor children where there are allegations of neglect or abuse. He has also donated legal advice and services for the welfare and benefit of animals. He lives in Whitehouse, Texas.

Practice Areas: Business & Commercial Litigation, Eminent Domain/Condemnation, Oil & Gas Litigation

<p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 1989</p> <p>Education Baylor University School of Law, Juris Doctorate, 1989 University of Houston School of Pharmacy, Bachelor of Science, Pharmacy, 1979 Stephen F. Austin University, pre-pharmacy undergraduate studies</p> <p>Extracurricular Baylor Order of Barristers Harvey M. Richey Moot Court Society Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity Baylor University School of Law Moot Court Competition</p>	<p>Honors & Awards Baylor University School of Law Dean’s List</p> <p>Memberships State Bar of Texas, the Appellate Section of the State Bar of Texas Smith County Bar Association Texas Pharmaceutical Association American Pharmaceutical Association</p> <p>Community Involvement Pro Bono legal services to the County Court at Law In and For Rusk County Informal service with courts and with the Texas Department of Protective & Regulatory Services/Child Protective Services Rusk County Animal Outreach, Board Member</p>
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Paul Brown has been with Flowers Davis since November 2020 and practices in the areas of oil and gas title opinions, real estate law, and estate planning.

Paul has a strong background in the oil and gas industry as well as land title and real estate. He has rendered drilling, division order and acquisition title opinions across East Texas, South Texas, the Permian Basin, Ohio, New Mexico and North Dakota. This gave him a holistic view of the oil and gas industry and the ability to practice across multiple jurisdictions. In addition to rendering title opinions, Paul is well-versed in drafting joint operating agreements, farmout agreements, pooling and unitization agreements, lease addenda, mineral reservations, and assignments. He has represented oil and gas companies in connection with acquisition and divestiture of assets and has also drafted lien documents for a bankruptcy filing for an oil and gas operator.

Paul is also familiar with Texas Railroad Commission regulations and other oil-and-gas-play-specific drilling permit requirements. He has researched producing well information, HBP acreage, and proration units. In addition, he has taught Introduction to Texas Oil and Gas Law to landmen and other industry professionals at Kilgore College on a quarterly basis.

Real estate law often intersects oil and gas law and business law. Paul has drafted promissory notes, mortgages and deeds of trust for residential real estate closings, as well as UCC documents, employment dissolution agreements and demand letters.

In his spare time, Paul is a travel enthusiast and is an avid hiker of America’s National Parks.

Practice Areas: Estate Planning - Wills & Trusts, Oil & Gas Title Opinions, Real Estate Law

<p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 2010</p> <p>Education University of Houston Law Center, Juris Doctor, May 2010 The University of Texas at Austin, Bachelor of Arts in History and American Studies, December 2005</p>	<p>Memberships State Bar of Texas Oil and Gas Law Section</p> <p>Extracurricular Dean’s List, University of Houston Law Center Honor Court, The University of Texas at Austin</p> <p>Community Involvement Active member and volunteer at Dayspring Methodist Church</p>
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Brison Bursey
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Brison Bursey is an Associate Attorney who joined Flowers Davis in late 2023. His primary practice areas are real estate litigation and oil and gas litigation. Brison has a strong litigation track record balanced with sound business acumen.

At a previous firm, Brison directed the prosecution of a complex wrongful death case that resulted in one of the biggest settlements in his firm’s history. At another, he was heavily involved in the prosecution of an intellectual property case resulting in a \$26,500,000 verdict and he successfully directed a lawsuit in a major pharmaceutical multidistrict litigation proceeding. He has prosecuted and defended multiple cases involving noncompetition, antitrust, contract, products liability, insurance and business litigation issues, managing all aspects of discovery, pretrial hearings, depositions and mediations. He successfully defended one verdict on appeal.

Immediately prior to joining Flowers Davis, Brison served as General Counsel and Chief Legal Counsel for Inova Partners, LLC, a professional veterinary practice management company. There he directed a multi-million-dollar M&A deal involving multiple veterinary management service organizations, drafting all legal documents and managing the entire process to timely closing. He advised executives on strategic corporate and legal matters, managing all aspects of litigation and dispute resolution. He negotiated multiple contracts, deeds, employment agreements, and took ultimate responsibility for all legal operations and regulatory compliance.

Outside of work, Brison enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, and playing the guitar. In recent years, he’s become active in jiu jitsu and enjoys earning his belts. Brison and his family live in Weatherford, Texas.

Practice Areas: Real Estate Litigation, Oil & Gas Litigation

<p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 2017</p> <p>Education Texas A&M University School of Law, Fort Worth, TX, Juris Doctorate, 2017 Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, Bachelor of Arts, English, 2008</p> <p>Community Involvement Fort Worth Livestock Show & Rodeo, Volunteer & Ambassador since October 2015</p>	<p>Memberships State Bar of Texas Texas A&M School of Law Journal of Property Law, Staff Member since August 2015 Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association, Student Member Texas Young Lawyers Association, Student Member Christian Legal Society, Student Member</p> <p>Honors and Awards Mack Kidd Administrative Moot Court Competition, Quarterfinalist, Oct 2015 Texas A&M School of Law, Dean's List, Spring 2015</p>
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Michael Carney

Attorney-at-Law

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Michael Carney is an associate at the firm’s Tyler office. While he has broad legal experience, his practice primarily focuses on estate planning and real estate law. Michael advises clients in estate planning, probate proceedings, tutorships, and guardianships, counseling them on how to develop and implement comprehensive estate plans. One of Michael’s areas of particular interest is estate planning for families with children with special needs. As the father of a child with special needs, Michael brings unique insight to this area of his practice.

Real estate law is a natural focus for Michael, as estate planning attorneys need to be familiar with state-specific estate planning laws, probate laws, federal and state tax laws, property laws, and asset protection laws. Michael works closely with lenders, title companies, individuals and entities to ensure real estate transactions are handled in a professional and timely manner. He also facilitates business entity formation and practices corporate transactional law. Michael is licensed to practice in Louisiana and Texas.

Michael brings strong analytical and research skills to the firm, having worked as an analyst for the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), a nonprofit corporation established by Congress to oversee the audits of public companies. At PCAOB, he drafted interpretive guidance regarding Board rules, prepared recommendations for Board action, and worked with registered firms to resolve issues of non-compliance. Also in Washington, DC, he served as the law clerk to the Hon. John H. Bayly of the District of Columbia Superior Court where he worked closely with the judge on a fast-paced criminal docket of approximately 400 cases, conducting legal research and drafting orders. During law school he worked as a legal intern for a United States Senator, preparing briefing materials for the nomination of Chief Justice John Roberts; he also served as research assistant for the United States Chamber of Commerce Commission on the Capital Markets.

Outside of work, Michael enjoys spending time with his wife and children and experiencing the great outdoors. Michael and his wife Genevieve have four children.

Practice Areas: Business Entity Formation, Estate Planning - Wills & Trusts, Real Estate Law, Corporate Law, Special Needs Planning, Transactions

Bar Admissions

State Bar of Texas, 2010
State Bar of Louisiana, 2014
State Bar of Virginia, 2007 (inactive)

Education

The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Juris Doctor, May 2007
University at Albany, State University of New York, Bachelor of Arts, Classical History and Archaeology, May 2001

Memberships

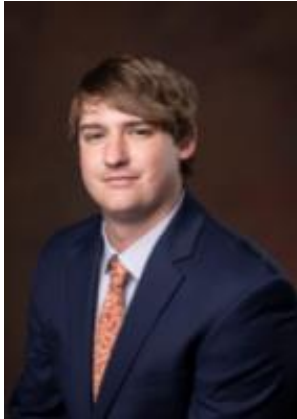
State Bar of Texas
Harry V. Booth Judge Henry A. Politz American Inn of Court

Honors and Awards

Presidential Scholar, University at Albany, SUNY

Extracurricular

Journal of Law, Philosophy, and Culture
Moot Court
Corporate and Securities Law Program



Jack Fulgham

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John (“Jack”) Rawls Fulgham practices in the areas of Defense of Governmental Entities, Insurance Defense and Tax Planning. Jack brings a strong background in taxation matters, having obtained a Master of Personal Financial Planning degree simultaneously with his Juris Doctor degree at Texas Tech University. After being admitted to the State Bar of Texas, he continued his education with a Master of Laws in Taxation degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

Prior to joining Flowers Davis, Jack served as Senior Associate in the Mergers and Acquisitions Tax Division of PriceWaterhouseCooper, where he performed tax due diligence and drafted reports on C Corps, S Corps and partnerships targeted for strategic acquisition by private equity or corporate entities. He also prepared legal entity restructuring and reorganization plans for domestic and multinational corporations.

While gaining his degrees, Jack worked as a staff member at the Texas Tech University Tax Center, as a legal intern at Flowers Davis PLLC, and as an oil and gas acquisitions intern at Royalty Clearinghouse Ltd. In those roles, he gained invaluable experience in tax court petitions and tax compliance, drafting briefs for the Supreme Court of Texas and federal district court in defense of governmental entities, and assisted attorneys in title curative matters.

Practice Areas: Defense of Governmental Entities, Insurance Defense, Tax Planning

<p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 2017</p> <p>Education Georgetown University Law Center, Master of Laws in Taxation, <i>cum laude</i>, May 2018 Texas Tech University School of Law, Juris Doctor, <i>cum laude</i>, May 2017 Texas Tech University, Master of Personal Financial Planning, May 2017 The University of Texas, Bachelor of Arts in History, May 2014</p>	
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Catherine C. Goodgion
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Catherine Chesley Goodgion is a Patent Prosecutor, licensed to practice before the [United States Patent and Trademark Office \(USPTO\)](#). To qualify as a Patent Prosecutor, an attorney must meet legal, scientific and technical qualifications and demonstrate a good moral character and reputation. In addition to earning a technical science degree and a law degree, they must apply for registration with the USPTO and pass a separate bar examination. Fewer than 1% of the attorneys in Smith County have met these requirements.

As a Patent Prosecutor, Catherine can represent inventors and entrepreneurs in protecting intellectual property such as inventions, design or processes. She researches patentability, prepares and files patent applications, negotiates with and responds to the USPTO, and files appeals. She can also help business clients develop patent protection development plans and comprehensive design patents, including trademarks and copyrights.

Catherine is a [Fellow in the College of the State Bar of Texas](#), an honorary society of lawyers who are among the best trained attorneys in Texas, having completed at least double the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) required by the State Bar of Texas. She also practices in the areas of Real Estate Transactions, Acquisitions & Development, Document Preparation and Curative. She has represented clients in the acquisition and divestiture of assets including drafting assignments, purchase and sale agreements, right-of-way agreements, easements, boundary line agreements, affidavits of heirship, numerous real estate and commercial loan documents in addition to closing documents. Catherine has drafted and reviewed purchase and sale agreements for residential and commercial transactions. Catherine understands the complicated curative issues involved in real estate transactions.

Prior to passing the bar, Catherine worked as an Independent Petroleum Landman for Flowers Davis running title, preparing runsheets and completing ownership reports. Before attending law school and after earning her Masters in Business Administration, Catherine worked for several years as a Pharmaceutical Sales Specialist exceeding her sales targets for the sale of antidepressant and hormone therapy products, and insulin products, respectively. Catherine's experience and education in the pharmaceutical, medical, and oil and gas fields brings a business person's perspective to her legal work.

Outside of work, Catherine enjoys CrossFit, running, water sports, traveling, spending time with her husband Sam, their children Mary Blake and Palmer, and their large group of friends and family. The Goodgions attend Green Acres Baptist Church.

Practice Areas: Document Preparation, Estate Planning, Intellectual Property (USPTO Prosecutor), Real Estate Law, Transactions, Acquisitions & Development

Bar Admissions

State Bar of Texas, May 2012
US Patent & Trademark Office August, 2016

Education

St Mary's University School of Law, Juris Doctor, 2011
University of Texas at Tyler, Master of Business Administration, 2003
Baylor University Bachelor of Science, Biology, 1999
Rhodes College, Undergraduate Courses, 90 hours

Community Involvement

Garden Club

Memberships

Fellow in the College of the State Bar of Texas
State Bar of Texas
Smith County Bar Association
American Bar Association

Honors and Awards

Linda & Dave Schlueter First Year Moot Court Competition, Octa-Finalist



Ha H. Kummerfeld
Attorney-at-Law | Of Counsel

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Ha H. Kummerfeld represents individuals and companies in U.S. immigration matters, including nonimmigrant visas, permanent residence, and naturalization. Her practice also includes the representation of individuals and companies in global migration matters and corporate immigration compliance. Prior to joining Flowers Davis, Ha practiced immigration law at her own firm, Ha H. Kummerfeld PLLC. She previously led Potter Minton's immigration practice, served as Of Counsel for immigration matters to Houston-based law firms, and clerked for The Honorable Judith K. Guthrie, United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Ha immigrated to the United States from Vietnam at an early age. She was raised in San Antonio and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin. Ha received her law degree from South Texas College of Law. During law school, Ha interned at the Office of the Attorney General of Texas and worked at the J. Frank Evans Center for Conflict Resolution.

Ha is passionate about civil rights and social action, human rights, and disaster and humanitarian relief. Her pro bono community service includes successfully obtaining special immigrant juvenile status for an unaccompanied minor from El Salvador, and obtaining asylum status for a Rwandan asylee. She has also represented indigent individuals on a pro bono basis in various family law matters including assisting with guardianships and serving as an attorney ad litem. Ha is fluent in Vietnamese and English.

Practice Areas: Immigration Law, including

- Nonimmigrant Visas - B, E1, E2, E3, F, H1B, H1B1, H2A, H2B, H3, J, K, L1A, L1B, M, O, P, Q, R, TN, S, T, U, and Waiver of Inadmissibility
- Permanent Residence
 - Employment-Based Immigrants, Labor Certifications, National Interest Waivers, Special Immigrants, Investors (EB-5)
 - Family-Sponsored Immigrants - Immediate Relatives, Removal of Condition on Residence, Adoptions, I-601A Provisional Waivers and I-601 Waivers,
 - Asylees and Refugees
 - Diversity Immigrants
 - Special Immigrant Juvenile
- Naturalization and Citizenship - N-400 Application, Special Consideration for Armed Forces, Derivative Citizenship, Certificate of Citizenship, and Naturalization for Children Born Outside the U.S.
- Worksite Compliance - I-9, E-Verify, and Immigration Document Compliance
- Removal & Relief
 - "Crimmigration" (Criminal and Immigration Law)
 - Immigration Bond
 - Types of Relief - Adjustment of Status, Extreme Hardship Waiver, Prosecutorial Discretion, Asylum, Cancellation of Removal, Withholding of Removal, Convention Against Torture, Deferred Adjudication, Deferred Enforced Departure, and Voluntary Departure
- Appeals - Administrative Appeals Office, Board of Immigration Appeals, Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals, and Federal Judicial Review
- Global Migration

<p>Education South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas, Juris Doctor, 2006 University of Texas, Austin, Texas, Bachelor of Science in Advertising and Minor in Business Management, 1999</p> <p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 2007</p> <p>Court Admissions All Immigration Courts Board of Immigration Appeals Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas</p>	<p>Memberships Texas Bar Foundation - Sustaining Life Fellow, since Nov 2016 Tyler Junior College's Paralegal Advisory Committee - Committee Member, since Nov 2015 American Immigration Lawyers Association – Member since Jan 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas Chapter • Federal Court Litigation Section • Global Migration Section • Business Section • Family Section <p>State Bar of Texas – Member Immigration and Nationality Law Section, since Jan 2007 Smith County Bar Association - Board Member, Jan 2017 - Jan 2021 Tyler Executive Women Network – Director, May 2015 - May 2016 Smith County Bar Association – Women's Section Chair 2015-2016, Co-Chair 2014-2015</p> <p>Community Involvement National Center for Refugees and Immigrant Children YMCA Refugee Resettlement Program Lone Star Legal Aid Catholic Charities East Texas Immigration Advocates Network United Way of Smith County</p>
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Articles, Publications & Presentations

Speaker, The ABCs of Becoming a USC, Tyler Connections Club, Tyler, Texas, January 2016

Speaker, Immigration Law For Business, Tyler Executive Women's Network, Tyler, Texas, January 2016

Speaker, Immigration 101, Tyler Area Association of Legal Professionals, Tyler, Texas, May 2015

Keynote Speaker, Office of International Programs, University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler, Texas, July 2014

Speaker, Top 10 Things Every Lawyer Should Know About...Immigration, Smith County Bar Association, Tyler, Texas, October 2013



J. Scott Miller
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Scott Miller serves his clients in the fields of real estate, banking, mortgage lending and general business law. Scott began his legal career as an in-house attorney for a farm and ranch bank in East Texas. This experience built on his extensive retail banking experience over a period of ten years.

Prior to law school, Scott worked in various positions at a major financial institution serving as a loan officer, banking center manager and regional manager responsible for over thirty banking centers in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. He also served as an escrow officer for a national title insurance underwriter. Scott regularly provides representation to banks, credit unions and title companies throughout Texas.

He resides in Longview, Texas with his wife, Stefanie.

Practice Areas: Banking Law, Corporate Law, Real Estate Law. Transactions, Acquisitions & Development

<p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 2003</p> <p>Education Texas A&M University School of Law, Juris Doctorate, magna cum laude, 2003</p>	<p>Memberships State Bar of Texas, Real Estate Section</p> <p>Community Involvement Longview Arboretum and Nature Center, Board Member</p>
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Robin O'Donoghue
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Robin O'Donoghue is a litigation attorney practicing in the areas of Insurance Defense and Defense of Governmental Entities.

Before joining Flowers Davis in September, 2012, Robin practiced primarily in the areas of medical malpractice and general civil litigation for the firms of Bailey & Williams and Gwinn & Roby in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. There she actively participated in all phases of medical malpractice defense, products liability, and general insurance defense litigation. She prepared discovery responses and objections, took and defended expert witness depositions, advocated clients' positions at court hearings, and sat as second chair in medical malpractice trials. She negotiated settlement of civil lawsuits independently and at mediation, and represented clients in personal injury trials.

Practice Areas: Defense of Governmental Entities, Insurance Defense

<p>Education Baylor University School of Law, Juris Doctorate, 1991 Texas Christian University, Bachelor of Science, Political Science, 1988</p> <p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 1991</p> <p>Court Admissions US District Court, Eastern District of Texas</p> <p>Extracurricular Harvey M. Richey Moot Court Society TCU House of Representatives Washington, DC Internship Program, Fall 1987</p>	<p>Honors & Awards Sixth Place Individual Advocate, 1989 Hope, Pierce, Tartt Scholarship Loy M. Simpkins Memorial Award Order of Omega Honor Society</p> <p>Memberships State Bar of Texas American Bar Association</p> <p>Community Involvement Trinity School of Texas, Fundraiser, Development Committee Member</p>
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Melanie Reyes-Rawls
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Melanie Reyes-Rawls joined Flowers Davis in September 2004, and currently focuses in the areas of property law including oil and gas title opinions, expert oil and gas consulting and real estate transactions. She is Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization* in Oil, Gas and Mineral Law and is licensed to practice law in both Texas and New Mexico. Melanie primarily represents national and international petroleum companies in rendering drilling and division order title opinions.

In addition, Melanie assists individuals with estate planning, such as drafting wills and trusts, powers of attorney, advanced directives and Transfer on Death Deeds. She has further handled numerous real property-related appeals, litigation matters, and eminent domain proceedings.

After graduating in the top 10% of her law school class, Melanie started her legal career working as a Briefing Attorney to the Honorable Justices James Baker and Michael H. Schneider of the Texas Supreme Court. She then worked for the Dallas firm Thompson & Knight LLP, where she practiced in the Litigation department, focusing in the areas of oil and gas, antitrust, appellate, and intellectual property law.

Outside of work, Melanie enjoys music, cooking, gardening, deep-sea fishing, yoga, and spending time with family and friends.

*The Board Certification process is rigorous and thorough with stringent, ongoing requirements after initial certification. As of July 2019, fewer than 7% of all Texas attorneys are Board Certified in any area of the law.

Practice Areas: Estate Planning - Wills & Trusts, Oil & Gas Title Opinions, Oil & Gas Expert Consulting, Real Estate Transactions

<p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 2003 State Bar of New Mexico, 2018</p> <p>Board Certifications Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Oil, Gas and Mineral Law, since 2014</p> <p>Court Admissions U. S. District Court, Northern District of Texas</p> <p>Education University of Tulsa College of Law, Doctor of Jurisprudence, 2002 Oklahoma State University/Langston, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, 1999</p>	<p>Certifications Texas Real Estate Commission MCE Instructor</p> <p>Memberships Energy Section of the Texas State Bar Appellate Section of the Texas State Bar Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law (NREEL) Section of the State Bar of New Mexico</p> <p>Honors and Awards American Jurisprudence Award, Legal Writing and Research American Jurisprudence Award Civil Procedure II American Jurisprudence Award, International Business Transactions American Jurisprudence Award, Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiating</p>
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Publications & Presentations

TEXAS STATE BAR ADVANCED OIL, GAS AND ENERGY RESOURCES CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COURSE, “Adverse Possession Law in the State of Texas”, September 2019, presented by Melanie Reyes-Rawls.

EAST TEXAS SOCIETY OF COPAS (The Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies, Inc.), “Cost-Free Royalty – Where Valuation Begins and Post-Production Cost Deductions End”, August 2019. Based on a paper written by Celia C. Flowers & Melanie S. Reyes, presented by Melanie Reyes-Rawls.

EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF LEASE AND TITLE ANALYSTS FALL SEMINAR, “Drilling vs. Division Order Title Opinions”, October 2018, Tyler, TX, Melanie S. Reyes and Rob Knight.

EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM LANDMAN SPRING SEMINAR; “Horizontal Wells Crossing Unit Lines --- From Permitting to Division of Royalties”, April 2017, Tyler, Texas, Celia C. Flowers, Melanie S. Reyes and Rob Knight.

EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF LEASE AND TITLE ANALYSTS FALL SEMINAR; “Cost-Free Royalties – Where Valuation begins and Post-Production Cost Deductions End”, November 2016, Tyler, Texas, Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes.

OIL, GAS & ENERGY RESOURCES LAW 101 COURSE; “Conveyance and Reservations of Mineral and Royalty Interests”, September 28, 2016, Houston, Texas, written by William B. Buford, updated and presented by Melanie S. Reyes.

60th AAPL ANNUAL MEETING AND EDUCATION SESSIONS – “We Have to Drill This Well Somewhere-A Survey of Surface Issues Across the Nation”, June 2014, Montreal, Canada, Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2013 REAL ESTATE DRAFTING ARTICLE, March 2013, “Avoiding the Unintended Consequence When Drafting Mineral Reservations”, Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2011 SECTION REPORT OF THE OIL, GAS & ENERGY RESOURCES LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS, June 2011, “The Proof is in the Public Record...or is it? Navigating Evidentiary Issues Related to Texas Railroad Commission Documents”, Celia C. Flowers and Melanie Reyes

2009 TEXAS LAND AND TITLE INSTITUTE, November 2009, “Surface Use by Mineral Owners: The Title Insurance Solution,” Celia Flowers and Melanie Reyes

2009 EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM LANDMEN SEMINAR, February 2009, "Pitfalls in Title Examination: The Intricate Relationship Between Real Property Rights and Ownership," Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes Bruce

2007 REVIEW OF OIL AND GAS LAW XXII, Energy Law Section Dallas Bar Association, August 17, 2007, "Exercising the Power of Eminent Domain," Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2007 TEXAS LAND AND TITLE INSTITUTE, November 2007, "Minerals: Examination and Coverage Issues," Celia C. Flowers and Melanie S. Reyes

2006 OIL, GAS & MINERAL LAW INSTITUTE, "Protecting and Defending Your Mineral Title", Celia C. Flowers and Melanie Reyes



Daniel Ross
Attorney-at-Law | Of Counsel

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Daniel C. Ross, Esq., joined Flowers Davis in January 2017, and practices exclusively in Immigration Law with an emphasis on employment/business immigration cases and removal cases. He handles both immigrant and nonimmigrant cases, including, but not limited to: H-1B's, E-2's, L-1A/L-1B's, R-1's, H-2A's, P-1's, EB-2 NIW's, EB-1 outstanding researchers, EB-1 extraordinary ability individuals, EB-4 religious workers, and EB-3 skilled, unskilled, and professional PERM's, as well as employer I-9 compliance issues.

He also works on affirmative asylum claims and in the following areas of removal defense: bond redetermination proceedings before Immigration Courts nationwide, defensive asylum claims, applications for cancellation of removal (LPR and non-LPR), adjustment of status while in proceedings, termination of proceedings, requests for humanitarian parole, and applications for voluntary departure. He represents individuals detained by ICE throughout Texas and Louisiana.

He frequently works with criminal defense attorneys to draft plea deals that will avoid adverse immigration consequences for his clients and advises attorneys and clients on the immigration consequences of possible criminal convictions. He works on TPS applications, parole-in-place benefits for military families, U-visas for victims of qualifying crimes, petitions for victims of domestic violence under the Violence Against Women Act, and Cuban Adjustment Act cases.

Daniel was born and raised in Linden, Texas, and attended Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, on an academic scholarship where he graduated summa cum laude. He taught English in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico before attending Florida State University College of Law in Tallahassee, Florida, where he graduated cum laude in 2012. He is a member of the Florida Bar and American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Outside of work, Daniel enjoys being outdoors, fishing, duck hunting, watching all sports (especially the Florida State University Seminoles), volunteering in the community, and spending time with his family.

Practice Areas: Immigration Law, Employment Law (Immigration matters only)

<p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Florida, 2012</p> <p>Education Florida State University College of Law, Juris Doctorate, <i>cum laude</i>, May 2012 Texas State University, Bachelor of Arts, Major in Political Science, Minor in Philosophy, <i>summa cum laude</i>, December 2007</p> <p>Honors and Awards Book Award, Immigration Law, Fall 2010 Book Award, Federal Indian Law, Fall 2010 Dean’s List, Florida State University College of Law, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011 Dean’s List, Texas State University, Fall 2004 – Fall 2007 Mitte Scholarship Recipient, Fall 2004 – Fall 2007 Richard B. Henderson Award Winner – Top student in Political Science Department at Texas State University – Fall 2007</p>	<p>Memberships Volusia County Young Professionals (2013-2015) Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar (2012-Present) Volusia County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (2013-2015)</p> <p>Extracurricular American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), member 2010-2016 William H. Stafford American Inn of Court, Pupil Member, 2011-2012</p> <p>Community Involvement Recognized by Legal Services of Mid-Florida as a Guardian of Justice for outstanding and substantial <i>pro bono</i> work for 2013-2014. Frequent volunteer at citizenship day events to help low income individuals become naturalized citizens.</p>
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Laci Stovall
Attorney-at-Law

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Laci Stovall has practiced in a variety of areas of the law, with an emphasis at Flowers Davis on business transactions, real estate litigation and oil and gas litigation. A licensed attorney since 2020, Laci’s interest in the legal field dates back to 2010 when she worked as a runner for a Tyler law firm. She gained beneficial business law and litigation insights while interning for another local firm in 2016. As a Student Attorney for the University of Mississippi Transactional Law Clinic, she assisted low-income rural Mississippi residents in creating LLCs. Before joining Flowers Davis in 2022, Laci practiced in the areas of in business transactional law, property/real estate law, oil and gas law, and estate planning in the Tyler area. She has three years of experience in the oil and gas industry.

Laci completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in history at Texas A&M University, received her Master of Arts degree in communication studies with emphasis on rhetorical theory at the University of North Texas Toulouse Graduate School, and earned her Juris Doctorate at the University of Mississippi School of Law. As she pursued her education, Laci was active in university and community associations and societies, with a focus on philanthropy and community outreach.

Laci hails from the small East Texas town of Troup, Texas. When she is not hard at work, she spends her time soaking up the many smiles and giggles of her spitfire toddler, Thea Rene’, more affectionately referred to as “lil miss” and “the next R.B.G.”. Laci is a fulltime single mom with a passion for creating a more equitable and inclusive world and becoming the best role model possible for Thea.

Practice Areas: Oil & Gas Litigation, Real Estate Litigation, Transactions, Acquisitions & Development, Estate Planning

<p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 2020</p> <p>Education University of Mississippi School of Law, Juris Doctor, Business Law, 2018 University of North Texas Toulouse Graduate School, Master of Communication Studies, Rhetorical Theory, 2015 Texas A&M University, Bachelor of Arts, History, 2013</p> <p>Memberships State Bar of Texas Smith County Bar Association, since 2021 Tyler Young Professionals Network, since 2019 The Federalist Society</p>	<p>Extracurricular Student Bar Association Business Law Network Christian Legal Society Women’s Legal Society Environmental Law Society Director of Social Media and Finance of COGS (Communication Organization for Graduate Students) Alpha Chi Omega, Assistant Philanthropy Event Coordinator Phoebe's Home (Domestic Violence Shelter), Volunteer Howdy Ags, Member Breathe Hope, Member</p>
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Virginia D. (Ginger) Young
Attorney-at-Law

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Since 2009, Ginger Young has worked as an immigration lawyer at Flowers Davis, PLLC. She primarily focuses her time and efforts on family-based cases, permanent residency cases, and naturalization cases. Ginger is an active member of AILA (American Immigration Lawyers Association). This organization is comprised of highly accomplished immigration attorneys who work hard to stay up-to-date on the latest advancements in the field of immigration law.

Ginger is committed to helping vulnerable clients who need effective legal representation. During her time in law school, she was an intern for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Later, she worked for Fanning, Harper & Martinson in Dallas. Upon graduation, she continued working at the latter firm, mainly representing school districts and governmental entities in civil rights and employment litigation.

Ginger continued her work in the employment and labor defense practice at Thompson & Knight in Houston. She moved to Tyler after marrying her husband, Bob, and she began working at Flowers Davis, PLLC in 2000. During her first nine years at our firm, she concentrated on civil rights and employment litigation, mainly defending governmental and law enforcement agencies. In 2009, she changed her focus to immigration law because she found her passion in helping clients who wanted to create a better life for themselves and their families. Ginger has enjoyed immense success in this practice area and has helped countless clients over the years.

To Ginger, serving her community means more than just being their lawyer. In 2022, she founded Viva La Rosa, a nonprofit organization that organizes and promotes Latino integration in social and cultural events. Their first initiative was to formally include the Hispanic community in the annual Texas Rose Festival by showcasing quinceañera in the parade and including them in other festivities. The response was overwhelming, and in six short weeks, they had over forty quinceañera participants representing twenty Hispanic heritage countries. Flowers Davis sponsors the parade float, and Ginger provides Coronation tickets for the parade participants and their families. Ginger and her team of dedicated volunteers have demonstrated to the participants that anything is possible! This historic effort has become an annual event.

When Ginger is not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Bob, and her daughter, Olivia.

Ginger is fluent in Spanish.

Practice Areas: Employment Law, Defense of Governmental Entities, Immigration Law

<p>Bar Admissions State Bar of Texas, 1996</p> <p>Court Admissions United States District Court, Northern District of Texas United States District Court, Southern District of Texas United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas United States District Court, Western District of Texas United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit United States Supreme Court</p> <p>Education South Texas College of Law, Juris Doctorate, magna cum laude, 1996 Newcomb College of Tulane University, Bachelor of Arts, Spanish, 1986</p> <p>Honors & Awards South Texas School of Law Dean’s List (all semesters) South Texas School of Law Outstanding Female Graduate George T. Barrow Award, selected by the Dean and faculty to make the most outstanding attorney from the graduating class, 1996 Highest Grade Award in Agency & Partnership, Americans with Disabilities Act, Employment Discrimination, Insurance Law and Texas Pre-trial Procedure Spurgeon Bell Moot Court Competition, semi-finalist, 1995 Best Brief Award, 1995 Extracurricular Order of Lytae Honor Society Who’s Who: American Law Students, 1995, 1996 South Texas Law Review – Chief Articles Editor, Spring 1996; Articles Editor, 1995-96</p>	<p>Memberships American Immigration Lawyers Association State Bar of Texas American Bar Association Federal Bar Association Smith County Bar Association</p> <p>Community Involvement Viva la Rosa – East Texas, a 501c3 organization dedicated to inclusion of Hispanic culture, Founder, since 2022 East Texas Chapter of Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), Executive Board Member & Secretary of the Board, since 2018 SPCA, Board Member since 2012 East Texas Symphony Orchestra, Board Member since 2012 Texas Rose Festival, Coronation Co-Chair, 2014, 2012; Rose Show Chair, 2013; Attendant’s Chair, 2013; Wardrobe Chair, 2011, 2010; Wardrobe Properties, 2009, 2008; Wardrobe Accessories, 2001-2007 (Accessories Chair, 2007, 2006) Women’s Symphony League, Board Member since 2002, Handbook Chairman, since 2005 Little Black Dress (fundraiser for the Tyler Museum of Art), Chairman, October, 2013 All Saints Episcopal School of Tyler Parents Association Board, 2006-2012. Past Positions: Teacher Appreciation Chair, 2011; Fundraiser Chair, 2012; “Real Housewives of All Saints” Spring Gala, 2012; Field Day, 2010; Grade Level Representative, 2009; Homeroom Mom, multiple times</p>
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