



Firm Resume

Flowers Davis: A Full-Service Law Firm Committed to Excellence

Founded in 1994 by Senior Partners **Celia C. Flowers** and **Robert S. Davis**, Flowers Davis is a multidisciplinary law firm providing comprehensive legal services to clients across a wide range of industries. The firm's practice areas have grown from the founders' extensive expertise and leadership.

Celia Flowers is one of less .01% of active Texas lawyers to achieve **quadruple Board Certification** by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Her certifications include **Oil, Gas and Mineral Law, Real Estate Law, Property Owners Association Law**, and **Civil Trial Law**—a remarkable accomplishment that underscores her legal skill and dedication.

Under Celia's leadership, the firm's oil, gas, and real estate practices were established and continue to thrive. She now co-leads these sections with **Partner Rob Knight**. The team handles a broad range of matters, including:

- Eminent domain and condemnation
- Oil, gas and energy transactions and litigation
- Real estate transactions and litigation
- Title opinions and title curative work
- Document preparation and real estate closings

Robert S. Davis leads the firm's **Public Entity Defense** and **Insurance Defense** practices. Flowers Davis attorneys represent cities, counties, and law enforcement agencies, as well as handle complex insurance litigation matters.

Both Senior Partners are also actively engaged in **business and commercial transactions and litigation**. Many of the firm's attorneys bring valuable experience from prior roles in industry and public service, providing clients with practical insights and a strong understanding of the challenges they face.

At Flowers Davis, we are dedicated to providing exceptional legal representation with a personalized approach. Every client benefits from a **single point of contact** who coordinates with attorneys across practice areas to efficiently address all aspects of their legal needs—whether involving personal matters or complex business transactions.

We are committed to delivering the highest standards of legal skills, professionalism, and client service.



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

At Flowers Davis, our Banking Law attorneys provide comprehensive legal support to financial institutions in lending, operations, and collections. We understand that banking transactions are more than just routine business deals—they require careful attention to detail and a deep understanding of regulatory requirements.

Lending & Real Estate Transactions

Our team assists with both commercial and residential lending transactions, preparing key documents such as:

- Deeds and Deeds of Trust
- Closing documents
- Releases of liens
- Modification agreements
- Loan participation agreements
- Collateral substitution agreements
- Commercial loan agreements

We also offer real estate closing and servicing activities for local and out-of-area lending institutions, as well as title defect analysis and curative services.

Banking Operations & Compliance

Flowers Davis attorneys guide financial institutions through regulatory compliance, loan structuring strategies, and the development of loan policies and procedures. We also provide counsel on inter-creditor and subordination issues and help lenders mitigate and defend against liability claims.

Bankruptcy, Foreclosure & Collections

Our experienced team represents debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, landlords, and trustees in matters of bankruptcy, foreclosure, sequestration, and repossession. We advocate for creditors' rights, assist lenders in regaining possession of properties, and facilitate the recovery of personal property, including:

- Manufactured homes
- Recreational vehicles
- Tractor trailers and tractors
- Oil field equipment

With a deep understanding of banking law and a commitment to protecting our clients' interests, Flowers Davis provides strategic, results-driven counsel to financial institutions of all sizes.

Practicing Staff: [Scott Miller](#)

Business and Commercial Litigation

The Business and Commercial Litigation attorneys at Flowers Davis actively represent clients in a wide range of business disputes. Our team is experienced in handling complex litigation matters, with a primary focus on:

- Lender-borrower disputes
- General business conflicts
- Contract litigation
- Collection matters

Construction Litigation

As Texas remains a leader in economic and population growth, construction-related disputes are on the rise. Our firm represents clients in litigation involving commercial and governmental entities, contractors, subcontractors, property owners, developers, and other stakeholders in public and private construction projects.

At Flowers Davis, we combine legal expertise with a strategic approach to protect our clients' interests and resolve disputes efficiently.

Practicing Staff: [Mitch Beard](#), [Lee Correa](#), [Robert Davis](#), [Celia Flowers](#), [Rob Knight](#), [Preston McGee](#), [Melanie Reyes-Rawls](#), [Chad Rook](#), [Laci Stovall](#)

Of Counsel: Tom Buchanan

Consumer Law/Texas Deceptive Trade Practices (DTPA)

The **Texas Deceptive Trade Practices–Consumer Protection Act (DTPA)** serves as the state's primary consumer protection law. Its purpose is to safeguard consumers from false, misleading, and deceptive business practices, as well as unconscionable actions and breaches of warranty. Before the DTPA, many consumers had little recourse against dishonest businesses, as the cost of legal action often outweighed their financial losses.

What Constitutes a DTPA Violation?

DTPA cases can arise from nearly any consumer transaction. The law is designed to be broadly interpreted and applied. Common unlawful practices include:

- False advertising
- Deceptive billing practices
- Misleading agreements or contracts
- Contracts that take unfair advantage of consumers
- Representing used goods as new
- Misrepresenting product quality or grade
- Making false claims about a product's source, certification, or approval
- Disparaging a competitor's goods or services with misleading information
- Advertising goods without intent to sell as advertised or without disclosing quantity limits
- Failing to disclose important information that would impact a consumer's decision
- Price gouging in times of disaster

Filing a Claim Under DTPA

To bring a successful claim under the DTPA, a consumer must prove they relied on deceptive practices to their detriment and suffered financial harm. Before filing a lawsuit, the consumer must send a **written demand letter** outlining their complaint and desired resolution. If the seller does not resolve the issue within **60 days**, the consumer may proceed with legal action.

Potential Remedies & Damages

If a consumer wins a DTPA case, they may be entitled to:

- Economic damages (financial losses suffered)
- Mental anguish damages
- Court costs and attorney's fees
- Interest
- Treble (triple) damages if the business acted knowingly



While many businesses strive to resolve consumer complaints before litigation, some disputes still end up in court. Having an experienced consumer law attorney can help maximize recovery and ensure fair treatment under the law.

Practicing Staff: [Preston McGee](#)

Corporate Law | Business Entity Setup and Support

The **Corporate Attorneys** at Flowers Davis assist clients with the formation of **corporations, general partnerships, and limited partnerships**. Our team has extensive experience structuring **joint ventures and partnerships**, particularly those tailored to the **energy industry**.

Beyond entity selection and formation, we also serve as **outsourced General Counsel**, providing strategic legal guidance on a range of corporate matters, including:

- Shareholder and partnership agreements
- Liability prevention strategies
- Option plans and equity arrangements
- Other business law and governance issues

With a deep understanding of corporate law and industry-specific challenges, we help businesses establish a solid legal foundation and navigate complex corporate decisions with confidence.

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

Of Counsel: Ellis Vickers

Defense of Governmental Entities

The **Defense of Governmental Entities** team at Flowers Davis has represented **over 45 counties, as well as multiple cities and school districts** across Texas. From our **Tyler, Texas** offices, we provide legal defense for **individual government officials** and governmental entities statewide.

Our attorneys handle a wide range of litigation matters, including:

- Automobile accidents
- Medical liability cases
- Premises defect claims
- Civil rights litigation
- Employment law disputes
- Workers' compensation matters
- Sexually-oriented business cases
- Bail bond forfeitures
- Tax-related issues

With deep experience in government defense, our team is committed to protecting the interests of public entities and officials throughout Texas.

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

Legal Document Preparation Services

Legal documents are essential tools that must stand up in a **court of law** and clearly define the terms of **significant life and business events**. Whether you're forming a business partnership, planning your estate, buying or selling property, or caring for a loved one, having **professionally prepared** legal documents ensures your interests are properly protected.

At **Flowers Davis**, we provide **customized document preparation services**, tailored to fit your specific needs. Most services are offered at a **flat fee**, and all documents are prepared by a **licensed attorney** to ensure accuracy and compliance. Our document preparation services include:

Business & Real Estate Documents

- Leases & mineral forms
- Unitization agreements
- Operating agreements
- Area of Mutual Interest (AMI) agreements
- Farm-out agreements
- Assignments
- Surface use agreements
- Easements
- Real estate transaction contracts (sale, landlord/tenant, resale, construction contracts, etc.)
- Foreclosures
- Owner finance transactions

Estate Planning & Personal Legal Documents

- Wills
- Trusts
- Life estates
- Ladybird deeds
- Power of attorney (general, medical, statutory)
- Living wills
- Affidavits of heirship
- Same name affidavit

Property & Financial Documents

- **Deeds** (Special Warranty Deed, Warranty Deed, Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien, Gift Deed, Quitclaim Deed)
- **Deeds of Trust**
- **Release of Lien**
- **Notes**

With **Flowers Davis**, you can be confident that your legal documents are professionally drafted to meet your specific requirements, **ensuring clarity, enforceability, and peace of mind**.

Practicing Staff: [Paul Brown](#), [Michael Carney](#), [Celia Flowers](#), [Catherine Goodgion](#), [Scott Miller](#), [Melanie Reyes-Rawls](#), [Laci Stovall](#)

Eminent Domain/Condemnation

Eminent domain, also known as **condemnation**, allows local, state, or federal governments to take private property for public use. In certain cases, **oil and gas pipeline companies** operating as **common carriers or gas utilities** also have this authority.

Interstate pipeline companies, granted a **certificate of public convenience and necessity** by the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)**, may exercise eminent domain under **federal law**.

Under the **Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution** and **Article I, Section 17, of the Texas Constitution**, property owners must receive **just compensation** when their land is taken. However, disputes often arise between the **taking entity (condemnor)** and the **landowner (condemnee)** regarding:

- The amount of compensation owed
- Whether the taking entity has the legal right to seize the property

Experienced Representation in Eminent Domain Proceedings

Eminent domain litigation is a **highly specialized area of law** that blends **administrative law and litigation**. With over **70 years of combined experience**, **Flowers Davis attorneys** effectively represent both **plaintiffs and defendants** in **local, intrastate, and interstate** condemnation cases in both **state and federal courts**. We regularly advocate for **oil and gas pipeline companies and municipalities** and have successfully handled **pipeline projects throughout Texas**.

Our Eminent Domain Legal Services Include:

- Pre-condemnation planning & negotiations
- Injunctive relief to prevent interference or secure property access
- Collaboration with appraisers to assess fair compensation
- Preparation of litigation documents & property filings
- Representation at Special Commissioners' hearings
- De novo appeals to trial courts
- Appellate review of trial court decisions

At **Flowers Davis**, we understand the complexities of eminent domain law and provide **strategic, results-driven representation** to protect our clients' interests.

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

Of Counsel: Tom Buchanan

Employment Law | Advisory & Defense Services

The **Employment Law Attorneys** at Flowers Davis provide **comprehensive legal counsel** to businesses on all aspects of **employment law** and offer **strong defense** against employment-related claims. From our offices in **Tyler, Texas**, we assist clients with:

- Employment agreements and contracts
- Employee training and compliance
- Employee benefits and policies

Our team has extensive experience defending businesses against claims involving:

- Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) violations
- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act (discrimination, harassment, retaliation)
- Claims before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and Texas Commission on Human Rights (TCHR)
- Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) claims
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) claims
- Texas Labor Code Section 451.001 and related employment disputes

At **Flowers Davis**, we help businesses **navigate complex employment laws**, minimize risk, and **effectively defend against legal challenges** to protect their operations and workforce.

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

Of Counsel: Ellis Vickers

Estate Planning & Probate Services

Estate planning ensures that your **assets are managed and distributed** according to your wishes in the event of **incapacitation, unexpected life events, or death**. Without proper planning, your loved ones may face unnecessary financial and legal burdens. At a minimum, an estate plan should include **asset distribution, estate tax planning, and key legal directives**. If you own a business, your plan should also address **business succession and management**.

The **estate planning attorneys** at **Flowers Davis** help individuals and families create **customized estate plans** to protect their loved ones, minimize taxes, and ensure their wishes are honored.

Estate Planning & Probate Services

Last Will & Testament

A will outlines how your estate will be **distributed** upon your death and names an **executor** responsible for carrying out your wishes. Our attorneys will guide you through the **estate planning process** and draft legally sound documents tailored to your needs.

Probate & Estate Administration

Executors, administrators, and trustees have legal responsibilities in settling an estate. We assist in **navigating the probate process**, ensuring that estates and trusts are managed efficiently and in compliance with the law.

Guardianships

Guardianships are essential for protecting **minors, the elderly, individuals with special needs, and incapacitated persons**. Our attorneys can assess whether a guardianship is necessary and assist with the legal process of establishing one.

Trusts

Trusts can provide financial security for loved ones, **reduce estate taxes**, and avoid probate. Our team helps determine whether a **trust** is the right option for you and advises on structuring it to benefit your heirs.

A **durable power of attorney** designates someone to manage your **financial and legal affairs** if you become incapacitated. Our attorneys help craft **clear, legally binding documents** to ensure your interests are protected.

Advance Directives

Advance directives allow you to **communicate your end-of-life care preferences** in advance. We assist in drafting:

- Medical Power of Attorney
- Living Will (Directive to Physicians)
- Declaration for Mental Health Treatment

These documents **reduce uncertainty** for loved ones and ensure your medical wishes are respected.

Business Succession Planning

For business owners, **estate planning includes planning for the future of the business** in the event of retirement, disability, or death. Our attorneys create **customized succession plans** to protect your business and ensure a smooth transition.

Other Estate Planning Services

We also assist with:

- Updating **beneficiaries** on life insurance, IRAs, and 401(k)s
- **Funeral arrangements**
- **Annual gifting strategies** to reduce taxable estates

Estate Planning Is an Ongoing Process

Your estate plan should evolve as your life circumstances change. Whether you are just starting to build assets or need to update an existing plan, **Flowers Davis** provides **trusted legal guidance** to secure your future and protect your loved ones.

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

Immigration Law

Flowers Davis handles **transactional matters and litigation** related to **immigration** and associated issues. Our services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Employment-based petitions (I-140)
- Family-based petitions (I-130)
- Permanent residency
- Adjustment of status proceedings
- Consular processing
- Employment authorization
- Employee verifications
- Family unity issues
- Fiancé(e) visas
- Freedom of Information Act requests
- H-1B visas
- Labor certification (PERM)
- Naturalization



- Outstanding researcher/professor visas
- Removal of conditions
- Waivers
- I-9 compliance and audits

Immigration Services Include, but Are Not Limited to:

- Advance Parole
- Adjustment of Status
- Consular Processing
- Deportation (Removal)
- Employment Authorization
- Employment-Based Visas
- Extend/Change Status
- Family Unity
- Fiancé(e) Visas
- Freedom of Information Act Request
- H-1B Visas
- Labor Certification (PERM)
- Naturalization
- Permanent Residency
- PERM
- Outstanding Researcher/Professor Visas
- Religious Worker Visas
- Removal of Conditions
- TPS (Temporary Protected Status)
- Waivers

For more information about our **immigration services**, please visit our dedicated website at www.flowersdavisimmigrationlaw.com.

Practicing Staff: [Ginger Young](#)

Of Counsel: [Ha Kummerfeld](#)

Insurance Defense

The **Insurance Defense Attorneys** at **Flowers Davis** specialize in defending **third-party** and **first-party claims** for major **insurance carriers**. From our offices in **Tyler** and **Longview, Texas**, we actively manage litigation in a variety of areas, including:

- Property and casualty
- Automobile and trucking liability
- Premises liability
- Commercial liability
- General liability
- Builder's risk liability

We also offer **direct representation** of **insurance carriers** in **first-party litigation** and provide comprehensive **coverage opinions** to assist carriers in determining liability and managing risk.

At **Flowers Davis**, we combine **strategic defense** with **in-depth knowledge of insurance law**, ensuring that our clients receive effective and reliable representation in complex claims.

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

Intellectual Property

Flowers Davis proudly offers comprehensive intellectual property (IP) services, including representation by a **registered U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) attorney**. We assist inventors, entrepreneurs, and businesses in protecting their innovations, designs, and creative works.

Our Patent Prosecutor provides the following services:

- Conducts **patentability analyses** to evaluate whether your invention, process, or design meets the criteria for patent protection.
- Prepares, drafts, and files **patent applications** with the USPTO.
- Represents clients in negotiations and responses to **USPTO office actions**.
- Conducts **patent reviews** and handles **appeals** before the USPTO.
- Prepares and files appeals with the **Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB)** and the **Federal Circuit Court of Appeals**.
- Develops **Patent Portfolio Management Plans** designed to protect research and development efforts, strengthen market positions, create licensing revenue opportunities, and establish competitive barriers.
- Files **Comprehensive Design Patents** to protect clients from infringement by covering not only functional inventions but also complementary aspects such as **trademarks**, **copyrights**, and **design elements**.

Our **IP team** also includes an experienced **IP litigator** and a dedicated **transactional IP attorney**:

- Our **litigator** is well-versed in defending patents, trademarks, and copyrights and has extensive experience in **federal court litigation**. He regularly serves as local and trial counsel in patent infringement cases, including those pending before the **United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas** and its divisions.
- Our **transactional IP attorney** handles the drafting of **licensing agreements and contracts** and assists clients with securing **trademarks** and **copyrights** to protect their brands and creative works.

At Flowers Davis, we provide end-to-end intellectual property services designed to protect your innovations and support your business growth.

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

Medical Malpractice Defense

Flowers Davis is deeply involved in **medical liability litigation**, representing a wide range of clients, including **physicians** and their **professional associations**. Our **Medical Malpractice Attorneys** understand the significant personal, professional, and business impact that a malpractice claim can have.

We take a thorough approach to defending against **medical malpractice claims**, carefully investigating and evaluating each case. This includes:

- Reviewing relevant medical records
- Locating well-qualified expert witnesses
- Effectively utilizing deposition testimony

Based in **Tyler, Texas**, the **Flowers Davis Medical Malpractice team** also collaborates with physicians and their staff to review areas such as **record keeping**, **surgical consent procedures**, and other operational practices to identify potential problem areas and correct them **before a lawsuit occurs**.

Our goal is to provide strategic and knowledgeable defense to minimize risk and protect the reputation and career of our clients in the healthcare industry.

Practicing Staff: [Robert Davis](#), [Preston McGee](#), [Chad Rook](#)
Of Counsel: Tom Buchanan

Oil, Gas & Energy Litigation

Disputes in the oil, gas, and energy sector are often complex, involving **state tort law**, **real estate law**, and a wide range of **federal and state regulations**. The **Energy Litigation team at Flowers Davis** has the experience and industry knowledge necessary to navigate these challenges and protect our clients' interests.

Our attorneys handle a broad range of energy-related litigation, including:

- Royalty disputes
- Contract disputes
- Injunctions and injunctive relief
- Surface damage claims
- Right-of-way acquisition disputes, including eminent domain proceedings for pipeline companies, power companies, and municipalities

We represent a diverse client base, including:

- Major energy companies
- Pipeline operators
- Service providers and contractors
- Oil and gas interest owners
- Landowners

Flowers Davis is committed to delivering strategic, results-driven representation in every phase of energy litigation, from pre-suit negotiations to trial and appeal.

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

Title Examination | Title Opinions, Due Diligence and Curative Services

The **Title Attorneys at Flowers Davis** specialize in delivering **original, drilling, and division order title opinions** with efficiency and precision. Based in **Tyler, Texas**, our team works closely with field and in-house land professionals to prepare title opinions for **onshore properties** located in **Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania**. Our reviews determine ownership of **surface rights, mineral rights, royalty interests, and oil and gas leasehold rights**.

In addition to title opinions, we provide comprehensive **due diligence** and **title curative services** to support acquisitions, drilling programs, and other development projects.

Our team brings a high level of expertise, with:

- **Two attorneys** Board Certified in **Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law** by the **Texas Board of Legal Specialization**
- **One attorney** recognized as a **Specialist in Oil & Gas Law** by the **New Mexico Board of Legal Specialization**
- Several attorneys with **prior landman experience**, offering valuable industry insight



Flowers Davis is committed to providing accurate, timely title services that help clients mitigate risk and advance their energy projects with confidence.

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

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

Professional Liability Defense

The **Professional Liability Attorneys** at **Flowers Davis** are experienced in all aspects of **professional liability defense**. Based in **Tyler, Texas**, our attorneys are skilled at handling the **confidential and sensitive issues** that arise in **Errors and Omissions (E&O)** claims, and we understand the significant impact such cases can have on a professional's ongoing practice.

Our clients come from a wide range of professions, including **attorneys** and **insurance companies**.

Our goal is to achieve **quick and successful resolution** of claims. We prioritize **early evaluation** and work diligently to investigate claims promptly. Depending on the needs and goals of our clients, we aim for **rapid settlement** or are prepared to **take the case to trial** if necessary.

At **Flowers Davis**, we provide strategic defense that protects both the **reputation and career** of our clients while seeking effective resolutions.

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

Real Estate Law

The **Real Estate Law Attorneys** at **Flowers Davis** provide comprehensive legal services for real estate transactions and related industries. Our practice covers a wide range of matters, including:

- **Document preparation** and **real estate closings**
- **Title examination**, analysis of title defects, and **title curative work**
- Collaboration with local and out-of-area **banks** and **title companies** to ensure timely and professional completion of real estate transactions

We also have extensive experience in **drafting and amending governing documents** for **homeowners' associations (HOAs)**, including **restrictive covenants**, **bylaws**, and **articles of incorporation**.

In addition, our attorneys represent both **landlords and tenants** in the preparation and negotiation of **residential and commercial leases**.

Our goal is to provide practical, detail-oriented legal support to protect our clients' real estate interests and facilitate smooth transactions.

Practicing Staff: [Paul Brown](#), [Celia Flowers](#), [Michael Carney](#), [Catherine Goodgion](#), [Rob Knight](#), [Scott Miller](#), [Laci Stovall](#)

Of Counsel: Ellis Vickers

Real Estate Litigation

Flowers Davis has a proven track record of representing **property owners, investors, developers, builders, energy companies, homeowners' associations, landlords, and tenants** in a wide range of real estate disputes. Our Real Estate Litigation team takes a strategic approach—resolving conflicts efficiently through **negotiation, mediation, or early intervention** when possible, while also being fully prepared to pursue litigation or injunctive relief when necessary.

Our attorneys handle cases involving:

- Real estate sale contract disputes, including breach of contract, breach of warranty, misrepresentation, and Deceptive Trade Practices Act (DTPA) claims
- Disputes arising from purchase and sale agreements, option agreements, development agreements, and land use regulations
- Claims involving real estate brokers and agents related to their legal and fiduciary duties
- Disputes between landowners and contractors/subcontractors, including lien claims
- Title disputes involving easements, boundary lines, adverse possession, quiet title actions, trespass, nuisance, and related claims
- Premises liability claims and land damage litigation
- Litigation involving mineral interests, oil and gas leases, assignments, farm-outs, joint operating agreements, and royalty disputes
- Receivership actions
- Business agreement disputes, workouts, foreclosures, trustee's sales, collections, deficiency actions, and bankruptcy proceedings, including motions for relief from stay
- Lease disputes involving commercial and residential properties, landlord-tenant issues, liens, and eviction proceedings
- Homeowners' Association disputes related to covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs)
- Enforcement and interpretation of Property Owners Association (POA) documents
- Eminent domain and condemnation proceedings in both state and federal courts
- Valuation disputes and partition actions
- Subsurface rights disputes, including water and mineral rights
- Forcible Entry & Detainer suits to assist lenders in reclaiming possession of foreclosed properties

At Flowers Davis, our Real Estate Litigators focus on practical, results-oriented solutions designed to protect client interests and achieve favorable outcomes, whether through negotiated resolution or aggressive litigation.

Practicing Staff: [Celia Flowers](#), [Lee Correa](#), [Rob Knight](#), [Preston McGee](#), [Melanie Reyes-Rawls](#), [Laci Stovall](#)

Transactions, Acquisitions and Development

Closely aligned with **Flowers Davis' real estate and corporate law** practices, our **Transactional Business Attorneys** provide experienced counsel in **negotiating, drafting, and completing** a wide range of business transactions. Our team has successfully handled **acquisitions, mergers, joint ventures, sales, and development deals** across various industries.

Many of these transactions involve:

- Complex financial analysis
- Due diligence activities
- Environmental considerations



We have extensive experience in **oil and gas acquisitions, business sales, and real estate asset-based transactions**, guiding clients through the legal complexities of high-value deals.

With attorneys based in **Tyler and Longview, Texas**, **Flowers Davis** is committed to providing strategic, detail-oriented legal support to ensure successful transactions for our clients.

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

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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
Senior Partner | Attorney-at-Law

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CIVIL TRIAL LAW
OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LAW
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION LAW
RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE LAW



Celia C. Flowers – Senior Partner, Industry Advocate, Thought Leader, Quadruple-Board-Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Celia C. Flowers is a Senior Partner at Flowers Davis PLLC, where she leads or co-leads the Oil, Gas & Energy, Real Estate, and Civil Litigation Sections.

Celia holds an unparalleled distinction as a quadruple Board-Certified attorney by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in:

- Oil & Gas Law
- Residential Real Estate Law
- Property Owners Association Law
- Civil Trial Law

Board Certification is the highest mark of excellence in Texas law, and only 0.01% of active Texas attorneys hold certification in four distinct areas—making this a remarkable achievement.

Areas of Practice & Industry Leadership

Celia's multi-faceted legal expertise spans:

- Oil & gas matters – Title opinions, surface damage disputes, receivership proceedings, and pipeline condemnation.
- Business & commercial litigation – Contract disputes, property claims, and real estate litigation.
- Real estate law – Title examination, transactional work, and advocacy for property owners.

Beyond her legal practice, Celia is the owner of East Texas Title Companies, which operates in over 80 Texas counties. Before becoming an attorney, she spent a decade as a petroleum landman, gaining firsthand industry insight that enhances her legal practice.

Recognized Expertise & Industry Advocacy

Celia is widely regarded as a thought leader and advocate for the oil and gas, real estate, and title insurance industries. Her board memberships, leadership roles, and speaking engagements include:

- Texas Title Examination Standards Board (since 2011) – Developing standards for title examination in real estate and oil and gas law.
- American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) – An exclusive, invitation-only group defending the right to civil jury trials.



- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau & Texas Department of Insurance – Speaking on legislative and regulatory matters.
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Instructor – Training attorneys, landmen, and real estate professionals on legal updates.

Awards & Professional Distinctions

Celia's commitment to excellence has earned her:

- AV Preeminent® Rating by Martindale Hubbell (since 2014) – The highest level of peer-reviewed professional excellence.
- Texas Super Lawyer by Thomson Reuters (since 2020).
- Fellow of the College of the State Bar of Texas – An honorary society recognizing the most well-trained attorneys in the state.

Commitment to Education & Industry Advancement

Celia is dedicated to educating and mentoring the next generation of legal and industry professionals. She provides:

- CLE training for attorneys
- MCE courses for realtors
- Educational seminars for landmen and lenders

A Leader in Texas Energy and Real Estate Law

With unmatched expertise, leadership, and dedication, Celia C. Flowers is a trusted legal advocate and industry leader. Her unique combination of legal, business, and industry experience makes her an indispensable resource for her clients, colleagues, and the broader Texas legal and business communities.

Practice Areas: Business & Commercial Litigation, Civil Litigation, Eminent Domain/Condemnation, Legal Document Preparation, Oil, Gas & Energy Litigation, Oil, Gas & Energy Title Examination|Opinions, Real Estate Law, Real Estate Litigation, Transactions, Acquisitions & Development

Bar Admissions

State Bar of Texas, 1990
State Bar of Pennsylvania, 2012

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

Court Admissions

US District Court, Eastern District of Texas
US District Court, Northern District of Texas

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

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

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

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

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

2025 “Who Owns the Lithium? The Wild, Wild West of the Future”, paper by Celia C. Flowers & Melanie S. Reyes-Rawls, published in TEXAS STATE BAR - OIL, GAS & ENERGY SECTION LAW JOURNAL, Spring 2025 issue, and in LANDMAN Magazine, March/April 2025 issue

2023 EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM LANDMAN SPRING SEMINAR/Paper, “Cost-Free Royalties – The Continuing Evolution”, Fall 2023, Tyler, Texas, Celia Flowers and Melanie Reyes-Rawls

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



Robert S. Davis

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Robert S. Davis – Senior Partner at Flowers Davis PLLC

Leadership and Legal Expertise

Robert S. Davis is a Senior Partner at Flowers Davis PLLC, where he oversees multiple practice areas, including:

- Business and Commercial Litigation
- Insurance Defense
- Defense of Governmental Entities
- Employment Law
- Medical Liability

With extensive experience representing governmental entities and government officials, Robert has successfully managed a wide range of litigation matters, including first-party and third-party insurance claims, as well as medical malpractice cases for both private practitioners and county health authorities.

A Distinguished Career

Since co-founding Flowers Davis in 1994, Robert has personally tried more than 100 cases to verdict in state and federal courts. Additionally, he has served as lead counsel in 198 appellate cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and has handled several state court appellate cases.

Before founding Flowers Davis, Robert began his legal career in 1988 as a Briefing Attorney for the Honorable Justice Sue LaGarde at the 5th Judicial District Court of Appeals in Dallas, Texas. He later served as a Law Clerk to United States District Judge William M. Steger from 1989 to 1991.

Notable Contributions

During law school, Robert worked as the assistant legislative liaison for Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade and his successor, John Vance. He authored a paper on recidivism and the need for increased prison capacity, which was published by the Texas Governor's Office and featured by major news media outlets in Texas.

Over the years, Robert has been a key contributor to numerous educational and professional groups. He has written and presented more than 40 papers on various topics, including civil rights, medical malpractice, and employment law. His presentations have been made to organizations such as:

- State Bar of Texas
- Texas Sheriff's Association
- Texas Association of Counties
- Texas Jail Association
- Jail Management Institute of Sam Houston State University
- Texas Chief Deputies' Association

<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 – Litigation Attorney Specializing in Governmental Defense

Defending Government Officials & Businesses Since 2010

Lee Correa is a seasoned Litigation Attorney at Flowers Davis, where she specializes in governmental entity defense, particularly representing government officials and law enforcement personnel. Her extensive legal practice also includes:

- First-Party & Third-Party Insurance Litigation – Representing major insurance carriers in complex disputes
- Business Litigation – Handling contract disputes, collections, and general commercial litigation
- Hazmat-Related Litigation – Advising and defending entities in hazardous materials-related cases
- Entity Formation & Structuring – Assisting businesses with corporate structuring and legal compliance
- General Counsel for Businesses – Advising on employment law, contracts, and real estate matters

Legal Background & Community Leadership

Before earning her law degree, Lee worked her way up from filing clerk to paralegal at Flowers Davis, solidifying her deep-rooted legal expertise. During law school, she gained invaluable experience clerking for United States Magistrate Judge Judith K. Guthrie in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas and interning at Lone Star Legal Aid in Tyler, Texas.

In 2018, Lee was appointed to the City of Tyler Civil Service Commission, where she continues to serve. She is also a recognized speaker, presenting at prominent legal and law enforcement conferences, including:

- Sheriffs' Association of Texas Annual Conference
- Women in Criminal Justice Conference
- New Sheriffs' School & Sheriffs' Administrative Assistants Conference
- Tyler Area Association of Legal Professionals

East Texas Roots & Personal Life

A Tyler, Texas native, Lee developed an early appreciation for law enforcement, as her father served as a Tyler Police Officer for 20 years. She is a proud graduate of Texas A&M University and later earned her law degree from South Texas College of Law, Houston. Lee is married to Cory Shepherd and enjoys life in Tyler with their two beloved 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



William R. (Rob) Knight, Jr.

Partner | Attorney-at-Law

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Rob Knight – Managing Partner, Oil & Gas and Real Estate Attorney

Rob Knight is the Managing Partner over the Oil and Gas Litigation, Appellate, and Transactional Sections at Flowers Davis PLLC. With a legal career spanning nearly two decades, Rob has extensive experience in oil and gas title opinions, real estate law, and estate planning.

Legal Experience & Expertise

Rob began his practice in Houston, Texas, where he handled cases in family, criminal, real estate, and probate law. He later relocated to Tyler, Texas, to focus on oil and gas title opinions. His practice includes:

- Oil, Gas & Energy Title Opinions – Preparing a wide range of opinions, including drilling, division order, leasehold, and unit-wide opinions for multi-state oil and gas operations.
- Real Estate Law – Rendering title opinions and consulting on title issues for residential and commercial loans, as well as municipal condemnation proceedings.
- Title Review & Title Insurance – Managing a team of attorneys who review over 1,500 real estate properties per month for title companies before issuing title insurance policies.
- Estate Planning – Assisting individuals in wills, trusts, powers of attorney, advanced directives, and Transfer on Death Deeds.

Rob has a strong grasp of real property law, including probate and family law, which frequently intersect with oil and gas matters. His expertise in identifying and curing title defects makes him a trusted resource for large multinational oil and gas companies, mid-sized and small local operators, and individual mineral rights owners.

Commitment to Efficiency & Quality

Rob understands the importance of accuracy and timeliness in real estate and oil and gas transactions. Whether preparing title opinions or assisting with title policies and loan issuances, he ensures that every project is completed efficiently and with the highest level of quality.

Outside of Work

Beyond the legal field, Rob is an avid outdoorsman and creative. His hobbies include:

- Playing guitar & painting
- Mountain biking & yoga
- Preparing for & competing in obstacle course races

A Leader in Oil & Gas, Real Estate, and Title Law

With a deep understanding of land title law and real property transactions, Rob Knight is a respected leader in oil and gas litigation, real estate, and estate planning. His ability to navigate complex legal and title issues ensures that his clients receive strategic, effective, and timely solutions.

Practice Areas: Business & Commercial Litigation, Business Entity Formation, Eminent Domain | Condemnation, Estate Planning - Wills & Trusts, Oil, Gas & Energy Litigation, Oil, Gas & Energy Title Examination|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.



Preston McGee
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Preston McGee – Litigator, Civil & Personal Injury Trial Lawyer

Board-Certified Trial Attorney

Preston McGee is Board Certified in Civil Trial Law and Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization—an achievement held by fewer than 1% of Texas attorneys with dual certifications. He has devoted his career to defending businesses, both large and small, in commercial and personal injury litigation.

Legal Expertise

Preston has an extensive trial practice, including:

- Commercial & Personal Injury Litigation – Defending businesses in complex disputes
- Construction Litigation – Successfully representing contractors and subcontractors against commercial and governmental claims
- Oil & Gas Litigation – Handling injury and condemnation cases for major oil and gas companies
- Medical & Professional Liability – Defending professionals in malpractice and liability claims
- Intellectual Property Litigation – Acting as local and trial counsel for businesses and corporations in federal cases pending in the Eastern District of Texas
- DTPA & Employment Law – Representing individuals and businesses in consumer protection and employment-related disputes

Career & Background

After earning his law degree from Baylor University Law School, Preston began his career at the Potter Law Firm in Tyler. His early success led to him being recognized as the Smith County Bar Association Outstanding Young Lawyer in 1996. He founded his own firm in 1998 before joining Flowers Davis in 2001, where he continues to vigorously advocate for his clients in trial practice.

Personal Life & Community Involvement

A sixth-generation Texan and East Texas native, Preston and his wife Liz have called Tyler home since 1986. They share a close-knit family with their children and their spouses: Peyton & Katelaine McGee, Emily & Bill Boyd, and Abby & Harrison Pollard.

Preston is deeply committed to his community and faith, serving as a Deacon and adult Connect Group leader at his local church. In his free time, he enjoys playing golf, cheering on his favorite football and basketball teams, and most of all, spending time with his family.

<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

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Chad Rook – Litigation & Insurance Defense Attorney

Experienced Trial Lawyer & Governmental Defense Advocate

Chad Rook has been a litigation attorney at Flowers Davis since 2006, focusing on Insurance Defense, Governmental Entity Defense, Medical Negligence, Professional Negligence, and Commercial Litigation. With over 30 years of experience, Chad has successfully tried numerous jury and non-jury cases across Texas and has argued cases on appeal in both state and federal courts.

Legal Expertise

Chad's practice includes:

- Insurance Defense – Handling first-party and third-party insurance claims for major carriers, including State Farm, ProAssurance, and Travelers
- Defense of Governmental Entities – Representing counties, municipalities, and agencies in Civil Rights litigation, employment disputes, and Texas Tort Claims Act cases
- Medical & Professional Negligence Defense – Defending physicians, nurses, attorneys, and insurance agents/adjusters in malpractice and liability claims
- Texas Medical Board & Peer Review Defense – Advocating for physicians in regulatory matters before the Texas Medical Board and in hospital peer review proceedings
- Commercial Litigation – Handling business disputes, toxic tort cases, and trucking litigation

Career Background

After earning his law degree in 1991, Chad launched his career at Fowler, Wiles, Norton & Keith in Dallas, specializing in medical malpractice, product liability, premises liability, and trucking litigation. In 1997, he co-founded Jones Rook Austin, a Dallas-based insurance defense and commercial litigation firm. He later joined Flowers Davis in 2006, where he continues to be a key trial attorney and trusted advisor to his clients.

Personal Life & Community

Chad lives in Tyler, Texas, with his wife, Christina. They have five daughters: Caroline, Catherine, Sophie-Claire, Ella, and Rose. When he's not in the courtroom, Chad enjoys spending time with his family and being involved in his community.

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

<p>Education</p> <p>University of Houston Law Center, Doctor of Jurisprudence, 1991</p> <p>Baylor University, Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance and Economics, 1987</p> <p>Bar Admissions</p> <p>State Bar of Texas, 1991</p> <p>Court Admissions</p> <p>All Courts in the State of Texas</p> <p>US District Court, Eastern District of Texas</p> <p>US District Court, Western District of Texas</p> <p>US District Court, Northern District of Texas</p>	<p>Memberships</p> <p>State Bar of Texas</p> <p>American Bar Association</p> <p>American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)</p> <p>Extracurricular</p> <p>Moot Court</p> <p>Mock Trial Competitions</p> <p>Community Involvement</p> <p>Basketball and Soccer Coach for his daughters' teams</p> <p>Treasurer, Tyler Legacy Hoops Club</p>
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J. Mitchell Beard

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J. Mitchell Beard – Attorney at Flowers Davis PLLC

Practice Focus

J. Mitchell Beard (Mitch) focuses his legal practice on general Civil Litigation and Oil and Gas Law. He represents a diverse range of clients, including both corporate and individual clients, with particular experience in condemnation actions for oil and gas corporations, as well as landowners. Mitch also provides legal representation in oil and gas transactions and disputes.

Career Background

Mitch joined Flowers Davis PLLC after his time at Wellborn, Houston, Adkison, Mann, Sadler & Hill, L.L.P. in Henderson, Texas, where he served first as an Associate Attorney and later as a Partner for seven years. His legal career has spanned a wide range of practice areas, including:

- General Civil Litigation
- Personal Injury
- Family Law
- Corporate and Business Law
- Oil and Gas Law
- Appellate Law
- Probate Law

Before entering the legal field, Mitch worked as a Registered Pharmacist (R. Ph.) for seven years, which has greatly contributed to his ability to handle medical malpractice cases, both from the plaintiff and defendant perspectives, as well as his approach to personal injury lawsuits.

Community Involvement

Mitch is deeply committed to his community, offering pro bono legal services and serving as ad litem for minor children in family law disputes and cases involving allegations of neglect or abuse. He has also provided legal advice and services benefiting the welfare of animals.

Mitch resides in Whitehouse, Texas, where he remains actively involved in local legal and charitable endeavors.

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
Attorney-at-Law

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Paul Brown – Oil & Gas, Real Estate, and Estate Planning Attorney

Paul Brown has been with Flowers Davis since November 2020, focusing his practice on oil and gas title opinions, real estate law, and estate planning. With a strong background in the oil and gas industry, Paul brings extensive experience in land title research and real estate transactions, making him a trusted advisor for clients across multiple jurisdictions.

Oil & Gas Law Expertise

Paul has rendered drilling, division order, and acquisition title opinions across East Texas, South Texas, the Permian Basin, Ohio, New Mexico, and North Dakota, giving him a holistic view of the oil and gas industry. His knowledge extends to:

- Drafting joint operating agreements, farmout agreements, pooling and unitization agreements, lease addenda, mineral reservations, and assignments
- Assisting oil and gas companies in acquisition and divestiture of assets
- Drafting lien documents for bankruptcy filings on behalf of oil and gas operators
- Understanding and applying Texas Railroad Commission regulations and other play-specific drilling permit requirements
- Researching producing well data, HBP acreage, and proration units

Additionally, Paul shares his knowledge by teaching Introduction to Texas Oil and Gas Law to landmen and industry professionals at Kilgore College on a quarterly basis.

Real Estate & Business Law

Real estate law frequently intersects with oil and gas law and business law, and Paul's practice covers:

- Drafting promissory notes, mortgages, and deeds of trust for residential real estate closings
- Preparing UCC documents, employment dissolution agreements, and demand letters

Personal Interests

Outside of work, Paul is a travel enthusiast and an avid hiker of America's National Parks.

Practice Areas: Estate Planning - Wills & Trusts, Legal Document Preparation Oil, Gas & Energy 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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Michael Carney
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Michael Carney – Business, Estate and Special Needs Advocate

Michael Carney is an associate attorney at Flowers Davis' Tyler office, where he focuses primarily on estate planning and real estate law. With broad legal experience, he advises clients on estate planning strategies, probate proceedings, tutorships, and guardianships, helping them develop and implement comprehensive plans to protect their assets and loved ones.

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, he brings personal insight and a deep understanding of the challenges these families face, allowing him to provide tailored legal guidance with compassion and expertise.

Michael's real estate law practice is a natural extension of his estate planning work, requiring a strong understanding of property laws, probate laws, and asset protection strategies. He collaborates with lenders, title companies, individuals, and businesses to ensure that real estate transactions are handled efficiently and professionally. He also facilitates business entity formation and practices corporate transactional law.

Legal and Professional Experience

Before joining Flowers Davis, Michael honed his analytical and research skills as an analyst for the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) in Washington, D.C. There, he:

- Drafted interpretive guidance regarding Board rules
- Prepared recommendations for Board action
- Assisted registered firms in resolving compliance issues

His legal experience also includes clerking for the Hon. John H. Bayly of the District of Columbia Superior Court, where he managed a high-volume criminal docket, conducted legal research, and drafted court orders.

During law school, Michael gained valuable insight into government and regulatory affairs through internships with a United States Senator and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Commission on Capital Markets, where he assisted in preparing briefing materials for the nomination of Chief Justice John Roberts.

Michael is licensed to practice law in Louisiana and Texas.

Personal Life

Outside of work, Michael enjoys spending time with his wife and four children and exploring the great outdoors. He and his wife, Genevieve, are deeply committed to their family and community.

Practice Areas: Business Entity Formation, Estate Planning - Wills & Trusts, Legal Document Preparation, 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

Attorney-at-Law

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John (“Jack”) Rawls Fulgham – Attorney Specializing in Governmental Defense, Insurance, and Tax Planning

Comprehensive Expertise in Taxation, Governmental Defense, and Insurance

Jack Fulgham is an experienced attorney at Flowers Davis with a specialized focus on the Defense of Governmental Entities, Insurance Defense, and Tax Planning. With a strong foundation in taxation, Jack’s diverse skill set allows him to provide holistic legal advice for clients across various sectors.

Educational Background and Taxation Expertise

- Master of Personal Financial Planning (MPFP) and Juris Doctor (JD) – Texas Tech University
- Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Taxation – Georgetown University Law Center

Jack’s dual educational background in law and taxation enables him to offer comprehensive solutions, particularly in complex tax matters.

Professional Experience

Before joining Flowers Davis, Jack served as a Senior Associate in the Mergers and Acquisitions Tax Division of PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC). In this role, Jack:

- Performed tax due diligence and drafted reports on acquisitions involving C Corps, S Corps, and partnerships targeted by private equity and corporate entities.
- Developed legal entity restructuring and reorganization plans for both domestic and multinational corporations.

Invaluable Legal Experience

While completing his degrees, Jack gained significant legal experience as:

- A staff member at the Texas Tech University Tax Center
- A legal intern at Flowers Davis
- An oil and gas acquisitions intern at Royalty Clearinghouse Ltd.

These roles gave Jack hands-on experience in tax court petitions, tax compliance, and working on briefs for the Supreme Court of Texas and federal district court in defense of governmental entities.

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

Bar Admissions

State Bar of Texas, 2017

Education

Georgetown University Law Center, Master of Laws in
Taxation, *cum laude*, May 2018

Texas Tech University School of Law, Juris Doctor, *cum
laude*, May 2017

Texas Tech University, Master of Personal Financial
Planning, May 2017

The University of Texas, Bachelor of Arts in History,
May 2014



Catherine C. Goodgion
Attorney-at-Law

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Catherine Chesley Goodgion – Patent Prosecutor & Real Estate Attorney

Patent Law & Intellectual Property Expertise

Catherine Chesley Goodgion is a USPTO-licensed Patent Prosecutor, an elite designation requiring legal, scientific, and technical qualifications. To achieve this distinction, she:

- Earned a technical science degree and law degree
- Passed the USPTO bar examination
- Met stringent moral character and reputation standards

As a Patent Prosecutor, Catherine researches patentability, prepares and files patent applications, negotiates with the USPTO, files appeals, and helps businesses develop comprehensive intellectual property protection plans. Her expertise extends to trademarks and copyrights, ensuring robust IP protection for inventors and entrepreneurs.

Real Estate & Business Transactions

Catherine's legal practice also encompasses:

- Real Estate Transactions, Acquisitions & Development
- Document Preparation & Curative Title Work
- Drafting and reviewing purchase and sale agreements for residential and commercial transactions
- Handling complex curative issues in real estate law

She has extensive experience in asset acquisitions and divestitures, drafting key documents such as assignments, purchase and sale agreements, right-of-way agreements, easements, boundary line agreements, and affidavits of heirship.

Industry Experience & Business Perspective

Before passing the bar, Catherine worked as an Independent Petroleum Landman at Flowers Davis, running title, preparing runsheets, and completing ownership reports. Her business acumen is reinforced by her prior career as a Pharmaceutical Sales Specialist, where she exceeded sales targets for antidepressants, hormone therapy products, and insulin treatments. This diverse experience gives Catherine a unique business perspective in her legal practice, especially in pharmaceutical, medical, and oil & gas industries.

Professional Recognition & Personal Life

- Fellow, College of the State Bar of Texas (reserved for Texas attorneys completing double the required Continuing Legal Education)
- Active in CrossFit, running, water sports, and travel
- Enjoys time with her husband, Sam, and their three children
- Active members of 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 – Immigration Attorney at Flowers Davis PLLC

Practice Focus

Ha H. Kummerfeld specializes in U.S. immigration matters, including but not limited to:

- Nonimmigrant Visas (B, E1, E2, E3, F, H1B, H2A, H2B, L1A, L1B, O, P, Q, S, T, U, etc.)
- Permanent Residence (Employment-based, Family-sponsored, Asylees, Investors, Special Immigrants, etc.)
- Naturalization and Citizenship
- Worksite Compliance (I-9, E-Verify, Immigration Document Compliance)
- Removal & Relief (Criminal-Immigration Law, Extreme Hardship Waivers, Asylum, Cancellation of Removal, etc.)
- Appeals (Administrative Appeals, Board of Immigration Appeals, Federal Judicial Review)
- Global Migration

Ha also represents individuals and companies in corporate immigration compliance and global migration matters.

Career Background

Before joining Flowers Davis, Ha practiced immigration law at her own firm, Ha H. Kummerfeld PLLC. She led the immigration practice at Potter Minton and served as Of Counsel for immigration matters to Houston-based law firms. Ha also clerked for The Honorable Judith K. Guthrie, United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Personal Background

Ha immigrated to the United States from Vietnam at a young age and was raised in San Antonio. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and 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.

Pro Bono and Community Service

Ha is passionate about civil rights, social action, human rights, and disaster relief. Her pro bono work includes:

- Successfully obtaining special immigrant juvenile status for an unaccompanied minor from El Salvador
- Securing asylum for a Rwandan asylee
- Providing legal assistance to indigent individuals in family law matters, including guardianships and serving as an attorney ad litem

Ha is fluent in both Vietnamese and English, which further supports her work in representing diverse communities.

<p>Education</p> <p>South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas, Juris Doctor, 2006</p> <p>University of Texas, Austin, Texas, Bachelor of Science in Advertising and Minor in Business Management, 1999</p> <p>Bar Admissions</p> <p>State Bar of Texas, 2007</p> <p>Court Admissions</p> <p>All Immigration Courts</p> <p>Board of Immigration Appeals</p> <p>Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals</p> <p>United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas</p> <p>United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas</p>	<p>Memberships</p> <p>Texas Bar Foundation - Sustaining Life Fellow, since Nov 2016</p> <p>Tyler Junior College's Paralegal Advisory Committee - Committee Member, since Nov 2015</p> <p>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</p> <p>Smith County Bar Association - Board Member, Jan 2017 - Jan 2021</p> <p>Tyler Executive Women Network – Director, May 2015 - May 2016</p> <p>Smith County Bar Association – Women's Section Chair 2015-2016, Co-Chair 2014-2015</p> <p>Community Involvement</p> <p>National Center for Refugees and Immigrant Children</p> <p>YMCA Refugee Resettlement Program</p> <p>Lone Star Legal Aid</p> <p>Catholic Charities East Texas</p> <p>Immigration Advocates Network</p> <p>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

Attorney-at-Law

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Scott Miller – Real Estate, Banking & Business Law Attorney

Experienced Legal Counsel for Financial & Real Estate Institutions

Scott Miller is a seasoned attorney specializing in Real Estate, Banking, Mortgage Lending, and Business Law. With a background in both retail banking and title insurance, Scott brings a unique insider perspective to his legal practice, making him a trusted advisor to financial institutions, title companies, and businesses across Texas.

Legal & Financial Expertise

Scott provides comprehensive legal representation in:

- Banking & Mortgage Lending – Advising banks, credit unions, and mortgage lenders on regulatory compliance, loan structuring, and financial transactions
- Real Estate Law – Handling commercial and residential real estate transactions, title matters, and lending documentation
- Business Law – Assisting companies with contracts, entity formation, and general business transactions
- Title Insurance & Escrow Matters – Representing title companies and escrow officers in legal and regulatory issues

Professional Background

Scott began his legal career as an in-house attorney for a farm and ranch bank in East Texas, where he gained hands-on experience in agricultural lending and financial services law. Before law school, he spent a decade in retail banking, serving as a loan officer, banking center manager, and regional manager overseeing 30+ branches in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Additionally, he worked as an escrow officer for a national title insurance underwriter, giving him a deep understanding of real estate transactions and title issues.

Personal Life & Community

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

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

Bar Admissions

State Bar of Texas, 2003

Education

Texas A&M University School of Law, Juris Doctorate, magna cum laude, 2003

Memberships

State Bar of Texas, Real Estate Section

Community Involvement

Longview Arboretum and Nature Center, Board Member



Robin O'Donoghue

Attorney-at-Law

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Robin O'Donoghue – Experienced Litigation Attorney in Insurance Defense and Governmental Entity Defense

Insurance Defense and Governmental Entity Defense Expertise

Robin O'Donoghue is an experienced litigation attorney at Flowers Davis, specializing in Insurance Defense and the Defense of Governmental Entities. She has a solid track record of handling various aspects of complex litigation, primarily in the areas of medical malpractice, general civil litigation, and products liability.

Career Background

Before joining Flowers Davis in September 2012, Robin practiced at Bailey & Williams and Gwinn & Roby in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, where she gained significant experience in:

- Medical malpractice defense
- Products liability litigation
- General insurance defense
- Civil litigation

At her previous firms, Robin was actively involved in all phases of litigation, including:

- Preparing discovery responses and objections
- Taking and defending expert witness depositions
- Advocating clients' positions at court hearings
- Serving as second chair in medical malpractice trials
- Negotiating settlements independently and at mediation
- Representing clients in personal injury trials

Robin's diverse litigation background equips her with a well-rounded skill set, making her a valuable asset in defending clients in both insurance-related and governmental entity defense matters.

Practice Areas: Defense of Governmental Entities, Insurance Defense

<p>Education</p> <p>Baylor University School of Law, Juris Doctorate, 1991 Texas Christian University, Bachelor of Science, Political Science, 1988</p> <p>Bar Admissions</p> <p>State Bar of Texas, 1991</p> <p>Court Admissions</p> <p>US District Court, Eastern District of Texas</p> <p>Extracurricular</p> <p>Harvey M. Richey Moot Court Society TCU House of Representatives Washington, DC Internship Program, Fall 1987</p>	<p>Honors & Awards</p> <p>Sixth Place Individual Advocate, 1989 Hope, Pierce, Tarrt Scholarship Loy M. Simpkins Memorial Award Order of Omega Honor Society</p> <p>Memberships</p> <p>State Bar of Texas American Bar Association</p> <p>Community Involvement</p> <p>Trinity School of Texas, Fundraiser, Development Committee Member</p>
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Melanie Reyes-Rawls
Attorney-at-Law

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Melanie Reyes-Rawls – Board-Certified Attorney in Oil & Gas Law - Serving Business, Energy, Real Estate, and Estate Planning Clients

Melanie Reyes-Rawls has been with Flowers Davis since September 2004, focusing on oil, gas and energy title opinions, expert energy consulting, and real estate transactions. She is Board Certified in Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization—a distinction held by fewer than 6% of Texas attorneys. Licensed to practice law in Texas and New Mexico, Melanie primarily represents national and international petroleum companies, delivering drilling and division order title opinions.

Expertise in Oil & Gas and Real Estate Law

Melanie's deep experience in property law allows her to advise clients on:

- Drilling and division order title opinions
- Oil and gas transactions and consulting
- Real estate transactions
- Eminent domain proceedings
- Real property-related litigation and appeals

Estate Planning Services

Beyond her property law practice, Melanie assists individuals with comprehensive estate planning, including:

- Wills and trusts
- Powers of attorney
- Advanced directives
- Transfer on Death Deeds

Legal Background & Early Career

After graduating in the top 10% of her law school class, Melanie began her legal career as a Briefing Attorney for the Honorable Justices James Baker and Michael H. Schneider of the Texas Supreme Court. She then practiced at Thompson & Knight LLP in Dallas, specializing in oil and gas, antitrust, appellate, and intellectual property law.

Personal Interests

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

Practice Areas: Business & Commercial Litigation, Estate Planning - Wills & Trusts, Legal Document Preparation, Oil, Gas & Energy Title Examination, Oil, Gas & Energy Expert Consulting, Oil, Gas & Energy Litigation, Real Estate Litigation, Real Estate Transactions

<p>Bar Admissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Bar of Texas, 2003 • State Bar of New Mexico, 2018 <p>Board Certifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Oil, Gas and Mineral Law, since 2014 <p>Court Admissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U. S. District Court, Northern District of Texas <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Tulsa College of Law, Doctor of Jurisprudence, 2002 • Oklahoma State University/Langston, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, 1999 	<p>Certifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas Real Estate Commission MCE Instructor <p>Memberships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Honors and Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
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Publications & Presentations

2025 “Who Owns the Lithium? The Wild, Wild West of the Future”, paper by Celia C. Flowers & Melanie S. Reyes-Rawls, published in TEXAS STATE BAR - OIL, GAS & ENERGY SECTION LAW JOURNAL, Spring 2025 issue, and in LANDMAN Magazine, March/April 2025 issue

2023 EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM LANDMAN SPRING SEMINAR/Paper, “Cost-Free Royalties – The Continuing Evolution”, Fall 2023, Tyler, Texas, Celia Flowers and Melanie Reyes-Rawls

2019 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.

2019 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.

2018 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.

2017 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.

2016 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.

2016 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.

2014 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



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Laci Stovall – Business Transactions, Real Estate & Oil & Gas Litigation Attorney

Legal Expertise & Career Journey

Laci Stovall focuses her legal practice at Flowers Davis on business transactions, real estate litigation, and oil and gas litigation. A licensed attorney since 2020, her passion for the legal field began in 2010 when she worked as a runner for a Tyler law firm. She gained further business law and litigation insights through internships at local firms and later assisted low-income rural Mississippi residents in forming LLCs as a Student Attorney for the University of Mississippi Transactional Law Clinic.

Prior to joining Flowers Davis in 2022, Laci built a strong foundation in business transactional law, property/real estate law, oil and gas law, and estate planning. With three years of experience in the oil and gas industry, she brings a well-rounded and pragmatic approach to legal problem-solving.

Education & Community Involvement

Laci's academic background includes:

- B.A. in History – Texas A&M University
- M.A. in Communication Studies (Rhetorical Theory Emphasis) – University of North Texas Toulouse Graduate School
- Juris Doctorate – University of Mississippi School of Law

Throughout her education, Laci was actively involved in university and community organizations, focusing on philanthropy and community outreach—values she continues to uphold in her professional and personal life.

Personal Life & Passion for Inclusivity

Originally from Troup, Texas, Laci is a dedicated single mother to her spirited daughter, Thea Rene' ("Lil Miss"), whom she affectionately calls "the next R.B.G." She is passionate about fostering inclusivity and equity and strives to be a strong role model for her daughter.

Outside of work, Laci enjoys spending time with Thea, embracing the joys of motherhood, and working toward a more just and inclusive world.

Practice Areas: Business & Commercial Litigation, Legal Document Preparation, Oil, Gas & Energy 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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Ginger Young – Immigration Attorney & Community Advocate

Since 2009, Ginger Young has been a dedicated immigration attorney at Flowers Davis, PLLC, focusing on family-based immigration, permanent residency, and naturalization cases. As an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Ginger stays at the forefront of immigration law, ensuring her clients receive the most informed and effective representation possible.

Legal Experience & Career Journey

Ginger's legal career has spanned multiple practice areas, all with a focus on advocating for and defending her clients:

- Law School & Early Career – Interned for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), gaining experience in civil rights law.
- Fanning, Harper & Martinson (Dallas) – Represented school districts and governmental entities in civil rights and employment litigation.
- Thompson & Knight (Houston) – Continued her work in employment and labor defense.
- Flowers Davis, PLLC (Since 2000) – Initially focused on civil rights and employment litigation, defending governmental and law enforcement agencies before transitioning to immigration law in 2009.

Passion for Immigration Law

Ginger's shift to immigration law was driven by her desire to help clients build better lives. Since making this transition, she has helped countless individuals and families navigate the complexities of U.S. immigration law, providing compassionate and results-driven representation.

Community Leadership & Advocacy

Beyond the courtroom, Ginger is deeply committed to empowering and integrating the Hispanic community in East Texas. In 2022, she founded Viva La Rosa, a nonprofit dedicated to Latino cultural and social inclusion. Its first major initiative was integrating Hispanic representation into the Texas Rose Festival, where over 40 quinceañeras from 20 Hispanic heritage countries participated in the parade—a historic and now annual event. Flowers Davis proudly sponsors the float, and Ginger personally ensures families can attend the Coronation.

A Trusted Advocate for Immigration & Inclusion

Ginger's bilingual skills (fluent in Spanish), deep legal knowledge, and commitment to her community make her an outstanding advocate for immigrant families. Whether fighting for clients' rights or leading cultural initiatives, she is dedicated to making a meaningful impact.

Ginger enjoys spending time with her husband, Bob, and daughter, Olivia, and continuing her mission to uplift and support her community.

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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