



April L. Farris

Partner

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Houston

Professional Summary

April represents clients in high-stakes matters including contract disputes, business torts, Texas Citizens Participation Act (TCPA) procedure, and government-law issues. She has argued and won cases for her clients in the Fifth Circuit, the Sixth Circuit, and Texas courts of appeals. Her advice on brief craftsmanship appears in the *Winning on Appeal* appellate treatise, and she gives frequent presentations on legal issues. She previously served as an Assistant Solicitor General for the State of Texas. As an experienced appellate litigator, April knows that she best serves the client by being helpful to the court. Her briefs blend compelling factual story-telling with sharp legal analysis, crafted in the belief that every brief should be a persuasive and enjoyable read. April is named a 2020 appellate "Rising Star" by *Law360*. She is also recognized in appellate law by *Best Lawyers in America* and Thomson Reuters' *Super Lawyers*. April is a prolific public speaker on appellate practice and litigation trends and has spoken at advanced trial and appellate courses throughout the state, as well as at Harvard Law School. April serves as president of the Federalist Society's Houston Lawyers Chapter. She recently completed a three-year term on the Council of the Texas State Bar Appellate Section and currently co-chairs the Section's CLE Committee.

Representative Experience

- *America's Collectibles Network v. Sterling Commerce*. Obtained Sixth Circuit victory on issue of duplicative damages, saving client IBM over \$25 million.
- *iPic-Gold Class Entertainment, LLC v. AMC Entertainment Holdings, Inc.* Obtained appellate reversal of summary judgment on behalf of iPic in antitrust lawsuit against AMC. iPic alleges that AMC engaged in illegal horizontal conspiracy to crush iPic in the Houston market.
- *City of Conroe v. San Jacinto River Auth.* Obtained a key procedural victory in the Texas Supreme Court on behalf of the San Jacinto River Authority in its dispute with three cities over contracts that secure \$500 million in public bonds. The Court agreed with SJRA that it can use the Expedited Declaratory Judgment Act's fast-track procedure to decide whether the contracts between SJRA and its 80+ participants are valid and binding.

- *Occidental Energy Marketing, Inc. v. West Texas LPG Pipeline, L.P.* Obtained a favorable appellate interpretation of contract on behalf of West Texas LPG Pipeline in a contract dispute valued at over \$10 million.
- *Confidential Client.* Won total TCPA dismissal of million-dollar lawsuit against energy client for breach of contract and quantum meruit. Trial court awarded our client full attorney fees, conditional appellate fees, and sanctions.

Professional Honors & Affiliations

- *Best Lawyers in America* in Appellate Law, 2021
- "Appellate Rising Star," Top Attorneys Under 40, *Law360*, 2020
- "Texas Super Lawyer" in Appellate, *Thomson Reuters*, 2020
- 2019 Gutenberg Award, Abilene Christian University
- "Texas Rising Star," in Appellate by Thomson Reuters' *Super Lawyers*, 2017-2019
- President: The Federalist Society, Houston Lawyers Chapter, 2020
- Council Member: Texas State Bar Appellate Section, 2016-2019
- Committee Chair: Government Appellate Lawyers' Committee, State Bar of Texas Appellate Section, 2014-2018

Presentations & Publications

- "Handling Your First (or Next) Fifth Circuit Civil Appeal," State Bar of Texas, Dec. 3, 2020 (course director)
- "Contract Performance During Pandemic: Lessons From 1918," *Law360*, April 17, 2020 (co-author)
- "Texas-Style Appeal for Litigation Finance - Monetizing Claims Even While Case Drags On," *Texas Lawyer*, November 14, 2019 (co-author)
- "Texas Anti-SLAPP Overview," 42nd Annual Advanced Civil Trial Course, 2019 (moderator)
- "Changes to Motion to Dismiss Procedure in Texas," Business Disputes Annual Course, 2019 (panelist)
- "Texas Citizens Participation Act and Anti-SLAPP: Hand Grenade or Rifle Shot?" Advanced Civil Appellate Practice Course, 2019 (panelist)

Education & Professional Background

- Harvard Law School, J.D. *cum laude*, 2009 (Managing Editor, Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy)
- Abilene Christian University, B.S., *summa cum laude*, 2006 (Presidential Scholarship, ACU Board of Trustees Award)
- Law Clerk to the Hon. Jennifer Walker Elrod, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2009-2010
- Admitted to practice: Texas, 2009