

Bruce D. Oakley

Office Managing Partner

Houston

Biography

Drawing on his 25 years as a trial lawyer in Houston, Bruce Oakley helps commercial clients solve problems through advice, analysis, and advocacy. Having served as a judge presiding over thousands of lawsuits, Bruce knows particularly well the risks and opportunities facing clients with business disputes; and what works and does not work at the courthouse.

Bruce uses that knowledge to develop and carry out strategies both in the boardroom and in the courtroom, especially for clients facing complex cross-border disputes. He regularly represents businesses across the energy spectrum – from exploration and production, drilling operations, refineries, pipelines, and to the services sector.

As Managing Partner of our Houston office, Bruce works with lawyers throughout our global practice. Before joining our firm 10 years ago, Bruce served as Judge of the 234th Judicial District Court. Prior to being appointed and then reelected to the court, he was a partner in a major Texas firm trying lawsuits in state and federal courts. He is ranked by *Chambers*, the *Legal 500*, *Texas SuperLawyers*, and BTI. He also holds a certification in Civil Trial Law from the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Bruce continues his public service having previously



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Practices

Commercial Litigation

Energy Disputes

Litigation Services

Products Law

Insolvency Litigation

Areas of focus

Product Litigation

Education and admissions

Education

served as President of Children's Protective Services and now as a Director of the Harris County Houston Sports Authority. He is married and has five children.

Representative experience

Representing a deepwater drilling contractor against claims relating to the dissolution of a Brazilian joint venture.

Representing innovative shale logistics company in trade secret lawsuit.

Representing an exploration and production company in a dispute over rig failure during drilling operation in the Eagle Ford Shale formation.

Defended foreign sovereign integrated energy company against series of lawsuits under the Alien Tort Claims Act and Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

Representing offshore drilling contractor in federal litigation against a multinational oil and gas company concerning deepwater drilling operations.

Defended clean energy manufacturing company in defense of a lawsuit alleging misappropriation of trade secrets.

Defended independent power producer in litigation brought by former officer arising out of a DOJ investigation and prosecution.

Arbitrator in variety of energy and insurance related disputes.

Awards and rankings

- Acritas Star, *Acritas Stars Independently Rated Lawyers*, 2019-2020
- Dispute Resolution: General Commercial Disputes, *Legal 500 US*, 2019
- Dispute Resolution: International Litigation, *Legal 500 US*, 2018-2019

J.D., Baylor University School of Law, cum laude; Leon Jaworski Scholarship in Advocacy, 1989

B.A., Baylor University, 1986

Memberships

Member, American Board of Trial Advocates

Member, Houston Bar Association

Member, Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists

Bar admissions and qualifications

Texas

- Litigation: General Commercial (Texas), *Chambers USA*, 2015-2020
- Board Certified, Civil Trial Law, *Texas Board of Legal Specialization*, 2003-2014
- Business Litigation, *Super Lawyers*, 2005-2013
- Litigation: Product Liability and Mass Tort Defense: Aerospace/Aviation, *Legal 500 US*, 2013
- BTI Client Service All-Star, *BTI Consulting Group*, 2011
- Business Litigation, *Super Lawyers, Corporate Counsel Edition*, 2008-2010

Latest thinking and events

- Awards and Rankings
 - Hogan Lovells Houston lawyers make strong showing in 2018 Chambers USA rankings
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - Higher Standard Required: Supreme Court on Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act *Appellate Alert*
- Published Works
 - Growing a Small Office of a Large Firm *The Houston Lawyer*

Court admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

U.S. District Court, District of Colorado

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas

U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas

U.S. Supreme Court

Accolades

"[A] great commercial mind and a sophisticated understanding of our business[.]"

Chambers USA

"Bruce Oakley of Hogan Lovells US LLP is well known in Texas litigation circles as a former District Court judge, which lends immense credibility to his current litigation practice. His primary areas of practice include the energy and pharmaceutical markets."

Chambers USA 2017

"The highly experienced Bruce Oakley heads Hogan Lovells US LLP's Texas litigation team. He has previously served as a Texas state court judge and is described by clients as an 'exceptionally capable advocate' with 'a very good, analytical' approach."

Chambers
