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Born in Wheeler, Texas. Author of the popular book *Robbed at Pen Point*, fluent in German, published poet, accomplished water-skier, passionate guitar player, father of eight children (some of whom are temporarily self-sufficient), and founding member of Blue Collar Crime, a Texas blues brotherhood composed of four lawyers and a guitar legend (who needs four lawyers). [www.bluecollarcrime.com](http://www.bluecollarcrime.com).

### **EDUCATION**

The University of Texas School of Law, Juris Doctor with Honors

Honors: Chairman, Legal Research Board  
Clerk, Lt. Governor's Conference on Ethics in Government

Brigham Young University, Bachelor of Arts Degree

Major: English  
Honors: Track Scholarship (intermediate hurdles)  
Associate Editor, Wye Magazine (campus literary publication)  
President, English Circle (Club of English Majors)

Pampa High School, Pampa, Texas

### **LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS**

Licensed by the State Bar of Texas and Federal Courts in Texas

Board Certified: "Civil Trial Law," Tex. Bd. of Legal Specialization, 1981 – present

Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Member 1983-1985

Personal Injury Advisory Commission, Member 1993-2000

Practice limited to litigation, specializing in professional liability.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/HONORS**

Dallas Bar Association - Presidential Citation for Law Jam 2

Texas Lawyer – "The GoTo Guide" 2007

D Magazine - Best Lawyers in Dallas

Texas Monthly - Texas' Super Lawyers

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Academy of Trial Lawyers  
Fellow, 2009  
American Board of Trial Advocates  
President, Dallas Chapter 2004  
Dallas Bar Association  
Chairperson, Business Litigation Section, 2000  
Dallas Bar Foundation  
Charter Life Fellow  
Dallas Trial Lawyers Association  
President, 1999  
National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Southern Region  
Instructor  
Trial Advocacy College of Texas  
Instructor  
Texas Bar Foundation  
Life Fellow  
Texas Trial Lawyers Association  
Member

## SPEECHES

*Preventing Legal Malpractice: Common Pre-Trial Mistakes*, State Bar of Texas's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Training: Winning Before Trial

*Grievances and Legal Malpractice*, State Bar of Texas's 2010 Advanced Medical Malpractice Course, 2010

*Land Mines, Quick Sand and Sand Traps*, Texas Wesleyan Alumni, 2010

*Legal Malpractice Update*, 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Litigation Update Institute, 2010

*Suing and Defending Financial and Legal Professionals*, UT Law's 33<sup>rd</sup> Page Keeton Civil Litigation Conference, 2009

*File Documentation, Retention and Destruction*, Dallas Bar Association's Probate Ethics Panel, 2009

*Robbed at Pen Point*, North Tarrant Bluebonnet Chapter of the International Association of Allied Professionals, 2009

*Ethical Dilemmas and Navigating the Ethical Pitfalls of Online Networking*, Dallas Association of Young Lawyer's Dinner with the Judiciary, 2009

*Ethical Considerations In Representing Closely-Held Companies*, Tarrant County Bar Association's Corporate Counsel Section, 2009

*Malpractice and Ethics Update*, State Bar of Texas's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Entertainment Law Institute, 2009

*Ethics*, Dallas Bar Association's Annual Review of Oil & Gas Law XXIV, 2009

*Avoiding Malpractice and Ethics Violations in Consumer Practice*, State Bar of Texas's Advanced Consumer and Commercial Law Course, 2009

*Legal Malpractice Update*, State Bar of Texas's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Advanced Civil Trial Course, 2009

*Attorney Malpractice: What Partnerships and LLC Drafting Errors are Likely to Make you a Target*, UT CLE, 2009

*Navigating the Quagmire of Potential Claims Against Lawyers Who Represent Fiduciaries and Other Clients in an Estate, Trust, Probate and Guardianship Practice*, Spring Institute, 2009

*Lessons Every Trial Lawyer Has to Learn*, College of Law's Society of Legal Studies and Business, 2009

*Robbed at Pen Point*, Preston Center Rotary Club, 2009

*Legal Malpractice Update*, State Bar of Texas's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Litigation Update Institute, 2009

*Ethics and Legal Malpractice in the Current Economic Crisis*, Dallas Bar Association's CLE Committee, 2008

*Ethics and Malpractice Myths and Reality*, Dallas Bar Association's Entertainment Law Section, 2008

*Real and Imagined Ethical and Malpractice Issues*, State Bar of Texas's Consumer and Commercial Law Course, 2008

*Fiduciary Litigation Update*, Tarrant County Bar Association's Navigating Troubled Waters: Legal Issues in an Uncertain Economy, 2008

*Ethics Not a Game*, 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Entertainment and Law Institute's Legal and Business Aspects of Film, Music, Sports and Digital Media, 2008

*Evaluating and Handling the Legal Malpractice Case*, State Bar of Texas's Consumer and Commercial Law Course, 2008

*Ethical and Malpractice Issues*, Review of Oil & Gas Law XXIII, 2008

*Attorney Advertising Rules Guidelines and Their Application for Websites*, State Bar of Texas: Webcast, 2008

*Malpractice Traps for the Beginning Lawyer*, Transition to Law Practice Program, 2008

*File Documentation, Retention and Destruction*, Collin County Bar Association's Estate Planning & Probate Section, 2008

*Recent Developments in Legal Ethics with Respect to Representing Healthcare Providers*, Dallas Bar Association's Healthcare Section, 2008

*Recent Developments in Legal Malpractice*, Dallas Bar Association's Annual Ethics Fest, 2008

*Ethics in the Internet*, Texas Trial Lawyer's Association: Personal Injury Seminar, 2008

*Avoiding Your Worst Nightmare-Managing to Stay Out of Trouble*, Dallas Minority Attorney Program, 2008

*Staying out of the Cross-hairs: Avoiding Malpractice Claims*, Dallas Bar Association's Ethics Committee, 2008

*Protecting Ourselves: Attorney Liability Issues*, State Bar of Texas: Webcast, 2008

*Why I Sue Lawyers*, Park Cities Club – Expert Witness Association, 2008

*Malpractice, Ethics and Fee Disputes*, State Bar of Texas: Webcast, 2007

*The Three Corner Problem*, Ethics Dilemmas in Legal Malpractice, 2007

*File Documentation, Retention and Destruction*, State Bar of Texas's Advanced Drafting: Estate Planning and Probate, 2007

*Why I Sue Lawyers*, Great American Insurance Group's CLEver! Ethics, 2007

*Internet Advertising*, Dallas Bar Association's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Bench Bar, 2007

*Evaluating and Handling the Legal Malpractice Case*, State Bar of Texas's Consumer and Commercial Law Course, 2007

*Malpractice Prevention & Disciplinary Rules*, State Bar of Texas's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Civil Trial Course 2007

*The Art of Cross Examination*, Dallas Bar Association's Tort and Insurance Practice Section, 2007

*Belt Update - Practical "Belts" and Suspenders Panel Discussion of How to Plan to Defend the "But Daddy Would Have Wanted to Save All Taxes" Claim*, Texas Bar's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Estate Planning and Probate Course, 2007

*Magical Ethical Mystery Tour*, Dallas Bar Association's Annual Ethics Fest, 2007

*Belt Case* –State Bar of Texas: Webcast, 2007

*Malpractice Issues in Probate and Estate Planning*, Dallas Bar's Probate, Trusts & Estates Section, 2007

*Malpractice Traps: Advising the Insolvent Client*, State Bar of Texas's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Business Bankruptcy Course, 2007

*Legal Malpractice Roundtable*, 2006

*Ethics Panel*, Texas Bar's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Civil Trial Course, 2006

*Professional Liability Lawsuits and Successful Strategies*, Dallas Bar Association's Business Litigation Section, 2006

*Law & Ethics Issues for the Estate Planner*, The Center of American and International Law's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Program on Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning, 2006

*Belt v. Oppenheimer*, Dallas Bar Association's Probate Study Group, 2006

*Legal Malpractice Roundtable*, Texas Lawyer's Roundtable Event, 2006

*Ethics Issues for the Practicing Entertainment Lawyer*, 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Entertainment Law Institute Legal and Business Aspects of Music, Motion Pictures, and Digital Entertainment, 2005

*Malpractice, Ethical and Fee Disputes*, The San Antonio Estate Planners Council's - Estate Planning, Probate, and Guardianship Seminar, 2005

*Malpractice Exposure for Lawyers in Insurance Related Matters*, 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Insurance Law Institute. The University of Texas School of Law, 2004

*Ethics Issues in Estate Planning*; 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Program on Wills, Trusts & Estate Planning. The Center for American and International Law, 2004

*The Cost of Being a Gunfighter*; Legal Ethics Committee of the Dallas Bar Association, 2004

*Current Legal Malpractice Issues*, Tort and Insurance Section of the Dallas Bar Association, 2004

*Ethical and Malpractice Issues for the Estate Planning and Probate Practitioner*, Texas Bar CLE presents the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Estate Planning & Probate Course, 2004

*Legal Malpractice in Texas*, Insurance Issues. Lorman Education Services Seminar, 2004

*Ethics and Malpractice*, Collin County Probate Section, 2004

*Ethics and Malpractice*, Employment Section of the Dallas Bar Association, 2004

*Ethics and Malpractice*; Probate Section of the Dallas Bar Association, 2003

*Mediating Across the Goal Line: Medical and other Professional Malpractice*. The Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the State Bar of Texas, 2003

*A Review of Ethics Opinions*. 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Personal Injury Law Course. State Bar of Texas, 2003

*Ethics and Malpractice for the Criminal Practitioner: DWI Seminar*. Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, 2003.

*Ethics and Malpractice Issues*. Real Property Section of the Dallas Bar Association, 2003.

“*Malpractice and Ethics’ Panel Discussion*” National Law Review, Litigation Summit and Exposition, 2002.

*Trial Demonstration: Direct and Cross of Legal Malpractice Expert*. State Bar of Texas, 2002.

*Tactics-Tactics-Tactics*. Texas Trial Lawyer’s Association, 2001.

*Advanced Expert Witness Course II*. State Bar of Texas, 2001.

*Hot Tips for Hot Times: Malpractice and Fee Disputes*. Texas Trial Lawyer’s Association, 2000.

*Prejudgment and Post Judgment Interest: Damages Symposium*. Texas Trial Lawyers Association, 1999.

*Malpractice and Fee Disputes*. 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Personal Injury Law Course, State Bar of Texas, 1999.

*Legal Malpractice, Settlement Negotiations, Breach of Fiduciary Duties, and Multiple Clients*, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Personal Injury Law Course. State Bar of Texas; 1998; 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Personal Injury Law Course, 1999.

*Proving Emotional Damages in Employment Cases: The Nuts and Bolts of Plaintiff's Employment Litigation VI*, An Employment Law Seminar for the Plaintiff's Employment Lawyer. The Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of the National Employment Lawyers Association, 1998.

*Personnel Law Update*. The Council on Education in Management, 1997.

*Voir Dire and Opening Statements*: Super Store of Continuing Legal Education, State Bar of Texas, 1996.

*Masters in Trial: Examination of Plaintiff*. The Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Dallas and Fort Worth Chapters, 1996.

*Medical Devices and Drug Litigation*: Advanced Products Liability Course. Texas Trial Lawyers, 1995.

*Enforcement Panel: Recent Developments*. 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Securities Regulation and Business Law Problems. The University of Texas School of Law, The Fort Worth Regional Office of the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, The Texas State Securities Board, and the State Bar of Texas Section on Business Law, 1995.

*Masters in Trial : Cross-Examination of Defendant*. The Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Dallas and Fort Worth Chapters, 1995.

*Winning in Mediation: Nuts and Bolts*. Dallas Trial Lawyers Association, 1994.

*Winning in Opening Statements: Learning from the Masters*. Dallas Bar Association, 1993.

*Litigating with the Drug Companies: Discovery - Getting Down to Basics*. Texas Trial Lawyers Association, 1992.

*Arbitration of Disputes with Broker-Dealers*. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Securities Regulation and Business Law Problems. The University of Texas School of Law, The Fort Worth Regional Office of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, The Texas State Securities Board and the State Bar of Texas Section on Business Law, 1991.

*There's More to it than Title VII: The Nuts and Bolts of Plaintiff's Employment Litigation*. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual National Employment Lawyers Association Seminar.

*This Gun's for Hire, Even if we're just Dancing in the Dark*. Bank One, In-House Seminar.

## ARTICLES

*A Lawyer Who Sues Lawyers*, The Dallas Morning News, August 19, 2007.

*Coyt Randal Johnston Leaves Quite A Memorable Impression*, The Turtle Creek News, April 4, 2004.

*Curtail Voir Dire? A Practitioner Responds*, Texas Lawyer, February 24, 1997.

*Death Takes Center Stage*, Texas Lawyer, January 19, 1998.

*In Fierce Defense of Lawyer Bashing*, Dallas Business Journal, November 30, 1990.

*On Being held Accountable for Electric Forks, Inc.*, The Dallas Chapter, CPA News, April 1991.

*The Ultimate Trip*, Texas Lawyer, January 5, 1998.

*The Worst Address in Texas*, Texas Lawyer, January 12, 1998.