

COYT RANDAL JOHNSTON
JOHNSTON TOBEY BARUCH, P.C.
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Born in Wheeler, Texas because the hospital in Shamrock was full. Author of the book *Robbed at Pen Point*, published poet, passionate guitar player, father of eight children, and founding member of Blue Collar Crime, a Texas blues brotherhood of four lawyers and a guitar legend.

Randy Johnston began his career practicing law with two large institutional law firms, one in Houston and the other in Dallas, before forming his own firm in 1981. Most recently, Randy is the newest—and proudest—inductee into the Hall of Fame at his alma mater: Pampa High School.

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 State Bar of Texas and State Bar of Utah.

Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization (1981 – present)
Practice limited to litigation, specializing in professional liability.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/HONORS

2022 Inductee, Pampa High School Hall of Fame
2022 Inaugural Inductee, D Magazine Best Lawyers in Texas Hall of Fame
2019 Recipient, Texas Trial Titan Award, Rogge Dunn Group
2017 Recipient, Jim Bowmer Professionalism Award, Texas Bar College
2016 Trial Lawyer of the Year, Dallas Bar Association
2016 Recipient, Champion of Justice Award, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas

2012 Recipient, Texas Trial Legends Award, Dallas Bar Association Tort & Insurance Practice Section

2010 Recipient, Standing Ovation Award, TexasBarCLE

Dallas Bar Association - Presidential Citation for Law Jam 2; program for fundraising for legal aid for the poor.

Texas Lawyer – “The GoTo Guide” 2007, for Legal Malpractice in Texas

D Magazine - Best Lawyers in Dallas

Texas Monthly - Texas Super Lawyers

Who’s Who in American Law

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The National Trial Lawyers – “Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Attorneys”

Member

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

Texas Bar Foundation

Life Fellow

Texas Trial Lawyers Association

Executive Committee Member (2001)

SPEECHES

10 Things Every Young Lawyer Should Know (but they don’t teach in law school), Lawline, 2022

I Didn’t Know That: When a Claim Turns on Proof of Lawyer Knowledge, American Bar Association’s National Legal Malpractice Conference, 2021

War Stories, Montgomery County Bar Association, 2021

Effective Direct Examination, Dallas Bar Trial Skills, 2021

Malpractice and Ethics War Stories, State Bar of Texas Litigation Update Institute Course, 2021

Advanced Trial Strategies, State Bar of Texas Webcast, 2021

Code of Professional Conduct and Zealous Advocacy, SMU Externship Class, 2020

Deposition Panel, Trial Academy Program, 2019

Representing a Hero, American Board of Trial Advocates, 2019

Top 10 Rules to Avoid Malpractice, Corpus Christi Bar Association's Advanced Civil Trial Law Seminar, 2019

Representing a Hero, Texas Trial Titan, 2019

Top 10 Malpractice Claims and How to Protect Yourself, State Bar of Texas 44th Annual Advanced Family Law Course, 2018

Judicial Ethics, Jane's Due Process, 2018

Ethical Risks and Pitfalls, The Knowledge Group Webcast, 2018

Ethical Issues in Advertising, State Bar of Texas 9th Annual Essentials of Business Law, 2018

Damages in a Malpractice Case, State Bar of Texas 10th Annual Civil Litigation Course, 2018

Anatomy of a Trial: Closing Arguments Lecture, Dallas Bar Trial Academy, 2017

How to Pick a Jury in a Legal Malpractice Case: National Legal Malpractice Conference, 2017

The Art of Business Litigation: A conversation, Texas Lawyer, 2017

Professional Malpractice, State Bar of Texas 11th Annual Fiduciary Litigation Course, 2016

You May be Paranoid, But They Really Are Out There and After You: Malpractice and Ethical Concerns of Estate Planners, Minnesota CLE, 2016

Ethics: Not a Game (Show), Oklahoma Bar Association, 2016

Ethical Issues in Pre-Trial & Trial Investigations, Dallas Bar Ethics Fest, 2016

Asleep at the (Ignition) Switch? The Texas General Counsel Forum, 2016

Litigating a Malpractice Case, State Bar of Texas Webcast, 2016

Latest Developments in Ethics and Malpractice in Texas, Denton Bar, 2016

Litigating a Malpractice Case, State Bar of Texas Webcast, 2015

Reptile and Rules of the Road, Trial Skills, 2015

Ethics Not a Game (Show), State Bar of Texas 25th Entertainment Law Institute, 2015

Trying Legal Malpractice Cases, Legal Malpractice Program, 2015

Proving Up a Business Case, State Bar of Texas Business Disputes, 2015

Attorney Client Disclosure Rules and Those Pesky Ethics, Legal Seminar on Ad Valorem Taxation Conference, 2015

Knowing Where the Ice is Thin, Dallas Bar, 2015

Malpractice, State Bar of Texas 38th Advanced Civil Trial Course, 2015

General Motors Ignition Switch Issue, General Counsel Forum, 2015

The Art of Business Litigation: A conversation, Texas Lawyer, 2015.

Tips to Avoid Legal Malpractice, Baker Botts Clinic, 2015

Robbed at Pen Point, Mesquite Ambucs, 2014

The Art of Business Litigation: A Conversation, Texas Lawyer, 2014

Avoiding Legal Malpractice: Traps for the Unwary; Dallas Bar CLE Committee, 2014

Legal Advice for Businesses; Duncanville Rotary Club, 2014

Dealing with Clients: Selecting, Attracting Maintaining and Firing; Dallas Bar, 2014

Top Ten Ways to Avoid Malpractice; Texas Tech Extern Class Panel, 2013

Malpractice and Ethics; American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, 2013

Ethics in Business Litigation; State Bar of Texas Business Disputes, 2013

Malpractice Traps for the Beginning Lawyer; Bar, 2013

War Stories; Peer Assistance Committee, 2013

Top 10 Ways to Avoid Malpractice; Arlington Bar, 2013

Malpractice Issues; Houston Bar Appellate Section, 2013

In-House Counsel Summit Roundtable; 2013

Texas-Style Malpractice Update; Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers, 2013

Danger Zones and Red Flags in Engagement Letters, Dallas Bar Association, 2013

Hooked on Ethics – The T & E Lawyer’s Impossible Dilemma; 47th Annual Heckerling Institute on Estate Planning, 2013

Malpractice; State Bar of Texas Sex, Drugs and Surveillance Course, 2013

Ethics Considerations for Solo & Small Firms Attorneys; Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, 2012

Presentation on the firm’s pending case before the Supreme Court; Texas Lawyer’s Insurance Exchange’s National Association of Bar Related Insurance Companies Annual Meeting, 2012

The Trial of Wyatt Earp (Anatomy of a Trial), Litigation Institute for Trial Training, 2012

Robbed at Pent Point, Kansas City Association of Financial Professionals’s Finance and Treasury Conference, 2012

Legal Ethics and Malpractice Issues for Appellate Lawyers, State Bar of Texas 26th Annual Advanced Civil Appellate Practice, 2012

Client as Consumer: Handling the Legal Malpractice Claim; State Bar of Texas Advanced Consumer and Commercial Law Course, 2012

Navigating the Minefield – Avoiding Malpractice Claims and Grievances; 14th Annual State Bar College Summer School, 2012

Why I Sue Lawyers; North Dallas Bar Association, 2012

Current Ethical Issues, Women Lawyer’s of Tarrant County, 2012

Ethical Consideration of Social Media; Law and Media, 2012

Law Practice Management; Dallas Minority Attorney Program, 2012

How to Avoid Being Robbed at Pen Point, TEXPO Striving for Excellence, 2012

Legal Malpractice – Ethics Presentation, Intellectual Property Law Course, 2012

Judicial Ethics Code, Judicial Independence Panel, 2012

Protecting Yourself from Scams, American Association of University Women, 2012

Death Penalty Panel, SMU Dedman School of Law’s American Constitution Society, 2012

Advertising Rules for Attorneys, Tarrant County Bar Association’s Diversity Committee, 2012

Tips From the Trenches: The Top Ten Things that Get Young Lawyers In Trouble for Malpractice and Lesson in Avoidance, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers' Leadership Class and Professionalism Presentation, 2011

I Think You Made A Mistake: Watch What I Will Do To You Now!, American College of Trust & Estate Counsel's Fall Meeting, 2011

What Every Business Tort Lawyer Should Know About Legal Malpractice, State Bar of Texas' Business Torts Institute, 2011

Liability for Government Lawyers, Regional Assistant Attorney General's RAAnGer Roundup in Big D, 2011

Top Ten Ways to Avoid Being Sued, Collin County Bar Ethics Seminar, 2011

How Family Law Attorneys Can Best Avoid Being Sued, Dallas Bar Association's Family Law Bench Bar Conference, 2011

Malpractice Traps, State Bar of Texas, Webcast 2011

Blazing New Trails in Professional Liability, Professional Underwriter Society Panel International Conference, 2010

Malpractice Trends, State Bar of Texas 33rd Annual Advanced Civil Trial Course, 2010

Ethics Jeopardy, Bench Bar Conference, 2010

Legal Malpractice Traps, National Employment Lawyer's Association, 2010

What Partnership and LLC Drafting Errors are Likely to Make you a Malpractice Target, Dallas Bar Association's Tax Section, 2010

Avoiding Malpractice Pitfalls in Probate Litigation, Tarrant County Probate Litigation Section, 2010

Ethics from the Judges' Perspective, Panel Moderator, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Sumer CLE Day, 2010

Legal Malpractice Traps, State Bar College Summer School, 2010

Attorney-Client Privilege In Dealing with Auditors, The Center for American and International Law's 2010 Symposium: Globalization for In-house and Outside Counsel, 2010

Malpractice Trends, Dallas Bar Association's Trial Skills, 2010

File Documentation, Retention and Destruction, Collin County Bar Association's Estate Planning & Probate Section, 2010

Top Ten Ways to Avoid Getting Sued for Malpractice, Dallas Bar Association's Ethics Fest Program, 2010

Preventing Legal Malpractice: Common Pre-Trial Mistakes, State Bar of Texas 4th Annual Spring Training: Winning Before Trial, 2010

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

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

Legal Malpractice Update, 26th Annual Litigation Update Institute, 2010

Suing and Defending Financial and Legal Professionals, UT Law's 33rd 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 19th 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 Advanced Consumer and Commercial Law Course, 2009

Legal Malpractice Update, State Bar of Texas 32nd 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 25th 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 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, 18th 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 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 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 16th Annual Bench Bar, 2007

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

Malpractice Prevention & Disciplinary Rules, State Bar of Texas 30th 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 31st 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 25th Annual Advanced Business Bankruptcy Course, 2007

Legal Malpractice Roundtable, 2006

Ethics Panel, Texas Bar's 29th 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 44th 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, 15th 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, 9th Annual Insurance Law Institute. The University of Texas School of Law, 2004

Ethics Issues in Estate Planning; 43rd 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 28th 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. 19th 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. 15th Annual Advanced Personal Injury Law Course, State Bar of Texas, 1999.

Legal Malpractice, Settlement Negotiations, Breach of Fiduciary Duties, and Multiple Clients, 14th Annual Personal Injury Law Course. State Bar of Texas; 1998; 15th 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. 17th 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. 13th 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. 8th 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 AND PUBLICATIONS

Legal Malpractice and Breach of Fiduciary Duty: Beware Fracturing, The Advocate, Fall 2017

The Art of Business Litigation: A conversation, Texas Lawyer, 2017

Contributor Texas Business Litigation – Chapter 15: Ethics, Texas Lawyer, 2014

Beware of Limitations Traps on Legal Malpractice Claims, Texas Lawyer, November 2013

Attorneys' Fees Problem Area and How to Avoid Fee Disputes, Texas Bar Journal, October 2012.

The Disciplinary Rules That Weren't: Now What? The Advocate, December 2011.

Mediating Professional Liability Cases – Practical Tips for Success, Texas Lawyer, November 2011.

Advice From The Field, The Advocate, Volume 55, Summer 2011.

Robbed at Pen Point by Randy Johnston, 2008.

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.