# COYT RANDAL JOHNSTON, JR. JOHNSTON TOBEY BARUCH, P.C.

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### **PRACTICE OVERVIEW:**

Coyt Johnston represents clients in trial and appellate courts across Texas and occasionally in other states. His practice is concentrated in the area of professional liability, such as legal and accounting malpractice, as well as securities fraud or fiduciary litigation. Mr. Johnston has also represented clients in matters involving business litigation, contract disputes, consumer actions, and personal injury. While Mr. Johnston's clients are primarily plaintiffs, he has also represented lawyers and law firms in matters involving legal ethics, such as sanctions, disqualifications, fiduciary liability, and grievances.

Coyt has interviewed more than a thousand potential new clients and evaluated their claims. This experience of directly communicating with potential clients has had a profound impact on his ability to relate to and communicate with clients and potential clients.

Coyt Johnston is a creative and hard worker who excels at complicated problem solving. He finds solutions to difficult problems in complicated cases. Mr. Johnston is a good listener and works very hard to not let his advocacy skills trump the real world consequences to his clients.

### **REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE:**

- Successfully represented plaintiffs in legal malpractice cases through settlement, jury verdicts, and appeals.
- Has successfully mediated and settled nearly 100 matters for clients.
- Successfully defended multiple major Dallas law firms on a Motions for Sanctions.
- Successfully defended a lawyer facing sanctions, disbarment, and criminal charges pursuant to a Show Cause Order in Federal Court.
- Successfully negotiated several settlements in complicated partnership divorces.
- Successfully represented multiple major Dallas law firm against the imposition of discovery sanctions.
- Sat at Counsel Table before the United States Supreme Court in matter concerning the jurisdiction of legal malpractice cases based on patent issues.
- Represented and resolved a matter for a client in an accounting malpractice case that involved the improper designation and reporting of income.
- Represented and resolved a matter for a large out of state client in a legal malpractice case involving errors in the setting up and migration of the client's 401(k) plan.
- Represented a real estate developer against a national law firm for legal malpractice where the sales contracts, drafted by the law firm, were unenforceable.

- Successfully represented several prominent Dallas law firms in some cases defending against disqualification, and in others seeking it.
- Successfully defended a prominent family from being extorted by another member of the family on trumped up allegations of sexual abuse.

## **EDUCATION:**

J.D., Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, 2008

Best performer in Jackson Walker Moot Court Competition

Only student to receive a plaintiff's recovery from the jury in Trial Advocacy

B.A., Political Science & Psychology, University of Texas SA, 2002 Legislative Intern during the 77<sup>th</sup> Legislative session President of Political Science Student Association President of Men's Club Volleyball

Duncanville High School, Duncanville, Texas, 1994

## **ADMISSIONS and AFFILIATIONS:**

State Bar of Texas United States District Courts for the Northern and Western Districts of Texas Supreme Court of the United States of America

The College of the State Bar of Texas (2007- present)
Dallas Bar Association
Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
Dallas Trial Lawyers Association
Higginbotham Inn of Court (associate member 2009)
American Bar Association
Texas Trial Lawyers Association
Bench Bar Planning Committee (2012 & 2013)

Essentials of Business Law Planning Committee (2013)

## **HONORS:**

D Magazine - Best Lawyers in Dallas (2014) Award for "Best Young Lawyer Contributor" for Family Law Cares (2013) Guest faculty at the 2012 & 2014 ABOTA Trial College at Harvard Law School (2012 & 2014) Fellow of the 2010 ABOTA Trial College at Princeton University (2010)

## **PUBLICATIONS, SPEECHES, AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Practical Advice for Papering Your Files, State Bar of Texas' Intermediate Estate Planning & Probate, 2019

Getting Data Off Mobile Phones, Dallas Minority Attorney Program, 2019

Expanding the Strike Zone, State Bar of Texas' Fiduciary Litigation, 2018

Reputation Protection and Repair for Your Firm and Your Client, State Bar 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Essentials in Business Litigation, 2018

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

Courtroom Technology, State Bar of Texas' 6th Annual Advanced Trial Strategies, 2017

Cutting-Edge Trends, Tips & New Technology, State Bar of Texas' Advanced Business Law, 2016

Drones, Dallas Bar Association, 2016

#blurredlines, Ethical Marketing on Social Media; State Bar of Texas' Women in the Law, 2014

Social Media in Business; Radio Interview with Kris O'Donnell of 570am, 2013

How Social Media Can Help or Hurt; The 2013 American Mensa Annual Gathering, 2013

Guest Lecturer, "Advanced Torts," SMU Dedman School of Law, 2013

The Ethical Pitfalls of Social Media; State Bar of Texas' Essentials of Business Law, 2013

Ethical Consideration of Social Media; Law and Media, 2012

The Ethics of Social Media; Dallas Bar Association, 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

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

Real and Imagined Ethical and Malpractice Issues, Dallas Bar Association, 2010

Guest Lecturer, "Advanced Torts," SMU Dedman School of Law, 2010

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

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