

# UNDERWOOD



## D. Chris Harkins

Shareholder

### Profile



D. Chris Harkins specializes in probate and estate planning and litigation in the Amarillo, Texas office. A significant portion of Chris' practice concentrates on probate and estate litigation, having advocated on all sides of the bar in will contests and guardianship fights. He is certified by the State Bar of Texas as an Attorney Ad Litem and is often called upon by local courts to represent the interests of proposed wards in guardianship proceedings. In addition to probate litigation, Chris has extensive expertise in the drafting and proper execution of wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and other estate planning vehicles. A substantial amount of his practice also involves traditional, uncontested probate and probate alternatives utilized to settle decedent's estates.

Chris also represents clients in the formation and operation of various business entities in Texas, including limited liability companies, limited partnerships, corporations (both C corps. and S corps.), general partnerships, etc. He also frequently engages in corporate litigation matters involving conflicts between partners, shareholders, and members in the operation or dissolution of various entities.

An Amarillo native, Chris graduated from Tascosa High School, West Texas State University (WTAMU), and Texas Tech University School of Law. His local roots give him a unique and invaluable perspective and ability to meet the needs of his clients.

Chris is married to fellow local attorney, Joni Paul. He has two beautiful daughters, Abby and Sophie. When not in the office or the courtroom, you can almost certainly find Chris standing in a trout stream, sitting in a deer stand, or bird hunting with friends and family.

### Practice Areas

- Business and Corporate
- Estate Planning and Probate
- Litigation

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## Bar/Court Admission

- [State Bar of Texas](#), 2003

## Education

- [Texas Tech University School of Law](#)
  - J.D. cum laude, 2002
  - Phi Delta Phi National Honorary Fraternity
  - Articles Editor, Texas Tech Law Review, 2002-2003
  - Outstanding Second Year Student, 2001-2002
  - Outstanding Student Article, 2001-2002
- [West Texas State University](#)
  - B.G.S., 1992

## Affiliations

- [Hidden Falls Ranch](#), Board of Directors, 2011-2013
- [Project Healing Waters/Amarillo Fly Guys](#), 2010-2013, President 2011
- [Opportunity School](#) Board of Trustees, President 2008
- [Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association](#) , Director, 2002-2006
- [United Way](#) Loaned Executive, 2005
- Amarillo Country Club, Board of Directors, 2018-2019