

Tom Riney is a prominent figure in the civil trial law landscape in Amarillo, with over forty years of experience. His goal is to provide value and effective representation with an early evaluation and review of cases that bring prompt resolutions.



Tom holds a board certification in Civil Trial Law from the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, highlighting his expertise and dedication to his practice. His practice is diverse and encompasses general civil litigation, commercial litigation, professional liability, product liability, healthcare-related litigation, mediation, and arbitration.

Tom works with oil and gas companies and individuals, small and large businesses, and healthcare facilities. His clients range from Fortune 500 companies to local businesses with contract disputes.

EXPERIENCE

Obtained a mandamus ruling from the Texas Supreme Court dismissing a defamation claim brought against a Roman Catholic diocese based on the ecclesiastical abstention or church autonomy doctrine.

Obtained a summary judgment, affirmed by the Texas Supreme Court, in favor of a seller of oil and gas property regarding an indemnification agreement and an award of attorney's fees, including a contingent appellate fee award.

Obtained dismissals and an award of attorney's fees under the Texas Anti-SLAPP law (the Texas Citizens Participation Act) in a suit filed against a hospital by a physician, two suits for tortious interference with a contract, on a counterclaim filed by a physician against a physicians' group, and on a counterclaim against an attorney.

CONTACT

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PRACTICE AREAS

Healthcare

Litigation

ADMISSIONS

State Bar of Texas, 1976

Supreme Court of Texas

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits

U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Southern and Western Districts of Texas, Western District of Oklahoma

EDUCATION

J.D., Texas Tech University School of Law, 1991

B.A., Texas Tech University, 1987

Obtained summary judgment, affirmed on appeal, for a church-owned financial services organization that manages retirement funds for missionaries and pastors in a multi-million-dollar case involving tortious interference with contract, fraud, conspiracy and lender liability claims arising out of a failed sale of working interests in oil and gas leases located in the Permian Basin.

Obtained a summary judgment for a winery in a \$4 million breach of contract and fraud case arising out of an auction of a winery.

Co-counsel for an international corporation in a \$90 million fraud case arising from the construction of an ethanol plant that resulted in a favorable settlement.

Negotiated a \$10,000,000 settlement with retention of mineral ownership for mineral owners sued for partition.

Obtained a \$1.57 million judgment for a law firm after a jury trial against a former client for unpaid legal fees.

Represented major energy companies in multiple litigation matters including lease disputes, environmental contamination, and personal injury and death claims arising from oil field accidents, exposure to hydrocarbons and other causes.

Obtained a take-nothing jury verdict for an agricultural commodities company in a \$5 million fraud/deceptive trade practices case.

Successfully defended a claim in arbitration for breach of fiduciary against the managers of a cattle feedlot.

Successfully represented numerous lawyers and law firms on claims of legal malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty and in fee disputes.

Obtained defense verdicts for automobile manufacturers in a catastrophic injury case as lead counsel and as co-counsel.

Represented major midstream energy company in catastrophic pipeline strike.

Represented hospitals and medical executive committees in medical staff hearings and litigation related to revocation of medical staff privileges.

Represented oil and gas operators and royalty owners in disputes over overriding royalty interests.

Successfully tried numerous cases to verdict for hospitals and physicians on claims of wrongful death and serious injuries.

Represented major pharmaceutical company in mass tort claims.

Obtained summary judgment for the guarantors of a \$1 million promissory note against the holder of the note.

Obtained a unanimous jury verdict in favor of the owner of a multi-million-dollar strip shopping center in a suit for an alleged breach of restrictive covenants including claims for damages, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees.

AFFILIATIONS

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers

Board Certified, Civil Trial Law (Texas Board of Legal Specialization)

Texas Association of Defense Counsel (President, 1997–1998)

Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee (2006–Present)

Texas Bar Foundation Board of Trustees (2018 – 2021)

American Board of Trial Advocates (Advocate member, President, West Texas Chapter 1991–1992)

State Bar of Texas (Director, 2012–2015)

Amarillo Area Bar Association (President, 2005–2006)

International Association of Defense Counsel

American Health Lawyers Association

Defense Research Institute

Sustaining Life Fellow: Texas Bar Foundation

RECOGNITIONS

Civil Trial Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Best Lawyers® in America, Legal Malpractice – Defendants; Mass Tort & Class Action Litigation – Defendants; and Medical Malpractice – Defendants, 2006-2024

Texas Super Lawyers, by Thomas Reuters, 2003-2024

Named “Outstanding Defense Bar Leader in the Country” by Defense Research Institute

Recognized as one of the “Top 100 Lawyers” in Texas for the eleventh time in 2020 by Super Lawyers

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

“Initiating Litigation and Reply- How the Experts Analyze a Claim or Reply to a New Case”, 11th Annual State Bar of Texas Advanced Trial Strategies Course, New Orleans, Louisiana, (2022)

“Demonstrative Evidence on a Budget – Persuasion and Use of Technology”, 9th Annual State Bar of Texas Advanced Trial Strategies Course, New Orleans, Louisiana, (2020)

“Regional Litigation in Texas: Urban vs Rural”, 43rd Annual Advanced Civil Trial Course, (2020)

“Participatory and Vicarious Liability in Business Litigation”, State Bar of Texas, 9th Annual Business Disputes Course, Austin, Texas, (2017)

“Picking the Deep Pocket – Participatory and Vicarious Liability”, State Bar of Texas, 42nd Annual Advanced Civil Trial Course, San Antonio, Texas, July 18, 2019, Dallas, Texas, August 22, 2019, and Houston, Texas, (2019)