



Christopher M. Raney

PARTNER

Houston

713.490.4823

craney@grsm.com

RELATED SERVICES

- Commercial Litigation
- Insurance
- Property Insurance
- Professional Liability Defense
- Directors & Officers and Shareholder Litigation

OFFICES

- Houston
- Dallas

OVERVIEW

Chris Raney has litigated business, commercial, and personal injury matters throughout Texas over the last 20 years. He is a seasoned litigator that has tried cases to judges, juries, and arbitrators in Texas state and federal courts. Chris has drafted and argued dispositive motions, appellate briefs, and virtually every other type of brief, motion, or pleading. Chris takes a creative, aggressive approach to litigation to achieve the client's strategic objectives in the courthouse or to avoid one altogether.

Commercial Litigation

Chris represents public and private companies and individuals in business disputes over purchase and sale contracts, service contracts, trade secrets, commercial real estate, restrictive covenants including non-compete and non-solicitation, and other business transactions. Chris also handles commercial

disputes involving allegations of fraud, tortious interference, business disparagement, defamation, and other business torts.

Professional Liability

Chris defends professionals against claims for professional negligence, malpractice, and related business torts. As part of his practice, Chris defends lawyers and law firms in litigation against claims for legal malpractice. Chris represents lawyers in grievances before the Texas State Bar Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel. He is also asked to advise lawyers and law firms on ethical duties under the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure outside the litigation context.

Chris also regularly defends insurance agents, insurance brokers, accountants, architects, engineers, and other professionals against claims of professional negligence.

Insurance Coverage

Chris frequently represents insurers in coverage disputes related to various types of policies, including property, general liability, professional liability, employment practices liability, cyber liability, businessowners', business auto, and more. He has significant experience in first party litigation over property damage claims resulting from wind, hail, and other weather events under Chapter 542A of the Texas Insurance Code, including allegations of bad faith and other statutory violations.

Chris also counsels insurers on insurance coverage issues outside litigation, including drafting coverage opinions on routine to complex coverage issues.

Personal Injury Litigation

Chris defends businesses against claims for personal injury involving premises liability, trucking and auto accidents, and claims for catastrophic loss and wrongful death. He has defended medical device manufacturers in product liability matters against claims of defective design, defective manufacturing, and failure to warn about known hazards and dangers.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Trial/Arbitration

- Tried case on behalf of directors of nonprofit corporation against claims of breach of fiduciary duty and self-dealing to favorable jury verdict (Laredo, 2022)
- Served as member of trial team in defense of Fortune 100 medical device manufacturer against claims of negligence and wrongful death that resulted in a favorable jury verdict after a 7-day trial (Houston, 2019)
- Tried wrongful termination case on behalf of an anesthesia practice that resulted in complete defense arbitration award (San Antonio, 2018)

- Tried commercial lease dispute over a nationwide restaurant franchise to a favorable judgment in a bench trial (Austin, 2016)
- Obtained complete defense verdict on behalf of a computer forensics company in arbitration proceeding involving membership dispute (Houston, 2016)
- Obtained complete defense verdict for medical device manufacturer in 3-day jury trial in federal court (Houston, 2014)
- Tried commercial dispute over zoning and construction issues to jury verdict (Dallas, 2014)
- Tried high exposure EBITDA earn-out dispute to favorable arbitration award (Chicago, 2012)
- Tried numerous contract disputes to judgment in Texas state courts (Houston 2012, 2013)
- Obtained complete defense judgments defending real estate developer in arbitration proceedings over the purchase and sale of luxury, high-rise condominium units in Galveston, Texas (Houston, 2009)
- Tried breach of contract case over the sale of a private jet to jury verdict (Oklahoma City, 2008)

Recent Favorable Outcomes

- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of commercial real estate developer over the sale of a tract of land in a mixed-use development (2024)
- Obtained summary judgment for youth treatment facility in commercial real estate dispute (2024)
- Obtained dismissal of professional negligence claim against Texas-based law firm in bet-the-company litigation in Houston bankruptcy court (2024)
- Prevailed on motion to dismiss for client dental practice over allegations of wrongful death (2024)
- Obtained summary judgment for board of directors of Texas nonprofit corporation in lawsuit alleging ultra vires conduct and breach of fiduciary duty (2024)
- Prevailed on motion to dismiss for insurance agents in dispute over life insurance policies (2024)
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of notary sued for professional negligence in a real estate transaction (2024)
- Obtained complete dismissal on behalf of technology provider in dispute over the design and development of software system (2023)
- Obtained and defeated applications for injunctive relief, including temporary restraining orders and temporary injunctions, in restrictive covenant, corporate governance, defamation, and other business disputes
- Has successfully resolved hundreds of lawsuits through mediation, lawyer-to-lawyer negotiations, and other alternative dispute resolution procedures.

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- Texas

- U.S. District Courts for Texas, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

Memberships

- State Bar of Texas
- Houston Bar Association
- Houston Young Lawyers Association
- Federal Bar Association
- Houston Gator Club
- Jesuit Bar Association

Education

- J.D., South Texas College of Law, *Magna cum laude*, 2005
 - Order of the Lytae
 - Assistant Articles Editor, *South Texas Law Review*
 - Member, *Currents International Trade Law Journal*
- B.A., University of Florida, *summa cum laude*, 2002

Internships

- Justice Evelyn Keyes, 1st Court of Appeals, Houston, Texas
- Judge Joseph Halbach, 333rd District Court, Houston Texas

Honors

- *Best Lawyers in America*® distinction in Commercial Litigation (2022-2025)
- Houston's "Top Lawyers" by *H Texas Magazine*, Commercial Litigation (2010, 2011, 2013)
- *Rising Stars*® distinction in the fields of Business Litigation, Civil Litigation: Defense and Employment Litigation: Defense (2013-2021)