

## Bruce D. Oakley

Office Managing Partner  
Houston

### Biography

Drawing on his 25 years as a trial lawyer in Houston, Bruce Oakley helps commercial clients solve problems through advice, analysis, and advocacy. Having served as a judge presiding over thousands of lawsuits, Bruce knows particularly well the risks and opportunities facing clients with business disputes; and what works and does not work at the courthouse.

Bruce uses that knowledge to develop and carry out strategies both in the boardroom and in the courtroom, especially for clients facing complex cross-border disputes. He regularly represents businesses across the energy spectrum – from exploration and production, drilling operations, refineries, pipelines, and to the services sector.

As Managing Partner of our Houston office, Bruce works with lawyers throughout our global practice. Before joining our firm 10 years ago, Bruce served as Judge of the 234th Judicial District Court. Prior to being appointed and then reelected to the court, he was a partner in a major Texas firm trying lawsuits in state and federal courts. He is ranked by *Chambers*, the *Legal 500*, *Texas SuperLawyers*, and BTI. He also holds a certification in Civil Trial Law from the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Bruce continues his public service having previously served as President of Children's Protective Services and now as a Director of the Harris County Houston Sports Authority. He is married and has five children.



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### Practices

Commercial Litigation  
Energy Disputes  
Litigation Services  
Products Law  
Insolvency Litigation

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### Areas of focus

Product Litigation

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### Education and admissions

#### Education

J.D., Baylor University School of Law, cum laude; Leon Jaworski Scholarship in Advocacy, 1989

## Representative experience

Representing a deepwater drilling contractor against claims relating to the dissolution of a Brazilian joint venture.

Representing innovative shale logistics company in trade secret lawsuit.

Representing an exploration and production company in a dispute over rig failure during drilling operation in the Eagle Ford Shale formation.

Defended foreign sovereign integrated energy company against series of lawsuits under the Alien Tort Claims Act and Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

Representing offshore drilling contractor in federal litigation against a multinational oil and gas company concerning deepwater drilling operations.

Defended clean energy manufacturing company in defense of a lawsuit alleging misappropriation of trade secrets.

Defended independent power producer in litigation brought by former officer arising out of a DOJ investigation and prosecution.

Arbitrator in variety of energy and insurance related disputes.

## Awards and rankings

- Litigation: General Commercial (Texas), *Chambers USA*, 2015-2021
- Acritas Star, *Acritas Stars Independently Rated Lawyers*, 2019-2020
- Dispute Resolution: General Commercial Disputes, *Legal 500 US*, 2019
- Dispute Resolution: International Litigation, Recommended, *Legal 500 US*, 2018-2020
- Board Certified, Civil Trial Law, *Texas Board of Legal Specialization*, 2003-2014
- Business Litigation, *Super Lawyers*, 2005-2013
- Litigation: Product Liability and Mass Tort Defense:

B.A., Baylor University, 1986

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## Memberships

Member, American Board of Trial Advocates

Member, Houston Bar Association

Member, Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists

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## Bar admissions and qualifications

Texas

New York

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## Court admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

U.S. District Court, District of Colorado

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas

U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas

U.S. Supreme Court

New York State Appellate Division Third Department

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Aerospace/Aviation, *Legal 500 US*, 2013

- BTI Client Service All-Star, *BTI Consulting Group*, 2011
- Business Litigation, *Super Lawyers, Corporate Counsel Edition*, 2008-2010

## Latest thinking and events

- Press Releases
  - Hogan Lovells announces new Board appointments
- News
  - Energy Transition Is the New Landscape for Houston's Oil and Gas Industry
- Press Releases
  - Hogan Lovells announces new management team and Board appointments
- Awards and Rankings
  - Hogan Lovells Houston lawyers make strong showing in 2018 Chambers USA rankings
- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - Higher Standard Required: Supreme Court on Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act *Appellate Alert*
- Published Works
  - Growing a Small Office of a Large Firm *The Houston Lawyer*