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El Paso | San Antonio | Fort Worth | Albuquerque



## El Paso

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## Albuquerque

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1 Board Certified — Personal Injury Trial Law,  
Texas Board of Legal Specialization  
2 Licensed in Florida  
3 Licensed in New Mexico  
4 Also Licensed in Arizona  
5 Also Licensed in Utah  
6 Also Licensed in Oklahoma

7 Licensed in Texas  
8 Licensed in New York  
9 Licensed only in Mexico  
10 Licensed in Mexico  
11 Licensed in Arkansas  
12 Licensed in Louisiana

# Representative Clients

## *Product Liability*

Atlas Copco  
Cooper Cameron  
Crane Co.  
Dover Elevator Company  
Easton-Bell Sports Group  
Ford Motor Company  
General Motors Corporation  
Hyundai Motor America  
Ingersoll-Rand Corporation  
Kawasaki Motors Corporation

Orkin-Rollins, Inc.  
Powerscreen International  
Riddell, Inc.  
Simplex Grinnell  
Tyco International, Ltd.  
Wabash National Corp.  
WD-40 Company  
Westinghouse Electric Corporation

## *Medical/ Pharmaceutical Malpractice*

Allied World Assurance Company  
American Physicians Insurance  
Exchange  
Anaesthesiologists Professional  
Assurance Co.  
Caronia Corporation  
EDCare Management, Inc.  
Fireman's Fund Insurance Company  
Medical Protective Insurance Company

Medical Claims Management Group  
St. Paul/Travelers  
Texas Medical Liability Insurance  
Underwriting Association (JUA)  
Texas Medical Liability Trust  
The Ensign Group, Inc.  
Walgreen Co.  
Western Litigation Specialists

## *Professional Malpractice*

ACE U.S.A.  
Clarendon Insurance Companies  
Great American Insurance Company  
Professional Liability Insurance Co.

St. Paul/Travelers  
Texas Lawyers' Insurance Exchange  
Westport Insurance Corporation  
Zurich-American Insurance Group

## *Commercial Litigation*

Bank of America  
B.P. Newman Investment Company  
CIT Group  
Commercial Underwriters Ins. Co.  
Copart Salvage Auto  
First Nationwide Mortgage Corp.  
HUB International Northeast  
Insignia Financial Group  
Koger Equity, Inc.  
Little Caesar Enterprises

Mariner Healthcare, Inc.  
Mimco, Inc.  
Navajo Refining Company  
Nesco, Inc.  
Ramsey Steel, Inc.  
Simon Property Group  
Toshiba Business Solutions  
VIE Healthcare, Inc.  
Viva Auto Group

## *Transportation*

3H Trucking  
A&H Trucking  
Arch Hazmat Trucking  
Arostegui Trucking  
Atlantic Moving & Storage  
Black Horse Carriers  
Britt Trucking Company  
Broadspire  
Cardinal Transport, Inc.  
Carrasco Hot Shot & Trucking  
Contract Freighters, Inc.  
DC Carriers  
Estenson Logistics  
Express Carriers  
FedEx Freight  
FedEx Ground  
Fleming Companies, Inc.  
G&R G Trucking  
Gemini Transportation Underwriters  
Gary Rainwater Trucking  
Greatwide Dedicated Transport,  
Greatwide Logistics Services  
Greyhound Lines, Inc.  
H&M Trucking  
Iron Tiger Logistics  
J.D. Abrams, Inc.  
John Deere Transportation  
Knight Transportation  
Landstar Trucking  
Las Cruces Transportation  
Legacy Trucking Services LLC  
M&J Trucking  
Magana Trucking  
Mercer Transportation Co.  
National Transportation Adjusters  
On Time Trucking  
Orbit Transportation  
R.I. Dempsey Trucking, Inc.  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Redland Transportation, Autobuses  
Los Paisanos  
Roadrunner Distribution Services, Inc.,  
Roadrunner Trucking  
Roecker Trucking, Inc.  
Russaw Transport  
Safeway Transportation  
SAIA Motor Freight Line  
Storey Trucking  
Swift Transportation  
Tegraexcel Oilfield Logistics  
TPG Transport LLC  
Trans Pecos Trucking LLP  
Triple S Trucking  
Trueline Corporation  
United Road Services  
Walmart Transportation  
West Texas Oilfield Trucking Co.  
Breach of Contract case  
Wilbanks Trucking  
X Gomez Trucking

## *General Negligence And Insurance Law*

AIG  
AIU Holdings, Inc.  
Allied World Assurance Company  
AM Trust North America  
American Family Insurance Group  
American Mercury Insurance Group  
Arch Insurance Group  
Aspen Insurance Group  
Auto-Owners Insurance  
Axia Cpital  
Berkley Risk Administrators  
Berkley Specialty Underwriting  
Managers, LLC.  
Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance  
Broadspire  
Canal Indemnity Co.  
Cardinal Healthcare Corporation  
Carolina Casualty Insurance Company  
Century American Insurance Company  
Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's of  
London  
Children's Eye Center of El Paso  
Chubb  
Church's Fried Chicken, Inc.  
Circle K Corporation  
CNA Insurance Companies  
Coaction Specialty  
Delphi Automotive Systems, Inc.  
Employers General Insurance Company  
Geico Direct  
Global Aerospace, Inc.  
Great American Insurance Group  
Insignia Financial Group  
International Distributor Company  
ITT Specialty Risk Services, Inc.  
Kemper National Insurance Companies

Kimball Hill Homes	Swiss Re
Liberty Mutual Group	The Southland Corporation
Lincoln General Insurance	St. Paul/Travelers
Lexington Insurance Company	Starr Insurance Company
Markel Insurance Co.	State Farm Insurance Companies
McCoy Corporation	T.H.E. Insurance Company
McDonald's Corporation	Texas Mutual Insurance Co.
Mid-Continent Casualty Company	Texstar Produce, LLC
National Union Fire Insurance Company	Time Warner Communications
Nationwide companies	Titan Insurance Company
North American Risk Services	The Travelers Indemnity Company
Peter Piper, Inc.	Union Standard Insurance Group
Philadelphia Insurance	United Services Automobile
Phillips 66	Association (USAA)
Prime Insurance Company	United States Liability Insurance, Inc.
Progressive Casualty Insurance Co.	Utica National Insurance Group
Prosight Specialty Insurance	Vela Insurance Services
QBE North America	Walgreen Co.
Simon Property Group	Western Refining
	York Claims Services
	Zurich-American Insurance Group

*Labor And  
Employment Law*

AIG	Kwik Copy
Alamo Area Council of Governments	Lexington Insurance Company
Albertsons, LLC	FedEx Kinko's
Arch Insurance group	Lucchese, Inc.
Axxion Group, Inc.	Mission Pharmacal Co.
Border Foods	Montana Beverage Company
Chubb Group of Insurance Companies	Mountain Express, Inc.
Church's Fried Chicken, Inc.	Nabisco, Inc.
Civil Service Commission	Novamex
CTT Lines, Inc.	Phelps Dodge Corporation
Culligan Bottled Water	Pizza Hut of America, Inc.
Cuna Mutual Group	Pro Cathedral Church of St. Clements
Datamark, Inc.	Regent Broadcasting of El Paso
Dustrol, Inc.	Region 19 Educational Services
Elcom, Inc.	RM Personnel, Inc.
El Paso Association of Radio Stations	Savane International Corporation
El Paso Children's Hospital	Siemens Corporation
First Federal Savings Bank	Sunland Optical Company
Foss Electric Company	St. Mary's School of Law
Foster Electric (U.S.A.) Inc.	Sure Brothers, Inc.
Gaylord Container Corporation	Taco Bell, Inc.
General Motors	Texas Border Sheriff
Hunt Building Corporation	Verizon Corporation
Imaging of El Paso	Walgreen Co.
International Business College	Washing Equipment of Texas Yazaki
International Radiology Group	North America, Inc.
Jobe Materials	York International Corporation
Kelly Services, Inc.	

*Worker's  
Compensation*

ACE U.S.A.  
American Garment Finishers  
Berkley Risk Administrators  
Broadspire  
County of El Paso  
Farah Manufacturing, Inc

Liberty Mutual Group  
Lumbermen's Mutual Casualty  
Company  
National Union Fire Insurance Company  
St. Paul Travelers  
Ward North America

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*Governmental  
Litigation*

City of Albuquerque  
County of Bexar  
City of El Paso  
City of Socorro  
County of El Paso

County of Maverick  
Education Service Center - Region 19  
Lea County  
Texas Department of Transportation

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*Toxic Tort And  
Enviornmental Law*

CBS Corporation, f/k/a Westinghouse  
Electric Corporation  
Georgia-Pacific Corporation  
Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.

Navajo Refining Company  
Orkin-Rollins, Inc.  
Western Refining, Inc.

# Structure

*Ray Peña McChristian is a regional civil litigation firm based in El Paso, San Antonio and Fort Worth, Texas, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. The firm is engaged almost exclusively in lawsuits throughout Texas and New Mexico.*

The attorneys in the firm have high academic credentials and are from diverse backgrounds. Several of the attorneys have received such distinguished honors as state and national board certifications, including the American Board of Trial Advocates, Best Lawyers in America, Martindale-Hubbell AV Ratings, Super Lawyers and various impressive honors in the area of trial advocacy. Several attorneys are frequent lecturers and authors for state organizations on a variety of litigation topics, and hold leadership positions in numerous professional organizations.

The firm has also been recognized by its clients and organizations as among the best firms for trial attorneys, quality and value. The firm has enjoyed the highest ranking among law firms by the major national rating services for many years, including the Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers.

In this age of marketing representations, excellence is a word that is sometimes applied indiscriminately. Excellence should be proven and not simply stated. The best proof of excellence is the litigation and courtroom success of the firm, and the firm's reputation among opposing attorneys, judges, clients and other litigation firms.

The firm consists of trial attorneys and legal support teams which include registered nurses, certified legal assistants and legal secretaries. The firm has state-of-the-art courtroom technology and employs a technical group for the production of courtroom presentations, graphics and animations. Many attorneys and staff are bilingual to accommodate and assist clients and witnesses in a largely bicultural region. As a result, the firm has enjoyed outstanding success in the courtroom for many years.

# Practice Philosophy

The expertise of the firm includes business litigation and insurance defense litigation, including medical and professional liability, product liability, premises liability, lender liability, automobile accident litigation, labor and employment litigation, toxic tort and environmental law, workers' compensation litigation as well as coverage and bad faith litigation.

Most clients are publicly or privately held corporations engaged in insurance, product manufacturing, retail and wholesale sales, transportation, construction and development. Almost all of our clients are involved in regional and national activities.

Our philosophy is to provide top quality trial and appellate legal services for our clients with an emphasis on promptness, efficiency, honesty and integrity.

# RPM's Commitment to Diversity

As a national multi-office law firm, RPM has both an extraordinary opportunity and a special responsibility to create and maintain a work environment that affirms diversity of thought, ethnicity, background, and perspective. Our key ingredient for maintaining our top talent is our core value of mutual respect. Our mutual efforts have always been to develop and sustain a law firm community in which diversity is valued. As we work together to maintain the power of diversity, we provide interns, attorneys, and staff with a company experience that is rich in perspectives. We embrace the opportunities to learn from each other, grow with each other, and succeed in a diverse world.

## Technological Support

The firm is fully staffed and equipped to provide the most recent technology available for investigations, research, litigation support and courtroom presentation.

A complete network with remote access is utilized by the firm. State-of-the-art electronic communication is also available for direct contact with each member of the firm.

The firm employs a technical group which provides litigation support for courtroom presentations, videography, video synchronization, graphics, animations, color copying and a variety of demonstrative aids. The group is capable of organizing, scanning, and compiling voluminous mass litigation information with full text and document control databases.

A state-of-the-art library and research facility is also maintained by the firm to facilitate immediate reference for many jurisdictions on issues relating to all major practice areas of the firm. An expert witness bank and research bank is maintained by the firm, allowing the attorneys to have extensive information regarding expert witnesses and legal issues.

## Legal Fees And Services

Hourly rates are competitive with El Paso, San Antonio and Fort Worth law firms and, in fact, offer better value as compared to competing firms in Albuquerque, Dallas, Austin or Houston. No firm in this region offers the experience, success, technical staff and technology of our firm. Billing statements are prepared to accommodate the needs and requirements of each of our clients. The firm is sensitive to the escalating costs for businesses, and engages in forecasting, budgeting and fee guidelines for its clients.

## Geographic Areas Of Practice

The firm's practice primarily encompasses Texas and New Mexico, including El Paso, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Dallas, Laredo, Corpus Christi, Las Cruces, Albuquerque, Midland, Odessa, Amarillo, Lubbock and all of New Mexico. The firm routinely handles state and federal litigation pending in these areas; however, several cases are handled throughout the states of Texas, New Mexico and other regions.

# ALBUQUERQUE

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# Brian Brack

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Phone: (915) 832-7239

Office Location:  
El Paso, TX  
Albuquerque, NM



## EDUCATION

- New Mexico State University - B.S. in Education, May 1989
- Creighton University School of Law - J.D., May 1993

## LAW SCHOOL HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Moot Court participant
- Initial member of the Creighton Legal Clinic
- Represented clients in local courts while in third year

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Brian Brack brings a wealth of experience to Ray Peña McChristian in El Paso, having spent over 27 years practicing law in New Mexico. His career began in Ruidoso, where he worked for a general practice law firm, gaining valuable experience in a variety of legal matters. Brian later joined his brother's practice in Clovis, where he developed strong relationships with clients and the community.

When his brother was appointed to the bench, Brian took over the practice, demonstrating his leadership skills and commitment to his clients. This transition also showcased his ability to adapt and grow a successful practice. With his extensive background and experience, Brian brings a deep understanding of the law and a strong work ethic to his work at Ray Peña McChristian.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- State Bar of Texas
- State Bar of New Mexico
- Board of Directors Member - New Mexico Christian Legal Aid, 2009-2021
- AV Rated - Martindale Hubbell
- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America
- Listed in Southwest Super Lawyers

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of Texas, 2003
- Supreme Court of New Mexico, 1993
- United States District Court for the District of New Mexico, 1994
- United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, 2004

## PERSONAL

Brian is married to Jennifer and they have four amazing children. After kicking his rugby addiction, Brian has focused on his kids' activities and had the honor of coaching them. One of his greatest achievements is being awarded the 2016 Boys Coach of the Year - AYSO #1447. He is also honored to have served as Trustee, Deacon, and Worship Team Member for Celebration Baptist Church for over 10 years.



# Dan Hernandez

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Phone: (915) 832-7237

Office Location:  
Albuquerque, NM  
El Paso, TX

- Shareholder
- Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
- Reappointed to the Board of Directors for the Texas Bar College (2024-2027)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Daniel is a shareholder with the law firm of Ray, Peña, McChristian, P.C. and Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Daniel is an experienced trial lawyer with substantive jury-trial experience. He is licensed in Texas and New Mexico. Since 1991, Daniel has been lead trial counsel and part of trial teams in over 100 trials as counsel for businesses, corporations, companies, governments, employers, manufacturers, owners, insurance companies, and individuals, in which a favorable outcome and outright client verdicts have been achieved in over 90% of the cases. Daniel's practice focuses on two areas- business litigation and personal injury defense. He has handled a variety of civil and complex commercial disputes, including claims of breach of contract, contract indemnity, fiduciary duty, first and third party insurance claims, property damage claims, inverse condemnation, professional liability, fraud, civil rights, deceptive trade practices, and employment disputes- discrimination and wrongful termination cases. He has defended high stakes catastrophic personal injury cases, including multiparty death and injury auto, trucking, bus, work site, construction site, premises, products, fire, foodborne illnesses, and workers' compensation cases. Daniel has extensive experience handling and examining a variety of experts in various professional and medical specialties. Daniel has also successfully handled many of his own trial verdicts on appeal.



## RECENT REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Confidential Clients: Successfully tried over 150 administrative cases as lead counsel before the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission.

Confidential Client: Successfully defended, in South Texas, as part of a trial team a worldwide clothing manufacturer in over 2,000 worker lawsuits involving respiratory exposure injuries.

Rodriguez v. Romero: As lead counsel, obtained an improbable jury defense verdict in a personal injury lawsuit in which his client had been earlier convicted of murder in an earlier separate criminal case for the underlying incident claimed in the lawsuit.

Martino v. Kiewit Construction: As lead counsel, obtained a defense verdict on a construction site accident involving a crushing injury to Plaintiff's foot, and subsequently won the appeal to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

RKI v. Ameriflow: As lead counsel, obtained summary judgment in favor of his client on a contractual indemnity claims worth over twelve million dollars.

Gallegos v. Hernandez: As lead counsel, obtained another improbable defense verdict on a highway auto accident case in which his client admitted liability and the jury deliberated for only five minutes.

Confidential Client: Numerous successful summary judgment victories of 1991 Civil Rights lawsuits against a private corrections corporation and subsequent victories on appeals to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

#### **COURT ADMISSIONS**

- Texas, 1991
- New Mexico, 2008
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, Southern District of Texas and Northern District of Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico

#### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Elected President, El Paso Bar Association, 2019-20 and Board of Director since 2011. West Texas Vice President, Texas Association of Defense Counsel (TADC), 2018-20; Area District Director, 2016-18.

2016, El Paso Mexican American Bar Association's Investing in Our Community Award.

Master member of George A. McAlmon American Inn of Court.

Board of Directors, Texas Bar College, and Fellow of the College.

Vice President, Texas Association of Defense Counsel, and past recipient of President's Award.

2020 Recipient, The Hispanic Issues Section of the Texas Bar Association's Access to Justice Award, for Walmart 2019 shooting pro bono assistance and clinic.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

"Defending a Construction Site Accident Case," Texas Association of Defense Counsel, 2018 Fall/Winter Magazine.

Various continuing legal education seminar papers and presentations, 2000-2019.

#### **PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

As President of the El Paso Bar Association, in the aftermath of the El Paso Wal-Mart mass

shooting, Daniel organized volunteer attorneys to help victims with legal issues and a hotline to refer victims to pro-bono attorneys in response to the massacre on August 3, 2019 which history will record as one of the most serious acts of domestic terrorism targeting Hispanics and El Pasoans. Daniel also organized a successful free CLE to train attorneys and community advocates about the effects of the mass shooting and how to assist victims in the aftermath. He has also organized for the El Paso Bar free community legal clinics, free bimonthly members' CLE, and a highly successful Annual Civil and Criminal CLE in New Orleans with judges from the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Daniel's programming has provided members many opportunities for personal and professional growth and rewards.

As TADC's West Texas Vice President on its Board of Directors, Daniel has served as Chair of various CLE TADC seminars and presented many seminar topics on litigation and trial topics.



# Noemi V. Lopez

*E-mail: [nlopez@raylaw.com](mailto:nlopez@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (915) 832-7243*

*Office Location:  
El Paso, TX  
Albuquerque, NM*

## • Shareholder

### EDUCATION

- Penn State University, The Dickinson School of Law, J.D., May 2011
- Certified Miller Center Public Interest Advocate  
University of New Mexico, M.A. in Spanish
- Emphasis in Southwest Literature  
St. Edward's University, B.A. in Spanish, Economics minor
- Graduated summa cum laude  
Loretto Academy High School, El Paso, TX

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Noemi has trial and appellate litigation experience. Her experience includes claims analysis, investigation, discovery, motion practice, and handling or assisting in all phases of trial and appeals in a variety of complex matters.

Noemi's legal career began as a law clerk and then a Staff Attorney for the Texas Eighth District Court of Appeals. As a staff attorney, she produced highly advanced appellate work requiring in-depth analysis and preparation of legal memoranda/opinions and extensive research of applicable law in civil and criminal appeals. She also participated in pre- and post-submission conferences and made recommendations to the appellate court. Noemi later worked as an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas in El Paso investigating and prosecuting federal criminal offenses.

During law school, Noemi served as a certified legal intern for Penn State Law's Children Advocacy Clinic. She also interned at MidPenn Legal Services, The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (Healthcare section), and a large civil litigation firm in El Paso. Noemi performed pro bono work for the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center and was involved in various community service projects, including Habitat for Humanity, Toys for Tots, Wills for Heroes, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). Today, Noemi continues her commitment to community service by participating in professional and non-profit associations that serve our greater community.

Prior to law school, Noemi worked as an office manager of a medical office in El Paso. Additionally, Noemi held a part-time faculty position at the University of New Mexico. While in Albuquerque, she also worked as a legal assistant for a local adoption attorney and served as an intern for Family Matters Adoption Resources.

### COURT ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of Texas
- State Bar of New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Courts of Texas: Western, Northern, & Southern Districts
- U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico.
- U.S. District Courts, Western District of Texas, Northern District of Texas, Southern District of Texas

### PERSONAL

Born and raised in El Paso, Texas



# Parker Murphy

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Phone: (505) 212-8024*

*Office Location:  
Albuquerque, NM*

## EDUCATION

- University of New Mexico School of Law – J.D. 2025
- New Mexico State University – B.A. in Psychology;  
BCJ in Criminal Justice

## ACADEMIC HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS:

- Student Bar Association Class Rep for the Graduat
- Professional Student Association (GPSA)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Parker has previously interned with the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, Office of General Counsel, working on collections, ALJ reviews and appeals, and enforcement of foreign judgments. His time with the UNM School of Law’s Clinic Program covered Landlord-Tenant negotiations.

## COURT ADMISSIONS:

- New Mexico, 2025

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- State Bar of New Mexico
- New Mexico Young Lawyers Division

## PERSONAL

In his free time, Parker enjoys evening walks, science fiction, visiting with family, and he takes great pride in his cooking.



# Jeff Ray

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Phone: (915) 832-7272  
(210) 348-1825

Office Location:  
Albuquerque, NM  
El Paso, TX  
San Antonio, TX

- *New Mexico and Texas Bar Licenses*
- *Board Certified - Personal Injury Trial Law Texas Board of Legal Specialization*
- *AV Preeminent Rated*
- *Life Fellow - Texas Bar Foundation*
- *National Panel Counsel For Major Insurers*
- *Texas Super Lawyer*
- *Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*
- *2010 Outstanding Lawyer - El Paso Bar Association*
- *2012 Top 100 Verdicts in the U.S.*
- *El Paso Bar Association, Treasurer of the Board of Directors 2017-2018*
- *El Paso Bar Association, Secretary of the Board of Directors 2016-17*
- *2014 Inspiring Generosity Award - Mexican American Bar Association*
- *Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame - 2014*

## EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin (B.A. Honors, 1979)  
St. Mary's University School of Law (J.D., 1982)

- Dean's Honor List
- National Order of Barristers
- National Mock Trial Team
- Outstanding Trial Advocate of Law School
- Outstanding Appellate Advocate of Law School
- St. Mary's Law Journal
- Instructor, Legal Research and Brief Writing

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jeff is known as a trial lawyer who is one of the few lawyers who spends much of his time in court and in front of juries throughout the Southwest. He has tried or has been lead counsel in cases in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Ohio.

During his career, a number of Jeff's cases have received national recognition for defense verdicts in pipeline explosion, tire defect, automobile defect, product defect, oil field accident, refinery explosion, transportation accident, and liquor liability cases (reported by various news sources including CNN, USA Today, Business World and ABC News). He has also represented businesses and clients as plaintiffs and has obtained substantial verdicts and settlements on their behalf. Some of his more recent verdicts and accomplishments as lead trial counsel are set forth below.

In July 2015, Jeff represented a client with property in Mexico and Texas acquired during a 19-year period. Jeff's client was offered virtually no business assets in a complex and high asset/business divorce case. After a lengthy trial in the 388th District Court of El Paso County, Texas, the jury awarded \$23.7 million dollars to Jeff's client.

In May 2014, in Santa Fe, NM, Jeff defended a regionally and nationally publicized case involving the deaths of two teenage Navajo Nation girls and serious injuries to their parents. Jeff represented an international bar and restaurant corporation in a liquor liability case. The bar was accused of selling over 88 ounces of beer to a patron who left the bar and later rear-ended the family at a very high rate of speed. Plaintiffs demanded \$30 million at jury selection, and a multimillion dollar offer was rejected by plaintiffs. After a two week trial, the jury returned a complete defense verdict.



In 2012, Jeff acted as Plaintiffs' counsel for his clients. After a two week trial, he recorded the highest fraud verdict in Texas for 2012 when a jury awarded Jeff's clients over \$20 million. The verdict is ranked in the top 100 verdicts in the U.S. for 2012 and 2013, and has recently been recognized from 2012 to 2015 in the Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame.

From 2012 to 2016, Jeff has been the lead trial counsel for a major utility company in the largest wildfire in the history of Texas, the Bastrop Complex Fire Litigation, representing the utility against over 600 plaintiffs and 40 attorneys with damage claims totaling over \$450 million. Recently, Jeff's client secured a substantial confidential settlement on its cross claim in the fire litigation. The litigation is ongoing.

In 2009, Jeff represented a major pipeline company in an explosion case in New Mexico involving 27 plaintiffs. He defended the company in a multi-million dollar 2 ½ month trial. The plaintiffs demanded over \$50 million at jury selection. The jury returned a complete defense verdict for the natural gas corporation.

In 2008 and 2009, Jeff represented a major tire manufacturer in a multiple fatality/brain damage case in Texas. Plaintiffs demanded \$24 million. After a two week trial, the jury returned a complete defense verdict for the corporation.

In 2007 and 2008, Jeff and his trial team represented a worldwide clothing manufacturer in over 2,000 claims and cases filed by workers who had suffered various respiratory, formaldehyde and other related injuries. The cases were all pending in counties along the South Texas Border. After trying and securing four straight defense verdicts over the course of two years, the remaining cases were dismissed.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

State Bar of Texas • State Bar of New Mexico • Texas Association of Defense Counsel • International Association of Defense Counsel • Defense Research Institute • New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association • American Bar Association • Christian Legal Society • Trucking Industry Defense Association • Speaker for the State Bar of Texas and other organizations on Litigation topics • San Antonio Bar Association • El Paso Bar Association

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- U.S. District Courts, Western District of Texas, Southern District of Texas, Northern District of Texas, and Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS

Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory • Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers • Best's Directory of Recommended Insurance Attorneys • Trial Attorneys of the Insurance Bar • West's Legal Directory • Texas Board of Legal Specialization • Directory of Board Certified Attorneys



**AMERICAN COLLEGE  
OF TRIAL LAWYERS**

## PERSONAL

Jeff was born and raised in the small South Texas town of Cuero. His father was disabled and his mother was a leather factory laborer. Jeff worked his way through high school, college and law school by working as a musician, as a laborer in the South Texas oil fields, and offshore in the Gulf of Mexico as a floor and derrick hand for major drilling companies. His work ethic is unparalleled. He has also been awarded numerous professional and community awards for his service to others.

Jeff and his children enjoy numerous outdoor activities.

- National Eagle Scout Association
- Texas High School Football Back to Back State Championship Teams (Co-Captain)
- Heroism Award for Life Saving Rescue
- Running, cycling, yoga, outdoor sports
- AOPA ( Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association)



# Jeramy I. Schmehl

E-mail: [jschmehl@raylaw.com](mailto:jschmehl@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (505) 212-8017

Office Location:  
Albuquerque, NM

## • Shareholder



### EDUCATION

- Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona, 1998 (B.A. in Political Science)
- Texas A & M Internal University, Laredo, Texas 2000 (M.B.A. in International Banking)
- Gonzaga University School of Law, Spokane, Washington, 2003 (Doctor of Jurisprudence)

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

As an experienced trial attorney and legal advisor to the City of Albuquerque, Jeramy brings a diverse perspective to his work. Prior to joining Ray Peña McChristian, he was the lead attorney and manager of the Compliance Division where he addressed all legal matters related to the City of Albuquerque's effort to achieve compliance with the Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA) with the United States Department of Justice. In this role, Jeramy worked daily with members of the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) to rework policies, training and protocols to comport with best police practices and principles of constitutional policing. Jeramy also served in a general counsel role to the Chief of Police and executive level staff.

While an attorney with the New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender, Jeramy successfully represented indigent defendants charged with the most serious violent felonies. During this time Jeramy gained significant experience selecting juries, arguing pretrial motions and advocating for his clients before juries.

### COURT ADMISSIONS

- New Mexico
- Texas
- Arizona
- U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico

### PERSONAL

Jeramy enjoys racquetball, running, mountain biking and spending time with his wife and young children Samuel and Eliana.



# Ryan Vetter

*E-mail: [rvetter@raylaw.com](mailto:rvetter@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (505) 212-8018*

*Office Location:  
Albuquerque, NM*

## EDUCATION

- California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA  
(B.S. in Electrical Engineering)
- University of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque, N.M.

## LAW SCHOOL HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

Renewable, Alternative, and Distributed Energy Resources Committee 2017  
Energy Law Student Writing Competition: Third Place Awardee (Fracking  
Fluids: Protecting Disclosure Under Federal Law)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Prior to law school, Ryan worked at a subwoofer and speaker company, as well as an aerospace company. During law school, Ryan interned at a patent boutique and externed at the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit for the Honorable Jimmie V. Reyna.

Prior to joining the firm, Ryan practiced at law firms focusing on civil litigation involving motor vehicle accidents, trucking accidents, slip and falls, catastrophic injuries, uninsured/underinsured motorist claims and intellectual property.

Ryan joined Ray Peña McChristian in 2023 as an associate attorney in the Albuquerque office. Since joining the firm, Ryan has assisted in developing numerous complex litigation matters.

## COURT ADMITION

- United States District Court for the District of New Mexico
- State Bar of New Mexico

## PERSONAL

Ryan enjoys walking his dog, playing chess, video games, 3d printing and painting.

# EL PASO

5822 Cromo Drive, El Paso, TX 79912

Telephone (915) 832-7200 | Toll Free (866) 832-7200 | Fax (915) 832-7333



# Brian Brack

E-mail: [bbrack@raylaw.com](mailto:bbrack@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (915) 832-7239

Office Location:  
El Paso, TX  
Albuquerque, NM



## EDUCATION

- New Mexico State University - B.S. in Education, May 1989
- Creighton University School of Law - J.D., May 1993

## LAW SCHOOL HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Moot Court participant
- Initial member of the Creighton Legal Clinic
- Represented clients in local courts while in third year

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Brian Brack brings a wealth of experience to Ray Peña McChristian in El Paso, having spent over 27 years practicing law in New Mexico. His career began in Ruidoso, where he worked for a general practice law firm, gaining valuable experience in a variety of legal matters. Brian later joined his brother's practice in Clovis, where he developed strong relationships with clients and the community.

When his brother was appointed to the bench, Brian took over the practice, demonstrating his leadership skills and commitment to his clients. This transition also showcased his ability to adapt and grow a successful practice. With his extensive background and experience, Brian brings a deep understanding of the law and a strong work ethic to his work at Ray Peña McChristian.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- State Bar of Texas
- State Bar of New Mexico
- Board of Directors Member - New Mexico Christian Legal Aid, 2009-2021
- AV Rated - Martindale Hubbell
- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America
- Listed in Southwest Super Lawyers

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of Texas, 2003
- Supreme Court of New Mexico, 1993
- United States District Court for the District of New Mexico, 1994
- United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, 2004

## PERSONAL

Brian is married to Jennifer and they have four amazing children. After kicking his rugby addiction, Brian has focused on his kids' activities and had the honor of coaching them. One of his greatest achievements is being awarded the 2016 Boys Coach of the Year - AYSO #1447. He is also honored to have served as Trustee, Deacon, and Worship Team Member for Celebration Baptist Church for over 10 years.



# Isaac Gutierrez

*E-mail:* [igutierrez@raylaw.com](mailto:igutierrez@raylaw.com)  
*Phone:* (915) 832-7224

*Office Location:*  
El Paso, TX

## EDUCATION

Florida Coastal School of Law, Jacksonville, Florida

Doctor of Jurisprudence, May 2014

Seattle University, Seattle, Washington

Bachelor of Arts and Science with a focus in International Studies, Minor in French, June 2005

## LAW SCHOOL HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

Honor Court Justice, 2013-2014

Pro Bono Honors 2014

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Isaac is an experienced litigator and has worked on various cases involving DTPA, breach of contract, and personal injury claims, including but not limited to catastrophic motor vehicle and trucking accidents and premises liability.

Prior to joining Ray Peña McChristian, Isaac was a Drug Task Force prosecutor for the El Paso County District Attorney's Office. He was assigned to the narcotic unit, where he prosecuted various victim related crimes (including capital murder, sexual assault of a child, strangulations and aggravated assaults) and other enhanced degree drug crimes. Within five year at the DA's office, he tried over 65 trials and 60 contested matters. In law school, Isaac completed an internship with the Honorable Philip Martinez of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas and an internship with the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

State Bar of Texas, El Paso Bar, State Bar of Florida, and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.

## COURT ADMISSION

Texas - admitted November 2015

Florida - admitted September 2014

U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, 2021

## PERSONAL

Isaac was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. He speaks English, Spanish, and French, enjoys cooking, golfing, reading, and spending time with his family.



# Dan Hernandez

E-mail: [dhernandez@raylaw.com](mailto:dhernandez@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (915) 832-7237

Office Location:  
Albuquerque, NM  
El Paso, TX

- Shareholder
- Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
- Reappointed to the Board of Directors for the Texas Bar College (2024-2027)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Daniel is a shareholder with the law firm of Ray, Peña, McChristian, P.C. and Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Daniel is an experienced trial lawyer with substantive jury-trial experience. He is licensed in Texas and New Mexico. Since 1991, Daniel has been lead trial counsel and part of trial teams in over 100 trials as counsel for businesses, corporations, companies, governments, employers, manufacturers, owners, insurance companies, and individuals, in which a favorable outcome and outright client verdicts have been achieved in over 90% of the cases. Daniel's practice focuses on two areas- business litigation and personal injury defense. He has handled a variety of civil and complex commercial disputes, including claims of breach of contract, contract indemnity, fiduciary duty, first and third party insurance claims, property damage claims, inverse condemnation, professional liability, fraud, civil rights, deceptive trade practices, and employment disputes- discrimination and wrongful termination cases. He has defended high stakes catastrophic personal injury cases, including multiparty death and injury auto, trucking, bus, work site, construction site, premises, products, fire, foodborne illnesses, and workers' compensation cases. Daniel has extensive experience handling and examining a variety of experts in various professional and medical specialties. Daniel has also successfully handled many of his own trial verdicts on appeal.

## RECENT REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Confidential Clients: Successfully tried over 150 administrative cases as lead counsel before the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission.

Confidential Client: Successfully defended, in South Texas, as part of a trial team a worldwide clothing manufacturer in over 2,000 worker lawsuits involving respiratory exposure injuries.

Rodriguez v. Romero: As lead counsel, obtained an improbable jury defense verdict in a personal injury lawsuit in which his client had been earlier convicted of murder in an earlier separate criminal case for the underlying incident claimed in the lawsuit.

Martino v. Kiewit Construction: As lead counsel, obtained a defense verdict on a construction site accident involving a crushing injury to Plaintiff's foot, and subsequently won the appeal to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

RKI v. Ameriflow: As lead counsel, obtained summary judgment in favor of his client on a contractual indemnity claims worth over twelve million dollars.

Gallegos v. Hernandez: As lead counsel, obtained another improbable defense verdict on a highway auto accident case in which his client admitted liability and the jury deliberated for only five minutes.



Confidential Client: Numerous successful summary judgment victories of 1991 Civil Rights lawsuits against a private corrections corporation and subsequent victories on appeals to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

#### **COURT ADMISSIONS**

- Texas, 1991
- New Mexico, 2008
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, Southern District of Texas and Northern District of Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico

#### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Elected President, El Paso Bar Association, 2019-20 and Board of Director since 2011. West Texas Vice President, Texas Association of Defense Counsel (TADC), 2018-20; Area District Director, 2016-18.

2016, El Paso Mexican American Bar Association's Investing in Our Community Award.

Master member of George A. McAlmon American Inn of Court.

Board of Directors, Texas Bar College, and Fellow of the College.

Vice President, Texas Association of Defense Counsel, and past recipient of President's Award.

2020 Recipient, The Hispanic Issues Section of the Texas Bar Association's Access to Justice Award, for Walmart 2019 shooting pro bono assistance and clinic.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

"Defending a Construction Site Accident Case," Texas Association of Defense Counsel, 2018 Fall/Winter Magazine.

Various continuing legal education seminar papers and presentations, 2000-2019.

#### **PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

As President of the El Paso Bar Association, in the aftermath of the El Paso Wal-Mart mass

shooting, Daniel organized volunteer attorneys to help victims with legal issues and a hotline to refer victims to pro-bono attorneys in response to the massacre on August 3, 2019 which history will record as one of the most serious acts of domestic terrorism targeting Hispanics and El Pasoans. Daniel also organized a successful free CLE to train attorneys and community advocates about the effects of the mass shooting and how to assist victims in the aftermath. He has also organized for the El Paso Bar free community legal clinics, free bimonthly members' CLE, and a highly successful Annual Civil and Criminal CLE in New Orleans with judges from the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Daniel's programming has provided members many opportunities for personal and professional growth and rewards.

As TADC's West Texas Vice President on its Board of Directors, Daniel has served as Chair of various CLE TADC seminars and presented many seminar topics on litigation and trial topics.



# Aldo Lopez

E-mail: [alopez@raylaw.com](mailto:alopez@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (915) 832-7283

Office Location:  
El Paso, TX

- *State Bar of Texas – District 17, Director, 2017-2020*
- *Shareholder*

## EDUCATION

- Trinity University San Antonio (B.A. Science, 2004)
- St. Mary's University School of Law (J.D., 2007)

## HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Pro Bono Achievement Award
- Immigration & Human Rights Clinic
- New Mexico University/Texas Tech School of Law Summer Law Institute at Guanajuato, Mexico Summer 2006
- Student Bar Association
- Hispanic Law Student Association
- Health Law Association

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Prior to joining RPM as an associate, Aldo participated in prosecution and defense of commercial disputes, DTPA, unfair debt collection, foreclosures, wrongful foreclosures, landlord/tenant disputes, evictions, civil appeals & mandamus, various experience for creditors and debtors in Ch. 7, Ch. 13, and Ch.11 bankruptcies.

Eighth District Court of Appeals of Texas, Oct. 2007-Sept. 2009 Judicial Clerkship in the Chambers of Chief Justice David Wellington Chew.

Promoted to Research Attorney in Oct. 2008. Performed extensive legal research and drafted opinions in regular and accelerated criminal, civil, and juvenile appeals. Also, prepared memoranda for oral arguments and gave recommendations on motions before the court.

Center for Legal & Social Justice - St. Mary's University School of Law Immigration & Human Rights Clinic Student attorney prepared affidavits, evidence packets, and briefs. Conducted research and interviewed clients. Represented clients at Immigration Court hearings. Cases included removal, VAWA, and application for asylum.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Director of the State Bar of Texas – District 17 (2017-2020.), American Bar Association - Litigation Section, State Bar of Texas - Bankruptcy Section, Texas Young Lawyers' Association, Mexican American Bar Association (El Paso), Elected Officials Candidate Forum Panelist, El Paso Bar Association, El Paso Young Lawyers' Association

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas
- United States Bankruptcy Court



# Noemi V. Lopez

*E-mail: [nlopez@raylaw.com](mailto:nlopez@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (915) 832-7243*

*Office Location:  
El Paso, TX  
Albuquerque, NM*

## • Shareholder

### EDUCATION

- Penn State University, The Dickinson School of Law, J.D., May 2011
- Certified Miller Center Public Interest Advocate  
University of New Mexico, M.A. in Spanish
- Emphasis in Southwest Literature  
St. Edward's University, B.A. in Spanish, Economics minor
- Graduated summa cum laude  
Loretto Academy High School, El Paso, TX

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Noemi has trial and appellate litigation experience. Her experience includes claims analysis, investigation, discovery, motion practice, and handling or assisting in all phases of trial and appeals in a variety of complex matters.

Noemi's legal career began as a law clerk and then a Staff Attorney for the Texas Eighth District Court of Appeals. As a staff attorney, she produced highly advanced appellate work requiring in-depth analysis and preparation of legal memoranda/opinions and extensive research of applicable law in civil and criminal appeals. She also participated in pre- and post-submission conferences and made recommendations to the appellate court. Noemi later worked as an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas in El Paso investigating and prosecuting federal criminal offenses.

During law school, Noemi served as a certified legal intern for Penn State Law's Children Advocacy Clinic. She also interned at MidPenn Legal Services, The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (Healthcare section), and a large civil litigation firm in El Paso. Noemi performed pro bono work for the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center and was involved in various community service projects, including Habitat for Humanity, Toys for Tots, Wills for Heroes, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). Today, Noemi continues her commitment to community service by participating in professional and non-profit associations that serve our greater community.

Prior to law school, Noemi worked as an office manager of a medical office in El Paso. Additionally, Noemi held a part-time faculty position at the University of New Mexico. While in Albuquerque, she also worked as a legal assistant for a local adoption attorney and served as an intern for Family Matters Adoption Resources.

### COURT ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of Texas
- State Bar of New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Courts of Texas: Western, Northern, & Southern Districts
- U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico.
- U.S. District Courts, Western District of Texas, Northern District of Texas, Southern District of Texas

### PERSONAL

Born and raised in El Paso, Texas



# James A. Mounts III

E-mail: [jmounts@raylaw.com](mailto:jmounts@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (915) 832-7253

Office Location:  
El Paso, TX

- Shareholder
- Duane A. Baker  
Professionalism Award 2018



## EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts degree, University of Virginia, 1982, with Distinction
- Texas Tech University School of Law, 1986

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mounts' practice focuses on providing insurance companies, rail and road carriers, employers and general industry with efficient and result-oriented legal representation in personal injury and general civil litigation.

Since 1986 Mr. Mounts has maintained an active trial docket of cases in the transportation, products liability and general liability areas in El Paso County and throughout West Texas. Mr. Mounts has defended multiple death motor vehicle accidents for various trucking and insurance carriers, all types of first and third party litigation for automobile and homeowner insurance carriers, third-party premises security cases for real property owners and managers, construction cases for owners and contractors, products liability, business dispute, and deceptive trade practices cases for business and industrial entities, and a large variety of other personal injury and civil litigation. Mr. Mounts has also defended employment litigation, including wrongful termination and retaliatory discharge suits.

In the course of his practice, Mr. Mounts has regularly worked in the development of defense-favorable experts and the cross-examination of opposition experts in a wide variety of fields, including orthopedics, neurology, toxicology, pulmonology, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and many other professional specialties. Mr. Mounts has an impressive track record of taking the vast majority of cases he has tried to a zero verdict in favor of the defense.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

State Bar of Texas, Texas Bar Association, Trucking Industry Defense Association, Texas Association of Defense Counsel (TADC)

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas, 1986
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, 1989

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, West's Legal Directory



# Jeff Ray

E-mail: [jray@raylaw.com](mailto:jray@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (915) 832-7272  
(210) 348-1825

Office Location:  
Albuquerque, NM  
El Paso, TX  
San Antonio, TX

- *New Mexico and Texas Bar Licenses*
- *Board Certified - Personal Injury Trial Law Texas Board of Legal Specialization*
- *AV Preeminent Rated*
- *Life Fellow - Texas Bar Foundation*
- *National Panel Counsel For Major Insurers*
- *Texas Super Lawyer*
- *Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*
- *2010 Outstanding Lawyer - El Paso Bar Association*
- *2012 Top 100 Verdicts in the U.S.*
- *El Paso Bar Association, Treasurer of the Board of Directors 2017-2018*
- *El Paso Bar Association, Secretary of the Board of Directors 2016-17*
- *2014 Inspiring Generosity Award - Mexican American Bar Association*
- *Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame - 2014*

## EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin (B.A. Honors, 1979)  
St. Mary's University School of Law (J.D., 1982)

- Dean's Honor List
- National Order of Barristers
- National Mock Trial Team
- Outstanding Trial Advocate of Law School
- Outstanding Appellate Advocate of Law School
- St. Mary's Law Journal
- Instructor, Legal Research and Brief Writing

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jeff is known as a trial lawyer who is one of the few lawyers who spends much of his time in court and in front of juries throughout the Southwest. He has tried or has been lead counsel in cases in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Ohio.

During his career, a number of Jeff's cases have received national recognition for defense verdicts in pipeline explosion, tire defect, automobile defect, product defect, oil field accident, refinery explosion, transportation accident, and liquor liability cases (reported by various news sources including CNN, USA Today, Business World and ABC News). He has also represented businesses and clients as plaintiffs and has obtained substantial verdicts and settlements on their behalf. Some of his more recent verdicts and accomplishments as lead trial counsel are set forth below.

In July 2015, Jeff represented a client with property in Mexico and Texas acquired during a 19-year period. Jeff's client was offered virtually no business assets in a complex and high asset/business divorce case. After a lengthy trial in the 388th District Court of El Paso County, Texas, the jury awarded \$23.7 million dollars to Jeff's client.

In May 2014, in Santa Fe, NM, Jeff defended a regionally and nationally publicized case involving the deaths of two teenage Navajo Nation girls and serious injuries to their parents. Jeff represented an international bar and restaurant corporation in a liquor liability case. The bar was accused of selling over 88 ounces of beer to a patron who left the bar and later rear-ended the family at a very high rate of speed. Plaintiffs demanded \$30 million at jury selection, and a multimillion dollar offer was rejected by plaintiffs. After a two week trial, the jury returned a complete defense verdict.



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## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

State Bar of Texas • State Bar of New Mexico • Texas Association of Defense Counsel • International Association of Defense Counsel • Defense Research Institute • New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association • American Bar Association • Christian Legal Society • Trucking Industry Defense Association • Speaker for the State Bar of Texas and other organizations on Litigation topics • San Antonio Bar Association • El Paso Bar Association

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- U.S. District Courts, Western District of Texas, Southern District of Texas, Northern District of Texas, and Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS

Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory • Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers • Best's Directory of Recommended Insurance Attorneys • Trial Attorneys of the Insurance Bar • West's Legal Directory • Texas Board of Legal Specialization • Directory of Board Certified Attorneys



**AMERICAN COLLEGE  
OF TRIAL LAWYERS**

## PERSONAL

Jeff was born and raised in the small South Texas town of Cuero. His father was disabled and his mother was a leather factory laborer. Jeff worked his way through high school, college and law school by working as a musician, as a laborer in the South Texas oil fields, and offshore in the Gulf of Mexico as a floor and derrick hand for major drilling companies. His work ethic is unparalleled. He has also been awarded numerous professional and community awards for his service to others.

Jeff and his children enjoy numerous outdoor activities.

- National Eagle Scout Association
- Texas High School Football Back to Back State Championship Teams (Co-Captain)
- Heroism Award for Life Saving Rescue
- Running, cycling, yoga, outdoor sports
- AOPA ( Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association)



# Alex Soto

E-mail: [asoto@raylaw.com](mailto:asoto@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (915) 832-7289

Office Location:  
El Paso, TX



## EDUCATION

- The Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez (Law School).

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Prior and after completion of his studies, Alex practiced in the Mexican Customs Department and with prominent law firms in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, in areas such as Civil, Commercial, Tax and Customs litigation, Corporate, Real Estate and Administrative Law. Alex was involved with the establishment and corporate organization of several "Maquiladora" industries in Ciudad Juarez and Mexico City. He also practiced as a General Counselor for two customs brokers in Ciudad Juarez and El Paso, Texas, planning legal solutions and developing new strategies for their daily import and export operations. Alex is a Licensed Private Investigator in the State of Texas.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association (ABA)
- Greater El Paso Association of Realtors (GEPAR)
- US-Mexico Bar Association
- Texas Association of accident Reconstruction Specialists (TAARS)
- Texas Association of Licensed Investigators (TALI).

## CERTIFICATES

- Certificate on Crash Investigation 1
- Certificate on Vehicles Dynamics

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Mexico



**Texas Association of Accident  
Reconstruction Specialists**



# Marisa Ybarra-Williams

E-mail: [mybarra-williams@raylaw.com](mailto:mybarra-williams@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (915) 832-7215

Office Location:  
El Paso, TX

- *Rising Star, Texas Super Lawyers*
- *The Litigation Counsel of America*
- *Shareholder*



## EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin School of Law, J.D.

- Associate Editor for the Texas Hispanic Journal On Law And Policy

- Project leader for the UT Environmental Law Clinic

The University of Texas El Paso, B.A. Political Science, minor in Chicano Studies

- Presented paper at the Women, Power and Politics Conference

- Delegate, International Missions on Diplomacy in China

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Marisa Ybarra joined Ray Peña McChristian in 2013 as a litigation associate after practicing for five years with a small civil litigation firm in El Paso, Texas. She is a resident in the firm's El Paso and San Antonio offices and focuses on litigation related matters. Marisa is a trial attorney experienced in representing corporate, industry, transportation, and commercial clients. She has successfully resolved six and seven-figure exposure cases through mediation and motion practice both in State and Federal Court. As first trial chair, Marisa obtained a defense verdict where the plaintiff requested seven figures in damages.

During the last two-years of law school, Marisa was employed as a law clerk with a small civil litigation firm in Austin, Texas. During her first and second summers, she was a legal intern with the Honorable Kathleen Cardone, District Judge, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas and the Honorable Phil Martinez, District Judge, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas. While attending the University of Texas at El Paso, Marisa was a legal intern for the Texas 8th Court of Appeals. Prior to attending law school, Marisa enjoyed a career in politics and worked for political campaigns ranging from the President of the United States to local school board races.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

State Bar of Texas • Texas Association of Defense Counsel • El Paso Bar Association • National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel (NARTC) • The George A. McAlmon Inn of Court Invitation • El Paso Womens's Bar Association • The Litigation Counsel of America • Author/Lecturer, National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel (NARTC) • Author/Lecturer, National Business Institute • Author/Lecturer, University of Texas at El Paso

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas, 2009

- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, 2009

## PERSONAL

- Fluent in English and Spanish

# FORT WORTH

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# Michael K. Dean

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Office Location:  
Fort Worth, TX

- *AV Rated Attorney, Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory*
- *Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*
- *Top Rated Lawyers in Insurance Law*
- *Shareholder*



## EDUCATION

- Brigham Young University (B.A. 1990)
- Baylor University School of Law (J.D. 1993)

## HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Order of Barristers
- Harvey M. Richey Moot Court Competition Quarterfinalist
- Phi Delta Phi
- Honors List

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

After graduating from law school, Mr. Dean accepted a position with the Court of Appeals for the Seventh District of Texas as a briefing attorney for the Honorable Carlton B. Dodson. Mr. Dean served in that capacity until he joined the firm in 1995.

Mr. Dean specializes in the areas of professional malpractice, commercial litigation, products liability, premises liability, construction accidents, railroad and trucking litigation, general insurance defense, worker's compensation, and appellate matters.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

State Bar of Texas, State Bar of Arizona, Utah State Bar, Texas Association of Defense Counsel (TADC), Defense Research Institute (DRI), National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel (NARTC), Claims & Litigation Management Alliance (CLM), Tarrant County Bar Association, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Fort Worth Claims Association

## COURT ADMISSIONS- Texas, 1993

- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, 1995
- U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, 1999
- Utah, 1999
- Arizona, 2000
- U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, 2000
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, 2004
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas, 2014
- Oklahoma, 2015

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE

Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers, West's Legal Directory

## REPORTED CASES

- *Slagle v. Prickett*, 345 S.W.3d 693 (Tex. App.–El Paso 2011, no pet.)
- *Medina v. Ramsey Steel Co., Inc.*, 238 F.3d 674 (5th Cir. 2001)





# Ray-Anthony O. Ellis

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Phone: (817) 333-2836

Office Location:  
Fort Worth, TX

## EDUCATION:

- UA Little Rock- Bowen School of Law, Juris Doctorate 2018
- UA Little Rock- Reynolds School of Business, Master of Business Administration 2013
- University of Memphis, Master of Science, Sport Commerce 2011
- Southern University and A&M College, Bachelor of Finance 2010

## HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS:

- Federal Trade Commission Stephen A. Nye Award Winner

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Before joining Ray Peña McChristian, Anthony served as a Team Lead Attorney at the Federal Trade Commission, where he oversaw major Freedom of Information Act matters, earning the agency's 2023 Stephen A. Nye Award for outstanding legal work as a junior practitioner. His earlier experiences include commercial transactions experience at Verizon as a legal analyst along with unique, high-level sport operation experience with the NFL Players Association and United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee. During law school, Anthony served as a law clerk in the Office of the Arkansas Attorney General, Pulaski County (AR) Public Defender's Office, and completed a judicial externship with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas under then Chief Judge Richard D. Taylor.

Anthony holds a J.D. and MBA, is licensed in New York and Washington, D.C., and remains active in national legal and professional associations.

## COURT ADMISSIONS:

- New York State Bar, 2020
- Washington, DC Bar, 2020

## CERTIFICATES:

- Intellectual Property Law & Policy (Trademark and Copyright Focus)- UPENNx

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

- The Sports Lawyer Association
- Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts- Intellectual Property Pro Bono Attorney
- American Bar Association- Business Law/ Antitrust Law Divisions
- Kappa Delta Pi Professional Association and Honor Society
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated

## PERSONAL:

When he's not practicing law, Antonio enjoys spending time with his wife and four children, hunting, and participating in other outdoor sports.





# M'Kaylee Patteson

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Phone: (817) 333-2833*

*Office Location:  
Fort Worth, TX*

## EDUCATION

- Oklahoma City University School of Law – J.D. 2024
- Texas A&M University – B.A. in Finance

## HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Oklahoma City University Law Review – Staff Editor, 2022-24
- The International Legal Honor Society of Phi Delta Phi – Secretary (2022-23);  
Member (2022-24)
- CALI Awards: Antitrust, Family Law, Law Practice Technology

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

M'Kaylee received a B.A in Finance from Mays Business School at Texas A&M University and recently received her Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University School of Law. While in law school, she acted as a Staff Editor for Oklahoma City University Law Review and was a member and Secretary of The International Legal Honor Society of Phi Delta Phi. M'Kaylee also had the opportunity to work as an in-house intern for a steel company and a surgery center management and development company.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- State Bar of Texas

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas

## PERSONAL

M'Kaylee is married to Cade and has two doodles, Remi and Whiskey. In her free time, she enjoys needlepointing, traveling, and playing pickleball.



# Sunny L. Smith

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Phone: (817) 333-2822

Office Location:  
Fort Worth, TX

- *AV Rated Attorney, Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory*
- *Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*
- *Texas Rising Star 2013 (Texas Monthly Magazine)*
- *Shareholder*



## EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts in History, magna cum laude, Texas Wesleyan University, 1996
- Doctor of Jurisprudence, Baylor University School of Law, 1999

## HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Baylor Law Review, Assistant Managing Editor
- Phi Alpha Delta, Chapter Justice, Baylor Law Chapter
- Mortar Board National Honor Society, Chapter President
- Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Chapter Chair, Professional Committee
- Hatton W. Summers Scholar

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

While in law school, Sunny clerked at the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office in the Crimes Against Children Unit. Before joining Ray Peña McChristian, Sunny was an associate at a Houston litigation boutique, where her practice centered on securities and complex litigation.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

State Bar of Texas, Texas Young Lawyers Association, Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association, Tarrant County Bar Association, Texas Association of Defense Counsel

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas, 2000
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, 2004

## Professional Reference

- Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, West's Legal Directory
- Co-Author, Proximate Cause and the Loss of Chance Doctrine, Advanced Medical Malpractice Course, 2003

## PERSONAL

Born and raised in the Fort Worth, Texas area



# James G. Stouffer, Jr.

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Phone: (817) 333-2824

Office Location:  
Fort Worth, TX

- Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

- AV Rated Attorney, Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory

- American Board of Trial Advocates

- Texas Super Lawyer 2005, 2006, 2007 & 2008

- Mid-South (Arkansas) Super Lawyer 2008, 2009, 2010 & 2011

- Shareholder

## EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science degree, Stephen F. Austin State University, 1978
- Doctor of Jurisprudence, University of Houston Law Center, 1984

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

In 1984, Mr. Stouffer joined a Victoria, Texas law firm as a personal injury and commercial litigator. He subsequently became a partner in the firm and remained there until May 1990, returning to his hometown of Fort Worth where he practiced until 2008. He moved to Little Rock, Arkansas to serve Of Counsel to Kutak Rock, L.L.P. In July 2011, Mr. Stouffer returned to Fort Worth to practice at RPM.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

State Bar of Texas, Texas Association of Defense Counsel, Defense Research Institute, Arkansas Bar Association, American Board of Trial Advocates, and Tarrant County Bar Association

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas, 1984; Arkansas, 2008
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, 1985
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas, 2007
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, 1990
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, 2011
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas, 2009
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Arkansas, 2009
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit, 1987

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

- Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, Texas Board of Legal Specialization Directory of Board Certified Attorneys

## PERSONAL

- Born in Fort Worth, Texas
- Active at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Fort Worth





# Ryan Webb

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Phone: (817) 335-7201*

*Office Location:  
Fort Worth, TX*

## EDUCATION

- Texas Christian University, B.S. Psychology; General Business Minor, 2022
- St. Mary's University School of Law, J.D. 2025

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

During his time in law school, Ryan interned for the Honorable Judge Robb Catalano at the Tim Curry Curry Criminal Justice Center, and with the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office, in Fort Worth, Texas. In 2024, Ryan worked for a boutique firm in Fort Worth, handling business and commercial litigation, as well as oil and gas, and trust disputes. His experiences with diverse clientele and complex legal issues have developed strong technical and analytical skills, and an attention to detail that make him a dedicated client advocate.

## PERSONAL

When Ryan is not at the office, he is likely attending TCU sports events, snow skiing, visiting somewhere new, or taking sommelier classes. If not, he is at home relaxing and playing with his cat, Archer.

# SAN ANTONIO

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# Bradley Bartlett

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Phone: (210) 820-8439*

*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

## EDUCATION

- University of Houston, J.D., 1987
- Stephen F. Austin State University, B.A., 1984, Magna Cum Laude

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Brad Bartlett is Counsel in the Firm's San Antonio Office. His practice includes representation of insurance carriers and their insureds, along with self-insured entities. He has handled cases involving premises liability, motor vehicle accidents, consumer law, products liability and wrongful death causes of action. Mr. Bartlett has tried cases in both large cities and small communities and has handled many appeals throughout Texas.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Mr. Bartlett is a member of the San Antonio Bar Association. He has also been selected by his peers as among the Best Lawyers in San Antonio in the Scene in S.A. magazine, for his expertise in Insurance Defense-Personal Injury.

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas
- U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

## PERSONAL

Brad fills his free moments with family, including three dogs. He also likes hiking and fishing.



# Jarrod Burns

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Phone: (210) 348-1829*

*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

## • Shareholder

### EDUCATION

- Trinity University in San Antonio, 2011 Bachelor of Arts Business Administration
- Doctor of Jurisprudence, St. Mary's University School of Law, 2014

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

After graduating from St. Mary's University School of Law Jarrod practiced for seven years in San Antonio, Texas with a well established civil litigation firm handling commercial litigation and insurance defense matters for various defendants in state and federal courts throughout Texas. Jarrod handles a wide variety of commercial matters including suits based on the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, products liability, contracts, and fraud. Jarrod's representation of insureds includes the defense of claims arising out of major vehicle/truck accidents, premises liability, and a variety of general negligence claims.

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- State Bar of Texas
- San Antonio Bar Association

### COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas

### PERSONAL

- Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas
- Jarrod is married to Brittany and a loving father of their son Jaxon.
- Jarrod has coached numerous athletes up to the collegiate level and is an avid sports fan.



# Jonathan Chaires

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*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

## • Shareholder

### EDUCATION

A native of San Antonio, Mr. Chaires is a proud graduate of Central Catholic High School ('11) and the University of the Incarnate Word ('15), where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Government with minors in Criminal Justice and Philosophy. Thereafter, Mr. Chaires attended St. Mary's University School of Law, where he was a Staff Writer for The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Race and Social Justice and a Student Attorney for St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice. In 2018, Mr. Chaires graduated law school and passed the Texas Bar Exam.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mr. Chaires is an attorney at the San Antonio office of Ray Peña McChristian. As an experienced litigator, Mr. Chaires focuses his practices of law in personal injury, including but not limited to motor vehicle accidents, trucking accidents, premises liability, products liability, construction defects, and special investigation unit cases.

Prior to joining Ray Peña McChristian, Mr. Chaires was an associate at a civil litigation law firm in San Antonio, where he handled first- and third-party personal injury lawsuits. There, Mr. Chaires gained valuable experience which he now incorporates into his practice and handled multiple trials where he obtained favorable verdicts for his clients.

### HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

In 2020, Mr. Chaires was named a Board Member for the University of the Incarnate Word Alumni Association. As a Staff Writer for The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Race and Social Justice, Mr. Chaires received Credit With Honors for his Comment on the expansion of Specialty Courts in Texas. Mr. Chaires is a recipient of the Bexar Country Felony Drug Court's Lady Justice Award for his exceptional volunteer work and commitment to helping those with severe substance abuse issues.

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Mr. Chaires is involved in the following organizations:

- Legal Advocate Member, Intl. Association of Special Investigation Unit
- Legal Advocate Member, Texas Association of Special Investigation Unit
- Commercial Member, North American Spine Society
- Member, Texas Pain Society

### COURT ADMISSIONS

- State of Texas



# Merritt Clements

E-mail: [mclements@raylaw.com](mailto:mclements@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (210) 820-8435

Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX

- *Shareholder*
- *Licensed in Texas, New Mexico and D.C.*
- *Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by Texas Board of Legal Specialization*
- *Texas Super Lawyer - Personal Injury Litigation*
- *Named in Best Lawyers in America - Commercial Litigation*
- *American Board of Trial Advocates*
- *Texas Pattern Jury Charge Committee (General Negligence)*
- *Texas State Bar Grievance Committee*
- *American Inns of Court*

## EDUCATION

- University of Texas at Austin - B.A. - 1983
- University of Texas School of Law - 1987

## HONORS AND DISTINCTION

- Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
- Best Lawyers in America (Commercial Litigation)
- Texas Super Lawyer (Personal Injury Litigation)
- Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell
- American Board of Trial Advocates

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Merritt is licensed in Texas and New Mexico, and his practice includes commercial litigation and personal injury litigation. He is board certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He appears in the current editions of Best Lawyers in America (Commercial Litigation) and has been selected Texas Super Lawyers (Personal Injury Litigation) since 2009.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association
- Texas State Bar
- New Mexico State Bar
- District of Columbia Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- San Antonio Bar Association
- Texas Bar Foundation - Sustaining Life Fellow
- San Antonio Bar Foundation - Sustaining Life Fellow
- National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel
- American Inns of Court ' William Sessions Chapter
- Texas State Bar Grievance Committee (Dist. 10) - 1999-2002, 2018 - present
- Texas Pattern Jury Charge Committee (General Negligence) - 2018 - present

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- United States Supreme Court
- Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Federal District Courts for the Western, Northern and Southern Districts of Texas
- All state courts in Texas and New Mexico





# Christopher Deeves

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Phone: (210) 348-1829*

*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

## • Shareholder

### EDUCATION

- The University of Texas School of Law, J.D., 1994
- Rice University, B.A. in Economics and History (Cum Laude), 1991

### HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Texas Super Lawyer, Appellate Law, 2011 – 2012, 2016 – 2020
- San Antonio Bar Association, Speakers Committee
- Appellate Lawyer of the Week, Texas Lawyer, for decision in Guideone Specialty Mut. Ins. Co. v. Missionary Church of Disciples of Jesus Christ, 687 F.3d 676 (5th Cir. 2012)

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chris is a “law” lawyer. He develops the case looking for facts that will support the legal theory or defense that will achieve the best outcome for his client. Chris wants to cut to the chase and provide a cost-efficient representation. Chris has handled numerous cases on appeal, including Traditional Appeals from a final judgment, Interlocutory Appeals and Mandamus Proceedings. His litigation practice focuses on Insurance Defense Litigation, Construction Defect Litigation, and Insurance Coverage Disputes.

Chris served as an associate and partner at Ball & Weed in San Antonio for over a decade before going out on his own. Missing the camaraderie of a firm, Chris joined Chamberlain McHaney in 2021

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- San Antonio Bar Association
- Texas Bar Fellow
- State Bar of Texas
- State Bar of Texas (Appellate and Insurance Sections Member)
- San Antonio Bar Association (Appellate Law Section Member)
- Texas Bar Foundation, Lifetime Fellow

### CERTIFICATES

- Civil Appellate Law, 2017

### COURT ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of Texas, 1994
- U.S. District Courts of Texas (Western, Eastern, Northern and Southern Divisions)
- Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- United States Supreme Court



# Zachary C. Edwards

*E-mail: zedwards@raylaw.com  
Phone: (210) 348-1820*

*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

• Shareholder

**EDUCATION**

- Texas Tech University, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Philosophy, 2003
- Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, 2006

**LAW SCHOOL HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS**

- Mock Trial Administrator/Judge
- Second Amendment Foundation, Member, Vice President
- Honor Council, Member

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Zach received his bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Texas Tech University and his Juris Doctorate from Southern Methodist University – Dedman School of Law. In 2007, he began his legal career at the Bexar County District Attorney’s Office, where he prosecuted misdemeanors cases up to felonies, with a focus on major and white-collar crimes. After leaving the DA’s Office, Zach practiced family law and criminal defense before joining a well-established civil litigation firm handling insurance defense matters and commercial litigation. Zach has practiced primarily in insurance defense, as both outside and in-house counsel, handling motor vehicle accidents, construction defect cases, premises liability actions, UM/UIM claims, special investigations and fraud.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES**

- State Bar of Texas
- San Antonio Bar Association

**COURT ADMISSIONS**

- Texas
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas

**PERSONAL**

Zach, his wife and three children (ages 13, 10 and 7) live in San Antonio. Zach’s wife works as a speech pathologist and is a Board Member for the Down Syndrome Association of South Texas.

Zach enjoys spending time attending events for his kids (including dance classes, recitals and sporting events), spending time with his family, hiking, and coaching his son’s lacrosse team.



# Andrew J. Estrada

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Phone: (210) 820-8437*

*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

## EDUCATION:

- St. Mary's University School of Law – J.D. 2025
- Texas A&M University – B.S. in Exercise Physiology

## ACADEMIC HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS:

- The John M. Harlan Society (Top 10% of Graduating Class)
- Dean's Scholarship
- Staff Writer for St. Mary's Law Journal

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Prior to law school Andy interned for a Judge on the Court of Criminal Appeals. During law school he worked at a civil litigation firm in San Antonio, Valdez & Trevino.

## COURT ADMISSIONS:

- Texas, 2025

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- State Bar of Texas
- Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society

## PERSONAL

Andy was born and raised in San Antonio, TX and attended St. Mary's University School of Law. He received his undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University, and before attending Texas A&M he was a member of the Rice University baseball team. In his free time Andy enjoys watching Texas A&M football and all sports, playing golf, and spending time with his family and fiancé.



# Katherine P. Estrada

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Phone: (210) 348-1811*

*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

• Shareholder

## EDUCATION

Texas Tech University School of Law – J.D., May 2019  
Clemson University – B.S., Marketing and Psychology, May 2016

## LAW SCHOOL HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

Pro Bono Achievement Award  
State Bar of Texas Law Student Pro Bono College  
Texas Bank Lawyer Senior Writer  
Research Assistant to Professor Gerry Beyer  
Chairman, Student Career Advisory Committee

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Before joining RPM, Katherine was a regional attorney with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services handling child welfare cases across the state of Texas. During law school, Katherine interned with the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas and served as a legal research assistant for Professor Gerry Beyer. She also spent two years clerking for a general practice in Lubbock, Texas.

## COURT ADMISSIONS

State Bar of Texas – 2019

## PERSONAL

Katherine enjoys cooking and spending time with her family and dogs. She and her husband are avid fans of the Texas wine industry.



# Haley Harvey

*E-mail: [hharvey@raylaw.com](mailto:hharvey@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (210) 348-1825*

*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

## EDUCATION

- Texas A&M University, B.A. Political Science & Psychology, 2018, Summa Cum Laude
- St. Mary's University School of Law, J.D., 2023, Magna Cum Laude

## LAW SCHOOL HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

- The John M. Harlan Society (Top 10% of Graduating Class)
- Texas State Bar Excellence in Appellate Advocacy Award, recipient
- Dean's Academic Excellence Scholarship
- Dean's Award
- Outstanding Moot Court Award
- Federal Bar Association Moot Court Competition Best Oral Advocate, recipient

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Prior to attending law school, Haley worked as a legal assistant at a personal injury law firm in San Antonio, Texas. During law school, Haley worked as a law clerk at Ray Pena McChristian on matters relating to civil litigation defense. Additionally, Haley participated in pro bono opportunities, serving the San Antonio community in areas such as ID recovery.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

- State Bar of Texas
- Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of Texas - October 2023

## PERSONAL

Haley was raised in Hutto, Texas, and moved to San Antonio, Texas before attending law school at St. Mary's University School of Law. In her spare time, Haley enjoys reading, watching Texas A&M football, and spending time with her husband.



# Dan Hernandez

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Phone: (915) 832-7237

Office Location:  
Albuquerque, NM  
El Paso, TX

- Shareholder
- Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
- Reappointed to the Board of Directors for the Texas Bar College (2024-2027)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Daniel is a shareholder with the law firm of Ray, Peña, McChristian, P.C. and Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Daniel is an experienced trial lawyer with substantive jury-trial experience. He is licensed in Texas and New Mexico. Since 1991, Daniel has been lead trial counsel and part of trial teams in over 100 trials as counsel for businesses, corporations, companies, governments, employers, manufacturers, owners, insurance companies, and individuals, in which a favorable outcome and outright client verdicts have been achieved in over 90% of the cases. Daniel's practice focuses on two areas- business litigation and personal injury defense. He has handled a variety of civil and complex commercial disputes, including claims of breach of contract, contract indemnity, fiduciary duty, first and third party insurance claims, property damage claims, inverse condemnation, professional liability, fraud, civil rights, deceptive trade practices, and employment disputes- discrimination and wrongful termination cases. He has defended high stakes catastrophic personal injury cases, including multiparty death and injury auto, trucking, bus, work site, construction site, premises, products, fire, foodborne illnesses, and workers' compensation cases. Daniel has extensive experience handling and examining a variety of experts in various professional and medical specialties. Daniel has also successfully handled many of his own trial verdicts on appeal.

## RECENT REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Confidential Clients: Successfully tried over 150 administrative cases as lead counsel before the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission.

Confidential Client: Successfully defended, in South Texas, as part of a trial team a worldwide clothing manufacturer in over 2,000 worker lawsuits involving respiratory exposure injuries.

Rodriguez v. Romero: As lead counsel, obtained an improbable jury defense verdict in a personal injury lawsuit in which his client had been earlier convicted of murder in an earlier separate criminal case for the underlying incident claimed in the lawsuit.

Martino v. Kiewit Construction: As lead counsel, obtained a defense verdict on a construction site accident involving a crushing injury to Plaintiff's foot, and subsequently won the appeal to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

RKI v. Ameriflow: As lead counsel, obtained summary judgment in favor of his client on a contractual indemnity claims worth over twelve million dollars.

Gallegos v. Hernandez: As lead counsel, obtained another improbable defense verdict on a highway auto accident case in which his client admitted liability and the jury deliberated for only five minutes.



Confidential Client: Numerous successful summary judgment victories of 1991 Civil Rights lawsuits against a private corrections corporation and subsequent victories on appeals to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

#### **COURT ADMISSIONS**

- Texas, 1991
- New Mexico, 2008
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, Southern District of Texas and Northern District of Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico

#### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Elected President, El Paso Bar Association, 2019-20 and Board of Director since 2011. West Texas Vice President, Texas Association of Defense Counsel (TADC), 2018-20; Area District Director, 2016-18.

2016, El Paso Mexican American Bar Association's Investing in Our Community Award.

Master member of George A. McAlmon American Inn of Court.

Board of Directors, Texas Bar College, and Fellow of the College.

Vice President, Texas Association of Defense Counsel, and past recipient of President's Award.

2020 Recipient, The Hispanic Issues Section of the Texas Bar Association's Access to Justice Award, for Walmart 2019 shooting pro bono assistance and clinic.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

"Defending a Construction Site Accident Case," Texas Association of Defense Counsel, 2018 Fall/Winter Magazine.

Various continuing legal education seminar papers and presentations, 2000-2019.

#### **PROFESSIONAL AND COMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

As President of the El Paso Bar Association, in the aftermath of the El Paso Wal-Mart mass shooting, Daniel organized volunteer attorneys to help victims with legal issues and a hotline to refer victims to pro-bono attorneys in response to the massacre on August 3, 2019 which history will record as one of the most serious acts of domestic terrorism targeting Hispanics and El Pasoans. Daniel also organized a successful free CLE to train attorneys and community advocates about the effects of the mass shooting and how to assist victims in the aftermath. He has also organized for the El Paso Bar free community legal clinics, free bimonthly members' CLE, and a highly successful Annual Civil and Criminal CLE in New Orleans with judges from the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Daniel's programming has provided members many opportunities for personal and professional growth and rewards.

As TADC's West Texas Vice President on its Board of Directors, Daniel has served as Chair of various CLE TADC seminars and presented many seminar topics on litigation and trial topics.



# Vanessa M. Herrera

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Phone: (210) 341-3554*

*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

## EDUCATION

- St. Mary's University School of Law, J.D., 2023
- University of Texas at El Paso, B.A. in Criminal Justice (Cum Laude), 2020

## HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

- National Trial League Champion, 2022
- National Trial League Champion, 2023
- Litigation and Advocacy Award
- Staff Writer on The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Race and Social Justice

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

During Vanessa's time at St. Mary's University School of Law she held various internships giving her a wide range of legal experience in different areas such as interning for a non-profit immigration organization, the Bexar County District Attorney's office, and a personal injury firm. After graduating from law school, Vanessa relocated to Galveston, Texas, where she joined a civil litigation firm. In this role, she represented both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide range of legal matters, including construction law, employment defense, and personal injury cases, as well as prosecuting misdemeanor offenses in municipal court.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- State Bar of Texas
- Texas Association of Defense Counsel

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of Texas



# Jennifer Kaufman

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Phone: (210) 348-1816*

*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

• Shareholder

## EDUCATION

- Southern Methodist University (B.A., 2007)
- South Texas College of Law (J.D., 2012)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Before joining the firm, Jennifer was an Assistant City Attorney for the City of San Antonio. During law school, she interned for the General Counsel of The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and a civil litigation firm. Prior to law school, Jennifer was a litigation clerk at a large law firm in Houston.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

State Bar of Texas, San Antonio Young Lawyers Association, Bexar County Women's Bar Association

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas, 2012

## PERSONAL

Jennifer is actively involved with The Junior League of San Antonio, Inc. and enjoys spending time with her family and working out.



# R. Matt Lair

E-mail: [mlair@raylaw.com](mailto:mlair@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (210) 820-8440

Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX

• Shareholder

## EDUCATION

- Baylor University, 1986

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Matt received his Bachelor's degree in Finance at Abilene Christian University and his Juris Doctor from Baylor Law School. Matt has been a trial lawyer since 1986, and is board certified in both personal injury and civil trial law and is a member of ABOTA. His practice focuses on transportation/trucking and other personal injury cases. Prior to joining the firm, he was a shareholder at Shelton & Valadez and before that a shareholder at Espey & Associates.

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas, 1986
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. District Court Western District of Texas
- U.S. District Court Southern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court Northern District of Texas

## CERTIFICATES

- Personal Injury Trial Law
- Civil Trial Law

## PERSONAL

Matt and his wife ranch in the Texas Hill Country raising goats, sheep, and cattle. His son and daughter both have families, and he has 3 grandchildren. His son is a new lawyer and was sworn in this month. He works at Cotton, Bledsoe in Midland. Matt is willing to go to Midland for free to see the two-year-old.





# Noemi V. Lopez

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Phone: (915) 832-7243*

*Office Location:  
El Paso, TX  
Albuquerque, NM*

## • Shareholder

### EDUCATION

- Penn State University, The Dickinson School of Law, J.D., May 2011
- Certified Miller Center Public Interest Advocate  
University of New Mexico, M.A. in Spanish
- Emphasis in Southwest Literature  
St. Edward's University, B.A. in Spanish, Economics minor
- Graduated summa cum laude  
Loretto Academy High School, El Paso, TX

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Noemi has trial and appellate litigation experience. Her experience includes claims analysis, investigation, discovery, motion practice, and handling or assisting in all phases of trial and appeals in a variety of complex matters.

Noemi's legal career began as a law clerk and then a Staff Attorney for the Texas Eighth District Court of Appeals. As a staff attorney, she produced highly advanced appellate work requiring in-depth analysis and preparation of legal memoranda/opinions and extensive research of applicable law in civil and criminal appeals. She also participated in pre- and post-submission conferences and made recommendations to the appellate court. Noemi later worked as an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas in El Paso investigating and prosecuting federal criminal offenses.

During law school, Noemi served as a certified legal intern for Penn State Law's Children Advocacy Clinic. She also interned at MidPenn Legal Services, The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (Healthcare section), and a large civil litigation firm in El Paso. Noemi performed pro bono work for the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center and was involved in various community service projects, including Habitat for Humanity, Toys for Tots, Wills for Heroes, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). Today, Noemi continues her commitment to community service by participating in professional and non-profit associations that serve our greater community.

Prior to law school, Noemi worked as an office manager of a medical office in El Paso. Additionally, Noemi held a part-time faculty position at the University of New Mexico. While in Albuquerque, she also worked as a legal assistant for a local adoption attorney and served as an intern for Family Matters Adoption Resources.

### COURT ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of Texas
- State Bar of New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Courts of Texas: Western, Northern, & Southern Districts
- U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico.
- U.S. District Courts, Western District of Texas, Northern District of Texas, Southern District of Texas

### PERSONAL

Born and raised in El Paso, Texas



# Larry A. Matthys

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Phone: (210) 348-1827

Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX

- Shareholder
- Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law 1999
- AV rated attorney
- Associate Member of ABOTA 2021



## EDUCATION

- UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS May 1983  
Bachelor of Arts Political Science Austin, Texas
- UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER May 1986  
Juris Doctorate Law Houston, TX
- Member of the Board of Advocates 1986
- Participated in mock trial and moot court competitions 1985-1986

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Larry Matthys began his legal career with a large insurance defense and subrogation firm that focused on trying lawsuits. After successfully trying numerous cases to verdict he was promoted to partner at an early age and asked to move to the firm's Corpus Christi office. He was tasked with creating and overseeing a docket consisting primarily of auto cases. He expanded that practice from one carrier to a volume business of cases from State Farm, Allstate and Farmers. After obtaining numerous successful verdicts in Nueces and surrounding counties for those carriers his practice expanded to include larger and more varied cases.

He then joined three other attorneys to form a law firm dedicated to providing quality representation for a variety of insurance companies. His practice continued to expand, and he handled premises cases, dog bite cases, libel/ slander cases, breach of contract cases as well as first party cases. During this time, he tried cases throughout south Texas, obtaining excellent results for his clients in counties with liberal jury pools such as Brooks, Jim Wells, Duval and Cameron counties.

In 2005 he returned to his wife's hometown of San Antonio and became a solo practitioner continuing to defend insurers and their insureds. He continued to try numerous cases of various types including libel/slander, premises cases, dog bite case, and large auto cases. He may be one of only two attorneys in the State of Texas to have tried a cat attack case.

In 2022 he joined Ray, Peña McChristian as a shareholder in their San Antonio office.

- Past speaker at a claims handling course put on by his prior firm.
- Past speaker for the Corpus Christi Claims Association.
- Best Lawyers in San Antonio-Scene in SA Magazine

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- Board certified in Personal Injury Trial Law, 1999.
- ABOTA, 2021
- AV Rated Attorney

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- State of Texas 1986
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas 1993
- United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, 2006



# Benjamin Peña

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Phone: (210) 820-8431

Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX

## EDUCATION:

- St. Mary's University, School of Law – Juris Doctorate, 2025
- University of Texas at San Antonio – B.A. in Anthropology, 2022

## ACADEMIC HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS:

- St. Mary's University, School of Law
  - Best Motion for Summary Judgement, Section A
  - Dean's List
  - St. Mary's Law Journal, Staff Writer
  - St. Mary's National Moot Court Team, Oralist & Brief Writer
  - Student Bar Association, 3L Senator
- University of Texas at San Antonio
  - Dean's List
  - Honors College

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Benjamin worked as a Law Clerk for Ray, Peña & McChristian during Law School while obtaining his Juris Doctorate and served as a Professional Volunteer at the 2024 Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## COURT ADMISSIONS:

- Texas, 2025

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

- State Bar of Texas
- San Antonio Young Lawyers Association, Member
- Federalist Society, Member

## PERSONAL:

In his free time, Benjamin enjoys spending time with his family, friends, and three pit-bulls, watching football, and learning about all areas of history.



# Joseph G. Peña

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Phone: (210) 348-1813

Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX

- *Managing Shareholder - RPM San Antonio*
- *Texas Super Lawyers - Civil Litigation Rising Star (2013-2019)*
- *Named one of San Antonio's Rising Stars - Scene in SA Monthly*
- *Best Lawyers in San Antonio - Scene in SA Magazine*



## EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts in Economics, St. Mary's University
- Doctor of Jurisprudence, St. Mary's University School of Law

## HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Texas Super Lawyers - Civil Litigation, Rising Star (2013-2019)
- Named one of San Antonio's Rising Stars - Scene in SA Monthly
- Best Lawyers in San Antonio - Scene in SA Magazine
- Selected to Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas
- Joe F. Brown endowed scholarship recipient
- Phi Delta Phi

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Joe Peña is a trial lawyer with a focus on catastrophic injury and fatality cases. Joe has trial experience in transportation, construction defect, product liability, premises liability, first-party, and commercial claims.
- Joe has been counsel in trucking and transportation claims involving multiple fatalities, oilfield and refinery deaths, fire and explosion claims, and has gained specific expertise in traumatic brain injury cases.
- Presenter for State Bar of Texas CLE seminars on the topics of trucking and transportation defense.
- Panel counsel for national insurance carriers and is retained directly by numerous Fortune 500 transportation and energy companies.
- Personal counsel to one of the largest minority-owned restaurant franchise groups in the State of Texas.
- Joe serves as a board member of Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio, pro bono general counsel to the Gary J. Thompson Scholarship Fund and Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni Volunteer Corporation
- Joe grew up working alongside his family in the commercial construction industry and as a result he particularly enjoys defending family-run construction companies in construction-defect litigation.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

State Bar of Texas - American Bar Association - Texas Association of Defense Counsel - San Antonio Bar Association - Texas Minority Counsel Program - Litigation Section State Bar of Texas - San Antonio Bar Association, Medical-Legal Liaison Committee

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas
- U.S. District Courts, Western District of Texas
- U.S. District Courts, Southern District of Texas

## PERSONAL

- Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas
- Joe is married to Laura and is the proud father of Carolina and Joseph.



# Gabriel Pytel

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*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

## • Shareholder

### EDUCATION

- JD, St. Mary's University School of Law
- BA, Political Science; Texas State University

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Gabriel Pytel was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. He attended Texas State University and St. Mary's University School of Law. While in law school, he clerked at firms focused on family law, criminal law and medical malpractice. Prior to joining RPM, Gabriel worked as an associate for an insurance defense firm in San Antonio, where he defended first and third-party insurance matters.

### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

State Bar of Texas, San Antonio Bar Association, Texas Young Lawyers Association, Texas Association of Defense Counsel, San Antonio Young Lawyers Association

### COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas
- Western District of Texas
- U.S. District Court

### PERSONAL

A native San Antonian, Gabriel enjoys playing basketball, golfing, and spending time with his friends and family.



# Jeff Ray

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Phone: (915) 832-7272  
(210) 348-1825

Office Location:  
Albuquerque, NM  
El Paso, TX  
San Antonio, TX

- *New Mexico and Texas Bar Licenses*
- *Board Certified - Personal Injury Trial Law Texas Board of Legal Specialization*
- *AV Preeminent Rated*
- *Life Fellow - Texas Bar Foundation*
- *National Panel Counsel For Major Insurers*
- *Texas Super Lawyer*
- *Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*
- *2010 Outstanding Lawyer - El Paso Bar Association*
- *2012 Top 100 Verdicts in the U.S.*
- *El Paso Bar Association, Treasurer of the Board of Directors 2017-2018*
- *El Paso Bar Association, Secretary of the Board of Directors 2016-17*
- *2014 Inspiring Generosity Award - Mexican American Bar Association*
- *Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame - 2014*

## EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin (B.A. Honors, 1979)  
St. Mary's University School of Law (J.D., 1982)

- Dean's Honor List
- National Order of Barristers
- National Mock Trial Team
- Outstanding Trial Advocate of Law School
- Outstanding Appellate Advocate of Law School
- St. Mary's Law Journal
- Instructor, Legal Research and Brief Writing

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jeff is known as a trial lawyer who is one of the few lawyers who spends much of his time in court and in front of juries throughout the Southwest. He has tried or has been lead counsel in cases in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Ohio.

During his career, a number of Jeff's cases have received national recognition for defense verdicts in pipeline explosion, tire defect, automobile defect, product defect, oil field accident, refinery explosion, transportation accident, and liquor liability cases (reported by various news sources including CNN, USA Today, Business World and ABC News). He has also represented businesses and clients as plaintiffs and has obtained substantial verdicts and settlements on their behalf. Some of his more recent verdicts and accomplishments as lead trial counsel are set forth below.

In July 2015, Jeff represented a client with property in Mexico and Texas acquired during a 19-year period. Jeff's client was offered virtually no business assets in a complex and high asset/business divorce case. After a lengthy trial in the 388th District Court of El Paso County, Texas, the jury awarded \$23.7 million dollars to Jeff's client.

In May 2014, in Santa Fe, NM, Jeff defended a regionally and nationally publicized case involving the deaths of two teenage Navajo Nation girls and serious injuries to their parents. Jeff represented an international bar and restaurant corporation in a liquor liability case. The bar was accused of selling over 88 ounces of beer to a patron who left the bar and later rear-ended the family at a very high rate of speed. Plaintiffs demanded \$30 million at jury selection, and a multimillion dollar offer was rejected by plaintiffs. After a two week trial, the jury returned a complete defense verdict.



In 2012, Jeff acted as Plaintiffs' counsel for his clients. After a two week trial, he recorded the highest fraud verdict in Texas for 2012 when a jury awarded Jeff's clients over \$20 million. The verdict is ranked in the top 100 verdicts in the U.S. for 2012 and 2013, and has recently been recognized from 2012 to 2015 in the Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame.

From 2012 to 2016, Jeff has been the lead trial counsel for a major utility company in the largest wildfire in the history of Texas, the Bastrop Complex Fire Litigation, representing the utility against over 600 plaintiffs and 40 attorneys with damage claims totaling over \$450 million. Recently, Jeff's client secured a substantial confidential settlement on its cross claim in the fire litigation. The litigation is ongoing.

In 2009, Jeff represented a major pipeline company in an explosion case in New Mexico involving 27 plaintiffs. He defended the company in a multi-million dollar 2 ½ month trial. The plaintiffs demanded over \$50 million at jury selection. The jury returned a complete defense verdict for the natural gas corporation.

In 2008 and 2009, Jeff represented a major tire manufacturer in a multiple fatality/brain damage case in Texas. Plaintiffs demanded \$24 million. After a two week trial, the jury returned a complete defense verdict for the corporation.

In 2007 and 2008, Jeff and his trial team represented a worldwide clothing manufacturer in over 2,000 claims and cases filed by workers who had suffered various respiratory, formaldehyde and other related injuries. The cases were all pending in counties along the South Texas Border. After trying and securing four straight defense verdicts over the course of two years, the remaining cases were dismissed.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

State Bar of Texas • State Bar of New Mexico • Texas Association of Defense Counsel • International Association of Defense Counsel • Defense Research Institute • New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association • American Bar Association • Christian Legal Society • Trucking Industry Defense Association • Speaker for the State Bar of Texas and other organizations on Litigation topics • San Antonio Bar Association • El Paso Bar Association

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- U.S. District Courts, Western District of Texas, Southern District of Texas, Northern District of Texas, and Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS

Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory • Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers • Best's Directory of Recommended Insurance Attorneys • Trial Attorneys of the Insurance Bar • West's Legal Directory • Texas Board of Legal Specialization • Directory of Board Certified Attorneys



**AMERICAN COLLEGE  
OF TRIAL LAWYERS**

## PERSONAL

Jeff was born and raised in the small South Texas town of Cuero. His father was disabled and his mother was a leather factory laborer. Jeff worked his way through high school, college and law school by working as a musician, as a laborer in the South Texas oil fields, and offshore in the Gulf of Mexico as a floor and derrick hand for major drilling companies. His work ethic is unparalleled. He has also been awarded numerous professional and community awards for his service to others.

Jeff and his children enjoy numerous outdoor activities.

- National Eagle Scout Association
- Texas High School Football Back to Back State Championship Teams (Co-Captain)
- Heroism Award for Life Saving Rescue
- Running, cycling, yoga, outdoor sports
- AOPA ( Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association)



# Mussarrat Rehman

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Phone: (210) 341-1815*

*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

## EDUCATION:

- University of Texas – Austin, B.A. Government, magna cum laude, (2022)
- St. Mary’s University School of Law, J.D. (2025)

## ACADEMIC HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS:

- Dean's Law Scholarship
- Ave Maria Scholarship
- Pro Bono and Public Service Certificate

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Prior to attending law school, Mussarrat worked as a legal assistant at a local family law firm in Bastrop, TX. During her time in law school, she gained hands-on experience through the Family Law Clinic and as a law clerk for a family law firm in Denver, CO. She also served as an active member of the Board of Advocates and as a multi-national championship member of the St. Mary’s National Moot Court team.

## COURT ADMISSIONS:

- Texas, 2025

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

- State Bar of Texas
- The Order of Barristers

## PERSONAL:

- Mussarrat was born in Austin and grew up in the area before moving to San Antonio to attend St. Mary’s University School of Law. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, trying new recipes, and spending time with her husband and their two cats.



# Laura Rua

*E-mail: [lrúa@raylaw.com](mailto:lrúa@raylaw.com)  
Phone: (210) 341-3554*

*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

## EDUCATION:

- The University of Texas at Austin, B.A. Psychology & Sociology, 2022
- St. Mary's University School of Law, J.D. 2025

## ACADEMIC HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS:

- Dean's Award
- National Moot Court Team, Oralist 2023-24
- Pro Bono and Public Service Certificate
- Published on The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Race and Social Justice: The UnAmerican Dream: Breaking the Barriers of Standardized Testing for ELL Students in a Post-Affirmative Action Era, 27 The Scholar 457 (2025).

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Laura is beginning her legal career with Ray Peña McChristian, P.C. During law school, Laura gained broad legal experiences through internships with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Thirteenth Court of Appeals, and a physician-owned hospital in the Rio Grande Valley. These experiences exposed her to health law, appellate matters, and civil law, providing a solid foundation for her career and develop practical skills. In her last year of law school, Laura served as a student attorney for the Consumer Protection Clinic in the Center for Legal and Social Justice, where she handled landlord-tenant cases, worked one-on-one with clients, and prepared for and conducted hearings and mediation. In addition, Laura helped organize the third annual Lawtina Network Summit as Logistics Coordinator, where members of the legal community came to network and learn from Latinx judges and attorneys. Laura also participated in pro bono activities, serving the San Antonio/RGV communities in areas such as ID recovery and TRLA legal clinics.

## COURT ADMISSIONS:

- State Bar of Texas (pending)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

- San Antonio Young Lawyers Association
- Hispanic National Bar Association
- San Antonio Bar Association
- Hispanic Law Alumni Association

## PERSONAL:

Laura was born in the Dominican Republic, but raised in Mission, Texas. She is fluent in English and Spanish. She enjoys traveling, learning new recipes, Latin dancing, and spending time with friends and family.



# Wayne Shuffield

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Phone: (210) 820-8430*

*Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX*

• Shareholder

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

E. Wayne Shuffield was born on November 22, 1963 in Austin, Texas. He was admitted to State of Texas bar in 1989 and is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court, Western and Southern Districts of Texas.

Wayne began his preparatory education at Southwestern University (B.S.S., Political Science, 1986) and his legal education at St. Mary's School of Law (J.D., with distinction, 1989). He was Senior Associate Editor at St. Mary's Law Journal and joined in the fraternity Phi Delta Phi and was a member of The John M. Harlan Society.

Wayne is an AV-Preeminent Attorney rated by Martindale-Hubble and is named one of San Antonio's Best Lawyers by Scene in SA magazine (2008-2012). His primary practice areas are workers' compensation and insurance defense.



# Harold "Buddy" Socks

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Phone: (210) 820-8438

Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX

- *Shareholder*
- *AV Rated Attorney, Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory*
- *Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*



## EDUCATION

- Washington University in St. Louis, 1983 Bachelor of Arts
- Southern Methodist University School of Law, 1986, JD

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

After graduating from Southern Methodist University School of Law Mr. Socks practiced for three years in Dallas, Texas handling commercial litigation matters for both plaintiffs and defendants. Mr. Socks moved to San Antonio in 1989 where he continued to handle commercial litigation matters as his primary practice area with insurance defense matters as his secondary practice area in state and federal courts throughout Texas. In the past twenty-two years, Mr. Socks has represented plaintiff and defendant clients in a wide variety of commercial matters including suits based on contracts, partnership agreements, the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, fraud and business torts over subject matters as diverse as financial services, real estate, oil & gas, and aircraft modifications and sales. While Mr. Socks' primary focus is litigation involving commercial disputes, he has continued to represent insureds throughout his career. Mr. Socks' representation of insureds includes the defense of claims arising out of major vehicle/truck accidents, aviation related injuries, and a variety of general negligence claims.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- State Bar of Texas
- American Bar Association
- San Antonio Bar Association
- Instructor for the National Institutes of Trial Advocacy

## COURT ADMISSIONS

- Texas
- U.S. District Courts for the Northern
- Southern Eastern and Western Districts of Texas, Eastern District of Louisiana
- Southern District of New York
- U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and Federal Circuits

## PESRONAL

Born 1960, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, two children: Stuart and Emily



# Gordon Stafford

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Phone: (210) 820-8434

Office Location:  
San Antonio, TX

- *Shareholder*

- *AV Rated Attorney,  
Martindale-Hubbell Law  
Directory*

**EDUCATION:**

- Baylor School of Law, 1985

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

After graduating from Baylor School of Law in 1985 Mr. Stafford joined a large insurance defense firm in his hometown of San Antonio. From 1986 through 2012 he defended clients and obtained jury verdicts in Central and South Texas in matters as wide-ranging as commercial personal injury claims, trucking accidents, wrongful death claims, commercial and residential construction disputes and workers' compensation claims.

In 2012 he moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he obtained his law license. He worked for McGuire Woods defending mortgage lenders and servicers. He returned to San Antonio in 2016 and worked as staff counsel for Nationwide Insurance Company defending both Nationwide and its insureds focusing on large commercial litigation cases. He returned to private practice in 2019 where his practice has remained the same. In 2025 he joined Ray Pena McChristian in their San Antonio office as a shareholder. He is an AV-rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell and is a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

**COURT ADMISSIONS:**

- Texas, 2025
- North Carolina

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES:**

- State Bar of Texas
- Texas bar Foundation