

## William “Bill” Drabble

### Partner

Bill Drabble focuses his practice on representing property owners, landlords, tenants and developers in real estate litigation before courts throughout North Texas, including disputes over land sales, breaches of lease agreements, premises-liability claims and other disputes involving commercial and residential properties. He also handles a wide variety of intra-company disputes, such as prosecuting and defending claims for breaches of shareholder or company agreement, breach of fiduciary duty claims against directors and officers, and contests for control over the company. Bill’s practice also includes appeals. He was the principal author of briefs filed in the Fifth Circuit, intermediate appellate courts and the Texas Supreme Court.

After graduating first in his class from the Baylor University School of Law, Bill served a two-year clerkship for Judge Walter S. Smith, Jr. in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, where he gained significant experience in multiple areas of federal practice, including business litigation, bankruptcy appeals, employment law and civil rights actions. While clerking, Bill also served as an adjunct law professor at Baylor University and coached three moot-court teams.

### Experience

- Successfully represented a national truck leasing and management company in a breach-of-contract lawsuit against one of its lessees. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas granted truck lessor’s motion for summary judgment on lessee’s fraudulent-inducement counterclaim. And, after a one-week bench trial, the court ruled that lessee materially breached the contract and rendered a judgment for the lessor of \$3.1 million.
- Successfully represented a franchisor in a suit against its former franchisee in the British Isles and the franchisee’s principal, which resulted in a \$3.15 million judgment in the franchisor’s favor. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas rendered summary



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**Industries**  
Real Estate

**Practices**  
Commercial Litigation  
Appellate Law  
Real Estate Litigation

**Education**  
J.D., *summa cum laude*, Baylor University  
School of Law (2010)  
B.A., *summa cum laude*, Political Science,  
Texas Tech University (2007)

**Bar Admissions**  
Texas (2010)

**Court Admissions**  
United States Court of Appeals, Fifth  
Circuit  
United States District Court, Western  
District of Texas  
United States District Court, Northern  
District of Texas  
United States District Court, Eastern  
District of Texas  
United States District Court, Southern  
District of Texas

judgment on the franchisor's claims for breach of the franchise agreement and the accompanying personal guaranty and dismissed the franchisee's counterclaim seeking more than \$9 million in damages. The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed. [\*Jani-King Franchising, Inc. v. Jani-King \(GB\), Ltd. and Ian Thomas\*](#), No. 17-11254 in U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

- Assisted with the successful arbitration on behalf of a tenant in a rental rate dispute with the landlord resulting in the return of overpaid rent and \$4 million in savings over the life of the lease.
- Successfully represented a telecommunications company in a lawsuit against the manager of its cell towers for breach-of-contract, fraudulent inducement, and civil theft. After a one-week bench trial, the court rendered a \$2.1 million judgment in favor of the telecommunications company.
- Successfully defended a seller of a business on claims brought by the buyer for breach of contract, fraudulent inducement, and tortious interference with prospective business relationships. The trial court rendered summary judgment on all of the buyer's claims.
- Obtained a temporary restraining order to prevent the winding up of a limited partnership and the dissolution of its corporate general partnership.

### Press Releases

- "Gray Reed Promotes Five Associates to Partner" (December 16, 2019)
- "Gray Reed Secures Verdict for Jani-King in Franchise Enforcement Action" (September 18, 2018)
- "Eight New Associates Join Gray Reed" (September 21, 2012)

### Thought Leadership

- “Statute of Repose - Providing Peace of Mind for Texas Builders, Contractors and Repairpersons”, *Texas Association of Defense Counsel Magazine* (Fall/Winter 2019)
- “Statute of Repose - Providing Peace of Mind for Texas Builders, Contractors and Repairpersons”, *The REPTL Reporter - Volume 57, No. 3* (July 11, 2019)
- “Dallas Court of Appeals Clarifies Where to Bring Injunction Suits”, Gray Reed Legal Alert (February 6, 2019)

#### Honors

- Named a Rising Star by Texas Super Lawyers (a Thomson Reuters company) as published in *Texas Monthly* and *Texas Super Lawyers* magazines (2019)

#### Related Employment

- Adjunct Professor, Baylor Law School, Waco, Texas (2010 - 2012)
  - Moot-court Coach

#### Organizational Involvement

- Dallas Bar Association
- Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
- Fifth Circuit Bar Association
- Federalist Society