

Kelley Clark Morris

Associate

Kelley Clark Morris focuses her practice on resolving all types of commercial litigation and appellate matters for upstream and midstream oil and gas clients, ranging from energy-related disputes over operating agreements, title issues and royalty interests to traditional business litigation involving commercial contracts, fraud, fiduciary duties and much more. She also has significant experience representing the firm's construction and downstream clients in litigation involving diverse issues, including contract, indemnification and insurance coverage disputes. Kelley guides clients through every stage of the trial and appellate process, in both state and federal courts, as well as in arbitration.

Before joining Gray Reed, Kelley clerked for Justice Paul W. Green of the Supreme Court of Texas for the 2013 – 2014 term, where she enjoyed a behind-the-scenes look at the decision-making process of the justices in a variety of energy and business disputes. Kelley also drafted opinions, prepared recommendation memoranda and presented issues at case conferences among the justices. This experience laid the foundation for Kelley's extensive appellate practice, and other lawyers at the firm often seek her advice on appellate procedural issues and interpretation of court orders.

During law school, she interned for U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeffrey C. Manske of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.

Experience

Trial Matters

- Successfully overturned a \$3.5 million default judgment entered against a drilling fluids contractor through a motion for new trial.
- Obtained a take-nothing jury verdict and final judgment on behalf of an operator sued for surface damages allegedly resulting from oil and



Kelley Clark Morris
1300 Post Oak Blvd.
Suite 2000
Houston, TX 77056
kmmorris@grayreed.com

D: 713.986.7156
T: 713.986.7000
F: 713.730.5934

Industries
Energy

Practices
Commercial Litigation
Energy Litigation
Appellate Law

Education
J.D., *magna cum laude*, Baylor University
School of Law, *Valedictorian* (2013)
B.B.A., The University of Texas, *Business
Honors Program* (2010)
B.A., *with honors*, The University of
Texas, *Plan II Honors* (2010)

Bar Admissions
Texas

Court Admissions
United States Court of Appeals, Fifth
Circuit
United States Court of Appeals, Federal
Circuit
United States District Court, Northern
District of Texas
United States District Court, Southern
District of Texas

gas operations.

- Successfully obtained a partial summary judgment on statute of limitations grounds for an oil and gas marketing company sued for alleged conversion resulting from an underlying title dispute, limiting potentially damages by more than 90 percent.
- Successfully obtained a full dismissal for a Houston-based civil engineering firm in a business dispute after the plaintiffs failed to comply with Certificate of Merit requirements under Chapter 150 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.
- Successfully obtained a full dismissal, with prejudice, for an engineering firm in a personal injury suit after the plaintiffs failed to comply with Certificate of Merit requirements under Chapter 150 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.
- Successfully obtained a dismissal for lack of personal jurisdiction through a special appearance on behalf of a Indian-national sales broker against a non-compete claim filed by the former employer, a Singaporean company, in Houston.
- Represented two major U.S. retailers in a patent infringement lawsuit in federal court in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Marshall Division.

United States District Court, Eastern
District of Texas
United States District Court, Western
District of Texas
United States Court of Appeals, Seventh
Circuit

Published Appeals

- *Devon Energy Corp. v. Iona Energy, L.P.*, 02-19-00343-CV, 2020 WL 98138 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth Jan. 9, 2020, pet. filed)
- *Garrick v. Autoliv ASP, Inc.*, 2018 WL 3385159 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] July 12, 2018, pet. filed)
- *Salazar v. Worley Parsons Group, Inc.*, 2017 WL 6001237 (Tex. App.—Houston [1st Dist.] Dec. 5, 2017, no pet.)
- *Anglo-Dutch Energy, LLC v. Crawford Hughes Operating Company*,

2017 WL 4440530 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] Oct. 5, 2017, pet. denied)

- *Vinmar Overseas Singapore PTE Ltd. v. PTT Int’l Trading PTE Ltd.*, 538 S.W.3d 126, 128 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 2017, pet. denied)
- *Shore v. Davis*, 845 F.3d 627, 628 (5th Cir. 2017)
- *Texas Comm’n on Envtl. Quality v. Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation Dist.*, 2016 WL 1371775 (Tex. App.—San Antonio Apr. 6, 2016, no pet.)

Petitions for Review in the Texas Supreme Court

- *Iona Energy, L.P. v. Devon Energy Corporation, et. al.*, No. 20-0226 (pet. filed March 23, 2020) (for Petitioner)
- *Anglo-Dutch Energy, LLC v. Crawford Hughes Operating Company*, No. 18-0050 (pet. denied March 1, 2019) (for Respondent)
- *AETC II Privatized Housing, LLC v. Tom Green County Appraisal District*, No. 16-0700 (pet. denied March 1, 2019) (for Respondent)
- *Cerny v. Marathon Oil Corp., et al.*, No. 16-0011 (pet. denied Dec. 2, 2016) (for Respondent)

Amicus Curiae Briefs

- *Facebook, Inc. v. Duguid*, No. 19-511, In the Supreme Court of the United States (Brief of ACA International, Inc.)
- *Gadelhak v. AT&T Services, Inc.*, No. 19-1738, In the United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit (Brief of ACA International, Inc.)

Press Releases

- “Gray Reed & McGraw Welcomes New Attorneys to Houston

Office” (June 1, 2016)

Thought Leadership

- “Getting Out of the Award: How *Nafta Traders v. Quinn* Affects the Grounds for Vacating an Arbitration Award in Texas”, *65 Baylor L. Rev.* 609 (Spring 2013)

Honors

- President’s Award, Houston Young Lawyers Association (2018)
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Senior Executive Editor, *Baylor Law Review*
- Dean’s Academic Excellence Scholarship, Baylor University School of Law

Organizational Involvement

Professional Activities, Memberships & Affiliations

- Houston Young Lawyers Foundation
 - Board of Trustees (2017 - present)
 - Life Fellow
 - Fun Run Co-Chair (2018, 2019, 2020)
 - Law Day Luncheon Co-Chair (2016, 2017)
- Houston Young Lawyers Association
 - Board of Directors (2016 - 2018)
 - Leadership Academy (2016)

- Texas Supreme Court Historical Society
- Houston Bar Foundation Fellow (2020)
- Houston Bar Association
 - Appellate Section
 - Litigation Section
 - Oil, Gas & Mineral Law Section
- State Bar of Texas
 - Appellate Section
 - Oil, Gas & Energy Resources Law Section

Community Involvement, Memberships & Affiliations

- Casa de Esperanza de los Niños
 - 2019 Gala Co-Chair
 - Life Member, Young Professionals Group
- Saint Anne Catholic Church
- Junior League of Houston
 - Community Council Member (2018 – 2019, 2020 – 2021)
 - Strategic Planning Committee (2020 – 2021)
 - Community External Relations Committee (2019 – 2020)
 - Leadership Institute Graduate (2018 - 2019)
- Trinity Valley School Alumni Association, Class Representative