

## Kristen W. Kelly Counsel

Kristen Kelly has achieved successful results for clients in numerous commercial litigation matters before federal, state and appellate courts throughout Texas. She has significant experience working with clients across several industries, with a strong emphasis on insurance, energy, oilfield services, financial institutions and construction. Kristen has resolved a variety of disputes involving insurance policy interpretation and related issues, ranging from duty to defend and indemnification to additional insureds and other coverage disputes.

Kristen's diverse practice also covers a wide range of energy disputes, business litigation and personal injury defense matters, including cases involving breach of contract, oil and gas rights, products liability, premises liability, breach of warranty, employment claim defense, maritime issues and many others.

After graduating *cum laude* from University of Houston Law Center, Kristen served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Lynn N. Hughes of the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Texas. During her two-year clerkship, Kristen strengthened her persuasive writing skills and gained a unique grasp of the intricacies of federal practice and procedure, making her a valuable resource for clients and other lawyers at the firm with litigation before federal courts.

### Experience

- Represents companies in the energy, construction, financial and oilfield services industries in commercial litigation involving contract, warranty, insurance, and fiduciary duty disputes.
- Represents a Top 100 Fortune 500 client in several major coverage disputes in litigation and arbitration concerning the scope of an additional insured endorsement and related exclusions.
- Represents German fund as plaintiff in an action bringing products



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**Practices**  
Commercial Litigation  
Insurance

**Education**  
J.D., *cum laude*, University of Houston  
Law Center (2004)  
B.A., *cum laude*, Vanderbilt University  
(2000)

**Bar Admissions**  
Texas

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

liability claims related to defective oil & gas equipment.

- Represents clients in coverage matters in areas including auto, commercial general liability, directors, officers, and company liability, errors and omissions, fidelity bonds, excess and umbrella.
- Represents a publicly-traded bank related to indemnity obligations and related losses for inherited claims from acquired banks.
- Represented a major energy company in defense of a suit for the alleged loss of oil and gas rights.
- Represented a chemical company in a breach of a steam supply contract dispute.
- Represented a major energy company in indemnity recovery dispute related to Louisiana Oilfield legacy lawsuit.
- Represented oil field services company in employment matters.
- Defended private correctional facility in civil rights and employment disputes.

### Press Releases

- “Gray Reed & McGraw Welcomes Jason Brown and Kristen Kelly” (May 16, 2016)

### Thought Leadership

- “Texas Supreme Court Opinion Has Companies Double Checking Contractual Insurance Obligations”, Gray Reed Legal Alert (February 27, 2019)

### Honors

- Named a Rising Star by Texas Super Lawyers (a Thomson Reuters company) as published in *Texas Monthly* magazine (2008 - 2009)

### Related Employment

Adjunct Professor, University of Houston Law Center

### Organizational Involvement

#### **Professional Activities, Memberships & Affiliations**

- State Bar of Texas
- American Bar Association
- Houston Bar Association
- Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow

#### **Community Involvement, Memberships & Affiliations**

- Chair, Westminster United Methodist Church Council
- Advisory Board Member, Westminster Weekday School
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